



Marden High School

Friday 30th April 2021

Dear All,

Subject knowledge and understanding is and always will be an essential part of our children's achievement. But increasingly, the need for our students to be able to apply this knowledge and make connections across multiple disciplines is paramount both to their success at school and for them to gain an understanding of the world and their place in it. The cognitive flexibility to do this comes through the development of the softer skills - creativity, oracy, teamwork, leadership, and critical thinking. Much of this development comes through the activities undertaken in the students' five lessons each day and the homework related to this. We have also run a number of careers education events over recent years, and these have also been excellent opportunities to develop these skills. Now throughout the summer term we are giving our students further opportunities to develop key skills which will prepare them for life after Marden High. As part of our CEIAG programme students will be working with organisations such as Connexions, FutureMe, NECOP and Globalbridge to support them in expanding their knowledge of further and higher education, careers and employability skills.

Globalbridge is a digital platform which connects young people in education with employers, apprenticeships and universities. High profile employers such as the NHS, Sage, Siemens and GSK work alongside Globalbridge, creating resources, hosting webinars and posting information regarding training and employment opportunities. It is designed to encourage students to take ownership of their career pathway, allowing them to create a digital profile which stays with them throughout their entire education and career journey. Over the next term, all students will participate in a workshop delivered by Globalbridge staff. These workshops are designed to help students to realise the importance of 'standing out from the crowd' and to learn how to present their individual skills and talents to future employers.

To help embed the use of Globalbridge as part of school life we will be setting short tasks every few weeks via Google classroom. There will be prizes every half term for those students who log on regularly and add to their digital profiles. Globalbridge is digitally safe and secure, fulfilling stringent privacy, data security and safeguarding requirements, and if you would like to find out

more about Globalbridge please visit www.myglobalbridge.com.

I would also like to highlight that in the coming weeks, InvestIN are running a number of free online parent sessions on guiding children into successful careers. InvestIN is an organisation that provides inspirational career-experience programmes to school students who aspire to break into some of the world's most desirable professions. The sessions they are running are "Own the room", in which essential techniques needed to help your child master their public speaking skills will be explored and "Success in the City", where parents can hear from successful City professionals on how to land a job in the City. Further details and to register for these sessions can be found [here](#). Alongside this we are working with another organisation, Speakers for Schools, exploring opportunities for students to apply for virtual work experience placements during half-term and the summer holidays. Further information about these exciting opportunities will be made available to students via our Careers pages on the website and Google Classroom.

We are also always very interested to hear from parents or associates of the school who may be able to input into our careers education as this important and exciting area moves forward. In this case, contact can be made with either myself or Mrs Brennan, our Careers Education Coordinator. In combination with developing the values we foster of compassion, curiosity, resilience, responsibility, integrity and independence, we are confident that these opportunities will help our children develop attributes for their own journeys in life.

We are currently having a push on donations to the Community School Clothing Scheme. This scheme has been around since 2017 and provides pre-loved school uniforms to the community for free or for a very small charge. Some families struggle to afford the cost of new uniforms, especially as children can grow so fast, so they are very appreciative of any donations. If anyone has donations to make, clothing can be brought into school by parents or students. This Scheme also supplies clothes, toys, and household items to families in need throughout the north east. They also work with other charities and their aim is to provide services, resources and equipment and improve the lives of struggling families. If you would like more information, need school uniform or would like to volunteer for the scheme, please contact communityschoolcs@gmail.com or go to communityschoolclothingscheme.org.

We hope that the members of our school all feel part of a compassionate community that supports each other's needs and aspirations. Certainly what I see daily is a strong sense of belonging and shared purpose that extends beyond the gates to embrace the aspirations of all our families and

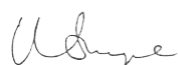
the organisations we work with. This is exemplified by the work of our PTA and of our House Captains and Form Reps. A recent activity which is being developed by staff, students and the PTA is a raffle where each house is being given £50 by the PTA to create or buy prizes in one of four categories: wellbeing; the environment; connection; and the local area. To successfully meet this challenge, students are using some of the skills I mentioned at the start of this newsletter - leadership, collaboration, and creativity - to design the prizes in the various categories. More information will be shared in the coming fortnight about the raffle, the prizes and the winners of the House Competition so keep an eye on the school website for updates.

This Friday we held our 'Active Mile' event, with the aim of promoting 15 minutes of physical activity across all year groups by walking or jogging around a 200m track. It was great to see students and staff joining in the fun, and we aim to set up a regular Friday session later in the term which will be a mile challenge.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind students and parents that nail extensions and facial piercings should not be worn for school as they constitute a potential health and safety hazard in the busy school environment.

As I mentioned in this newsletter two weeks ago, 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](#).

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher