



Marden High School

Friday 5 June 2020

Dear All,

Whilst lockdown has been eased to some extent, there remain many restrictions in place in order to control the spread of COVID-19, and so it is important that we exercise a considerable degree of caution in reintroducing increased numbers of students and staff into our school building. For this reason we have reviewed and enhanced further our comprehensive risk assessment for this next phase of opening school, and developed alongside it a plan to invite Year 10 students into school in small groups from Monday 15th June, unless there is any further government guidance to the contrary.

Each Year 10 form group will come into school for a 3 hour morning session. This will start with 10M on a Monday morning, 10A on the Wednesday, and 10R on the Friday. The next week will be the turn of D, E and N, using the same pattern. This allows for thorough cleaning between each group coming in, and helps to manage the staff rota which we have put in place. Year 10 students will arrive between 9.20 and 9.30 on a slightly staggered basis to allow for distanced entry into the building, and to avoid increased arrival numbers when key worker children enter the building a little earlier.

Each form group will have been put into 3 smaller groups (or bubbles), and the students in each of those will remain together for the time they are in school, and on subsequent visits. Each bubble will work in a computer room on the ground floor, so that they can access and refer to the work they have been doing at home. Each bubble will be visited by 3 teachers from English, maths and science, not to teach a lesson each, but to check in with the students to see how their home learning is going, to make sure they know what they need to be doing at home, to help them plan out their work and to give them the opportunity to ask any questions they have. Teachers will be able to facilitate discussion and give feedback, whilst maintaining physical distancing. Form tutors will also visit them for a short time to touch base.

The aim will be for each student to leave the building feeling confident about what they need to do at home, happy that they have made contact with some of the staff and their peers, and that they are looking forward to coming in next time. There may be time to run through a topic students may have identified as struggling with, but this will not necessarily be the main focus.

Next week we will send details out to parents and carers of Year 10 students, and to the students themselves, inviting them in. We will also be asking students to complete a short survey reflecting their home learning experience, in preparation for their time in school. This will help them and the staff, to get the most out of the sessions they attend.

We are very much looking forward to seeing Year 10 back in school, so we can continue to support them with their learning and hopefully get them back into the routine of coming to school. Our provision for 'key worker' children will remain as it is now, with home learning for all students also continuing as it currently is. Schools' professional bodies continue to seek clarification on what the expectations will be for educational provision in September across the country so that we can be informed in our planning to bring in more students when it is appropriate to do so.

Just before school closed, most of our Year 10 students had the opportunity to attend a Globalbridge workshop during their Personal Development lesson. Students are still able to, and we would encourage them, to access Globalbridge and add information to their profile. The website is being updated regularly with information from employers such as RAF, NHS and Sage, with information and advice on how to make your profile stand out to colleges, sixth forms, universities and employers: <https://www.myglobalbridge.com/>

If any student did not get login details or if they have forgotten them, they have a function on the login page in the bottom right hand corner, where students can access support, and get new login details.

For Year 11 students and anyone interested in doing an apprenticeship or going to university at some point, this is a good time to be doing some research into what opportunities are out there. Here is a website which allows you to attend webinars on various things to do with Higher education. They have a different topic every Wednesday and you can sign up to anything you think may be useful.

<https://www.ukuniversitysearch.com/blog/post/webinar-wednesdays>

Below is also a link to Youtube, where they have put previous webinars, covering topics such as Life at University, Student finance, Choosing a university, and writing a UCAS personal statement.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSFaAb1UIrV0PrQKp4YE-Wg>

I know that students will have been disappointed that the numerous trips and events that we had planned have had to be cancelled due to COVID 19, however I'm pleased to let you know that we have been able to arrange full refunds for the trips to Lightwater Valley, High Borrans, Northern Stage and for the Prom and Duke of Edinburgh Award.

With regard to the overseas trips to France, Germany and Switzerland we are presently able to make partial refunds, this will be the difference between the amounts that parents and carers have paid and the amounts that we have already paid to the travel operators. We hope to be able to refund the balance once we have received either a refund from the travel agents or a payout from our insurers.

And finally...

We know everyone has been missing each other, and some of the activities we used to do together, and this has certainly been the case for the staff band. Unable to have their normal weekly practice in the music department, they have come together remotely to put together a cover of David Bowie's Heroes. We're putting this amazing performance out (free of charge!) on our website as a taster of things to come in our upcoming Marden's Got Talent event. Enjoy!

Take care and look after each other.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher