



Dear Parent / Guardian

## Marshland School Update – Summer 2019

### **Year 11 GCSE Exams**

The summer term has got off to a great start with Year 11 students making good progress towards the start of their examinations. Final GCSEs start this week (w/c 13<sup>th</sup> May) and continue until 17<sup>th</sup> June. It is important at this time that our Year 11 students receive the right level of support.

As a parent, it can sometimes be difficult to know what you can do to help your child. The BBC have compiled a series of short films that provide advice for parents whose children are sitting exams on:

- How to support your child through their revision and exams
- How to spot signs of stress and how you can help
- What NOT to say

You can find these films at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/2Qf86MGyCkHITq4h1tWfknn/advice-for-parents-whose-children-are-sitting-exams>

Useful Hints & Tips include:

- Avoid unnecessary pressure being placed on your child. Do state to them the importance of their exams; that you will be proud of them whatever their results, as long as they have tried their very best. Remind them that they are valued for so much more than just their academic success.
- Students can often focus on things that they perceive have not gone well. Once an exam has been taken they can no longer influence the outcome, so it becomes completely futile dwelling on what they have done. Remind them that they can still make a difference in upcoming exams and should remain positive.
- Let them know that they have a wide support network around them with family, friends and school staff. Everyone is on their side, willing them to be successful, and that help, guidance and someone to talk to is always available.

### **Site Facilities**

As some of you may have read in the local press, the school will be embarking upon significant investment in our facilities, which over the next 12 months will be in excess of £800,000. Work begins on the new and refurbished facilities in July this year.

- We will be building two new classrooms onto the Humanities block which will replace the existing two mobile classrooms.
- The derelict swimming pool will be demolished. Following extensive investigations into the feasibility of keeping the pool open and despite best efforts, the conclusion is that it is not cost effective to replace this facility. The Trust is however investigating alternative uses for the site of the pool such as a 'Multi Use Games Area'.
- The Maths block will be completely refurbished over the summer holidays with new ICT teaching facilities placed within each classroom.
- All student toilets are being completely refurbished; designed to be open plan, the new facilities will enable maintenance to a high standard of cleanliness and the ability to monitor closely for any misuse. All students will feel safer and happier using these facilities.

### **Sporting Achievements**

Marshland High Under 16 ladies hockey team have won the league again. Mr Swinburn, Head of PE, told me this team has won every game played since they joined the Year 7 team back in 2014 when they started school. This is a fantastic achievement. They have been great ambassadors for their sport and our school. We are all so very proud of their success.

We are also very proud of our Year 7 and Year 8 basketball teams. For the first time the school has won all five district championships. Both teams then qualified for the semi-finals, which they went on to win, qualifying for the Junior NBA finals this month. I am sure you will join me in wishing them the very best for their upcoming matches.

### **Review of Home / School Agreement, School Behaviour & Mobile Device Policies and School Uniform**

Marshland has the highest expectations of our students. We have been monitoring and reviewing the effectiveness of our behaviour management approaches with students over the course of this academic year. We are pleased that the vast majority of our students are well behaved and meet our expectations. Similarly, we feel well supported by the majority of parents, building strong collaborative partnerships between home and school.

Unfortunately there are a small minority of students that do not meet our expectations. There are also a small minority of parents that do not demonstrate their support for school expectations and rules, counter to the Home / School Agreement they signed when they chose to send their child to Marshland High School.

We are determined to ensure that every child should have the highest quality of education, free from disruptive behaviour of other students, educated within a community where kindness and respect are valued and shown. Consequently the school will be reviewing the Home / School Agreement, behaviour expectations and policies, as well as our school uniform. The new Home / School Agreement and Behaviour Policy will be launched for September 2019 following consultation with students, staff and parents.

We will also be launching a new mobile device policy week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019 which explains clearly how and when mobile devices are allowed within school and their use by students. It also highlights consequences for students failing to follow this new school policy. You will be able to access the new policy on the school website from the start of June.

During the second half of the summer term we will consult with you on proposed changes to the school uniform, with the intention of introducing a new uniform for September 2020.

### **Parent Governors**

The school highly values the contribution that our parents can make to support us. We would be interested in receiving expressions of interest from any parents wishing to become a governor. Currently, there are two vacancies that we would like to fill. Expressions of interest should be emailed to: [head@marshlandhigh.co.uk](mailto:head@marshlandhigh.co.uk) and received by Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at the latest. If more than two expressions of interest are received the school will hold a ballot.

Yours sincerely



**Mr Craig Jansen**  
Headteacher