



Marden High School

Friday 15th September 2023

Dear All

Many of you will be familiar with High Borrans, an outdoor activity centre run by North Tyneside Council, located in the beautiful countryside of the Lake District. Over the years countless young people have taken part in a variety of enjoyable outdoor activities, such as kayaking, ghyll scrambling and caving, guided by specialists from the High Borrans' team. In November we have the first of this year's residential visits to High Borrans and parents of Year 7 students have received an email this week giving the opportunity of registering an expression of interest for their child to attend. It is likely that we will have more interest than there are places, and so, as this is the first residential visit, we will pick names "from a hat" to establish the children who will be going. There will be other residential visits in the future and, when we are selecting for these, we will be taking into account who has already attended a residential trip, so that we can give as many children as possible the opportunity to go on one.

Last week I wrote about our season of Career Conversations when each month there will be a series of after school talks, delivered by parents and carers, each focusing on different careers. The students will have the opportunity to hear about a wide range of industry sectors and find out about key information such as roles and responsibilities, qualification and pathways into various careers. There has already been a great response from students wishing to attend the first few events, and there have also been requests from students for career areas we have not yet got scheduled. In particular we are looking for an airline pilot and an electrician to join the programme, so if any parent or carer thinks they may be able to help, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Mrs Brennan or myself directly.

Many of you will know that I often refer to the adage "it takes a whole village to raise a child", and in this spirit, I would like to signpost parents and carers to a few sources of information and upcoming events which involve parents and professionals coming together in the best interests of our children:

- There will be a KS3 core evening open to all Key Stage 3 parents on Wednesday 11th October from 5.30pm until 6.30pm. This will be an opportunity to find out more about English, maths and science at Key Stage 3 and how parents and carers can support their child at home.

- Year 11 parents will have the opportunity to come in and find out how best they can support their child in maths, science and English on Thursday 26th October from 5.30pm until 6.45pm ahead of the mock exams in November.
- There will also be an evening aimed at Year 10 parents exploring how GCSE grades work, Yellis test results and chance graphs. This will be on Thursday 9th November.
- With the nation facing a growing problem of underage vaping, we have looked to find recognised authorities that can give parents help if they encounter this issue. One website recommended as a good source for parental guidance is on the Action for Children website linked [here](#).
- The North Tyneside Parent Carer Forum are facilitating some Positive Behaviour Support workshops over the next 7 months. These sessions are presented by Debbie Austin who is a Strategic Learning Disability Workforce Manager with the NHS, as well as being a parent carer who speaks from experience. These are free for any parent carer to attend but they must book as the sessions are kept small to ensure engagement with all attendees. The following link [North Tyneside Parent Carer Forum CIC Events | Eventbrite](#) can be used to book places.

Each year our Head of Year 10 identifies cohorts of students that will benefit from a range of support, both academic and pastoral, at the start of their GCSE journey. One strand of this multifaceted intervention begins next week with the Student Development Programme, when students engage with a range of external organisations who will be supporting them with careers and health advice, self confidence and study skills. Alongside this programme we will also be beginning a range of extracurricular activities and programmes designed to provide personalised support so the students can be sure of finding the strategies that work best for them.

We are very proud each year to see our Year 11 Prefects leading others in how they show kindness, leadership, respect for others and a positive attitude to learning, and I have witnessed so many examples of this over the past two weeks. Over the past two years we have strengthened their work within school with the Student Leadership Programme where all prefects have the opportunity to develop a range of skills including communication, empathy, vision and organisation from staff at Marden High School and also external people. This year's Student Leadership Programme begins in the coming weeks and at the same time, the prefects will also have the opportunity to support with the Open Evening on the 20th September. The graduation from the programme, like last year, will take place in the late spring and the work along the way will be ideal for Global Bridge as students build their portfolios of learning that can enable further future post-16 success.

Next week, Year 10 students will complete their Yellis test in three key areas: Vocabulary including word fluency and understanding; Maths including logical thinking, manipulating numbers and numerical concepts, and Non-verbal Ability including the ability to match patterns, reflections and rotations and applying visual intuition. The tests generate valuable data to support and challenge students, and they also create a set of 'chance graphs' to indicate the grades students may achieve at the end of KS4. More information will be shared with Year 10 students and parents and carers about this once the tests have been completed.

From Monday next week we will be opening the Cafe early in the morning, so students are welcome to arrive in school from 8.00am via the West yard and use the Cafe before school. The catering team are offering a breakfast deal consisting of juice, cereal, toast and a piece of fruit, all for £1.00.

Please note that we have our Open Evening coming up on Wednesday 20th September, when we look forward to welcoming Year 6 children and their parents to have a look around the school. This will be followed by an opportunity for parents to attend an Open Morning on Friday 22nd September, and again on Friday 29th, by booking through the main school office. We have also now put the Parent Calendar on the school website to help parents and carers plan out key events across the school year.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher