



Marden High School

Friday 3rd April 2020

Dear All,

Members of our pastoral team are working hard to maintain strong links with all students both when they are in school and at home, in an effort to offer care, guidance and support. This week we have been making calls and sending emails to our students to make sure they are doing well at this difficult and uncertain time. Form tutors have been contacting some of their tutees, Heads of Year are reaching out to students and their parents and carers, whilst our Senior Leadership Team and Attendance and Welfare Officer have also been contacting families. We hope that the time taken to contact home will help us all to stay in touch and make it easier for our students when they return to school. We see it as part of the nation wide efforts to keep in contact with people as we all stay safe and look after each other.

Home learning continues to go well. Teachers have been impressed by the quality of work, and the level of organisation and independence shown by students. Although working independently often comes with challenges, by overcoming these, our students are refining skills that will be useful long into the future. They should use this opportunity to enquire, be inquisitive and take learning beyond what is written in a text book.

Before we enter the Easter holiday period it is worth us reviewing how things are going in terms of us looking after ourselves, and I think that, in particular, there are two very important questions.

How is the day planning going? Regular routines are actually essential for our self-confidence and sense of purpose, so remember to start the day at roughly the same time you usually would and aim to set aside time each day for connecting with others.

Are you moving enough? Remember being active reduces stress, increases energy levels, can make us more alert and help us sleep better, so try exploring different ways of adding physical movement and activity to your day.

Today we have the publication of our second Spring half termly newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about all the different suggestions for keeping mentally and physically active.

From Monday 20th April, for families in receipt of Free School Meals, we will be using the Government's new voucher scheme. The e-voucher will be posted out from school, weekly and is of the value of £15, which can be scanned at selected supermarkets. The vouchers can be spent on food at Sainsbury's, Tesco, Asda, Morrisons, Waitrose and M&S. However, the Local Authority is working to include ALDI and LIDL within those selected by the Government. Until that time, we will continue to provide the lunches as we are at present.

Following the assessment of evidence we submitted, I am delighted to be able to confirm that Marden High School has achieved Stage Two of Inspiring IAG and that we continue to work towards the full award, The Quality in Careers Standard. This is awarded by Inspiring IAG which is a Licensed Awarding Body for the national standard, who said: "This is a well-deserved achievement that recognises your hard work and that of all your staff."

OFQUAL have today published the details of how GCSE grades will be awarded. Schools will be asked to send exam boards information for each subject studied by each student, based on what we know about their work and achievements. A detailed letter from OFQUAL has been published on this website, and our Curriculum Leaders are busy getting this process underway. Please be assured that we will be ensuring that no Marden student will be disadvantaged through this process.

After Easter, our Cabinet students will be updating the student bulletin weekly with information and opportunities for all students to engage with. Our strong student voice is one of the many aspects of the school we are proud of, and in the coming weeks, our Cabinet will be helping ensure that our Student Bulletin is regularly updated with everything that students need to know.

Whilst the Quiz and Reflection Time slides take a two week break for Easter, the weekly family activity will continue. These activities are all designed to spark conversation and imaginations. There will be one emailed to all students every Monday morning. From Monday 20th April, the quiz and reflection time slides return too.

Parents and carers should remember that, should they need to for any reason, they can contact any member of the Senior Leadership Team during the holiday period by the usual means, and we will get back to them by email or phone.

Take care and look after each other.

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

Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher