



Marden High School

Friday 9th June 2023

Dear All

As you are aware, for each subject that they study, students are assessed at key assessment points. These can be found in the long term plans in the [Curriculum Links for Year 7](#) on the school website. Key Assessment points take into account the competencies that students have been working on, and these are assessed as either working towards, developing, meeting, mastering or exceeding. This is the information that we send out to parents and carers each time a student receives a report. When this happens we also invite parents and carers into school to look through their child's books, and this half term we are looking forward to seeing parents and carers of Year 7 students in school on Tuesday (13th June) between 4.30pm - 6.00pm. All members of the Senior Leadership Team and Ms Laing will also be available to speak with parents throughout the evening. This will be followed by the remote Parents' Evening on Thursday 15th June, which is an opportunity for parents and carers to talk to their child's subject teachers.

We have had excellent engagement with the survey which was sent out to parents and carers last half term, with overwhelmingly positive responses. It is always good to hear that parents and carers feel that their children are happy, safe, and that the school makes sure its students are well behaved. It is also good to see that whilst the vast majority of parents say that their child has never been bullied, when this has happened the school has dealt with this quickly and effectively. The results of the survey also confirmed that parents are happy with the good range of subjects, the good range of clubs and activities available and almost all respondents say they would recommend the school to other prospective parents. There were no areas where the response could be said to be negative, but one statement which received a higher proportion of disagree responses (12%) was: *The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year*. Whilst only a small minority disagree with this statement we feel it is still worth considering how we can improve on this area, and so we will be enhancing signposting to much of the information that can be found on our school website and in reports that go home to parents.

Our Year 11 students continue to impress with their excellent attitude and work ethic as they progress through the second half of the GCSE exams. The great support from their teachers also continues in lessons and in sessions before school, and this has been much appreciated by the students at this crucial

time for them. From Monday onwards (12th June) students will still be able to come into school as normal, going to their timetabled lessons and continuing to get support from their teachers in preparation for their exams. However, if any parent wishes their child to revise from home when they have not got an exam, they can now do so from Monday. Students must sign in and out of school at main reception if they want to do this, and Ms Harrison, Head of Year, is communicating direct to students and parents the details of this. We will be holding the Year 11 Final Assembly on the afternoon of Thursday 15th June. The final exam of the 2023 season is on Wednesday 21st June, though it is worth noting that the exam boards have reserved Wednesday 28th June as a contingency day which they may use should they experience any difficulties during the exam period.

On Wednesday evening the English and drama departments took a group of thirty Year 9 and 10 students to the Northern Stage Theatre, Newcastle to watch Dave Johns' adapted version of the award winning film *I, Daniel Blake*. This was an incredibly powerful and emotional performance, which tied in perfectly with the students' recent English study on 'social injustice', encouraging students to broaden their political, socioeconomic and cultural knowledge of the world whilst building their own viewpoints. Additionally, one of Marden's own ex-student's, Bryony Corrigan, performed as Katie in the play and tweeted about our students attending the performance: *'feels so special, regardless of what they might make of it, that they've the opportunity to see live theatre! And poignant for me that I might have been one of those kids watching thinking perhaps I could do that one day'*. Students were also lucky enough to meet Dave Johns before the performance who was very interested to hear about the work our students have been doing. This was a brilliant and thought provoking evening; a memorable event for all involved.

On Monday the Year 8 Cricket team competed in the North Tyneside 8-a-side tournament. A long day in the sun saw them qualify for the semi-finals as group winners having won all of their games. In this semi-final match they faced a spirited Churchill team, but comfortably won the game and progressed to face St.Thomas More in the final, which Marden won to become North Tyneside champions by 25 runs. Well done to all.

The Year 7 and 8 tennis teams played Dame Allan's School on Monday on a glorious evening. Unfortunately both A and B teams lost despite some scintillating shot making. The B Team had an additional match with Valley Gardens and came away with a commendable draw.

Thursday afternoon saw the North Tyneside Athletics competition held at Monkton Stadium in Jarrow. Those Marden pupils that qualified from the Tynemouth Schools competition travelled over the Tyne with both enthusiasm and optimism that they would do well in their events. That optimism proved to be well

founded as after a great competition, many found themselves in the top 3 and qualified for the final round of competition in the Northumberland County Championships due to be held at Gateshead International Stadium later this month. All pupils involved represented the school superbly and should be very proud of their performances.

On Thursday 22nd June we will be holding a short memorial service in school to pause, reflect and remember our dear colleague Alan Shields who sadly passed away this Easter. The service will take place around the Memorial Garden at the front of school and will start at 3.45pm. Everyone is welcome.

In September we will have one vacancy for a parent governor, and I will write again in September with more details about what this role entails. For now, however, I want to plant the seed of a thought so that parents and carers have the time over the summer to mull over whether this might be something they wish to consider.

Finally, a reminder that my next Parents Forum meeting is next week on Monday 12th June between 5.30pm and 6.30pm when I look forward to seeing parents and carers who wish to come in for an informal chat about school life and developments generally.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher