



Marden High School

Friday 25th October 2019

Dear All,

Although it has been a long half term, time has passed quickly, and in many ways it seems like just like yesterday that we were welcoming people back from the summer. This feeling always reminds me of our school motto, Carpe Diem, and of the importance of making the most of the time we have together in school. It has been a very enjoyable half term with so many memorable highlights, many of which have been recounted in my newsletters. We had a number of new staff joining us in September and I am very pleased that they have all settled in to our school community so well, and have enjoyed themselves in getting to know us. You can read their reflections and highlights in our half termly newsletter on this website.

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.

We now have a healthy balance of funds in our PTA account, thanks to their continuing work with fundraising events. Over the past months there have been a variety of bids put in by staff and considered at recent PTA meetings. The idea is that funds raised through the PTA go towards funding events and activities that are extra to the normal curriculum that the children experience, which helps to make school life even more interesting and memorable. The PTA also take into account how many children benefit from any particular activity when considering any bid. It was good to see that all of the bids put in recently were successful.

For our Year 11 students there have been plenty of good opportunities to get specific and individual feedback on the areas they need to work on to make further progress in the run up to their exams. We have been pleased with how the year group have approached their studies, displaying good focus and maturity. On Monday 18th November, Year 11 will start mock exams in the full range of subjects. This is an important time for them, and it will give them an experience of a whole exam season with exams in the Auditorium, as well as giving them and their teachers a good idea of where they are at in terms of readiness for their exams next summer. 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 their exams.

In the first week back following the half term break, our next English information evening will be taking place on Thursday 7th November at 6pm. The session will be aimed at increasing awareness of the 2020 GCSE Language and Literature exams and to further equip parents with strategies to actively support their children, as they aim to achieve their significant academic potential. This will include an overview of each of the four English papers that students will sit, effective revision and preparation strategies, advice on managing English exams as well as useful practical tips for securing success in both Language and Literature. We look forward to seeing all interested parents and students there.

In football this week there have been some excellent results. The U12 team played Wellfield on Monday and won 6-1 in an exciting match, whilst the U15 team played Bedlington High and won 2-1. Congratulations to all players involved.

Some of our girls have been offered the opportunity to attend a football course later this term which will be focusing on developing life skills through football. Taking place for a full day in November, the aim is to prepare the girls to assist with extra curricular football opportunities in school.

In netball, our U14 teams took part in two matches this week. One team lost out to a strong John Spence team, whilst the other team played Whitley Bay and won 26-5. Well done to all the players who took part.

Teaching from Dance City continues, and students will be preparing for the area dance festival once they return after half term. It is pleasing to see a new cohort of Year 7 students engaged and the involvement of older students taking an active role in the sessions.

This half term holiday is one in which outdoor festivities take place - Halloween, bonfires, firework displays - 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 4th November.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher