



## Marden High School

Friday 4th July 2025

Dear All

This year the School Cabinet has done a tremendous job displaying posters in school promoting events and fundraising activities. The Cabinet has also been responsible for updating the Student Bulletin and the student notice boards in the PE corridor, this has been done every week and we know is a useful source of information for the whole school community. Many of them have demonstrated great leadership and agency in coordinating the collection of notices and ensuring the boards are up to date. As we approach the start of our new academic year at the end of this term, having this information provided will be even more appreciated, and if there are any students who would like to get involved in the work of the cabinet they should speak to their form tutor, head of year, or directly to Mrs Thompson who oversees the work of the Cabinet.

Over four action-packed days, our Year 9 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants in Alpha and Beta groups completed their qualifying expeditions this week. Walking through every kind of weather the British summer could throw at them, all participants showed resilience, teamwork, and true determination. Whether it was navigating open countryside, setting up tents under darkening skies, or cooking meals together after a long hike, every student rose to the challenge. The spirit of adventure was alive in every step, and despite the sore feet, the heat, and the sudden downpours, the laughter never stopped. A huge well done to both groups.

On Tuesday 8th July, students in Year 10 will complete a Yellis test in form time and their Period 1 Personal Development lesson. This is an adaptive, online test and lasts about 50 minutes and tests students in the following areas:

- Vocabulary: Word fluency and understanding
- Mathematics: Logical thinking, manipulating numbers and numerical concepts
- Non verbal ability: Ability to match patterns, reflections and rotations and applying visual intuition

It will give students an overall band and an individual band for each area. It also generates a set of chances of achieving certain grades for each subject. There is no need for students to prepare beforehand. A report

containing the results will be shared with parents and carers in September and there will be an opportunity to learn more about the test in October during the introduction to Year 10 evening.

The excitement is building and it won't be long now until the curtain lifts on our summer musical production of Mary Poppins. Tickets are available for the shows on 9th and 10th July for what promises - certainly from the sounds of the rehearsals - to be a fun and high quality evening showcasing our students' talents.

This week saw the Transition Days for our new Year 7 children during which they had the chance to experience high school lessons and get to know staff and other students in readiness for September. The year group has made a good impression with their good natured politeness and focus in class, as well as their general enthusiasm. I was also very impressed, though not surprised, by the way current students helped the new children to find their way around and to get to know the Marden way of doing things. We look forward to seeing them back at Marden in September.

As I finish writing this newsletter we have just finished our 2025 Marden Sports Day which saw some fabulous performances from our young athletes, and everybody having a great time supporting their Houses in track and field events, as well as the famous Tug of War competition. Later today we will have our awards ceremony to celebrate a great day of sport, and there will be a full report on Sports Day in next week's newsletter.

I would like to remind everybody that on the last day of this school year, Friday 18th July, school will finish early at 2.15pm. If any parent or carer requires their child to wait in school until the normal finishing time, that can be arranged by contacting the school office.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher