Marden High School

Friday 6th November 2026

Dear all,

We've enjoyed a busy and productive week back at school this week including the Year 7 drop down day, D of E presentation evening and Year 7 Proud of Our Work Evening.

Careers update - Mrs Brennan

We are looking for volunteers to support our upcoming **Year 7 Career Explorers event on Wednesday 25th November.**



The event is a fantastic opportunity for our Year 7 students to discover the wide range of careers and opportunities available to them. We would love to hear from parents and carers who would be willing to come into school and share their career experiences.

We welcome volunteers from **all industry sectors**, but would particularly love to hear from people working in the **creative industries and emergency services**, as these are areas where we often find it difficult to recruit volunteers.

The event will run as a carousel, with students working in small groups of around eight and spending approximately eight minutes with each volunteer. You would simply talk a little about your job, your career journey, what you enjoy about your role and answer any questions the students may have. You don't need to prepare a presentation, just share your experiences and help inspire our students to think about their own futures.

There are three sessions running throughout the morning:

- **Session 1:** 9.00am – 10.05am
- **Session 2:** 10.10am – 11.10am
- **Session 3:** 11.30am – 12.30pm

If you are available and would be interested in supporting the event, please contact **Mrs Brennan** at **f.brennan@mardenhigh.net**



Preparing for the World of Work

Our Year 10 students have been working with the Department for Work and Pensions to develop their employability skills as they begin preparing for work experience. Through a practical workshop, students have been learning how to create an effective CV, identify their personal strengths and skills and understand how to present themselves positively to potential employers.

The sessions have encouraged students to recognise the value of their own experiences, qualities and achievements, while building confidence as they take their first steps towards the world of work.

A big thank you to Melissa and Richie from the DWP for their continued support of our CEIAG programme, they will be back in a fortnight to work with more year 10 students.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Congratulations to all of the students in Year 10 who have achieved their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. Mrs Russell and Mr Wallace led a very well attended Awards evening on Wednesday night where 113 students collected their Awards. Students participated in volunteering, physical activity and skills sections, committing to at

least three months in each. DofE offers a fantastic opportunity to build confidence, develop new skills and create lasting memories. Many thanks to all of the staff, and wider community, who support the students to complete this demanding yet rewarding award.

Inset days and holidays

To help parents and carers to plan ahead please note the following holiday dates for this academic year. There are **two additional inset days** this year where school will be closed to students. On the last day of this half term, KS4 students can leave at lunchtime, as all KS3 students go to St George's Church for our carol service, being dismissed at approximately 2.15pm. More details will be shared nearer the time.

Break up **Friday 18 December** 2026 - Return to school **Tuesday 5 January** 2027
Break up **Friday 12 February** 2027 - Return to school **Monday 22 February** 2027
Break up **Thursday 25 March** 2027 - Return to school **Tuesday 13 Apri**l 2027
Break up **Friday 28 May** 2027 - Return to school **Monday 7 June** 2027
Break up **Tuesday 20 July** 2027

Inset Days - School closed to students

Monday **4 January** 2027
Monday **12 April** 2027
Friday **25 June** 2027
Wednesday **21 July** 2027

Upcoming event: Year 11 Mocks

Year 11 will complete two weeks of mock exams over the next two weeks. Mr Tueart talked to students in assembly about how they could prepare and expectations over the mock period. The mock exams provide a dual purpose. Firstly, they give students a very clear idea of how the exams work logistically and the experience of working with invigilators rather than their usual teachers. Secondly, they provide diagnostic information about where students are in their learning and the areas they need to work on. This information is vital for students to know what to focus on and for their teachers to adapt their teaching and parents and for carers to support them at home.

Thought for the week

This week's thought for the week was a poignant one and comes from the history department, who this week led assemblies about remembrance.



Have a great weekend!

Mrs K Robson
Head Teacher