

### Dear Parents & Carers

It is a real honour to write my first Parent Bulletin as Head of School at Sir John Talbot's School as we return after a half term holiday. For me, Monday morning began with an interview on *Breakfast on BBC Radio Shropshire* where I was asked questions about how it felt to be starting in a new post and my connections with the school. In reply, I was able to echo the message from Mr O'Toole's previous Bulletin; I have been part of the Marches Academy Trust since its inception and have been part of the wider school family for a number of years. This year, I have been based at the school on Fridays and have grown even more familiar with the school's ethos. I am often struck by the friendliness of the students as I walk around the site and the special bond they have with the staff. Indeed, Sir John Talbot's School is typified as a community where staff do 'go the extra mile' for students to fulfil the vision of 'Achievement through caring'. It is clear that under Mr O'Toole's leadership, the school has been on a remarkable journey over recent years. We will, of course, be doing everything we can to continue to improve the academic standards of the school and I am genuinely excited about the challenges ahead. We continue to grow as a school every year and in September will be welcoming another six forms of entry into Year 7 along with a growing Sixth Form. It is crucial we continue to build on the trust that has been built with parents in the community. This has been no 'normal' return to school after a holiday, I am very conscious that our Year 11 and 13 students would usually only be halfway through the busy exam season. We are mindful that they are still part of our community and urge any students who are having difficulties to contact us. As you will know, schools have been gearing up for wider opening since before half term. We look forward to welcoming Year 10 back to school for some face-to-face learning soon. Year 12 are adapting well to 'live' lessons delivered remotely and we will be updating our plans for Years 7, 8 and 9 as the term progresses as they continue to work remotely. Please rest assured that we are working hard to ensure that when the time is right to open-up school more widely for students to return, it is done as safely as possible. Never more than now do we need our community to stay safe, supportive and strong as we work through these difficult times.



Mr T Stonall  
Head of School



## NOTICES

### Equine Assisted Learning

Mrs Welch has put together a lovely montage of students enjoying their Equine Assisted Learning sessions from throughout the year – [click here](#). The students in attendance really enjoy these group sessions, where they explore key themes such as learning about their own senses and body language, developing communication skills, and building trust and friendships all through fun activities around the ponies. The horses also instil a calmness which is fantastic for both learning and mental wellbeing.

### County Lines - Know The Signs

West Mercia Police are running a campaign to raise awareness of County Lines. They have been highlighting that County Lines drug gangs are exploiting young and vulnerable people across communities, even during lockdown. They are coercing them to sell drugs as well as get involved in other types of crime, using sophisticated grooming techniques which can often result in control through fear and violence. Know the signs. For further information [click here](#).

### Community Artwork

This fantastic artwork was produced by students during lockdown. The mural has been displayed in the school dining hall as a permanent reminder of these unprecedented times and the banners have been put up outside the local fire station to show our appreciation of the work all key workers are doing.



### Exciting Initiative Starting From September



**FOOTBALL REFEREE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

Starting in September 2020, The Marches Academy Trust are excited to be hosting a Football Referee Development Programme for students in Years 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 that attend Sir John Talbot's School and The Grove School.

The programme will provide students with a great understanding of how to become a football referee. Students will gain experience and support primary schools within the Trust refereeing their school league football matches.

**For more information please email:**  
sports@longlands.sat.coop

### PE & Sports Apprentice

An exciting role has become available within the Marches Academy Trust for a PE & Sports Apprentice. The role will see the apprentice support both Lower Heath CofE Primary School and Tilstock CofE Primary School, with the possibility of travel to other schools within the Trust. For full details please [click here](#). Applications close – 21 June 2020.



### Careers Quiz

Encourage your child to take part in our Trust-wide careers related trivia quiz, which school Careers Adviser Mrs Murphy has put together. Please note that the link expires on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June. [Click here](#) to participate.

### Charity Cycle

Student Chester Romei is aiming to cycle 500 miles in just 12 weeks to raise money for Cancer Research UK. This is an ambitious target, but with his determination we are sure he can achieve it. We wish Chester the best of luck in reaching his goal and look forward to his updates. If you are able to consider a donation to support his cause, [click here](#).



### Competitions & Challenges

**MAT competition:** Do you see yourself as a future leader – an MP, a member of local government or someone with world-shifting ideas that need to be shared? SJT have created a competition, inviting short video submissions from young people across the county on the topic of 'improving the lives of young people in Shropshire'. We want to hear your views. How can we make our county an even better place to be? The competition will be judged by Karen Bradshaw, Acting Chief Executive of Shropshire Council. Guidelines:

- Videos should be one to two minutes long so think very carefully about the messages you want to share. Film in landscape if possible.
  - We suggest you deliver your speech/presentation in a formal style.
  - You could consider issues you are passionate about such as: the environment, education, health, or facilities for young people.
  - Videos should be emailed to [barnett.c@mmt.co.uk](mailto:barnett.c@mmt.co.uk) and [campbell.c@mmt.co.uk](mailto:campbell.c@mmt.co.uk)
- Closing date: Monday 22 June.

**History competition:** The Historical Association are running a 'Write Your Own Historical Fiction Competition 2020'. Winning students will each receive a cash prize, engraved paperweight, and a year's free subscription to the Historical Association for their school. Entries close Friday 26 June 2020, click [here](#) for more details.

**Geography competition:** The Royal Geographical Society are running their Young Geographer of the year competition, asking students to submit entries based around the theme of 'the world beyond my window', full competition details can be found [here](#). The deadline for receipt of all entries is Tuesday 30 June 2020 at 5.00pm.

**History competition:** Focus Games Ltd are challenging all age groups to create a unique piece of work, drawing, poster, short story, video, or artwork to celebrate 100 Great Black Britons and their legacy. Entries close 30 September 2020, click [here](#) for more information.

## CAREERS



Mrs Murphy, Careers Adviser, will be available for remote career guidance during the school closure should your child have any career or work experience related questions or concerns. She will be sending out useful articles and will be in touch with colleges and sixth forms to keep abreast of developments relating to admissions. She can be contacted by email at [murphy.m@mmt.co.uk](mailto:murphy.m@mmt.co.uk)



## WEBSITE QUICK LINKS

Please click on the following useful links to find out more: • [News](#) • [Home Learning](#) • [Term Dates](#).

## FACEBOOK



Please follow us on Facebook @[SirJohnTalbotsSchool](#) for supplementary home learning ideas, news, competitions and feel good stories. We also encourage you to share your ideas and interact with our posts!

For news from across the Trust, why not also follow @[MarchesAcademyTrust](#).



Sir John Talbot's School, Prees Road, Whitchurch, SY13 2BY

01948 660600

[sjtadmin@mmt.co.uk](mailto:sjtadmin@mmt.co.uk)

[sirjohntalbots.co.uk](http://sirjohntalbots.co.uk)



@SirJohnTalbotsSchool