



Marden High School

Friday 15th November 2019

Dear All,

This week saw the very interesting BIMA Digital Day 2019 which gave many Marden High School students across Years 9 and 10 the chance to gain an insight into the world of digital careers. As part of the day, working in collaboration with local digital development company, Blue Cookie, our students completed one of three sponsored challenges for a chance to be crowned BIMA Digital Day 2019 Champions, competing against over 7000 students in 190 schools across 124 UK cities. Our students represented themselves and the school impeccably, with our guest from Blue Cookie commenting on how impressed he was by how passionate, enthusiastic and innovative our students were throughout the whole of Digital Day.

A group of Year 10 and Year 11 students have taken the first steps on the road to their FA coaching badge this term. Working alongside Cullercoats football coaches, our students are supporting under 8, under 9 and under 10 teams, and reports of their abilities, effort and knowledge have all been extremely positive. We wish our young coaches all the best in attaining their FA badges, and we look forward to the links with Cullercoats Football Club growing even stronger over time.

This term we have also been very pleased to work closely with Northumbria Police to set up the Police Cadet Unit operating from the school, and students from Marden and other local high schools have fed back that the first session was interesting and enjoyable. Students will develop a range of interpersonal and leadership skills during their time in the Cadets, and work towards achieving their Duke of Edinburgh Award. If any Year 10 students would like to join this Cadet group they should see Assistant Headteacher, Mr Anderson.

As you may recall, before the half term break, our students participated in a demonstration aiming to compel government action in addressing the climate crisis and reducing our damage to the Earth. This is an issue about which students here at Marden are deeply

concerned, and so, in our English lessons, some Year 8 students have been continuing with our environmental activism. They have been researching issues and statistics, and drafting letters to central government, detailing their concerns and suggesting possible solutions to current environmental issues. The students have worked diligently on these letters, and a selection of the finalised letters will be sent to Downing Street after the 12th December. English teacher Ms Lees commented, "I have witnessed their passion, drive and commitment to this issue and I have been inspired by them. It's amazing to see students using their voices in this way because we all have a voice and we can all make a difference to our future - let's follow Year 8's lead and help make a positive difference." This has been another very good example of student leadership, and it is good to see them developing an awareness of their own agency in bringing about change.

In Netball this week, our U16 team won against St Thomas More 19-3 and against John Spence 16-9. These are two great results and reflect the consistency and hard work approach the girls have in this team. Well done to all.

As part of the standardisation process for GCSE, we had a friendly fixture in Handball this week, and it was good to see another good result for the U16 team winning against John Spence 3-2.

The Year 9 Guided Choices process has now started with pupils attending the first of a series of assemblies informing them of the process. In the coming weeks, each options subject Curriculum Leader will deliver an assembly giving the students information about the courses on offer. This will be followed by a Guided Choices evening on February 6th where parents, carers, and students can visit curriculum areas to discuss the options with subject teachers and find out more.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher