



## Marden High School

Friday 20th July 2018

Dear All,

This week we have seen a huge variety of different opportunities and activities that our students and staff have been involved in, with the themes of challenge and creativity seeming to have been ever present.

I had the privilege of visiting our year 7 students and their teachers at High Borrans in the Lake District earlier this week, and was impressed with the enthusiasm and commitment they all showed in getting stuck in to the various activities. It was clear from the gorge scrambling and the fell walking I did with them, that the students were challenging themselves at times, and it was good to see their sense of satisfaction and achievement at succeeding in tasks that they initially thought they would be unable to do.

Students have also shown a great deal of creativity when dealing with the serious and emotive issues of slavery and of social media abuse. We have seen some extremely sophisticated writing and drama performances around both of these subjects, and no doubt the outcomes from this week will feed into discussions and Personal Development work in the new academic year.

Our Sports Day for Years 7 and 8, smoothly coordinated by the PE department and the first for many years, was a great success, and has now been established as a new tradition, with school records ready to be broken next year. Our visits to Lightwater Valley on Wednesday and Thursday saw excellent conduct from students and a great time was had by all.

Hopefully you will have had the chance to enjoy our Twitter feed on the trip to France and Germany, which was a great success, including the group witnessing the Parisians reaction to France winning the World Cup last weekend, quite a spectacle!

One of the key outcomes of this very varied week has been the development of teamwork, and it has been wonderful to see students and staff working together in small groups to create quite unique learning, sporting and personal development opportunities - we even had a live link up with a school in Ghana with students in both countries agreeing that into the future we need to work together in a harmonious global village

This was the first year that we have run our House System and competitions, which has included students gaining house points for good work, attendance, and performances in various competitions across the curriculum. It has been a close fought competition, with weekly updates and end of term celebrations, and at the final standing I can announce that

the overall competition has been won by Alnwick. Congratulations to them, but well done to all students contributing to their House score.

Next term there will be an opportunity for a number of students in year 9 and above to receive one of four choral scholarships at St George's from September. This is due to a generous grant from the Cullercoats Educational Trust and could be a great opportunity for musically gifted students. We will be talking to the Trust in September and we will provide further details in the new term.

We are looking forward to the exam results in August and finding out how our year 11 students have fared. They have certainly worked hard towards them and we are now hoping for great results. This has been a very successful year overall, with students and staff all continuing to work hard towards providing the best opportunities and achieving the best outcomes for our young people. Areas we have particularly enjoyed and been pleased with, include developing relationships with parents and the wider community, developing literacy, enriching the curriculum, developing leadership, and maintaining our strong team culture, and I hope that you can see elements of all of these themes in the latest edition of Marden's half termly newsletter.

I hope everybody has a good rest and an enjoyable holiday. We look forward to seeing all our students back safe and well on Tuesday 4th September.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher