



Marden High School

Friday 27th May 2022

Dear All,

Preparations for our Creativity Festival in the last week of this term are going well, with Mrs Berriman and Ms Olbrecht having arranged a rich and diverse array of activities for students, including a number of exciting outside organisations coming into school for the Festival as well as trips out of school. The idea behind the Festival is to demonstrate and celebrate the skills that our young people have developed across this year, as well as to kick start an exciting year next year when our staff will be developing further creative approaches to Teaching and Learning in order to enhance further outcomes for students. We are exploring the idea of a small contribution in the region of £5 from each student to help with the costs of organising the festival, which I'm sure will provide a fitting celebratory finale to our school year.

We speak often of hope, leadership and agency within our school community and as the summer term reaches its halfway point, it is time again to see our young leaders, full of hope, be the agents of change as our Year 10 students apply for the position of prefect. The purple tie is the outward sign that our students are prefects but it is the behaviour and standards shown by those in post that really reflect that position of leadership. It has been heartening to see our student community demonstrate the leadership qualities that are admirable and desirable in any post holder; integrity, inclusivity, creativity, authority and being supportive towards others. I look forward to the launch of the prefect application process on the 6th of June when we will hold a special assembly with Year 10, inviting them to make an application and to put themselves forward for the role of prefects and senior prefects.

We have now become quite used to the work on our roofs going on around us. There are effectively five main roofs on our school building and the decision has had to be made to replace all of them. The work is going well and is on schedule for completion early in the Autumn term. Whilst we have clearly had to make adaptations to the rooms we use, and to our movement around the site, when we consider the enormity of the work being undertaken, disruption and intrusion into lessons has been minimal, thanks again to the consummate efforts of staff and students to focus on the learning. Once the GCSE exams have finished we will see the Portakabins leave site and the return of all lessons to the main building, which will be another welcome move towards normality.

In the week after half term, our theme will be Global Citizenship. Part of being a global citizen is developing a moral compass that informs our actions and interactions, and key to this is empathy. During this week's Boys Network session, the group considered empathy, with their mentors and discussed how and when we show empathy, the power of empathy and applied it to both real life scenarios they encounter now, as well as hypothetical situations they may encounter in future careers. Continuing to develop careers information, advice and guidance is one of our whole school priorities, and the Boys' and Girls' Networks remain two key programmes which support this priority. With any piece of work and experience undertaken by our students, the uploading of evidence on to GlobalBridge will provide the record of achievement students can use to reflect on their experiences and to prepare for the next stage of their education and employment.

Later this term we have an exciting opportunity coming up for Year 10 students to travel down to Cambridge University where they will stay at Jesus College, getting the chance to experience university life. Our students will have the opportunity to interact and spend time with undergraduates and academics from the university, and, through a range of social and academic activities, the hope is to broaden students' perspectives and encourage them to realise their potential ahead of their final GCSE year.

Next half term we are going to be recruiting a team of '*Student Ambassadors*' from Years 9 and 10 to help support and mentor our younger students in developing their understanding and use of Globalbridge. Being a Student Ambassador will look very impressive on any Globalbridge profile and will help our young people to really stand out from the crowd when applying for further and higher education courses and future employment opportunities. So what makes a good Student Ambassador? Successful Ambassadors will be enthusiastic and active participants in Globalbridge. They will be reliable and committed, and have good communication and people skills. Of course, these are also skills and attributes which will also be very well developed by becoming a Globalbridge Ambassador. Students will also need to be flexible and be able to take initiative when things don't necessarily go to plan. If this is something any student would be interested in getting involved in, or any student or parent/carer would like any further information about, please email Mrs Brennan. Students will receive further information about this great opportunity directly.

We are now in the midst of the GCSE exams and I am glad to report that they are going very well. Our students have continued with their excellent attitude and mature approach. Looking ahead, examination results will be available to collect in person on Thursday 25 August between 9.00am and 11.00am.

If any student is away on results day, they can authorise someone else to collect their results on their behalf or they can get their results emailed to them via their school email address. If this is the case, they will need to fill in a form prior to results day, authorising a named person, who will need to bring suitable identification, to collect their results. It would be wonderful to see all our Year 11 students on this day, as it is another of those key rites of passage, and there is always a great celebratory atmosphere.

Over the past few months our Year 8 and Year 11 students have been working with the music group Ex Easter Island Head and the educational charity Hand Of, building their own instruments and making their own music as part of a music, arts and heritage project. The final performance by the students will be taking place on the 13th July, 7:30pm at the Whitley Bay Playhouse. We would love as many people as possible to join us for what promises to be a great evening of music. Tickets are bookable here: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/coastal-explorations-tickets-330553423187?fbclid=IwAR1XsIDmrMnREK_nctqhbMQUsAGC3Ji2eQYy_HMMhL4fKvX2_5NUFRROwH-I

Results from the athletic tournaments from last week have now been confirmed. We have had a fantastic number of students qualify for the next round, something all students concerned should be very proud of. All students who have qualified have been given a letter to participate in the North Tyneside Athletics on Thursday the 9th of June. On Wednesday evening the tennis team took a trip to Jesmond Park Academy. The boys team fought hard and had some amazing rallies and came away with a 3-3 draw. The girls team dominated all matches and won 6-0. It was a great evening and it was a smashing night to kick start the tennis season. Well done to all students who took part.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher