



Marden High School

Friday 23rd April 2021

Dear All,

You may recall that I mentioned that the new Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza would soon be carrying out a national survey of children, The Big Ask, and this has been launched this week. This is the largest ever consultation with children aged 4 to 17 in England, and aims to find out children's concerns about, and aspirations for, the future, so that they can be at the heart of our country's recovery from the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. In the words of the Children's Commissioner:

"This is your chance to have your say on things that matter to you. You can tell us what your life is like, what you want in the future, and anything you think is holding you back. We'll use what you say to tell the people who run the country or your local area what you think needs to change to make your life better."

We are encouraging all our students to complete this survey. This really is an excellent opportunity to exercise the power of agency - that ability to bring about change - that we all have within us. Parents, carers and those working with children are also invited to complete the adult survey to share their views about the future for children and young people today, and what they think is holding young people back. The results from this survey will help the Children's Commissioner identify the barriers preventing children from reaching their potential, put forward solutions and set ambitious goals for the country to achieve. As well as in this newsletter, a link to the survey can be found at the top of our home page. The survey closes on Wednesday 19th May.

We have joined other schools across North Tyneside in launching this year's NTLT Star Awards, and as in earlier years, our whole school community can be involved in nominating students for achievements across a range of categories including the 'Useful and Kind' award, the 'Inclusion' award, the 'Local Lockdown Hero' award and the 'Leadership' award. Nominations can be made through the NTLT website or our student bulletin using this form. We wish every student luck and will celebrate all nominees and winners, as part of the school's end of year rewards assemblies in July.

As the number of cases of Covid across the region and the country continues to reduce, and the country gradually unlocks, it is good to feel that, as long as we continue to ensure we are adhering to good hygiene and other arrangements we have in place, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Certainly we have been very pleased with how everyone in school has been following the arrangements we have put in place. It is a powerful outward sign of the sense of community we have here as we continue to look after each other so well. Now that lateral flow testing is being conducted twice weekly at home, I would remind everyone that it is important that results are recorded using the button on the homepage of the website. Students have brought home a new set of tests this week so that we can all continue to monitor our own health, and isolate if necessary, and in so doing, interrupt the chain of transmission. Please remember that all staff and students who get a positive LFD test should get a confirmatory PCR. The PCR test should be booked immediately either online or by calling 119 and should be undertaken within 2 days of the positive LFD result. Once the result has been confirmed, positive or negative, this should be forwarded to school using my email address m.snape@mardenhigh.net.

From this Monday we will be opening up the Learning Resource Centre for students' private study until 4 pm each day. Students will be able to use this space and time to continue with work or do homework, as well as using computers and books from the LRC.

Following on from the successful launch of targeted extra curricular MAST activities this week, we are very pleased to be able to add a number of other activities to the programme that all pupils can sign up for. These will begin next week and the detailed programme can be found at this link <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1budqSiNiJAr4WqRzn6Te49N1UoVAxqWj/view>. All activities will take place in Year group bubbles and pupils have received a Google form to fill in to sign up.

We are looking forward to our Parents' Evening for Year 8 on Thursday 29th April. This will again be a virtual event using our School Cloud system, which parents who have used it so far have commented very favourably upon.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher