



## Marden High School

Friday, 3 May 2019

Dear All

This week has seen a continuation of support put in place for Year 11 students preparing for exams in the form of English and Maths conferences. Feedback from staff and students has once again been very positive and it is good to see students responding well to the support and feedback from their teachers. We have high hopes for them in the forthcoming exam season. It is worth noting that once the exams are underway on 13th May, students continue to come into school for the whole day, for their exams and a combination of revision lessons and supervised private study. In this way we can continue to give our students the best support possible during the exam season.

You may have heard that there are to be changes to statutory Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education brought in for September 2020. At Marden we currently cover these topics in Personal Development lessons, and so we look to these changes as a good opportunity to review how we teach this important element of the curriculum. The Department for Education is looking for schools to act as early adopters of this curriculum and to begin teaching the new subjects from September 2019, and Marden is hoping to become one of these schools. This approach allows early adopter schools the opportunity to assist the DfE to shape the advice for schools, as well as being able to benefit from best practice around the country in teaching Sex and Relationship Education. We will keep everyone updated on developments via the Curriculum, Skills and Content section of our website.

Our most recent parental questionnaire from just before the Easter break produced some very positive results, with only one response not within the 96% agree or strongly agree category. This one response was with regard to the information that parents receive about their child's progress, and scored lower with 89% agreeing or strongly agreeing. Whilst still a high percentage of satisfaction, it is worth us reflecting on whether we can improve our reporting system still further, and to this end we will be holding some consultation exercises with parents and other stakeholders during next academic year to explore different reporting options. The results of this consultation will then inform any potential changes we make to improving our reports system. For any parents who would like to be involved in this process there will be further details advertised closer to the date of the consultation meetings.

We have now had several of our new prefects put themselves forward to become one of our Head Prefects, and they will, this weekend, be thinking about what to include in their 60 second speech to the school community on what they would hope to bring to the role. Following the viewing of these campaign videos there will be a student and a staff vote which will inform the decision on who are to become our Head Prefects, the outcome of which will be published in a future newsletter.

As you are aware, we have a House system in place which culminates each year in the Sports Day event, and allows students to earn House Points through a variety of activities and through lessons and form time. An additional opportunity this year to earn House Points is through an exciting challenge for students to visit the four Castles represented in our House system and to take 'selfies' at each. This challenge is open to all our students, and so far we are aware of two students who have accomplished this, one of whom managed to complete the challenge in a single day. We look forward to hearing of more visits to the Castles which inspired our House names. We also look forward to all students earning House Points through their efforts in and out the classroom so their achievement totals rise, but also their House may win the annual competition. Parents can get updates on House Points by logging into the Parent Portal and students can find out their totals through their form tutors.

Many of our Year 8 students enjoyed the Maths Challenge earlier this week, which is a great opportunity for them to get familiar with exam conditions in the Auditorium, as well as really stretching their thinking with some of the problems posed in this paper.

We have had senior students (Year 9-11) taking part in Athletics area trials on Friday this week, and those who have achieved the required times and distances will go forward to represent the North Tyneside area in forthcoming competitions in June. Well done to all students who competed and represented Marden High School.

I hope everyone enjoys the long weekend, and 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