



## Marden High School

Friday 4th February 2022

Dear All,

The Year 9 Guided Choices programme was launched this week, with updated information on the school website. The interactive poster that can be found there features in depth insights into the various choices open to students, and will give parents an easy and convenient one stop location for finding the information they will need to have those all important conversations with their children about the options they will be taking. There are subject screencasts, as well as information on the decision making process itself from Mrs Robson and myself. This will also be of interest, I'm sure, for parents of younger students yet to make curriculum decisions. For Year 9 students, this is an exciting time as it is a real opportunity for them to be able to shape their own future by starting to decide on what a substantial part of their future curriculum will look like, and having our students develop this sense of agency is something that is very important to us here at Marden. Parents and carers will also be able to engage with subject teachers at the Year 9 parents evening on Thursday 17 February to discuss which subjects might be most suitable for their children. Parents and carers are welcome to contact us at school if there are any questions about the process, or indeed, if they would like to talk specifically about their child and the decisions they are making.

There is an exciting opportunity for students to become a member of the planning team for World Book Day which is coming up on 3rd March. Students will be involved in creating competitions, displays, whole school activities, book lists, assemblies and more. We want to make this a really special World Book Day, so students of all ages are welcome, and Ms Taylor will be meeting anybody who is interested after school on Wednesday 9 February. This is another excellent opportunity for students to develop their leadership skills as they develop this day, and involvement in this sort of activity provides great evidence that students can add to their Globalbridge portfolios.

More and more of our students are getting their accounts set up on Globalbridge, and there are some excellent portfolios developing. As I am speaking to students, in all year groups, I am reminding them to log on to their accounts at least every two weeks to review and add to their portfolios, which will become evermore important to them as they move through school, and I know that their subject teachers are

also talking to them about the kind of evidence they can be adding. If any student has not yet set up their account and started a portfolio they are missing out, and I would encourage parents and carers to speak to their child about their Globalbridge portfolio. There are some excellent resources available on the Globalbridge website, and one area in particular that I have been using quite frequently has been the 'blogs' section (found under the 'about us' tab) which contains some very interesting and useful articles on a variety of topics from how to present yourself to future employers, through to strategies for preparing for exams, and information on future steps into college and sixth form. There really is something for everyone in this section, and for all ages, and it is a great way for parents and carers to start getting involved in Globalbridge and looking at how their child can use it too.

Each year in the UK, Safer Internet Day explores a new issue or theme which is impacting the lives of young people in the UK. For 2022 the Day, February 8th, celebrates young people's role in creating a safer internet and the ways they are shaping the interactive entertainment spaces they are a part of. The platforms young people use are spaces for connection, community and collaboration, and it is good to see that the aims of the Day this year mirror those which we work at each day here at Marden, that is, fostering supportive relationships and respectful communities, whilst equipping our young people with the skills they need to keep themselves and others safe in these spaces. There are some really useful resources for parents and educators at the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) which I'm sure will provide excellent information for rich discussion with the children.

The Governing Body have recently reviewed our uniform policy, and in particular, in light of the probable tight squeeze on household budgets, they have been keen to make sure that parents and carers have a choice of different suppliers, some cheaper than others, and that no one supplier has a monopoly over supplying the Marden uniform. There is also the option of purchasing an iron on badge separately to the blazer which may help to reduce costs. Local shops which offer both blazers and badges include Anne Thomas in Whitley Bay, The Embroidery and Printing Shop in Monkseaton, and Emblematic in Benton. Supermarkets such as Morrisons and TESCO offer blazers too. Should you ever have any questions regarding the uniform or the uniform policy, parents and carers should contact their child's Head of Year, or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

On Monday evening the Year 8 football team were in action against Marden Bridge Middle School. The team had a big shake up with 6 new debutants. The game allowed for fantastic viewing, with brilliant energy levels and lots of enthusiasm which ultimately led to the 4-1 victory. The Year 8 netball team had their first fixtures of the season and what an evening it was. The girls were a little nervous to start off with and were losing 2-0 at half time in their first game. After an inspiring team talk from the girls themselves

they put in a tremendous second half performance and beat John Spence 4-3. The second match was brilliant. The girls were in full flow and dominated the game against Kings Priory and came away with a 6-3 victory. A successful evening all round. On Wednesday evening we had two Year 10 boys volleyball teams taking part in the Year 11 North Tyneside league. The boys were very focused, and there were some outstanding serves which teams struggled to return. The games were extremely close and they battled until the end but unfortunately lost out to more experienced teams. Overall, it was a brilliant evening with the boys keeping a positive attitude and working brilliantly as a team.

All students have received COVID test kits this week, and I would remind everyone of the importance of testing still. This should be twice a week as standard, and each day where anybody is in close household contact with a positive case.

HPV vaccinations for Year 8 will take place on Wednesday 9 February in school.

As mentioned last week, we had our Year 11 group photograph this morning, and it made me feel very proud to see all of the students together and looking so smart. We have been on quite a journey with them during their time here at Marden, and it was my privilege to remind them to be proud of everything they have achieved so far, and to feel confident that having developed into the fine young people they are, their futures are bright.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher