



## Marden High School

Friday 19th November 2021

Dear All,

As part of our Values Statement, we say that *“within the Marden family, we know each other well and we are kind to one another. We believe in our young people and inspire them to achieve more than they ever thought possible, both in and outside the classroom. Our focus on student leadership helps develop our strong moral compass, giving our young people a global awareness and a sense of agency to shape a more equal society for the future.”* Reflecting this, we have continued our work this year with Show Racism the Red Card. For a number of years now, we have provided sessions for students and training for staff to ensure that we all share an understanding of what equality is, and a clear message that discrimination in any form is not acceptable. We highlight examples of racism and unconscious bias as behaviours that we must all challenge and report when seen or heard. Sadly we have seen in the media this week, Yorkshire Cricket Club at the centre of allegations of racism, reminding us that the scourge of racism can ruin lives and careers, and that is something that we as a community must do all we can to eliminate from our children’s lives. As our Values Statement goes on to say, *“we see hope and opportunity for everyone, recognising the great range of talents we all have, and we leave no stone unturned in helping all our young people to a bright future”*.

Following an enjoyable Development Plan Evening, I would like to extend my thanks to those parents who have contacted me about getting involved with the school in various ways. There are certainly some exciting possibilities which have emerged from our conversations. The presentation that I gave has been shared on the school website and can still be found in the ‘latest news’ section. The five areas I specified as potential areas parents and carers may wish to think of getting involved in are:

- PTA
- Governing Body
- Alumni
- Careers talks
- Business/Industry links

If anybody would like to talk to me about any of these areas, I would very much welcome contact from them, either by phone or email.

As part of this year's World Youth Skills Day, the World Economic Forum polled 11,000 young people across 136 countries, in order to help capture the perspectives of young people all over the world about the future of work and skills. A common plea from the young people was "The one thing that would make the biggest difference to me is to actually learn the skills that the job market will require from me". It was clear that many young people value the importance of essential skills such as Leadership, Teamwork and Listening when it comes to building a successful career. This is something we are particularly keen to help our students develop and so we are working with The Skills Builder Partnership, who are also committed to equipping young people with the essential skills that underpin success in employment.

Year 7 students will this year be using the Skills Builder Universal Framework, which breaks down each essential skill - such as Creativity, Problem Solving and Aiming High- into sixteen measurable steps. They will be focusing initially on the skill of listening, and parents may wish to explore what this entails by visiting the link here on the Skills Builder Partnership website:

<https://www.skillsbuilder.org/universal-framework/listening>


There is a dedicated area on the Skills Builder Partnership website where parents and carers can create a login and explore further.

Last Thursday our Year 10 students took part in Digital Day, an exploration into the careers opportunities within the digital industry, many of which can be found here in the North East, as regional companies gain a growing and excellent reputation on the national and international stage. The students had a great day with developers from Hedgehog Labs, a digital consultancy firm from Newcastle City Centre. They were challenged to create a digital solution to help climate change, and the whole day was designed to give students a 'day in the life' as a digital developer working for a client brief. The winners now have the opportunity to represent the school in a National competition. One of the students commented: *"I enjoyed Digital Day. I liked working as a team to complete a brief, and I know that a skill I can take away from this experience is getting to work under pressure with non-negotiable time constraints."* Well done to all who took part in the day.

Cross country this week on Tuesday saw the North Tyneside Cross Country Championships take place for the first time in 2 years due to lockdown. Marden had a representation of 51 pupils from all year groups, and they performed superbly on the day, displaying great resilience and determination. Many of our runners qualified to make it through to the county stages in January, and in Year 7 we had a winner who has now become North Tyneside Champion for 2021. Great effort everyone - well done.

Wherever possible could parents please advise school of any appointments that students need to attend during lesson time in advance. This will help to ensure we have staff available to collect your child promptly upon your arrival minimising any delays in signing out your child to leave the school site. School can be advised in several ways either by email at [office@mardenhigh.net](mailto:office@mardenhigh.net), by contacting our absence line, by telephone on 0191 2962771 or by sending a message via the school comms system. Could I also advise in line with safeguarding policies, if it is not a parent collecting a child, could you please advise the name and relationship to the student of the person collecting the child. Students are also not allowed to leave with anyone under 18 or alone without prior agreement with school.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'M. Snape'.

Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher