



Marden High School

Friday 6th September 2024

Dear All

Students at Marden High School have this year once again achieved excellent GCSE exam results, a great testament to the hard work and commitment of our wonderful students and staff. Outcomes for students at Marden continue to improve well beyond 2019 pre-pandemic levels, and have reached record levels of positive progress. The proportion of students achieving at least 5 GCSEs between grades 4 and 9 including maths and English, one of the key metrics that school performance nationally is measured on, stands at 81%. The same pattern of rising achievement can be seen whichever measurements are looked at, and this has resulted in our value added score being significantly well above average nationally and our results being amongst the top schools in the region.

You may also have heard in the news that the gap between top GCSE grades awarded to students in London and those in other parts of the country reflect persisting regional inequalities. For example, 28% of entries by students in London were awarded grades 7 or higher, equivalent to an A or A*, compared with just under 18% of entries by students in the north-east. However, at Marden, 31% of all the grades achieved by the students are of the highest grades, 7 or higher. This does not take away from the fact that there are clearly unacceptable inequalities that must be addressed between the capital and our regions, but it is reassuring to know that at Marden students are achieving excellent outcomes.

We have enjoyed a great first week back with everybody getting quickly back into the swing of lessons and routines. Our new Year 7 pupils have impressed everybody with their good manners and enthusiasm, and our older students have been great role models for them. On the theme of role models we have this week had the final interviews to select our Head Prefects, following student and staff voting at the end of last term. Our Head Prefects have a key role in the

leadership of our school community and as such will not only help coordinate the work of the prefect body, but also represent students at various events such as our Open Evening. The standard of presentations and interviews was very high and I am delighted to announce that our Head Prefects for this year are Leah King and Leo Glaholm, who I am very confident will both do an excellent job representing our community.

As mentioned in my newsletter before the summer break, we now have three parent governor vacancies, following resignations from parents whose children have now left Marden. 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.* Application forms to become a parent governor can be found on the [school website at this link](#) and should be sent to the school reception for the attention of Dr Margaret Stewart, Chair of Governors, by Friday 4th October. 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.

On Thursday next week we have the 'Settling-in' Evening for parents of our new Year 7 pupils and we very much look forward to welcoming everyone into school to share some really useful detailed information about life in school, and for the opportunity for parents to meet Form Tutors. Year 7 parents have received a letter about this evening.

On the 18th September we have our Open Evening between 6pm and 8pm, and many parents will receive permission slips to complete as lots of our students will want to help out with activities or to act as guides. No doubt this will be a fantastic evening led by our wonderful ambassadors, the children. Open mornings are on 20th and 27th September, and 11th October, and places can be booked by ringing the school reception.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher