



Marden High School

Friday 18th June 2021

Dear All,

It has been pleasing to see the numbers of students who are taking advantage of the range of extra curricular activities that are on offer in school continue to grow. The functional strength and conditioning courses have begun for Year 7 and Year 10, and students have enjoyed the sessions so far. It is great to see so many students investing in their physical well being. A range of activities from sport to revision are available, and these can be seen in the most up-to-date document which is linked here. The LRC is also available on different afternoons for pupils to complete homework (Year 7 Monday, Year 8 Tuesday, Year 9 Wednesday and Year 10 Thursday). Staff are providing support in these sessions and can help all pupils with their homework on their designated days.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xejjlteHKYqVTPaP8MyaY5XfWqSpPQilVidYWVB40mA/edit>

As Year 11 have been taking advantage of the enrichment opportunities in school, I wanted to let you know about a further opportunity for this year's leavers. [HE Fest 2021](#) is a free virtual festival from FutureMe which aims to support all learners who are making a transition in their educational journey during 2021, with a focus on those moving to post-16 education. HE Fest 21 will provide the most up to date information about opportunities and pathways to higher education, with information for both students, parents and carers. The event will take place on the 6th, 7th and 8th July, and attendees are able to personalise their own programmes. The programme includes talks from the region's universities and colleges, as well as the Medical Mavericks and the Student Loans Company.

This [week's assembly](#) has been all about teamwork and the importance of consciously developing skills to help us to be ever better team players. This is reflected in our Values Statement which can be found on our website and includes the following description of Team Marden:

Within the Marden family, we know each other well and are kind to one another. We see hope and opportunity for everyone, recognising the great range of talents we all have, and we leave no stone unturned in helping our young people to a bright future. At Marden we are able to express our own

personalities, confident that we will be supported in the achievement of our goals and dreams. Our focus on student leadership helps develop our strong moral compass, giving our young people a global awareness and a sense of agency to shape a more equal society for the future.

I often say to students that whatever their chosen career paths are in the future, they will be in some way working in different teams, so developing these skills and attributes really is an essential element of their education.

With Year 10 students currently preparing for their exams next week, we should be reminded that the most recent GCSE exam papers have contained language where often, a relatively high reading age is needed to access many questions. This means that the ability to read sophisticated language is ever more important when it comes to sitting a GCSE exam, no matter what the subject. So lots of reading practice is key for our children's exam success, and this does not have to be subject based revision, but can be, and should be, reading for pleasure. It is also worth remembering the other benefits of reading:

- Children who read often and widely get better at it.
- Reading exercises our brain.
- Reading improves concentration.
- Reading teaches children about the world around them.
- Reading improves vocabulary and language skills.
- Reading develops a child's imagination.
- Reading helps children to develop empathy.
- Reading is fun.

Each year, in the final week of the Summer Term, we offer an Activity Week to all students, which includes opportunities to develop creativity, explore new ideas and enjoy activities designed to develop our students in an holistic manner. This year, due to restrictions, activities will take place in lesson time. Lesson activities will incorporate one of eight things that we love doing but perhaps have been unable to do over the last year, such as going to the cinema, watching live sport, and shopping, so when students complete one of the identified tasks, they mark them off on a 'bingo card' which will earn them 100 House Points when complete. The bingo card will also act as a chance to be drawn in a raffle with the prize being the opportunity to pour an ice bucket over Mr Anderson on the last day of term! We look forward to a fun, safe and different week, beginning on the 12th July, with more information being shared with the school community closer to the time.

It has been brought to our attention that some students have used each other's QR codes to pay for food in the canteen outlets run by North Tyneside Catering on our site. This is problematic as it leads to spending on accounts mounting very quickly, and even where the owner of the QR code is giving permission, this is something which must not happen. We are speaking to students in school to let them know they should not be doing this, and reminding them that using someone's QR code without their permission is theft, and if anyone is found doing this, it will be dealt with accordingly.

I would like to remind everybody about the importance of road safety in keeping our students and staff safe. Parents and carers should not drive onto the school site to pick up or drop off their children. If a parent or carer feels that there are extenuating circumstances, such as a broken leg, then our Business Manager Mr Hedworth should be contacted for arrangements to be made. I would also thank parents and carers for being considerate in adhering to the highway code regarding parking and driving near school entrances. The start and finish of school is a busy time with lots of children crossing roads and on bikes, and we all need to be alert to avoiding accidents.

As part of the pastoral care and personal development that we offer our students, form time is sometimes adapted from the regular offer when we personalise the sessions to either gather or share information specific to that time of year, or to the year group. This week Year 9 watched an inspiring and motivational video before being given sponsor forms ready for the upcoming Team GB Athlete visit on Friday 9th of July. The students will be off timetable for the majority of that day, taking part in a variety of different activities led by the Team GB Athlete, which I am sure will leave a lasting impression on the students and develop teamwork, responsibility, communication skills and creativity. Alongside this we also conducted our Summer Term student survey. This survey takes place termly and once we have the findings from the survey I will be sharing the main points with you all in this newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher