

Edition 4 : 04/10/24



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Michelle King - Headteacher



Welcome to this Weeks Newsletter!

It has been another busy and productive week here at Idsall, and we're excited to share lots of important updates with you below.

One of the highlights for me has been spending time with our students, discussing their well-being and future aspirations. It's truly inspiring to hear their exciting plans across a variety of industries. What stood out most was how many are eager to pursue careers that serve the community and involve helping others—such rewarding and meaningful opportunities.

Additionally, we've had a post-16 review this week, and I'm thrilled to report that we received brilliant feedback! We'll be sure to share more details with you next week once the full report comes through.

Feedback Boxes

We have noticed that too many students are out of lessons when they should be in class learning. This is called **internal truancy**, where students are on school grounds but missing specific classes. This seriously affects their progress and overall academic success. Additionally, it raises concerns as your child is not with a member of staff during these times.

To address this, we are closely monitoring attendance throughout the day, lesson by lesson. You will be notified if your child is absent from a class without permission. For recurring issues, we will work with you and your child to provide the necessary support to get them back on track.

The use of planners plays a key role in this process, helping us identify which students have permission to be out of lessons and ensuring your child follows their timetable to get to class promptly.

Positive Impact of Line-Ups



A few weeks ago, we shared the introduction of **line ups** with you, and we're thrilled to report that the feedback has been really positive, despite the unpredictable weather! This new routine is having a huge impact on ensuring all students are ready and prepared to start the day with focus and energy.

A big well done to all of our students for adapting so well, and thank you to our parents for your continued support with this new start to the day. It is working really well.

Uniform Expectations Update



You'll be aware that we've sent several reminders about our uniform expectations, and we're pleased to see that uniform standards are improving. Most students are looking much smarter, but there are still a few who are not in the correct uniform.

For clarity, pages 14-16 of the student planner outline all of our uniform expectations. We are working hard to enforce these rules to ensure fairness and foster a sense of pride within our school community.

As we move forward, we are taking the next steps to support full compliance. Our **uniform shop** will be open after half term for any students not in the correct uniform. Students without the appropriate attire will be provided with uniform items to borrow for the day, ensuring that everyone meets the high standards set by most students, who are looking fantastic.

In addition, we'll be using the **Smart Log** (yellow pages in the planner) to record instances where students are not meeting uniform expectations, such as having their shirts untucked or not wearing a tie or blazer which will result in a follow-up sanction. Our goal is simple: **everyone in full school uniform every day.**

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us maintain these standards.

- **Shirts** must be plain without emblems or badges – patterned t-shirts or polo necks must not be worn under shirts.
- **School trousers** should be smart school style only, which is plain black, loose fitting with a straight leg and be front fastening. They should have a single button at the waist and a concealed zip. We do not allow low cut 'hipster' style trousers or broad, decorative belts. Jean-style/stretch or denim fabrics are not acceptable and there should be NO logo labels – an entirely appropriate school trouser is available from our supplier.

Acceptable School Trousers



Unacceptable School Trousers



Summer uniform in the last term of the year –

Tailored professional style shorts purchased from our supplier may also be worn. All other uniform rules apply.



- **Shoes** – we will not allow high, narrow heels (heels higher than 2 inches), sling backs, mules or other shoes that we judge to be unsuitable for school. Trainers of any type or style are not acceptable. Shoes must not be made of a canvas or suede material, contain colour flashes, logos, and eyelets that are not black.

An Acceptable School Shoe



These types of shoe conform with the school Uniform Policy. Velcro, slip on or lace up are acceptable if they have a formal appearance and **do not** have a trainer style sole.

Unacceptable School Shoe



These shoes **do not** conform with the school policy. Heels should be no higher than 2cm, and shoes should be fastened to the feet rather than loose slip on styles.

- **Outdoor coats or jackets** should be a plain colour without bold words or logos (a small one on the chest or upper arm is acceptable) and with a front fastening. **We do not allow pullover tops, tracksuit tops, cardigans or 'hoodies'**, they may be confiscated during the school day. Scarves are for outdoor wear only and not to be worn inside the school building.

An Acceptable School Coat



Unacceptable School Coat



- **Jewellery** – This is limited to plain ear studs, one in each ear (in the lower part of the ear lobe only) and a watch (smart watches can be worn but they must have phone functionality switched off during school time). Rings, necklaces or other jewellery items are liable to be confiscated. Any other kind of body piercing, including nose studs, is not permitted. Stretcher style earrings must be flesh coloured and flat to the earlobe.

Please note we do not take responsibility for any valuables brought into school.

- **Discrete make-up** (nude and natural colours only) is a privilege for students in Years 10 and 11. Make-up is not permitted in years 7, 8 and 9. Nail varnish is not allowed in any year. False nails and false eyelashes of any type are not allowed, and nails should be a suitable length for school. Coloured in or painted on eyebrows are not permitted.



Allowed	Not allowed
Light foundation	Thick foundation
Concealer	Contouring & highlighter
Setting powder	Bright colours
Nude eye colours	False lashes
Mascara	Eyebrow liners or gels
Eyebrows - natural shape and colour	Eyeliners
	Lipstick, liner or gloss

- **Hair Style** - We ask that students attend Idsall School with a haircut that is appropriate for a school environment. Tramlines or unnatural colours are not permitted. Hair length should be a minimum of a 'number 2'. Hair bands are to be black or brown in colour, other fashion hair accessories such as bows and flowers are not acceptable. Baseball caps should not be worn.

- **Belts** - Belts may be worn if black and being used for its functional purpose not for fashion and not visible below of, or on top of the jumper.

- **Visible facial** or body piercing including tongue piercings may not be worn unless worn as an aspect of a clearly identified religious faith.

Any extreme fashion which may from time to time become popular, should be reserved for leisure wear outside of school and should not be worn to school.

With all aspects of school uniform, we do our utmost to provide images of acceptable and unacceptable uniform, to allow correct choices to be made when purchasing. If in doubt, please refer to this information prior to making purchases.

It is the discretion of the school to make decisions regarding uniform that does not conform to the requirements of the school code of dress.

Please remember that in choosing a Marches Academy Trust school implies a willingness to conform to our school uniform guidelines at all times.

This policy is also fully endorsed and approved by the school's Board of Governors.

The school views the wearing of correct uniform as a key element of the schools identity and standards as a community. Any student failing or refusing to follow these guidelines will be sent home or isolated until they are able to do so.

Sixth Form Open Evening

A green poster for the Idesall Sixth Form Open Evening. At the top, a black banner with white text reads 'Idesall Sixth Form Open Evening'. Below this, the date and time '5th November 2024 4:30pm - 7:30pm' are listed, followed by the cursive phrase 'Save the date...' and the website 'Find out more at idsallschool.org'. A QR code is positioned to the left of a black banner that says 'Book a tour' in white. To the right of the QR code is a photo of two students working. Below the 'Book a tour' banner, a photo shows a student at a computer with a quote from Nelson Mandela in the background. To the right of this photo, text invites visitors to book a tour, followed by the cursive phrase 'Book a tour...' and the email 'ashley.bowler@ids.mmat.co.uk'.

We look forward to welcoming you all on Tuesday 5th November for our Open Evening. Idesall sixth form has a great reputation for exemplary pastoral care and academic achievements. A small sixth form with a big heart, we pride ourselves on providing the best student experience, preparing our young people for their next steps. All our students progress on to University, Apprenticeships or Employment with training.

Our Open Evening aims to give you an insight into our sixth form experience. Parents, guardians, and students will be given a personal tour from our current sixth form students, as well a brief welcome and introduction from Ms King and Mr Bowler. The evening promises to be informative and engaging. No appointment is necessary, please come along and see what fantastic opportunities are available at Idesall sixth form. For any further information, please contact one of the sixth form team:

Head of Sixth Form : Mr A Bowler ashley.bowler@ids.mmat.co.uk

Deputy Head of Sixth Form : Ms V McMahon vickie.mcmahon@ids.mmat.co.uk

Sixth Form Student Support Manager : Mrs A Case amy.case@ids.mmat.co.uk

Following on from this, or if you cannot make this evening, why not book a tour during the school day? See the school in action and speak to our present sixth form students, see the facilities in use!

So, if you are looking towards your future come along and see us.

Visit the link for more information : [Sixth Form - Idesall School](#)





Year 7 Mixed Netball

Idsall played their first mixed netball fixture vs. New Road Academy on Tuesday. The fixture was super competitive.

- Idsall took an early lead winning the first quarter 6-1.

- New Road came back strong, defence dominated for both teams with no goals being scored during the middle section of the game.
- The last quarter saw one goal each, Idsall taking a 7-1 win.
- Coaches player of the game is Emelia G, her defence was outstanding.

The students were a total credit to the school. Well done on a fabulous first game.



Year 7 Transition Parents' Evening



As parents / guardians of year 7 students you should have received an email reminder of the upcoming year 7 transition parents' evening on Thursday 10th October.

- It is being held between 16.00 and 19.00 hours
- Appointment times are booked via your student's tutor
- Head to the library on arrival
- Tea and coffee will be available

National Poetry Day

World Record Breaking Live Lesson!

"We are thrilled to announce that our year 7 students have participated in a Guinness World Record attempt for the largest live lesson in the WORLD!"

The challenge was to create a poem based on the theme of 'counting'. Over the past few weeks, our students have been busy brainstorming, sharing ideas, and crafting their unique contributions.

Their dedication and creativity have been truly inspiring. Each student made thoughtful choices based on their initial ideas, and the collaborative spirit was evident as they listened to and supported one another throughout the process.

We are now in the final stages of submitting the evidence for our record attempt. We are hopeful that our efforts will be officially recognised and counted by Guinness World Records. What do you think counts?



World Space Week

4th to 10th October, 2024



Did you know there is an annual **World Space Week** which runs every October.

It is a global celebration of science and technology, highlighting their role in improving human lives and advancing society. It is held in October as this marks the anniversary of the first human-made satellite launched into space.

To celebrate this we are running a :

WORLD SPACE WEEK COMPETITION OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS!

All you have to do is create something imaginative inspired by the wonders of space

PRIZES available including Amazon Vouchers!

Ideas for creating :

- Poster / Post Card / Comic Strip / 3D Model / Art-Work / 1 Side of A4 Essay / Research Project / Cake or Biscuit

It can be based on anything to do with space.

DEADLINE : Friday 11th October at break time in the library!

Any questions - speak to Miss Martin



Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Friday 27th September, Idsall sixth form hosted their annual Macmillan coffee morning.

A huge thank you to the members of the local community that supported and attended the event along with staff and sixth form students. Also a huge thank you to all those that donated cakes and sweets.

The event raised over £250 for this amazing charity.





Health for Teens

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit thenationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about INSTAGRAM

Instagram is a highly popular social media platform with over 2 billion active monthly users. The app is continuously updating and adding new features to meet the wishes of its audience, allowing them to upload images and videos to their Instagram feed, create interactive 'stories', go live, exchange private messages or explore and follow other accounts that catch their eye.

13+ AGE RESTRICTION

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ADDICTION

Many social media platforms, Instagram included, are designed to keep us engaged on them for as long as possible. They encourage scrolling often and scrolling more in case we miss something important – in essence, a fear of missing out. On Instagram, young people can lose track of time when they're scrolling and watching, often posted by friends, acquaintances, influencers and possibly employers.

UNREALISTIC IDEALS

Children sometimes compare themselves to what they see online. Just how they dress, and the way their life is going in comparison to others on social media, however, may appear only a short time away from reality. These unrealised goals can affect their self-esteem, with unrealistic ideals can lead to insecurity over one's own appearance and lifestyle.

GOING LIVE

Livestreaming on Instagram allows users to connect with friends and showcase their lives. While this can be a positive experience, it also means that anyone can watch and comment on what is being shared. This can lead to cyberbullying, which could result in further contact from strangers. A deliberate attempt of going live includes an impulse to act inappropriately to draw more views, as well as being exposed to harmful content or offensive language.

INFLUENCER CULTURE

Social media influencers are sometimes paid thousands of pounds to promote products, services, apps and more. When celebrities or influencers post each content, a follower's post gets removed above the post. In April 2024, Ofcom found that over 8.6 million of children (27%) believed in influencer marketing, including the endorsement of products, wholeheartedly. So it's perfectly possible for young people to be taken in by this sort of content.

PRODUCT TAGGING

Product tags allow users to tag a product or business in their post. This tag will take viewers directly to the product (find page) on the shop where the item can be purchased. Children may also be encouraged by influencers to purchase products that they advertise.

EXCLUSION & OSTRACISM

Youngsters are highly sensitive to feeling excluded, which comes in many forms. Not receiving as many likes as expected, not being tagged in a friend's photo, being left out of a group chat or a message they sent. Being excluded can lead to feelings of isolation and loneliness. Young people have reported lower moods and self-esteem when excluded in this way, feeling as if they don't belong and aren't valued.

Advice for Parents & Educators

AVOID GOING PUBLIC

If a young user seems to share their clothing style, make-up or other and use product tagging, it may be that their post may be shared to their public profile. This means their profile is visible to everyone, which carries the risk of strangers getting in touch with them. Set a strict password and explain the importance of keeping it this way.

HAVE AN OPEN DIALOGUE

Talk to children about the positives and negatives of social media, including the risks involved and how they can view or create content safely with family and friends. Explain how safety settings, not allowing only followers can view them, and why this is so important. Also, if you find a public controversy over likes on their photos, ask them why and impress on them that they should not care.

MANAGE LIKE COUNTS

Due to the potential impact on mental wellbeing, Instagram allows users to hide the like rates on their posts, to prevent people from obsessing over their number in the corner. Users can hide the number of the posts in their feed as well as on their own posts. This means users can see how many likes a post gets. This can be done in going into Settings > Account > Posts > Likes > Off.

USE MODERATORS

Instagram Live has implemented a machine-learning moderation system that can detect and remove comments, messages and content that are inappropriate and give them the power to report. Moderators can also remove the ability for certain users to comment on or create live or a video in your case want to go live on the platform. It's also recommended to keep devices in common spaces as you're aware if a child does go live or watch a livestream.

FOLLOW INFLUENCERS

Influencers will allow you to monitor what they're doing as well as being able to discuss anything which you don't like. Talk to children about who they follow and help them to identify which they like and which they don't. Influencer is trying to do. For example, encourage the child to ask themselves if an influencer is trying to sell a product when they make a video endorsing it.

BALANCE YOUR TIME

Instagram has a built-in activity dashboard that lets you control how much time is spent on the app. After reaching a limit, the app will prompt you with the current high on Instagram's 'Time Out' alert much more quickly for parents and adults over time they can use the app each day. Talk with young users about how much time they spend on Instagram and work together to set a healthy time limit.

Meet Our Expert

Dr. Claire Sutcliffe is an online safety consultant at CyberAware. She has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. Claire has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government, comparing internet use and testing behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://thenationalcollege.com/guides/instagram-2024>

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National College have produced some very helpful guides for schools and parents to use, on a variety of topics that link to safeguarding, digital safety, healthy lives etc.

This week's guide that we are choosing to share with you is about the social media app Instagram. Whilst Instagram is great for keeping up with trends, following celebrity news etc, there are some concerns to be aware of – including addiction, the “live feature”, product tagging etc.

Please see the poster for more information.

School Nursing

The School Nursing Team provide health and wellbeing information, advice, support and guidance to children and young people, teachers, families, carers and the wider community across Shropshire. We are part of the 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service which contains Specialist Nurses (School Nurses and Health Visitors), Registered Nurses, Healthy Child Practitioners and Support Workers.

Every Local Authority funded school in Shropshire has a named School Nurse. We offer a broad range of services, workshops and events enabling schools to contribute to PSHE outcomes, as well as targeted one to one support for children and their families.

Young people in secondary school can see a school nurse in school for confidential discussions about any concerns they have around their health, we would not usually contact parents or carers to share this information unless we have consent from the young person or we feel that the young person is at risk of harm.



Here are some examples of the topics we can support with:

Oral/dental hygiene
Toileting and constipation
Diet and restricted eating

Sleep
Transition and change

Development
Relationships and Sexual health
Puberty (including management of periods)

Behaviour
Risk taking behaviours
(including vaping)



Anything else you might be concerned about!

Parents and carers can also call or text us for confidential advice and support around any health or development concerns or worries they may have about their child, we will not share this information with your child's school without your or your child's consent.

You can get further information, ask questions or simply contact your School Nurse for a chat by calling our
Single Point of Access (SPOA) on
0333 358 3654
 OR texting: **07507 330 346.**

Black History Month: what is it and why does it matter?

Tuesday 1st October - Thursday 31st October 2024



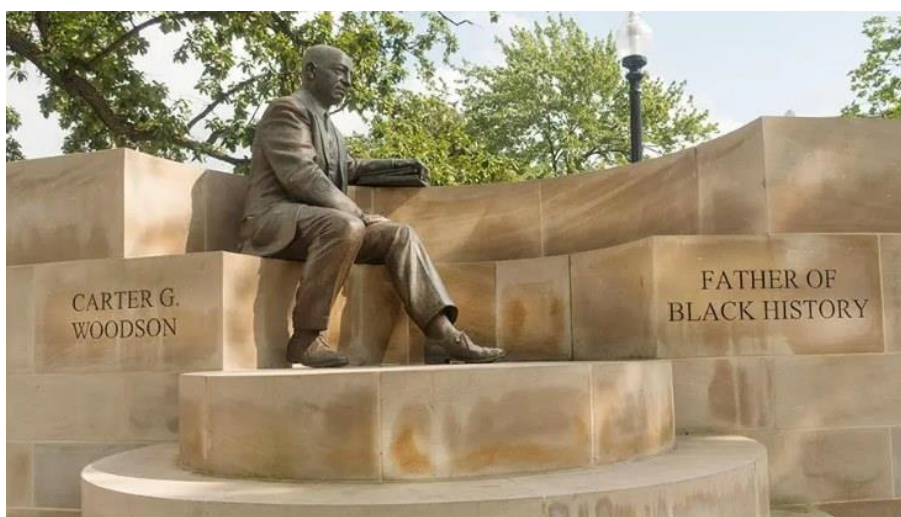
Black History Month happens every October and it is a month dedicated to giving everyone the opportunity to share, celebrate and understand the impact of black heritage and culture.

It was started by Carter G Woodson, known as the father of black history who was born in Virginia in 1875. Woodson's parents were former slaves and so access to education and job opportunities were limited. However, Woodson was able to student at one of the few high schools for black people as he saved the money working as a coal miner. He later went on to gain various qualifications including a PhD in Hlstory from Harvard, where he also became a Professor.

Throughout his life, he worked continuously to promote black history in schools and in 1926 he launched the first Black History Week to coincide with the births of former President Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Both men played a huge role in helping to end slavery.

In the UK the first Black History Month took place in 1987, this coincided with the 150th anniversary of the abolition of slavery in the Caribbean.

October was chosen partly because it's traditionally a time when African leaders gather to talk about important issues, and partly because it was at the start of the school year.



Trips

We are presently putting together potential / already in process trips for :

- Year 7 & 8 - France Disneyland Paris and Paris
- Year 9 - France and Belgium Battlefields Trip
- Year 8 & 9 - Las Vegas Geography Trip (see Mrs Green in G3 for more information)
- Year 10, 11 & 12 - Kenya Expedition (see Mr Pittam for more information)

Disneyland Paris - Year 7 & 8



We are looking at a trip for year 7 and 8 students to Disneyland Paris from 11th to 13th April, 2025.

The trip will include executive coach travel, channel crossings, 2 nights b&b, all meals including ferry (only exception is a lunch in Disneyland Park), Bateaux Mouches boat trip on the Seine.

Friday : Travel to Paris by coach, Bateaux Mouches trip, dinner in local restaurant

Saturday : Disneyland / Walt Disney Studios

Sunday : Return home by coach

A letter will be available early next week with more information including a date for a Teams meeting.

Kenya Jambo Parental Meeting



Idsall held a fabulous parental meeting for the Kenya trip with many parents and students in attendance. If you are a student in year 10, 11 or 12 and want more information but were unable to make the meeting, please speak to Mr Pittam and he will be happy to answer any of your questions.

What's on

- Thu 10th Oct : Year 7 Transition Parents Evening
- Fri 18th Oct : PD Day (School closed to all students)
- Mon 21st Oct to Fri 1st Nov : Half Term
- Mon 4 Nov : Back to school for all students
- Tue 5th Nov : 6th Form Open Evening
- Thu 7th Nov : Year 13 Parents Evening
- Sat 23rd Nov : Shifnal Lights

Notices

- STEM club on Tuesdays is postponed until after half term - it will resume on Tuesday 5th November
- If your student comes home with an item of clothing / books etc that have been accidentally picked up can you please return it to the school reception
- Coats / PE kit are often being forgotten, in the canteen / library at break and lunch, it would be a good idea if you could put your students name clearly inside somewhere. We can then get it returned to the student.

Shifnal Junior Youth Club



Nothing to do on a Wednesday evening want to make new friends get out and about in a safe environment, then why not give the Shifnal Junior Youth Club a try!

Held every Wednesday evening at the Trinity Centre, Shifnal

There are two different groups

- Shifnal Junior Youth Club - Wednesdays 5.30 - 7.00pm - Open to students in year 6 to year 8
- Shifnal Senior Youth Club - Wednesday 7.30 - 9.00pm - Open to students year 9+

This week - Wednesday 9th October :

Junior Youth Club - Jewellery Making, Killer Pool & DIY Mini Calzones!

Senior Youth Club - Resin Crafts, Lets Dance & DIY Mini Calzones!

Follow this link for more information : https://www.shifnaltowncouncil.gov.uk/council_events/shifnal-junior-youth-club/

[Shifnal Junior Youth Club | Shifnal Town Council](#)

Taekwon-Do Classes



The poster features a large black silhouette of a person in a Taekwon-Do stance. At the top left is the 'Universal Taekwon-Do' logo. To the right are three circular logos: the British Olympic Council, the British Taekwon-Do Federation, and the British Judo Federation. The main text reads 'TAEKWON-DO CLASSES for NEW BEGINNERS' in bold red and black. Below this, 'AGES 5+' is written in yellow. The central text, in yellow and white, says 'IDSALL SCHOOL SHIFNAL CLASSES EVERY WEDNESDAY'. To the left of this text is a circular photo of Mr. Neil Morris. To the right, it says 'to reserve your place call Mr Neil Morris (5th Dan) on 07969 996055 or email neilmorris14@btinternet.com'. At the bottom, three red boxes contain the text 'LEARN SELF-DEFENCE', 'HAVE FUN!', and 'IMPROVE YOUR FITNESS'. Below these boxes is a row of six small black and white photos showing various Taekwon-Do activities, including sparring and forms.

TAEKWON-DO CLASSES
for NEW BEGINNERS

AGES 5+

IDSALL SCHOOL SHIFNAL
CLASSES EVERY WEDNESDAY

to reserve your place
call **Mr Neil Morris (5th Dan)**
on **07969 996055**
or email **neilmorris14@btinternet.com**

LEARN SELF-DEFENCE **HAVE FUN!** **IMPROVE YOUR FITNESS**

Offering Idsall pupils a 10% discount on monthly fees.

Classes every Wednesday 6-7pm in the main hall.

Offering two free trial classes.

Contact us



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Email : admin@ids.mmat.co.uk

Website : idsallschool.org

Headteacher : Michelle King BA MA NPQH NPQEL

Our values:

