



Marden High School

Friday, 19 January 2018

Dear all

I hope that you and your families enjoyed a restful break over the holidays. We have certainly had a productive and purposeful start to the term, as students have taken advantage of the many opportunities presented to them. The start of a new year of course provides the perfect opportunity to try something different and I would encourage students to take up one of our extracurricular activities if they are not already doing so. A list of current activities can be found on this website.

You may already have seen the report on our website of the excellent performances of our girls and boys badminton teams, with our U16 girls becoming North Tyneside Champions. There was also an impressive victory as the U14 netball team beat Burnside 34-0. Many of our students represented the school admirably in harsh conditions at the Tyne and Wear cross-country championships. We had some excellent results, and everybody showed real grit and determination.

We also have our nomination for North Tyneside Young Mayor, Poppy Arnold, who has presented her vision to several audiences already, including students at another school. We wish her all the best for the forthcoming elections.

This week saw the first event for a group of girls in year 9 and year 10, who are involved in a project called the Girls' Network, something which will give them support and mentoring from professional women in school and beyond into their further education and careers beyond.

This is a particularly busy time for year 10 students as they have work experience coming up, followed after the half term break by their year 10 exams. This will include their first experience of taking exams in the Auditorium in a realistic GCSE setting. It will be important that they get used to this setting, including exam regulations, and that they take these exams seriously. They should put some time and effort into preparing and revising for them.

As a high performing school, with still higher aspirations, it is vital that we can gather as many resources as possible together to enhance the educational experience of our children. In a climate of ongoing austerity and funding cuts, this means continually prioritising what we spend money on to make expenditure efficient and effective, as well as looking at new opportunities to bring funds in. We are now hiring out our grounds and facilities during the evening. If you are involved with a community group or team and would like more information on this please contact our Business Manager, Mr Hedworth at school.

May I also remind you that we have a School Fund, and thanks to parental contributions to this, we can extend educational and extra-curricular opportunities for our students. If you feel you can make a contribution to this fund you can do this via Parent Pay, a standing order, cheque or bank transfer. Your contributions really are appreciated and make a difference - every little helps.

Today, (Friday) we have had our Year 11 photograph, one of those key rites of passage that the students will experience during this year. You will be able to buy one of these later in the term and I'm sure it will serve as a valued memento later in our young people's lives.

Year 11 students have now received feedback from their mock exams and many are taking advantage of the revision classes that their teachers have arranged for them. Please encourage your child to take part in these classes, which will include consolidation of key ideas and exam question practice. The full timetable of classes can be found on this website.

Attendance overall for the first week back was over 96%, which is relatively high, but we want it to be higher still. Many of the children still have 100% attendance records, and this is a great habit to get into and which will benefit them later in their working lives.

Generally speaking our students look very smart in and around school, but it is important to remember that everyone needs to be dressed in correct uniform, and without excessive jewellery or make-up. The exact particulars for uniform can be found in your child's planner and your child's Head of Year will let you know if they are not in full uniform. We appreciate your ongoing support in this matter.

Two reminders of upcoming meetings: our Curriculum Choice Evening for year 9 students and parents is on Thursday 25th January, and we have a Parents' Forum on Thursday 22nd February at 2.30pm, which is an opportunity for a relatively informal discussion about school life - please contact Mrs Scott at school if you would like to come along.

Quote for the Week:

"Continuous effort - not strength or intelligence - is the key to unlocking our potential"

Winston Churchill

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M Snape
Headteacher