



Thursday, 29 March 2018

Dear All,

As you are probably aware, there have been changes very recently to the GCSE exams. There is no longer coursework for most subjects, examinations are terminal ie at the end of year 11, and the amount and type of content has been made more challenging. This means that preparation for the exams has also necessarily changed. We have already started to be more explicit with how students should be revising, ensuring they know how to organise their time as well as understanding which revision techniques work best for them.

In the summer term we begin the process of Curriculum review for key stage 3. We will be designing a curriculum for years 7-9 which will even more effectively provide a strong foundation for the rigour of the revised GCSE exams. The development of literacy skills, in particular those of extended writing, will feature strongly. It is timely to remind ourselves of the importance of students reading and discussing topics at school and at home, as a vital part of developing their understanding and literacy skills. The Easter holidays is a good opportunity for our children to get some daily reading for pleasure done.

We have had our Rewards and House assemblies this week, and it is always a pleasure to see how many of our students receive certificates and recognition for a variety of achievements including House Points and good attendance. In particular, it is often difficult to select just two students from each year group for my Headteacher's Awards, and it is for this reason that the qualities I look to celebrate in these awards are those which both exemplify and model what we are looking to develop. In year 10 this term, for example, the awards were for resilience in the face of adversity, and for outstanding work ethic, both attributes that we value highly at Marden.

The U14 netball team beat St Thomas More 13-10 in a very competitive game. Well done to all the girls involved. Our Year 10 team also had a great victory over John Spence, beating them 25-11 with a superb performance. Following successful coaching sessions in school by a coach from Newcastle Thunder Rugby League team working alongside staff, a team of Year 7 boys were invited to take part in a festival at Kingston Park on Tuesday afternoon. They performed really well and managed to win all of their games. Congratulations to the boys who played. Also congratulations to all our Year 11 GCSE PE students who took part in moderation with an external examiner coming into

school. Their focus and effort was exemplary - well done.

The second meeting for the Girls' Network was held on Wednesday 28th March after school. Fifteen Year 9 and Year 10 girls attended the one-hour meeting which was held at the Leeds Building Society in the Cobalt Business Park. This is the second time that the girls and their individual mentors have met, so the focus of the session was to get to know each other a little better and find out what interests and career aspirations the girls have. The mentors are volunteers who are all enjoying successful careers in their chosen field. They have undergone training to be able to take part in the scheme and are committed to supporting girls achieve success. There will be a further 9 mentoring meetings this, and next, academic year before the girls graduate as Girls' Network Ambassadors in 2019.

Following hot on the heels of the superb performance of Grease this term, we have our Spring concert in the Auditorium on Wednesday 25th April. This event promises to be a great showcase for the talents we have at school.

I would like to remind you that the programme for our Easter school can be found in the revision section of our website, and it is good to see so many year 11 students already signed up for a variety of classes. We look forward to working with them all, and making the most of the time we have.

We look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 16th April and to seeing parents of Y10 at the Parents Evening on Wednesday 18th April.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher