



Friday 18th May 2018

Dear All,

The GCSE exams have now started in earnest, with students sitting exams on most days over the next 3 weeks. Year 11 have been very positive and have settled into the routines well, as they alternate between exams and revision lessons with their teachers. We have told the students to make sure that they have a sensible balance between relaxation and revision at home during this time, and that they look after themselves physically by eating well and getting enough sleep.

We have been working on our School Development Plan in recent weeks, with staff and governors identifying areas for making our provision even better for the students. We have also been taking into account feedback we have received from our various parent surveys throughout the year. In our School Development Plan we have outlined clear objectives which focus on continuing to provide high quality education and excellent examination results, at the same time as developing in our young people the wider skills of communication, teamwork and creativity which will be required, whatever their future holds for them. The Development Plan will be available on the school website later this term so that everyone can read about the vision, aims and objectives.

The topic of discussion for the 4th session with The Girls' Network involving students from Year 9 and Year 10 this week was around mentors sharing their personal and professional failures and how these failures helped make them the person they are today. Some used the example of J K Rowling who described herself feeling like the "Biggest failure she knew" - it took being at the lowest point in her life with nothing to lose to write her first book. She embraced her failure and without this she wouldn't be one of the most successful women in the world. This idea of resilience and working through the challenges that life presents clearly resonated with the students, and is a philosophy that all of us at Marden High strive to adopt each day we are working together.

As you are aware, we like to celebrate the great learning that happens in school, and it is always a pleasure when students show me their work and explain how their learning has progressed. We often use photographs of our students for displays within school, on our website, and in other publications such as the school prospectus. As we require parental consent for this, we have sent out this week our GDPR photographic consent form, and I would remind parents to return these forms as soon as possible.

We have had some great sports results recently, and two of them deserve special mention. The U14 cricket team played Dame Allan's School on Friday afternoon. This was always going to be a tough game, but all players acquitted themselves superbly well, and against a far more experienced team they played really well and only lost by the narrowest of margins

of two runs overall. Again, the sportsmanship and conduct of our students was exemplary and commented upon by several of the spectators.

We also had our boys U15 tennis team playing Newcastle Boys School last week, and again, against a team with far more competitive experience. Although the players lost 8-4 in matches, it was a competitive fixture for all four players. These results speak volumes about the positive attitude and resilience that our students display in a variety of settings and all participants should be very proud of the way they have presented themselves.

We are finding that an increasing number of local sports and leisure clubs are interested in using our facilities during evenings and at weekends. From Monday 21st May, you will be able to book school facilities such as sports pitches, Dance Studio and our Auditorium by using our online system. There will be a direct link to this from our website (www.mardenhigh.net) and the system will show you what you can book and information about the facilities. There is a calendar for each facility showing when it is available, and there is an online form to complete to start the booking process.

A recommended date for your diaries is Tuesday 26th June when we will be hosting this year's Marden's Got Talent show, with a variety of acts presented and performed by our students. Students are currently signing up for auditions and it promises to be a great event.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher