



Marden High School

Friday 28th January 2022

Dear All,

This week we have commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day. In honour of this, a number of our students produced an assembly to mark this international day of commemoration for those who have suffered in the Holocaust and the, sadly, many genocides that have followed. The date symbolises the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp during the Second World War. First held on the 27th of January 2001, Holocaust Memorial Day brings together people to support others who have survived or seen other genocides. When creating the assembly, students wanted to produce something that was able to raise awareness for the day and convey the message that it stands for. In their words: “we wanted students to feel both impacted by the events of the past so that they will never be forgotten, but also able to educate themselves further on the subject. We hoped that they understood that these are not just events of the past, but also issues of the modern day that they felt that they could in some way help to prevent.” In offering support on where to find tools to do this, we hope that everyone in our community is able to challenge the prejudice that is able to develop into such horrific and devastating events. In the words of the Mothers of Srebrenica: “No story can bring back our dearest ones, but by telling a story we can prevent new genocides, new crimes and future wars.”

Selected Year 9 students have this week been invited to take part in the Chronicle's 'Our School' project. The group of journalists will be working together to investigate issues, achievements and events taking place in our school and local community. They will hone their writing skills and produce a page of stories for the Chronicle newspaper. This is an exciting opportunity to experience writing for a real audience and genuine newspaper. We await its publication on 24th March with anticipation.

When I see how many students are involved in the sorts of activities described above, 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, this brings to mind the words of 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 extracurricular activity yet, to do so; there are many to choose from and the extra-curricular timetable can be found on our website.

We are very excited that work experience is back on our CEIAG programme of events and will run between the 4th and 8th of July. As part of the process we ask the students to organise their own work experiences, and our year 10 students have taken part in a work experience preparation lesson this week to support them in this process. As all of the placements require a health and safety check, placements need to be secured and paperwork returned to school by the 1st of April. If any parent or carer feels that additional support may be required for their child to help find a suitable placement, or if you have any queries surrounding work experience, please contact Mrs F Brennan, Careers Lead, on 0191 296 2771 or email f.brennan@mardenhigh.net.

Many of our students have successfully enrolled on the Duke of Edinburgh course and have either started their activities, or are in the process of starting them, and we are now looking forward to the expeditions, which the students are preparing themselves for. These take place in July, and involve students working independently in groups, traversing challenging Northumbrian landscapes, using route finding and campcraft skills, and developing their resilience and resourcefulness along the way. These expeditions, an essential part of the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, are a great way for students to challenge themselves, and students in Years 7 and 8 should look out for this opportunity as they progress through school.

We have had a wide range of sports teams in action this week, all of which have had some fantastic results. Firstly the Year 7 boys football team were in action on Monday night against Marden Bridge Middle School. The boys put in a superb performance and showed great teamwork, communication and skill and managed a phenomenal 9-0 win. On Wednesday evening the newly formed Year 10 and 11 girls volleyball team were in action, both teams managing a successful win and putting on a great show. The blocks and serves were high class and proved very challenging for their opposition to play against.

As one student quoted "The early morning training sessions are definitely paying off". Next Wednesday the boys volleyball teams are in action. On Thursday evening the Year 10 and 11 netball team played against Whitley Bay High School. The Year 10 team's sheer determination and teamwork gave them the added edge against very tough competitors and managed to secure a 8-6 win. The Year 11 team put on a masterclass of slick passing, secure defending and splendid shooting and won 17-2. Both teams remain undefeated this season which is a fantastic achievement and is down to their hard work and commitment to training every week. Finally the next group of GCSE PE students started their rock climbing course, where they are learning how to belay, traverse and deal with a tricky overhang.

Next week on Friday 4th February, we have the Year 11 group photograph during period 1. Students will need to be in full school uniform for the photograph, and copies of the final image will be available for purchase later in the year. They really do make a lovely memento of students' time here at Marden.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher