

**Marr College**  
**Parent Council Head Teacher Report**  
**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023**



We are currently in the midst of National 5 prelim exams and our young people are rising to the challenge as always. The weekly Study Café is proving to be popular and students continue to attend a wide range of Supported Study sessions.

Earlier this month a group of staff representing South Ayrshire Council visited the school to evaluate our work in providing high quality learning and teaching and our safeguarding approaches. The visit was very positive and a copy of the summary feedback letter can be found overleaf.

Looking towards the end of term, we have a number of activities and events, which are noted in our upcoming dates. We greatly appreciate the support of our families and the wider school community and I would like to take this opportunity to send you our best wishes for the festive season.

Below is an update on our work in school over the last month.

**Students**

- Our Higher and Advanced Higher Prelim Timetable for January has been published via Teams and on our website. Students are encouraged to note their prelim dates and plan revision accordingly
- Over 80% of parents attended the recent S1 Parents' Evening, which is the strongest attendance level for a few years
- Our revised House Points system is becoming well established and staff issue at least one house point during each lesson. Students are also encouraged to nominate themselves for any activities or achievements outside of school. Please visit [House Points \(marr.sayr.sch.uk\)](https://marr.sayr.sch.uk) for more information
- The Marr Allies group, supported by Miss Robson and Mrs Ledingham, have submitted evidence towards achieving the Silver LGBT Youth Scotland Award. We expect to find out the outcome in the next 4 weeks
- Hot Chocolate Friday runs weekly and House teams invite two pupils who have demonstrated our school values
- A group of students have established a Marr Community Youth Council and met with Councillor Pollock to identify issues and potential improvements within Troon, Dundonald and Loans. The group will continue to meet weekly and work directly with the local Community Councils
- Colours Award applications should be completed and submitted by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December. More information can be found at [Colours \(marr.sayr.sch.uk\)](https://marr.sayr.sch.uk)
- Christmas Dance tickets will be on sale over the next few weeks

**Staff**

- All staff participated in a workshop on The Promise during a recent twilight meeting
- Principal Teachers met to discuss progress and next steps for their department improvement plans
- In October we launched the The Marr Leadership Academy, a programme of professional learning for aspiring Principal Teachers and Depute Head Teachers. Sessions are delivered by school staff and external guest speakers across the school year

**Parent, Partner and Community Engagement**

- A group of parents and partners formed a focus group as part of our authority 2-day visit
- PC Harrower and Thriving Communities staff are delivering weekly football sessions for targeted groups and using the time to deliver sessions on responsible citizenship
- Our latest newsletter can be viewed here <https://joom.ag/mand>

**School Improvement Plan (SIP)**

- Term 2 focus on learner conversations, auditing homework in S3, family learning and implement our student mentoring programme

- Several staff have volunteered to mentor S5 students to help them achieve success in their studies at Higher level
- The Senior Leadership Team have been visiting S3 classes and speaking to young people about study techniques, support from staff, home learning and learner conversations. A summary document will be prepared and shared with staff and young people

#### **Upcoming Events / Key Dates**

- N5 Prelims commence – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November
- S3 Full Reports Issued – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December
- S1 Cinema Trip – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December
- S1/S2 Christmas Dance – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December
- Christmas Concert – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December
- S3/S4 Christmas Dance – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December
- Christmas Jumper Day/Christmas Lunch – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December
- S5/S6 Christmas Dance – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December
- Rewards Afternoon – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December
- School closes – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 2.30pm

**G Docherty**

30/11/2023

## **Educational Services**

**Director of Education: Lyndsay McRoberts**

**County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR**

Tel: 0300 123 0900

If calling please ask for: Jacqueline Blair

Our Ref: JB Your Ref: JB/MC

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2023, a team of representatives of South Ayrshire Council visited Marr College. It is not possible during such visits to explore every aspect of school life. We focussed on learning, teaching, assessment and safeguarding. During our visit, we talked to children, parents/carers and staff. We observed children learning and explored key documentation.

We found the quality of learning and teaching to be consistent and high quality. Learning environments were calm and purposeful.

The school were found to be fulfilling their statutory duties in terms of safeguarding and child protection.

### **The team found the following strengths in the school's work.**

- The leadership of the Headteacher who ably supported by his senior leadership team have successfully established a school community where staff feel valued and motivated to contribute to the wider life of the school. This is having a positive impact on pupils.
- In school relationships between children and adults are very positive, well established and there is a strong nurturing approach, where all children are well known and respected.
- Partnership working to support all young people but in particular those at risk of missing out or disengaging.
- There are a number of opportunities for staff to take on leadership roles and responsibilities across the school community. This is having a positive impact in school.
- The use of digital technology to prepare for and deliver learning.
- The number of meaningful leadership opportunities for pupils across the school. The work of these young people improves the experiences and opportunities for others across the school community.
- The school have effective strategies and interventions in place which are improving attendance, achievement, engagement and motivation for children and young people with additional support needs and barriers to learning. This is evidenced in the support and structures created within The Hub and The Hive.

### **The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the head teacher.**

- All staff should ensure that questioning challenges pupils and extends their learning.
- Teaching staff should continue to use a wide range of strategies to ensure all learners are fully engaged in all lessons.
- Staff should continue to look for ways for pupils in the broad general education (BGE) to exercise choice in their learning and increased opportunities to lead their own learning.
- Staff should continue to explore adaptive teaching strategies particularly in the BGE.

We gathered evidence to enable us to provide evaluative feedback on the school's work. We used quality indicators from How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition). Quality indicators help schools and local authorities to judge what is working well and what needs to be improved.

Yours sincerely

**Jacqueline Blair**

**Quality Improvement Manager**