



Friday 27th April 2018

Dear All,

Our Spring Concert this week was a wonderful celebration of the musical talent and potential that we have here at Marden High. Not only were we able to enjoy some superb musicianship, we also were able to witness how the creative arts, and opportunities to perform, help to develop character and personality in our young people. A big thank you to the staff who put this event together and congratulations to all students who took part.

Many of our students have had the opportunity this week to experience the Prayer Space in the RE department. Here they have been able to focus on what they are thinking and on the place they have in the world. We have also had a focus in assemblies on being mindful and maintaining mental healthiness, by taking some moments on a regular basis to focus on the present and on the good things in our lives, so important in today's world where so many of us feel so many pressures.

Year 10 students have this week been involved in mock interviews with visiting professionals from a wide variety of businesses and organisations. The initial feedback from students is that it has been a very useful insight into the demands of personal interviewing, as well as the need for good preparation. The professionals that supported us in this work were most complimentary about our young people, impressed with how they presented themselves.

The start of term has been a busy time for our sports teams. The final netball matches were played on Monday night by the Under 13 team. They played really well winning two matches and only losing one. Well done to all the girls involved in the netball squad over the season. The Year 10 boys volleyball team continue to compete against other school teams, performing well against older teams. This is a team with some excellent technical skills and who show a lot of promise for next year. The next block of ten weeks for our Dance City Club has now begun and dancers will be using the time to prepare for a summer performance. A number of Year 10 students are now working as Sports Leaders within the PE department and will be running various activities over the summer term. They will also be going into our feeder Primary Schools to help staff run sports events.

The summer programme for extra-curricular sports activities has now been finalised. Students should check the extra curricular posters going up around the department to see what activities they would like to get involved in. Details will also be going onto the website. We have recently had confirmation from the RFU in Twickenham on Marden becoming part of the All Schools programme in the next academic year. This is a 3-5 year programme with funding from the RFU to foster school and rugby club links, primarily in this case North Shields RFC. The programme caters for all standards and it will focus upon getting as many boys and girls as possible to participate and enjoy Rugby Union. Initially Year 7 and 8 will be

the main focus, although there will be opportunities for year 9-11 students to become involved throughout.

It is always good to meet parents face to face to discuss how we are developing as a learning community, and so I would like to remind you that our next Parents' Forum is on 21st June 5.30pm. This is a good opportunity for parents to come into school to talk generally about developments in the school. Past topics have included things such as homework which have then been incorporated into our School Development Plan. If you would like to come along, please contact Mrs Scott at school.

Another forthcoming event for parents is our next PTA quiz, which will be on Thursday 28th June. Anybody who came to our last Halloween quiz will remember what a great event that was, so please get a team together and come along if you can. Tickets are available at school reception and further details on the school website.

We are launching a mobile phone app called My Ed, which we can use to send free-of-charge messages to parents and carers. It is also free for parents and carers to use the app to contact the school. All of the communications will be held within the app, so you don't have to hunt through your texts to find school messages. The app also contains links to various useful parts of our website, all from one place. There is more information about the My Ed app available at <https://www.myedschoolapp.com/> and I would encourage all our parents and carers to consider using it, as we think that it will improve ease of communication. Installation instructions are available at <http://bit.ly/mhsmyed>

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher