

PARENT BULLETIN - Friday 12th June 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

The clock is now starting to tick down until the end of the year where we celebrate what we have achieved and start to look forward to new opportunities ahead. In September, one of the most significant developments for us as a school will be our move to our new home in Marston. Our developers have been working hard over this lockdown period to maintain progress on the project, whilst being careful to maintain social distancing and the safety of their workforce. It is with great pleasure that we are able to confirm that we are on track to move into the building in September on a partial occupancy basis (as was always the plan) before taking over the full site at the end of November. Although we will only occupy part of the building for the first part of the year, this will include classrooms, a library, science lab, and sports facilities. Ms Fraser (school business manager) and Mr Trafford (premises manager) have been working closely with the developers on site to get everything ready for our arrival. Mr Macnaughton, Mr Higgs and I are looking forward to getting down there next week to start to think about how exactly we will use the spaces. Unfortunately, due to the current situation, we are unable to arrange visits to the site for families as we had previously planned. We do, however, hope to start sharing weekly updated images of site progress soon. In the meantime, [click here to see a short video](#) of the site at the moment and you can find out more about the plans for the project at <https://marstonschools.com/>

Ms Wood

Quiz Week (week starting 6th July)

When we return to school, it is vital that our teachers know how much students have learned so that we can fill any learning gaps and address any misconceptions. This will be an important part of their reintegration back to school. We will therefore be setting quizzes the week starting 6th July (the second to last week of term) to help us find out more about our students' progress. These quizzes will be completed online and will be instead of (not in addition to) lessons on particular days. The quizzes will be based on the content that has been covered this cycle. They will not require any additional preparation, apart from continuing to work hard on the distance learning tasks set over the next few weeks. Students will receive a score for each quiz and we will use this information to plan our teaching for September. Students will not be ranked or judged on their scores and we will not be producing a report.

Mandarin

- **Online Course (iPanderin)** - thank you to those who have already got in touch to register interest. If you would still like your child to take part but have not yet sent us your name, please do so by the start of next week (15th June) so that we can pass all the details on to Mr Webster to get set up.
- **Year 8 Elective** - Next year, we will be offering year 8 students the chance to study Mandarin for a whole year as part of their Wednesday elective. Students will be taught by Mr Webster (who has delivered the 'taster' elective this year) and will study towards a formal qualification called the Youth Chinese Test (YCT) Level 1, the content of which forms the base of the Scheme of Learning.
 - Spaces for the Mandarin course will be limited. If your child is interested in taking part, please email their name to headteacher@theswanschool.org.uk. Please note that students will only have one choice of Wednesday elective if they choose to study Mandarin, although they will still have three choices for their academic elective.
- **Mandarin Teacher Needed** - We are seeking someone to teach a taster Mandarin elective for our year 7 students on a Monday afternoon next year for one hour per week. Students will study

Mandarin for 10 weeks to get an introduction to the language. **If you, or anyone you know, might be interested, please do let us know.** A teaching qualification is not required; teaching resources will be provided.

2020/2021 Electives

Are you excited about next year's elective options? Please click this [link](#) to see exactly what electives we have planned.

The Swan (Audio)Book Club

Our next book is *Talon* by Julie Kigawa chosen by Benedict Green (7H). This is the first book in a series called The Talon Saga, an apparently, 'groundbreaking modern fantasy series, [in which] dragons walk among us in human form'. Please find the book freely available at [this](#) link. We will aim to discuss this book via a virtual Google Hangout meeting on **Wednesday 1st July at 4pm**. Please make sure your child emails me to request an invitation to the Hangout if they have not already joined Book Club. Mrs Hinze.

Music

This term in Music, we have been learning about the instruments of the orchestra. If your child has taken an interest in this, or in any particular instrument, why don't you think about instrumental lessons for Year 8?

If you are interested in this, you can register your interest with the Oxfordshire Music Service [here](#), and they will then send an instrumental teacher into school in September. You can also apply for instrument hire, and they have a discount rate for "endangered instruments"!

Please email katrina.playford@theswanschool.org.uk if you have any questions about this.

Swan YouTube Channel

We have created a YouTube channel to collate videos created by the school. You can find all the assemblies there as well as some new short clips about the school that we are making for our new year 7 parents. You can access the channel [here](#).

Free School Meals Vouchers

Please note Edenred will be carrying out scheduled maintenance to improve their systems over the weekend (8am Sat 13th - 7pm Sun 14th June) You will not be able to access their website during this time. Edenred apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

School Uniform

A reminder that [Price & Buckland](#), our uniform provider will require all uniform orders to be placed by **9th August**, in order to guarantee delivery for September. All uniforms must be ordered to home delivery - we are unable to accept orders to school. If you think you may be eligible for financial support in purchasing a uniform, please submit a request using the [Apply for Bursary Support button](#) on our [website](#).

School Nurse

Even though your children may not be coming into school, you still have access to the School Nursing service and everything that it offers. If your child would like a confidential appointment via phone, video chat or a walk and talk, please email or text me at caroline.smith@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk 07717661485.

Key Dates:

- [Quiz Week](#) - 6th to 10th July.
- [Staff Inset Days](#) - please be aware that Monday 6th July and Friday 10th July are currently planned as staff inset days.