



## Marden High School

Friday 22nd November 2019

Dear All,

Year 11 students have been hard at work this week with their mock exams, and we have been impressed with their focused attitude towards them. It has also been interesting and very pleasing to hear the feedback that, in particular, our new exam invigilators have given us about how Year 11 have approached the exams. Without exception they have commented on the high levels of maturity and engagement that they see around the school from all students, and what good role models they are on their way in and out of school. I have no doubt that our Year 11 students will do very well next summer, and will use the feedback from these mocks to sensibly analyse areas that they each need to work on in their various subjects in order to achieve their best in those exams.

This week we held our Awards Evening for the students who left us in the summer. It was lovely to see the young people again and to hear about how they are now doing. As I have already said in this newsletter, this was a year group that have achieved highly in their GCSE exams, and for whom there were so many individual successes. We welcomed Rob Elliot of Newcastle United as our guest speaker who told the students about his own philosophy of life and about the importance of us not trying to be someone we are not, and about being true to ourselves. Rob was also very perceptive when he recognised how supportive of each other the year group was and what a great team they had been, something that their teachers will remember them for, long into the future.

You may recall I recently wrote about our Vision 2020 and we have now started our work developing the vision for the next stage of our school development. Meetings with staff and students have generated much discussion around who we are as a community, what makes us special, and about how we wish to develop into the future. We are clearly very interested in the concept of life-long learning, and supporting both students and staff in developing their sense of curiosity in the world around us. We have also spoken about the importance of instilling a sense of agency in our children, so that they understand that they as individuals

and as a community can make a difference to their own and others' lives through the decisions they make. Our discussions have also highlighted the importance of building strong foundations for our students, developing sophisticated literacy, thinking skills and metacognition in each individual, so that each child can achieve their best outcomes in order to progress through life as they wish to. Next week staff and governors will meet together to continue these discussions, and on Monday after school there is an opportunity for me to hear parents' thoughts at the Parent Forum meeting. I look forward to communicating our new, shared vision with you all in the Spring term.

Ten boys from Year 9 and 10 had the much coveted opportunity to visit the Aston Martin showrooms on Monday evening. This was arranged by Stephen Riley as part of The Boys' Network programme. The regional sales manager showed the boys around the cars on site and explained how the business operates in the luxury car market. The boys got an idea of what it might be like to work as an apprentice for Aston Martin and what qualities the business looks for in potential employees. At the end of the visit the boys were allowed to sit in a car of their choice. Perhaps one day they might own one!

In sport this week, the U14 netball team played North Gosforth Academy and secured a resounding 30-0 victory. The U12 netball team beat Churchill 3-1, and the Year 10 and Year 11 volleyball teams played in the CVL games on Wednesday, one team won 3 and lost 1, another team won 2 and lost 2 and a third team won 1 and lost 3. The U12 5-a-side boys football team came third in the North Tyneside competition at the Royal Quays. Well done to all players for representing Marden so well.

We also had three Year 9 girls attending the initial stage of the exciting Football Life Skills and Leadership course at the Stadium of Light on Thursday. There will be further information on how they progress with this on our website.

As I mentioned earlier this term, we have been developing a procedure for a 'partial' and a 'full' lockdown, which has been used by North Tyneside Local Authority as a model for other schools to develop theirs. The probability of an incident where someone might cause students harm in any school is very low. However, as with fire procedures, we should be prepared to respond to all eventualities. Next week we will be spending time in Personal Development lessons going through these procedures with all our students. These will clearly be important lessons, during which staff will be aware of getting information across clearly at the same time as mitigating any potential anxiety students may have regarding the

context. Just as we do with our fire drills, we will be emphasising the importance of knowing what to do in emergency situations so that everybody can stay safe. Later in the year we will be looking to run a lockdown drill for the whole school.

Thank you for your continued support.

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

Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher