



Marden High School

Friday 24th June 2022

Dear All,

On Monday 4th July we will be starting our new 2022/23 timetable, when all students will be promoted into their new year groups and will receive their new individual timetables. We hope that this will be a good way for everyone to get used to their new classes, and get started on their new courses before the end of term. Whilst there will not be many changes in staffing, we will see two new Heads of Year take on their role in the coming weeks. Mr Swain will be joining the pastoral team as Head of Year 8 from September and Miss Harrison will be Head of Year 11, and both members of staff will be meeting and beginning work with the year groups in the coming weeks. We thank Mr Scott and Mrs Scott for their time and dedication as Heads of Year at Marden until now. I will be mentioning other staff changes in newsletters over the next few weeks.

This week we have been focusing on the issue of sexism and sexual harassment in assembly and oracy time. At Marden High School we celebrate what makes each of us the individual we are. We want to make sure everyone is confident being themselves, and that everyone respects each other. Each of us is unique, and that is what we all have in common, and so being inclusive and celebrating diversity is important to all of us. This is demonstrated by the way we think, the way we talk, and how we interact with each other - with respect and care. But sadly there are times in our society when not everybody can feel confident to be themselves, and when not everybody does feel that they are respected and cared for. There are times when the way we think, talk and interact with one another leaves people feeling disrespected, not valued, and discriminated against and I explain in my assembly video that this happens when people make comments or use behaviours which are sexist or constitute sexual harassment. The assembly and oracy time has led to some very valuable discussions with students and staff, and it is important that everybody in the Marden community understands our stance on challenging this type of prejudice, and so I have included a link to the [assembly here](#). We all need to accept that sexism and sexual harassment can sadly happen anywhere, so we have said to our students that if anybody experiences the sort of sexist comments or harassment I have talked about, they should make sure they tell someone, and talk to an adult they trust so that we can do something about it. All of us have the right to feel valued and respected. It's the way we think, the way we talk, and how we interact with each other, with respect and care, that really makes the

difference. Together we have hope, agency and leadership, and each of us has a part to play in ensuring that our community is a safe and enjoyable place to be.

This week, having collated and read all of the prefect applications, it has been inspiring to understand the reasons our Year 10 applicants have given for wearing a purple tie and representing the school as a prefect. They all speak of the school, the community, each other and a service they want to give to the diverse and individual school that we are. As part of the Prefect Programme here at Marden next year we will be developing the leadership skills of those students but also sharing with all students some of the quotes from the applications as a means of communicating our shared values. One such quote summed up the sentiments of many: *"This school has been a place of comfort and companionship. Lighting the fire of friendship and building the home that we call the Marden community"*. We look forward to that fire continuing to burn brightly and strongly for many years to come.

As a school we are always proud of the agency shown by our students both in and out of lessons. Their willingness to facilitate change and lead others in that change shines through each year as we see the nominations and winners of the North Tyneside Learning Trust Star Awards. This year we have seen a huge number of nominations made with over 30 students recognised for their achievements in the community with one student making it to the final which will be held at St James' Park on 14th July. To all students; congratulations and to our finalist; good luck. All students thoroughly deserve recognition for their hope, agency and leadership.

This week was National Sports Week where we had lots of different and new experiences for the students to take part in as well as traditional summer sports. In lessons the students experienced new sports from around the world such as Ultimate Frisbee and Danish Longball. We also had competitions running at break and lunch time. There was a great sense of community and togetherness where students celebrated participation and success in rowing and hula hoop competitions. Additionally, on Monday evening the U13 rounders team participated in the North Tyneside Rounders tournament where they had a wonderful evening and played some fantastic games. The students played extremely well and came third overall. On Wednesday evening, the tennis team were in action in the glorious sunshine at Dame Allans. The weather mirrored their outstanding performances. The Year 7 and 8 boys tennis team won 12-0, the girls Year 9 and 10 team won 8-4 and the Year 9 and 10 boys team drew 6-6. It was great to see students from both schools have a lovely evening. On Thursday the cricket team were in action in the semi final of the county cup against Newcastle Royal Grammar School. The team put in a strong fielding performance followed by a nail biting batting innings. Unfortunately the team narrowly lost out, but they should be extremely proud to have made it this far in such a competitive tournament. It has been a great sporting week and we thank all

students for their participation.

Every summer we remind our school community of the items to remember for September as part of the school uniform. Attached here is the link to the school uniform policy: <https://cdn.realsmart.co.uk/ac964574086e5480e4c7c68968bc1ec0/uploads/2022/03/29080446/Uniform-Policy-January-2022.pdf> We recognise the value of uniform as it prepares our young people for the world of work, gives a sense of pride and promotes inclusivity. We have ensured our uniform can be purchased at a number of outlets including supermarkets and value clothing stores. Within the policy you will also find the equipment list whilst over the summer we will remind parents, via text, of the items to remember for September.

As we are now well into the hayfever season, it is timely to remind parents and carers that students should not be carrying any medication in school unless by prior agreement for those with asthma, diabetes and allergies. This includes medication for hayfever. Where medication is absolutely necessary during the school day, we have trained staff who will make arrangements for safe storage and administration of medication. Parents and carers are responsible for bringing medicines into school and we require written consent (form available from Reception). All medicines should be in their original packaging and clearly labelled. Any queries please contact Mrs Sonia Thompson, our Medications Officer.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher