



20th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we draw this half term to a close, I wanted to share with you some very positive news.

Firstly, I'm delighted to say that we have appointed Mr Crawley as our new Deputy Headteacher for Student Wellbeing and Behaviour starting in January 2024. Mr Crawley arrives at Marshland with a huge amount of experience in a pastoral lead role from a local Cambridgeshire Secondary School.

School Progress and Performance

The school has now had confirmation of the Progress 8 rating for our school from the DfE. There has been an embargo on schools sharing this information until this point.

The Progress 8 accountability measure is used to determine the success of secondary schools based on academic achievement relevant to each student's ability. It highlights the 8 best performing subjects for a student, including English and maths.

Marshland High School scored a Progress 8 score of 0.42 for this summer's GCSE results. This places our school within the top 20% of all state schools nationally for progress at GCSE, meaning our students make more academic progress from Year 7 to 11 than the vast majority of other state school students in England.

Given Marshland's consistent high performance, we were contacted by Essex County Council School Effectiveness Team. This team have been visiting the highest performers in England within a similar context, with the aim of gathering best practice to help advise and support their own schools. The team visited Marshland High School earlier this month and spent the whole day exploring the work of our school. They spent time in many lessons, spoke and met students at break and lunch time and met with many of our staff.

At the end of the day they expressed how very impressed they were with the ethos and culture of our school. They were particularly impressed with the exemplary conduct of our students, referring to the purposeful, calm and harmonious atmosphere they witnessed in lessons. I enclose a copy of their feedback letter following their visit. I hope you take as much pleasure and pride in reading about our students, staff and school as my team did.



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Events

- We were very pleased to welcome Year 7 families to our SEN Coffee morning this week, to see first-hand how we support their children in school.
- You will have received an invite to our Parents' and Carers' Support and Information Evening taking place on Tuesday 21st November 2023 at 5.30pm to discuss our PSHCE curriculum. Feedback from previous sessions found them useful in understanding key issues such as supporting our children's mental health and wellbeing, and staying safe online. We will share further details after half term.
- Rehearsals for the School Show are in full swing – The Addams Family will be on from 7th – 9th November. Tickets are now available to buy via your ParentPay account.
- Year 7 settling in evening takes place on Thursday 2nd November in school – bookings are now open.
- Year 11 photographs will be taken on 23rd November 2023, the same day as Year 11 Parents' Evening.

I wish all our students and their families a restful and enjoyable October half-term break.

Yours faithfully

Craig Jansen

Headteacher, Marshland High School