



## Marden High School

Friday 19th March 2021

Dear All,

This Friday sees the end of the first full week back in school for all students, and it has been an excellent week, with everyone enjoying being back into routines and benefitting from learning in the classroom. Testing of students has continued also, with the vast majority of children having administered their second test, and demonstrating a mature and responsible attitude to the whole process. There has been one positive test result which has resulted in isolation for that student and close contacts. This demonstrates the importance of being able to identify asymptomatic cases in our community in order to reduce the risk of transmission, and highlights the need for us to be meticulous in the application of our control measures.

We continue to monitor our risk assessment, and we are continuing to be diligent in our efforts to ensure that our system of controls is being implemented effectively, in particular relating to hands, face, space and ventilation. Our COVID-19 risk assessment can be found in the policies section on the school website for anyone who wishes to read the details of our system of controls. I would remind everyone that if anybody has any concerns or anxieties around the current COVID situation, please do get in touch with me directly. It is by continuing to work together closely that we will best tackle the challenges we all face.

With the full return to school, we have noticed over the past two weeks some concerning travel issues. I would like to draw everyone's attention to the fact that stopping or parking on the chevrons outside the entrance to school is not allowed, and constitutes a potential danger for pedestrians and other road users alike. If parents or carers are dropping off or picking up their children I would ask therefore that this happens at a distance from the school gates which does not put others at risk.

We have also reminded our students that if they travel to and from school on their bike or scooter, they continue to show consideration for others. The start and finish of school at the area around the gates is a very busy time and place, and students should not be riding at speed. So that we can avoid accidents I appreciate parents and carers reiterating this message with their children where appropriate.

This week we have been talking about plans for the future: our one to one conversations have continued to explore what students want to achieve by certain mileposts during the rest of this year; we have been evaluating and planning the next rounds of the Girls' and Boys' Networks; and I have spoken to all the students via assembly about the importance of LMI (labour market information) in helping them make decisions about their future study and careers. Students have considered the skills that will be increasingly needed in the workplace of the future, including:

- Data literacy to use and understand the “big data” which machines produce.
- Emotional intelligence required to effectively collaborate with and lead others.
- Cultural and global awareness as it is likely that people will increasingly be working with people from around the world due to increased globalisation and technological progress.
- Resilience and adaptability in a world where change is the only certainty. For example, the ability to cope with change by developing new skills for a new job or task, which will help to ensure that the worker can more smoothly transition from one job or task to another.

The most recent survey from Connexions looking at outcomes for all school leavers in North Tyneside reflects a changing environment where more young people are continuing in education and there are fewer opportunities straight into employment:

- A 2.1% increase in the number of school leavers continuing in Education, 90.3% compared with 88.2% in 2019.
- The rate into training in North Tyneside decreased to 2.4%
- The rate into employment has decreased by 1.5% to a rate of 5.2% in 2020. This includes those getting apprenticeships.
- North Tyneside continues to have a low rate of NEET school leavers although it has risen to 2.1% from 1.6% in 2019.
- The rate for young people in Education, Employment and Training (EET) has stayed at 97.9%

Navigating the future of work can be daunting and overwhelming, especially when there is so much uncertainty about it, and that is why focusing on students getting the right labour market information is so important. The link below takes you to a downloadable Future of Work Guide which focuses on the changes to the world of work which are expected to happen due to the Fourth Industrial Revolution and resulting automation:

<https://nationalcareersweek.com/2021fow/>

The Future of Work Guide is a very informative document, and a must read for anyone, students, teachers, parents and carers, wanting a better understanding of the world we are a part of, now and in the future.

With everybody now back in school, I am grateful to parents and carers for keeping us informed about changing health situations in their households, as this helps us to manage the potential spread of COVID in school. So that we can continue to do contact tracing where necessary, we are asking parents and carers of children currently in school to let us know if their child tests positive during the first six days of the Easter holiday. So if a student that has been in school next week receives a positive test after Friday 26th March, we are asking parents to contact the school immediately using my email address, [m.snape@mardenhigh.net](mailto:m.snape@mardenhigh.net), and provide the following information:

- Child's full name
- Date of COVID test
- What date symptoms started if present

This will allow us to follow up any potential close contacts and request that they isolate for 10 days to prevent further transmission of COVID-19. It will also be very important that parents continue to let me know of other positive COVID tests in their households so that, again, we can help to prevent the potential spread of the virus by ensuring conversations take place about the correct durations of isolations.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher