



July 2019

Dear Parents / Guardians

Headteacher Update Summer 2019

Where has the time gone? As this academic year comes to a close I can't help but think how quickly time has passed since last September.

It seems a commonly held view that when you are a child time passes more slowly than when you are older. The reason? Our brain is better at recording new experiences, but not familiar ones, into our memory. Our retrospective judgement of time is based on how many new memories we can create over a certain period. The more new memories we create the slower time will feel. As children we have more new things or moments to experience, therefore time feels slower. Conversely, the older we are the more familiar our experiences and time just seems to fly by.

We have created many new memories through our busy programme of extra-enrichment opportunities, so no wonder time has truly flown here at Marshland High since the start of the academic year. In addition to all the exciting opportunities outlined in my previous updates, key events include:

- Duke of Edinburgh successful 'Bronze' final expedition.
- Sporting fixtures and trips - the Basketball and Hockey trip to Spain and the Cricket ODI match at Trent Bridge. We are particularly proud of our Basketball teams taking part in the junior NBA finals in Colchester, where we were the only school to have two teams qualifying.
- Opportunities for students to immerse themselves deeper within subjects they study with Geography trips to Iceland and Hunstanton; a Biology visit to a DNA laboratory at the Sanger Institute; French language visit to Chateau de Warsy; English trip to Harry Potter Warner Brothers Studio Tour London, and National Theatre short productions in school of 'A Christmas Carol', 'Macbeth' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'; Music and Creative Arts visits to the Royal Albert Hall Film Music Gala and the Victoria and Albert museum; Careers trips to universities and fairs.
- Our Summer Musical production 'Return to the Forbidden Planet', other music concerts and our new Spelling Bee competition.
- Finally we said our fond farewells to our Year 11 students at the Prom and look forward to celebrating their achievements at Results Day in August.
- We also wish our intrepid student explorers the best on their Camp International trip to Borneo from 26th July.

At the end of this term we say goodbye to our valued colleagues Mr Knott, Mr Towle and Miss Ruskin who leave us for our sister Trust school, Smithdon High at Hunstanton. Miss Clarke is relocating to Essex, Miss Slinn is taking a gap year to tour India, Miss Flint moves on to another school following her maternity cover for Mrs Harris and Mrs Boltwood leaves us for her dream job supporting students within a specialist school. Our thanks go to our long-term supply science teachers Mrs Bye-Duke and Mr Gambold who also leave us.

We look forward to welcoming new colleagues in September. Mr Cook and Mr Tanner join Maths. Mr Clark (English), Miss Cardoso (Geography), Mr Curtis and Miss Hitchcock (Science) join us as fully qualified teachers following their successful training within our school this year. We also welcome Miss Brown (English / Drama) and Miss Castley (Science).

Our new behaviour policy, modelled on some of the most successful schools nationally, is due to be launched in the new academic year, and is available to read on our website. This policy will strengthen behaviour routines, consistency with which they are applied and strengthen a fair, but transparent consequence system.

Our aim is to ensure a no excuses approach to unacceptable behaviour in lessons and around school. You can support us by ensuring you have explained these new and higher behaviour expectations to your child. Our approach to behaviour and positive relationships are aligned with our core values of respect, responsibility, kindness, honesty and perseverance.

We will also be launching a new Reward system in September which aims to develop student character, recognising and celebrating the many students who get things right. We constantly receive positive feedback from events and trips on our students' excellent behaviour, courteous nature and politeness and wish to build on this strong foundation. The development of student character will be led next year by Mr Stannard and supported by Mr Hudson.

Our school introduces a new pastoral system in September, moving away from a hybrid house-based system to a year-based system. Each year cohort will be supported by a dedicated Pastoral Manager, line managed by the Senior Leadership Team.

Each Pastoral Manager will focus sharply on improving attendance of students at the school. Despite our best efforts, there are still too many students with unacceptably low attendance. Parents must not remove their child from their education unless they are too unwell to attend school, or if the school has granted absence under exceptional circumstances prior to the absence. You must not take your child out of school for a holiday. We need your support to improve attendance. If a child's absence is below 95% it will have a detrimental impact on their education. The school will continue to refer attendance concerns to the Local Authority so they can pursue prosecution. This term a Marshland parent has been ordered by a Magistrate Court to pay costs and fines in excess of £600 for their child's poor attendance to school.

We are currently consulting on changing our school uniform and we will provide opportunities for parents to see and comment on the new uniform from the beginning of next term (more details to follow). Views from our students will be sought through school council. Our consultation will close in October in anticipation of a September 2020 implementation.

Moving on to end of term arrangements, Wednesday 24th July is the last day of term. This will be a normal teaching day, but please note **school will finish early after period 4 at 1:30pm** with buses arriving shortly afterwards. Students who get Bus Number 60 can either make their own arrangements or will be allowed on Bus 46. If you are eligible for Free School Meals and would like us to provide a pack lunch for your child on the last day, please email office@marshlandhigh.co.uk with student name and quoting "Packed Lunch – 24th July".

The new academic year begins for our **Year 7 students ONLY on Wednesday 4th September**. Students in **Years 8 to 11 will return on Thursday 5th September**. Students must arrive **before** 8:40am.

Thank you for all the support you have provided so far this year, and I look forward to welcoming all our students back in the new academic year.

I hope you manage to create new memories and enjoy a slow-paced summer break!

Yours sincerely



Mr Craig Jansen
Headteacher