



Marden High School

Friday 17th June 2022

Dear All,

Year 9 students are fast approaching the end of their Key Stage 3. Indeed, many subjects have already started to look at GCSE work with them, and in order to further equip Year 9 in their transition from Key Stage 3 to their Key Stage 4 courses, a day has been planned for them to work off timetable on Friday 1st July. The aim of the sessions is to support student wellbeing and provide opportunities to help students consider their next steps at the end of Key Stage 4. All students will take part in a Tree of Knowledge session called 'Mindset and Match' (<https://treeof.com/workshops/mindset-and-match/>) and this will provide students with an opportunity to consider how their attitude and mindset can have a fundamental effect on their own success. Students will also take part in sessions designed to support their decision making in considering next steps after Marden. The day will take place in school and students should come in their PE kits.

As you are aware we often work with further and higher education institutions, and so on Friday 24th June we have a workshop for parents and carers led by Newcastle University with the theme of safeguarding children online. In particular this workshop focuses on gaming, and will help parents and carers understand how modern gaming works and what the potential risks are for their children. The workshop explores gaming and in-game purchases, the blurring between gaming and gambling, why children buy loot boxes and skins, and how to recognise harms. The workshop is from 1pm - 2pm in the LRC in school, and refreshments will be available. If you would like to come along please scan the QR code on the information on our school website or email rachel.gordon@newcastle.ac.uk. We look forward to seeing you there.

We know that the challenge of encouraging our children to eat healthily is ever present, in particular as they become more independent and are exposed to more people modelling unhealthy behaviours: their peers and friends, other adults in the community, television and online commercials, all of which can be, consciously or subconsciously, promoting unhealthy foods or habits. Of course, everything in moderation is usually a useful adage, so we know that the occasional sweet or item of junk food is not the end of the world. However, as we work towards renewing our Healthy School status, we would certainly be discouraging any child bringing sweets into school, and we appreciate your support in this.

On Tuesday afternoon a group of 14 students involved in the Girl's Network programme each made a stop-motion video as part of their Strong Woman workshop. These videos ranged from depicting moments from Katie Piper's battle with her scars to Emma Radacanu's awe-inspiring Grand Slam win. This was a lovely creative opportunity to explore the mechanics of stop-motion design which was presented later on in the evening to their mentors.

A number of our Year 11 students have been asking whether they would be able to come into school after the 20th June to revise with their teachers. To me this exemplifies the kind of commitment and maturity we have seen from our young people during this exam period and the answer to the question is, of course, yes. If students wish to come into school after the 20th June they will need to sign in via the main reception area and go to their normal timetabled lesson where their teachers will be available to support them. This arrangement will last until the end of 22nd June.

There are a couple of reminders I would like to give out. We have our next Parent Forum on Tuesday 21st June starting at 5.30pm, and this is a chance to come into school for an informal discussion about any topic you wish to bring to the table, regarding the education and experience of our students here at Marden. If you would like to come along, please contact Elaine Scott at school. On Friday next week - 24th - we have our staff training day, so school will be closed to students, unless they are coming along with a parent or carer to the safeguarding workshop.

On Friday morning we had our Leavers Assembly for the Class of 2022. Always a special moment to savour, and an important rite of passage, it was evident from the emotional goodbyes from various staff that this year group means so much to so many. I would personally like to thank them all as individuals and as a group, for being an inspiration and support to me, as they have helped lead the school through the challenges we have faced over the past three years. The personal qualities they have developed and demonstrated day after day during their time here at Marden will carry them, and those around them, through the ups and downs of life as they continue along their exciting life journeys.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher