



MARRIOTTS

# Marriotts Weekly News

*Aim high. Work hard. Be kind.*

25<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Families

I hope that you are well and thank you for another positive week at Marriotts School.

Special thanks go to Year 11 students, staff and parents for the successful Year 11 mock results day and Parents' Evening this week. I am sure that Year 11 will continue to work hard in preparation for their examinations and we are looking forward to next week's Year 12 and 13 Parents' Evening on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January and our upcoming Year 8 Options Evening on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February.

As you may have seen in last week's Weekly News, Marriotts were thrilled to win the Stevenage wide Operation Edge film competition tackling the difficult issue of knife crime. We will be showing our short film to students next week during form time and students will then complete a survey during the course of next week.

Also related to safeguarding, we have a guest speaker called Marilyn Hawes coming into school on the 11<sup>th</sup> February. She works for an organisation known as Freedom from Abuse. She will speak to each year group throughout the day about the new threats that exist in today's society. Please see attached to this Weekly News a letter outlining the nature of Marilyn's talk, inviting you to attend a parent facing version of her talk in the evening of 11<sup>th</sup> February. The letter outlines how to go about booking your space at this event, which I am sure will prove very popular with parents.

I hope that you have a restful and safe weekend.

Kind regards

*Ms B Honnor*  
**Headteacher**

## **Word of the Week**

As part of the school's drive to advance the reading skills of every student we are focusing on broadening vocabulary by teaching key academic words explicitly in class. To support this, we have introduced a 'Word of the Week' (WOW) that features key, high-frequency words used by all faculties across the school. The aim is to use these words as much as possible to ensure that the precise meaning is embedded to allow students to use these words accurately in academic writing and talk in their subjects.

Please support your child and the school by using this word at home and challenging your child to use it accurately.

The WOW for w/c 28<sup>th</sup> January is: **Concept**

**An abstract** (theory/not concrete) **idea**.

**Example:** James had no concept of time: he was always late for school

## **Attendance**

The Attendance team have put together a number of guidance documents relating to the administration of medication at school. The documents: Medical Guidance for Parents and Parental Agreement for Medication Administration are located on the school's website at: **Parents/Attendance and Punctuality/Medical Guidance** or please follow the link: <https://marriotts.herts.sch.uk/attendance-and-punctuality/> (the documents are at the bottom of the page).

## Families First Portal

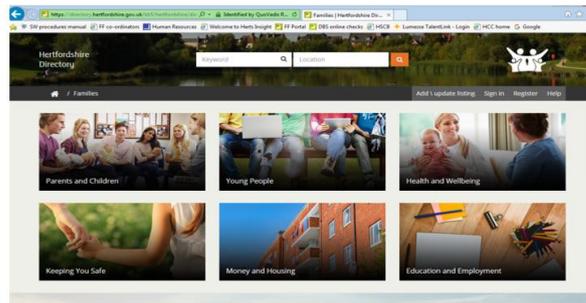
We would like to welcome you to the Families First Portal. This is a directory of organisations, services and groups in Hertfordshire that can help you with problems you or your family may be facing, before things might get worse. This is known as 'Early Help'

You may not want or need to ask for help from a professional and there's lots of support you can find yourself by looking on the portal.

There are lots of services and professionals that may be able to help.

Have a look around the portal it may be of interest. If you would like further information, please follow the link below: <https://directory.hertfordshire.gov.uk/kb5/hertfordshire/directory/home.page>

### Link to Families First Portal



Visit the website to find out what is available to support you and your work with families. [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/familiesfirst](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/familiesfirst)

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Come along to [ICAEW's](#) free [school leaver and parents events](#) across the UK throughout February and March.

Rewarding salaries, continual progression and high job security are just some of the many benefits available to those choosing to become an ICAEW Chartered Accountant.

These events will involve:

- An expert from ICAEW talking about [school leaver](#), [apprenticeship](#), [work experience](#) and [graduate](#) opportunities.
- Trainee and qualified ICAEW Chartered Accountants sharing their stories about their career, giving you top tips to succeed.
- Q&A session with local employers offering school leaver and graduate opportunities.

- An opportunity to have detailed conversations and develop links with local and national employers in our mini careers fair and networking session.
- Recruitment options for early careers opportunities.

Whether you want to start straight from school; through school leaver and apprenticeship programmes, or after university as a graduate, we'll help you find the right [route](#) for you.

**REGISTER NOW**

## **Careers**

Our Hertfordshire Careers Enterprise Co-ordinator has let us know of an opportunity with Mercedes-Benz. They are looking for 4 apprentices to join their teams in Stevenage, Hertford and Bishop's Stortford.

To find their apprentices they are hosting 3 Apprentice Recruitment Open Evenings, one at each location on the following dates:

Stevenage	Thursday 21st February
Hertford	Tuesday 19th February
Bishop's Stortford	Wednesday 20th February

Any interested student in year 11 or in the 6th form will need to complete an online form in order to book their place at the event. Please use the link below.

<https://www.landlautomotive.co.uk/books/mercedes-benz-hertfordshire-apprentice-recruitment-evening/>

Ultimately it's a fantastic opportunity for someone who would like to get into the industry and perhaps enjoys a more hands on career. With the advancement of the automotive industry with electric cars, it really is a career at the cutting edge of technology.

We'd like to draw your attention to the following website. Many students in the school logged onto this during their careers day. It's an excellent starting point when considering different careers

<https://www.startprofile.com/>

## **SEND**

We thought it might be useful for you to have the following information if you have a child with SEN so you are aware of support in the local area.

### **A 'Who is Who?' guide to SEN Support**

**[PALMS](#)** - Autism, Learning Disability and Mental Health Service. PALMS is a multi-disciplinary team who provide individually tailored support to help manage a number of concerns experienced at home. The service is available for children and young people up to their 19th birthday. PALMS provides intervention where necessary and intensive support to families reaching crisis with a step up and step down approach throughout their care journey.

**[Local Offer](#)** – a one stop shop for everything concerning health care and education. The Hertfordshire Local Offer provides information on what services children, young people and their families with SEND can expect from a range of local agencies, including early years, education, health and social care.

**[ADDvance](#)** – a registered charity founded in Herts in 1996. They provide specialist information, training and advice for professionals, adults and families on issues relating to Autism, ADHD and related conditions.

**[KIDS HUB](#)** – providers of free and impartial support over the phone, by email or face-to-face (including home visits). The help provided includes:

- Helping you find activities, groups and training.
- Providing information about benefits and parking.
- Supporting you at meetings about your child.
- Giving help with relevant forms and letters and EHCs.
- Signposting you to a range of local services for disabled children and young people including specialist services.
- Keeping you informed with regular newsletters and updates.
- Helping to develop inclusive provision in the community.
- Providing a venue to meet for support and networking.

### **Parent Course- Understanding ADHD**

Details of this course are attached and can be found here

<https://add-vance-understanding-adhd-stevenage-spring-2019.eventbrite.co.uk>

The course is designed for parent/carers of children aged 5-14 with a diagnosis or suspected diagnosis of ADHD. It is run by specialist ADHD/Autism Trainers from ADDvance.

**Places are limited, these courses are always popular and oversubscribed, so please book early to avoid disappointment.**

### ***Rewards and Recognition***

Teachers regularly issue Achievement Points to students who are **Aiming High, Working Hard or Being Kind**. Rewards and recognition of achievement are given out through Achievement Points. Students receiving recognition this week, will be displayed in the Weekly News dated 1<sup>st</sup> February.

### ***Everbridge (School Closure Notification System)***

With the winter season upon us we have to consider that in the case of severe and adverse weather conditions at some point we may have to close the school. This is always a very difficult decision but we have to balance the risks and the harm involved against the loss of school time or inconvenience. Decisions sometimes come at very short notice as new information comes to us therefore we try to communicate in as many ways as possible that the school is closed.

One system we use alongside SchoolComms is Everbridge (it is useful to use two systems in case one fails on the day) but this does require you to register. Further to the school closure, the system is able to provide you with vital information on other incidents in your area as well as by school. Please use the link below and complete your details if you are interested in using this system.

<https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489#/login>

We hope that we do not have to close the school this winter, we have systems in place to cope with the large site, but if it does happen we are equipped to inform you at the earliest opportunity.

### ***Dates for your Diary 2018/19***

Thursday 31 January – KS5 (Year 12 and Year 13) Parents' Evening, 4-7pm

Thursday 7 February – Year 8 Options Evening, 5-7pm

Monday 11 February – Freedom from Abuse, 6.00-7.30pm

**Half term holiday:** Monday 18 February – Friday 22 February

Thursday 28 February – Year 8 Parents' Evening, 4-7pm

Friday 8 March – Inset Day – school closed to students

Friday 5 April – last day of term

**Easter holiday:** Monday 8 April – Monday 22 April 2019

Tuesday 23 April – First day of term (Week 2)

Thursday 2 May – Year 10 Parents' Evening

Monday 6 May – Bank Holiday – school closed

**Half term holiday:** Monday 27 May 2019 – Friday 31 May 2019

Monday 3 – Friday 7 June – Year 10 Work Experience

Thursday 20 June – Year 9 Parents' Evening

Thursday 4 July – Year 11 Prom, Knebworth Barns

Monday 8 July – Year 6 Transition Evening, 6-8pm

Thursday 11 July – Year 6 Transition Day

Friday 12 July – Sports Day

Monday 15 July – Presentation Evening, 6-8pm

Friday 19 July – last day of term

25<sup>th</sup> January 2019

## Freedom from Abuse

Dear Parent/Carer

At Marriotts we take our safeguarding responsibilities very seriously. Consequently, we feel it is important that our students, our staff and our parents, have an understanding of the current national concerns in relation to student safety.

We have therefore invited into school, on the 11th February, a guest speaker called Marilyn Hawes. She works for an organisation known as Freedom from Abuse. Throughout the day she will speak to each year group about the new threats that exist in today's digital world. The presentation covers a number of topics including the impact and harm of cyberbullying, what is predatory behaviour on the internet, peer on peer abuse, sexual exploitation and County Lines. The latter is in reference to a form of criminal exploitation, where gangs and organised crime networks exploit young people to sell drugs. Often these children are made to travel across counties, and they use dedicated mobile phone 'lines' to supply the drugs. Hertfordshire is certainly not immune to this practice and neither is Stevenage.

Marilyn has already been in to several local schools to deliver her powerful hard-hitting and informative talks. She will be delivering a version of her talk to parents on the evening of the 11th February, from 6-7.30, for any interested parents. I know from speaking to other local Headteachers that parents and families have found these talks valuable. I would like to strongly encourage parents and carers to attend this session and hear this information so that as parents, carers and school staff we can continue to work together to keep our children safe. Our hall capacity is 300. To ensure you are not disappointed we encourage you to book your seat through Wisepay as soon as possible. Please find details about how to do this below.

1. Go to Wisepay either via the Wisepay App (organisation code 71783585) or via <https://marriotts.herts.sch.uk/wisepay/> and click on where it says 'login in to Wisepay Here'
  2. Use your login details and password that you would normally use for trips/lunch top ups. If you require login details please email: [finance@marriotts.herts.sch.uk](mailto:finance@marriotts.herts.sch.uk)
  3. Select the ticket and events option
  4. Click on **Freedom from Abuse Talk**
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5. Select quantity of tickets required and add to basket using the purchase button
  6. Click on confirm booking button. Click yes to agree to the terms and conditions
  7. Click on confirm payment to complete the transaction (no charge will be made – the tickets are free)
  8. You will receive an email confirmation from Wisepay

Light refreshments will be provided. Due to space shortages and the fact that students will hear the talk during the day, we recommend that only parents attend this event rather than parents and their children.

For further information please visit the website at: [www.freedom-abuse.org](http://www.freedom-abuse.org)

I hope to see many of you on 11th February.

Yours sincerely

Beth Honnor  
Headteacher