



## Marden High School

Friday 4th March 2022

Dear All,

We have enjoyed a great week following the half term break, and it has been wonderful to have all our students and staff back on one site. As school life returns somewhat to normal, we are very much looking forward to continuing the focus on our current School Development Plan, which demands the very best for our learning community and the young people who are educated here, and this is a good moment to remind ourselves what we are about:

“This is a vibrant, exciting place to be. We are a strong community, each individual full of hope, looking forward to many possibilities. We are recognised for our innovative, high quality education and excellent examination results. We believe in our young people and inspire them to achieve more than they ever thought possible, both in and outside the classroom.”

We also speak often about the importance of instilling a sense of agency in our children, so that they understand that they can make a difference to their own and others' lives through the decisions they make. It is good therefore to see the response of our community to the desperate circumstances that the people of Ukraine currently find themselves in. Students and staff have all felt a need to reach out and help in some way, and so they have organised a bake sale for Tuesday next week, with money raised going to Save the Children, who will be able to use funds to support people fleeing the war zone.

No doubt everybody has been moved by this horror that has unfolded in Ukraine, and so we are also sharing an important link to an official and recognised DEC humanitarian collection fund, where each £1 donated will be matched by the British Government, as announced in the House of Commons this week. UK taxpayers can pledge an additional 25% to each donation through Gift Aid.

[DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal | Disasters Emergency Committee](#)

Please do share this link with friends and family members so that we can do as much as possible to support these innocent people and their families.

Staff and students have been celebrating World Book Day on its 25th anniversary this week. Ms Taylor and her Library Club planned a week of activities in honour of books and reading. From a Reading for Pleasure Special to the sharing of favourite childhood stories; Mr Horn's Devilishly Difficult Literature quiz, to a week-long Creative Reading and Writing Project in English. We look forward to reading the winning students' Short Story Anthologies currently in creation and due to be published on the school website for download at the end of this month. A particular highlight has been seeing the entries to the various competitions: booky baking; literary artwork; character costumes and wacky reading selfies (in a headstand, on the back of a horse, with pet parrots and lizards!). The celebrations culminated yesterday in a special assembly filmed by the Library Club and featuring staff and students discussing their favourite books and what they love about reading

Following the recent government announcement to remove the remaining legal restrictions for COVID-19, here is some further information about what these changes mean for your child in school. We continue to implement good infection, prevention, and control measures to provide protection against infection and associated education disruption, through ventilation and enhanced hygiene and cleaning regimes. Due to a greater understanding of the virus, the public health advice is that children in most education and childcare settings are no longer required to undertake twice-weekly LFD tests. While the legal requirement to self-isolate has been removed, if your child has any of the main COVID symptoms or a positive test result, they should not attend school. The public health advice remains unchanged, which is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people. Anyone with any of the main COVID-19 symptoms should order a PCR test and is advised to stay at home while waiting for the result. Children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days. Contacts of positive COVID-19 cases are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests and contact tracing has ended. If your child is a close contact of a confirmed COVID case, they should attend school as usual. More detailed information can be found at *'what parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges'* at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

On Wednesday evening the weather was bleak, cold and miserable but that did not stop the two football teams putting in one hundred percent effort. The Year 10 boys football team had a friendly at home against Kings Priory. They got off to a slow start and found themselves 2-0 down. The boys rallied around one another and after some positive self talk they pulled it back to level with two outstanding goals, and from that point on the team dominated the performance but in the last few minutes of the game Kings Priory got lucky and stole a 3-2 win. The girls U14 football team played 4 7-side games. We had some debutants from year 7 playing who, although playing two years up, put in a phenomenal

performance. The girls played John Spence and Whitley Bay Blue team and both games ended 0-0. We also played Whitley Bay red team and were beaten 2-0 by two outstanding top corner goals. Our final match of the evening was against Churchill who we beat 4-0. The girls put in a tremendous team performance and should be very proud of themselves.

We are hoping to be able to offer a six week Deaf Awareness and Introduction to British Sign Language Course delivered by Becoming Visible, a charity based in Newcastle. The course will be held at Marden on a Monday, immediately after school, start date to be confirmed. We are very excited about this, and think there will be lots of interest. However, numbers are limited and we are offering places to students first, but if numbers allow we would also like to invite parents and carers to take part. If you or your child are interested in taking part, please complete the attached Google form. For further information please contact Mrs Thompson [s.thompson@mardenhigh.net](mailto:s.thompson@mardenhigh.net).

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2XBHdXPVGbw74VP-HHQ0OSww0FS2ay8nu7RKvgNB\\_M9jSHJQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2XBHdXPVGbw74VP-HHQ0OSww0FS2ay8nu7RKvgNB_M9jSHJQ/viewform)

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher