



## Marden High School

Friday 4th November 2022

Dear All

Earlier this week we received the written report from the Ofsted visit we had in September, and I hope that many of you will already have had the opportunity to read it on our website. It certainly makes for good reading and everybody in our community should be very proud of how it describes us:

*“There is a strong sense of community at Marden High School. Pupils thrive. Behaviour in many lessons is exemplary. Pupils support one another in their learning. They listen attentively to staff and respond with enthusiasm when challenging questions are asked. Pupils’ conduct around school demonstrates respect for staff and for each other.”*

This opening paragraph gives a very clear idea of the environment and atmosphere that we experience in school each day, and the report goes on to describe our students being happy, feeling safe and making good progress, the three basic building blocks of a successful school experience.

This was what is known as a Section 8 inspection, which are short inspections of schools currently judged as ‘Good’ and which determine whether the school continues to provide a good standard of education and that safeguarding is effective. This means that inspectors cannot give an outstanding judgement, but it is clear from the content of the report that the standard of provision and quality of care at Marden is excellent. I have been told from another experienced inspector that it is rare to see such complimentary language being used in a report. Of course, there are, in every Ofsted report, areas identified for further development, and we are pleased that those identified in the report under the heading: *“What does the school need to do to improve?”* are areas we have already identified in our School Development Plan, and which we were able to discuss in detail with the inspectors. All in all, we are very proud of how the report reflects our work here at Marden, and I would like to congratulate the whole community on our achievements so far. If you have not read the report yet, I would encourage you to take a few moments to enjoy it. It can be found [here](#) on the school website.

Morning registration is always an opportunity to share messages with the whole school, come together as a community and ensure we start the day equipped, ready to learn and with a positive attitude. This week we have been enjoying House Assemblies when each of the four (Alnwick, Bamburgh, Dunstanburgh and Warkworth) met as a House to begin this year's competition to win the House Championship. Wearing their new ties with House colours included, House photos were taken as the year groups came together to hear Mr Richards' motivational messages. I have also been watching our plasma screens this week with particular interest as they have been constantly updated with the names of our hard-working Golden Ticket winners, and it has been great to see the huge numbers of students who have achieved this accolade. All week teachers have been awarding Golden Tickets which means that lots of students have been receiving not just one house point, but 10, for the great work they have been doing during this special week. The work that the students have produced certainly is a very good reflection of the efforts that have been put in during this successful half term. Well done to everyone.

Next week, our Year 11 students will have five assemblies, each from a different post-16 provider. This CEIAG focus will support our students in making plans for their future and deciding on next steps. This support for the year group, providing the information and tools for success, is something we do each year and forms part of the provision which ensures all our students are well supported not just now, but in the future. Alongside this, our Heads of Year will be leading remote assemblies to Year 7 to Year 10 with the theme of Remembrance, in the build up to next Friday where, as in previous years, we have a student playing the Last Post at 11am after we hold a minutes silence to mark those who made the greatest sacrifice to protect peace for future generations.

Heads of Year meet with form reps this fortnight to identify what form classes are discussing so that success can be celebrated and areas to develop are highlighted. The Cabinet are beginning their individual work with Mrs Thompson in subgroups, looking at signposting of information around the school, sharing of information by students for students, and the preparation of charity and environmental work. Meanwhile the Student Leadership programme for the Year 11 prefects continues with two sessions planned this coming few weeks with Mr Horn discussing communication, and Mrs Robson working on organisation. At each level, the student leadership ties in with the work we as a staff do each day to ensure that the autonomy, confidence and resilience is built in all our students each day.

This November, youth mental health charity [stem4](#) is focusing on supporting the mental health of boys and young men. Boys and young men often have to conform to gender stereotypes which set standards based on 'strength', both physical and emotional, as well as encourage competition and advantage, and this can impact on their self-esteem. Some may act out through challenging behaviours, whilst others may 'escape' into distraction behaviours or withdraw. Parents and carers play an important role in identifying and

supporting positive self-esteem and worth, and so I want to draw people's attention to [stem4 webinars for Parents and Carers—Building Self-Esteem and Positive Body Image in Boys and Young Men](#) which this month looks at:

- early warning signs of low self-esteem and self-worth in boys and young men;
- identifying when eating issues might turn into eating disorders;
- management of muscle dysmorphia;
- practical ways in which parents and carers might engage with and address some of these concerns.

The webinar is on Thursday 24 November at 7:30pm.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher