



Marden High School

Friday 8th November 2019

Dear All,

It has been good to welcome students and staff back to school this week, with classes picking up where they left off, providing a calm, focused environment for everyone to work in and enjoy.

Marden is a friendly school where students and staff come together to make the most of the time and opportunities they have. Marden is a place where people care about each other, and where each person gets individual attention. We accept people for who they are, which means that at Marden you can be yourself, able to express your unique personality, and confident that we will support the achievement of your goals and dreams. At Marden we are kind to one another, and we look out for each other.

I have used these words many times before, either in presentations at school or in this newsletter, and when I do I am expressing what I see on a daily basis. It describes, I think, aspects of the culture that people experience here and reflects many of the values that we hold to. These words also remind me of what a strong foundation we have to build on, and improve still further the educational and other extra opportunities we can provide for our young people in the future.

To work towards that future, we want to have a shared vision, one which is co-constructed by the whole community, ensuring that everyone is working towards shared goals, with a clear understanding of what success looks like, and it is with this in mind that this half term we will be reviewing our "vision" for the future, and spending some quality time reflecting on our values and culture as a school. We would, of course, like all stakeholders to be involved: students, staff, parents, and governors.

So I would like to invite parents to our next Parent Forum meeting on Monday 25th November at 4.30pm, where we will be able to discuss our values, culture and vision, the outcomes of which will then feed into further governor and staff discussion. If any parent would like to come to this Parent Forum meeting please let Elaine Scott know. I will feed back to everyone the outcomes of all of these discussions later in the year.

This week, one class of year 10 students, taught by Mrs Berriman, has attracted considerable interest from teachers in other North Tyneside schools, as they were involved in a professional development event earlier in the week. Teachers responsible for developing Teaching and Learning in other schools in the area were invited into Marden to watch the Drama lesson in a theatre style event, and were then involved in a lively discussion about the techniques seen in the demonstration lesson and how they could be

used in other curriculum areas to enhance student learning. Our students showed some amazingly creative and deep thinking, and staff enjoyed the event which was another good opportunity to share the excellent work that goes on at Marden with colleagues in the region.

On Thursday evening our inaugural school chess team took part in the first round of the national chess tournament at St Mary's High School in Newcastle. The team of six lost the first round but following a team talk from one of the players with a change in strategy, our newly formed team took on players from three other schools to win the next two rounds and qualify for the regional stages. The team spirit was palpable and the plan for a chess club was forged in the team bus as they returned to school. It is always a privilege to represent the school in tournaments and all six players did the school proud in every aspect of their game.

Just before the half term break, our U16 netball team played North Gosforth Academy and achieved a convincing 15-0 victory - an excellent result from a super team effort. In a hard fought game of football against John Spence just before half term the U14 team narrowly lost in spite of a spirited effort - well tried boys, and keep working hard. Next Friday afternoon sees the North Tyneside Cross-Country Championships take place and so this week runners have been trying out to see who will represent Marden. We wish all the competitors all the best.

Finally I would like to remind parents that the deadline for applications to become a parent governor is on Friday 15th November.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher