



Marden High School

Friday 26th November 2021

Dear All,

As you are aware, enhancing careers information, advice and guidance for our students and parents and carers is paramount to us, and is inextricably linked to students learning in and out of school, and to the opportunities we identify for our community. One of the very interesting opportunities that has been brought to attention this week comes from Durham University, and is an invitation to parents and carers to a series of online seminars on supporting their child's career potential. These career evenings are free of charge and parents can register now for:

Wednesday 1st Dec: Building a Future in Finance

How your child can break into the finance industry

Wednesday 8th Dec: Level up with Law

Support your child on their journey to becoming a top lawyer

These events are for parents of students aged 12-18 and hopefully will provide a useful springboard for rich discussion at home about future career options.

Even with current restrictions in place, Marden High School PTA continues to be active in school, and we hope that in the Spring term we will be able to host more face to face events in school at various events. The PTA is a friendly school association committed to raising funds in order to enhance the experiences of our children. In the recent past this has included rowing machines, cameras, packs for the Maths Challenge, equipment for the gardening club, and even artificial babies that cry and need to be fed! We raise funds through events which at the same time seek to foster community spirit between school, parent and carers and the local area. Many people have enjoyed getting to know other parents by attending monthly meetings or helping out at events, so if there are any parents or carers who would like to join us, they would be more than welcome, and can get in touch by sending an email to Ms Mellor at c.mellor@mardenhigh.net. In the meantime, there is a useful video on the school website (in 'About Marden', 'PTA') which gives more information.

Literacy development, of course, continues to be key in our activities in school, and certainly there is a lot going on with Ms Taylor providing lots of information to the students on the various competitions they can get involved in, as well as suggesting some good reads for those long winter evenings. Members of the Library Club have also been busy turning the LRC into an attractive and vibrant location for students to come and read or do some extra work or homework after school. It is worth remembering also that every day after school we have Learning Support Assistants in the LRC to support students with their work should they want that. The Library Club have also created a video explaining how to use Oliver, the new Library website, as well as encouraging students to enter the exciting national competitions currently running, and it is great to see this sort of student leadership creating new possibilities for our young people.

Friday is the day when nationally, through the UNISON Stars in Our Schools day, all the support staff who work in schools across the country are recognised for the excellent work they do, often behind the scenes. Certainly at Marden we are very lucky to have such a fantastic team of dedicated people who contribute to the education and experiences our young people enjoy here, and I am sure that everyone will join me in thanking them for the work they do, not just on this national day of recognition, but everyday.

Durham University are currently running a number of Virtual Academic Taster sessions, and we think these will be very useful for any students looking to widen their knowledge and understanding of university study generally, getting an idea about what can be studied, or of what university life is like. Anybody wishing to [book onto one or more of the sessions](#) can do so via this link.

Following on from the Art Department's highly successful Inktober competition, you may be aware that we have recently held a 'Peaceful Place' Photography Competition which was also one of our House Challenges. The entries revealed a great depth and breadth of talent with some very striking and atmospheric images, and the winning photographs were quite breathtaking. The top 3 photographs and their creators will be announced next week in Form Time.

This week has been packed with sporting action involving a range of teams. The Year 10 girls volleyball team had their first games of the season winning 2 games and conceding 2 narrow losses. The girls showed fantastic teamwork and their spike shots were first class. The Year 8 boys had a phenomenal win against Burnside 47-8 in basketball. The students gave 100% effort and were on the front foot from the start of the game. It was a pleasure to see their hard work in training pay off. On Wednesday evening

the Year 9 badminton leagues started, with a tough opening night against Churchill, Kings Priory and John Spence but the boys managed 1 brilliant win and 2 narrow losses. It has also been a busy week with football. The Year 9 boys beat Monkseaton 2-0 in very cold conditions. The girls U14 football team had 1 narrow loss against Longbenton and a brilliant 2-0 win against John Spence. The U13 girls football team had their first outing of the season with 1 win, 1 draw and 1 loss. Finally the Year 10 and 11 GCSE PE students had a netball moderation against Sacred Heart where they showcased their skills, putting in an outstanding performance and coming away with a great win. It is so good to see so much sport happening again as part of our busy extra-curricular programme, and I would encourage all of our students to get involved with some aspect of it. Well done to all our sports students and staff this week. We are very proud of you.

The Immunisation Team will be coming to Marden on Tuesday 30 November to vaccinate students who have already completed consent forms but missed their COVID-19 vaccine in school last month. Unfortunately the school nurses will not be able to vaccinate any other students at this time. If any parent/carer has any queries concerning this please contact the team on 0191 643 2866 or 0191 643 2878. We are aware that some students who were due to receive their COVID-19 vaccination in school last month may have been vaccinated elsewhere. If this is the case, please do let us know if they have now had their vaccine, or if they are due to receive it before 30 November. This is also a good opportunity to say well done to everyone for their continued efforts in looking after each other, by ensuring the measures we have in school to help prevent the spread of the virus are maintained. Wearing masks, sanitising hands, and having ventilation clearly have an impact in reducing transmission, and will hopefully help us move into a Spring term where the transmission of Covid comes right down.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher