



Marden High School

Friday 13th November 2020

Dear All,

As a consequence of the school's high standards and reputation our student numbers have increased over recent years and we are now oversubscribed in several year groups. This has meant that our financial position has been improving year on year, as we continue to show a strong track record of financial acuity in balancing the need for the best possible staffing to deliver our curriculum with prudent spending.

However, we are now facing the challenge of extra and additional expenditure incurred due to the measures we, and all schools, have had to put in place in order to keep school open to all students in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. Whilst promises have been made in Westminster regarding financial support for schools, in practice this has not been forthcoming. If this is not made a reality this will present enormous and serious challenges for the future finances of schools, with consequent impacts on staffing and resourcing. We really do need to do everything we can to exercise our agency and make our voices heard with regards to support for our children's education, so I would ask please that you consider signing the petition to parliament, the link for which can be found here:

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/555718>

As we enter a new season of rewards, we want to make sure all students who achieved House Points last year are able to 'cash in' and earn their rewards, recognising their outstanding efforts across the year. Therefore we are building in an extra 'Rewards Cash In Week' for years 8 to 11. Here, students can use their points to purchase new rewards that are available this year, with new offers being launched, including stationery and water bottles with the school logo and house names on, alongside house and school badges. There are 5 badges to collect; one for each house and one for the School, which students can wear with pride around school on their blazers. These will be advertised on the week beginning 23rd November ready for form tutors to add up the points and let students start collecting! Later in the year, at Christmas, Easter and in the Summer there will be further opportunities for students to cash in their rewards.

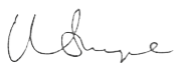
Over the past couple of weeks we have all been treated to seeing the entries for our Inktober art competition. The standards, as you might expect, have been very high, and the work can be viewed in a video on the school website.

Year 9 will soon be approaching the point at which they choose their options subjects for GCSE. Mrs Robson has recently written with key dates and information important for both parents and students in order to assist in this process. Of course, sadly, what would usually be face-to-face events will this time have to be virtual, but we are confident that there will be just as much clarity and rigour to this process as ever. In assemblies over a series of weeks students will be shown screencasts from curriculum leaders and these presentations will be available on the website in 'learning' and 'guided choices' following form time as slides and screencasts, for both students and parents to read. The information booklet with course information is also available on the website. Students' and parents' questions, together with answers, will be available as a FAQ in the Guided Choices area of the website.

As we are now communicating key information to parents by email, it is important that parents check that we have their current email address. We have had on occasion school emails being sent to parents' spam folders, so it is worth checking this and changing settings as appropriate. Any changes or queries regarding this can be directed to our Exams and Data Manager, Susan Lively at the school: s.lively@mardenhigh.net.

Finally, a reminder for any parents and carers who have a child with a food allergy or intolerance. Whilst North Tyneside Catering Services pay particular attention in their menus to ensure that their offer is suitable for all children, if any child requires a medically prescribed diet the parent or carer must contact Catering Services to make them aware of dietary requirements. There are further details in the 'Catering' section of our website.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher