



Marden High School

Friday 25th March 2022

Dear All,

Key to our success as a school is that we continue to raise the academic achievement of all our students through evidence-based research into learning, and the continued professional development of our teachers. This is a vital element of helping us to prepare students for the future by developing their higher-order thinking skills - problem-solving, critical thinking, creativity and innovation. Our School Development Plan describes one of the school's key objectives therefore as:

'Enhancing the curriculum to develop our creative approach to teaching and learning, providing opportunities to develop skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, digital literacy and innovation. These are the skills our children will need, in addition to good qualifications, to be able to contribute as invested citizens in working towards a fair, prosperous and equal world.'

An integral part of the human condition involves learning who we are and recognising how that fits into the rest of the world. Creativity facilitates this self-discovery, and the act of creating can inspire a deep sense of contentment in each of us. However, making things isn't easy, and making things others will appreciate is even harder. Creativity requires courage, confidence, and the willingness to fail and try again, and to help develop these attributes in our students, we will be running a Creativity Festival in the summer term. Running over two days, all year groups will have the opportunity to participate in a range of activities including working with external artists and organisations. There will be a focus on project work across the two days and a celebration video will be created so we can view everyone's contributions at the end of term. As staff continue to plan for this exciting event, there will be further details for students and parents over the coming weeks.

I would like to remind everyone about the wealth of information and rich resources that can be found on the Subject Clouds on our school website. Curated by members of staff from each department in school, this area of the website is very useful for students of all ages - as well as their parents and carers - supporting them in a range of activities including revision, homework, careers research, or simply consolidating what has been learned in a particular lesson. A great example of what a Subject Cloud can offer, and a good one to get started with, is the Art and Photography cloud, and some of the favourite pages are linked below:

Careers <https://sites.google.com/a/mardenhigh.net/art/careers>

Lots of information on jobs, creative industry positions, university and college opportunities.

Curriculum <https://sites.google.com/a/mardenhigh.net/art/curriculum>

This contains a drop down tab with information for each year group.

Artist Inspiration <https://sites.google.com/a/mardenhigh.net/art/learning-walk/feedback>

Cultural Capital; artist references; information on working professionals

On Thursday next week we look forward to the return of the PTA quiz. A staple in the Marden calendar, we have enjoyed some fabulous quizzes in the past and this year looks to be just as exciting. With spot prizes and a grand prize donated by the PTA there will be great fun for students, families and teachers. The quiz will be in the LRC on Thursday 31st March between 6:30pm and 8:30pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

We have had a variety of different sporting events this week. The Year 7 netball team were crowned Tri-Area Champions, when state and private schools from across North Tyneside, Newcastle and Sunderland came together to play. There was a huge turn out and some great netball on show, with the Marden team playing exceptionally well, winning all six games. They are fast gaining a reputation for being unstoppable! The students showed great sportsmanship and etiquette to staff and players. Additionally the Year 10 boys football team had an end to end game of football on Wednesday evening playing Kings Priory. There were some outstanding saves and it was a great team performance, the game finishing 1-1. The boys should be very proud of this solid performance. The U16 and U14 boys volleyball team also played on Wednesday representing North Tyneside in the County Finals, and, with impeccable teamwork, communication and determination, achieved two wins and a draw, a superb achievement at this level. Finally, on Thursday, the U14 basketball team played in the Tyne and Wear Championships at Newcastle Eagles Stadium. The boys played consistently well through some tough games, and came away as proud semi finalists. Well done to everyone representing Marden High, and further enhancing our school's reputation in this way.

This week a team of students who have been studying robotics went to the Nissan Sports & Leisure Complex to take part in the VEX Robotics Regional Final . Up against sixteen teams from across the North East, the Marden team unveiled their robot, named Keanu, which set about carrying out various tasks and tests against the other robots, with five games in total. At the end of it all, the Marden team came away with the prize for 'Best Driver', and, through all the knockout stages, came out on top, winning the whole competition, which means Marden will be travelling to Telford for the National

Championships next month. This is a fantastic achievement and one which the boys richly deserve with all the hard work they have put in.

From time to time we receive information from Northumbria Police about what is going on in the local area, and this week I am sharing with all parents and carers a [joint partnership letter](#) from Northumbria Police and the Community Protection Team at North Tyneside Council, which talks about anti-social behaviour in North Tyneside. It is thankfully rare for any student from Marden to be involved in any such behaviour, but it is worth reading in order to keep up to date with the work of the local police.

We had the pleasure of viewing some excellently written newspaper articles in The Chronicle this week, and I would recommend that anybody who did not see the articles in the paper, take a look on the [school website](#). With articles ranging from global conflict to making our planet greener, and enhancing creativity within the curriculum, there's plenty to keep everyone interested, and the quality of the reporting is second to none. Well done to all students involved, and a big thanks to Ms Taylor for the support she has given to our young reporters.

With our continued focus on preparing our young people for those important decisions they will be making in the future, this week's assembly addressed the subject of happiness at work. After looking at the 'best' jobs in the world, we heard from Marden staff about what makes them happy at work and then linked this to Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs concluding that money only goes so far in making us happy at work, and that human interaction, rising to challenges, and being creative are also very important. This was an engaging and thought provoking assembly from Miss Wallace, and it can be viewed using [this link](#).

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher