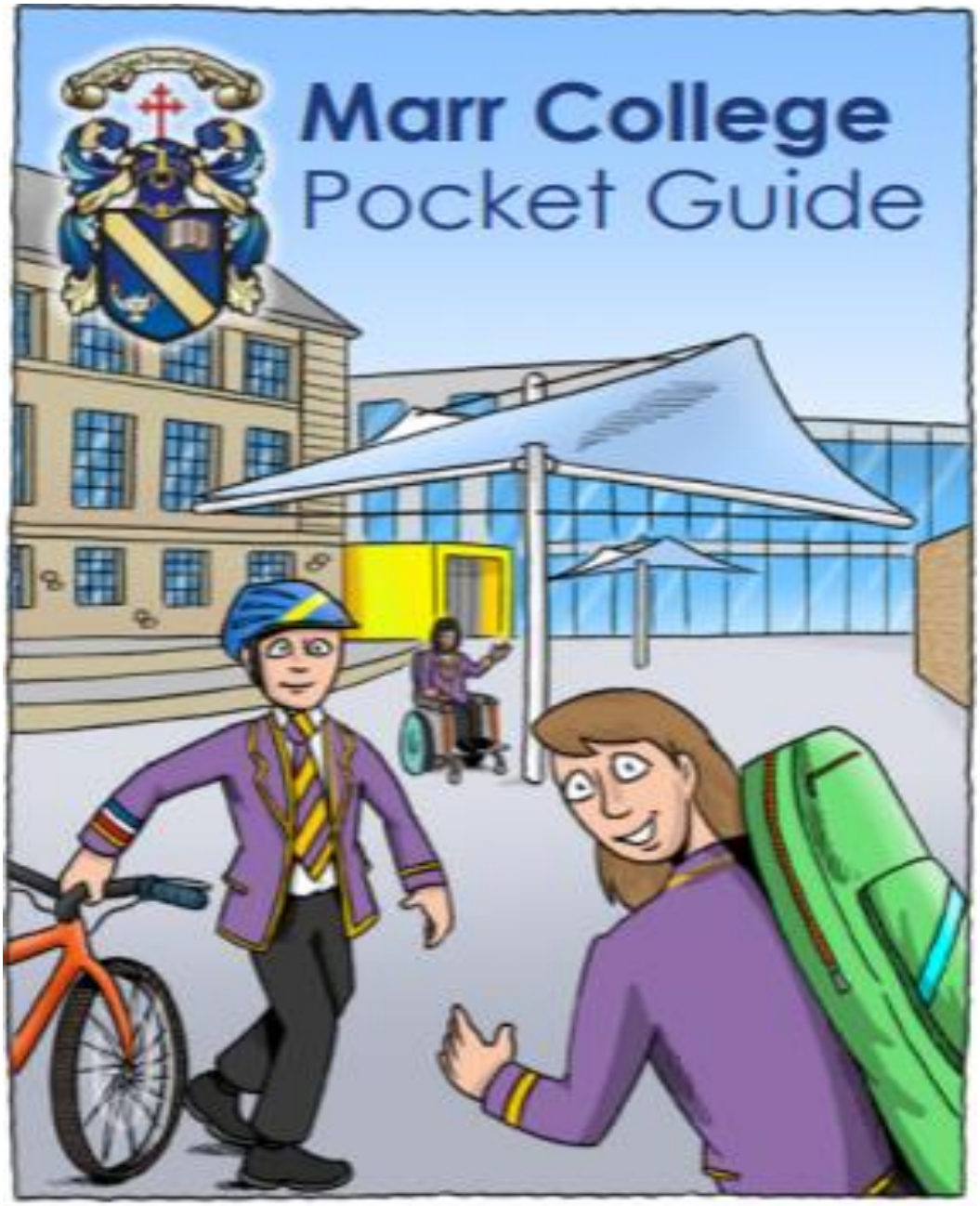

A Frequently Asked Questions Guide for New Parents and Students

Marr College

Frequently Asked Questions for New Parents and Students

We hope that the following information is helpful to you. Please take some time to visit our website www.marr.sayr.sch.uk to find out more about the life and work of the school.

Communication

Our preferred method of communication is via the **Xpressions App,** which you may already be familiar with. The app is used to send and receive text messages, send parent/carer letters, school newsletters and other important information. If you currently use the app, access will automatically transfer when your child starts at Marr College. If you are not currently using the app, please register online from early August. Access to the app will not start until your child's first day at Marr. Should you not be able to receive the information via text or email, hard copies will be available from the school office.

Our website is kept up-to-date and contains a school news section and a copy of the school calendar. Please access the school website at www.marr.sayr.sch.uk. We also have an active X feed **@MarrColOfficial** as well as several department X and Instagram feeds, which are used regularly to share information and to celebrate success and achievements.

In the event that you need to contact the school regarding information or a concern about your child, please speak to your child's Guidance teacher in the first instance.

Parentsportal

In support of South Ayrshire Council's commitment to improve digital parental engagement, we use parentsportal.scot.

What is Parentsportal

The traditional school bag run has been used to facilitate communication between parents and schools for generations. Parentsportal provides a digital solution to this issue, making it easier for parents and carers to manage paperwork connected with school activities, and to obtain information about their child's educational progress at a time that suits them. Parents can complete the Annual Data Check and consent forms online, report absences, check attendance, receive pupil progress reports etc.

Information will be issued on how to sign up to Parents Portal once pupils have started at Marr College

Attendance

We have an expectation of excellent attendance. If however your child is unable to attend school we would ask that a phone call is made to the school office or a message sent via the Xpressions App or Parents Portal. Attendance of students is checked by Guidance staff and if there has been no phone call for an absent student a text message will be sent to the main contact only. It is therefore important that contact details are accurate and up-to-date.

The School Day

The start, finish and period times are shown below.

Monday and Tuesday	
Personal Support	8.45 – 8.55
Period 1	8.55 – 9.45
Period 2	9.45 – 10.35
Interval	10.35 – 10.50
Period 3	10.50 – 11.40
Period 4	11.40 – 12.30
Period 5	12.30 – 1.20
Lunch	1.20 – 2.00
Period 6	2.00 – 2.50
Period 7	2.50 – 3.40

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday	
Personal Support	8.45 – 8.55
Period 1	8.55 – 9.45
Period 2	9.45 – 10.35
Interval	10.35 – 10.50
Period 3	10.50 – 11.40
Period 4	11.40 – 12.30
Lunch	12.30 – 1.10
Period 5	1.10 – 2.00
Period 6	2.00 – 2.50

The School Building

When students start in S1, they will have S6 buddies who will help them during their first couple of weeks by taking them to classes, showing them the canteen and other areas of the school. New students in other year groups will also be assigned a buddy from their class. Guidance staff and Personal Support teachers will also be able to help students settle in to the school. Students who join throughout the year will be allocated a buddy in their class to help them find their way around and settle in.

Uniform

All students are expected to wear trousers/skirt, black/white shirt, tie and appropriate black footwear. Most items of uniform are widely available in supermarkets or clothing stores. Our uniform partner, Ayrshire Schoolwear, also supply durable and high-quality items of uniform, including Blazers, and can add Marr badges to their sweatshirts, jumpers and cardigans for a small additional cost. Please visit Ayrshire Schoolwear's online shop here to see samples and pricing information. PE t-shirts are also available to purchase at www.pslteamsports.com. Our Parent Council manage a Blazer shop/exchange and can be contacted via marrpcblazers@yahoo.com

Classes

All students attend Personal Support first every morning. This is a 10-minute period where they will receive relevant information about things going on in the school, opportunities for trips etc. and learning about skills and citizenship themes. They may also be handed out permission forms or other forms/ information during Personal Support.

In S1 & S2, students will have a wide range of Broad General Education subjects which they will attend either with their register class (e.g. 1D, 1F) or as a practical class (e.g. 1p1, 1p5 etc.). Each student will be issued with their own timetable at the start of the year which they will follow throughout the session. An example of an S1 timetable is shown below.

Mon	REG Personal Support School Dr MacKenzie Rm 230	1 Physical Education CfE Miss Waddell	2 RMPS CfE Ms Good Rm 135	3 Science CfE Miss Watt	4 Music CfE Mrs Russell Rm 147	5 English CfE Mrs Bolland Rm 124	6 Mathematics CfE Miss McCue Rm 222	7 Modern Languages CfE Mrs Gilmore Rm 133
Tue	REG Personal Support School Dr MacKenzie Rm 230	1 History/Modern Studies CfE Miss Roseweir Rm 234	2 Science CfE Miss Watt	3 Computing Science CfE Miss McKenzie Rm 045	4 Geography CfE Miss Lennie Rm 228	5 Business Educ CfE Miss Archdeacon Rm 030	6 English CfE Mrs Bolland Rm 124	7 Mathematics CfE Mr Aitken Rm 237
Wed	REG Personal Support School Dr MacKenzie Rm 230	1 Art CfE Mrs Lambie Rm 207	2 Science CfE Miss Watt	3 PSE CfE Mr Reid Rm 230	4 Literacy School Dr Sargent Rm 127	5 Physical Education CfE Miss Waddell	6 Mathematics CfE Miss McCue Rm 222	
Thu	REG Personal Support School Dr MacKenzie Rm 230	1 Physical Education CfE Miss Waddell	2 STEM School Mrs Laurenson Rm 110	3 Technological Studies CfE Mr Kellett	4 English CfE Mrs Bolland Rm 124	5 Music CfE Mr Russell Rm 147	6 Geography CfE Miss Lennie Rm 227	
Fri	REG Personal Support School Dr MacKenzie Rm 230	1 English CfE Mrs Bolland Rm 124	2 Home Economics CfE Miss Heslop Rm 014	3 Mathematics CfE Miss McCue Rm 222	4 Art CfE Mrs Lambie Rm 207	5 Modern Languages CfE Mr Norrie Rm 133	6 History/Modern Studies CfE Miss Roseweir Rm 231	

School Meals

In Marr College students have the opportunity to purchase food at the start of the school day, at interval and at lunchtime. Lunches can also be pre-ordered by 10am via the Vericool app. We are now cashless in school – money for meals must be added via the student's account on ParentPay, our online school payments system. Information on registering for ParentPay will be issued when your child starts at Marr or can be obtained from the school office.

There are also spaces for students to eat packed lunches in school. No students are allowed out of the school grounds at interval and S1 students are not allowed out of the grounds at lunchtime.

Free School Meals and Clothing Grant

Information on eligibility criteria etc. and the application form for the above can be found on the South Ayrshire Council website at https://beta.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals. If a student is entitled to a free school meal, an application for this must be submitted each session. If you need help to claim, please call 0300 123 0900 to speak to one of the council customer service advisors.

Transport
Information on eligibility criteria etc. and the application form for free school transport can be found on the South Ayrshire Council website at https://beta.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/article/28205/Free-school-transport

If you do not have access to complete this form online you can obtain an application form by contacting Educational Services on 01292 612284 or by email at SACSchoolTransport@south-ayrshire.gov.uk to get a blank application form sent to you.

Parent Council
We have a very active and welcoming Parent Council, who support the school in many ways. If you are interested in joining the Parent Council, or would like any further information, please contact marrparentcouncil@gmail.com.

Lockers
Most students have access to a locker (accessed via a personal key code) at the start and end of day as well as at interval and lunchtime. Individual locker details are issued to all students when they start at Marr College and they keep this locker throughout their time here. There is a one off payment of £5 (paid via Parent Pay) for the lockers.

House Groups
There are 5 House groups and students will be allocated to a house when they start at Marr College. This will also be their register class (Year group, House e.g. 1L, 2D).

Each house group has a Principal Teacher of Guidance and a Depute Head Teacher who is Head of House. The Guidance teacher is the first point of contact if students have any issues in school.

The current staff are as follows.

Fullarton	Mr Bell	Mrs Anderson/Ms McCue
Lothian	Mr Higgins	Mr Ward
Portland	Mr Reid	Ms McCallum
Welbeck	Mrs Levif/ Miss Robson	Mr Hobson
Darley	Mrs Cooper / Mr Connell	Mr McLean

Subject Choices
In February / March, students in S2 – S5 choose the subjects they would like to study in the following year. The number of subjects and levels they choose depends on what year group they will be going in to. S3 students still follow the Broad General Education, so have a range of subjects. In S4 – 6, students work towards their SQA qualifications; National 4, National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher. Information on the options process and subject choices can be found on the Marr College website http://www.marr.sayr.sch.uk/course-options.html

Further information is issued to students before they need to make their choices and they will have a 1-1 meeting with their Guidance Teacher before finalising their options.

Extra-Curricular Activities
There are various clubs and activities which students can join. These will be advertised via information at Personal Support, posters around the school and the PE department (for sports clubs). Some of the current activities/ clubs include:

Art Club, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Computer Club, Chess Club, Debating, Football, Food Film and Faith, Handball, Hockey, Netball, Rugby, Science Club, Volleyball, Reading Ambassadors, STEM club.

There are Music Instructors who visit the school to provide music lessons. Further information can be obtained from the music department.

We hope that this information is helpful. Further details on transition, the school day, holidays, uniform and much more can be found in the School Handbook which is available on the Marr College website www.marr.sayr.sch.uk. Please take some time over the summer or before your child starts at Marr to visit our website and familiarise yourself with the parent and student information pages.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child to Marr College.