



Marden High School

Friday 11th October 2019

Dear All,

One of the things that help us to have a calm and purposeful atmosphere around school are the routines and systems we have in place, which allow everyone to understand their part in school life and to know what is expected of them. We practise, for example, fire drills on a regular basis and it is good to know that these are carried out very well in a calm and responsible manner by everyone. An area that schools are starting to think about is what procedure should look like in a "lockdown" situation. As with fire, a lockdown is something which is a frightening thought, but one where preparation, knowledge and understanding are an essential part of looking after everyone. At Marden, staff and governors have been developing a procedure for a 'partial' and a 'full' lockdown, and this has actually been used by North Tyneside Local Authority as a model for other schools to develop theirs. During the second half of this term, we will be spending time in Personal Development lessons going through these procedures with all our students. These will clearly be important lessons, during which staff will be aware of getting information across clearly at the same time as mitigating any potential anxiety students may have regarding the context. We will be looking to run a lockdown drill for the whole school at a later point in the year.

During their transition lesson to Marden, the current Year 7 children wrote a short story on the theme of survival, and it is great to hear that quite a number of these stories have been recognised by a national writing competition. The organisation Young Writer's will now be publishing the children's work in a special anthology of stories entitled 'Mission Chaos: Survival Stories'. The book will be published later this year and copies will be available to read in the school Learning Resource Centre. Well done to all involved, and thanks to Ms Laing who continues to lead Creative Writing at Marden.

Some of our Year 11 prefects have been using their Friday evenings to design and collate work for our new student e-magazine. Students from all year groups have contributed an array of work such as short stories, holiday reviews and opinion pieces. Any students who would like to contribute can send their submissions to getpublished@mardenhigh.net by the end of Friday 18th October 2019. The e-magazine will be available to read on the school website shortly after half term.

On Saturday 26th October there will be a special careers event at Tyne Metropolitan College from 10.00am - 1.30pm. As a 'Careers for the Family' event, it is intended to get whole families engaged in identifying ways to realise their aspirations and to get economically active in a way that serves local people. It will support people to make informed decisions about the next stage of their education, training or their future career by bringing together businesses, institutions and organisations from all sectors. The event will provide anyone in

the family with the best possible information and guidance to enable every person, whether young or old to identify routes into work. It will also provide support to understand the impact on benefits/universal credit, transport, child care and much more. There will be over 50 exhibitors showcasing opportunities in their organisations, including local employers, colleges, universities, training providers and information areas.

Each week I seem to hear of more and more students taking part in Saturday morning Park Runs, with many reporting personal best times and how much they are enjoying them. Next week our House Challenge is to take part in a Park Run, and so students are able to claim house points for participation, as well as benefiting physically and socially from these events. We hope this will encourage a few new faces to pull on their running shoes - good luck if you do!

Next week we have the visit of Father Thami from South Africa. He will be visiting lessons and delivering sessions on the differences between South Africa and the UK, apartheid and the KWA Hilda project which we raise money for each year. This exciting visit coincides with our final week with Show Racism The Red Card, when Year 7 complete the five assemblies we have had with the organisation. On Friday, the assembly with Show Racism The Red Card and the work with Father Thami culminates with the non-uniform day where students will be raising money for charity. Our continued work with both charities benefits students in all parts of the country and the world as we continue to develop global citizens of the future.

Don't forget that on Thursday 25th October we have our 'spooktacular' PTA Quiz Night which of course has the theme of Halloween. Fast becoming a mainstay of Marden tradition, this promises to be another enjoyable occasion where we can all get together for a bit of light-hearted fun and a catch up with each other. Tickets are available from reception or on the door. We look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher