



## Marden High School

Friday 27th September 2024

Dear All

As you are aware, we are always very keen to hear parents' views of their own children's experiences at school. I hope therefore, that all parents will take a few moments to complete our parent/carer questionnaire, as the more responses we have, the clearer the picture is to us of our areas of strength and areas for development. The survey has been emailed directly to all parents and carers, and will be available for two weeks, closing at 9pm on Monday 14th October. I will be sharing the main findings of the survey, and any points of development which stem from it, with everyone in a future newsletter. I look forward also to seeing parents and carers at my next parent forum meeting at 4.30pm on 19th November.

The Marden High School PTA is a friendly school association committed to raising funds to advance the education of our pupils. Our aim is to provide much needed educational resources which benefit all pupils at the school. Funds raised by the PTA go to enhancing the provision that we can deliver to our students over and above the reducing amount we receive from central funding. We do this through events which seek to foster community spirit. We held the first PTA meeting of the new academic year this week, with a great turnout. The aim of this short meeting was to think about the sorts of events that we want to run this year, and we decided to start with our Halloween Quiz on Thursday 24th October 6.30pm - 8pm - details on the school website. The PTA will meet again this coming Tuesday at 6pm in the LRC to prepare for this. If anybody was unable to come to the last meeting but would still like to get involved please do come along. Profits from the Halloween Quiz go directly into the PTA account which helps to fund lots of different resources and activities for all our children.

Another way that we can all support the school and our children is by using '*Easyfundraising*', which brings money into the PTA account as we all shop. [Easyfundraising](#) partners with over 8,000 brands of products who will donate part of what is spent to Marden PTA. It does not cost any extra for the shopper as the cost is covered by the brand. Each time something is bought the brand pays us a commission because when you start your shop from the easyfundraising website or app, they can see we sent you to them. We would encourage as many people as possible to sign up to use Easyfundraising as soon as possible, because for the next two weeks between 30th September - 14th October, every time a new supporter signs up, Marden PTA will get a £1 bonus donation when we reach 10 or more new supporters. Further information can be found on the [Easyfundraising page for Marden PTA](#).

It is said that learning floats on a sea of talk, which is why throughout a child's time at Marden, we have a strong focus on continually expanding their subject specific vocabulary. Vocabulary size is a strong predictor of academic attainment, so we recognise the importance of conscious, planned vocabulary teaching to enrich students' store of words. There are key steps that teachers use in teaching this vocabulary:

1. Specify and define the word: Explaining its meaning, word class, synonyms, antonyms and in a sentence. Use pictures to showcase its meaning. Record the word in a glossary.
2. Say the word: modelling how to say and write the word.
3. Read the word in context: Reading the word in a sentence or in the text being read.
4. Practise using the word verbally and in writing: Engage in quick practice tasks that consolidate vocabulary and apply it to a range of contexts.

All of these steps can also be used at home by parents and carers to help consolidate their child's understanding of key vocabulary. With little and often being a useful maxim here, just 10 minutes in the evening a few times a week could be a valuable investment, helping your child better access their learning. Any parents and carers who would like more information on this can contact our Literacy Coordinator Ms Taylor, or their child's Head of Year.

We were very pleased that last year, an impressive 96 out of 100 students in our Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) program achieved the Bronze Award. This remarkable success sets a strong foundation for the year ahead, and as we kick off this new academic year, we are excited to welcome over 110 Year 9 participants to the DofE program. Our first session started this week, and the enthusiasm is palpable. We also held an informative evening for parents to ensure they are engaged and well-informed about the DofE journey ahead. Please do contact Mr Wallace if you have any queries.

Next Friday morning we will have the professional photographers in school to take individual photos of Year 7 and Year 10 students. We will use these in school to update our information management system, but they will also be available for parents to purchase. Students will bring home details of how to order.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher