



Marden High School

Friday 11th February 2022

Dear All,

There has been important information published from exam boards this week. The decision to introduce measures such as advance information for GCSE and A level exams has been taken in recognition that this summer's exams represent a "transition year" to "reflect the recovery period" after Covid cancellations. These changes have been designed to make exams more 'approachable' and were unveiled last September, when the Government announced its intention to bring back papers for 2022. Advance information has been released to aid students' preparation and help focus their revision, but is not intended to reduce the amount of content pupils need to be taught or tested on. In all subjects – with the exception of English literature, history, geography and art and design – pupils are being given notice about the topics to be covered in this summer's exams. Materials will not give so much detail about the likely questions that the answers can be pre-prepared or learned by rote, and question papers have been designed as they normally would be. The materials are only being made available on exam board websites, and students have been warned not to look elsewhere in case they find inaccurate or misleading information. On the whole, our take on this advance information is that it will be useful and supportive, and teaching staff will be showing students in lessons how best to use this additional information to prepare for their exams.

This week our Enterprise Club have been busy engaging in their business ventures selling their Valentines cards and gifts after school. All the teams have shown a great work ethic and some excellent resourcefulness and creativity in the products they have produced for sale and in the marketing they have used. Their aim has been to realise a healthy profit margin from their initial £10 investments, and all the signs are that their hard work will have paid off, and that they will indeed have profits they will be able to reinvest in future enterprises. Next up is the '10X Challenge', a national competition over a four week period where students will have to work in teams on particular aspects of running a business, such as producing the best sales pitches, business plans, and logo designs. We wish our teams all the best and look forward to seeing the fruits of their labours.

Staff have spent time after school this week on their continuing professional development (CPD)

developing resources and planning CEIAG (Careers, Enterprise Information, Advice and Guidance). As a school one of our priorities is to make explicit links between each curriculum area and the skills needed to be successful in employment, and so during several CPD sessions this year staff have worked together in subject areas to identify lessons where explicit links can be made between the content and careers. So far, many new resources have been created, and professionals from outside school have been invited in to speak to students about their own careers pathways. One of the resources staff have used to develop this work is linked in the written version of this newsletter, and I would invite parents and carers to explore the website 'My Learning, My Future'. There is plenty here to stimulate some valuable discussions about their children's futures. As ever we would be happy to hear from any parents and carers who feel they might be able to contribute to providing careers related information from a specialist or personalised point of view.

Progress on the roof replacement continues well, with contractors still on schedule for the work to be finished at Easter. At the same time we have been working on temporary repairs to the internal classroom environments damaged by water ingress and flooding. This has enabled us to have additional rooms recommissioned and available for use at the start of the second half of the Spring term. What this means is that on Monday 28th February we will be able to welcome all students and staff back to the main Marden site. We will still have our Portakabins in place and functioning as classroom spaces, but there will no longer be a need for students to travel to the Langdale Centre for parts of the week. Clearly we are very pleased to be able to be ahead of our original schedule in being able to have all students back on the school site, and it must be reiterated that a large part of this is down to Marden staff's continuing hard work, flexibility, and commitment to striving for the very best possible provision for all our students.

The main school reception area has now been reinstated, so any visitors to the school should enter to the front of the building where they will find an intercom and be met by reception staff. There is plenty of signage from the main gate to help guide the way.

On Monday evening the Year 7 netball team had their first fixture for Marden High. We have entered two teams into the league and both teams were in action on Monday. The light blue team put in two fantastic performances and beat John Spence 6-1 and Churchill Community College 5-0. The dark blue team showed great teamwork and determination and beat Churchill Community College 4-1 but narrowly lost out to John Spence. The girls were praised by the staff at John Spence and Churchill Community College for how well they worked as a team and how polite they were to fellow players and staff. Well done girls.

On Wednesday evening we had a Year 10 and 11 boys badminton tournament at John Spence. The boys put in a lot of hard work and have been attending school early in the morning to practice which is fantastic to see. The boys played 5 games and came away victorious in 2.

This week also saw the Year 11 boys football team had their first fixture in two years. They were at home to John Spence on Wednesday evening. They played in extremely tough conditions with a bitter wind trying its hardest to dampen the team's spirits. The team who unfortunately lost a few players due to injury gave a hearty performance, and in spite of eventually losing, it was brilliant to see the crowd cheering the team on until the final whistle.

On Thursday evening the Year 10 netball team were playing in the U15 North Tyneside School Championship. The girls were going into the tournament unbeaten and it is with great pleasure I can announce that the team are still unbeaten and were crowned champions. The team played 4 games, achieving a 7-0 win against Churchill Community College, a 4-0 win against St Thomas More, and a 3-2 win against Kings Priory. The final game was against John Spence and this was to determine who won. The game was end to end and we quickly went 4-0 up then suddenly John Spence built some momentum and it was 4-4. The team rallied and cheered each other on and within quick succession we went 7-5 up. A huge well done and a fantastic achievement.

Finally, a quick update on two days later in the year when students will not be in school. The first has been on the calendar since the start of the year and is our staff training day on Friday 24th June, and the second is the holiday that everyone is getting in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, which in our case will be Thursday 21st July.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher