



## Marden High School

Friday 8th April 2022

Dear All,

We are already looking forward to welcoming Year 6 children into the school for their transition days on 5 and 6 July. The children will be in their form classes for these transition days, and during this time they will have the opportunity to make connections with new friends and members of Marden High School staff ahead of the Summer break. The children will wear their usual primary school uniforms, as, at this age, the children will be growing quickly, and we do not want parents and carers to have to buy uniform now which may no longer fit in September. This is in line with our commitment to 'poverty-proofing' wherever possible, and we hope that this will help families during this period of rising costs of living. In the meantime, both the 'Transition' and 'Life at Marden' sections of our [school website](#) have lots of information for year 6 students and their parents and carers, including introductions from some members of staff. In addition to this, my Headteacher Newsletter appears on the school website every week containing current information about what is going on in school. We look forward to working with all our new parents in order to help our new cohort reach their potential and enjoy their time at Marden High.

We are also looking forward to our Marden's Got Talent competition which will be held towards the end of the summer term on Tuesday 28th June. I know that a number of students have already started making preparations for this event which, for the past two years, we have held remotely. I am pleased that this year we will be having a live, face-to-face event in the Auditorium, so performers now have the choice of demonstrating their act in person or via video. I'm sure the quality will once again meet the high standards of previous shows so we look forward to welcoming lots of you into school for what promises to be an entertaining and inspiring evening.

For Year 11 it will be very important to use the next two weeks of holiday for revision and preparation for exams. Mr Scott, Head of Year 11, has provided all students with guidance on how they should manage their time during the holidays so that they are well prepared. It will be important for all students to have some rest and recreation, but also to make the most of the time they have for exam preparation. There is now limited time left before the exams start so the next two weeks could make all the difference to the

students getting the grades they are capable of. They would do well to remember - "The bad news is time flies, the good news is you're the pilot."

Recently there was a group of students from Year 9 who took the exciting opportunity to take part in the North Tyneside Young People's Conference at the Village Hotel. The newly elected Young Mayor and Youth Parliament Member introduced the day, before students took part in workshops on the environment and mental wellbeing. During the workshops students discussed what was working well in their communities and what they felt could be improved. At the end of the day volunteers from each school fed back the main points from their groups discussions, which will be taken on board by the Youth Council. All of the students contributed thoughtful ideas to the discussions throughout the day and were a credit to the school.

Sadly we are hearing that there has been a spate of bike thefts in the local community recently, particularly from outside the Morrisons supermarket. We understand that some of these have been opportunistic thefts, but also that some have resulted in locks being cut, so it may be a good idea for parents and carers to review with their children the best ways to protect their property.

We are now in the middle of Ramadan, the month in which it is believed the Holy Qur'an was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), as guidance for all mankind. Ramadan is the month of fasting which is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. Ramadan is a physical challenge on the body, but also a deeply spiritual time for Muslims too, and with work and school tending to occupy a significant amount of our daylight hours, fasting Muslims can come across a number of challenges in their daily lives, especially with fasts lasting up to 16 hours a day in the later half of Ramadan. For this reason we have been aware of supporting any of our Muslim students who are currently fasting.

The Year 8 boys badminton squad had a lovely, friendly game of badminton against St. Thomas More. It was brilliant to see students refine their skills and play with finesse. The games showed a high level of maturity, sportsmanship and brilliant etiquette. On Wednesday evening the Year 7 football team played Churchill Community High School. The team put in a wonderful, performance in windy conditions. The team played tremendously and came away with a 5-1 victory. There have been some outstanding team and individual performances this half term which shows the students' hard work, commitment, love of sport and dedication to the extracurricular clubs that we have here at Marden High School. After Easter we will be switching to our summer sport programme and we welcome all students to come along and get involved.

Congratulations to Year 11 drama students who completed the filming of their devised pieces for GCSE this week. The standard of performance and technical expertise from all the students involved was very high, and it was a marvel to bear witness to the audience's emotional response invoked by the students' acting, especially from actors so young - quite brilliant!

During this last week of term, both Year 10 and 11 RE students had the opportunity to visit the Holy Island of Lindisfarne to learn more about their studies of Christianity. The first RE school visit for more than two years, the students took in Lindisfarne Castle, admired the cairns on the beach, and learned about the life of Saint Cuthbert, who ran the monastery there during the 7th century, before living a life of solitude on the nearby Farne Islands. Students were able to appreciate the peace and spirituality of the environment, as well as understand more deeply the beginnings of Christianity on our Isles.

It has been a term like no other! If you think back to where we started this term it is amazing what we have achieved as a team this term. We have been working from two sites, incorporating the portakabin village onto our site, many of us have been involved in remote learning and everybody has developed their skills with google classroom. We have learnt to live with Covid, and it's been an absolute privilege to see how well everybody has all been working in lessons, and how well our sports teams have done this term. It's also been brilliant to see how many students have got involved in extracurricular activities too. And we've done all of this whilst dealing with living on a building site and our school roof being replaced. So thank you, and well done for all the amazing work that everybody has done this term - I know that parents and carers as well as governors, are very appreciative of the resolve and resilience that the Marden team has shown. The next two weeks will certainly be a well deserved break and I hope that everyone has a lovely holiday.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher