



Marden High School

Friday 9th September 2022

Dear All,

Following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth on Thursday afternoon, students and staff paid their respects in a minute's silence at 11.59 today. This coincided with the church bells ringing and gun salutes across the nation, as we came together as a country to reflect on the life of Elizabeth II. As a school we recognise that this is an important moment in our country's history and in the continuity of leadership the monarch gives, as the baton is passed to King Charles III. Queen Elizabeth has been our longest serving monarch, and one who, at times of political and social division, has been able to bring the country together and act as a stabilising influence. In this way, as our Head of State, she has been a great example of those most important aspects of leadership, service and duty, for many, many years. We are at the start of a period of national mourning and, as an educational institution, we will respond accordingly and I'll let our community know of any particular arrangements as we move through the next week or so.

We have now come to the end of our first week back in school with all our students settling into their new timetables and, for most, familiar routines. It is clear to me that our Key Stage 4 students have returned to school with some serious intent to do as well as they possibly can in their learning this term, and of course, to enjoy it as well. From next week we will see many of our Year 11 students wearing their purple prefect ties as they support and help younger students around the school at the start of what promises to be an exciting term full of opportunities. Our new Year 7 students have also had a great week, and there has been lots of positive feedback from staff about how pleasant, polite and enthusiastic the children are, something that I have also seen this week and during the successful Summer School which we held here. It has been fantastic to see them looking so smart and getting to know their way around school.

On the theme of taking opportunities, I have spoken to students in Form Time this week about the importance of looking for, and taking, those opportunities when they arise. Every day in school I see a great range of talents and skills in our students which they have developed by engaging deeply in their learning or by getting involved in the many extra-curricular activities we have at Marden. A host of extra curricular clubs begin from Monday next week. A range of activities are on offer and all students are welcome to come to our staffed homework club in the LRC which is on every afternoon until 4.15pm. Activities either

take place before or after school and the up-to-date list can be found on our school website and is also linked [here](#). If you would like your child to attend an activity please sign them up by downloading the school Gateway app. Details for activating your School Gateway account can be found [here](#). I am looking forward to lots of our students taking these opportunities and developing their talents. In the inimitable words of Wayne Gretzky “100% of the shots you don’t take, don’t go in”.

Now that we are all back in the main building and enjoying our refurbished interior, we are looking forward to another productive and creative year. As ever, we have a full and exciting programme of staff professional development, and in particular we will be focusing our energies on developing the best creative approaches to ensuring that all students are making good progress in lessons and that they can apply their new understanding in their various subjects.

As we start the new academic year, the new House Competition begins. Hopefully it will be as close and as exciting a competition as last year. One way that students can earn points is through the weekly house competition where departments set subject related challenges for students to partake in, either at school or at home. These will begin soon with the English Department setting the challenge of taking a selfie reading in the wackiest place you can. The weekly House Challenges will vary throughout the year and is a fantastic way to earn house points and positively contribute to their House score.

This term also sees Mrs Robson take over the reins as Deputy Headteacher at Marden. We were delighted with this appointment, and I know that the rich experience that Mrs Robson brings to this role will ensure her success and that of the school as we move forward. Whilst the role of Deputy Head is varied and wide ranging to say the least, a key part of Mrs Robson’s role will be overseeing Student Progress and the Curriculum.

As quite a number of our PTA were parents of Year 11 students last year, we are looking to replenish numbers so that we can continue the fantastic work that this group of parents and teachers do. Over the years we have raised many thousands of pounds for our children, with money spent on those additional extras that really enhance the experience that students have here, whether that’s team kits, rowing machines or musical events. I would like to invite any parents or carers, new or established, to come in for tea and biscuits to discuss how the PTA works and what sort of events we would like to run this year. This informal gathering will be in our Learning Resource Centre on Tuesday 20th September from 5 - 6 pm.

Last term you may remember that we had a record number of students apply for and become Prefects for this academic year, and next week sees the first special event in the leadership programme that has been

designed to help them in this role and in their future development, and at which they will receive their purple ties. I know that a significant number of these young people are interested in becoming Head Prefect, and so they will be making presentations to staff and students next week, followed by an election in the week of 19th September where all students and staff will be able to vote for their choices.

Finally, as you know, we like to help parents and carers to save money and the environment wherever possible, and to this end we have collected a large stock of donated school uniform including trousers and shirts. If your child needs any uniform then we are happy to supply them with pre-loved clothing. Please email Mrs Seal at r.seal@mardenhigh.net with any requests and we will do our best to help. Alternatively, if you have any uniform that your child has outgrown please consider donating it to the school so that we can recycle it.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.

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

Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher