



Marden High School

Friday 2nd October 2020

Dear All,

Feedback from students and parents on our use of Google Classroom has been overwhelmingly positive so far, but we still want to make sure that everyone is familiar with how to use it and how to access the full variety of resources it offers. We are confident that when properly used this facility will continue to provide excellent continuity of learning between school and home, both in the case of homeworks, and when children need to go into isolation. We have produced a video for Google Classroom which can be found in the 'Blended Learning' button on our website, which we hope everyone, students, parents and carers will find useful. Next week you will also be able to find a guide to the Parent Portal, which will become increasingly important as going forward we will not be printing off reports, but parents and carers will be notified when they are available on the Parent Portal.

I am sure that everyone knows it is the aim of Marden High School that every student achieves their full potential. All our students, including those with medical needs, are encouraged to access all learning opportunities through excellent attendance levels. For some students this may mean the administration of medicines within school, and for this purpose we have specially trained staff at Marden High School who undertake this responsibility where essential. Parents, however, have the prime responsibility for their child's health and should recognise that there is no legal duty that requires school or school staff to administer medicines, and so we can only do this with parents' support. Please remember therefore that medicines should only be taken to school when essential; that is where it would be detrimental to a child's health if the medicine were not administered during the school day. We also, of course, need written agreement from parents or carers. Students should not carry their own medication. Instead, any medication needs to be handed to the designated member of staff by the parent or carer. Full details can be found in our Managing Medicines Policy in the policies section of the school website.

The safeguarding of our young people is such an important part of our work, and whilst the children are in school we are in a very good position to be able to see any potential issues and act on our concerns. However, now that we are in a situation where children may be learning outside of school for stretches of time if isolating, we feel it is important that everyone knows how best to seek support for children when it is appropriate. If you have concerns for a young person, speak in the first instance to our Safeguarding

Lead (b.reece@mardenhigh.net). Alternatively, you can speak to a social worker by calling the Front Door Service in North Tyneside on 0345 2000 109 or by calling the After Hours Service on 200 6800. You can also email at childrenandadultscontactcentre@northtyneside.gov.uk. Of course, if you have an immediate concern and feel that a child is at risk of significant harm or danger then you should contact the police on 999.

I would like to say a big thank you for everyone's involvement in our European Day of Languages last week. At a time when global communication and cooperation has never been more important, it has been wonderful to see lots of students collecting phrases and to hear students and staff exchanging greetings in lots of different languages.

At the moment we have a number of vacancies for Parent Governors on our Governing Body. Our current Governing Body brings together a group of people who possess a very remarkable range of skills and experiences, and we are looking to complement and enhance these. We are particularly interested in hearing from anyone who has interest or expertise in special educational needs, finance, and health & safety. Application forms are available from school and are on our website.

The positive feedback we have received from parents during the first of our Year 7 settling in evening reflects the general tone of this term so far, one where everyone is putting their best foot forward each day and being true to our motto Carpe Diem. I want to take this opportunity to formally thank all of our staff and students who really are doing so well in very challenging circumstances. I know this to be the case, not only from the endeavours I see around me each day here, but from the wider comparative view I have of other schools around the country, some of which, sadly, are suffering from significant absences of staff and students due to COVID. Our staff are facing the same challenges we all share in our family lives at this difficult time, and to see their professionalism and dedication in putting those anxieties to one side in order to support our children and provide for them the best care and education possible, is quite simply a privilege, and something I don't think any of us will ever forget.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher