



## Marden High School

Friday 5th October 2018

Dear All,

This week the assemblies led by a number of our students carried a very powerful message of anti-discrimination and anti-racism. The students' delivered a creative and thoughtful presentation on us accepting and celebrating people for who they are, and that racism and discrimination is never acceptable. They spoke about the fact that we live in a world where we are exposed to many prejudicial views through social media, and so we must learn to be critical of what we are seeing, reading and hearing, and to understand better what is going on around us so that we can make informed decisions about how we interact with each other. It has been said previously, many times, that 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 people can be themselves, able to express their unique personality, and confident that they will be supported to achieve their goals. The students finished their assemblies with a reminder from a quote from Elie Wiesel, a Jewish survivor of the Holocaust:

"I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented."

This was, all in all, a fantastic example of leadership from our students, and next Friday we will have 'Wear Red for Anti-Racism' Day. All students can come to school in Non-Uniform, but must include something red (perhaps a wrist band, a T-shirt, a hair bobble or badge). The money will be raised in aid of Show Racism The Red Card and will be collected by members of the School Cabinet as students arrive that morning.

Following the very successful Open Evening last week, we have had a number of Open Day events this week, with visitors looking around the school, talking to students and staff, and going into lessons. It has been great to hear more positive feedback about the enthusiasm and welcoming nature of our staff and the focus and friendliness of our students.

Reading ages - intervention starting next week.

Some of our Year 7 children continue to make good progress in their 'Catch-up' sessions where, alongside their usual maths and English lessons, they have been part of the Maths mentoring programme. This allows for more immediate interventions, and, encouraged by their Year 10 mentors, we have seen 100% attendance, and in class follow up personalised to each student. Here are some of the student voice quotes to the question "What are your thoughts to your maths mentoring so far...?"

*"It's fun!"*

*“My mentor is helping me learn more Maths and he is really nice”*

*“ It’s good to do Maths and chill and have your lunch too”*

*“My mentor is cool and he is really helping me already”*

Congratulations to all the mentors involved for such accolades!

Students working with the Science department on the Y7 Super Learning Day focused on how creatures that lived in the sea and on the seashore were adapted for survival and they visited the Blue Reef Aquarium to see live specimens and used personal research on the internet to produce a set of Sea Creature Top Trumps. The Media group had an opportunity to explore the coastline and interpret “What Makes the Coast Special?” through the medium of video and photography. They spent the morning researching ideas and gathering footage, and in the afternoon split into two groups and experimented with some Media software. The Art department took students to the beach to make sand sculptures of sea creatures and traditional seaside images inspired by the landart created by Andy Goldsworthy.

We have had some excellent victories in recent football matches, with the U12 team beating Marden Bridge 4-1, our U13 team beating Longbenton 4-0, and in their first match of the season the U14 team beat Churchill 4-1 in their league match. Well done to all the players involved in these fixtures.

We have been invited to take part again this year in the Talented Athlete Academy. The launch of this year's programme will take place at the Langdale Centre later in October, and further details will follow from the PE department.

Our attendance rates continue to be up on this time last year, at 97% overall, so well done to all students who have either maintained their high standards or improved their attendance. We will be celebrating this good attendance in assemblies at the end of the half term, and we are looking for students to continue to make every effort to be in school, even when they may not be feeling 100%.

Don't forget the PTA Quiz Night is coming up on Thursday 25th October.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher