



Our Ref: MS/ES

9 September 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

It gives me great pleasure to write to you as the new Headteacher of Marden High School, and to welcome you to what I am sure will be a very busy and exciting year ahead.

I am joining Marden having served for the last nine years as Deputy Head at Kenilworth School in Warwickshire, now recognised nationally for innovative, high quality education and excellent examination results. Over this time I have gained a great deal of experience in raising achievement and standards to the highest levels.

I was certain from my first impressions that Marden High School was the right choice for me as Headteacher. I was immediately impressed by the warm welcome I received. Later upon meeting teaching and support staff, I was impressed by their high level of skill and professionalism, dedication and commitment to the students. The students themselves, who I had the pleasure to meet, were inquisitive and engaging. The Governors I have met so far also have high ambition for our school.

The students did very well in their GCSE exams in the summer, and their teachers are to be congratulated for their hard work in this. However, even now teachers have analysed the results and are identifying areas for further improvement so exam results for our young people can be even better in the future.

We have had an enjoyable and successful start to life in our new building this week and students have been excited by the opportunities the new environment offers. Marden High School has an outstanding future ahead of it. I have the very highest expectations of staff and students, and it is my intention, by working together, to raise standards in every area, helping all students to achieve highly.

I do not have a very complicated philosophy in terms of what I believe makes the best schools and my approach is generally to keep things as straightforward as possible. My priorities are simply these: excellent examination outcomes, impeccable behaviour, great teaching and the widest possible range of high quality extra-curricular experiences for all students. With a clear focus and lots of hard work, these things are all eminently achievable and will deliver what I think most parents want - happy children who leave school with plenty of choices available to them and well-equipped to cope with whatever their futures hold for them.



**Matt Snape BA(Hons), NPQH
Headteacher**

Hartington Road · Cullercoats
North Shields NE30 3RZ

T: 0191-296 2771 | F: 0191-270 3210
office@mardenhigh.net
mardenhigh.net



Marden High



MardenHigh

I have spoken to all students in assemblies about my expectations of them, and they can be summarised as follows:

- To know the code of conduct and act sensibly and safely
- To try their best, work as part of a team and value healthy competition
- To know that with rights comes responsibility
- To respect and value the diversity of others
- To make a full contribution and give service to the school and the community
- To be kind and considerate to others
- To communicate effectively with their teachers

As you can see these are straightforward expectations and the majority of students are unlikely to have to change how they act in order to meet them. However, one key change is that mobile phones are no longer permitted to be used by students in school unless express permission has been given by a teacher for it to be used for learning purposes. I appreciate that you may wish your child to have a mobile phone with them so that they can contact you on the way to or from school in an emergency, but once they are in school, mobile phones should be switched off and in bags. If they are seen or heard they will be confiscated.

From what I have seen already, Marden has a great many real strengths and I have no intention of changing things that are already working well. On the other hand, I have no doubt that academic standards can be higher still, and I bring with me a good deal of experience when it comes to raising achievement and supporting teachers in providing the very highest quality of teaching. I shall be visiting classrooms as often as possible in order to establish the extent to which all students are being stretched, challenged and supported to achieve and enjoy in their lessons.

There are many challenges facing schools in the next few years. However, my firm belief is that, if we stick to our core principles, focus on the things that matter most and work together then we will achieve great things. It is my intention that Marden becomes not just outstanding, but that we go beyond that to provide a world class education for our young people, a beacon that others will look to in achieving excellence. This will be an exciting journey and I hope that as many of you as possible will get involved in the life of the school so that we can make sure it serves the needs of our young people and our community.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the weeks and months ahead and, in the meantime, wish you and your children all the very best for a successful term ahead.

Yours faithfully



Mr M Snape
Headteacher