



Marden High School

Friday 2nd September 2022

Dear All,

I hope that everyone has had a pleasant summer and has been able to enjoy time with family and friends - we have certainly enjoyed some fantastic weather. Whilst we still have a weekend of holiday left, I wanted to take the opportunity to let you know what has been happening at school during the summer before we get started proper for staff on Monday, and then students on Tuesday.

With the reintroduction of formal examinations for GCSE and A level for the first time in three years, there has been considerable apprehension around the country about how students would fare, given the challenges they have faced during the pandemic. We knew that our students and staff had worked very hard to ensure that they were well prepared for these exams, and we were confident they would do well for themselves, and I am pleased to say that this is reflected in the GCSE results we have been celebrating this past week. Results were higher than in 2019, the last time formal exams were taken, and in many areas significantly so, reflecting the resilience and hard work of students and staff in wanting the very best outcomes. There are certain key metrics that are looked at when assessing the success of GCSE outcomes, some of which I outline here. The proportion of students achieving the 'Basics 9-4', that is passing at least 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or higher including English and Maths, is 80.5%. The average for schools in the Local Authority is 67%, and this reflects our position as one of the highest achieving schools in the region, and this is mirrored when we look at other metrics. The 'Basics 9-5', the proportion of students passing at least 5 GCSEs at grade 5 or higher including English and Maths, is 59.2% compared to the average for all schools in North Tyneside at 46%. As you can imagine with such data, there has been significant value added in most subject areas at Marden, exemplified by the outstanding outcomes of the English department, where an amazing 95% of students achieved grade 4 or above, effectively adding half a grade on average to their expected outcomes. With much of the recent media interpretation pointing to the gaps between various regions of the country, it is worth reflecting on the fact that, across all subjects at this north east school called Marden, an outstanding 38% of all grades were of the highest grades, between 7 and 9, comparing very favourably with the 22% across the North East region as a whole. The only other region of the country to achieve over 30% in this metric is London at 32.6% There is more analysis to be done once we are back at school next week, when we will have the opportunity to discuss within and

between departments what went well and what any areas for improvement might be, so that we can continue to provide the very best for our children. For now though, we must congratulate the Class of 2022 and their staff, champions of challenge and uncertainty, for a job well done.

We have also been busy continuing the internal refurbishment of the school and the ongoing replacement of the roof, following the wind and flood damage of last autumn. The last of the internals has been completed this week, and progress out on the roof has been good, much of the scaffolding has gone and we have our car park back. Indeed, to all intents and purposes, students and staff will notice very little of the roof works which are scheduled to be completed later this term.

As this newsletter is published on the website, we are sitting down in the auditorium to enjoy the final Marden Summer School Show, the culmination of the last two weeks of work undertaken by some of our new Year 7 students and led by the north east educational charity Hand Of. Children and staff have been involved in lots of varied and exciting activities exploring the local area in and around North Shields, and have produced an amazing 'sound walk', taking their audience on an historical and cultural celebration of the area, through the medium of music, art, drama, science and literature. Last year, the impact on those children attending the summer school was visible throughout the year, in terms of their confidence and ability to access learning, and we expect the same will be the case for those children who have been involved this summer.

We look forward to seeing everybody, all our students and staff, next week, for the start of what I think is going to be another great year of enjoyment and achievement.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Snape', written in a cursive style.

Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher