



Marden High School

Friday 12th May 2023

Dear All

As you are aware, one of the essential aspects of education and development here at Marden is making sure that all of our students have the right information and decision making skills so that they can make informed choices for the future. To this end, we have developed a comprehensive calendar of careers events which start long before students are in their final year. This can be found in the Careers section of our website. One of the things we would like to do for next academic year is to expand the programme of careers talks for our young people from a variety of people involved in a range of services, businesses and other organisations. We would be very keen to hear from anybody in our community who would like to contribute to this programme, by giving a short talk on what it is they do in their job, the qualifications and skills needed for it, and the route they have taken to get there. We think that having a wide variety of such talks will give the students a really good insight into what the possibilities are for them in the future, and help them to reflect on the skills they need to develop and are developing here at Marden. Students and their parents will be invited to attend these talks after school so that they can choose to investigate the areas that most interest them. In order to assist our planning of these events, I would be grateful if you could contact me or Mrs Brennan, our Careers coordinator, if you feel that you, or a member of your family may be able to contribute to these Careers talks. You may wish to have a look at some of the "I could ..." stories using this link which give an idea of the type of information we are aiming at providing for our students: <https://www.youtube.com/user/icouldstories>

Globalbridge has been a focus during lessons and form time throughout this week. As you are probably aware, Globalbridge is a digital platform which connects young people in education with employers, apprenticeships and universities. High profile employers such as the NHS, Sage, Siemens and GSK work alongside Globalbridge, creating resources, hosting webinars and posting information regarding training and employment opportunities. It is designed to encourage students to take ownership of their career pathway, allowing them to create a digital profile which stays with them throughout their entire education and career journey. Students have been encouraged by their subject teachers to photograph pieces of work to upload onto their Globalbridge portfolios. This process not only allows students the time to develop their portfolios but also gives them the opportunity to reflect on their work and identify pieces which they are

proud of. It is great when a student asks if they can photograph their work, as teachers are able to start a conversation around what it is about that particular piece that they are pleased with. Because there is a careers focus to the portfolio, accomplishments in other areas including, sport, music and volunteering should also be included as they help showcase the individual as a whole, highlighting talents and qualities that academic qualifications may miss. You can visit <https://www.myglobalbridge.com/> to access the platform and if any student is having issues with login details please email Mrs Brennan-f.brennan@mardenhigh.net and she will be able to support you with this.

I have communicated with all Year 11 students this afternoon congratulating them on their efforts so far this term and indeed this year. The huge majority of them continue to demonstrate a fantastic level of commitment to preparing effectively for their exams, and they have worked closely and collaboratively with the staff demonstrating a high degree of maturity and some excellent workplace skills. It should not be forgotten that this year group also has experienced lockdowns and roof destruction during their school career, challenges which they have successfully navigated, and this sort of resilience and resourcefulness will, I am sure, stand them in good stead in the future. So it is with all this in mind, and at this important point in their education, that I have let Year 11 students know that if they wish to, they can, in time honoured tradition, wear non-uniform for the remainder of this term in recognition of their fine efforts. I would like to wish all our Year 11 students good luck as they start the bulk of their exams next week. At the same time, I should remind them of the words of Arnold Palmer (one of the world's greatest golfers), "The more I practise, the luckier I get." So keep working hard and practising!

As I have said in this newsletter recently, our students generally wear their uniform very well and with great pride. Occasionally, however, we do see a student wearing something which potentially could be dangerous. Can I please remind parents and carers therefore that nail extensions, dangly earrings and facial piercings are not suitable for school, as they can be a health and safety hazard. I appreciate your support in ensuring that these are not worn to school. Could I also remind parents and carers to be aware of the traffic hazards around school in the morning and not to block local residents' driveways when dropping children off.

This week, Queen Alexandra Sixth Form College, part of Tyne Coast College, announced that it will no longer provide A-Level education after July 2023. In the past we have had a number of students attend this college after leaving Marden, though in recent years this number has dwindled. Any students in Year 11 who had been planning on going to Queen Alex are being supported by the school and the Connexions service to ensure they have an appropriate post-16 destination. We have had contact from Tyne Coast to let us know that support will be provided to all students currently attending Queen Alex by the college's

senior curriculum staff, careers advisers and wellbeing team, alongside support from North Tyneside Council's Connexions service.

Our Summer Concert is coming up on Thursday 18th May, which I know will be a wonderful celebration of the musical talent and potential that we have here at Marden High. This is always a great chance for us all to enjoy some superb musicianship, and to witness how the creative arts, and opportunities to perform, help to develop character and personality in our young people. Tickets are available from reception or they can be bought on the evening. A big thank you to the staff who put this event together and I look forward to seeing lots of families there.

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