



Marden High School

Friday, 8 February 2019

Dear All

You may have heard about the climate change strikes being organised by students in various locations around the UK and Europe. Central to their protest is the inaction from governments around the world to cut CO2 emissions at a fast enough rate to meet levels agreed at the latest climate accord in Paris. It seems that the protest on Friday this week was the precursor to a more international day of protest on 15 March. As a school, we cannot encourage or condone students missing time from school. However, the issue that the students are protesting about is clearly an important one, and they are the next generation to struggle with the consequences of climate change, and so I would like us to be able to support any of them who want to get their views on this matter across, in a controlled manner, and in school. To this end, over the next few weeks, a group of staff will be working with some of our students to prepare a campaign which will be filmed on 15 March, and which will serve as a reasoned and responsible message from our young people to the wider community. Further details will be provided following the half term break.

With our production of the Addams Family just two and a half weeks away, final preparations are being made. An enormous amount of work has been put in by staff and students to get the two casts ready, including coming in over the half term break, for what promises to be a great event on 5 and 6 March.

32 year 10 students visited Leeds Town Hall for the popular Science Live lectures on Wednesday 13 February. The purpose of these lectures is to see and hear five of Britain's top scientists, all working at the cutting edge of their specialisms. The scientists presenting were Professor Lord Robert Winston (Fertility and bioethics), Dr Kate Lancaster (Nuclear Fusion), Professor Alice Roberts (Evolution), Professor Dave Cliff (Computer Science) and Dr Simon Singh (The Big Bang). Pupils were also given the opportunity to listen to two short presentations by a chief examiner, which contained valuable hints and tips for exam preparation, how to tackle exam papers and command words used in exam questions. The range of topics presented meant that all students got a lot out of the day and gained a valuable insight into the working lives of top scientists.

There was a meeting of the Boys' Network on Wednesday after school. The boys met with their coaches to consider the question 'What Does my Imagined Future Look Like?'. As it is the mid-point of the programme, coaches and coachees have been asked to carry out evaluations of their experience so far. This results are extremely positive and feedback is proving to be very helpful in informing us how we might improve the programme next time around. The next meeting is planned for the 13th March and will have a problem solving focus with puzzles and problems to get the boys - and their coaches - really thinking.

Year 9 Parents' Evening will be on Wednesday 27 February and this will be an opportunity for parents to talk to subject teachers about their child's progress and a final chance to consider option choices for year 10 before the options deadline of 1 March.

Year 11 exam walk throughs have started with the geography department this week. The same will happen in a number of subjects over the coming weeks and this will be a good opportunity for students to benefit from another experience of sitting in the exam hall, facing another exam paper and working through a combination of explanation and examination in various subjects.

The Year 11 students will have the opportunity to find out about a range of further education pathways, apprenticeships and career options, when they take part in our KS4 Careers Fair on the 28th of February. This event is a joint venture between the school and North Tyneside Learning Trust World of Work team, and promises to be another valuable source of information and advice for our young people.

The ski trip sets off on Saturday, and we wish all participants a good journey and a great week's skiing. We look forward to seeing some of the pictures on the website when they return.

I would like to wish anybody who is having one, a restful and pleasant holiday, and we look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday 25 February.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher