



Marden High School

Friday 17 September 2021

Dear All,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those staff who are running extra-curricular clubs for our students. We now have a wide range of activities for children to enjoy, generally after school, with the programme starting this coming Monday. There is information on the school website about what opportunities are available, and students have been able to enjoy a screencast from Mrs Robson already on what they might want to get involved in.

I am very pleased to announce that Marden High School has been selected to become a Music Mark school for the next academic year. This means that we have been recognised for our commitment to a broad and balanced curriculum and the value that we place on music. As a result, our students' achievements have been celebrated by Marden High becoming part of the Music Mark community, which works to support and enable the music education sector to deliver high-quality musical and social outcomes for all children and young people. Well done to students and staff for achieving this accolade.

As you are aware, one of the key aims in our School Development Plan this year is to further enhance the quality of CEIAG (Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance), and to this end we have arranged for the Newcastle United Foundation to work with all of our Key Stage 3 students during this term, running a range of workshops linked to careers and raising aspirations. More information on this can be found at <https://nufoundation.org.uk/schools/>. We are looking forward to staff from the foundation coming into school each Friday, until the Christmas holidays and working with all form groups in Key Stage 3.

Our school garden, and in particular the sunflowers we all tended last term, are looking great. The Green Team has been working hard in the new wellbeing garden and will be developing it over the coming year, with some great ideas including seating, hedgerow fencing, water butts, insect hotels and bird houses. Any student who would like to join the team should come along to the garden on Mondays after school. Parents and carers can also help by downloading the 'My Morrisons' app to start collecting Grow Tokens and choose Marden High School as the school to donate them to. This will allow us to access free equipment for the students to use in the garden.


In the event that a parent or carer feels it is necessary for their child to have a PCR test, we would ask that they keep them at home until the results of that test come back negative. A PCR test should be sought if a LFD test result is positive, or if someone has any of the broad range of symptoms that may indicate Covid-19, and therefore the working assumption should be that that person is positive until otherwise informed by the PCR test result.

You will be aware from government announcements and media coverage that all children aged 12-15 are being offered the opportunity to have a first dose COVID-19 vaccine. This follows advice from the UK's four chief medical officers who said that there was a benefit to children in relation to maintaining their education, with concerns that missing face-to-face school had impacted on children, physically, emotionally and in terms of their life chances. School vaccination services will offer COVID-19 vaccination and parents and carers will be asked to give their consent. This follows the same process for flu vaccination. Before then further information will be provided to allow parents and children to decide if they wish to take up the offer of COVID-19 vaccination.

North Tyneside Bikeability will be delivering a Bikeability Level 3 course at our school on Friday 22 October (our Teacher Training Day) for Year 8 students. This course aims to develop riders' skills and confidence so they can ride in diverse road environments, including complex, often busy roads and junctions, and training is delivered by qualified National Standard Instructors. If you would like your child to take part, please return the reply slip of the letter handed out to students this week by Friday 24 September 2021.

We are currently looking to recruit new invigilators to join our current team. The main summer examinations period runs from mid-May to the end of June. We also have two weeks of trial examinations held in November and December each year. Previous experience is not necessary as training will be provided, and the job description and an application form can be downloaded from our website.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher