



Marden High School

Friday 16th April 2021

Dear All,

It has been a busy and enjoyable first week back, with everyone working hard, not least of all our Year 11, who are working hard towards providing lots of evidence for their grades. Year 11 are also planning a number of events to celebrate their time at Marden. A celebration event will be held at Marden High School at the beginning of July with a dedicated committee hard at work planning the event. The valuable feedback from parents and staff has been much appreciated. A group of Year 11 boys have also been working on their fundraising campaign for Whitley Bay Food Bank. The initial idea of running 100k as a team has now evolved into a two team race which also involves staff. This will take place on the school grounds and promises to reach an exciting end. The boys are keen to extend their fundraising for this event. Next half term will provide some unique opportunities for Year 11 as they get involved in preparation for A-Level and post 16 study, as well as mentoring and tutoring of younger students to develop their leadership and teamwork skills. Year 11 students will soon have the opportunity to sign up for various events.

With assessment for Year 11 being different this year, the idea of special considerations will not apply. When selecting evidence for Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGS), it is important, therefore, that we are aware of any mitigating factors that we may need to consider. I have linked a form which is a breakdown of what may constitute a relevant mitigation. These would be used when considering evidence, rather than sent to the exam board. If any parent or carer of a Year 11 student feels there is a mitigating circumstance, please use this form.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScMqahgZV8YBw54GomCKGpflt0XzeXI2BgLEXSSNFItXUg8Gg/viewform>.

There is also a link to a JCQ document below that provides a good overview of the most important information that Year 11 students, parents and carers need to know about how grades will be awarded this summer.

<https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/JCQ-Guidance-for-Students-and-Parents-on-Summer-2021.pdf>

Once again news items written by students from Marden will be appearing very soon in The Chronicle. We are looking forward to reading articles on a variety of subjects, including mental health, Marden's Got Talent, adjusting to lockdown, and the D of E Award. Having already had a sneak preview of them, I can testify to the amazingly high quality of the writing and the perceptive insight of our student journalists. Well done to all involved.

This fortnight we see hope, agency and leadership as the foundations of some exciting events for our students. It is important that we work with students to focus on plans for the future and offer support to allow for milestones to be reached and success to be achieved by all, and so on Wednesday this week we held the third meeting of the students and mentors involved in this year's Boys Network programme. As well as supporting their personal and character development, this programme really helps inform decisions that students make with regard to career plans and the necessary steps to take en route.

Next week we are looking forward to virtual assemblies with our Year 11 form classes, delivered by the National Citizens Service. As with CEIAG across the school, these two events develop the 5Rs which are embedded into the everyday working of our school community and which have been especially important over this last year, as we have adapted to the changing world around us.

In the wake of the dreadful murder of Sarah Everard there has been a focus in the news over the Easter period on the issue of sexual harassment and violence, and this has led to a national conversation about what is happening and how we can all help to prevent any form of sexual harassment or violence. As a school we are aware that societal culture and norms can contribute towards attitudes towards different groups of people, and so we know that it is crucial, in everyone's education, to question and challenge that culture at times, to ensure that everybody can feel happy and safe, and that no-one is put at risk. We also regularly and frequently check our safeguarding policy to ensure it is relevant and fit for purpose, and the same is done for our Peer on Peer Abuse policy. Both of these policies can be found on the school website. Whilst no one can ever be complacent about such matters, I am pleased to say that these issues seldom arise at Marden, but we are conscious that they are sadly a part of our world, and one of the staff working groups for this term will be looking at how we further enhance our ongoing and proactive relationships and sex education for all our students.

One of the things we would normally spend time on in school with our Year 7 students is the topic of using the internet effectively and how the children should and should not be using social media. Because of lockdown, this work has been disrupted and so over the coming weeks Year 7 form tutors and their tutees will be spending time on this. Teaching staff will be reinforcing key messages during lessons and we hope that parents will also be able to emphasise the potential dangers of using social media unwisely, as well as highlighting the link with cyber-bullying. We would also remind everyone that all the main social media platforms do have an age restriction of 13+, and so Year 7 children should not be using them without the supervision of a parent or carer. To support this there is a video Ms Laing has put on our school website which gives tips and advice on how to use social media sensibly and effectively.

Whilst teachers will be talking through much more detail with the students, it is worth highlighting here that people should not:

- Be unkind or disrespectful to others (either directly to them or about them) - the same social rules apply online as in person.
- Create large group chats without the consent of those that you are inviting.
- Screenshot messages or social media content (videos, images) created by others to ridicule or be unkind about them.
- Connect with people you don't know.
- Share other students' details (phone number, social media profiles) with others.
- Be complicit or silent about negative social media interactions that you witness - by doing this you are allowing these negative behaviours to continue.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher