



## Marden High School

Friday 12th March 2021

Dear All,

It has been a great week seeing all our students returning to school. The vast majority of them have been enthusiastic in their return, and glad to see friends and teachers once again. There has been a palpable sense of relief and excitement in the building this week as everyone, students and staff have eased back into routines and face to face interaction. It has also been a successful week of testing with our amazing team getting through nearly 900 tests this week. We have had no positive cases identified throughout this testing, and whilst there may be an element of good luck involved, I think it is also testament to the care and attention our whole community continues to pay to good Covid hygiene.

Positive cases in North Tyneside as a whole continue to fall which is great news when we consider also the successful vaccine roll out being managed locally by the NHS and Public Health. However, we must remember that the continuing pandemic means that nationally we are still in lockdown and must act accordingly to ensure that rates of infection continue to fall. I have been very happy with the student, staff and parent responses to supporting this critical effort here in school. Nobody wants to be subject to the sometimes inconvenient measures we have in place, but it is great to see the community spirit in getting on with it, and sticking to our risk assessment and Covid-19 protocol.

As we did in September we have started the full return to school with individual meetings with every student, to welcome them back and start the process of creating individual action plans which will support everyone for the remainder of this academic year. So far we have met all of Year 11, most of Year 10 and we have already met a substantial number of Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 students. This process continues over the coming two weeks so that by Easter all students have had at least one 1:1 meeting with a member of staff to discuss what they feel they need to do now to continue making good personal and academic progress.

We had our second Boys' Network meeting on Wednesday night which was very successful. This initiative was set up as a joint venture by Marden High School and the charity M10 Missions two

years ago, to sit alongside the Girls Network which we also work with at Marden. Each boy has a mentor and attends ten presentations over the year to develop leadership skills, independence and an etiquette for success, enhancing their ability to shape a successful future for themselves, personally and professionally. Feedback from students, mentors and parents has once again been positive.

Throughout the current lockdown we have been able to continue with some elements of our MAST programme. Two of these have been the Hand Of project with a group of Year 9 students and My Tutor with a group of Year 11 students. Now taking place in school, both these projects will give further opportunities for students to develop and embed a wide range of skills. The outcomes of the work with My Tutor will contribute to students GCSE grades, and we look forward to seeing and hearing about the business, musical and cultural outcomes of the Hand Of project which will be featured on our school website later in the year.

Year 9 students have now completed their final Guided Choices and will be informed after Easter if they have got their first choices. As you can imagine this is a key part of our timetabling for next year and so work on that will now continue full steam ahead.

Our Year 10 Parents' Evening will be held on the 25th of March and this will be in remote format, with full details of how to make appointments shared in the students' reports. Year 10 full reports will be available on the Parent Portal the week after next.

North Tyneside Local Authority is undertaking a review of Post 16 provision across the borough. As part of this process it is important that a variety of views on the level of support, advice and guidance available on Post 16 options is taken into account. To this end, I am including a [link to a survey](#) for you to complete. All responses are anonymous, and it should take no more than ten minutes to do. Your views are very valuable to us and will be instrumental in decisions made across the Local Authority regarding Post 16 opportunities. The closing date for responses is Friday 19 March 2021.

This week we have welcomed Mr Sankey to the school as our music teacher who will be covering Mrs Gibbings maternity leave. We wish Mrs Gibbings all the best, and look forward to working with Mr Sankey over the coming year.

You will see from our website that on Tuesday 16th March there is a free online safety event open to parents, professionals, and anyone who wants to learn more about the digital world. This is being run by Counter Terrorism Policing East Midlands and is designed to encourage parents and professionals to talk to children about online safety. This session serves as an introduction to understanding the digital world and what risks are present for children. The event will be interactive, and open to everyone with questions encouraged. The event is supported by guest speakers from the East Midlands Cyber Engagement Team, and promises to be a very informative session on a topic essential to all of our well being, and, in particular, to that of our children.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Snape', written in a cursive style.

Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher