



Friday 17th July 2026

A successful year

After another fruitful week we have reached the end of term and the end of another academic year. It has certainly been a busy year, with a huge variety of extra-curricular opportunities for our young people, quite aside from the 950 wonderful lessons the staff have provided for each student. I have recounted many of the successes we have had through the year in this newsletter, and so I suppose it was quite fitting that a successful OFSTED visit came at the end of the year as a celebratory reflection of the work that goes on here. I would like to thank everybody - students, staff, parents/carers and governors - for all of your contributions, commitment and hard work that you've put into this year. It's everybody working together that gets the best outcomes for our children, and we make a great team.

Thanks

I would also like to thank everybody for the last 10 years, as this is my final Marden newsletter. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as headteacher here. It has not always been plain sailing of course, but the highs have certainly outweighed the lows, and I take with me many fond memories. Visitors to the school have often commented on the close community feel that Marden has, and I think it's that sense of purpose and possibility we all have which generates that atmosphere around school, summarised of course in our school motto of Carpe Diem (seize the day). Each year Mr Horn shares with me one of the poems from the English GCSE exam, and so I will leave you with 'Promise' by Barbara Crooker which I think beautifully summarises our Carpe Diem attitude:

*This day is an open road
stretching out before you.
Roll down the windows.
Step into your life, as if it were a fast car.
Even in industrial parks,
trees are covered with white blossoms,
festive as brides, and the air is soft
as a well-washed shirt on your arms.
The grass has turned implausibly green.
Tomorrow the world will begin again,
another fresh start. The blue sky stretches,
shakes out its tent of light. Even dandelions glitter
in the lawn, a handful of golden change.*

Information for parents and carers

In preparation for the new academic year, Mrs Robson will be sending out some reminders to parents and carers this afternoon regarding uniform, expectations etc. We would ask parents and carers to please spend some time looking at these with their children ready for September.

Year 11 exam results

Please remember that results day for Year 11 takes place on Thursday 20th August, when we look forward to welcoming students back into school from 9.00am to collect their results and celebrate outcomes.

September

We look forward to seeing all our students back in September healthy and rested. Please remember the first day for students is Wednesday 2nd September with the normal start time of 8.45am.

I hope everybody enjoys the rest of the summer.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher