

Educational Services

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Head Teacher: Mrs E McGregor-Sloman

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Date: August 2017



Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the 2017-18 school year. I do hope you all had an enjoyable summer break.

Our focus this coming session remains on providing quality learning experiences that will enable your child to reach their potential with regard to attainment and achievement whilst developing personally.

Last year we managed the new school building project and worked hard to ensure that educational progress was effected as little as possible. It is to the credit of the students that they were mature and flexible in dealing with this distraction. I should also like to mention one of the Depute Heads, Mrs. Rae Anderson, who has the buildings as part of her present remit. She has led us through the two year programme with a minimum of disruption.

For those of you with children in S5 – S6 I know it will have been an anxious wait for the SQA examination results. I can confirm that the results were very encouraging, continuing a positive three-year trend. Over the coming weeks we will be conducting an in-depth analysis by department so that we can consider future improvements.

I should like to offer my sincere apologies if you were unable to access the Autumn Term start dates early in the Summer Holiday. A text and on-line statement should have been available at the end of June. Communication is paramount for a positive home/school partnership; therefore, it is timely to announce that we have produced a new set of communication guidelines that clearly states how we will share information in the future. The Guidelines will also provide information on how you can contact the school. These will be posted on the school website in due course.

Please note that information is available through the website, parent calendar, specific letters, text and a monthly report on the work and life of the school which is presented to the Parent Council (posted on the website along with the minutes of the meeting). The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 6th September 2017 and all communication from June will be made available by the Clerk before that date. Should you wish to raise any matters then please contact a member of the Parent Council.

We have much to look forward to this year including the completion of the school building and grounds. This is scheduled for the start of October when we will take occupancy of the PE facilities; an official opening will take place later in the term and further details will be provided by South Ayrshire Council. The new accommodation is already providing an excellent environment that is appropriate for learning. Students are, on the whole, very positive about the changes and are determined to look after them.

We also have exciting news about the Houston Space Project. We are one of two secondary schools twinning with schools in Houston, Texas. It is linked to the developments taking place at Prestwick Airport. In June, we hosted Professor David Alexander from the R.I.C.E. Institute and took part in a Skype STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) lesson with students from America. It was a huge success and we are looking forward to establishing a strong partnership with them.

Another highlight will be the opening of our Smoothie/Barista Bar – part of our new Health and Wellbeing programme – housed in our hospitality facilities. This has been possible through working with Buzzworks from the local community and our students applying for, and receiving grant funding. Students will make the products, and serve them. In addition, we will begin our 'Taste the Food' sessions. This encourages students to try foods they may not have tasted before whilst operating the Fair-Trade initiative.

Alongside this will be the start of Marr radio. The aim is to encourage students to share good experiences with other students, inspiring them to become involved in school events.

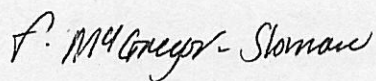
School excursions, enterprise events, and departmental activities are amongst the wider achievement programme that will be on offer. Again, information will be provided to particular year groups as they arise.

We fully recognise the importance of Parents and Carers in supporting their children's learning. You can support the school by encouraging your child/children to tell you about their day and make sure that they arrive on time, in the correct uniform and equipped so that they are ready for learning.

We have so much to be proud of in Marr College and our community and I want to share what we do well and seek support to implement improvements. If there is anything that comes to mind please contact the school.

I am looking forward to this year and what we can accomplish by working together.

Yours faithfully,



Elaine McGregor-Sloman

Economy, Neighbourhood and Environment

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Our Ref: HI/HT

Date: 10 August 2017

If phoning or calling ask for Hilary Iannotti



Dear Parent / Guardian

School Meals

Prices for school lunch for the academic year 2017/18 will remain the same, £2.20 in secondary schools and £2.10 in primary schools for a two course lunch or meal deal.

Healthy Eating is about getting the balance right and all our menus are nutritionally analysed to meet the Scottish Government Schools (Health Promotion & Nutrition) (Scotland) Act 2007 and promote key messages to improve diet to positively influence current and future health. The right balance of food and nutrients to develop and grow is vital for children and young people

School meals are freshly prepared each day and provide customers with value, quality and choice. In primary and secondary schools there is a three week menu cycle and all secondary and some primary schools have a pre order system. Special diets are available on request and can be provided in all schools.

Selection can be made from a range of hot and cold meals which include starter, main meal, vegetarian option, baked potatoes, sandwiches, panini, salad pot, dessert, fresh fruit pot, yogurt, home baking and a selection of drinks including water, milk and 'Fairtrade' juice.

All P1 to P3 pupils are entitled to a free lunch and can select items to the value of £2.10.

S1 students will receive a voucher for a free school lunch to the value of £2.20 to use on a day of their choice up to Friday 1 September 2017. This is to encourage young people to try the cafeteria rather than leaving school and perhaps buying food which is less nutritious and sugary drinks which are not available in school.

A supply of menu calendars will be available in school for all pupils and the menus are available on the South Ayrshire Council website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hilary Iannotti".

Hilary Iannotti

Facilities Coordinator Catering

Marr College Parent Council



Issue 01

August 2017

Who are we?

We are a group of interested and sometimes very noisy parents, teachers, carers and councillors who meet on the first Monday of every month during term time. Our purpose is to discuss relevant issues, get an insight into the complex world of secondary school management and hopefully help drive the school agenda forward.

Whose Who

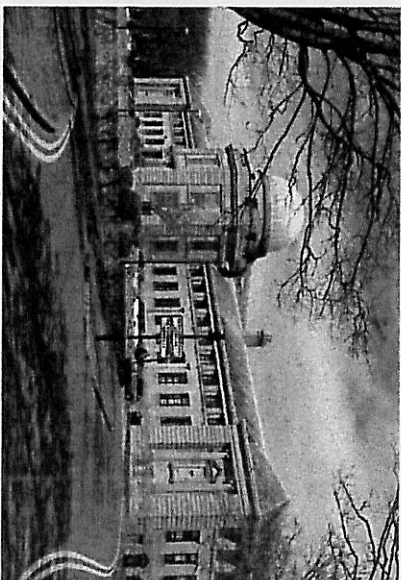
Chair Person: Duncan Beckwith
Vice-chairperson: Alan Blackwood
Secretary: Hilary Ramage
Treasurer: Angela Malcolm
All Parents/Guardians: Parent Council Forum Group

Contact us

We have recently set up a twitter page, @MarrPC_Suggest where we hope to inform wider parent forum of current activities. This includes a link to a "suggestions" email address whose purpose is as a forum for parents to add topics that they would like discussed at future meetings.

What matters to you?

The Head Teachers monthly report is always included as is an update from the school captains on the goings on the school from a pupil perspective. In recent years we have also had a monthly "buildings up date" which has moved from planning what the new building would look like to the fabulous new structure we have now; the parent council have been involved at every step of the way with information from the school and the builders, Kier Construction as well as from South Ayrshire Council.



Further Information

Previous minutes, and the parent council constitution can be found on the school website <http://www.marr.savr.sch.uk/head-teachers-reports.html> and the Head Teachers monthly reports on <http://www.marr.savr.sch.uk/parent-council.html>

Why should you attend?

"It's like trying to get blood out of a stone", "Since they went to secondary school I never know what they are up to", "I don't feel that I am involved in my child's education"

These are all comments that we have thought or heard over the years; the parent council offers a window into your child's learning and teaching that is beneficial for you, your child and your child's teachers.

We look forward to seeing you at our first meeting of the 2017/18 session on 6th September 2017.

If you have a subject that you feel would be important to include on the Agenda please use the [twitter page](mailto:marrpcuggestions@hotmail.com) or email marrpcuggestions@hotmail.com

