



Marden High School

Friday 29th April 2022

Dear All,

It has been great to see everyone back in school this week looking healthy and well after what I hope has been a refreshing break. This is a relatively short half term, but a very important one, not least of all for Year 11 students and their families, as they continue to prepare for the GCSE exams starting next month. Judging by the excellent support they have had so far from their teachers, I am confident that they will do well in the summer. As a year group they have worked diligently and have been very well engaged working with their teachers and they should also be confident that, as long as they continue to prepare well, they will do very well. As part of that preparation there will be a number of students undertaking two day intensive maths and English programmes, and Curriculum Leaders and the Senior Leadership Team will continue to monitor their progress closely to ensure support is put in where it is needed. I would encourage parents and carers to maintain close communication with us here at school so that we can work together closely during these next two months.

Holidays are always a good time to reflect on the previous term, and in doing so, it struck me that, even in a year so far where we have had to deal with Covid and catastrophic roof failure, we have still made good progress on the original aims contained in our School Development Plan. This is I think significant and reflective of the commitment of our whole community - students, staff, parents and governors - to working together for the best outcomes, providing a nurturing environment and promoting excellent achievement for all our students. As a reminder, here are the four priorities we are working on this year:

1. *Raising the profile of CEIAG across the school community so that each student has access to a personalised programme of information, advice and guidance to support their decision making into post 16 education and beyond.*
2. *Fostering understanding of diversity and individuality so that all students can realise a sense of belonging in our community and an understanding of their connection to the world.*

3. *Achieving and celebrating **positive progress** for every child so that they have the best opportunity to achieve qualifications which enable them to take the next steps they want to in terms of education and career.*
4. *Enhancing the curriculum to develop our creative approach to teaching and learning, providing opportunities to **develop skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, digital literacy and innovation**. These are the skills our children will need, in addition to good qualifications, to be able to contribute as invested citizens in working towards a fair, prosperous and equal world.*

With the third aim in mind, we will be looking at our 'Reports' system this term, as we would like to improve even further how we communicate children's progress to parents and carers, and we have some ideas on new ways to meet with parents and carers and for them to come into school to see their children's work. However, we want to test out these ideas with a view to their further development and so I am inviting parents and carers to join me and Mrs Robson, Assistant Headteacher, to be part of a focus group where we can discuss this essential element of us working together to give support and feedback to all our students and their families. This focus group event will take place on Wednesday 4th May at 4pm and we expect it to last around an hour, and it would be great to see lots of people there. If you would like to come along, please call main reception to book your place.

As part of our work in preparing students for the future, Year 9 students enjoyed the Careers Speed Dating event this week, where they gained insight and information from a wide range of companies and educational institutions who came into school to deliver the event. This always gives the students lots of food for thought, deepening their understanding of different career pathways, as well as improving their interpersonal skills as they have to communicate effectively with many different people. Next week all Year 10 will be involved in mock interviews, as another group of business people and varied professionals join us in school to put the students through their paces.

Also on the theme of Careers Education, we had great success in increasing the use of **Globalbridge** by students last term, and we will continue this through the work of both student ambassadors and staff champions. Globalbridge student ambassadors will help other students 'to develop and discover their interests and talents', and their involvement in this process gives our students opportunities to serve the school community, and to gain valuable life experiences and the skills of leadership, teamwork, and communication. These leadership opportunities also support learners to develop their character – their resilience, confidence and independence. Staff Evidence Champions will support the development of a collegiate and supportive school environment both within departments but also across the wider school community.

As part of this journey towards the world of work we are supporting students in their preparation for the working day and this includes both uniform and equipment. Our uniform policy, on the school website, includes support around where it can be purchased and what it consists of, such as black shoes (without sports logos or different colours) and purple hoodies for PE. Our equipment list, outlined in the student planner, includes pen, pencil, ruler, planner and reading book. Making sure each child is ready for the day with the correct equipment underpins our aim to achieve and celebrate positive progress for everyone so that they have the best opportunity to achieve great outcomes.

The Year 8 boys football team put in a fabulous performance in front of a supportive crowd on Wednesday evening, when they played Wellfield Middle School. The game was very close throughout and finished in a 1-1 draw. The team should be proud of their performance. It was lovely to see so many parents and carers cheering the students on. On Thursday evening the Year 9, 10 and 11 netball teams and staff went to Sambucas to celebrate a brilliant season of hard work, determination, teamwork and success. It was great to see students from different year groups come together laughing, having fun and chatting away. There was a real sense of community spirit and a great evening was had by all.

This week we took part in the 2022 North Tyneside Active Mile. This annual event supports the national daily mile initiative and includes students of all ages and key stages and encourages young people (and older) to participate in a range of activities in order to become more active. Participation from so many members of the Marden community made this year's event, spread across three tracks, a really successful morning. A large number of students and staff took part in this healthy activity promoting both physical and mental wellbeing for all. As agents for change and leaders in all we do, this adaptation to the school day is part of the exciting series of initiatives we have planned this coming term that will promote creativity, student and staff wellbeing, togetherness and the promotion of good habits and routines.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher