



Marden High School

Friday 6th June 2025

Dear All

It has been good to welcome everybody back to the final half term of this academic year, and a great week it has been too. Everyone has settled back into learning and working hard and our Year 11 students have another week of exams behind them. It has been good to see so many of them in school this week taking advantage of the continuing revision sessions put on by staff. These will continue right up until the last exam.

From the 16th to 20th June we will have our Year 8 exam week. The key stage 3 exam weeks are planned to give students an experience of preparing for a number of assessments close together and in a relatively formal environment, and this helps prepare students for GCSE and higher level exams later in their school life. Teachers will be advising the children what they need to revise for these exams.

This week we are supporting members of our school community celebrating the Muslim holiday Eid al-Adha. Eid al-Adha, or the Holiday of Sacrifice, is the second and the larger of the two main holidays celebrated in Islam. It honours the willingness of Abraham to sacrifice his son Ishmael as an act of obedience to God's command. "Eid Mubarak" is the traditional phrase used by Muslims to greet each other during the Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha celebrations, therefore to all those celebrating this month, a heartfelt Eid Mubarak. Meanwhile, next week we have Race Unity Day. At Marden we are proud to have a diverse community of students, staff and others involved in our school. The day was started by the Bahá'í National Spiritual Assembly in the United States in 1957, and its purpose is to raise awareness to the importance of racial harmony and understanding, and is in line with our school values. Pride Month is a month dedicated to celebration and commemoration of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender pride. Pride Month began after the Stonewall riots, a series of gay liberation protests in 1969, and has since spread outside of the United States. All these celebrations are signs of agency, hope and leadership, our core values at Marden. It's with great pride that we celebrate everyone's individuality as we continue to promote diversity, equality and inclusion.

Speaking confidently doesn't happen by chance. It requires knowledge, thoughtful planning, and plenty of practice. A strong grasp of the subject matter, combined with careful consideration of how to express it,

increases the likelihood that we communicate in a clear, concise, and meaningful way. Just as important is having regular opportunities to practise speaking in a variety of settings. These skills, often referred to as oracy skills, are vital for young people as they move through their education and into the wider world. That's why, here at Marden, our professional development has focused on giving students structured opportunities to develop their spoken communication. We encourage students to think carefully about how to articulate their ideas. This helps reduce the pressure of those all-too-familiar moments when we're asked to speak without any time to prepare. Pupils also work together in low-stakes settings, where they can practise speaking, build confidence, and develop their thinking. We also create chances for students to present to different audiences, so they can learn to adapt and refine their communication skills. While students say they find this work challenging, they also recognise how valuable and rewarding it is. At Marden, we're proud to help our learners find their voices, and use them well.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children is of paramount importance and is everyone's responsibility. The Designated Safeguarding Lead in school is Mrs Reece who is supported by Mrs Charlton and Mr Anderson as Deputy Safeguarding Leads. The Safeguarding team has now been expanded with two new Deputy Safeguarding Leads, Mrs Stafford and Mr Topping. If you have any safeguarding concerns about the welfare of a child, please contact any member of the Safeguarding team.

The next round of Year 7 and 8 athletics went ahead on Tuesday, despite the weather doing its best to spoil the occasion. 25 Marden pupils had qualified for the North Tyneside games, held at Monkton Stadium in Jarrow. The pupils performed brilliantly, with many pupils coming in first, second or third place. Those in the top two positions will progress to the Northumberland County games, held at Gateshead International Stadium at the end of the month, representing the North Tyneside district. Congratulations to all of our athletes that have qualified for this event, and we wish them every success in their next competition.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher