



Marden High School

Friday 26 June 2020

Dear All,

This week has seen the second half of Year 10 attending school to meet with English, maths and science teachers, and, as last week, these visits have been very successful. It has been wonderful to see these young people, sometimes apprehensive after such a long time out of school, engage so enthusiastically and with such maturity with their teachers. Because this process has gone so smoothly, we will be increasing the frequency of their visits to school for the final three weeks of term, and Year 10 students and their parents have already been informed of which days each form group should attend. We are very much looking forward to seeing them again.

We have been thinking for some time now about what September will look like. We are awaiting further detail and clarification from the government about what we are able to do, and we are, of course, hoping that we can start in September with as many students attending and for as much time as possible. Clearly the current government guidance, including the reduction in physical distancing, does not allow us to bring everyone back full time, and so we expect to see changes to this in the coming days. It has already been suggested in the national press that the government will disband any form of physical distancing in schools to make this work. It is worth noting also that the idea of bubbles in high schools also presents considerable difficulties for students studying all of their subjects, particularly in Years 10 and 11 as this involves the need for students to be in various and different groups, something which the concept of bubbling does not allow. Simply increasing the size of bubbles clearly will not help solve this. We look forward to further announcements from the government next week. In the meantime we continue to plan for a number of different scenarios so that we are ready to respond as quickly as possible when this information finally arrives. I'm sure that we are all learning to live with degrees of uncertainty but it can nevertheless be frustrating for students, parents and staff, and we will of course keep the whole school community updated with what our plans are.

Anybody who is interested in finding out more about higher education, apprenticeships, student finance, or writing personal statements, as well as lots of other things to help students plan for their future, would do well to follow this excellent link to the FutureMe website here. There is plenty of valuable information and some very useful short videos.

<https://futureme.ac.uk/futureme-challenge/belonging-higher-education>

This week marked the dramatic conclusion to Marden She Wrote 2020: *Who Hacked Horn?* After three weeks of careful investigation, deduction and inference, it was revealed that Miss Laing and Mr. Ranson were responsible for the sabotage of the English & Media meeting. Congratulations to all of the students, staff and parents who used their critical thinking skills to identify the correct culprits - as well as to the wealth of other creative theories proposed. We look forward to Marden She Wrote 2021! Here is some of the feedback from parents and students:

We think Who Hacked Horn is great on so many levels. Thank you for the time you've put into it. You are giving [the students] critical analysis skills, a questioning mind, interrogative skills, life skills in observing behaviour & character traits and also precious time for curiosity and creativity.

I honestly feel as if someone needs to be the person that says a huge thank you for making the entire Who Hack_d H_rn Series, I personally think that it is truly amazing! Thanks for making the series, it has been great to follow along with.

This year, we are having a 'Love of Sports Week' to ensure that our annual Sports Day occurs in spirit, if not in the usual fashion. Next week we will launch the activities via email and the website which will range from families attempting fun challenges like the egg and spoon race, to partaking in a 60 second challenge, as well as a variety of challenges across the course of the week, and perhaps inventing your own sport! There will be something for every level of activity and fitness. The PE Department will be sharing this information with everyone, and of course it will be linked with our House System so points will be awarded for taking part, submitting videos and photos of the activities undertaken. Rather than getting points for winning or 'placing', the success comes this year through participation. Sports Day is always a wonderful experience where the love of sport, the collective competition and the spirit of teamwork culminate in an exciting sporting crescendo, and so this year, we are spreading it across a whole week and inviting everyone to take part.

At the start of next week Year 9 students and their parents will receive information confirming their option choices for September 2020. They will also receive some information about each of the options with some tasks to complete over the summer which will help students further prepare for their studies in September, as well as some useful information on revision materials.

The North Tyneside Music Hub have pulled together all the opportunities still available to young people this term and some information on what will be happening in September. They have put it all in a summer newsletter which can be downloaded at <https://www.dropbox.com/t/7UdOcCYoFWZ112tY>. It is not necessary to have a dropbox account to access the newsletter, and is well worth a look. We hope it is useful and that we see lots of young people joining some of the events virtually, and face to face once it is safe to do so.

The standard of work being submitted by our students continues to be of the highest standard and it is indeed a privilege for me to be able to see the thought and care which has been put into some of the achievements of our children. I would like to remind everyone that some of this fantastic work can be seen each week by viewing the Work of the Week on this website. Have a look now - the button is just to your right if you are logged in. Each of these students receives a Headteacher's Award certificate for their endeavours.

And finally... don't forget to watch this year's Marden's Got Talent Show, coming very soon on the Marden website. The acts this year are every bit as impressive as last, and the variety is amazing. So watch this space for an excellent evening's entertainment!

Take care and look after each other.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher