



The Magna Carta School

Thorpe Road
Staines-upon-Thames
TW18 3HJ

Telephone: 01784 454320
www.magnacarta.surrey.sch.uk

Head of School: Mrs J Bell

24 February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Visit to the school by Dr Ben Spencer, MP for Runnymede and Weybridge

Some members of the student council had the opportunity to meet and question Ben today when he visited the school. Our students asked questions that varied from finding out what the role of being a member of parliament entails to more probing ones about what Ben was and could be doing to ensure schools are well resourced and able to provide student with a wide range of opportunities.



NEU Industrial Action

Back in January, teacher members of the National Education Union voted to take strike action, due to an ongoing national dispute between the unions and the government over teachers' pay and conditions. Four days of action have been planned for this spring. The first of these was on 1 February 2023, with the remainder planned for:

- Thursday, 2 March (London, South East, South West regions)
- Wednesday, 15 March (England and Wales)
- Thursday, 16 March (England and Wales)

Earlier this week, education secretary Gillian Keegan offered to move to more intensive 'formal talks' on 'pay, conditions and reform' but only on the condition that the NEU call-off the strike action planned for next week. In response, the NEU issued a media statement saying if the government comes forward with a serious proposal to end the dispute ahead of Saturday they will put it to their national executive this Saturday with the recommendation to pause forthcoming strike action in order to discuss it further.

We are therefore awaiting confirmation tomorrow on whether the strike action will be going ahead next week.

If the strike does go ahead, I will once again take all reasonable steps to keep the school open for as many pupils as possible on these days, but it may be necessary to restrict attendance for some pupils. We will confirm these arrangements as early as possible on Monday next week but would recommend that you tentatively plan alternative childcare arrangements if they would be needed.

The link below provides further information:

[Teacher strikes: Everything you need to know about strike action in schools - The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://www.blog.gov.uk/2023/02/24/teacher-strikes-everything-you-need-to-know-about-strike-action-in-schools/)

Duke of Edinburgh Award

We are hoping to be able to continue to run the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme this year and provide opportunities for students to take part in this fantastic programme. Miss Claringbull has run this scheme over recent years on a voluntary, temporary basis, but due to other commitments and responsibilities has had to step down from the D of E coordinator role, we fully support her decision on this and would like to thank her for the excellent work she has done to develop the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Magna Carta School.

We are currently actively recruiting for a Duke of Edinburgh award leader internally within our staff body and with any new staff who join our school. Due to the nature of the award, in particular the safety aspects of the Expedition component, it is imperative that we are able to recruit a suitably qualified and experienced member of staff to run this as I'm sure you can appreciate.

Miss Claringbull will continue to run the Silver award for any student in our existing bronze award group but regrettably, we are not currently in a position to guarantee when we will be able to offer the bronze award for new students wishing to join, I am sure that this will be disappointing for families and we share this disappointment. We are fully committed to being able to offer the bronze award as soon as we can and hope to be able to update you soon on progress with this.

In the interim, please direct any enquiries regarding the Bronze D of E to [Ms McDougall](#), Deputy Head of School. [Miss Claringbull](#) will continue to be the first point of contact for the Silver award.

Job Opportunities

We are recruiting for invigilators for our exam season which predominantly runs from May – June, but there will also be times outside this period when you may be required. This post is offered on a zero hours contract at a rate of £11.35 per hour. Duties are within school hours and we can be flexible to work around your schedule.

Duties include supervising exams and ensuring candidates enter and leave the exam hall appropriately. You will need to be patient, reliable and calm with a professional approach to work and confidentiality. No experience is needed and full training will be given.

If you think you can make a positive contribution to our team, we would be delighted to hear from you. Further information can be found on our [website](#) or if you would like to talk to us about the role, please email our exams officer [Sam Morley](#).

Careers Newsletter

We are pleased to announce the arrival of TMCS Careers Newsletter which will assist you in supporting your children to make positive choices about their future.

The Newsletter is a collation of information from employers and universities across the UK. As well as including opportunities from these organisations, it also has a weekly "job of the week", Labour Market Information Fact, Employer Spotlight and University Spotlight. Each feature aims to expand young people's knowledge of the careers landscape, Labour Market Information and Higher Education pathways and providers. The Newsletter will be available weekly via Edulink.

World Book Day Thursday 2nd March

The World Book Day charity are again giving each student a £1 voucher and this year they are virtual. These do not have to be used just for the special edition books produced for the day, they can be redeemed against any book (even revision guides) at participating retailers. Students will be sent an electronic copy of this year's voucher which can be scanned from your phone or printed out. Participating retailers, book recommendations and activities can be found [here](#).

Parking at St Paul's Church

The church are very generous and welcoming and allow parents of children at both TMCS and The Hythe to use their car park at the beginning and end of the day. If you do use the car park, please respect this kindness by not parking on the green spaces if the car park is full. Please also take care when reversing as students are not always aware of vehicles moving when they are walking through the car park.

Uniform, Appearance and Equipment Expectations

Please re-read the expectations sent last week that are at the end of this letter. Year 7 and 8 students have been doing the line-ups at the start of the day since before half-term and Year 9 began this week. All students have been reminded of their line-up location and these expectations during assemblies this week.

We are aware that students are not necessarily keen on these checks, but they are a really effective way of ensuring all students are treated equally if they are not meeting these expectations. This is appreciated by those who do the right thing every day, but most importantly enables us to support students in putting things right at the beginning of the day so it does not become an issue in learning time.

We do appreciate your support with ensuring your children have the right uniform and equipment. Could you please remind your children to ensure any jewellery in excess of that outlined below is removed at the end of the weekend and left at home.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Have a good weekend.

Kind regards,



Mrs Bell
Head of School

Dates for diaries:

Date	Year Group	Event
27 th February 2023 – 3 rd March 2023	Year 11	Trial Exams continue
2 nd March 2023	All	World Book Day NEU Strike action – arrangements will be advised 27/02/23
3 rd March 2023	Year 10	Reports Published
9 th March 2023	Year 10	Parents' Evening (online)
10 th March 2023	Year 8	Reports Published
14 th March 2023 - 7pm	All	PTSA Meeting in the school canteen
17 th March 2023	Year 7	Reports Published
20 th – 24 th March 2023	All	Thorpe Road Level Crossing Closed Please allow extra time for journeys to school
21 st March 2023 – 6pm	Year 11 (Drama students)	Year 11 GCSE Drama Performance Evening in the theatre
23 rd March 2023	Year 8	Parents' Evening (online)
29 th March 2023 – 6.30pm	All	Spring Showcase in the theatre
31 st March 2023	All	Mufti Day – students to bring £1 or donation
3 rd – 14 th April 2023	All	Easter Holidays
17 th April 2023	All	Summer term begins
27 th April 2023	Year 7	Parents' Evening (online)

Please note that whilst we will try to adhere to these dates, they may be subject to change or to a change in location. We will give you as much notice as possible should this be the case.

Uniform, Appearance and Equipment Expectations

Our school uniform is an important expression of our pride in ourselves as a school and we expect all students to be in correct uniform. Teacher time spent challenging uniform distracts from our principal purpose of teaching and learning. It is also important that all students are equipped to be successful in their lessons. This prevents disruption to their own learning as well as the learning of others and allows teachers to make the maximum use of teaching time available.

To clarify the school's expectations, please find below a reminder of the school uniform and appearance expectations along with a list of equipment every student must have for each lesson. Please ensure that your child adheres to these. We very much appreciate your support in ensuring that your child is sent to school correctly dressed and equipped. Please also note that trainers, hoodies and logoed round necked jumpers are not acceptable. Jumpers are optional and may be worn with, but not as an alternative, to the school blazer. If students choose to wear a jumper, it must be a plain black V-neck jumper as detailed below, otherwise they should wear base-layers to keep warm.

To ensure the school's expectations are upheld by all students, **from Monday all students will line up in their allocated area of the playground at the start of each day. Form tutors will meet their tutor groups in the playground and ensure that their uniform is correct and that every student has their planner and a pencil case of equipment before heading off to registration.** Non-uniform items will be confiscated for return at the end of the school day.

Where any aspect of a student's appearance is deemed inappropriate or where items of equipment for school are missing, parents/carers will be contacted to organise a solution. Students not in correct uniform or without a school bag and a pencil case may be sent home to collect their equipment and/or correct their uniform and return to school; or will be internally isolated until the problem is rectified. Medical conditions preventing the wearing of correct uniform require a letter from your GP/consultant.

We really appreciate your support. If you have any queries, please contact your child's relevant Year Team Leader.

The Magna Carta School Uniform and Appearance Expectations

Uniform
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Black blazer with school badge• Black tailored trousers or black school skirt (skirt must be purchased from School Uniform Direct)• White school shirt• School tie• Black jumper (V-neck so tie is visible)• Black, plain, low-heeled shoes that cover the entire foot• Black tights or black ankle socks• Plain black head coverings can be worn for religious purposes
Jewellery
<p>For health and safety purposes the school will permit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One pair of stud earrings (<0.5mm diameter) in lower ear lobe (no loops) <i>No other piercings are allowed. No clear plastic piercings or plasters over piercings are acceptable.</i>• A wristwatch <i>Smart watches are not permitted</i> <p>Please note that rings and bracelets are <u>not</u> permitted. All jewellery must be removed for PE. Jewellery in excess of the above will be confiscated and kept for collection on Fridays at 3:15pm from a member of SLT.</p>
Hair and Nails
<p>Extremes of fashion relating to any item of clothing, hairstyle or appearance will not be permitted. No fashion branded clothing or accessories are permitted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nail varnish and nail extensions are not permitted. Nails should be cut short.• Hair colouring is only allowed if it appears natural• No patterns or tramlines should be shaved into the hair or eyebrows• Hair should not be shaved below a grade 1• Hair accessories must be plain and black in colour• Plain black head coverings can be worn for religious purposes

The Magna Carta School Equipment Expectations

Equipment
<p>All students should be equipped with a school bag large enough to carry A4 sized folders and books. It should be strong and able to protect books in wet weather. All students should have a student planner and a pencil case with the following equipment inside:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 black pens, 1 green pen• Coloured pencils• 2 sharpened pencils (with eraser if possible)• 1 eraser/rubber (if pencil doesn't have an eraser)• 1 highlighter pen• 1 30cm ruler• 1 glue stick• 1 geometry set• 1 scientific calculator <p><i>Please note: For health and safety reasons, scissors, pencil sharpeners, Tippex or other correction fluids are not allowed in school.</i></p>

Mobile Phones

At The Magna Carta School we recognise that mobile phones (or any communication device that has an equivalent capability, for example smart phones and watches) are an important part of everyday life for our students, parents, carers, and staff, as well as the wider school community. We also recognise that our students have grown up in a world where technology has always been present for them and where digital interactions are the norm.

Note: Please note that by mobile phone we mean any communication device that has an equivalent capability e.g., smart watch, games console. In addition, we include the use of headphones/ear pods.

Whilst we appreciate that the use of communication devices is prevalent in society, these can be a huge distraction in school and many behaviour incidents are related to mobile phone use. We have therefore adopted a policy; 'on-site - out of sight'. This means that they are not seen, used, nor heard at school between 8am and 4pm, with one exception, that they can be used for a learning purpose with adult supervision within a lesson (please see guidelines below).

The Magna Carta School Mobile Phone Expectations

Mobile Phones
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mobile phones may be brought to school.• Mobile phones must be switched off and remain out of sight from the moment that students enter the school grounds to the moment they leave, from 8am to 4pm. This means that they are not seen, used nor heard at school. On-site - out of sight.• St Paul's gate is the point at which mobile phones should be switched off on the way to school. Phones can be turned back on as they exit the gate on the way home.• Mobile phones can be used with adult supervision within a lesson (please see guidelines below).
Expectations when using mobile phones in a lesson
<p>Mobile phones can be used with adult supervision within a lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students place the mobile device flat and facing up on the table.• The device must remain flat on the table at all times.• The device should be used for learning purposes only, for example, a whole class guided activity, such as Kahoot. The usage should be structured and controlled. For other more independent activities we encourage the use of iPad, or IT suites.• If students do not have a device (or do not have a device with the required functionality) they must not be put at a disadvantage. Teachers should provide a resource that allows these students to work in the same way as other students.• Students using their phone for something other than the learning purpose will have their phone confiscated and will follow the sanctions listed below.

The Magna Carta School Mobile Phone Expectations continued

Students not meeting expectations of mobile phone use

If a student's mobile phone is seen, used or heard when it should not be, or used for something other than a permitted educational or class activity, the phone will be confiscated and a 20-minute detention set.

Confiscated items will be stored securely in the school office in a locked cabinet and can be collected from the student window no earlier than 3:20pm. If a student has more than one detention that afternoon, the phone will be returned after they have been completed.

The following sanctions will be applied *within* a half term.

- The first time a mobile phone is confiscated during a half-term students will be set a 20-minute detention at the end of the school day. The mobile phone will be returned no earlier than 3.20pm.
- If a mobile phone is confiscated for a second time in a half-term, the same mobile phone should be handed in at the student window each morning for one week (5 school days). Students will be required to wait for twenty minutes at the end of each school day for the mobile phone to be returned. The school will message home to keep parents informed.
- If a mobile phone is confiscated for a third time in a half-term, parents or carers will be asked to come in and meet with the Year Team Lead to discuss their child's misuse of their mobile phone. The mobile phone should continue to be handed in each day until parents or carers have attended this meeting.
- If we have evidence that students have used their mobile phone to contact others during the school day (including parents and carers) the consequences above will apply. We would like to emphasise that all students are aware of the adults that are available to support them during the day. If there is a need for parents or carers to be contacted, an adult from the school will do this.
- Failure to hand over a mobile phone promptly when requested will result in a further sanction. Parents and carers should expect to be contacted immediately if this is the case.

Loss, theft, or damage

Mobile phones and personally owned mobile devices brought into school are the responsibility of the device owner. The Unity Schools Trust and The Magna Carta School accept no responsibility for mobile phones that are lost, damaged or stolen on school premises or transport, during school visits or trips, or while students are travelling to and from school