



Marden High School

Friday 21st May 2021

Dear All,

On most Tuesdays after school we meet as a staff in various groups for discussion and training, and this week saw us come together virtually to look forward to next academic year and beyond. We spent some very valuable time considering four broad areas of development, and the discussions that took place produced an extremely rich picture of ideas and strategies to look at in forming our next School Development Plan. The areas for enhancement are:

- 1. Raise the profile of CEIAG across the school community so that each student has access to a personalised programme of information, advice and guidance to support their decision making into post 16 education and beyond*
- 2. Develop our celebration of diversity and achievement so that all students can realise a sense of belonging in our community and an understanding of their connection to the world*
- 3. Achieve positive progress for all students at GCSE so that every young person has the best opportunity to achieve qualifications which enable them to take the next steps they want to in terms of education and career*
- 4. Develop the curriculum to enhance opportunities for creativity, digital literacy, character development, problem-solving, critical thinking, and innovation. These are the skills and attributes our children will need, in addition to good qualifications, to be able to contribute as invested citizens in working towards a fair, prosperous and equal world*

Our next steps will now be to use the outcomes of our discussions to populate draft action plans for next year. Governors will oversee and input into this process through a School Development Plan workshop later this term, and then I am very much looking forward to sharing aspects of the plans with everyone through this newsletter.

I am sure everyone is aware of the concern communicated by the government this week around Covid variants of concern. Yesterday the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care announced a package of enhanced support to help tackle the rise of Covid cases in North Tyneside along with another 5 local authority areas nationally. In response to the Government announcement, local plans are being developed and implemented by the Authority in partnership with Public Health

England, Department for Health and Social Care and NHS. This is primarily focussed around increasing testing and accelerating the vaccination programme for those eligible. The mainstay of public health action remains unchanged: identifying positive cases through testing, isolation of cases and anyone they have been in contact with, testing of contacts and promoting preventative measures - Hands, Face and Space and vaccination.

Here is the link for further details of where mobile testing units (MTUs) are being set up in North Tyneside.

https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/sites/default/files/web-page-related-files/Surge%20testing%20North%20Tyneside%20FAQs_0.pdf

We have also this week had communication from Northumbria Police about the expansion of 'county lines'. County lines is a major threat to young people and vulnerable adults throughout England, Scotland and Wales, that is expanding and progressing at a fast pace. Once in place they use common marketing tactics to get established, including introductory offers on their drugs. They then set about expanding the 'workforce'; recruiting local runners to deliver drugs and money, often using children, because they work for little pay, and are easy to control. This is sadly something we all need to be aware of, and there is more detail in the communication from the police which we have posted on the school website. If anyone has any concerns relating to this issue, please do contact a member of the senior leadership team at school so that we can help.

As well as our targeted MAST intervention for students, we have recently added more activities to our extra curricular programme. You can see an updated version here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xejllteHKYqVTPaP8MyaY5XfWqSpPQiIvidYWVB40mA/edit>

After half term, and following a positive parent voice survey, we have Chris Whinham, an experienced youth strength and conditioning coach and founder of YOOFGYM, coming in to deliver a programme of functional strength and conditioning sessions to Year 7 and Year 10. We will be offering a session on a Tuesday afternoon for Year 7 (sign up here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc436bnigwYr2x-0jGEzE8GOePUukHtBEUm0Toxsh2X5vXlsw/viewform>) and a Friday morning for Year 10 (sign up here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeyQQE0VnXj2jZShAtJS0grf8eXas-HdekfZe3D04uhDW2OIQ/viewform>). Places will be free for this first six week block and begin after half term. Parents should fill in the form above if they wish their child to take part; places will be offered on a first come basis. We hope to offer some further sessions for Year 8 and Year 9 next academic year.

We are reaching that time in the year again when our minds turn to preparing to welcome our new students for September. We have designed a whole suite of virtual resources and activities so that students have a taste of our ethos and our approaches to teaching and learning at Marden High School. These resources, as well as introductions from some of our members of staff, are available on our school website <https://www.mardenhigh.net/category/transition/>, and they will complement additional face to face transition activities, details of which will be sent to children's primary schools. If anyone has any queries regarding transition, our Head of Year 7 and Transition, Miss Laing will be able to help (e.laing@mardenhigh.net).

As part of the Year 11 rite of passage, we enjoyed a brilliant finale to the sporting calendar as a student led football match took place on Tuesday. Team AC battled FC Argon in a thrilling match which AC won, by a one goal margin. This match, which was organised by students, for students, and to raise funds for the Y11 upcoming prom, was supported by a tuck shop and trophy ceremony, fostering that great sense of Marden community. The game ended 3-2 to AC and the atmosphere was electric and as fans across the country return to stadiums, we were proud of all our students involved on the day who safely held a memorable game to mark a memorable year for them all.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher