



20th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Headteacher Update

As this half-term draws to a conclusion I would like to take this opportunity to update you.

May Half Term

The school will be closed to all students during half-term (25th – 29th May) and will reopen again only to pre-booked registered children of key workers and identified 'vulnerable' students on Monday 1st June.

There are no expectations for students to undertake school work during the half-term, however students may use part of this time to catch-up or remain focused, should they choose to.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all Marshland staff. It is through their hard work and dedication that we have been able to continue to support so many of our students with their home learning and keep the school open as guided by Government.

I recognise that there are many challenges for parents and children when working from home. Having an established routine to your day is helpful in maintaining good educational progress and a healthy mental wellbeing. Please ensure that you are supporting your child with a structured routine during what would normally be school time. It helps to devise and follow a timetable which is available for all year groups.

Teachers have been asked to register 'Home Learning Concerns' where there is clear evidence that a child is not sufficiently engaging with study, and we will then follow up these concerns.

Uniform

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, many schools are facing challenges with the supply of uniforms ready for September. Ordinarily, supplies of both the new design uniform for current Year 7 and 8 and the existing design for Years 9 and 10 would be available before the end of term. However, we are currently experiencing difficulties with both the new design and the existing design which are sourced from the same supplier, using the same supply chain and therefore both are equally subject to restrictions.

We are in close contact with our supplier who is confident that the new uniform will be ready to invite parents into school (by appointment only, to ensure social distancing) in August. At this event the free items will be distributed. Any additional items will also be available to purchase and take home. As soon as we have further details we will of course update you. Our supplier is also confident that they will be able to supply the existing design uniform for the current Year 9 and 10 before the start of the new academic year.

We are therefore as a contingency, asking you to keep hold of any current uniform worn this year, in case there are ongoing prolonged lockdown restrictions. If necessary, students will be able to wear this year's uniform until their new one arrives. We will regularly review plans to support parents and children should there be further difficulties.

Students Return

Alongside our Trust we are continuing to review all DfE guidance regarding the reopening of secondary schools. We are developing models in consultation with our staff and other organisations for different reopening scenarios. We hope to be able to update you all with further information fairly soon.

Finally, on a positive note, we have all been overwhelmed and heartened by the cards, messages, and videos highlighting all the kind gestures and amazing activities our students have been engaged with over the past nine weeks.

Once again, thank you for your continued support at this time. Please stay safe.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Jansen', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr C Jansen
Headteacher