



# Marden High School

Friday 16 July 2021

Dear All,

We have just completed an academic year which has been quite extraordinary. Extraordinary, in terms of the challenges the ongoing pandemic has brought, but also extraordinary in terms of what our community has achieved, and the opportunities we have taken to ensure that our young people continue to make great progress in their learning and their personal development. Necessity being the mother of invention, there are so many ways in which we have had to adapt the way we live our lives, often giving us the opportunity to reflect on what our priorities really are. Of course, this past year has also brought loss to parts of our community, and we share in the sadness that brings, and we look to offer support in the months and years ahead. One of the things I have become increasingly clear about during this last year, is that it is the closeness of our school community and the sense of belonging that people have within it that has enabled us to work together so well. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone - students, staff, parents and carers, governors - for all their contributions and support during this past year. Looking forward to the coming year, my hope is that we will continue in this vein, and I would invite everyone to:

“Be a reflection of what you’d like to receive. If you want love, give love. If you want truth, be truthful. If you want respect, give respect. What you give out will always return.”

I mentioned last week that there had been several Government announcements regarding the approach that would be taken in dealing with the ongoing pandemic in the new academic year. Included in this information was the news that schools would be asked to test all students on their return to school in September, once before they enter classrooms, and again a few days later. Following those first two tests there is the expectation that students will conduct twice weekly tests at home. As we will be testing children on entry to the school, we will operate a staggered start as follows:

<b>Thursday 2/9/21 Staggered start</b>			
	<b>Year 7</b>		<b>Year 7</b>
9.00	M	11.40	D
9.40	A	12.20	E

10.20	R	1.00	N
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<b>Friday 3/9/21 Staggered start</b>			
<b>Morning</b>	<b>Year 11</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>Year 10</b>
8.30	M	12.15	M
9.00	A	12.45	A
9.30	R	1.15	R
10.15	D	1.45	D
10.45	E	2.15	E
11.15	N	2.45	N

<b>Monday 6/9/21 Staggered start</b>			
<b>Morning</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>Year 8</b>
8.30	M	12.15	M
9.00	A	12.45	A
9.30	R	1.15	R
10.15	D	1.45	D
10.45	E	2.15	E
11.15	N	2.45	N

Following the success of many of our previous Young Writers, some forty five more of our students have become published writers and their work will feature in an anthology entitled *Unsolved: Detective Tales!* This is a great accolade for our students and staff, as we continue to have an important focus on practising extended writing skills.

This half term, the Marden High Health Ambassadors have been working in partnership with the YMCA to promote healthy habits in school. This group of year 9 students decided that mental health would be the focus of their project, and they specifically wanted to create something which would help the new cohort of year 7 students joining us in September. What then followed were five weeks of planning, filming, recording and editing a video to promote mental wellbeing and habits to aid in the transition from primary to secondary education. The Health Ambassadors used their own experiences and expertise, and interviewed staff to create a wonderful video which can be viewed [here](#). We are very proud of what they have achieved, and as they can work on such a tight deadline, it's safe to say they may well have a future in the film and TV industry one day!


As we are becoming used to in holiday times, I would remind all parents and carers to let me know if any student tests positive with Covid within 48 hours of them having been in school. They should send - child's full name; date of COVID test; what date symptoms started if present - to my email address, [m.snape@mardenhigh.net](mailto:m.snape@mardenhigh.net).

Over the past couple of weeks we have continued with the process of selecting our prefects for the next academic year. Hopeful applicants took part in several group planning activities where they had to discuss and come up with a plan for three induction activities for new Year 7 students, whilst being watched and assessed by Head of Year Mr Scott and a member of the senior team. The quality of discussion was very high, and not only did each group come up with some fantastic ideas which we will be able to take forward, but there was a range of high level communication and teamwork skills shown, which bodes well for the future of prefects at Marden, as well as for the individual careers of these young people.

We were extremely lucky on Wednesday to have a small celebration of some of the musical work that has been going on this term at Marden. Our little concert had a mixture of treats from some of Mardens solo singers to the Yr 7 Ukulele Club, the Yr 8 Arts award and the Yr 9 Ensemble. We were also delighted to have some of the year 11 leavers, who returned to share some close harmony with us. A small but appreciative audience of teachers and fellow performers made for a lovely event. Here is to more music at Marden!

And finally ... our successful activity week drew to a close with students having the opportunity to pour an ice bucket over Mr Anderson and Mr Shields. In a streamed live event during form time, names were drawn out of a hat and two lucky students were able to pour the icy buckets to the loud cheers of their fellow students .... and even louder cheers from staff! The video will be shared on the website so those not in school can enjoy it too. There is also a great compilation video on the website showing a sample of some of the other activities which students have undertaken this week.

Thank you for your continued support, have a great summer, and take care.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher