



Marden High School

Friday 6th March 2020

Dear All,

This week we have had two stunning nights of musical production from the cast of 'We Will Rock You'. Their performances were quite literally spine tinglingly superb, and congratulations and huge thanks go to all the students and staff involved. With even more of an emphasis on student leadership, it was an amazing show, full of talent, energy and dedication - pure Marden. The story itself summarised wonderfully what we as a school are about, a community that, by growing a culture of hope, agency and leadership, is helping to create a bright, positive future for our children. Special thanks goes to Mrs Berriman and Mrs Gibbings for their creativity and leadership.

This week we celebrated World Book Day with activities for all year groups. These included an enhanced focus on reading for pleasure across the curriculum, our 'Big Booky Breaktime' bake sale and well-attended annual lunchtime quiz. These activities raised money for Book Aid and were enjoyed by staff and students from across the school. Thank you to those that took part.

Year 7 students have begun a sponsored six week Readathon this week, in which they are encouraged to read as many texts as they can from a variety of genres and eras. Additional challenges have been set as an opportunity to earn house points, these include 'read a book in a day' and 'read a book older than you'. The sponsor money raised will be donated to ReadforGood, a charity that supplies books to children in hospitals across the UK.

We are delighted to announce that Marden High School has been awarded the Artsmark Gold Award. The accolade is valid for two years and indicates the commitment staff are making to the arts through education. The accompanying report acknowledged the broad range of arts-related opportunities on offer and the creative way student leadership is developed through the arts. "Marden High School offers an art-rich education and has a well-developed creative arts pedagogy."

It has been a pleasure having a number of our past students working alongside staff recently in a number of departments. It is testament to their time here at Marden that so many of our past students want to come back and work with their teachers. They seemed to enjoy the whole experience and were splendid role models for our pupils.

This week we have had students in Year 9 and 10 representing Tyne & Wear in Indoor Rowing in the Northern Regional Finals at Durham University. This was a fantastic experience for them, and in a very competitive field, they positioned extremely well. A superb achievement - well done!

Our dancers performed exceptionally well on Tuesday evening at the area Dance Festival. They performed their group dance based on 'Icons' to a packed audience at The Parks and the girls proved to be excellent ambassadors for the school.

The year 9 netballers were crowned North Tyneside School Champions last night. This is the third year in a row that the netballers have secured the title. They put in four magnificent performances beating St Thomas More B team 10-0, John Spence 7-4, Whitley Bay High School 9-2 and drew with St Thomas More A team 3-3. The students showed great character and were joint on points with St Thomas More A team, with Marden winning through in the end on goal difference.

With regards to our response to COVID-19, we continue to monitor the situation and to act on the daily updates that we are currently receiving from the Department for Education. Personal hygiene is the most important way we can tackle COVID-19, especially washing hands more, and the catch it, bin it, kill it strategy for those with coughs and sneezes. We are encouraging the washing of hands more often, and for 20 seconds, with soap and hot water. In addition to hand washing before eating and after sneezing, both children and staff should also wash hands after using toilets and after travelling on public transport.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher