



## Marden High School

Friday 12th October 2018

Dear All,

This week we have seen more visitors coming around the school as our Open Days have continued. On these occasions there are no special preparations made, rather it is an opportunity for prospective parents to get to see what our students do in their lessons on any normal school day, in other words, what it is really like at Marden High School. Our visitors feedback has been very positive, and they tell us that as they have moved around the school and different lessons, they have seen children who are well looked after, who are happy, and who are making good progress.

Disability North East have given the School Cabinet £50 and a challenge. They have met this week to make arrangements for various enterprising activities, which will see them hopefully realise substantial returns on their investments so that they can hand back to the charity far more than was given. Our young Marden 'Apprentices' will be spending the last week of half term raising funds through these enterprising activities. We wish them luck!

Year 9 will soon be approaching the point at which they choose their options subjects for GCSE. There will be some key dates coming up that are important for both parents and children in order to assist them in this process. Students will all take English Language, English Literature, Maths and Science as compulsory subjects and also follow PE and Personal development. Students will then pick three additional subjects, and we aim to ensure that their curriculum choices are broad and balanced. There will be Guided Choices assemblies where students will be given an introduction to the process of choosing their subjects, as well as information from curriculum leaders about the subjects offered at GCSE. These presentations will be available on the website in 'learning' and 'guided choices' following the assemblies.

Also on our website we now have detailed information for parents and students on the curriculum followed by students at key stage 3 and key stage 4. During key stage 3 (years 7-9) students are taught subject specific key skills (also known as assessment objectives) alongside content. These skills become more challenging as each year progresses and provide a solid foundation for GCSE courses. Students are assessed using the progress markers, illustrated in the poster on the website. All students should be aiming to be 'meeting' by the end of each year. This information can be found on the Parents tab on the website under the heading 'Curriculum Skills and Content'. At key stage 4 (years 10 and 11) pupils are assessed using numerical GCSE criteria (grades 1-9).

The assessment objectives, as well as the long and medium term plans for each subject can be viewed through the links described above. A letter explaining in more detail will be brought home by students.

Last weekend was the final weekend of keeping records of students participating in the weekly Parkruns, a challenge which was in place whilst Mr Topping and Mr Richards were training for the Kielder Marathon. They both took part last Sunday, running over a very tough course around the reservoir, and both enjoyed the challenge. They have been raising money for two charities, Cancer Research UK and Macmillan Cancer Support. It was nice to see quite a number of students getting involved with the Parkruns, and here are some statistics collected from the participation:

- **Alnwick** had the most students who participated and get the 1000 points for their House.
- **Dunstanburgh** had the quickest time recorded.
- **Bamburgh** had the student who participated the most
- **Warkworth** had the most exotic Parkrun location (Singapore)
- We had some impressive times recorded too over the duration with many recording Personal Bests
- Total distance covered by the students was **485 kilometres**, (301.3 miles) which is the equivalent of **11 and half marathons** (remember each marathon is 26.2 miles).

A fantastic distance achieved, so well done to everyone who took up the challenge. We would certainly encourage students to continue with the runs, and recommend they get their friends and family to join in this free healthy activity.

Following on from the successful Parents Information Evenings we held for Science, Maths and English, we have another one on Tuesday next week for year 11 English, where staff will go through exam requirements and useful revision strategies for home based revision.

We still have some availability for hiring of facilities, both outdoor and indoors, including our fully equipped Dance Studio. There are more details on our website or enquiries can be made to our Business Manager, Mr Hedworth.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher