



Marden High School

Friday 21st September 2018

Dear All,

We have had another busy and productive week with lots of great learning and interesting activities. In particular it has been good to see so many students getting involved in the variety of extra-curricular activities that have now started in earnest this term. In recent assemblies we have been speaking to the students about getting involved with the School Cabinet and as a form representative. It is important for our young people to understand the importance of being involved in decision making, and in making their views and opinions heard in the correct manner. There will be two form reps for each class and they will hold a meeting with their form once a half term to gather the information which they then take to meetings with their Head of Year. Some of these students will then be selected for the Student Cabinet which is a group that helps run charity events, supports with interview processes and leads on various events and assemblies.

All students have a role to play in decision making in school, whether it is contributing to discussion, or leading and representing a form or year group, and so I would encourage all our young people to give some serious thought to how they contribute to school life. Our thought for the week this week from the playwright Tom Stoppard is a good reminder of the importance of such contributions: "Words are sacred. They deserve respect. If you get the right ones in the right order, you can nudge the world a little."

Continuing with the theme of words, this week every Year 7 student has been assessed to determine reading attainment for each student. The assessment analyses a student's literal comprehension, understanding of vocabulary, comprehension requiring inference and comprehension requiring analysis. The results of these assessments will assist us to differentiate for individual need and identify programmes of support for those who are falling behind. This is an important part of the individual approach we take to ensuring that each of our children makes good progress.

A group of year 10 girls visited Procter and Gamble this week to find out a little more about the company and what employers like Procter and Gamble are looking for. Eight female volunteers from the company were on hand to answer questions and offer help on how to build an effective CV. The opportunity arose through Marden's involvement with the Girls' Network; a charitable organisation that seeks to promote girls' confidence and raise aspirations for future careers.

Several other girls in Y10 and Y11 are regular attenders of the Girls' Network and have female mentors from industry whom they meet on a one-to-one basis. These girls also met with their mentors this week. This was the first meeting after the summer break and it was lovely to see the girls and the mentors so pleased to see each other.

Our year 10 students are about to start preparing for their Work Experience Placement which will take place in January. The purposes of this programme are to give students an introduction to the world of work; to assist the personal and social development of students, to enable them to relate school learning to life outside the school, and help motivate them towards appropriate study and career options. Students are encouraged to organise their own work experience and this should be done as early as possible because there is strong competition for work experience placements.

It was good to see so many parents at our PTA meeting this week, another increase in numbers, with, in particular, new year 7 parents. There was good discussion and some great ideas for fundraising and bringing our community together at various events. Staff have now been invited to bid for funds that have been raised by the PTA, and this will be a very welcome and gratefully received extra source of income to support our children at school.

Next week we look forward to welcoming lots of prospective parents for our Open Evening, and soon after that, on 1st October, we have a special Information Evening for parents of Year 11 Science students.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher