



## Marden High School

Friday 19 June 2020

Dear All,

The return of Year 10 this week has been a huge success. Whilst initially quiet and understandably somewhat apprehensive, the students seemed to enjoy their time in school and left looking forward to the next time they come in. We are all very proud of their mature and responsible attitudes they displayed. Having said that we would watch the situation carefully as it develops, both in school and nationally, I am hopeful that for the last three weeks of term we may be able to bring Year 10 into school more frequently so that we could add their options subjects to their timetables. If this is to be the case, I will confirm it with everyone early next week.

One of our priorities at Marden is to equip our students with the skills and information necessary for a successful transition into further education and ultimately a rewarding career. As well as achieving good academic qualifications, we have been focusing on integrating careers related learning into our curriculum. Currently, there is an increasing number of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) related jobs available in the workplace. With this in mind, we have sent a group of students a questionnaire focusing on STEM careers. We are looking forward to the student's responses. The feedback will help us get a better picture of their thoughts and understanding in this area and help improve our planning of the curriculum going forwards.

This week Globalbridge hosted a special event '#GBFutureStars' which some of our students attended remotely. This is a huge online careers event with lots of top companies involved, and is just one of the exciting opportunities that Year 10 can access by logging in to their Globalbridge account.

Yesterday, The Duchess of Cambridge led an online assembly on children's mental wellbeing via the Oak National Academy during which she spoke about the importance of mental wellbeing among children. The theme of the Duchess' assembly was 'spread a little

kindness' and was based on a plan which is available on the Mentally Healthy Schools platform. This platform was developed in collaboration with children's mental health charity Place2Be and encourages children to explore ways in which they can show kindness and recognise the benefits of kindness to others. The Mentally Healthy Schools platform can be accessed here: <https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/> and whilst the assembly was live on the Oak National Academy website at 11am on Thursday 18 June it can be accessed here: <https://classroom.thenational.academy/assemblies/> as a recording available to view at any time.

There has been much dialogue nationally about 'catch-up' for children who may have fallen behind in their education due to the pandemic, and since the prime minister's comment two weeks ago that there is to be a 'massive catch up operation over the summer', we have all been waiting to hear the detail of what that means for our children. In the absence of any clarification around this to date, we are currently working with North Tyneside Learning Trust to try to secure grants to facilitate charities and other organisations to be able to run projects for some of our children. This, however, is likely only to be small scale, and so we look forward to being able to engage with any government plans which might enable larger numbers of our children to benefit from some organised education based activity over the summer holiday.

We have revamped our transition section of the website and to help ensure all students are ready we have included lots of useful elements such as videos from staff, letters from the school and a new area called Be Awesome Go Big! This is a nine session programme Y6 students can enjoy as they prepare for September. Across the coming weeks we'll highlight a specific session to focus on but the area is now 'live' so anyone can log in and take part.

Take care and look after each other.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher