



## Marden High School

Friday 24th January 2020

Dear All,

In the many conversations we had last term with students, staff, parents and governors about our values, it was clear that everyone appreciated all the hard work and commitment that goes in every day to achieving great outcomes for our students. Indeed our belief that every child can make progress and be successful means that Marden is one of the highest performing schools in the North East. There was also a recurring theme of the atmosphere that pervades Marden whereby people are able to express their own personalities, and the fact that people here knowing each other well and being kind to one another fosters a sense of family and belonging. This is such a precious aspect of the daily experiences of our children, and something we do not take for granted but seek to capitalise on so that through their learning all our children develop confidence and effective communication skills, enjoy being creative and have a grounded sense of well being. The full values statement for Marden will be published very soon on the school website and there will be elements of it celebrated in permanent displays around the school.

Coming soon, we have our exciting Well Being day for Year 7. This is all about helping students know how to look after their own well being and create balance in their lives between their academic studies and their developing interests. Students will have the opportunity to take part in activities that they might not have considered before with other pupils that they might not usually mix with. During the activities students will be demonstrating and developing an understanding of the six key characteristics of positive psychology - zest, optimism, gratitude, grit, self-control, and emotional and social intelligence.

The Science Department continue to work enthusiastically with Year 11 students. Arrangements have been made which will support the progress of different student groups and on Monday evening there are extended appointments with invited parents. Later this month will see the start of the 'High Achieving in Science' Project, a series of after school sessions designed to provide a range of revision ideas to help students access the most detailed questions in Separate Science exam papers. Also over this term another group of students will be working on their Entry Level Certificate in Science. This award provides recognition for the hard work and effort that students put into their science learning as well as supporting revision for the GCSE Science exams in the summer.

Last week our year 11 students were given a great opportunity to attend the NTLT Careers Fair. The students were able to speak with a range of Employers, Apprenticeship providers and Further and Higher Education providers. Over 30 organisations were involved including Sage, Capita, NHS, Royal Navy and all our local Sixth Forms, Colleges and Universities. Many students signed up to receive further information about courses and careers they are interested in and follow up discussions regarding career pathways will take place during form time with tutors.

Year 9 students have the opportunity to find out more about the world of work in the coming weeks by taking part in a Careers Speed Dating event. Ten representatives from a wide range of industry sectors including the NHS, RAF, DWP and Kwikfit are coming into school to speak with our students and answer their questions about their job roles and responsibilities. During their Personal Development lesson later that day, the students will be able to carry out independent research into the careers they had found interesting and look at the qualifications and skills needed to enter specific job sectors.

Our U13 and U14 Netball teams have had a very successful week, with all four matches played resulting in Marden victories. Well done to all players.

We have been informed by Public Health England that the number of suspected cases of mumps across the North East (and other areas of England) has increased since autumn 2019. Most cases have been reported in young people aged 15-24 years, especially those attending universities or colleges. Increases in reported cases of mumps are seen every few years. Advice is to seek medical care in the usual way via NHS 111 or your GP – there is no specific treatment for mumps. Public Health England North East have advised there is further information available on NHS Choices <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/mumps/>

Finally I would remind parents that the deadline for applications to become a parent governor is Friday 7th February.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher