



Marden High School

Friday 20th December 2019

Dear All,

This is the last newsletter of the term, and in fact the last of this decade, so a suitable point for reflection on this busy term, and this has been the theme of our quote this week from Confucius:

“Learning without reflection is a waste. Reflection without learning is dangerous.”

We have been talking about this in our House assemblies this week, and students have been considering the importance of using this holiday period for reflection on what they have achieved, and what they want to go on to achieve in the Spring term. I have also introduced the students to the concept of “Lampost Learning”, and parents may wish to ask their children about this to see if they have remembered what this is!

Our assemblies this week have also celebrated the achievements of the four Houses, Alnwick, Bamburgh, Dunstanburgh and Warkworth. This term there has been a different house competition each week and this has meant that the numbers of house points being earned has increased dramatically this term where students have been able to work towards house points and it has been good to see so many of our students learn the value of hard work by working hard. Congratulations to Alnwick for being top of the league at the end of this term. The totals, however, are very close, so it's still all to play for next term.

We have had a quite amazing response to The Bay Foodbank appeal as you can see from the pictures on the website, and it has been humbling to hear students explain their understanding of inequality and why foodbanks exist. It is our hope that as our young people grow up and become the decision makers of the future, their approach to societal wellbeing will see the need for foodbanks diminish.

In this last week of term the Maths and Science Department focussed on light and shape in a creative way with year 7 and year 8. During Science lessons the students gathered in the auditorium to learn about the transfer of energy by light waves and how different coloured light transfers different amounts of energy. The students were

then given coloured ribbons which they made waves with, set to music, to illustrate the energy transfer. In classrooms the year 7 students then used knowledge of stencil, shape and symmetry to design and make mock stained glass panels for the windows to provide a little seasonal decoration.

In the latest North Tyneside Rowing competition our students performed superbly well, taking the top 2 positions in the Year 10 competition - that's nearly 1400 metres in just 5 minutes - as well as winning the Year 9 and 10 team competitions. All the boys were brilliant and a real pleasure to have represent the school. The boys have been able to practice using the 2 rowing machines paid for from PTA funds, so it's good to see those resources having a real impact.

As this newsletter is published we are on our way down to St George's Church to enjoy another wonderful Carol Service. This really is a great occasion when almost the whole school comes together to celebrate the term we have had and to rejoice in the community that we are. This afternoon at the end of the singing we took a moment to consider the importance of looking beyond the overindulgence of Christmas and reflecting on those people who are there for us, support us and care for us all year round, and about those acts of kindness we might be able to show them, no matter how small, to show our love and appreciation of them. As the famous American aviation pioneer, Amelia Earhart said, "A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees."

It has been a long and successful term with many and varied successes. You can read some of the great activities that students have been getting involved with in this newsletter, and I hope that over the holidays, everybody is able to take a good break and get some well-earned rest.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy Christmas and a pleasant New Year, and we look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday 6th January.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher