



## Marden High School

Friday, 12 July 2019

Dear All

We have had a very busy and very enjoyable week this week, enjoying the many different elements of school life. On Monday we held our Transition Evening for parents of children joining us in September, and it was great to welcome many new faces as well as seeing parents with older siblings too. It is at events like this that we get the chance to reflect on who we are as a community and for parents to be able to see that we are a small friendly school where students and staff come together to make the most of the time and opportunities they have; that Marden is a place where people care about each other, and where each person gets individual attention; where 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 in the achievement of their goals.

Following the Transition Evening we welcomed all our new students into the school for two days of exciting lessons and familiarisation. The feedback from children, staff and parents was very good and it looks as though Year 7 will be another great year group next year.

Following their exams, Year 10 have had some time this week to focus on revision strategies and time management, to help them prepare for the rigours of Year 11 and exam preparation. During this session on Thursday afternoon, they were able to benefit from wise words from our visiting speaker for the afternoon, as Rob Elliot, Newcastle goalkeeper, spoke to the students about resilience, the value of hard work, and the importance of being yourself, rather than trying to conform to something you are not. Rob spoke passionately and powerfully, and the students were very appreciative of Rob giving of his time to visit Marden High School.

On Monday this week our GCSE Religious Studies students visited the Holy Island of Lindisfarne. The aim of the trip was to enhance their learning about Christian beliefs and practices, but also to bring to life the ideas of pilgrimage, religious retreat, and the role of the beauty of nature in aspects of Christian worship. Of course students also enjoyed the walk in the sunshine and the ice cream at the end of the day!

A group of dedicated year 9 and 10 students attended the Airineers Drone Challenge at Nissan last week. Despite joining the competition late with no advanced drone knowledge or skills, and with design and prep time limited to a weekly after school club session, the team did very well coming a respectable 7th out of 20. Our students clearly showed commitment, dedication and team spirit, in addition to great leadership as this project was driven by the students themselves, taking ownership of all aspects of the design, build, commissioning and flying of the micro drone. Well done to all involved.

This week also saw Year 8 students taking part in The Energy Quest Workshop, which informed students about the diverse world of engineering, progression routes into engineering and the real world global problems facing us in the future. Students were involved in teamwork and problem solving during the electric car challenge where they set up and investigated transforming electrical energy into kinetic energy, which utilised super capacitors and electric motors. The event was delivered through the By Design-Group on behalf of "Tomorrows Engineers" and was deemed a great success.

The Soccer Aid for Unicef Playground Challenge was delivered to Year 7 students this week, where obstacle courses were set up and each child was timed to complete the course, moving with a ball at their feet or in their hands. This was a fundraising event and the money the school raised will help children in danger all over the world, helping them to grow up healthy and happy.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone, students, staff and parents, and especially Mrs Mellor, for pulling together and putting on a fantastic Summer Fayre event on Thursday evening. There was too much going on to describe fully here, but it was a wonderful community event which combined lots of fun activities, as well as our Summer Concert and GCSE Drama performances. This has been a great start to a new Marden tradition.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher