



Marden High School

Friday, 19 July 2019

Dear All

On Tuesday this week we enjoyed some great weather for our Sports Day, perfect for spectators and competitors alike. Some great performances and closely fought battles on track and field saw the House competition reach a fitting conclusion. Having led the competition for a good deal of the year, Warkworth were pipped to the post by Alnwick who performed superbly on Sports Day. Congratulations then to Alnwick, who are our House Champions for the second year running.

We have had a group of Year 7 students enjoying the Lake District this week during their stay at High Borrans, and taking part in a variety of outdoor activities, overground, underground and on the water. During my visit there on Wednesday it was wonderful to see the children making good progress with their climbing skills as we made an ascent of Side Pike (the scrambling route), before experiencing the beauty of pitch dark in the caves of Little Langdale quarries. We have also had a trip to France this week, giving our young people an opportunity to experience different culture and practice their language skills. With both of these trips, it is good to know that the students have been challenging themselves, and it is always good to see their sense of satisfaction and achievement at succeeding in tasks that they initially thought they might be unable to do. As ever, with all our educational trips, it is the dedication and commitment of our staff which make these experiences possible, and a huge thanks goes to them for that.

Overall it has been a great Activities Week, with one of the key outcomes of this very varied week being the development of teamwork, and it has been wonderful to see students and staff working together in small groups to create quite unique learning, sporting and personal development opportunities. A great way to finish the year!

Thank you again to everyone who contributed to make the Summer Fayre a big success. There was a huge amount of organisation and preparation going on behind the scenes in the build up to the event which helped to make it such a success, and this was another example of that fabulous Marden teamwork. The total profit made on the night was £972.64, with the two highest earning stalls being the Sponge the Teacher stall (unsurprisingly!), and the cake stall. Well done to all.

In our recent Awards Assemblies we were able to give out record numbers of bronze, silver and gold award certificates, in addition to all the Form Tutor, Head of Year and Headteacher Awards. During these assemblies I asked all of our young people to reflect on what each of them has achieved this year, and on what opportunities each of them has taken. I would like

all our young people to think about the opportunities they would like to take next year, how they would like to develop themselves, and what they would like to achieve. We will be there to help them realise these goals.

I will introduce several new staff faces to you in September, but for now I would like to take this opportunity to give a huge thanks to those leaving us at the end of this term. Mrs Noble will be retiring this summer after many years of committed service to our students, and we wish her all the best in her new adventures. We also see Miss Gibson, Mr Thomas, Miss Brown, Miss Aslam and Mr Robertson move on to pastures new, and we hope that they all enjoy their new roles.

We are looking forward to the exam results in August and finding out how our year 11 students have fared. They have certainly worked hard towards them and we are now hoping for great results. This has been a very successful year overall, with students and staff all continuing to work hard towards providing the best opportunities and achieving the best outcomes for our young people, some examples of which you can enjoy reading about in our half-termly newsletter.

I hope that everyone has a lovely summer, and we look forward to seeing all our students back on Tuesday 3rd September. Thank you for all your support this year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Snape', written in a cursive style.

Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher