



Marden High School

Friday 18th October 2019

Dear All,

I have written previously in this newsletter about Kwa Hilda, the orphanage in South Africa which we have raised money for in recent years, and so this week was a very special one as it saw one of the founders of the childrens' home visit us in school. We have been honoured this week to welcome Father Thami into our school community, and our students have had the opportunity to meet with him, hear him speak in assemblies, and have discussions with him in lessons. It has been fascinating to hear about how Kwa Hilda functions and start to understand the immensely positive impact that the security and love the children receive there makes on their lives. Many more of our students, I think, will have had a greater understanding of who we supported with our non-uniform day this week. Our students have also learned from first hand accounts from Father Thami about the struggles and injustice that millions of people faced in South Africa through the years of apartheid, and about the difficulties still faced because of lingering prejudice and discrimination. A great speaker, and an inspirational personality, Father Thami has had quite an impact on school this week. We are very grateful for his visit, and we hope to see him at Marden again in the future.

The career based networking programmes for boys and girls are getting off the ground. The Boys' Network held their first one-to-one mentoring sessions last Thursday. The focus for the discussion was 'Self Leadership'. Each meeting has a different focus aimed at building confidence and helping the boys to develop an etiquette for success and prepare for future careers.

Meanwhile the first mentoring meeting of the Girls' Network was held on Monday. The mentors are female volunteers from a broad spectrum of careers. This year mentors come from both private and public sector organisations and have undergone training as part of the programme.

Last Friday was International Day of the Girl and, to mark the occasion, there was a celebration at Northumbria University on Saturday. The event was an opportunity for the girls who participated in the Girl Kind project to showcase their work. The girls have been working on a variety of creative interventions (films, posters, stories) that help others to understand what it is like to be a girl, highlighting issues and reasons to celebrate that are most pertinent to them. Areas of focus by students from Marden High School included period poverty, mental health and gender bias. The students were, of course, a credit to themselves and the school and a sample of their work is available to view on the school website.

This week was the annual Young Person's Question Time, and Marden had four very astute student representatives. This was a very exciting opportunity held at North Tyneside Council Offices where students from a range of different schools asked topical and important questions that mattered to them. These questions were answered by a panel of councillors, business owners, members of the police, public health officials and representatives of the YMCA youth organisation. During the course of the morning students got involved by asking questions regarding the environment, transport, mental health and jobs for young people as well as a question selected from the live Twitter feed that students contributed to during the event. There will be more details on how our students got on in this half term's summary newsletter.

St George's Music are currently looking for young people who enjoy singing, want to learn and are keen to develop their skills singing in a choir. They are not looking for the finished article, but enthusiasm and a desire to get involved is important. They are offering great training in choral singing skills and voice development and this is a great chance to learn to sing music in harmony in a supportive and welcoming musical and social team. They are also looking to offer Choral Scholarships to teenagers in school years 9 -13 and there are currently two places available. There are further details available on our school website.

In football this week we had two teams playing. Both teams played really well to secure league wins on Monday. The U12s beat Marden Bridge 1-0 and the U15 team played Kings and beat them a convincing 9-3. Congratulations to all the players involved.

We have a number of students who, as well as playing their sports, are getting involved in the coaching and refereeing side of the games, in both football and netball. It is great to see students extending themselves in this way and developing their leadership and interpersonal skills.

Please remember that if students need to take any medication during the day, they must not bring it in themselves. Instead, we ask that parents bring into school reception any medication needed, and that it is in the original packaging and clearly labelled with the child's name. A Medicines form also needs to be filled out at reception when the medicine is brought in.

Remember also that Friday next week is a teacher training day so students will not be in school.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher