



## Marden High School

Friday 20th May 2022

Dear All,

Year 11 students have reached the end of their first full week of GCSE exams and there has been some excellent feedback from staff and invigilators regarding how calm and mature our students have been so far. We are really very pleased with how they are approaching the exams and how they continue to prepare for them. As I have said before, I am confident they will do well, and they should be too.

This week saw a thought provoking and very important assembly from Mrs Reece on Respect and Responsibility, and following this some excellent student leadership from our Literacy Leaders on the theme of sexual harassment. As a school we want to engage everyone in such discussions, and students and staff are to be commended on the thoughtful and reflective way they have done this so far. I would always expect us all to challenge any misogynistic, prejudicial or discriminatory talk straight away, and I hope that students, staff, and parents and carers know that reporting any such concerns to school is essential. During the rest of this term and into next year our staff and student working group on Diversity, Inclusion and Celebrating Individuality will focus on promoting respect and responsibility throughout our community, and on the issue of sexual harassment. I believe our shared values and ethos support a particularly inclusive and kind environment here at Marden, but we always need to be watchful for signs of sexual harassment, whatever form that might take. As our Peer on Peer Abuse policy says, sexual harassment does not occur in a vacuum, but occurs in a society where there are structures and norms that shape young people's views, experiences and behaviour, as well as responses towards them, and so being proactive in guiding young people in the right direction is an important part of their education.

Year 10 students will be sitting exams in most of their subjects from Monday 20th June to Thursday 30th June. This will be an excellent opportunity for students to go through the process of preparing for exams as well as sitting them and acting on feedback. I know that many Year 11 students have said this week that the experience of sitting full mock exams has certainly helped them develop their resilience and get them prepared for the real thing. A timetable of exams and additional information can be found on this slide show:

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Y6AjRFuo3-vypGCC58M0Nx22h5dli8qllP3mm-lxUgQ/edit#slide=id.g12b19cd7b93\\_1\\_0](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Y6AjRFuo3-vypGCC58M0Nx22h5dli8qllP3mm-lxUgQ/edit#slide=id.g12b19cd7b93_1_0)

This also includes lots of valuable information on how students can revise in different subjects with examples that students can use.

We now have three Ukrainian students in school and it has been wonderful to have them here and see them settle so well following their long journeys and the uncertain times they have recently experienced. We are expecting some more young people to be joining us over the coming weeks, and as the students get used to being in school, we will be organising some meetings during the term for their parents and hosts to ensure that they are getting the support they need, and to help everyone integrate into our community.

As mentioned previously, students across the school celebrated National Numeracy Day on Wednesday this week. During form time, students were encouraged to take part in the Big Number Natter. This was the first ever nationwide conversation about numbers and was an opportunity for people across the country to talk numbers. The students talked about their own number stories; for example the story behind their lucky number, tips they have for bagging a bargain, how they spend or save their pocket money and how they plan their journey to school so that they can spend as much time in bed as possible! The day also saw the launch of Marden's own weekly numeracy newspaper and a call for the students to become numeracy journalists for future editions. In a further celebration of the day the Maths department delivered a 'Numeracy at work' lesson to key stage three classes. Students heard from people working in a variety of different job roles about how they use numbers to do their work; from the challenges of managing a budget and arranging meeting times for an international project to preparing financial documentation for the sale of a football club; there was a lot to consider. The students concluded that whatever career path they choose they will need good numeracy skills in order to be successful. If you want to improve your own numeracy there are a number of excellent resources from National Numeracy - <https://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/>, including the National Numeracy Challenge which helps you check and improve your numeracy.

This half term we have seen the long awaited return of the athletic season. Last Friday the senior athletic tournament took place at Monkton Stadium. The conditions were extremely tough with gusty winds, and the students put in some tremendous performances, gracing us with multiple 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions. On Wednesday evening we took 45 Year 7 and 8 students to the Tynemouth Schools Athletics tournament at St. Thomas More. The students were cheering one another on, helping each

other practice before their events, and there was a brilliant sense of togetherness. There were some fantastic performances with most students finishing in the top 3. Once the results have been finalised from both athletic events we will be in contact with parents to let them know if their child has qualified for the next stage.

On Thursday the Year 7 and 8 rugby teams played in a festival at Percy Park Rugby Club. The teams put in a brilliant team effort and the students thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Additionally, the Year 9 rounders team competed in the U14 North Tyneside tournament, with again outstanding performances and it was fantastic to see so many schools turn up for the competition. Well done to St. Thomas More who won the event.

Many of our students and staff are looking forward to this year's Marden's Got Talent show on Tuesday 28 June. Tickets will be on sale from reception where Mrs Ramage sits from Monday 23rd May. They are priced at £3 for adults and £1.50 for children under 16, and all the proceeds will go to the Kwa Hilda orphanage in South Africa, a very worthy cause we have supported in the past and one which our students are always ready to contribute to.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher