



Marden High School

Friday 21st July 2023

Dear All

This week has been a very special one as we celebrated our Creativity Festival, involving a huge variety of activities in which students, staff and visitors to the school employed creative approaches to produce some amazing outcomes. These have been documented during the two days by teams of student reporters and Mr Ranson, so you can see some of the work of the students in this [great video](#) on our school website. There are also a couple of fantastic publications from student groups documenting their travels in the local area which you can find on the school website - The Marden Daily and The Cullercoats Chronicle. It has been a real privilege as well to meet the visitors we have had in school as part of the Festival. There have been various people working with our students and staff offering their industry expertise, and it really is wonderful to see so many talented people give of their time to support our young people and encourage them in their thinking about future careers. A huge thanks goes in particular to Mrs Berriman and Ms Olbrecht, and all staff, who have worked tirelessly to produce such a fantastic Festival, quite unique to Marden, and one which reflects the enthusiasm and commitment of students and staff in getting the most out of life.

This week we have also had successful trips to the isle of Arran and to France and a huge thanks goes to all the staff who have given of their time in looking after our students twenty four hours a day. Hopefully many of you will have seen the updates on Twitter during the week, which reflected the interesting and enjoyable time had by all.

At the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Williams, of our science department, as she retires as one of the longest serving teachers in the school's history. We and the thousands of students who have been taught by her are very grateful for the dedication and commitment shown by Mrs Williams, and we wish her all the best for a happy retirement.

In September we welcome several new staff to the school:

Ms Thompson - Head of History

Miss Gray-Renfrew - PE teacher

Mr Yeoman - Science teacher

Mr Aughton - Maths teacher

Ms Nahal - Cover Supervisor

Mr Ranson - Student Support Manager

Mrs Rae - Special Support Assistant

I have been contacted recently by the headmaster of Eton College who has drawn my attention to the Orwell Award. This is a Sixth Form programme targeted at boys with academic potential, for whom an opportunity to go to a boarding school, free of charge, might be transformative. The award is for a fully funded Sixth Form boarding place at Eton, and seeks to reassure and encourage boys, especially those with some particular reason to board, that a place at Eton is within their grasp. There are up to 12 free Sixth Form places a year will be offered as Orwell Awards to Year 11 boys studying in UK non-selective state schools, and the easiest way to find out more is through the suite of films that can be found at www.etoncollege.com/OrwellAward. More information can also be found by contacting the Admissions Office admissions@etoncollege.org.uk.

I hope that you enjoy the articles in this half term's Marden News, which celebrates what goes on here every day, and features a wide variety of activities and subjects. There are also some excellent reading suggestions for the long summer holidays. As this is the final letter of the academic year I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a pleasant and safe summer, and look forward to seeing everybody back in September. Staff start back on Monday 4th September, and all students begin term at 8.45am on Tuesday 5th September.

GCSE Exam results day is Thursday 24th August when students will be welcome to come and pick up their results from 9am until 11am.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape

Head Teacher