



## Marden High School

Friday 12th July 2024

Dear All

This week has seen the start of our new timetable for the academic year 2024-25, and it has meant that the tone of the week has been one of new beginnings rather than winding down, as students and staff have begun new classes and started next year's courses. It has been good to visit lessons this week and see the enthusiasm and engagement students have shown for their new studies, reminding me of our quote for the week from Plato which was "The beginning is the most important part of the work."

Also in the spirit of looking to the future, our new Year 9 students experienced an interesting and very informative careers event when thirteen companies visited Marden to take part in a 'speed dating' activity. Representatives from a wide range of industry sectors including the NHS, Westway Vets, Sage, DWP and GMI construction. This type of activity is hugely beneficial to young people as they have the opportunity to engage directly with professionals from a range of companies and organisations. Their interactions with industry experts also help students to understand better the expectations and requirements of the various sectors, enabling them to make informed decisions about the future. The event was a great success with some of the students coming back during their breaktime to continue the dialogue with industry representatives.

The Royal Navy Logistics Specialist Recruiting Team were in school on Thursday to work with our Year 10 Food Technology students. The students were involved in an interactive Master Chef style lesson where they were presented with a box of ingredients for two dishes. Using the recipe sheets provided, along with the Royal Navy team's assistance, the class had 90 minutes to complete their dishes before presenting them. The students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to work alongside trained chefs and excelled at the tasks they were given.

On July 19th, the final day of the academic year, we will be having a non-uniform day for all students, as we raise money for the charity chosen by the school cabinet which this summer is Play Action International. Supporting children around the world, [Play Action International](#) are involved in building schools and homes with volunteers from around the world helping make the difference for children who do not have the facilities

available to them to grow, learn and play. Where in the past we have collected money at the gate as students arrive in the morning, this time we invite you to contribute £1 or any voluntary amount towards this event, via a new payment item on ParentPay. If you haven't already downloaded it, links to ParentPay can be found in the 'Useful Links' area of our School Gateway app.

Last Friday saw all of the pupils in school come together for Sports Day with competitors going all out for both personal and team glory. In very windy conditions, the house teams gathered on the field and cheered on their teammates in the athletic events, as well as an old sports day favourite, the tug-o-war. The students all performed brilliantly with every competitor battling for points in each event to go towards their House total. In Year 7, the honours went to Bamburgh House, who beat Warkworth to the title by a single point. The Year 8 title went to Alnwick House, who were outright winners by more than 10 points, and finally the Year 9 trophy also went to Bamburgh House. It was a tight contest for the overall House Cup, but Bamburgh fought off Alnwick to grab the title for the first time. Well done to everyone involved in the competitions - this was truly a fabulous spectacle of talent and sportsmanship, and a huge thanks to the PE department for organising.

Today was the inaugural 'Marden High Race for Life' event held on the school grounds and involved all students in Year 8 to 11, as well as a lot of the Marden staff. Students were charged with finding sponsorship for the 3km run, and they rose to this challenge brilliantly. Thanks to the generosity of their sponsors, students and staff managed to raise £4,340.31 (plus £942.58 in gift aid) at the time of writing. A truly magnificent effort from all involved. The event itself was a fantastic success, with every student joining in the 3km run with enthusiasm and smiles on their faces. Times and positions were not important - this was all about taking part and raising money for this fantastic cause. We would like to thank all parents, friends, relatives and colleagues for their kind donations, and the link will remain live for a few days, if anyone would like to contribute a late donation. Details can be found on the school website and social media pages.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher