

Ref:ALI

22nd March 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Well what a strange term we have had ... not only quite a short term but one filled with unexpected snow! Despite the shortness of the term we have had a great deal happening this term.

Year 11s have been working hard on mock preparation and we see an increase in our after-college classes and weekend classes as we move closer to their examinations. The college is also open over the Easter holidays with a full timetable of classes available. The timings published show the time the class begins and so students must arrive earlier otherwise they will not be able to gain access to the building. The college is open for classes only and as there are no facilities for lunch, students will therefore need to bring packed lunches.

Year 10s are beginning their preparations for considering their futures and subsequently applying to colleges. Their Year 10 exams begin in June and so their preparation for revision is crucial. The application process for prefects has just opened and those students who think that they have a capacity to lead others, must definitely apply as this role truly embodies our relational graces.

Year 9s have made their option choices this term with a wider than ever choice offered. They have just completed their interviews with senior staff confirming their choices and their plans for the future. A great deal of work now goes on behind the scenes to look at developing their future curriculum and generating their confirmed choices.

Year 8s are making really good progress and the number of students receiving all greens on their reports has increased significantly. Rewards will follow next term for those students who are showing their commitment towards their subjects and making progress across all subjects. We had a really successful trip to Chester Zoo as part of our National Science Week and our Transition Ambassadors continue to impress with their commitment to our primary schools.

Year 7s have also had a great term and their tracking shows that they are developing and progressing through the year. With our Parent Consultation Evening on Thursday 19th April, we are looking forward to discussing with our parents, the progress made in terms of their subjects and as a learner. We have been working very hard to ensure that our Year 7s understand their own development as a learner within their KASH classes and this will be crucial as the employment landscape changes, so they will need to adapt and learn differently.

When we return for the Summer term we will have examinations for all years and the preparation for these exams will build throughout the term with advice and guidance for our students on methods of revision and organisation in order to best prepare them for these important tests of knowledge, understanding and skills through developing the right attitudes and the most effective habits.

A significant change this term has been our work on our Behaviour Policy. I am sure that you are aware that in our local environment of Brierfield, Nelson and Colne there is concern for the safety of young people outside of their respective schools. There have been some children from the local schools who have been hurt through pre-arranged fights occurring through the holidays and at the weekends. We wish to take a strong stance on this as a college, as Marsden Heights believes in all children having the right to feel happy, safe and well and this extends to the time when they are outside of college as well as the time spent inside. Therefore

we have made some significant changes to our policy and we have shared how our policy has changed with the students during their assembly times.

Our students are fully aware that they are a Marsden Heights student inside college and that they remain one outside of college too. Symbolically they not only carry their college badge and wear their tie during the college day, but also during the weekend and during the holidays. Our Expectations for Learning are also Expectations for Life and they fit with the values that parents/carers hold dear too. Therefore if a student's behaviour outside of college threatens the safety of themselves and others then they will find that this behaviour could lead to a fixed-term exclusion or indeed for a very serious incident, it could lead to a permanent exclusion whether that incident occurs during the college day, during the weekend or during the holidays.

We have also been really clear in our policy about the consequences of bringing any items into college which may threaten the safety of students or staff. We have already been working with our students on keeping themselves safe and we shall continue to extend this work so that all children understand what to do in difficult and challenging situations that they may face.

We will publish the policy in its entirety on our website and if you would like a paper copy then your child will be able to pick one up from Reception after the Easter holidays. We often tell our students that throughout life someone will always be watching; people see you when you make good choices and succeed and people see you when you make poor choices and do bad things. This is never more true than now with CCTV, mobile phones that video and take photographs, and social media. Part of our responsibility at college is to support children in making those right choices through care, advice and guidance so that all children, no matter which school they go to, can feel happy, safe and well.

Finally, we will be recruiting for posts next term in the core areas of English, Maths and Science. We are also looking for an EAL/SEN Teaching Assistant and a part-time Design and Technology technician. Check out the adverts on the website, the TES and our Twitter feed for further information.

We look forward to welcoming all our children back on Monday 9th April.

Kind regards



Alyson Littlewood
Headteacher