



Marden High School

Friday 11th March 2022

Dear All,

Now everybody is back on site and absences from Covid are reducing, we have a renewed emphasis on getting back to some of those very important habits of school life to ensure that each of our students is making the best progress they can. We have already carried out audits in curriculum areas to determine whether there are topics that students have missed out on during the pandemic and that may need to be revisited, and teachers have adapted their teaching to take account of topics that may need to have additional emphasis. Visiting the many classrooms I have this week, I am confident that students and staff are working hard to ensure that any gaps in learning that may have occurred as a result of the pandemic and building related disruption are remedied, and it will be important that all teachers, curriculum leaders, and the senior team continue to monitor progress and identify where any additional input is required. One particular routine we are focusing on currently is that of homework, a very important element of each child's education as this is valuable time spent consolidating and extending the learning which takes place in class. In particular:

- We set frequent and regular homework according to how often we see the students, and we stick to a regular day so that students can build a healthy routine.
- Tasks for homework are consolidatory and short in nature. The student planner outlines the tasks a teacher might set as being learning tasks, practice exercise, preparation tasks or consolidation activities and we seek to avoid tasks that are marking heavy.
- Students copy homework from the board into their planners. This is a good habit which helps students to manage their own workload, and allows parents and carers to get a clear overview of the homework their child is receiving.
- Time in lessons will be allocated to homework follow-up and discussion.

Over the coming weeks we will be ensuring a consistent approach to homework across the curriculum, and emphasising the importance of homework to all students, helping them to understand the benefits it can bring them.

This week has been National Careers Week and our students have been taking part in various activities throughout the week. Years 7 and 8 completed a careers based research activity during their Personal Development lesson. The objective of the lesson was to help students think about the different pathways which are open to them once they leave Marden, such as Apprenticeships, T levels and A levels. If you would like to find out more about the different options open to your child once they have completed their GCSEs, please take a look at the CEIAG section of the website under useful links.

Our year 9 students took part in The Buzz careers presentation by David Hodgson. David has travelled the world for the last 20 years helping students recognise particular strengths in their personality traits and link them to different career sectors. If you would like to have a go at The Buzz careers test, please have a look at slide 4 of the National Careers Week slides on the website. Several members of staff also completed the test with the students and we felt the results were very accurate!

Years 9, 10 and 11 have the opportunity to participate in a talk delivered by St Anne's College, Oxford. The presentation will focus on what it is like to go to university, looking at all aspects of university life such as finance, accommodation, extra curricular activities and careers. The talks will take place on the 23rd of March, and if your child would like to be involved, please ask them to email Mrs Brennan.

Next week we are running a Globalbridge competition with some great prizes, and there will be more information on the website on Monday. To give your child a head start, it would be great if parents and carers could check that they know their Globalbridge login details. If they don't they can request a new password via the Globalbridge website <https://www.myglobalbridge.com/>

This week we have had another busy and successful sporting week. The Year 7 netball teams were in action on Monday evening, playing six games, winning five and drawing one. There was some exceptional play from the girls and they moved the ball from defence to attack with blistering pace. On Wednesday evening the U16 football team had 3 games. They won all three games beating Whitley Bay High School 2-1, Monkseaton 1-0 and St Thomas More 1-0. It is lovely to see the communication and confidence grow amongst the girls as the season progresses. The Year 8 basketball team played in the North Tyneside U14 league competition on Thursday evening, winning all four games. As a result, the boys progress to the finals in a couple of weeks. Everyone contributed well and played some entertaining basketball. Furthermore, the Year 9 netball team played in a local tournament. The girls put in some brilliant performances and clearly really enjoyed themselves, finishing 4th overall. The standards and dedication within our school teams is exceptional, and I would like to thank all the students for their commitment to extracurricular sport and all their hard work.

Last week were the final elections for UK Youth Parliament representatives and the North Tyneside Young Mayor. The fact that Marden has each year candidates involved in this process is a reflection of the fact that “at Marden we are able to express our own personalities, confident that we will be supported in the achievement of our goals and dreams. Our focus on student leadership helps develop our strong moral compass”. We had one student narrowly miss out on the role of Young Mayor, and another was successfully appointed onto the UK Youth Parliament. There are further details on the school website.

There is a very exciting opportunity coming up for Years 8 and 9 students in the summer term, when we will be taking a group to the Isle of Arran for an outdoor adventure activity trip based at the Lochranza Centre. Students will be taking part in a range of outdoor adventure activities including gorge walking, mountain walking, canoeing, raft building, abseiling and orienteering. Parents, carers and students may wish to view some short videos which celebrate this fascinating area and give a good idea of the environment the children will enjoy.

<https://www.arrangepark.co.uk/Arranology/>

The trip is scheduled to take place from Saturday 16th July to Thursday 21st July 2022, and students will be able to get a letter with further details next week during form time.

This week has seen a number of very successful bake sales, with our school community raising money to help those affected by the conflict in Ukraine. Students and staff came together to sell their wares, with proceeds going to Save The Children raising well over £1000, an amazing contribution achieved in very little time.

Finally, as we focus on getting back into familiar routines and good habits, we return to all period 5 lessons ending at 3.15 pm from Monday.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher