



Marden High School

Friday 29th November 2019

Dear All,

We are rightly proud of how our children conduct themselves both in and out of school, living up to the high expectations we have of them and we often receive comments from members of the public on how well behaved our children are when on school visits, or on their way to and from school. There are often comments on how responsible and kind our children are, and it is certainly true that we look for opportunities for them to develop a sense of social justice. Recently we have had a group of year 10 students who are part of the Marden School of Sanctuary who have delivered assemblies to the whole school about not using labels to pigeonhole people into categories and encouraging us to show strength of character in being ourselves. This shows true student leadership as it is the young people themselves who are planning and coordinating this work which will become part of the Personal Development curriculum and further assemblies in the future. This will undoubtedly develop in them the key skills of raising awareness, influencing people's opinions and shaping their own future.

Many of our students are involved in a whole variety of extra-curricular activities and as the weather becomes colder and wetter, there are lots of opportunities for students to socialise in a warm and comfortable environment during their break, lunchtime and after school. These range from structured sports activities in the sports hall, through to coding in computer science, or simply spending time socialising together in a classroom with a form tutor. I would encourage all students to get involved in extra-curricular activities, and perhaps try something new from the extensive list of opportunities which can be found on our website. Remember the famous quote from Wayne Gretzky, "100% of the shots you don't take don't go in".

As I hope you are aware standards of behaviour at Marden are very high, and there is often much positive feedback from visitors, guest speakers and colleagues from other schools who visit us. Sometimes a young person may have difficulties and in spite of support from

their own school, it may be appropriate for them to have a trial period at another school with the aim of their behaviour improving. This arrangement is called a managed move. It has been notable how successful a number of these managed moves have been when young people have come to Marden for their trial period, so that they have settled and focused on their school work and on forming positive relationships with their peers. This is a reflection of the skills, expertise and enthusiasm of staff at Marden who are able to help these young people meet high expectations.

Some mixed fortunes in sport this week, but the great thing about consistent contribution to a team is not necessarily the victories but the strength of character and resilience, amongst other things, that it develops. On Thursday, the U16 Netball team lost against John Spence 31-19, whilst the U14 girls Football team won against John Spence 2-1, but lost against St Thomas More 3-0. The Year 7 athletes were 4th in the indoor competition at Marden Bridge. Well done to everyone who participated and thanks to staff supporting the students.

I am always so impressed with the talents of our young people, and with how enthusiastically they get involved in such a range of sporting, musical, drama and creative activities, as you can often see on our website. This coming week, we are very much looking forward to the Christingle concert at St George's Church and the Proud of our Work evening, both on Thursday 5th December. Looking slightly further ahead, we are looking forward to a wonderful Christmas Concert on the 12th December to get us in the mood for the festive season, and then our Christmas lunch, always a treat, on the 13th December.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher