



Marden High School

Friday 28th September 2018

Dear All,

Following the summer's exam results, I would like to highlight that one of the changes in GCSE exam papers in recent years has been the increasing reading age needed to access many questions. This means that the ability to read sophisticated language is ever more important when it comes to sitting a GCSE exam, no matter what the subject. So lots of reading practice is key for our children's exam success, and this does not have to be subject based revision, but can be, and should be, reading for pleasure. It is also worth remembering the other benefits of reading:

- Children who read often and widely get better at it.
- Reading exercises our brain.
- Reading improves concentration.
- Reading teaches children about the world around them.
- Reading improves vocabulary and language skills.
- Reading develops a child's imagination.
- Reading helps children to develop empathy.
- Reading is fun.

Netball and football fixtures are now underway, with training sessions and trials having been well attended. Students are reminded that it is not too late to get involved, so if they would like to be, to see their PE teacher.

At the start of term I talked about the advent of our Boys' Network. This week saw a key event take place when a number of boys in year 10 and year 11 met their mentors, male professionals from the world of business and industry. There was a great atmosphere where each boy was able to talk to his mentor about interests, aspirations and hopes for the future. It was an exciting start to what promises to be a very effective programme in developing the communication, presentation and networking skills of the boys, as well as reinforcing a strong work ethic, strong leadership of self, and awareness of being part of a team. I would like to record a huge thanks to the mentors who have agreed to give of their own time and energy to this exciting project.

On Wednesday this week we enjoyed a busy and very successful Open Evening with many students helping by acting as guides or demonstrating activities in the various departmental areas. As ever, our children were great ambassadors on the night, and there were so many positive comments from visitors about the welcoming atmosphere and the enthusiasm of students and staff alike.

Mrs Long, our Duke of Edinburgh Award coordinator, will be speaking to year 9 students soon about the opportunity of them starting the award. Each year sees a number of students completing the Bronze award which involves them getting involved in voluntary work, and learning new skills and sports interests. They also get to spend weekends in some of our most beautiful natural environments learning the skills of navigation and campcraft. This really is a great chance for students to develop some of those skills required for an “etiquette for success” that I mentioned last week, including communication and teamwork, as well as building their resilience and resourcefulness. It’s also great fun!

Next week in assemblies, we have a number of students from our School of Sanctuary group who will be highlighting the problem of racism in our society. They will be leading the assemblies and have again shown great leadership development in preparing for this. The students have been working this term with Mrs Griffiths, and will be delivering a powerful message of hope to our school community about how we should be treating each other, perhaps best summarised by this famous quote:

“No one is born hating another person because of his skin, or his background or his religion. People learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.”

Students will find out whose words these are next week.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher