

28th March 2024

Dear Parents, Carers & Students,

As we reach the end of term, we would like to take the opportunity to share some important information with you, as well as revisit school expectations.

Thank you to everyone who has supported and attended the wide range of activities and events this term from the Easter Concert on Wednesday to the West Norfolk Academies Trust Photography Competition and Battle of the Bands, Jon Egging Trust trips to RAF Wittering, University of East Anglia careers and enrichment opportunities, Maths Feast and Spelling Bee. We wish our students and staff a safe trip to Florida over Easter and a great night out at Mathilda in the West End this evening.

School Calendar

Marshland term dates differ from the standard Norfolk County Council calendar and are always available on our [website](#) for this academic year, as well as next year.

Summer 1st Half Term - Monday 15th April 2024 to Friday 24th May 2024

Summer 2nd Half Term - Monday 3rd June 2024 to Friday 19th July 2024

Marshland Year 7 Super Learning Day – The Playground – Assault your Senses - Thursday 4th July 2024 reminder – deadline to register for your place is Tuesday 30th April 2024 with payment via ParentPay.

Uniform

Uniform is an important part of a school's identity. It reinforces who we are as a community and helps allow students to feel pride in their school. It also helps prepare students for life after school where many will have to dress smartly for work.

It would be fair to say that, in the last two weeks, we have seen a number of interpretations of what is, and is not acceptable uniform, and we would like to remind you of our expectations.

The uniform policy is always available on the website for further reference, but please see the guidance below:

- Plain grey or black socks or plain grey, black or flesh-coloured tights (no over-knee socks or socks with tassels/bows)
- School shoes - Flat black, plain, leather-type shoes with enclosed toe and heel (no boots, sandals, trainers / trainer-style shoes. No decorative fashion accessories such as buckles and beads, etc).
- If wearing a school skirt then it should not be rolled or altered and should be the correct size.
- All students - including year 11's should be wearing a jacket at all times.
- a watch (no smart watches, apple watches, etc as outlined in our mobile phone and device policy); one signet ring; up to one pair of small ear studs (one stud in each lobe) only.



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- Students may wear a small amount of discreet foundation make up in a natural colour. Students may be asked to remove any make-up that staff consider inappropriate. Coloured nail varnish, non-natural eyebrows, false nails, and nail or eyelash extensions are not permitted. Clear nail varnish is acceptable.
- No other jewellery such as bracelets, additional rings and other piercings are permitted. If pupils have any other visible piercings, including piercing retainers, these must be removed during the school day.
- All students are expected to wear their hair up for PE lessons. All jewellery including earrings and other piercings must be removed or covered up to ensure the safety of students during physical activity.

I urge you to use the Easter break to check your child's uniform and order items which may need replacing in good time. When we return we will be focusing on ensuring the uniform is being worn correctly, and sanctions will be issued for those not adhering to the rules.

Attendance

Student's attendance to school remains a concern for all schools nationally. Since COVID attendance has remained unacceptably low compared to pre-COVID levels. Marshland has been working hard to secure good attendance from all our students. Whilst we recognise, in a small number of exceptional cases, there are significant medical reasons why a student has been unable to attend school regularly, most absences from school are not acceptable and are avoidable.

The evidence between poor attendance and weaker academic achievement is strong. Nationally 78% of all children who were rarely absent passed at least 5 GCSEs including English and maths, only 36% of children who were persistently absent (below 90% attendance) and just 5% of children who were severely absent (50% or below) reached this same standard. Poor attendance to school will therefore have a negative affect on your child's life chances.

You have a legal duty to ensure that your child gets a full-time education and therefore attends school regularly. We define good attendance as 95% or better.

If you need help to improve your child's attendance, please make use of the support offered by the school. We will meet with you to discuss what the in-school barriers may be to your child attending school regularly and offer solutions to overcome these. If there are barriers that go beyond the remit of the school then we can work with you, the local authority and other agencies to provide the support you and your family need so your child does attend school regularly.

As always, our appreciation goes out to those families and students who do have a good attendance record.

Activities Over Easter

The Big Norfolk Holiday Fun activity programme provides holiday activities for children and young people aged 5-16 throughout the holidays and is open for bookings again. Those who claim means-tested free school meals can claim free spaces on the activities, whilst paid spots are available on many activities for those who don't. To be eligible for Big Norfolk Holiday Fun activities you must be registered on the Norfolk County Council's database for means-tested free school meals. Find full details at <https://www.everymove.uk/inspiration/big-norfolk-holiday-fun-activities>



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Cambridge Club Festival ticket discount for schools, parents & children - 7th to 9th June

The local, family-friendly festival [The Cambridge Club](#), is offering teachers & parents **20% off general adult tickets** (either 3-day weekend or 1-day) – plus 20% off their children's tickets too (under 5s go free).

The Cambridge Club Festival plays host to a whole range of big names including **Chaka Khan, Jessie Ware, Earth Wind & Fire Experience** & many more across 3 days of music (7-9th June). [Full line up is here](#). There is also a dedicated family entertainment area, built especially for kids in collaboration with Tootles & Nibs and Magic Star, who work with Peppa Pig etc.

Use promo code **SCHOOLS20** which gets you **20% off** all General Admission tickets booked through [FIXR](#). Staff and parents will just need to input the promo code when prompted at the checkout, it's super easy to use.

Finally, we wish you a restful Easter break and look forward to seeing students return for the Summer Term.

Kind regards

Marshland High School



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