



Martin High School

NEWSLETTER 5

FRIDAY 26th MAY 2017

The Exam Season

It's at this time of the year we wish our Year 11's good luck for their GCSE's. We have had two weeks of examination and when they return after the May half term break, the exam season continues.

As a year group, they have had to contend with being the first to sit the new style GCSE's, graded 9-1, in English and maths. We are proud to say they have risen to this challenge even though they know that there are still uncertainties about what the 9-1 gradings will be in the summer.

As well as preparing year 11, staff have been developing new schemes of learning for years 7-10 to enable our learners to better face the new, more robust and challenging 9-1 system.

In the second half of the summer term, parents and carers will be invited to attend information sessions about the 9-1 system and what it will mean for our learners. Dates are:

You will also see our new way of reporting learner progress; we have worked with a variety of parents to make this more accurate and easy for all to understand.

Thanks as ever for supporting MHS; it's by working together that we will make a difference. I look forward to seeing you in the summer term for one of our celebration events:

- **Summer Concert**
Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th June (6.30pm doors open for Art Exhibition). (7.30pm performance starts)
- **Celebration Evening**
Wednesday 5th July (6.00-8.00 pm)

Trying times in education; we need your support

I am sure you will have read about the funding crisis in education. Across the country hundreds, if not thousands of Head Teachers are expressing their deep concerns about school funding and the impact on school budgets.

We lose money every year, the total impact of all of this has had to be managed without the required level of additional funding. The Department for Education is fully aware that schools across the country are facing a serious financial crisis, but as yet has failed to address these concerns or indeed, publicly acknowledge the seriousness of the situation.

A recent survey indicated that 92% of secondary schools either have a deficit budget or will move into a deficit position within the next two years.

MHS does not, as yet, have a deficit budget and we are keen to maintain this position. However, in the near future we will face the need to reduce the number of GCSE subjects, increase the average class size and review our financial commitment to non-academic subjects of the organisation e.g. sports, Arts etc.

This edition of our newsletter shows us why we are so special and just how much we offer and want to protect and preserve such activities as they are an essential part of our school. We must now allow the continued funding crisis to prevent us from offering such a wide and diverse range of experiences.

We are moving into a General Election and I urge you to engage with prospective

candidates about their spending plans for education and to lobby for education to be a high priority in the next parliament. The funding levels for education are a political decision and it is important that all parties understand the consequences of not providing schools with sufficient funding.

Once again, thank you for your continued support.

Laura Sanchez
Head Teacher

The Hub

The hub is a fun and safe environment for our students. It also provides a calm and relaxing area for the Year 11's if they are feeling anxious or stressed.

At present we hold the following workshops:

- anxiety
- anger management
- self esteem
- Meditation

The hub has provided 1:1 sessions for pupils in the past and helped them to move on successfully. They always know that they have the security of the hub if they need to use it.

On a Tuesday and Thursday after school we hold a revision club for our Year 11 students. They have found this club very useful and the snacks and drinks have gone down well too.

We also run a homework club for all years after school on a Wednesday until 5.00 pm. This is an on-going success.

Uniform

As the summer is quickly approaching and the days are getting warmer, after half term pupils will no longer be required to bring blazers to school. They must continue to wear full school uniform, including a tie and having their shirt tucked in at all times.

Black jeans are not part of the school uniform and are not permitted.

If full uniform is not being worn, pupils will continue to be issued with break time detentions.

SAM Learning

We have recently invested in SAM learning. An online resource aimed at enabling all pupils to access educational support and activities from any internet compatible device.

Since we launched the site with all our pupils we have seen a large proportion of them actively using the site to develop their understanding of concepts learnt in lessons, further stretching their knowledge through independent learning and revising for tests and GCSE exams. Evidence suggests that just 10 hours of work on the site can significantly improve your child's GCSE results.

Learners who frequently use the site and are ranked in the top 10 for their year group are being rewarded with stars from their Heads of House. Staff are setting homework and additional study opportunities via the site which reduces the environmental impact of providing paper worksheets as well as preventing learners from losing their homework.

All learners have been provided with their log in details and a sheet on how to log onto the site. If you would like further information regarding SAM learning, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Accessing SAM Learning

www.samlearning.com

Centre ID: LE7MH

User ID: 6-digit DOB, First Name Initial and Surname initial

(e.g., 010883JS for a person called John Smith born on 1st August 1983)

Password: Exactly the same as the User ID

6 MONTHS FREE FOR ALL NEW SUBSCRIBERS & REACTIVATIONS

30 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Request a 15-min demo

Targeted intervention groups

After half term highlighted learners in year 7, 8 and 9 will be set specific tasks in English, maths and science to ensure that they are fully prepared for their transition to GCSE or their next year at MHS. We will be closely tracking the progress of these learners over the last 6 weeks to ensure that they are completing the set tasks and reviewing the progress that they achieve through SAM learning.

Learners will be invited to an assembly in the hall, parents will receive a letter and a text informing them of their child's inclusion in the intervention group. Parents can support us in preparing their child for their next stage at MHS by encouraging their child to access SAM learning and completing the weekly set tasks. Learners will be encouraged and tracked in school to ensure all tasks are completed every week.

By working together, we will ensure our young people succeed. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Paul Wicken
Deputy Head Teacher

Half Term

School Closes on **Friday 26th May**
Re-opens on **Monday 5th June 2017**

School closes for the summer on Thursday 13th July 2017

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 14th June

Year 7 Academic Progress Evening (4.00-7.00pm)

Friday 23rd June

Year 11 Prom

Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th June

Summer Concert

Wednesday 5th July

Celebration Evening (6.00-8.00 pm)

Thursday 6th and Friday 7th July

Year 6 Pupil induction days

Monday 10th July

End of Year trips to:
Alton Towers
Snow Dome
Outdoor Pursuits Centre

Tuesday 11th July

Sports Day

Wednesday 12th July

Bowline Walk (Years 6-10)

Safeguarding Information for Parents and Carers

Martin High school fully recognises the contribution it can make to protect children and support pupils. Therefore, the highest priority is given to safeguarding our pupils in all aspects of their school lives and in society. Pupil welfare is paramount, all staff and volunteers have an obligation to promote the welfare, safety and health of our pupils. We achieve this using robust safeguarding processes and procedures to promote a culture of safeguarding amongst our staff and volunteers.

The school Safeguarding and Child Protection policy can be viewed on the schools website:

www.martinhigh.org

Important information for parents:

- School staff and volunteers have a duty to report concerns about a child, this may mean a pupil needs additional help or support or there may be concerns raised that a child has been abused or is at risk of abuse
- Dependant on circumstance, the school may be obliged to refer pupils to Children's Social Care, for a child's needs to be assessed or if an investigation into possible child abuse is required.
- In most cases discussion between the school and home will already have taken place regarding any situation or concerns involving a pupil. However, the school may not inform parents/carers that a referral to Children's Social Care has been made if it is thought that this could put a child at further risk.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead within school is Miss Meadowcroft, Assistant Head Teacher.
- If you think that your child may have been abused, or may be at risk, you can contact Children's Social Care at Leicestershire County Council 0116 3050005 or childrensduty@leics.gov.uk.

ATTENDANCE.

- There is a clear link between attendance and achievement. Whenever a pupil misses school through illness or holidays they miss out on important learning.
- Please contact the school before 8.30am to let us know if your child will be absent on the first day of absence and then on each subsequent day. For medical appointments, where possible, please arrange these appointments outside of school hours.
- We will contact you on the first day of absence by text message if we have not been given a reason for the absence. Please respond to the message by ringing the school.

**ALL PUPILS
SHOULD AIM
FOR 100%
ATTENDANCE.**

*Pupils are at
school for 190 days
each year!
That leaves 175 days
for other things!*



Martin High School.

Inspiring all to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more.

Uniform expectations

All students must wear...

Black tailored trousers.



These should NOT be:

- Skinny fit
- Jeans or jeans style
- Chinos
- Leggings
- Jogging bottoms

The school blazer.



Black with the Martin High School emblem.

This should be worn at all times within school, including to and from school.

Blazers may only be removed with direct permission from a member of staff.

Optional clothing.

V-neck jumper or cardigan. This must be plain black and worn underneath the school blazer.

Cold weather clothing. Warm waterproof coat, hat, gloves, scarf. Coats should be worn over the blazer during periods of cold or wet weather. Coats must not be worn inside the building.



Black knee length skirts.



Pleated skirts are recommended and should be worn with plain black tights.

Skirts should NOT be:

- High-waisted
- Made from stretchy material

Black shoes or trainers



These should be plain black and must NOT have:

- A coloured sole
- A colourful or eye-catching logo.
- Coloured laces

A white stiff collared shirt.



This should be tucked in at all times.

The school tie.



This should be worn at all times.



Hoodies are NOT allowed to be worn in school at any time.

MHS Uniform reminder...

We expect all pupils to wear full school uniform throughout the day.

Expectations for parents and carers is outlined, please follow this guidance to avoid purchasing inappropriate items.

Any Hoodies, or hoodie style tops should not be worn at any time. These are not a substitute for a coat and will be confiscated.