



## Marden High School

Thursday 25th October 2018

Dear All,

We want to encourage all students to try their hardest and to be reassured that staff will support them to take the next steps at every stage of their learning. We want our students to be courageous and make the most of every opportunity in school, and to develop academically and personally. This half term has been a good example of this, being both a busy one and very successful. It has been good to see each year group step up to their new position within the school, not least of all our Key Stage 4 students in Year 10 and Year 11 who start and continue their GCSE studies in fine style. The words 'calm and purposeful' are probably the most often quoted by the wide range of visitors I have shown around the school this half term, and it is pleasing to hear about the positive conversations that people in the community are having about Marden High.

As I have said in this newsletter previously, the provision of the best opportunities for our children is a team effort - 'a child is brought up by the whole village' - which is why we place such an emphasis on communication between home and school. In order to maintain good communication between home and school, I would be grateful if all parents could sign their son's or daughter's planner on a regular basis. Please feel free to use the planner as a method of communicating information. Please remember also that staff email addresses are available on the school website, so please feel free to use email as another way of contacting us.

Our Student Cabinet were set the challenge to raise as much money as they could for Disability North East, during this week. Having met and developed plans to run a series of events themselves, they set about creating the advertising and also preparing the variety of activities. On Monday, the Cabinet, assisted by our prefects, ran a successful sporting lunchtime. On Tuesday they were hosting an art competition and lunchtime DVD session. Wednesday saw a novelty photo booth and bake sale, before Thursday's exciting finale as the Inaugural Mario Kart Championship was held in the auditorium. The funds raised are a testament to the leadership qualities shown by the students throughout.

We have had several Information Evenings for parents during this half term, and this week was the turn of options subjects to share with parents and students of Year 11 a range of useful information regarding the GCSE exams in addition to revision strategies and techniques. It was a successful evening and another example of the staff at Marden going that extra mile in supporting our young people. Feedback from parents and students was very positive and it is good to see the students continued serious and mature attitude towards their upcoming exams. It is important that Year 11 have a good rest over the half term, but also that they take advantage of the time they have to get started on some serious

revision - doing 2 hours of quality, intensive learning each day still leaves plenty of time for all of the other opportunities that holiday time brings, and will leave the student with a sense of accomplishment, knowing that good routines are being formed and sound preparation is being put in place for the mock exams which start on Monday 26th November.

This week has seen some very good individual and team efforts in the world of sport, including trampolining, football and volleyball. The U12 football team played really well in their second game of the season to beat Wellfield Middle School 6-2. Well done! The U16 and U14 boys' volleyball teams won all four games in recent league games. Well done to all of the players involved. The U15 boys' volleyball team unfortunately did not fare quite so well, but will no doubt show that Marden resilience and bounce back to victory next time.

This half term holiday is one in which outside festivities take place - Halloween and Bonfire Night - and whilst these can be enjoyable events with family and friends, I would like to remind our children to think about their own and other people's safety at these times.

May I wish you all an enjoyable half term break and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 5th November.

Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'M. Snape'.

Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher