



Marden High School

Friday 20th December 2024

Dear All

We have had a number of new students start at Marden this term and it has been good to see them settle quickly, getting into the habits and routines that help our students enjoy school and do well in their studies. Staff have been checking in regularly with students and parents, and feedback has been very positive, a little sample of which I have included here from some of our Year 7 children.

- *“... happy to have joined Marden and has enjoyed meeting new people to talk to and make friends with. He feels the building has a calm and quiet feel about it and his teachers have been nice.”*
- *“... delighted to be at Marden and feels she has settled well. She has been confident enough to quickly and actively take part in lessons and make friends.”*
- *“... said his first week has been really good. He has enjoyed his lessons, especially maths, English and history.”*
- *“... feels the school has been very welcoming and everyone has been nice to him. He has especially enjoyed PE and IT.”*
- *“... really pleased to have been offered a place at Marden High School. ... describes it as perfect, smaller and quieter than his previous school.”*

Parents and carers of Year 11 students have recently received reports for their children following the mock GCSE exams held this term. We were pleased with the attitude and manner in which the year group approached these exams and it is pleasing to see that many students have achieved good grades for this point in the year. All students will have been receiving feedback from their teachers about next steps to take in the preparation for the real exams in the summer, and it is this, as I told students in assembly this week, which is now so important for them. They must find out what they did not know or could not do, and plan out next steps for improvement. This might be a revision plan for use at home or it may be attending the revision sessions that staff are putting on at lunchtime or after school. In any case it will involve continuing to be focused and engaged in lessons and involving themselves in conversation with their teachers about what their next steps should be. I am looking forward to seeing what the students will achieve with these great opportunities. In the meantime we will be inviting parents and carers into school to look at their

children's books and mock exams on Thursday 9th January. This will be on a drop in basis between 4.30pm and 6.00pm. Members of the Senior Leadership Team, as well as Mr Topping, will be available for parents to talk to in the Learning Resource Centre. There will also be a remote Parents' Evening on Tuesday 14 January, which is an opportunity for parents and carers to talk to their child's subject teachers. Appointments for this are available to book via the [schoolcloud](#) on Friday 20 December from 8.00am.

It's been good to see Year 9 fully embrace the Year 9 Guided Choices process so far this term. Students have now watched assemblies for most of the options subjects with Travel and Tourism (BTEC), Child Development (CNAT) and Engineering (CNAT) to watch on their return from the Christmas break. Students have watched these assemblies in form time, making notes on the course content, assessment style and appeal. If your child has missed any of the assemblies they can find the screencasts on the [website](#). The students have been asked to consider a wide range of subjects that they would be interested in taking. In the first week back Mrs Robson will be communicating to students and parents the blocks that they will be able to choose subjects from. The provisional choices will then be made via a google form in form time on February 14. The provisional choices are a good way for us to identify which subjects are most popular with students and for students to give us some feedback on the blocks ahead of their final choices on March 7th.

The long awaited netball challenge between Year 10 and staff took place this week, and it proved to be an excellent contest. The Year 10 girls are a famously successful team with one of the best records in the region. However, it seems that the staff team have been practising strategy - or perhaps it was the height advantage - as they squeezed a close victory from the game winning 22-17. All players enjoyed the event, and, as you would imagine, it was played in great spirit.

I would like to wish everyone a peaceful Christmas holiday and look forward to seeing all our students back on Tuesday 7 January at 8.45am for a great Spring term.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher