



Marden High School

Friday, 28 June 2019

Dear All

On Monday this week, we held our NTLT Star Awards Assembly for some of the students who have gone over and above expectations this past year and who have been nominated by staff, friends, family and people they have worked with for a range of awards. Of the 723 nominations in North Tyneside, 37 of those came from Marden High School, the highest number from any one school, a fantastic achievement. Within our nominees, two have been selected to progress to the final presentation night on July 2nd at the Assembly Rooms in Newcastle - again this is the highest number from any school to make it to the final. We are incredibly proud of all our students and it is wonderful to see so many of them recognised for their hard work by receiving their NTLT Star Awards certificates.

As part of our student voice exercise this half term, we have just had our final student survey of the year. This will give us a valuable picture of our strengths and areas for improvement, and we will be feeding back to students before the end of term. At the same time we have facilitated a number of student focus groups to give our young people the opportunity to discuss issues that are important to them in more depth. The students are generally very loyal and complimentary about the experience their school provides for them, for example, in talking about the way they are supported by the staff in their academic progress and pastoral development, and about the variety of extra-curricular activities that are provided. But they have also been honest enough to talk about, for example, what causes them stress, and it has been very interesting to hear that it is often the pressures of doing well in exams that can cause worry for some. Whilst this is something we are aware of, it is important that the students feel they can talk about this to us, and that their teachers can look at ways of helping them with this.

We continue our work in promoting equality and celebrating diversity, alongside charity work over the coming weeks in assemblies. This week, we have welcomed Ursula who has been visiting once again to promote the charity work we do annually to support the South African Orphanage of Kwa Hilda. This charity work is supported by the Marden's Got Talent event taking place next week. To coincide with this, Miss Griffiths and her team of student leaders from School of Sanctuary, will be presenting assemblies celebrating other religions and promoting our anti-discrimination work.

In the meantime our House Competition continues to gather pace in the lead up to Sports Day which always has the potential to swing the final outcomes, and House Captains have been assembling their teams in readiness for the big event, which will be run in our Activities week. It has been a close run competition throughout this year, and currently Warkworth are

just edging ahead of last year's champions Alnwick, but the end of term is rich pickings for house points, so it's still all to play for.

Our Year 10 students have demonstrated a mature and focused approach in undertaking their exams over the past two weeks, several of which have been held in the Auditorium just as they will be for the real GCSEs in a year's time. This has been an excellent opportunity to get a feel for the GCSE exam season and to become familiar with exam rubric and regulations, and over the next few weeks the students will receive valuable feedback on how they have performed, as well as information on revision strategies for next year.

This week we enjoyed a wonderful Prom evening as our Year 11 leavers came together to celebrate their time here as Marden students. It was great to see the students reminiscing and having a good time together, and on Monday morning they will have their final assembly with us in school before they go off to ventures new, confident in the knowledge that they were "Made in Marden".

As the Summer term speeds on, we have a number of exciting events coming up, some of which will feature in later newsletters:

- Tuesday 2 July - Marden's Got Talent
- Wednesday 3 July - Year 10 Geography field trip
- Wednesday 3 July - TICE celebration
- Thursday 4 July - Year 7 Super Learning Day
- Thursday 4 July - Year 7 parents evening
- Thursday 4 July - Year 10 taster Queen Alexandra/Tyne Met Colleges

I hope everyone manages to enjoy some summer sun this weekend, and thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher