



Marden High School

Friday 30th June 2023

Dear All

Our final Full Governing Body meeting of the year took place this week, and during this meeting governors were pleased to hear about the excellent achievements within the School Development Plan from this academic year. I also presented the Governing Body with next year's School Development Plan, and outlined the four key priorities:

- 1. Enhancing the personalised programme of information, advice and guidance for each student by emphasising the importance of linking curriculum learning to careers, so pupils have a clear understanding of how subject knowledge can contribute to a future career*
- 2. Fostering understanding of diversity, equality and individuality so that all students can realise a sense of belonging in our community and an understanding of their connection to the world*
- 3. Achieving and celebrating positive progress for every child so that they have the best opportunity to achieve qualifications which enable them to take the next steps they want to in terms of education and career*
- 4. Being creative in providing opportunities for students to check understanding and recall prior learning at crucial moments during lessons and over time. This allows teachers to be responsive in their practice; for knowledge to be built and learning over time to be sustained.*

In the School Development Plan there is also a page which describes who we are. This is something that we wrote a few years ago now, and was formulated by students, staff, parents and governors, and includes the following:

This is a vibrant, exciting place to be where people thrive. We are a strong community, each individual full of hope, looking forward to many possibilities.

We are recognised for our innovative, high quality education and excellent examination results.

We believe in our young people and inspire them to achieve more than they ever thought possible, both in and outside the classroom.

Within the Marden family, we know each other well and are kind to one another.

We see hope and opportunity for everyone, recognising the great range of talents we all have, and we leave no stone unturned in helping our young people to a bright future.

It has been great to hear this description reflected in what the students have told us about their experiences of being a student at Marden High, in the various student voice exercises we have held over the past couple of weeks. These positive views and attitudes have also been echoed in conversations the students have had with Lisa Cook, the Assistant Director for Education in North Tyneside, this week.

On Tuesday evening our Year 7 choir took to the stage at Sage, Gateshead to entertain a sell out audience with their fantastically harmonious rendition of Rolling in the Deep. The students were taking part in the North Tyneside Learning Trust's Musical Extravaganza, an annual event celebrating the performing and musical arts and the achievements of young people across North Tyneside. This was a night to remember with everyone enjoying a diverse repertoire of performances, and, besides the tremendous talent and skill on show, this event reflected the deep personal development benefits that the arts brings to our children in terms of their confidence, communication and empathy. Well done to all the students taking part and many thanks to Ms Gibbings for her dedication and enthusiasm in supporting them.

The Year 7 football team finally drew a close to their season on Tuesday evening, On a rainy June evening, the Marden team began brightly, piling pressure on the St Thomas More goal, hitting the bar early on and forcing some excellent saves from the goalkeeper. In the second half, St Thomas More came back strong, enjoying the lion's share of possession and forcing the Marden keeper into action for the first time in the game. But despite this pressure, the Marden team were the first to break the deadlock with a superb goal midway through the half but with 5 minutes left on the clock, St Thomas More found the back of the Marden net with a long range shot, forcing the dreaded penalty shootout, where St Thomas More came out on top. The team can take solace in the fact they had earlier won the league undefeated and were so close to making it a league-cup double.

Next week will see the return of sports day to Marden High. Absent during the Covid years, students and

staff will take to the sports field on Monday to compete in their Houses for the Year group cups and House cup. All students are encouraged to take part in the athletics events, with teams being decided by House Captains on the day. There are even some traditional events to take part in, such as the tug-of-war and the egg and spoon race. The day's festivities will conclude with a presentation in the sports hall where the winners of each event will be commemorated and the captains from the winning Houses will be presented with the House trophies. We envisage a wonderful day for the students and hope to see as many young people engaged in the activities as possible. Students should come dressed in their PE kit ready for the day's activities, and should also bring with them plenty of water and sun protection in case of hot weather.

On Wednesday, Year 10 students went to teach pupils at King Edwards Primary School as part of their Languages Week. The French and German students prepared some wonderful lessons, thinking about the activities they remembered from their own time learning a language. This was a great opportunity for the development of leadership skills and was a good first hand experience of what it is like to be a teacher.

A major event in our Careers Education calendar is Year 10 work experience, which takes place this coming week. Students in Year 10 should be commended for their initiative and resourcefulness in securing their placements. Invariably, the feedback we receive from employers and students is excellent and has been a pleasure to read, and we look forward to having our Year 10 students back in a week's time to hear all about their first ventures into the world of work.

On Friday 21 July, the school will be closing slightly earlier than normal for the Summer holidays. Students will be dismissed from their lessons after period 4 and will be allowed to leave the school premises at 2.10pm. Looking further ahead, we have a staff training day on Monday 4 September, so the first day back for all students is Tuesday 5 September, at the normal starting time of 8.45am.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher