

Marr Matters

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have much to be proud of, both in the school and the community due to the efforts of our young people. So as we approach the end of another school year I should like to bring to your attention school related matters and recent events:

- School will close on Friday 29th June at 13.00. For those taking school lunches and or travelling by bus, arrangements have been put in place. The school will reopen for students on Monday 20th August at 8.40am. Should you have to contact school during the holiday period there will be Office staff available to take a message;
- S4-6 students will receive their examination results on Tuesday 7th August. Most have already signed up to get information by email, however, if they need further assistance in this matter then they must contact with Mr McLean before Friday;
- Students who require any changes to their chosen options will be seen by staff when the school term resumes;
- As you know Mr Cameron the Guidance teacher for Fullerton House leaves us at the end of this term. His replacement is Mr. Bell. Mrs Anderson will remain as the Head of House. I am confident that Mr Bell will get to know the young people in his care very quickly;
- You will be aware that the structure of the school day has altered for next session:
Monday and Tuesday – 08.45 – 15.40
(Lunch will be from 13.20 – 14.00)
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 08.45– 14.50
(Lunch will be from 12.30 – 13.10)
- Each morning from 8.45am – 8.55am there will be Personal Support Time. Students will be in registration groups with a Tutor. This member of staff will meet their group every morning. The changes to the school day and the introduction of Personal support Time is the same in every South Ayrshire secondary school;
- It is important that students arrive at school on time and ready to learn. In addition, one must strive for full attendance;
- The school and community are proud of our purple and gold smart dress traditions and the importance of presentation and behaviour when our young people represent the school daily. Standards of dress have again slipped in a minority of students' cases. I am looking for your cooperation in ensuring that your child adheres to the school uniform. Jeans must not be worn. Full details of the school dress code can be found in the Home Learning Planner;
- Professional training for staff – all schools in South Ayrshire will be closed on Thursday 16th and Friday 17th August to allow this to go ahead.

My tenure as Head Teacher is coming to an end as I retire this term. It has been both an honour and a privilege to be the Head Teacher of Marr College. During this time the school has undergone significant changes; in education, staffing and of course the building of our new facilities.

During this period, attainment has risen with young people achieving their personal goals. This is in part due to the many and varied opportunities provided and also the commitment and dedication of the staff. They have been instrumental in elevating school standards. I am extremely proud that our learners' leave as confident young adults who are skilled and equipped to make the transition into a positive destination of their choice.

In August, Mr George Docherty will be the Acting Head Teacher. I wish him every success in his new post and am certain that he will take Marr forward.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support and I wish you a relaxing and peaceful holiday.

Best Wishes,

Elaine McGregor-Sloman

School Captains

Recently there were interviews held for S6 students in order to become the School Captains for this year. There was a very high caliber of applicants and it was a very difficult decision. A big congratulations goes out to our 4 successful students and therefore new Captains: Rosie Watkins, Charlie Webster, Sam Butchart and Caitlin Chilton. There will be further news on Prefects and House Captains after the summer holidays.

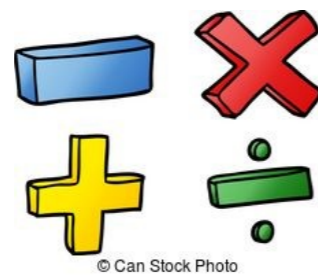
Enterprise

A group of our S6 Leavers took part in Young Enterprise and over the course of last year they formed their company, Grownade. The group were very successful and won the Regional Ayrshire finals. On 6th June they also attended the National Finals in Hampden Park which was very competitive and although they didn't win, it was a fantastic achievement to get to the finals. All nine students took part in the Strathclyde exam and passed with credit.



P7 Transition

Primary 7 students from all the schools in the Marr cluster have had a busy month attending all the transition events in order to prepare for their transfer into S1 after the summer holidays. On 11th June, there was a numeracy challenge held by the Maths Department. The final team building days were held on the 14th and 15th June, where they also had the opportunity to follow a timetable for the first time. There was also a 'drop in' for P7 parents on 18th-22nd June. We are greatly looking forward to welcoming our new S1 students and we hope they enjoy their years at Marr College.



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Duke Of Edinburgh

During the months of May and June the Duke of Edinburgh participants have been busy completing their Bronze and Silver expeditions in a variety of different weather conditions that the Scottish climate has thrown at them. They have had to use all their skills and determination to successfully complete their awards. We also have 8 Marr College students taking part in the first overseas Gold walking expedition to Iceland at the end of June. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for our young people and we wish them all the best on their expedition.



8 Week Challenge

On Friday 22nd June Marr College took part in their first in-house rewards day. The 8 week challenge scheme was set up in order to reward those students to have behaved and been successful within the school. There was a "clean slate" launched 8 weeks before the day so all students were eligible. Those deemed not eligible by the end of the 8 weeks were not rewarded. The day was a massive success with many different activities varying from sumo wrestling, silent disco, film shows, make-up masterclasses, sports and many more. We hope everyone enjoyed their day.

Wishing all students and staff a happy and healthy summer holiday and I look forward to seeing you all back in August.

Emilie Criaud S6



School Trips

Over the course of the year, we have had many amazing trips. Our S2 went to Belgium to experience the Battlefields on 2nd-7th May and on 11th-14th May, our S3 went to Iceland with a visit to the world famous Blue Lagoon. Both the students and staff had an unforgettable experience.



History Challenge

Our S1 students played host to the South Ayrshires Schools' History Challenge on 11th June. Marr College's team decided to focus upon the theme of the role that Troon played in WW1. The team shared the story of how the Ailsa Shipping Company made an important contribution to the war effort and how many of its former workers made the ultimate sacrifice at Gallipoli in July 1915.

Six schools from South Ayrshire participated in the challenge and congratulations must go to Ayr Academy who won the competition following an excellent presentation on the Suffragette Campaigns in Scotland. Team Marr were runners-up. Well done to Caitlin McColl, Rachel Hitchman, Sophie Bell, Sarah Hughes, Emma Atkinson and Jack Barrett for all their hard work on behalf of Marr College.



Bagpipes

A huge congratulations to Andrew Pattison, 1F, who has been accepted into the Junior Conservatoire to study Bagpipes as part of the traditional music course.

Andrew and a few other Marr College students are also part of the 1st Troon Boys Brigade Pipe Band who won the UK Championships in Belfast on 16th June and are now heading for the Worlds in August. Good luck!

Marr Open Day

On Saturday 16th June, Marr opened its doors and held tours led by students and staff around our fantastic new facilities. Friends of Marr, both past and present, turned out in great numbers.

Marr's Dragons

Our current S1 students all took part in the Marr's Dragons program, all students involved did a fantastic job and were an asset to the school. Each group had to come up with a new innovative product idea and 8 teams in total took part in presenting their idea to a panel of 4 judges made up of local business people. After much deliberation, the judges decided on the top 3 teams:

- 3rd Place- "Snacket" who were praised for their marketing and use of celebrity endorsement;
- 2nd Place- "Envirobin" who demonstrated excellent presentation skills; the judges liked their idea for a solar powered bin that would automatically separate your rubbish for you;
- 1st Place- Klikk with their product "The Phenn" which is a pen/mobile phone, you write using the pen and it transforms your writing into a text or email. The team had worked hard on their pitch creating their own website using html code, a plan for a billboard, a newspaper article and a mock-up of their solar powered charging case.

Well done to all the teams for their amazing effort and hard work put into Marr's Dragons.

School Production

On 6-8th June, our Marr College students showed us the talent we have in our school by putting on a wonderful production of 'We Will Rock You'. A big thank you and well done to everyone who worked so hard to make this performance such a success. There was a fabulous turn out to support our young people from family, friends and students. This is always a great highlight of the school year and we look forward to seeing out Marr students in the West End one day!

