



## Marden High School

Friday 2 July 2021

Dear All,

No doubt everyone will be aware of the rapid increase in positive Covid cases across the country in recent weeks. Whilst the good news is that this increase has not translated into an increase in hospitalisations, there has been a considerable negative impact on students due to the need to isolate as a close contact, with the additional burden of extra childcare for parents and carers. To support students who are having to isolate at home, staff already ensure that their lessons are on Google classroom. In addition to this, where it is appropriate, we have asked staff to invite students to a section of their lesson as a live stream. A rationale and protocol for this can be found here:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ua9IUtvebs\\_3KqS2jJGgNw8f25DpRoyeNZvCxqF4qC4E/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ua9IUtvebs_3KqS2jJGgNw8f25DpRoyeNZvCxqF4qC4E/edit)

It will be important that parents and carers read through this with their children. There has, this week, been much discussion across the country regarding alternatives to isolation for people identified as close contacts, and so we await with interest further announcements and guidance from the government on how schools are to manage the large numbers of positive cases as we move through the following weeks and months.

As I have mentioned before in this newsletter, this time of year in the academic calendar is one when we start to reflect on how the year has gone, and what our plans are for the coming year. Of course, any plans we have for the future will be all about achieving our broad aims as a school which are:

- *Building on our Hope, Agency, Leadership*
- *Providing a nurturing environment*
- *Promoting excellent achievement*
- *Enabling each person to flourish*
- *Creating a community for life*
- *Preparing students for the future*

For example, in order to promote excellent achievement, we want everybody to be clear about the intention of the curriculum here at Marden. The aim of our curriculum is to equip our young people with the knowledge and skills from key stage 3, and prepare them for KS4 and beyond, ready for the next stage in their lives. We want to ensure that pupils leave with a high level of literacy and are able to communicate confidently through both the written and spoken word. Our curriculum is predominantly subject based but it is also supplemented by the wealth of opportunities available outside of the classroom, from structured clubs and activities such as debate and dance, to playing chess at lunchtimes; being a prefect with a specialist interest such as media or maths. By the time they leave, pupils will know what they need to excel in their exams but, due to the structuring of the curriculum and style of delivery, will be able to draw on rich cultural capital and knowledge and apply this to a love of life long learning. Detailed information on the curriculum at Marden across all the different subjects and for the various year groups, can be found on our website and it is well worth parents accessing this information on a regular basis as it gives a very clear idea of what the children are studying at different points in the year. This information will be made even more accessible within our new look website which will launch at the end of August.

As I mentioned last week, we are always looking to enhance communication and accessibility to key news and information for parents and carers, and we are confident that our new website will do this by setting out statutory documents and letters to parents and showcasing some of the amazing work and activities that happen every day at Marden High School. Our new website will be a useful source of information ranging from curriculum topics, terms dates, latest news, a calendar of events and a dedicated area specific to each year group. Accessing our new website from a mobile device will be significantly improved too, due to its responsive design. This means that no matter how big a screen is, the information will be easily accessible and presented in a clear way. We feel the new site will offer a much improved experience for all users and look forward to sharing with you the great things our pupils are achieving.

Our Year 10 students have demonstrated a mature and focused approach in undertaking their exams over the past two weeks. This has been an excellent opportunity to get a feel for the GCSE exams they will be sitting next summer, and to become familiar with exam rubric and regulations. Over the remaining weeks the students will continue to receive valuable feedback on how they have performed, as well as information on revision strategies for next year.

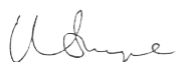
We are very proud of how smart our students look wearing their uniform, and we want to remind everyone of the high expectations we will have with regards this in September. We have supported

families during the COVID pandemic by making allowances for delays in shipment and also being mindful of additional washing to support hygiene. As we approach September we are seeing that uniform ordering and delivery is more timely and so we feel confident that full and correct uniform can be worn daily in the new academic year. The current uniform list can be found on the school website and Heads of Year will be reminding students on Monday to 'remember for September' that they must all be in our uniform each day. On days when they have PE, our full PE kit, rather than other branded sports clothing, must be worn and, of course, in paying attention to health and safety, it is important that students do not have false nails or piercings other than one stud in each ear. Thank you to all parents and carers for their support in ensuring these standards are upheld.

I would like to send a big thank you to all those students in Year 10 who have sent me and Mr Scott an application letter to become a prefect. The standard of writing has been very high, and there has clearly been a great deal of thought put into many letters. There will now be a series of activities for these students to enable them to demonstrate their leadership and communication skills, following which we will be announcing the list of new prefects before the end of term.

And finally... our quote for the week has been from the inimitable Babe Ruth, whose famous words, "You just can't beat the person that never gives up" has been exemplified, not only by a number of teams in the Euros this week, but by our whole community as we continue to progress through these challenging times.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher