

ISSUE

01

October
2018

Marr Matters

Motivation | Ambition | Respect | Responsibility

Head Teacher Surgeries

Monthly Head Teacher surgeries will take place on the **second Monday of each month** from 4pm – 5.30pm. Please call the school office to book an appointment time.

A successful **Study Skills Evening** was held on Tuesday 18th September for parents of S4 and S5 students. A range of presentations and workshops were delivered by school staff, SCHOLAR and Skills Development Scotland. S6 students also presented on their S5 experience and helpful study tips.

Parent/carer meetings for our new S1 pupils took place over the last few weeks. Parents have valued the opportunity to have an initial check-in meeting to review short term progress and discuss any initial concerns with Guidance and Personal Support teachers

If you have any comments regarding our newsletter or any concerns about your child, please telephone the school office or email:

marr.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk



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Head Teacher's Welcome

Dear parent/carer,

I am delighted to formally welcome everyone back for the new school session and in particular, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new parents. It is a pleasure and a privilege to invite you to read our autumn newsletter, my first as Acting Head Teacher of Marr College. I hope that the newsletter gives you a flavour of school life and an opportunity to join us in celebrating the success and achievements of our young people.

All parents will be aware that we are an ambitious school and share high expectations for all of our learners. Please be assured that I will work tirelessly to ensure that Marr College is a vibrant and exciting learning community where everyone is valued and supported to realise their potential. We share high standards for our young people and greatly value the strong co-operation from parents in our expectations regarding uniform, behaviour and effort. Your ongoing support is always appreciated.

My priority as Acting Head Teacher is to ensure we are providing a high quality and inclusive learning and teaching experience for all our young people. We will do this by enhancing our culture and ethos, reviewing

our curriculum and improving our approaches to assessment, tracking and reporting. All this is underpinned by our commitment to fostering a climate of mutual respect and collective responsibility through our work in becoming a Rights Respecting School. A full copy of our [School Improvement Plan](#) can be found on our website.

At Marr College we are committed to building a school at the heart of the community. We are well aware that our success depends on our partnership with parents and the wider community and it is only through working together that we can ensure the best outcomes for our pupils. We are currently working on improving communication within the school and with parents, in addition to raising our profile within the community.

There will be additional newsletters issued in the coming session and regular updates on school activities can be found on our Twitter feed [@MarrColOfficial](#) and in the local press. We are very proud of our school and the success of all our young people and we hope you enjoy finding out about some of the opportunities, events and support we have on offer.

Yours sincerely,
G Docherty
Acting Head Teacher





Sports News

Our sports teams are well underway in the new season.

Our new U14 and U16 girls rugby teams competed in the Rugby Festival at Rozelle.



Well done to the U18s who defeated Dunbar 38-17 to earn a cup tie v holders Strathallan.

Under 13, 15 and 16 football teams have all had a great start to the season and are undefeated so far.



Well done to Hockey girls Ellie, Sofia, Ellie, Tilly, Erin, Katie, Rosie and Robyn who represented the South West District recently at U16 and U18 level. We are still looking for more S1 girls to join the Hockey team.

In Handball, S1-S3 finished 8th overall and held their own amongst some tough competition.

Thanks to all staff, coaches and volunteers who work hard to provide a wide range of opportunities for our young people.

SQA Results

Marr College students have continued to attain at a high level, particularly in Higher qualifications with a year on year improvement for S5. Whilst our fourth year National 5 results reflect a slight drop nationally, work still needs to be done to improve in this area. Our young people are to be congratulated on their achievements, as are staff and parents who have supported them throughout the year. Well done from everyone at Marr College.

Performance Measure	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
5+ awards @ Level 3 (end S4)	99	92	96	91	96	97
5+ awards @ Level 4 (end S4)	81	87	88	88	93	91
5+ awards @ Level 5 (end S4)	46	51	54	47	52	46
1+ awards @ Level 6 (end S5)	52	54	66	67	55	61
3+ awards @ Level 6 (end S5)	36	37	40	45	40	43
5+ awards @ Level 6 (end S5)	15	19	19	26	22	23
1+ awards @ Level 7 (end S6)	20	15	19	16	19	18

Figures are percentages based on the relevant S4 school roll

Attainment meetings are currently taking place with all departments to analyse our performance and identify supports and improvements for session 2018/19.

Staff Changes

At the start of the session we welcomed a number of new staff to the school.

Mr Bell (PT Guidance, Fullarton House)

Mrs Brown (School Assistant)

Mr Connell (Design and Technology)

Miss Madden (Art & Design)

Miss McNeill (Geography)

Mrs Rennie (School Office)

Mrs Taylor (Office senior Monday – Wednesday am)

Mrs Bell will join our English department on a permanent basis from Monday 22nd October and Mrs Hassard will continue in English on a temporary basis.

Mr Marshall has been appointed as permanent PT Geography and Mr Moncrieff has been appointed as Development PT of Raising Attainment. Miss Walker has also been appointed acting 0.4 PT Guidance, providing support for Darley (Thursday) and Wellbeck (Friday).

Mr McPike was appointed acting DHT at Carrick Academy until June 2019 and Mr McLaughlin will take over as temporary Acting PT Physical Education.

S6 Prefects

This year we have a significant number of S6 Prefects who were appointed following a competitive application process. Our prefects support a wide range of school events and also undertake weekly duties to support the smooth running of the school.

S3 Leadership Team

Congratulations also to our S3 pupils who were appointed as Junior Captains and Prefects. The selection process involved a group task to organise a charity event. Our S3 team will lead the S1/S2 Student Council and have already represented the school at our recent Study Skills evening.

Junior Captains: Lucy Grieve, Jake Murray, Poppy Nicolson & Amy Nixon

Junior Prefects: Ellie Cook, Cameron Duncan, Kelly-Louise Henry, Kristie McCormick, Christie McDonald, Zoe Jefford-Milne, Rosie Rossi & Emma Taylor



We are delighted to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves to you and inform you of the positive difference we hope to make in the coming months. All four of us are very excited to take on a captaincy role within the school and hope to use our platform as a way to improve student voice.

Through weekly meetings with the Head Teacher, attending Parent Council and Community Council meetings, we will work hard to keep everyone

up to date with all things Marr.

“the role has helped us to gain initiative, take on responsibilities, build our confidence and work effectively as a team”

By making ourselves visible to students throughout the

Student Leadership

Meet our Captaincy Team

school, we are able to combine everyone’s ideas and suggestions to develop an action plan to improve things such as communication, student opportunity, activities days and school trips. So far, the role has helped us to gain initiative, take on responsibilities, build our confidence and work effectively as a team. We look forward to updating you on all the great things that happen over the next few months! All the best,

Your Marr Captains

Rosie Watkins, Sam Butchart, Caitlin Chilton and Charlie Webster



House Captains

Darley: Adam Gorman & Amy Murray
Fullarton: Gregor Beckwith, Clair-Soo Blackwood & Carly Dunlop
Lothian: Douglas Fleming & Anna Paul
Portland: Lyndsay Frew & Mark Howard
Wellbeck: Katy Ramage & Emily Wilce





Fairtrade Zone

Mr Mills (Geography) and Freddie (S4) braved the cold dreich weather to attend the Troon Beach Fairtrade Zone launch event



S6 Young Enterprise

After last year's success we have 9 students taking part in Young Enterprise Scotland this year. Their company name is 'Essence of Troon' and they will be selling **limited edition** Troon candles, wax melts and diffusers. They are working in conjunction with Darceys who have provided them with invaluable training and

advice. The team have carried out market research and decided on a blend of 2 scents that they feel best represent Troon. Twice a week the team have been attending the Darcey's factory in Kilmarnock where they have started

manufacturing their products. For more information please follow Essence of Troon on social media or email them with any questions. We will keep you posted with their progress throughout the year!



Young Enterprise Group

Mark Howard, Emma Campbell, Gregor Beckwith, Louise Fraser, Calum Scoular, Rosie Watkins, Alistair Scoular, Lucy Woodhouse & Katie Young

Contact us via:

Twitter: @EssenceOfTroon
Instagram: @essence.of.troon
Facebook: Essence Of Troon

e-mail:

essenceoftroon@gmail.com

Fire Up Scotland

S5 and S6 students joined over 8000 young people from across Scotland at the Fire Up Scotland event on 12th September. The group were inspired and motivated by a huge range of guest speakers at the SSE Hydro.



Big Soup Share

Our LOOC group took part in the RHS Big Soup Share this week, cooking some hearty soup with our allotment veg and serving it to over 25 staff. The veggies were harvested the day before and only travelled 2.5 food miles which is fantastic! Thank you to all involved and for the kind donations – over £30 was raised for more plants and seeds.



Barcelona 2018

Last month, a group of S3 Modern Languages students visited Barcelona, taking in guided tours of famous landmarks such as Montjuic, the Olympic village, the Sagrada Familia and Las Ramblas. On the second day, they had a tour of Camp Nou, walked round and had lunch in Parc Guell then finished the day with a cultural visit to the Picasso Museum. Following this hectic schedule, they had dinner in a pizzeria in Salou which serves metre long pizzas! The third day was spent in Portaventura followed by a very competitive quiz at night in the hotel. On the final day the students had a morning walk to the harbour and a bit of free time to buy souvenirs. It was a wonderful experience for all pupils and a great opportunity to practice their Spanish and enjoy the Hispanic culture.



Celebrating Success



Boccia Success

Well done to Callum (S3) who won all 4 matches in the Sportability Boccia Competition held at Inverclyde in Largs. Callum was invited to the 2018 West of Scotland Schools competition and went on to win Silver in his category.



Golf's 'Wee Wonder'

Congratulations to Freya (S1) who played in the Wee Wonders Grand Final last month at St. Andrews. Freya was invited to speak at the tournament about her journey playing in the competition since the age of 5! Older brother Fraser won the boys scratch event at the American Golf Junior Championship held in Gainsborough.



Sports Leaders

Well done to our Sports Leaders who led the Primary Sportshall Athletics event in October.

Marr Malawi Partnership

S6 Leadership Group



Over the last year, Marr College has established a partnership with a school in the small community of Ntenjera, Malawi. Our partner school has around 2500 pupils, however, they only have 13 classrooms so most lessons are taught under the intense glare of the sun, with trees being the only source of shade. We wanted to help change that.

In order to do this, we decided to arrange a 'Walk to Malawi', where collectively as a school, we would walk the distance from Troon to our partners in Ntenjera, just over 7000 miles away. Our sponsored walk was held on 20th September;

the full school walked the first 3 miles together before walking the other 4 miles in our own time, hoping to raise a large sum of money which would be split 50:50 between our partner school and our own. In

Ntenjera, the money would allow the school to buy tables and chairs and with the other half, we hoped to put on an activities afternoon in Marr. In the lead up to the walk, we had lots of contact with our partner school who were all excited about our fundraising



walk; they made videos and took pictures to encourage us. Through this fundraiser, we were hopeful that we would raise £7000 as this is an idea which has proved very successful in other schools. So far we have raised an incredible £2500 and although this is below our target, we hope that more sponsor money will be handed in over the next few weeks. We are currently looking at planning more events throughout this year to raise more money for our partner school. In the future, we are hoping to be able to build classrooms in Ntenjera as well as teacher's accommodation which will help to attract and retain teaching staff.



Save the date...

- S1/S6 Halloween Disco, Tuesday 30th October
- Instrumental Instruction Parents' Evening, QMA Monday 5th November
- Parent Council AGM, Wednesday 7th November
- S1 and S2 Tracking Reports Issued, Friday 9th November
- S2 Parents' Evening, Monday 12th November
- S5/S6 Reports issued, Friday 23rd November
- S4 Tracking reports issued, Friday 30th November
- Parent Council Meeting, Wednesday 5th December
- Christmas Dances, Tuesday 11th – Thursday 13th December
- Christmas Concert, Wednesday 19th December (change to calendar date)
- School closes at 2.30pm on Friday 21st December

