



Marden High School

Friday 6th September 2019

Dear All,

We have had an enjoyable week welcoming students and staff back to school for what promises to be another exciting and productive year. Over the summer we had news that our students have once again achieved excellent GCSE exam results, maintaining high standards as one of the top performing schools in North Tyneside and the North East. 93% of students achieved 9 – 4 grades in English, 78% in Maths with 78% achieving English and Maths combined, placing Marden High once again amongst the top achieving schools in the area. The majority of students achieved higher than their predicted grades, and a quarter of the students got a full grade higher across all of their subjects, a fantastic achievement reflecting their positive attitudes and hard work. We are very proud of the many individual successes students of all abilities achieved, including a large number of the highest 7 - 9 grades. The fact that our students have done so well is a great accolade to the efforts of our whole school community of students, staff, parents and carers, and governors.

It has been lovely to see all our year 7 students arrive for their first week. They look very smart and have settled in very well, getting to know classrooms, people and routines as they go along. I have spoken to them a number of times this week about setting their standards high, and about enjoying the many and varied opportunities they will have here at Marden. We are expecting great things from them all as they progress through the year.

In celebration of International Day of the Girl on 11th October, Year 9 girls from Marden have the opportunity to take part in the Girl Kind project. This is a joint creativity project with Newcastle and Northumbria universities exploring what it means to be a girl in the North East in 2019. This will be a great opportunity for a large number of our girls, and the activities they will be involved in will help them develop a heightened awareness of their potential.

We want to build on the great successes that our PTA brought to the school community last year, and so our first meeting is on Tuesday 17th September at 6.15pm in the Learning Resource Centre. We are very much looking forward to discussing and planning some of the activities we have in mind for this coming year, and to welcoming any of our new Year 7 parents who would like to get involved.

This weekend sees a group of Year 10 students off to Birdoswald Roman Fort on Hadrian's Wall for what is set to be an exciting Raise Residential. As well as exploring the archaeological wonders of Hadrian's Wall, the students will be working alongside students from Lincoln College, Oxford, with lots of activities to get them thinking about their future, building self-confidence and raising awareness about university opportunities.

I have written before in this newsletter of the importance of developing reading. In addition to benefiting our children due to the increasing reading age needed to access many GCSE questions, there is a whole host of other reasons why this is a good thing, some of which are listed below. 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 therefore an important requirement that all students have a reading book with them at all times in school so that they can use any opportunities they have to read.

- 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.

We are not surprised to see our new year 7 once again full, following the interest in the school at our last Open Evening, but nevertheless it is good to know that our student numbers are increasingly healthy, reflecting the standards our students achieve and our consequent popularity. We are looking forward to our next Open Evening which is on Wednesday 25th September, and there will also be the opportunity for prospective parents to come into the school during the day to see us at work.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher