



Friday, 23 February 2018

Dear All,

We have had an enjoyable week of getting back into our learning and it has been good to see year 10 and 11 students in particular focusing on their exam preparation and taking advantage of the extra revision classes their teachers are putting on for them. Our year 11 students will be able to benefit from an Easter revision school during the holiday period - details of this will be on our website in the coming weeks.

This week we had an excellent Careers Fair for our key stage 4 students with representation from a large number of business and education organisations. The feedback from students and our visitors alike has been very favourable.

As you are aware, our focus on student leadership is an important feature of our children's development at Marden, and a good example of this is the work that our students are doing in preparation for the School Report BBC News Day. A group of Y8s will be involved with this next as they do their reporting, directing and producing hats and bring together news reports on a variety of topical issues. Their final productions will be on our website later this term.

In our assemblies we will often reflect on the ideas and words of inspirational figures, and this week we have spent some time thinking about a quote from one of the world's great sports people, Arthur Ashe, whose life sadly ended prematurely from long illness: *"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can."* This is a useful reminder to all of us at times to stop wishing *"if only"*, and to remember that the great talents that lie within each of us right now are what will take us on to future success.

Next Friday we have World Book Day, when we will be inviting students and staff to come dressed as characters from some of their favourite books. There will be a Super Learning Day on the theme of writing for year 7, and lots of other events for everyone during the day. Look out for the photo gallery on our website.

Our Parent Teachers Association continues to raise funds and are now inviting subject departments to put bids in for various things which will enhance further our children's educational experiences. This term we will be running a House competition to gather together prizes for future PTA tombolas and raffles. Details will be sent home soon.

An important part of the education our children receive at Marden is in developing those good habits that will support them in their adult working lives. To this end we remind them of the importance of good punctuality and how this relates to their future and to their success in school. For this reason a student who is late to school without a explanation receives a lunchtime detention. We appreciate your support in ensuring your child is punctual to school.

Finally a reminder that the year 10 exams start next week, and for year 9 we have our Parents Evening and the deadline for year 9 options is on Friday next week.

Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'M. Snape'.

Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher