



Marden High School

Friday 14th February 2020

Dear All,

I hope that in this half-termly newsletter you can see what an enjoyable and busy half term it has been with lots of excellent learning and extra-curricular activities going on. We know that generally our students and staff enjoy coming to school, and that they feel they belong to the Marden family, and it is always good to see when this is reflected in feedback from our regular surveys.

In our latest student survey we found that an increasing proportion of students felt the school provided them with opportunities to contribute to the community, which reflects the development of the PTA summer fayre, and of the charity work we partake in as well as the links we have with local sports clubs and the police cadets. 92% of students felt that school teaches them about respect for people of all races, backgrounds and religions, reflecting the work we have done with Show Racism The Red Card, something which gives us hope for a more peaceful and positive future, with our students leading the way in showing respect and kindness for others. The majority of students feel they have someone to talk to about their mental healthiness, and this will be enhanced by our work in achieving the Bronze Mental Health Award in 2019. 93% of students feel that the level of challenge is right with homework. A significant proportion felt that they enjoyed lessons and were making progress, whilst a greater proportion than ever before stated that they felt they had a say in school decisions. This development in resilience, belonging, enjoyment and student leadership is a reflection of the work we continue to do around school and we look forward to the outcomes of the Spring student survey next half term.


Our staff are our most precious resource. We know that in order to meet our core purpose, to provide the best educational experiences for our children, it works best when our staff are happy and fulfilled in their work, so we have a keen focus on well being throughout the school. The Valued Worker Scheme, which Marden has now joined, seeks to reinforce this ethos, and we are very much looking forward to bringing together a group of staff from

across the school during the coming weeks to see how we can further enhance the well being, and enjoyment at work for our staff.

Marden High school is one of the early adopter schools who are piloting the new statutory relationships and sex education curriculum. As of September 2020 all schools in the country will be expected to deliver lessons on particular aspects of relationship and sex education. This means that as a school we will be compliant with the new government regulations ahead of time and also that we have the opportunity to feed our experiences into the Department for Education through research work. There is also a strong link between the safeguarding of students and the new statutory requirements. If anyone is interested in looking at the new Personal Development curriculum you can find the information on the school website.

We have an exciting House competition coming up after the half term holiday. As you know, not all plastic is recyclable, and constructing Eco Bricks is a way to make use of these plastics. Of course, while we should all strive to use less, this novel use of waste plastic is certainly a step in the right direction for our planet, wildlife and communities. Eco Bricks are made from plastic bottles packed with used, clean and dry plastic to create a building block that can be used over and over again, and the competition will be to see which House collects the most Eco Bricks. These will then be used on our school site in creating an area decided upon by the School Cabinet, for example, a walled garden. Best of luck to everyone in this competition, and start saving your plastics now.

I hope all our students and staff have a restful half term break and we look forward to seeing each other again on Monday 24th February. Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher