



## Marden High School

Friday 3 July 2020

Dear All,

Following the publication of the long awaited government guidance to schools yesterday, we are delighted to say that we will be welcoming all students back to school in September for full time education. The aim is very clear - to get back to teaching an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects from the start of the autumn term, but to make use of existing flexibilities to create time to cover the most important missed content. Whilst it is relatively late in the day for the government to be providing this guidance, we are pleased that we now at least have the parameters in which to work, and our staff will continue to work hard over the coming weeks to tailor the curriculum to enable students to start to catch up with their learning when they return.

Of course, we are still dealing with a pandemic, and so we will need to make informed judgments about how to balance delivering a broad and balanced curriculum with the measures necessary to manage risk, and over the next week or so I will communicate further detail to our whole school community on updated protocols for enhanced hygiene and cleaning, active engagement with NHS Test and Trace, and minimising potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable. We will be building on the practice we have already developed over the last three months, considering any additional risks and control measures to ensure we can all come back as safely as possible.

There is also [information published by the DfE](#) for parents regarding the autumn term.

Importantly there has also been a welcome acknowledgement by the government that GCSEs and A levels taking place in summer 2021 will be subject to adaptations, recognising that the students taking these exams have been subject to major disruption in their learning with adaptations. Ofqual will launch a consultation on proposed adaptations to exams shortly, and we will let everyone know the results of that when they are published later this year.

Year 11 students will be receiving information regarding their GCSE grades in the next few days. The publication of the grades in August is the end of a national process where centres were asked to decide most likely grades for pupils in each subject, taking into account the progress that each student had made through their time studying in Year 10 and 11. Working with OFQUAL, the exam boards will now apply a standardisation process to all schools and this is how the grades that students pick up in August will have been arrived at.

OFQUAL have also just announced that an Autumn series of exams in all subjects, where there is demand, will go ahead. This series will not take into account coursework. We are awaiting further clarification of when and where these exams could be sat.

At the present time we are planning results day in line with government advice. We would like to see our students pick up their grades and offer the support we would usually, and so we are very much looking forward to seeing them all on exam results day. Even though it will be very different to how it normally happens, we know it is still an important occasion for everyone, and one which needs to be celebrated. We are still planning on holding an Awards Celebration Evening at some point next term.

Year 11 will also have the opportunity to come into school briefly next week at an allotted time to pick up their year group hoodies and school photographs. We look forward to seeing them then.

On Tuesday 7th July next week, we are holding a live Q&A session at 6pm for parents of our new Year 7 students. This is an opportunity to ask questions to our Transition Team and Senior Leadership Team, in place of the usual face to face event we hold at this time of year. Anyone who has a question can email [Transition2020@mardenhigh.net](mailto:Transition2020@mardenhigh.net) any time up to and including the Q&A event. These questions will then be answered via the website homepage during the Q&A session. A copy of the questions and their answers will then be available following the event, within the Transition section of our website

Unfortunately we have had communication from the police regarding concerns raised about the increase in young people using nitrous oxide (Laughing gas) across North Tyneside. We hope that this does not refer to any of our children, but in the interests of safety and prevention we have included a Public Health information leaflet on our school website which identifies the facts and risks of using Nitrous Oxide and also where to access help.

Last week I explained about this year's Sports Day which will be a 'Love of Sport' week. Today, our PE Department shared with our community the slides with all the activities available for everyone to enjoy. From egg and spoon, to a 60 second challenge to running 5km in a week there's something for everyone. This begins on Monday and runs until Friday, and pictures or videos can be sent to the PE Department, so that they can give out House Points. Following the 'Love of Sport' week, we will be letting everyone know who will be crowned the 2019/20 Marden High House Champions.

To further enhance home learning, staff have been updating the subject cloud. These will contain useful sources of subject-specific information. Students can find them in their 'Apps.'

As you will have heard, our annual talent show *Marden's Got Talent* is being held virtually this year. With acts ranging from surfing to dance and hula-hooping to cabaret, you won't want to miss it. Keep an eye on our website next week to see students' showcase their talents, and for our judges' decision.

Take care and look after each other.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher