



Marden High School

Friday 21st January 2022

Dear All,

This has been a significant week for Marden as we have had all of our students back in full time face to face education following the storm and flood damage, and it has been a great week. The plans that staff have put in place have meant that students have been engaged in interesting and involving activities in their lessons and in the case of students working at the Langdale Centre, supported by two teachers each lesson, one live streaming from the Marden site and one facilitating learning face to face in the classroom. We are very pleased with how the curriculum and learning has been delivered so far, and with the routines, systems and pastoral support we have in place, especially in our new environment at the Langdale Centre. We will continue to monitor the quality of provision, and I will be meeting formally with groups of students over the coming weeks to hear their opinions on the arrangements and to ensure we can provide the best possible experience for them. If you have not already seen it, I would invite everyone to have a look at the video and photos on the school website which show how children and staff are getting on at the Langdale Centre.

This week Year 9 students took part in TICE (This is Creative Enterprise), and it really was a brilliant opportunity for students to explore, in full, the scope of careers that exist within the commercial creative industries. They developed skills and career awareness with a fascinating session on textiles, learning about various aspects of the industry, from product research and funding, right through to producing their own products at the end of the day, using a variety of materials. There are some great images in a slideshow of the day on our school website.

Year 9 students have experienced the last of the Curriculum Choice information sessions this week, and next week they will be involved in the process of making provisional choices about their options for GCSE. I would stress that these choices will be in draft form and there will still be plenty of time for students to make changes to them. Our Guided Choices Information will be launched on 3rd February, and this will herald a four week window where parents and carers will be able to access comprehensive interactive information, videos and curriculum detail, all gathered together under the 'Guided Choices' section of the website. During this period there will also be our Parents evening for students of Year 9 on

17th February, and Year 9 full reports will be issued to support parents and children in making their final decisions. The deadline for this will be 4th March. Head of Year, Mr Prytherch, our SENCO Mrs Reece, and other members of the senior leadership team will be available for personalised consultation with parents and carers throughout the period of decision making. If any parent or carer wishes to take advantage of this offer, please contact the school office or email a member of the SLT direct.

Coming up, during the week of 7th February, we have assemblies supporting our Young Mayor nominee and Member of Youth Parliament nominee with the possibility of future electoral success awaiting them once votes are counted. Good luck to both and thank you to everyone who has supported them so far.

The charity M:10 have now begun their Careers Masterclasses with our Year 10 students, and they are also working with Year 9 students as part of the Boys Network opportunities. Meanwhile, Year 11 students are working with staff from M:10 towards their 'Mission to Mexico' this coming summer. Fundraising for this will begin later in the Spring Term. The educational charity Hand Of continues to offer exciting musical opportunities for students in Years 8 and 11 with a regional music project beginning later this month. These projects, alongside the extra curricular offer here at Marden, continue to expand the rich and diverse menu of opportunities enhancing the experience at school and helping to provide a firm foundation for success in later years.

Government guidance on face coverings in school has now changed and they are no longer mandatory in classrooms. Face coverings should still be worn by everyone in corridors until 27 January, from which date the government are no longer advising face coverings for students, staff and visitors in communal areas in schools.

We have seen some exciting sports fixtures this week. The Year 9 netball team were having their second outing of the season against Whitley Bay High School. The game was end to end with very little to separate the two teams. The girls gave everything they had but after an amazing bounce pass and a magnificent shot from the edge of the shooting circle within the last thirty seconds of the game, their opponents managed to squeeze out a narrow victory. Additionally, it was the Northumberland Cross Country Championship on Tuesday at Temple Park in South Shields. We had a large number of students ranging from Years 7-11 representing North Tyneside. The students did very well with some great times recorded. Four students qualified for the Northumberland team and one of our Year 7 students won their race. We congratulate all those who took part and wish them the best of luck in the next round. We have also seen one of our Year 11 students selected to represent England at the Taekwondo European Championships in Croatia in April this year. This is a fitting reward for all her hard

work over the last few years in this sport. If successful in Croatia, her next step will be representing England in the World Cup in Slovenia in October 2022, so we wish her all the best. There are more details of this in our school blog on the website.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'M. Snape'.

Mr M. Snape

Head Teacher