



# MAHARISHI SCHOOL

CONSCIOUSNESS - BASED EDUCATION

14th February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your support of the school during spring term 1. Below is an update of activities that have taken place this half term and some information for your attention.

## Updates

We are very pleased to inform you that, following the recent release of the national and regional school league tables, Maharishi School GCSE class of 2019 performed exceptionally well in the 'progress' category. Out of 155 secondary schools in Lancashire, Maharishi School came 2nd with a Progress 8 score of 0.83, which is classed as 'well above average'. Maharishi School is placed at 113 out of 6274 schools nationally, which is in the top 1.8% of schools in the country for this category. The progress score is the only measure in the league tables that takes account of pupils' prior ability. The DfE regards this as the fairest way of measuring how well a school does and so its league tables rank schools on that basis. Congratulations to our staff who work incredibly hard to support all of our pupils to achieve their potential.

Thank you for taking the time, during the autumn term Parents' Evenings, to complete our annual parental survey. We very much value your feedback and use the results to inform future planning. We are very pleased to report that the vast majority of our parents indicated that their child is happy, feels safe, is well looked after, is well taught and that parents would recommend the school to another parent.

We have created a new school email address which we will use to store any photographs or videos that school staff or parents take during any school events, eg. Christmas plays, class assemblies, Sports Days, school trips, etc. If you have any school-based images or videos that you would be happy to share, please do so via [memories@maharishischool.com](mailto:memories@maharishischool.com). They may be used during our pupils' Leavers' Assembly when they are in year 11, as well as for display or promotional purposes.

As part of our school careers' programme, we are keen to increase our links with local businesses. We are flexible as to how this might work with each individual business, for example: work experience, pupils visiting local businesses, business representatives speaking to our pupils in assembly about careers within their sector and the skills that their company looks for in prospective employees, etc. If you have links with a local business that may be interested in coming on board, we would very much appreciate it if you could pass on the contact details of Mrs Ingram, our Careers Lead [mingram@maharishischool.com](mailto:mingram@maharishischool.com)

Still with local businesses in mind, we are looking into the ways in which we can better support our local economy by procuring more services and products locally. To this end, we are investigating whether we can find a more competitive deal for our parents by sourcing a local photographer to take our annual pupil photographs. We are also interested in any other local suppliers of goods and

Headteacher: Mrs L Edwards BA(Hons), PGCE.

Tel: 01695 729912 Email: [enquiries@maharishischool.com](mailto:enquiries@maharishischool.com) [www.maharishischool.com](http://www.maharishischool.com)

Cobbs Brow Lane, Lathom, Ormskirk, Lancashire L40 6JJ

services that you know are competitive. If you have any business links you think might help, please let Mr Mitchell know, via [parents@maharishischool.com](mailto:parents@maharishischool.com)

Our January Open Day was very well attended with many of the prospective parents citing 'word of mouth' as the reason for their attendance. Thank you to our parents for spreading the word about our wonderful school. We also noted that a large proportion of the visitors reported that meditation was the main reason for their interest in the school. Secondary phase pupils have been invited to participate in a Young Meditators course at the Dome over the Easter break and we have a group of secondary pupils now meditating each morning at the Dome. This is open to any secondary aged pupils who would like to participate in this longer TM experience in the mornings.

This half term the Parents' Book Club has read *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou and *Breakfast at Tiffany's* by Truman Capote. The date for the next meeting is Tuesday 17th March and the book for this half term is 'The girl in the letter' by Emily Gunnis. New members are always welcome and it is not necessary to have read the book to join.

The school's Enabling Good Behaviour policy and the SEND Information Report have been updated and can be found on the school website or via this link: <https://maharishischool.com/about/school-policies-2/>

### **Activities - primary phase**

Year 1 are currently taking part in the RSPB School Wild Challenge and are working towards the Bronze certificate by completing tasks that allow our pupils to help and experience nature. So far the class has completed weather diaries, set up a bird feeder and is also taking part in the Big Schools' Bird Watch.

As part of Internet Safety Week, our pupils have produced age-appropriate resources for our spring term parents' assemblies. In year 2, pupils role-played a story about the safe use of tablets and smartphones; with some fantastic characters including 'grandma', whose wig was truly amazing, and 'Buddy the dog', whose wise woofs helped to share some very important messages. In year 4, our pupils produced a Powerpoint presentation which taught us about age restrictions for some well-known apps, for example the age restriction for Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok is 13, and Whatsapp is 16. Pupils suggested different ways to reduce screen time, including a free-time timetable that one group produced and shared with the audience. More parents' assemblies will follow in spring 2.

Eight of our year 5 and 6 pupils competed in the Shares swimming gala this half term. All of the pupils showed excellent team spirit and performed well in their heat. One of our pupils even won the gold medal in the breaststroke final! Year 5 and 6 pupils have also been taking part in a weekly Chess Club in preparation for a chess tournament that we will be entering in spring 2. This half term, Year 6 went to Liverpool World museum where they took part in an Ancient Egyptian workshop. They were able to handle real artifacts and put their hands in a canopic jar.

### **Activities - secondary phase**

The year 9 photography group took part in two photoshoots for their GCSE project 'Creative Landscapes': Liverpool waterfront and Formby beach and sand dunes. Year 10 photography pupils took part in a workshop at Winstanley college where they took still life and close-up photography of intricate paper sculptures which were then inverted and printed onto acetates before being developed in the dark room.

Year 11 pupils have been working very hard in preparation for their forthcoming GCSE exams. Attendance at the after-school booster sessions is high and year 11 individual pupil mentors have reported that pupils are showing commitment and maturity in their approach.

Dungeons and Dragons is a tabletop role-playing game that is becoming very popular in school clubs all over the world. It has been shown that, as well as being enormous fun, it also creates opportunities for learning teamwork, strategic thinking and even maths! We started with one lunchtime group and now have three! One group even played for 3 hours one Saturday and have asked to play again at the weekend soon.

### **Key Dates for Spring**

#### **Primary**

|                        |                                  |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Wk. beg. 24th February | World Book Day costume sale      |
| Thursday 27th February | Wigan Athletic coaching assembly |
| Tuesday 10th March     | Beavers & Cubs Assembly          |
| Tuesday 24th March     | Year 1-2 hearing tests           |
| Wednesday 25th March   | Year 2 visit to Staircase House  |
| Tuesday 31 March       | Year 3 visit to Martin Mere      |

#### *Sport - Spring Term 2*

- Reception every Wednesday from 24 February to 1 April
- Yr1-Yr2 & Yr5 & Yr6 every Friday from 28 February to 3 April
- Yr3 & Yr4 swimming every Friday from 6 - 27 March (except Thu 27 Feb Ecumenical Centre)

Spring term after-school clubs will continue with Eco Club, World Cinema Club and Calmful Colouring Club. Lunch clubs include Choir Club, Chess Club and School Council.

#### **Secondary**

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| 8-11 March | Battlefields history trip                 |
| 11 March   | Y8-10 West Lancs careers fair             |
| 20 March   | Y10 'What Next?' careers event            |
| 27 March   | Payment deadline: Young Meditators course |
| 15 April   | Young Mediators course at the Dome        |

#### Mondays

|           |                              |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| 4:00-5:00 | Y11 GCSE maths - All welcome |
| 4:00-6:00 | Y9 GCSE photography          |

#### Tuesdays

|           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| 4:00-5:30 | Y11 GCSE art |
|-----------|--------------|

#### Wednesdays

|           |                                    |
|-----------|------------------------------------|
| 4:00-6:00 | Y10 GCSE photography               |
| 4:00-5:00 | Y11 GCSE history (alternate weeks) |

#### Thursdays

|           |                       |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| 4:00-5:45 | GCSE Computer science |
| 4:00-5:30 | Y11 GCSE art          |

#### **Both phases**

|                   |                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Wednesday 4 March | World Book Day celebrations |
| 2 April           | Textile Collection          |

With best wishes for an enjoyable half term break.



Mrs Edwards  
**Headteacher**

"If you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely." **Roald Dahl**

