



Maryhill High School

A Media Arts College



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Early Summer Newsletter May 2009

Dear Parents,

Here is the latest update for you. **Please complete the reply slip or write a note in your child's planner so we know you have received it.**

Parents' survey

Here are the results of the survey you completed on the Review Day in March. Over 500 replies were received and they are summarised below:

Question	% strongly agreeing or agreeing	
	2008	2009
My child likes school	92	91
My child is making good progress with his or her learning	94	95
Most students behave well	88	93
My child is not bullied at school	91	94
Teaching is good	97	98
I am kept well informed about how my child is getting on	91	94
I feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions, problems or complaints	95	96
Staff expect my child to work hard and do their best	97	99
The school is led and managed well	93	96
Staff treat my child fairly	94	97
The school seeks parents' views and takes account of them	91	92
The school provides appropriate homework	89	87
Staff encourage my child to become more mature and independent	99	99
There is a range of activities that my child finds interesting	91	89
The arrangements for settling in when my child started were good	96	98

We are pleased that there has been an increase in the % of parents agreeing on most questions. We aim to be above 90% on all topics. Thank you for your confidence in what we are doing for your child. However, it is clear that a number of parents still have issues regarding homework. We would be grateful if you would contact us if you feel that your child is not being given homework according to the timetable or if you feel it is not appropriate. Sometimes homework is set but not recorded by the student, so please ask your child about this. We are following this up in school, but if you have a concern **please email or write a note marked "homework" and it will be passed to me. You will then receive a response within 2 school weeks.** The students have been asked about "what makes an interesting lesson?" and their replies are also being followed up.

Uniform and dress

KS3 and KS4

Many parents will be shopping for new items before September so I am reproducing our uniform list below so that you can be certain you are buying the correct items:

- Black blazer for all boys and girls with school badge to blazer, to be worn at all times
- Black or grey school trousers (regular fit, normal waist), not ski pants, jeans or leggings, and no fashion belts
- Black or grey skirt (knee length)
- Plain grey or white shirt (not blouse) with top button and long enough to be tucked in
- Plain black or grey V-necked jumper or cardigan
- School tie KS3 (Y7-9) red and navy blue stripes
- School tie KS4 (Y10-11) blue and silver stripes
- There is a special prefects' tie for Y11 students
- Black sensible flat shoes, not trainers or fashion shoes or ballet-style pumps

Blazer badges are compulsory and are available from school. They cost just £2.50. The blazers that will be on sale at our new intake evening (on 6 July at 7pm) feature an integral badge at no extra cost so please come and look at these if you are shopping for a new blazer. Blazers can also be obtained from local stores. Please ensure that they are not fitted jackets. All other items are readily available locally; there is no need to go to a specialist outfitter. Some retailers label unsuitable clothes as "school wear" so please follow the guidance above.

Thank you for your support on uniform, it has made a difference. Our priority now is to ensure that students look smart the whole day. To help this we are introducing clip-on ties to make it easier for the students. These ties are available from school and cost £2.50, the same as before. Please note that these can only be worn if the student's shirt is buttoned up to the neck, so do check the fit before you buy. No other tie types will be available as new or as replacements. **Students with traditional ties who do not wear them correctly will be lent a clip-on version and be required to wear this.**

Finally remember also that no body piercings (this is a health and safety issue) or jewellery or make-up are allowed. Students who wear these will be asked to remove them.

Sixth Form

There is no uniform for sixth form students but there is a dress code. Students should dress as they would if going to work, that is smart casual. The nearest equivalent work place is an office. Students who need more guidance should see Miss Franks, who is now the sixth form Year Leader.

Attendance

Our target for the year is 93% and the figure to date is 93.1%. 48 students have 100% attendance and 280 have over 97%. This is a brilliant achievement by those students. All these students will be rewarded before the end of the year. If your child is an attendance high-achiever you will be receiving details in due course. We would like to see more students achieving better attendance, as this is the one sure way to raise achievement. Once again I would like to thank all parents who do not book holidays in term time, despite the financial loss this can involve.

External examinations

If your child is involved in sitting GCSEs or A-levels you will know what a stressful time it can be. Students who are not sitting exams should be considerate and quiet near the exam rooms (there are sometimes several being used and they are clearly marked).

Bikeability

A number of Year 7 students benefited from a cycling training course recently. Similar courses for children and adults are available free of charge and are based at the Dimensions leisure centre in Burslem. Contact them or pick up a leaflet at the school office.

Do not forget, we have cycle storage facilities in school. If your child wishes to cycle to school they should ask their form tutor for a registration form.

Flu Pandemic

Although this seems to have died down for now it is still important to be vigilant and report to your doctor if you suspect that you may have been in contact with a carrier of the disease. We shall act on the advice of the medical authorities if an outbreak were to occur in this area.

Teaching Awards

You will be pleased to know that our very own Mr Chapman has reached the West Midlands regional final of the Teaching Awards. Mr Chapman was nominated by the students for the category of "Outstanding New Teacher of the Year".

There will be another newsletter containing student achievements in July.

Yours sincerely,

Dr A Jones
Headteacher

REPLY SLIP – PLEASE RETURN TO THE FORM TUTOR BY FRIDAY 22 MAY OR SIGN THE PLANNER TO SHOW YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS LETTER

Student name _____

Form

I have received the Summer Newsletter

Signed _____ (parent with responsibility)