

Parent Update Letter

Dear Parent/Carer,

Uniform monitoring continues to take place in Personal Support classes and well done to the 84% of learners who are arriving to school in full uniform. I'm sure you will agree that this is something we want to continue to improve and I would appreciate your support in continuing to promote and encourage your child to wear their uniform to school at all times, including a school tie. Tracksuit bottoms or sports leggings should not be worn at any time unless participating in PE. As always, please do not hesitate to contact your child's guidance teacher if you have difficulty accessing any aspect of the uniform.

On 9th March, Mr Moncreiff and I had the pleasure of accompanying a small group of pupils to the Scottish Parliament to receive the Vision Schools Award for our work in Holocaust education. Marr College is one of only 12 schools to receive the award this year and we are looking forward to working with the Holocaust Memorial Trust to produce a short video of the work undertaken in school.

I am delighted to share that Dr Sargent has been appointed to the permanent post of Principal Teacher of English following Ms Law's move to the role of South Ayrshire Literacy Co-ordinator. We look forward to appointing two full-time teachers of English in the coming weeks and I would like to express my sincere thanks to Ms Law for her hard work and commitment during her time at Marr.

Within the school grounds, we have a small number of homes who access their driveway from the road between the traffic lights and the entrance pillars to the school. If you are making use of the drop-off/pick-up area, I would be grateful if you could avoid blocking these driveways to ensure that householders are able to use their driveway at all times. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated and now that mornings and evenings are a little lighter, we would encourage young people to walk or cycle to school whenever possible.

On Tuesday 7th March we will be hosting a visit by Keir Construction and BDP who were responsible for the design and build of both the refurbishment and the new school. Our visitors will receive a tour led by young people and will also be interviewing staff and pupils on their experience of the new campus spaces.

Thank you to all S2-S6 parents who completed our curriculum survey. Your feedback has helped to shape our curriculum rationale, plan curricular changes for session 2023-24 and also provide feedback on the information we provide in relation to careers education. A summary of feedback and curriculum changes will be shared with you soon. Our recent Careers and Options evening was a huge success with over 600 people attending on the night. Mr McLaughlin, PT DYW, has collated your feedback from the event and is currently leading a review to plan for improvements next session. We would also like to thank our pupils, parents and carers for your support of our recent charity days, which have raised £300 and £550 respectively for the MICA project and LGBT Youth Scotland.

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Currently over 800 young people in S2-S5 are completing the options process, with Guidance staff and Year Heads leading options interviews. You may be familiar with the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) who help plan the learning journey and provide recognition for a wide range of courses. This coming session, we are offering an increased number of exciting SCQF courses that are equivalent to National 5 and Higher level, which are all outlined on our website. Congratulations to Miss Campbell, development PT Qualifications and Skills, and her team of student SCQF Ambassadors who have successfully achieved the Bronze SCQF Award and have now set their sights on Silver level.

Thank you to parents and carers who completed our Parents' Evening survey. Attached is an analysis of the feedback, which will be discussed with staff during our next after school meeting. My aim is to share plans for next year's parents evenings with you by the end of the current session.

All students should have completed their online options MS Form by the 28th February deadline and final options should be made by Friday 3rd March for new S3/S4 and Friday 10th March for new S5/S6. and please remember to access our website for any additional information on courses available.

A wide range of Supported Study continues to be offered to S4-S6 students in addition to the after school Study Café. We will be in touch very soon with details of Easter School classes and information on Masterclass sessions, which will be available to students in the run up to exam days. With only 8 weeks until the SQA exam diet commences, I would strongly encourage young people to ensure they have an effective study plan in place and to take up the offer of additional support from their teachers.

Thank you for your continued support and as always, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's Guidance teacher should you require.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Docherty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'G' and a long, sweeping tail.

George Docherty
Head Teacher