

**Marr College**  
**Parent Council Head Teacher Report**  
**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020**



All year groups have settled very well and should be commended on the way they have adapted to our new routines. DHTs and PT Guidance teachers continue to welcome young people to school at each House entrance and also at interval and lunch time. The move to split lunch sittings has been fairly smooth and has provided more space within and out with school. Pre-orders and app orders amount to a steady 160 per day and more young people are purchasing hot meals in school. Attendance levels have steadily risen since the start of term. Our lowest level of attendance was around 84% (in line with the national averages in early September) and has been 90% for the past two weeks, which is equivalent to our yearly average.

I am delighted to share that our school roll is now 1014 which is above previous predictions and an increase of around 134 since 2018-2019. The increased roll has also led to an increase in staffing and at present we have 69.7 full time equivalent teaching staff, up 7 from August 2018.

In August we welcomed a number of new staff members to the school:

**Permanent staff**

Mrs Siobhan Morton, Art & Design (0.6)  
Miss Megan Muir, Design & Technology  
Miss Greta Loughlan, English  
Mr Euan Lindsay, Geography  
Mrs Alison Campbell, School Assistant  
Mrs Claire Letford, School Assistant (p/t)  
Mrs Angela Sellars, School Assistant

**Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs)**

Mrs Carol Lambie, Art & Design  
Mrs Nicola Dumigan, Business Education  
Miss Rebecca Muirhead, Chemistry  
Mr Blair Hamilton, Design and Technology  
Mrs Judith Stevenson, Maths  
Mr Calum Russell, Music

**Temporary Staff**

Mrs Carly Dodds, Art & Design  
Mr Bob Imbur, English  
Miss Hayley Keenan, Music (0.6)  
Ms Pam Drewett, RME  
Vacancy, Pupil Support (0.8) (Interviews on 6/10/09)  
Mrs Louise McCarten, School Assistant  
Miss Caitlin McGill, School Assistant

## Vision and Values

Following last session's consultation and review of our vision, values and aims we have agreed a set of shared values based on feedback from young people, staff, parents and school partners. Our values are:

Community    Ambition    Respect    Equality

During this first term back at school, all classes have had an opportunity to discuss the values and identify how they can be demonstrated in our everyday practice. The Art and Design department led a values logo competition that incorporates the word CARE and we were delighted to receive such a high number of entries. School Captains have whittled it down to 10 finalists and the winning entry will be chosen this week with the young person going on to work with a local design company to create a digital version.

Feedback from parents and carers was extremely valuable in reviewing our school vision. In responses to the surveys, staff, young people and parents felt that the current vision was lengthy and could describe any number of schools. When asked what was 'unique' about Marr, groups communicated that the history coupled with high expectations was important to them. Our revised vision is neat and succinct, captures the feelings of our stakeholders and, I believe, sums up our school well.

### ***Proud of our past, ambitious for our future.***

In February 2020 we held a student competition to create a strapline for the school – a line that can be used to promote a sense of belonging and could be adopted across the Marr cluster of schools. The winning entry is ***Together, we are Marr*** and you will start to see this appearing in communications, social media posts etc.

With the impending relaunch of our vision and values, Pivotal behaviour blueprint and learning and teaching policy, it is an exciting time for Marr College and, despite the current situation, is an opportunity to recover, reflect and rethink and our approaches for the benefit of everyone in our school community.

## Students

- The S6 leadership team has been extended to include a total of 24 members, with 4 School Captains being appointed in June together with 4 Captains in each House. School Captains meet weekly with the HT and House Captains meet fortnightly, each focusing on aspects of the Student Improvement Plan they are currently developing
- Our annual Sponsored Walk took place on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September and significant changes were made to the arrangements to ensure smaller groups were out on the route at any given time with support from school staff. The response has been overwhelming with over £5000 (including gift aid) raised through the House Just Giving pages. The funds will be used to build at least two additional classrooms in our partner school, Ntenjera Secondary in Malawi. Plans to visit have had to be reviewed, though we hope to be able to begin planning for 2022
- Auditions for the Young Singer of the Year competition are currently being recorded at home by each of the prospective entrants. The finalists will perform individually in school and will be showcased via a virtual event at the end of October
- Daily Dozen focus groups have resumed with discussions centring on experiences of lockdown, return to school and digital skills development. Feedback from young people so far has helped to shape and review COVID measures and revisit Teams training for all students
- Extra-curricular sports will return from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October. Lunch and after school clubs will resume over the next term

## **Staff**

- Throughout the planning stages and since our return to school, staff have been outstanding in ensuring the necessary measures are in place to keep everyone safe, deliver quality learning and teaching and to support the wellbeing of young people and colleagues. Routines are well established in each classroom and across the school day with the vast majority of students fully engaging with our new normal
- Building on the excellent work of the Business Education and Computing departments, we now have 24 staff who are certified Microsoft Innovative Educators (MIE), three MIE Experts and Miss Wyllie is now an MIE Expert Trainer. During the upcoming in-service day, remaining staff will complete professional learning in digital technologies to achieve accreditation. This means that all staff will have undertaken specific training in a range of Microsoft resources, including Microsoft Teams and OneNote, with many advancing their skills.
- We have revisited our whole school blended learning model to ensure we are prepared for any eventuality as a result of the COVID situation. Principal Teachers are co-ordinating the provision of online resources for young people who require to self-isolate
- This week we will receive an allocation of 71 Chromebooks which will be issued to students as part of the Scottish Government Digital Deprivation scheme
- Staff eagerly await the publication of the Priestly Report and the subsequent announcement by the SQA on course and exam arrangements for this session. Time has been set aside during the upcoming in-service days to review the publications, consider the impact for staff and learners and plan next steps in course delivery.

## **Parent and Partner Engagement**

- Our ongoing calendar of parent information evenings is being reviewed and staff groups are planning virtual events where possible.
- UCAS information is all now online and can be accessed through the website
- Our Study Skills evening will be a virtual event, scheduled for Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October and further details on joining the event will be sent out soon
- Our online newsletter is currently being collated and will be published soon

## **School Improvement Plan (SIP)**

- Our Improvement Plan focuses on school recovery, learning and teaching (with a focus on Digital Technology) and Health and Wellbeing. Some of the projects from last year were incomplete due to the school closure and have been carried forward. A detailed copy of the SIP can be found on the school website. A visual representation of the plan is currently being produced by the Art and Design team.

## **Upcoming Events**

- Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October - Tracking Report (S4-6) issued to students
- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October - Parent Council Meeting 7pm
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October - Online Awards Presentation
- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October - Ayrshire Hospice Go Purple Day (TBC)
- Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October - Virtual Study Skills Evening
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November - Tracking Report (S1 – 3) issued to students