



Friday, 1 February 2019

Dear All

It is good to see so many of our students walking and cycling to school, enjoying a little healthy exercise at the start and end of the school day, at the same time as doing their bit for the environment. I would like to remind everyone, though, of the need for them to be conscious of safety on and near the roads where car drivers might not always be able to see clearly. In particular I would remind students that they must not ride their bikes on the school site. At the end of the day, when staff are on duty, students are very good about not doing this, but it is equally important to adhere to this rule early in the morning to prevent any potential accidents.

It is difficult to ignore the fact that our politicians are debating some big issues which will have a considerable effect on our country in the future. The intensity of this debate both in Parliament and out on the street has led, at times, to an atmosphere where people are saying, writing and publishing some very unkind and hostile things about each other. This form of abuse is hardly a good example for our children growing up. As educators, we have a duty to teach our children how to communicate with others effectively, so that we can debate issues in a reasonable and measured way, and so that we can live in a society which accepts different opinions and celebrates diversity. So this week we have shared with the children the wise words of Rabbi Israel Salanter: "Not everything I think should be said, not everything I say should be written, and not everything I write should be published". This quote is from the 1930s, and foreshadowed the terrible events which were to unfold in Nazi Germany, and in a world where our children grow up using social media as the norm, this message carries extra weight as we consider how best to use our words.

Circuit training for Year 11 students on Tuesday afternoons after school has now started, and has developed to include a multi sports approach, all based in the Sports Hall. Students who have attended so far have found it to be a good chance for rest and recreation in this busy time of exam preparation, and I would encourage other Year 11s to take up this opportunity.

As part of the Guided Choices process our Year 9 students have been introduced to the Grofar computing software to start creating a 'Careers Plan'. This software allows students to set goals linked to their future education and career plans. This plan will be updated at various times throughout the year and continued on into KS4.

On the 7th of February, our Year 9 students take part in a 'Careers Speed Dating' event. This event is a joint venture between the school and the WOW team at North Tyneside Learning Trust. Students will have the opportunity to ask employees from 15 different

industry sectors about their roles and responsibilities and the most frequently asked question, 'how much can you earn'.

This week we have welcomed back our Year 10 students. Feedback from work placements has been very positive with several Twitter and Facebook comments from employers - our students have clearly been great ambassadors once again. We have also had the pleasure of hosting Year 6 pupils from King Edward's Primary School, and having met them, we are looking forward to them starting at Marden in September.

All our Year 11 students are in the process of having their one to one careers interview with the Connexions staff. All students will have had at least one interview by the end of February, and students who have requested a follow up interview or have been identified by staff as needing further careers advice and guidance will be seen again following the half term break.

Some of our boys have taken part in Tyne and Wear Badminton Championships, and they have done extremely well, finishing 3rd overall. They only lost once to the winners RGS Newcastle, but they could have easily won on another day, as they lost by the smallest of margins 14-15, 14-15, 13-15. The boys were, of course, a credit in how they conducted themselves and how they applied themselves throughout. They finish the season as North Tyneside Champions and 3rd best school in Tyne and Wear.

There were also superb results for our U13 netball squad. They are now playing in a new league and managed to win all of their opening matches against Churchill, Valley Gardens, and St Thomas More. Congratulations to all involved.

Form Tutors have reminded students this week that if they are on any form of medication, those medicines must be handed in to reception by their parent or carer. Parents and carers, when they bring medication in to reception, need to complete a medicines form so that we can store it correctly.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher