



Marden High School

Friday 23rd September 2022

Dear All

On Wednesday this week we enjoyed a busy and very successful Open Evening with many of our students helping by acting as guides or demonstrating activities in various departmental areas. As ever our children were great ambassadors on the night, and there were so many positive comments from visitors about the welcoming atmosphere and the enthusiasm of students and staff alike. As I am sure you are aware, we also had a team of Ofsted inspectors with us on Wednesday and Thursday this week. Many of our children had conversations with the inspectors during the day, and with the Ofsted team visiting quite a number of lessons, and receiving comments from parent and staff surveys, the inspectors were able to form a clear and accurate picture of the school. Students, staff, parents and carers reflected superbly the excellent work that goes on here on a daily basis and I will let everyone know of feedback in due course once it becomes known, but for now I want to express my huge pride in our students, staff and wider school community who all show such immense dedication to creating our bright future.

Analysis and discussion of this summer's exam results has continued this week, celebrating the excellent outcomes the Class of 2022 achieved, but also ensuring that each subject area has the right strategies in place to enhance outcomes still further. One of the discussion points amongst staff has been the continued emphasis on the importance of reading. In recent years there has been an increase in the reading age needed to access many GCSE questions. This means that the ability to read sophisticated language is ever more important when it comes to sitting a GCSE exam, no matter what the subject. So lots of reading practice is key for our children's exam success, and this does not have to be subject based revision, but can be, and should be, reading for pleasure. It is also worth remembering the other benefits of reading:

- Children who read often and widely get better at it.
- Reading exercises our brain.
- Reading improves concentration.
- Reading teaches children about the world around them.
- Reading improves vocabulary and language skills.
- Reading develops a child's imagination.
- Reading helps children to develop empathy.

- Reading is fun.

Reading is also something that parents and carers can relatively easily get involved in with their child, providing a useful focus for some quality time together, as well as giving the opportunity to share and develop interests.

We use the words, 'hope, agency, leadership' a lot in school and this week we have been focusing on one in particular, 'agency'. Agency is about having an awareness of your own ability to contribute to decision making in your own life and more widely. All students have a role to play in decision making in school, whether it is contributing to discussion, or leading and representing a form or year group, and so I would encourage all our young people to give some serious thought to how they contribute to school life. Having a sense of agency is an important attribute that we want all our children to develop, and so it is worth remembering the words of Eckhart Tolle who spoke about being aware of what is going on around you:

“Awareness is the greatest agent for change.”

It is now 4 years ago that we set up the Boys' Network together with the [charity M:10](#). This week saw a key event take place when a number of boys in Year 10 met their mentors, male professionals from the world of business and industry. There was a great atmosphere where each boy was able to talk to his mentor about interests, aspirations and hopes for the future. It was an exciting start to what promises to be a very effective programme in developing the communication, presentation and networking skills of the boys, as well as reinforcing a strong work ethic, strong leadership of self, and awareness of being part of a team. I would like to record a huge thanks to the mentors who have agreed to give of their own time and energy to this exciting project. The Girls' Network will also be shortly getting underway.

As there is a Sixth Form Open Evening at Whitley Bay on Tuesday this coming week, we are moving our science meeting for parents and carers of Year 11 students. This short meeting will focus on how students can best prepare for the upcoming mock examinations and the final examinations in June 2023. There will be a short presentation, followed by an opportunity for parents to ask questions, there will also be some revision guides and workbooks for parents to see what they can do to support their children, and it will now be held on Tuesday 4th October at 5.30pm in the auditorium.

You may have noticed on the school calendar that our Year 7 Settling in Evening will take place on Thursday 29 September 2022. This is an excellent opportunity for Year 7 parents and carers to ask any questions that they may have, and to discuss how their child is settling into Marden High School. All of the

Year 7 Form Tutors and Head of Year will be available, as well as members of the Senior Leadership Team. This will be a remote evening, held via our Parents Evening Booking System, and appointments will be bookable from 4pm - 7pm. There will be a further letter on School Comms for parents and carers of Year 7 students. We also have a further Open Morning for parents and carers of Year 6 pupils on Friday 30th September. If anyone would like to book a place for this they should contact the main office.

Next Wednesday will see the return of our maths support evening for KS3. The session will start at 5.00pm and will be aimed at increasing awareness of how you can support your child in maths as they aim to achieve their significant academic potential. This will include an overview of the schemes of work and how to use and access the plethora of resources we have available to support both yourselves and your child. We look forward to seeing you then.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'M. Snape'.

Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher