



Marden High School

Friday 13th July 2018

Dear All,

Earlier this week we had a very successful evening for parents of our new year 7 pupils. It is always interesting talking to people who don't necessarily know Marden well, as it is a good reminder of who we are and what we have here. We are a small friendly school where students and staff come together to make the most of the time and opportunities they have. Marden is a place where people care about each other, and where each person gets individual attention. We accept people for who they are, which means that at Marden you can be yourself, able to express your unique personality, and confident that we will support the achievement of your goals and dreams. At Marden we are kind to one another, and we look out for each other. The relatively small size of our school and the commitment of staff give it a family feel.

Our students achieve great things - Marden is one of the highest performing schools in the north of England - and there is a calm and purposeful atmosphere in classrooms. But more than that, each day as students and staff we enrich our lives, taking pleasure and enjoyment from the wide variety of creative, academic, technical and sporting opportunities. There is always something going on at Marden, from first thing before school, right through into the evening. Marden High is a vibrant, exciting place to be, and we look forward to enhancing even further the opportunities available to everyone here in our community.

One of our many successes this year has been the impact of our work around student attendance. The great majority of our students always have very good attendance, and this is very important, as there is a clear correlation between good attendance and student achievement, both in terms of their academic outcomes and their personal development. For some students whose attendance has been lower, however, there has been a marked improvement, and this has had a consequent impact on overall levels of whole school attendance, which has been consistently over 95% all year, with many students achieving 100% attendance for the year. We appreciate parents not taking their children out of school for holidays during term time, and it is worth noting that government guidelines that parents must have school's permission to take their child out of school, and then only in exceptional circumstances. The guidelines also state that taking a child on holiday is not an exceptional circumstance, and it is now very likely that this will incur a local authority fine.

Our Summer Concert this week was another example of the breadth and the depth of talent we have here at Marden with some stunning performances, from some students who are now getting quite used to the footlights, and others who performed for the first time. Quite apart from the musicianship on display, it was great to see the development of courage and resilience in being able to get out there in front of everyone.

As we have acknowledged on many occasions, learning is at the heart of all we do, and so it is fitting that learning is the priority for our School Development Plan, and I would like to share with you the main objectives taken from this document for next academic year. Whilst standards in classrooms at Marden are already high, these are areas that we want to build on so that the learning that students experience is consistently outstanding across all classes. Targets included in our School Development Plan next year are that:

- Teachers consistently take into account what students have already learned, using assessment information to plan and differentiate effectively
- Teachers have high expectations of what students can achieve demonstrating appropriate challenge for all including stretching and challenging our most able students
- High quality feedback is consistent across the school so that it helps students to improve their learning
- The literacy skills of students continue to be enhanced in all subject areas

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher