



Ref: MS/ES

5 September 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been good to see all our students back in school, and of course to welcome our new Year 7 students to their first "real" week here. I hope that everybody has enjoyed their summer and has come back refreshed and raring to go.

We have enjoyed significant praise this summer. We had our very successful OFSTED visit, The Real School's Guide has judged us as one of the best schools in the North East, and now our excellent exam results have bucked the national and regional trend by continuing to improve from already high levels. Whilst the exams this year have been designed to be more challenging, with a resultant dip in overall outcomes nationally and locally, the expertise and commitment of staff and the hard work and focus of students at Marden has meant that their results have been amongst the best in the country:

80% English and maths combined
80% 5 A*-C including English and maths
86% 5 A*-C grades

Students at Marden have achieved significant positive value added overall. The great majority of students achieved higher than their predicted grades, and indeed, 21% of the students got a full grade higher in each of their subjects, a fantastic achievement reflecting their positive attitudes and hard work.

Marden High School prides itself on catering for the needs of each individual and this includes many very able students who are given the opportunities to achieve some of the best results in the country. 25% of Marden students achieved an average grade of A or above, a statistic many grammar schools would envy.

The new grade 9 has been designed to extend the most able students in the country and so the proportions achieving that grade nationally are correspondingly low. Marden students' achievements, however, far exceed the national figures: 8.8% of Marden students secured a grade 9 in English language (national figure this year is 2.2%); 11.3% of Marden students got a grade 9 in English literature (3.2% nationally); and 5.6% in maths (3.5% nationally).

Some of you may be aware that Mr Blair, Head of History, was absent from school at the end of last term. He has since undergone an operation to remove a brain tumour, and will be having further treatment in the coming weeks. As you might expect, Mr Blair's positivity is seeing him through this difficult time and we all wish him well in his recovery and look forward to seeing him later this year.

I would like to welcome a number of new staff to our school this year - each of them has introduced themselves to you on our website. We are looking forward to them being a part of the team and wish them all the best in their future years at Marden.

You can find Parents Evenings, PTA meetings and other events on the Parent Calendar on our website. We are looking forward to what is always a busy term and to working with you and your children towards continued success.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Snape
Headteacher



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