



Friday, 11 January 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been good to welcome everybody back to the new term after what I hope was a restful Christmas break. We have continued where we left off last term with a busy and successful week here at Marden.

The Spring term is a particularly important one for Year 11 students preparing for their exams, as they will be receiving feedback from their mock exams and getting to grips with exam technique as they practise exam questions and start to step up the amount of revision they do at home. Their teachers will of course be spending time with them in lessons showing them the best methods to use for particular subjects and there are also plenty of ideas for revising at home on our school website under the 'Learning' tab. It is certainly worth parents looking at this as well as students as a joined up approach to revision at home can make a big difference to its effectiveness.

Following the mock exams staff are looking at which students may need some extra support and as part of this there will be a Science evening next week for invited parents. At this meeting parents and students will be able to gain valuable information and advice about the best ways to learn and practise in preparation for science exams.

It is important also that Year 11 students maintain a healthy balance of work and recreation during this time, and so we are arranging some activities which will help with this. In addition to Mindfulness sessions for some, we now have circuit training starting this Tuesday in Sports Hall at 3.30pm, led by a qualified personal trainer. Any students interested in this should see Mr Topping or Mrs Robson. All students should be aware of looking after themselves, as this will certainly support their GCSE work - healthy food and sufficient sleep are very important.

We are looking forward to hosting three visits from Cullercoats, Monkhouse and King Edward's primary schools this half term, as the Year 6 pupils get ready for their move up to Marden later this year. It has been good to see some of the things that our Year 7 pupils have said about the transition to Marden this year, which have been really positive:

- "Even though the school looks massive it's not bad. The homework's probably the worst bit but it's more suited to your level so it's not that bad. After a few weeks you'll probably have joined a club or some clubs, made new friends and found your way around. I think it's just brilliant"
- "Relax about finding your way around. It's really good fun meeting new people and making new friends."

- “I like the lessons and how teachers act towards the students ie being positive about everything even if something isn't right, they'll help to fix it.”

I'm sure that our Year 6 pupils will have a very enjoyable time when they come for their visits.

The Year 8 boys played their first ever competitive Handball fixtures last night, playing 3 matches and winning all of them, which means they go through to the next round. The boys were a credit to the school, displaying a sporting and disciplined approach, and showing real pride in their performances.

Also this week, Year 11 and Year 9 boys took part in the North Tyneside Badminton finals. The Year 9 boys won all three of their matches and become North Tyneside Champions and will move forward to the Tyne and Wear Championship at the end of the month. The Year 11 boys played excellently and lost out narrowly still coming a creditable third place by just a couple of points. Well done to all who competed.

We have a large number of inter school fixtures coming up this term, as well as exciting inter house competitions in netball and football coming up. Details of these will be posted on the PE noticeboard and in form rooms.

The vast majority of our students wear their uniform very well and look smart in it, something that visitors often comment on, and something that our students can be very proud of. The start of term is always a good time to be reminded of the requirements for school uniform which can be found on the school website and in student planners, and I would ask that parents support us in this by ensuring all the children come to school in correct school uniform.

As an additional reminder, both mobile phones and headphones are not allowed to be used in school between 8.45am and 3.15pm.

Looking ahead we will be getting our Year 11 group photograph done on the 25th of January, and these will be available for purchase later in the term, providing what is a lovely keepsake for students' time at Marden.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher