



Friday 4th May 2018

Dear All,

Our Year 11 students have had a very good attitude towards their exam preparation over the past months. They are obviously keen to do well, and, with continued hard work in class and revision at home, we are confident that they will do very well. We talk to the students about having a balanced approach to exam preparation, about the importance of being methodical and consistent with revision, about putting enough time aside for it, and focusing on doing the best they can for themselves. We know though that from time to time, some can feel the pressure, and so we look to provide support for any students that feel they need it. This will often take the form of having a quick chat with perhaps their Head of Year, Form Tutor, or subject teacher. Additionally, this year, we have introduced a new counselling service which Year 11 students can access in the run up to, and during, the exam period, designed for students to be able to talk about any exam related worries they may have. Students can access this service by emailing Mrs Reece.

Now that Summer is here, we have had some superb performances in athletics, with many of our students running, throwing and jumping very well for both club and school. It is always great to hear, not just about their athletic performances, but about how they conduct themselves at these events, about their fine sportsmanship, and about what excellent ambassadors they are for the school.

The end of the football season has also seen considerable success for Marden, as the Year 7 boys football team played Wellfield Middle School earlier in the week and won 4-3. Congratulations to the players involved.

On Wednesday evening this week, Mrs Berriman took our Year 10 Drama students to see 'Brighton Rock at Northern Stage'. Our students were a credit to the school with exceptional behaviour inside the theatre venue and outstanding engagement in the performance. All involved had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

Our next Super Learning Day is next week and is for Year 9 students with a focus on the World of Work. Mrs Brennan has been working closely with Northumbrian Water, developing a series of workshops exploring the many and varied job roles in a large business organisation. There will be a number of professionals from Northumbrian Water coming into school to lead the workshops, in what promises to be an informative and stimulating day for our students.

Our Girls' Network continues to strengthen as students and mentors met again last week, forging working relationships in a mutually beneficial partnership. Already, feedback from the participants (both the girls and the mentors) is very positive, and the benefits in terms of the girls' confidence and motivation have been apparent in classrooms. In light of its success so far, we are also developing similar mentoring opportunities for boys. We are seeking male mentors from our business contacts, and we would be very interested to hear from any businesses or other organisations who might be keen to talk to us about how this could work.

Next week sees the installation of our annual Art Exhibition, which showcases the superb work that Year 11 art students have done this year. This event is always a visual treat and I would encourage you to come along to see it. Work will be exhibited in the Engineering room and in the LRC all next week, with a special viewing for parents and carers organised for Thursday after school. More details can be found on the school website.

As the weather has warmed up somewhat, we will operate Summer uniform from next Tuesday onwards, which means that jumpers do not have to be worn. Students should, however, in every other respect, adhere to full uniform, worn in the correct manner.

I wish you all an enjoyable May Bank Holiday, and thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher