



Dear Parent/Carer and Student,

2020 has certainly proven to be a most difficult time for all within our school, national and global communities. It has been the strangest and most challenging time I have experienced within my 25-year career as a school leader and teacher. Despite this, I have been witness to the amazing character and strength of so many people within our school community. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to reflect on the positives over the last few months.

We have been closely monitoring student engagement with their home learning since school closure in March. A significant majority of students have worked incredibly hard within their studies, completing tasks set by their teachers and being proactive in seeking support when they needed help. When things became challenging so many of our students demonstrated true resilience. They did not give up when they faced problems, but pushed forward and in doing so overcame their difficulties and achieved real personal growth and maturity.

Many of our students received acknowledgements for showing our core values in action, through participation in our house challenges, gaining the status of core value champion or hero, receiving Octavia awards, alongside many more achievements. We appreciate that many more of our students have been working really hard and have shown our core values, but have not been formally recognised. I would like to take the opportunity now to thank them for their commitment.

Pupils took their responsibilities very seriously, including responsibility for looking after, or supporting, others within and outside our community. Our students wrote to keyworkers within service and healthcare sectors thanking them for all their incredible help during COVID-19; kindness in action!

Our teaching and support staff have worked incredibly hard providing online learning and support for students, often juggling their own family commitments. For many staff this meant working well into evenings and early mornings to ensure our students had the home learning resources they needed. This is on top of supporting Year 6 transition for September, Year 10 meetings and lessons on site. I would like to express my sincere thanks for their professionalism and dedication.

The site and catering teams have been in school ensuring everything is safe and operational to support children of keyworkers in school.

Our admin, finance and pastoral teams have been the glue that has tied everything together. They have managed our communications to parents/carers and ensured students have had teacher resources sent to them when needed. They have also supported with responses to local authority and the Department for Education requests for monitoring information.

We recognise that both parents and students will be concerned about the disruption to education caused by COVID-19. I want to reassure you that all our teachers are working incredibly hard to ensure that we accelerate the education of Marshland students upon their return. Plans are in place to aid our students to make strong progress through next academic year.

We will be issuing knowledge organisers for every student in KS3, outlining the curriculum and key knowledge. These will be provided in print, as well as online. This will enable parents to closely follow the progress of their child and help them to provide support at home. In addition to this for

KS4 students, we will have additional teaching opportunities at the end of the school day, weekends and in the holidays. More information on this to follow from Mr Saunders.

All our staff, regardless of their role continue to work together to plan and organise a safe return for staff and students in September.

Next term we will be faced with a school that will be very normal in many ways. A comfortable and nurturing learning environment. In other ways the school will need to look and feel somewhat different. The school will be implementing temporary protective measures, based on the government advice, to ensure the safety of students and staff and enable the continuation of our students' education. This will mean temporary changes to the way the school operates, how people move around the school, the curriculum and behaviour procedures. It will be imperative that parents/carers and students are fully supportive of these protective measures. We will write to you with more details which will also be updated on our website over the summer.

We wish our Year 11 students all the very best for the next steps in their education and we look forward to seeing many of you at Results Day. Given current restrictions, parents/carers have already been sent a letter separately with an appointment time to collect results.

I would like to finish by thanking you all. It is only with your support, working closely with our school, which enables us to do our very best for our students. We look forward to working in partnership with you in September.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Kindest regards

Mr Craig Jansen

Headteacher