



Marden High School

Friday 11th June 2021

Dear All,

It has been a busy week back after the half term break, with students working hard in lessons and many of them enjoying getting back to some of the extra-curricular activities we can now offer. Our staff have been working hard on standardisation and moderation of all the assessed work that Year 11 have completed, in order to arrive at the Teacher Assessed Grades which will go forward to the exam boards in a week's time. This of course is a job that in a normal year would be taken care of by GCSE exams and the teams of markers employed by the exam boards, so to see the dedication and professionalism with which teachers have worked through these additional tasks has been impressive. The systems we have in place for ensuring fair and consistent grading, and for the quality assurance of these grades are rigorous and robust, and we are very confident that they will deliver grades that reflect the excellent attitude and work ethic of our current Year 11 students.

This week saw the charity running race take place organised by Year 11 students - and including Mr Topping and Mr Swain on opposing teams - to raise money for the Whitley Bay Foodbank. This was an excellent event enjoyed by all thanks to live streaming into classrooms. Many thanks to all of the students and staff who cheered both teams on out of the windows during the run - it certainly helped spur the competitors on through the warm afternoon, and brought a great community atmosphere to the proceedings. Of course, what this was really all about was helping people in much greater need than most of us, so I would remind students that there is still time to sponsor the runners for their efforts. This is being coordinated in form time. For the record, Mr Swain's team won, by a narrow 18 second margin. Well done to all involved.

Another year, and another perplexing investigation for our Year 8 students in English. Now in its ninth year, *Marden She Wrote 2021: Unstuck* was launched this week with the mystery of the missing glue sticks. Over the coming weeks, careful investigation, deduction and inference will be required from the students to solve our toughest 'whodunnit' yet. We look forward to a range of critical and creative theories, supported by evidence and reasoning in a variety of written formats, before the culprit(s) is or are finally revealed in a thrilling conclusion. Here is a link [Marden She Wrote 2021: Unstuck](#) to the highly entertaining video accompanying the project. You may wish to propose a theory of your own!

Parents and carers may be aware that last half term we invited small groups of students in year group bubbles to take part in numeracy, literacy and physical activities (Active Marden). These activities were part of the MAST programme (Marden Achieving Success Together) and had the broad aims of building confidence and re-engaging students in their learning post lockdown. This week many of the students involved took part in focus groups to gauge the impact of the programmes and to help us to decide what we could do to improve this intervention in the future. Students taking part represented themselves brilliantly giving insightful and articulate answers to the questions posed. The students' feedback reflected that they had indeed experienced an increase in confidence and that they really appreciated the smaller group set-up, which allowed for closer interaction with the teacher. They also gave us some excellent suggestions to improve the programme content and we will take these on board when planning for the next academic year.

As we move into the final few weeks of this year's Marden High House Competition, we are looking at a very close competition between Alnwick (274700), Dunstanburgh (271115) and Warkworth (274910). Alnwick had been leading the race to the championship since September but Warkworth have now taken over with a slender lead. Bamburgh (266015) are certainly not out of the race but they will now need to dig deep and make the most of the remaining opportunities to gain extra house points. In our recent golden ticket competition, over 22,000 points were awarded across the four houses with some students earning over 100 points each for themselves and their respective houses. Our year 10 House Captains and Vice Captains have been working as teams to create prizes for the PTA raffle based on 4 themes, Alnwick (Wellbeing), Bamburgh (Environment), Dunstanburgh (Local Area) and Warkworth (Connection). A thousand points will be awarded to the House with the most creative raffle prizes and to the House that sells the most raffle tickets, so a great opportunity to make a difference. Our weekly house competitions continue over the coming weeks with Maths and Attendance at Extracurricular activities providing opportunities for students to add to their individual and house totals.

Please remember that as per the school calendar, Friday 25th June is a Training day for all staff so students will be enjoying a long weekend.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher