



## Marden High School

Friday 28th February 2020

Dear All,

As Spring approaches, I find myself reflecting on a building sense of excitement as final preparations are put in place for this year's school musical production, *We Will Rock You*. The performing arts, sports and academic extras that happen at Marden are many and varied, all developing valuable skills and interests in our young people, and it is the school production which exemplifies the breadth of attributes which make Marden students so special. Each day I witness our students' discipline and work ethic in classrooms, and this is mirrored in the learning of lines, choreographing of routines, and orchestra practice that I have enjoyed in these last few weeks. It is the enthusiasm and commitment of our dedicated staff in "going the extra mile" which inspires our young people to increasingly take on leadership roles - this year our student directors and a student technical crew continue their excellent leadership of key roles in the production. With our production of *We Will Rock You* less than a week away, final preparations are being made. An enormous amount of work has been put in by staff and students to get the two casts ready, for what promises to be a great event on Wednesday 4th March and Thursday 5th March.

Being prepared is a theme that is also resonating with Year 11. With 10 weeks to go before the beginning of the public GCSE examinations, students are following their revision timetables and, beginning this week, have the opportunity to go through an exam simulation with the subject teacher as a guide. These exam walk throughs will be a good opportunity for students to benefit from another experience of sitting in the exam hall, facing another exam paper and working through a combination of explanation and examination. The first exam walkthrough begins this week in geography and the same will happen in a number of subjects over the coming weeks.

Meanwhile Year 9 students and their parents/carers are working towards a deadline of 3rd March for their guided choices. This follows an information evening and a parents' evening where students and parents/carers have had the opportunity to discuss current progress and future career plans in order to make the best possible choices for GCSE subjects in Year 10.

World Book Day is on Thursday 5th March so there will also be a focus on reading across the curriculum with all departments taking part in literacy-based activities. There will also be extra-curricular activities such as quizzes and competitions during the day.

Another date for the diary is Zero Discrimination Day on the 1st of March, UNAIDS is challenging the discrimination faced by women and girls in all their diversity in order to raise awareness and mobilize action to promote equality and empowerment for women and girls.

Although some countries have made laudable progress towards greater gender equality, discrimination against women and girls still exists everywhere. Intersecting with other forms of discrimination - based, for example, on income, race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity - these rights violations disproportionately harm women and girls. Ultimately, gender inequality affects everyone's health and well-being. In many countries, laws that discriminate against women and girls remain in force, while laws that uphold women's basic rights and protect them against harm and unequal treatment are far from the norm.

On the 6th March Year 9 girls will be taking part in 'StrongHer' workshops at TyneMet College. StrongHer is a women-only London-based organisation that aims to 'educate, enrich & empower women from all diversities, cultures and faiths'. The workshops have been designed to build confidence in girls and will include fitness and nutrition-related activities.

Our dancers will be performing at the North Tyneside Festival on the evening of Tuesday 3rd March at The Parks in North Shields. The theme this year is 'Icons' and the girls have worked really hard to create a routine for the festival.

The Under-13 handball team should also be congratulated on its performance in the Central Venue League. After playing 4 matches (3 of which the team won), the team came 3rd overall.

Finally, in light of recent developments across the world in relation to the Corona Virus. Please be reassured that we are following the advice issued by Public Health England and regularly checking for updates and developments.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher