



## Marden High School

Thursday 24 June 2021

Dear All,

I would like to thank all those parents and carers who responded to our Parent Voice survey over recent weeks. We had reasonably good engagement with around half of the parent body taking part in the survey, and responses were very positive. Some of the key responses from parents and carers are:

- 94% said that their child is happy at Marden.
- 98% felt that their child feels safe at school.
- 96% said that the school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.
- 99% responded that when they had raised concerns with the school, they had been dealt with properly.

Parents and carers were also extremely positive regarding the variety of extracurricular activities available to children, and regarding the support for the childrens' wider personal development.

But there are also areas for us to consider in our development for next year. For example, the responses to the statement: "The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year" were not as positive. Whilst this information is on our website, we will be looking at how we make this information more obvious and accessible to parents and students. Our new website will help with this and there will be more information on this in next week's newsletter. We have been pleased to be able to get back to parents and carers who identified themselves for some really fruitful and rich discussions about their own experiences and those of their children.

I am sure that everyone is aware that the issue of sexual harm is one which has very much been in the media recently, and OFSTED has this month [published a report](#) following interviews across the country with college and school students and staff. Young people report that schools are locations where students can encounter sexual harm. This can involve a range of harmful sexual behaviours (HSB) from name-calling and sexual bullying to sexual assault. Schools are also places that can provide safety to young people and promote positive ideas about gender and relationships.

The OFSTED report recommends that schools, colleges and multi-agency partners act as though sexual harassment and online sexual abuse are happening, even when there are no specific reports. We want to continue to develop a culture where all kinds of sexual harassment and online sexual abuse are recognised and addressed, and we hope that the environment we create in school, where staff model respectful and appropriate behaviour, and where children and young people are clear about what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour, means that students are confident to ask for help and support when they need it. Next week we will be conducting a pilot survey with a significant sample of students to better understand the needs of our children in dealing with and preventing potential sexual harm.

Communication is something we work hard on getting right, and whilst many commentators say that this is something you can never perfect, this does not stop us from continually reflecting on how we can improve it. To this end we are introducing School Gateway, to make it as easy as possible for our parents and carers to be as closely involved with their children's school lives as possible. Next year we will be aiming for all school related communication, newsletters, reports, timetables, attendance figures, and club bookings to go through School Gateway. The app can be downloaded now in readiness for September:

- Apple iPhone users, download the app here: [schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload](https://schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload)
- Android phone users, download the app here: [schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload](https://schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload)

Login details are automatically generated using the contact information we already have, so please make sure the details we hold for you are up to date. You can check and change these details by sending an email to [office@mardenhigh.net](mailto:office@mardenhigh.net). If you have any questions or would like some more information, please see the School Gateway site here: <https://schoolgateway.co.uk/>. You can also login to the online version of School Gateway via <https://schoolgateway.co.uk/> if you do not have a smartphone, although we do recommend using the app if possible as it makes it far easier to get hold of parents when we need to.

At present, parents and carers can send and receive messages to the school, see the personal data we have on record for themselves, view school information such as address, contact number, email address and see their child's attendance. They also have access to the following under 'Useful Links':

- Headteacher's Newsletter
- Parents Evening
- School Website
- Facebook
- Twitter

The ability for us to publish reports and timetables will be coming shortly.

We have been supporting Pride Month this week with the theme of the week being Diversity, and on Thursday this week we had a non-uniform day fundraising for Barnardo's Base in Whitley Bay, which supports young people from all backgrounds, as we celebrated everyone's individuality on a very colourful day.

Regular readers of this newsletter will recall that I have written recently about the need for students to keep their QR code for their own use and not to share it with others. Since then we have been working with North Tyneside Catering, requesting that they communicate to parents when their child's account goes into significant deficit. We have been informed that alerts will now be sent to parents and carers when an account becomes £50 overdrawn, so hopefully this will be a support to managing accounts and prevent any very large debt being run up.

Finally, for information, Year 7 SEN reviews will be taking place on 30th June, and 5th and 7th July, when any parent or carer whose child is on the Special Educational Needs Register can make an appointment to discuss their child's progress. A letter containing further details has been sent out to all parents concerned.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher