

## People Directorate

Head Teacher: Mr George Docherty

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Our Ref: Your Ref:  
Date: 10.01.2020



Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing festive period and best wishes to you all for the New Year. Our staff have returned in 2020 with new energy and new ideas to improve our school for the benefit of all our young people and we are excited about the journey ahead.

From Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January, Mrs Cleland has taken up the post of temporary 0.5 DHT until the end of June. Mrs Cleland has previous experience in this role and we are delighted she is joining the Senior Leadership Team. In addition to taking over as DHT for Lothian House, Mrs Cleland will oversee improvements in our approaches to Developing the Young Workforce, College links and Health and Wellbeing. During this time, Miss Pringle will undertake on the role of 0.5 acting PT of Religious, Moral and Philosophical Education. In other staffing news, Mrs Bell has taken up a new role at St Matthew's Academy and we welcome Dr Sargent on 27<sup>th</sup> January as permanent Teacher of English. Over the coming months, a number of Student Teachers will be joining us at Marr College with many completing their final school placements. I am confident that they will do very well under the support and guidance of our experienced and dedicated staff.

Year group Assemblies took place at the start of the new term for all S1-S6 students, providing an opportunity to reflect on the previous year and consider what we can all do to ensure the highest level of success and achievement in the coming year. Young people were also made aware of our revised Mobile Phone policy and the introduction of zones around the school that identify where and when it may be appropriate to use mobile phones. Mobile phones have become an integral part of our society and we want to ensure that our students are equipped with the skills to be ready for learning and continue to use their phones in a safe and respectful manner. Our revised policy is attached to this email and I would ask that you take some time to read through it and reinforce the key messages with your child at home.

Throughout January there will be a focus on school uniform and in particular the wearing of school ties. I was pleased to see that almost all young people were in school uniform on the first day of term and greatly appreciate your support in ensuring this continues throughout the session. If your child has lost or misplaced their tie, please support us by obtaining a replacement through Ayrshire Schoolwear or by contacting the school office. The Marr College tie is well known and respected and helps to instil a sense of pride and belonging in all our young people. If you have older children who have left school or a child who now wears a colours tie, would you perhaps consider donating any pre-loved ties to the school? These can be dropped in at any time to the school reception.

Finally, I would like to wish all our senior students the very best in their prelim exams over the next few weeks. The strong partnership of support from parents/carers and staff in preparing them in school and at home is greatly appreciated and is invaluable to their success.

Our next school newsletter will be issued later this term, though in the meantime if you have not yet had an opportunity to read our winter edition, this can be found on our school website.

Yours faithfully,

George Docherty  
Head Teacher

