



Marden High School

Friday 19th July 2024

Dear All

This year we have continued to have regular governor visits to the school during the working day. During these visits governors tour classrooms and then later spend time in discussion with members of staff, talking about curriculum and learning. Governors' feedback from this year's visits has been very positive, the words "focus" and "enjoyment" often being used when reporting back at governing body meetings. As a number of governors' terms of service come to an end this summer, we have four governor vacancies, three of which are parent governors. For anybody who would like to be involved with the school in this way, I will advertise these vacancies in my newsletter when we return to school for the autumn term, but mention it here to give people the chance to consider the idea over the summer. The role of a governor *is to work with the headteacher and senior leadership team to drive the strategic development of the school and raise standards of achievement. Duties include setting the school's vision, aims and objectives, and approving the school budget.* If anybody has any questions or would like an informal chat about the role, I would be happy for them to contact me by email or at the school.

As we come to the end of another very successful year, we have received our School Development Partner report which is a great reflection of the work that goes on at Marden every day, and by way of celebration, I share a few excerpts from the report:

"This is a very good school. Pupils are happy, enjoy school life, and staff are very positive about their community. Attainment and progress are very strong. The school team strives to create an excellent learning environment with attention to individuals and diversity.

The monitoring and assessment systems for quality of education are exceptional. The school is ambitious and strives to develop teaching and learning. The quality of engagement and expectations are consistently high.

There is a strong culture of safeguarding in school. Attendance is everyone's business at Marden High School. In line with school ethos and vision a compassionate approach to the barriers to education is

balanced with relentless ambition for pupils to do well.”

I am pleased to report that we have had two very successful educational visits this week, one to France and one to the Isle of Arran. As you can imagine, our students were superb ambassadors for the school during these visits, which can only happen due to the dedication and commitment of the staff who run them. I would like to extend a huge thanks to all staff involved in looking after and supporting the children on these trips.

On Wednesday of this week Year 8 students were involved in our Creativity Day. Students participated in activities ranging from light painting photography to street dance. It was wonderful to see the students approach tasks with such enthusiasm and the work produced was of a very high standard. Guest practitioners leading the activities were extremely complimentary of both staff and students and all expressed their gratitude for receiving such a warm welcome to Marden. A fantastic way to end what has been a wonderful year for our students.

Recently, the Year 10 Girls Network cohort celebrated the completion of their year-long programme, with their final mentoring session and celebration event in school. Students were recognised for their individual successes and personal growth, and advanced to be part of the Girls Network Alumni as Ambassadors for the programme. Students will be able to utilise the skills developed during the programme in future education and employment opportunities, and continue to use their Girl's Network connections to access career support, development opportunities, and access to the wider Girl's Network community.

At the end of this term we say goodbye to Mr Brooks, and to Mrs Eastlake and Miss Boyle, both of whom are going on to well deserved promotions. Our afternoon receptionist Mrs Roberts will also be leaving us and we wish her well for the future. Mr Gibson, cover supervisor, also leaves us to start his teacher training and we wish him well in his future career.

In September we welcome several new staff to the school:

Miss Doneghan - Cover Supervisor

Miss Jones - Specialist Support Assistant

Mr Townshend - Teacher of Computer Science

Miss Kingston - Teacher of English

Mr Turner - Teacher of English

Mrs Ranson - Pastoral Support Assistant

Miss Patterson - Pastoral Support Assistant

Mrs Anderson - Receptionist

Next year we will be trialling no longer having paper based planners for homework. All homework will be set on Google Classroom with a due date. This will mean that you can go through, with your child, the homework that has been set, when it is due and support them with the completion of it. There is a guide [here](#) to how your child can access their homework. It is important that students 'hand in' or 'mark as done' so their teacher knows that it is complete.

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 2nd September, and all students begin term at 8.45am on Tuesday 3rd September. GCSE Exam results day is Thursday 22nd August when students will be welcome to come and pick up their results from 9am until 11am. If any parent or carer needs to contact school urgently during the summer holiday, please do so by emailing me at m.snape@mardenhigh.net.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher