



Friday 20th April 2018

Dear All,

We have had a great week back following the Easter holidays, with lots of interesting activities going on in classrooms, as well as our year 11 students continuing to work hard in preparation for their exams. It has been good to see a solid work ethic and to hear from teachers about how they are applying themselves to the task in hand. We have actually started some exams, with the practical elements of drama, PE, photography and art now complete. We have no exam board feedback yet, of course, but all the students involved should be congratulated on the commitment they have shown. Throughout the Easter holidays we had the school open for our year 11 students, and many of the teachers gave of their time to support the students with their work. I know the students have been very appreciative of these efforts.

We had our year 10 parents evening this week, and, as is now usual, we were pleased to receive returns from our parent survey, which, as with our previous surveys, indicated overall a high degree of satisfaction. For example, 98% of parents feel that their child is making good progress at Marden, and 100% feel that their child is well looked after and that they are well taught. However, we are ever aware that we can always improve, and so it was interesting to see that the lowest rates of satisfaction were regarding homework and information giving. Whilst the scores for these responses were still high at 90%, these are two areas that we will be including in our School Development Plan which we will be putting together along with Governors this term.

Many of our year 10 students have been busy applying for the position of Prefect over the past weeks, and this week they found out what their roles would be, and received their ties and badges. This is a great opportunity to develop some of the attributes that their employers will be looking for in the future such as resilience, responsibility, and interpersonal and teamwork skills. Prefects are now eligible to apply to become Head Girl and Head Boy, and later this half term, there will be presentations and elections for these positions. We have high expectations of all our students, but in particular, our Prefects act as role models to the rest of the school community, and I am confident that Prefects from the class of 2019 will do us proud.

We are looking forward to an exciting Careers event on Thursday next week when each of our year 10 students will have the opportunity to have a mock interview with one of our visiting business professionals, and receive some doubtless very valuable one to one

feedback. This will be great experience for the real thing when it comes to college or sixth form interviews next year, or indeed for employment later in their lives.

And finally, during the week I have been hearing the dulcet sounds of various groups and orchestras practising for next week's Spring concert on Wednesday, and from the sounds of it, it should be an enjoyable evening. We look forward to seeing you there if you can make it.

Thank you for your continued support.

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

Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher