

Dear Parents and Carers

Road Safety Issues

In January this year a submission was put forward by Whitchurch Town Council to the Area Traffic Engineer at Shropshire Council for a pedestrian crossing on Tilstock Road. The Council has recently declined the application because this location is not currently a priority accident cluster site, and therefore, they are unable to progress with assessing and prioritising a community led road safety scheme in this location at the present time.

The Council also stated that they need to target their limited resources to those sites where the defined safety risk is highest.

In light of our concerns about road safety we have revised our procedures for those students who cycle to and from school. Firstly, given increased student numbers and more traffic in the school carpark students will **not** be allowed to cycle out of the main school entrance. Secondly, at 3.15pm all cyclists should walk their bike to the end of the school path. Students who would like to cycle along the path must wait until 3.25pm before cycling away from the bike shed. In the morning all students are welcome to cycle along the path as long as they avoid pedestrians and dismount where the cycle path meets the car park. Finally, all students must wear a cycle helmet. We do not wish to deter students from cycling but to encourage them to cycle safely. If your child does not have a helmet, please contact the school to enquire about the loan of one.

Higher Education Fortnight

Harper Adams University, Reaseheath University College and Glyndwr University met with Year 11 this week to give them an insight into student life. Students were provided with valuable information about the many different types of courses on offer and the qualifications required in order to gain access to them.

Next week students will receive information from the National Apprenticeship Service and a Civil Engineering company offering apprenticeships.

Year 11 Parents' Evening

Year 11 Parents' Evening takes place in the school Sports Hall on Wednesday 12 December. Students should be making appointments with teachers and noting in their planners. We look forward to seeing you at this event.

Carol Concert

This year's Christmas Carol Concert will take place at St Alkmund's Church on Thursday 13 December at 7.00pm. We would be delighted if you could attend. Last year's concert was a great success and this year's will be as successful if not better.

Mrs Apperley, Associate Assistant Headteacher

Christmas Card Competition

Thank you to all of the students who participated in the Christmas Card Competition. The overall standard was incredibly high and it was extremely difficult to decide a winner. Congratulations to Charlotte Perkins in Year 8 who was the winner, with Ella Foster and Mica Mason coming second and third respectively. Molly Fry and Zara Leary completed the top five.



First: Charlotte Perkins Second: Ella Foster Third: Mica Mason Fourth: Molly Fry Fifth: Zara Leary

Rotary Interact Christmas Lunch

The Rotary Interact Club celebrated 2018 with their annual Christmas Lunch this week. They also spoke about their plans for 2019. We would like to thank the local Rotarians for their help and support in running this club and congratulate the Interact Club for their involvement and hard work this year.



Author Visits

This week we were delighted to welcome author Joseph Delaney, who is currently on tour for his new book, 'Aberrations'. The popular author, who has sold over 3 million books and had a movie made of one of his books, complimented the Year 7 and 8 students who listened to him on their attentiveness, the enjoyment of coming to Sir John Talbot's School and mentioned that this stop on the tour 'stood-out' amongst the others.

We would like to thank Joseph Delaney for calling by at Sir John Talbot's and thank Mr McIlhatton for organising this fantastic opportunity.



Dementia Talk

Reverend Judy Hunt, a representative for Dementia Friends, visited Sixth Form students and gave a talk about the side effects of dementia and how to deal with some of them.

The aim is to turn Whitchurch into a dementia-friendly town. At the end of the visit, Reverend Hunt gave the students a chance to sign up to become a Dementia Friend and help the organisation.



New York Trip 2020

Following the success of the recent New York trip, we would like to confirm that the Marches Academy Trust will again be visiting New York in the October 2020 half-term.

An assembly will be held in the first week back after Christmas to give further details on this trip. The cost of this trip will be £1,180, which can be paid in four payments of £100 followed by 16 payments of £48.75.



Grove School, Market Drayton

We are pleased to announce that following extensive consultation and overwhelming support from the school community, Grove School in Market Drayton has joined the Marches Academy Trust with effect from 1 December 2018. The consultation involved key stakeholders, staff, students, parents, prospective parents and Trustees. The consultation generated an overwhelming level of support for the school's plans to join the Marches Academy Trust. Pictured below Sonia Taylor, Headteacher from Grove with Sarah Longville, CEO, Marches Academy Trust.



Reminders

Term Dates 2018 – 2019

Autumn Term 2018

Tuesday 4th September to Friday 21st December

Spring Term 2019

Monday 7th January to Friday 12th April

Half term: Monday 18th to Friday 22nd February

PD Days: Friday 15th February, Monday 25th February

Summer Term 2019

Monday 29th April to Friday 19th July

Half term: Monday 27th to Friday 31st May

PD Day: Monday 22nd July

Term dates for the academic year 2019 – 2020 can be found online [here](#).