



## Marden High School

Friday 17th January 2020

Dear All,

It has been good to hear various groups of students planning for different events coming up this term, in particular, the School Cabinet and the School of Sanctuary. When I see how many students are involved in this sort of activity it is clear that our students recognise that their achievements surpass what is measurable in examination results alone; the opportunity to lead and contribute to community events and fund-raising activities to enrich the lives of others is an important element of life at Marden. Our students have a global awareness and a social conscience that drives them to make a difference to the lives of others less fortunate in their local community and to the world at large, and it is a privilege to support this sense of optimism which our students display.

One thing that is an ever present backdrop to life at Marden is the encouragement of everyone to take opportunities when they arise, and, according to our thought for the week last week from actor Jim Carrey, "Life opens up opportunities to you, and you either take them, or you stay afraid of taking them." Our belief that every child can make progress and be successful is the reason why our young people, as they get older, say that Marden High School has 'set them up for life'. There are many varied opportunities open to our children at Marden, and I would encourage any student who has not got involved in an extra-curricular activity yet, to do so; there are many to choose from and the extra-curricular timetable can be found on our website.

Last year you may remember we had a series of music industry workshops where students connected with a variety of professionals from the music industry and received some valuable practice and advice about potential future careers. This was all part of the TICE (This Is Creative Enterprise) programme and Marden will be once again involved this year with a musical theme for our Year 9 students. The programme runs for the rest of this academic year and will culminate in 3 day workshops 'Create in Music' whereby students will select projects of their choice and gain further insight into a specific area of the music industry. Each project will involve guest speakers, tours, skills development and a completed

piece of individual or group work. More information on this will be on our school website in due course.

Last week I mentioned the North Tyneside cross-country championships that had taken place, and I am very pleased to let you know that our athletes performed so well - three of our students actually won their races - that no fewer than fourteen have now qualified for the Northumberland Schools Championships at Temple Park in South Shields next week. This is an excellent achievement and a clear reflection of the running talent at Marden. The U13 Handball team continue to perform well in inter school competitions winning two of their games this week. Well done to all players.

Next week a number of Year 9 students will be taking part in an exciting Project we have organised in conjunction with The Girls' Network called the Power of Five. This gives students the experience of visiting five different corporate businesses during the week and gaining an insight into the workings of that business and into the various roles that people have within the organisation. At the same time, of course, they will be getting involved in experiencing some of the work that goes on there, and so developing their interpersonal and communication skills and, more generally, honing their etiquette for success.

Amongst the other exciting things happening next week is our Year 10 Work Experience. We hope the students enjoy the time they spend in their placements, and we are sure they will get lots out of it if they put lots of effort and the right attitude into it.

Also coming up at the end of this month we have our now annual weekend visit to the YMCA Lakeside Challenge in the Lake District where this year we have two intrepid teams competing against other schools in outdoor adventure problem solving. We wish them the best of luck.

Lastly, a few reminders:

- Our next PTA meeting is on Monday 20th January at 6pm in the LRC - new members always welcome.
- Our first exciting Year 7 Well Being Day will be on Thursday 30th January - Year 7 parents will receive a letter detailing the event next week.

- Year 9 will be making their provisional Guided Choices on Monday next week in Tutor Time, and the Guided Choices evening for parents and children is on Thursday 6th February.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher