



Ref: MS/ES

21 October 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you at the end of a busy and enjoyable half term, the first in our new building. We have settled in well and generally our students have met the high standards of work and behaviour we expect of them. The new building has certainly provided some good opportunities for enhancing the learning, and everybody has appreciated the light, airy classrooms and the faster, more stable technology.

We have introduced several new extra-curricular activities this term. We have had after school aerobics classes; Newcastle Falcons have been coaching KS3 girls rugby; a new badminton development programme is now up and running; Dance City have been providing dance lessons in our new dance studio; we now have several choirs, a Coding Club, a Business Enterprise group, and our Rock School. You can see a full list of all the extra-curricular opportunities available to your child on our school website under Marden+.

Auditions have taken place for Bugsy Malone and rehearsals have now started in earnest in readiness for a Spring production. Before then we will have our Christmas Concert in December in the main Auditorium. I hope you will be able to join us for that.

There has also been some success in our sporting activities. The Year 7 football team have had a positive start to their new season and the senior netball team have won their opening matches convincingly. But of course it is the taking part that counts, so it is good to see such keen participation in all these fixtures.

Year 11 are, of course, now in their final year before GCSE exams and they are currently working hard in preparation. In order to support Year 11 students in this we have designated various supervised work spaces for them to spend time working or revising at lunchtimes. With a view to the future we have also established an effective link with Connexions who are currently coming in to school on a regular basis to have one to one interviews with Year 11 students about their options for next year. Feedback from students is that they are finding this very useful as they formulate and consolidate plans for next year.

Our Year 11 mock exams will take place towards the end of next half term, from 28 November to 9 December. Their teachers have already started to talk to them about the importance of revision and about the different techniques they should use to make the time spent doing this as effective as possible. Whilst the half term holidays will be a pleasant opportunity for rest and recreation, for those with exams coming up, it is also a good chance to get into the right habits of revising.



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We had a very successful open evening and open days with some great feedback. As you can imagine, our students were great ambassadors as they helped take visitors round, talking to them about the great things going on in the school.

We have also had excellent student leadership at, for example, our assembly at Cullercoats Primary School. Our students have also represented the school at the Young Person's Question Time, where they were chosen to pose questions to the Mayor of North Tyneside, people in charge of Youth Provision, Councillors and Northumbria Police.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to welcoming all our students back on Tuesday 1 November.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Snape', written in a cursive style.

Mr M Snape
Headteacher