



## Marden High School

Friday, 26 April 2019

Dear All

It has been good to see everybody back in school this week, shorter than normal, but no less packed with opportunities and successes. This half term sees a number of intensive programmes for English, maths and science where a number of Year 11 students will be working in a conference setting within school to support their exam preparation. We have started this week with 3 days of science, and feedback from students and facilitators has been very positive.

I have also had the opportunity to talk to all of our new prefects, currently in Year 10 but of course soon to be the oldest students in the school. Whilst there is an expectation that all students should be good role models, this expectation is heightened for those who will become prefects through the positive actions they take, from mentoring younger children to running lunchtime or sports clubs for other students. If the quality of their application letters is anything to go by, this next cohort of students will be excellent in role.

On Thursday the Year 10 students participated in mock interviews. Employers from across the North East came in to offer support and advice on interview techniques. All the students had a 15 minute one to one interview and then received feedback on their strengths and ways to further develop their skills. Stephen Riley was also on hand to offer encouragement and help build up confidence before the interviews. The experience proved to be invaluable for many and it was great to see so many happy and confident faces after the successful interviews. One student said afterwards, 'It was a valuable experience, I have learnt how I can improve and I feel more confident about being interviewed in the future.'

The Boys' Network met on Wednesday afternoon this week. Each of the boys taking part meets with his coach on a regular basis to talk about career aspirations and transferable skills that could be of value in future careers. All of the boys taking part are getting to know their coaches now and it was encouraging to see animated discussions between coach and coachee. The focus this week was applying for jobs and courses which complemented the mock interviews also taking place this week.

Although austerity measures and cuts in public spending continue to impact on our communities, as a school we are in the fortunate and uncommon position of being in an improving financial state. Our numbers continue to increase and our prudent financial management is paying dividends, and this has meant that we have been able to recruit extra staffing which will support our planning and continued expansion over the coming years. We are in this position because of the high standards we achieve and the reputation we consequently have, and I am confident that with continued hard work and effective teamwork, we will continue this positive journey.

For communication between school and home, we have a mobile phone app called My Ed, which we can use to send free-of-charge messages to parents and carers. It is also free for parents and carers to use the app to contact the school. All of the communications will be held within the app, so you will not have to search through your texts to find school messages. The app also contains links to various useful parts of our website, all from one place. There is more information about the My Ed app available at <https://www.myedschoolapp.com/> and we would encourage all our parents and carers to consider using it. Installation instructions are available at <http://bit.ly/mhsmyed>

The Year 9 boys beat Whitley Bay High, 4-1 this week in the semi final of the cup. A great result and an outstanding performance from all the players involved. This result follows an earlier very challenging match with WBHS so it emphasises all the more how well they played. Congratulations to the team.

We are looking forward to seeing all our Year 8 parents next Thursday for the Parents' Evening.

Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Snape', written in a cursive style.

Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher