

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families are safe and well. As the government has announced an extension to the lockdown for a further three weeks, school will remain closed to the majority of students. We do remain open, however, for the children of key workers and certain other cohorts. We will continue to operate with a skeleton staff and are appreciative of the support and understanding you are showing as the majority of staff and students continue to work at home. We are currently open from 9am until 3pm. We understand this may not suit all key workers working shifts. If you are a key worker and would like us to try and explore the possibility of opening between the hours of 7am and 7 pm then please contact us:

e mail on [maricourt@maricourt.net](mailto:maricourt@maricourt.net)

telephone 0151 330 3366.

### **Working from Home**

Maricourt staff continue to provide educational activities via Show My Homework. We are very appreciative of the parental feedback we received in relation to the work set and will be using this to try and improve what we are doing. Students should continue to follow their normal school timetable by signing in each day and work on the tasks set. The vast majority of students have been engaging with the work. However, a small minority have not and we will be contacting their parents in due course to try and support all students in completing the work.

Students have also been given instructions on how to sign in to Century Tech, where even more questions and tutorials can be found in a variety of subjects. If anyone is unsure of how to log in or is looking for additional work, there is information on how to work from home on our school website.

### **Social Media Use and Social Distancing**

It is more important than ever that parents monitor their children's social media activity. Young people can be vulnerable while online and regular monitoring will help ensure everyone's safety. Guidance and support can be found on the school's website.

We also ask that parents ensure their children are maintaining social distancing. Anyone can spread the virus and reports of young people gathering at shops exposes them and their families. As difficult as it may be, please follow the government's guidelines and remain at home unless it absolutely necessary to leave. Guidance on self-isolation can be found by following the link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

### **GCSE and A level Grades**

In a recent Ofqual publication it states:

“As exams will not take place this summer, students' grades will instead be based on evidence of their likely performance in the exams had they gone ahead. Schools have been asked to submit to exam boards, for each student and for each subject for which they were entered, judgements on:

- the grade the student would most likely have received had the exams taken place
- the rank order of each student at each grade in each subject in that centre.

These will be holistic judgements informed by evidence of students' performance during their courses of study, such as in homework, mock exams and non-exam assessments. To enable teachers working together within schools and colleges to reach these judgements fairly and objectively, they will not discuss their evaluation of the evidence or disclose the judgements they reach with students or their parents or carers. Students, parents and carers should not seek to influence the judgements made; attempts to do so maybe investigated by an exam board and found to constitute malpractice, which may result in sanctions."

Ofqual has published a consultation on the exceptional arrangements for awarding GCSE and A/AS levels in summer 2020. The deadline for responses is 29 April.

Further information on this consultation can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/exceptional-arrangements-for-exam-grading-and-assessment-in-2020>

There is also a letter for all students and information for parents which is available on the school's website.

We urge all students **not** to throw away any PPE exam papers, books or coursework as this may be required as evidence to support internal judgements.

We can confirm that A Level students will get their results on 13<sup>th</sup> August, and GCSE students will get theirs on 20<sup>th</sup> August as previously published.

### **Changes from September 2020**

We propose to make changes to a number of areas from next academic year.

#### **School Day**

We will no longer have an early finish on alternate Wednesdays. School will start at 8.50 am and finish at 3.30pm each day to give additional time to cover the curriculum in depth.

Break times will be extended by 5 minutes each day and lunch will be shortened by 5 mins each day. This retains the total length of breaks and helps with the day to day management of the school.

#### **School Uniform**

Shoes will be compulsory for all students. They must be completely black and you must be able to polish the whole upper part of the shoe. Anything with a sports logo, not completely black or is made of material not designed to be polished will not be accepted.

Girls' socks will be grey not white.

If you would like to share your views on these proposed changes please do so by contacting the school on [maricourt@maricourt.net](mailto:maricourt@maricourt.net) or by calling 0151 330 3366.

### **Free School Meals**

During this challenging time, we will continue to provide vouchers for students who are eligible for free school meals. We have now moved over the national voucher scheme set up by the government. We are experiencing some initial problems with this system as all schools nationally move over to this system and our administration staff are working extremely hard to overcome these issues which are not of our making, so thank you in advance for your patience. We will get the weekly vouchers out to you as soon as we can.

### **Temporary Bus Timetables**

The new temporary bus timetable for the 722 and 723 can be found on the school website or by following the link:

<https://www.merseytravel.gov.uk/travel-updates/school-services-latest-information/>

We appreciate what a challenging time this is for families and we will continue to share information via our website and via PS Connect.

I hope you all remain safe and well.

God bless,

Mr Mangan

Headteacher.