



Marden High School

Friday 18th February 2022

Dear All,

We have a real treat in this half term's newsletter, which reflects some of the fantastic work our children have been doing. There is lots of amazing art work, and in particular I have been very impressed with the way Year 10 students have developed their landscape projects. There has been superb business acumen shown by the Enterprise Club, and there have been some fascinating local history investigations spanning two millennia, discovering the richness of our North Eastern heritage. There is so much more besides, and I am sure everyone will enjoy reading all about the students' achievements during these last seven weeks.

It has been advocated by experts for many years that if students can learn how to learn they will thrive in any educational or work setting. The ability and confidence to work independently will set any individual up for life. It is our role to nurture this and we are incredibly proud of the way our students have responded, with our support, to the demands of remote learning and have developed into much more independent learners as a result. While this is evident in lessons at the Langdale centre, students have also been transferring their skills to their Marden learning. Walking around either site, any observer would see a mix of teacher-led discussion, peer collaboration and autonomous working. It is also evident in the way that both Year 10 and Year 11 are approaching revision and their own individual approach to reviewing course content and preparing for exams. Year 10 students are in discussions with subject teachers about which revision books to buy and how to use them, and in Year 11 students are working out the most effective strategies to use in the coming months leading up to the summer exams.

It has been brilliant to see so many students taking part in extracurricular clubs this half term. Alongside GCSE revision sessions a range of activities have taken place including Korean club, Russian and science club. The Gardening Environment club are continuing to develop the school garden and have set themselves the task of doing so whilst recycling as much plastic as possible. As mentioned, the Enterprise club has also had a successful half term making, marketing and selling Valentine's products in the run-up to Valentine's day and were sold out. If your child is interested in joining an extracurricular club please check the activities available on the website

(<https://www.mardenhigh.net/our-extra-curricular-activities/>) and sign up via the SchoolGateway app. Also, please remember that homework club is on every afternoon at 3.15pm in the LRC, where staff are available to support students with their independent work.

There is the chance for students - as well as parents and carers - to get involved in the run-up to World Book Day with the Library Club's Half Term Literacy Challenges. There is a whole array of competitions to take part in over the half term break, and lots of house points to be won. From art challenges to 'Reading Selfies', a Costume Competition, to a 'Booky Bake-off', there are plenty of opportunities to celebrate reading, books and creativity. Ms Taylor has emailed students with the full menu of activities and entries can be sent to libraryclub@mardenhigh.net. There is also a group of students who are producing a video starring members of staff and students talking about some of their favourite books, which we look forward to watching on World Book Day.

Marden High PTA have met recently with a view to starting to get back to more face to face events, so look out for further details of the upcoming PTA quiz next half term. It will be wonderful to see parents and carers back in the school building especially as the PTA quizzes are always such fun. We look forward to seeing lots of people there.

Through our regular student voice meetings, we are able to ensure that students are listened to and that they enjoy that sense of participation and community we hold at the core of our values statement. Since the start of the new term we have met regularly with the Student Cabinet to encourage their autonomy in leading their own meetings and setting their own agenda, as we foster individuality and possibility. This is leading to great work being done by a large number of students to develop aspects of student communication, student wellbeing, fundraising and improving the environment. Alongside this, we have been meeting with students who have been enjoying their time at Langdale. Hearing their positive responses regarding the live streaming, the opportunities to deepen learning through research and expand their experiences through leading the management of learning through Google Classroom has allowed staff to continue with the aspects which work well and evolve those areas that can be enhanced further. Meanwhile, Mr Richards has been meeting form reps to ensure that our rewards are relevant, worthwhile, cost effective and inclusive. The Heads of Year are meeting their form reps too, building lines of communication amongst the student community so every student has a voice and can see that it is heard. Each of these meetings has produced valuable insight into student voice, student leadership and student participation which form the basis for future work with our children as they progress through school.

To enhance our pastoral support, we have commissioned the services of a school nurse for one morning per week to start after the half term break. The school nurse will support the school, parents and children with anything that stops them feeling safe, learning, attending, developing or growing. This might include support for anxiety, poor sleep, picky eating, low mood, establishing routines and boundaries at home, or bereavement, and anything else which relates to children's welfare.

We are also delighted to have been selected as a "host school" for a new pilot initiative in North Tyneside called "Connect MHST", which aims to provide support for children with low to moderate emotional wellbeing needs. The team hopes to support a generation of children and young people to have the ability to cope with most of life's ups and downs. The Connect MHST will help students, parents, carers and staff to develop their self-care and self-awareness skills, and know how best to support their own emotional wellbeing. If you think your child would benefit from either of these services, please contact Mrs Reece, Assistant Head (b.reece@mardenhigh.net) to discuss further.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone again for all the hard work and dedication shown this half term - students, staff, parents and carers, and governors. It has been a challenging but successful and rewarding one, and we look forward to seeing everybody back on the Marden site after the half term break. I hope that staff and students get a well earned break and I hope that parents and carers are able to spend some quality time with their children.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher