



Marden High School

Friday 1st April 2022

Dear All,

Marden High School has now been identified as the top performing school in North Tyneside by Globalbridge. This means that of all the young people across North Tyneside that are using Globalbridge, Marden students are the most active, with excellent quality portfolios being developed, as well as lots of research being undertaken on training and careers opportunities. Interestingly, the top three areas researched by Marden students over the past month are leisure, sport and fitness; arts, design and textiles; and media. The company relayed their thanks to the school for all the great work we are doing with our students and with Globalbridge.

One of our quotes for the week recently came from a very interesting woman, Pearl Buck, an American writer and novelist, and Pulitzer and Nobel prize winner, who famously said: "to know how to do something well is to enjoy it." We have been reflecting on this, and thinking about how, when we give our students time to engage with an activity and opportunity to practise what it is they are doing, they end up knowing how to do that thing well. In this way they learn to enjoy their creative writing, their trigonometry, their drop shots or whatever it is they are busy with in school. Of course, the same goes for activities our children do at home, so making time and building routines for homework and revision mean that those things too can become enjoyable.

On that note we are delighted to be launching GCSEPod this week; a learning platform which all of our students, staff and parents can access. GCSEPod (nicknamed 'the Netflix of education') supports students with all GCSE course content by providing short five minute videos on every topic. These videos are downloadable so they can be watched on any device, anywhere. Building these into revision and everyday routines has already proven to be successful for others so we are encouraging all students to log on, take the site tour and work out how GCSEPod can work for them. There is an introductory video on the parent links section of the website which explains the app further, and GCSEPod can be accessed by clicking the pop up on the Marden home page. Students can also access GCSEPod via their student apps when they log on to the Marden site.

Last week we had the pleasure of hosting a representative from St Anne's College, Oxford. Students from Years 9, 10 and 11 had the opportunity to find out about various aspects of university life including finance, accommodation and extra curricular activities. We have three students who are taking part in a residential at St Anne's College during the Easter holidays as part of the University programme. As part of the residential the students will have the chance to learn from world-class academics and take in the culture of Oxford and Cambridge, visiting the museums, historical sites and even go punting down the River Cherwell.

Year 10 are making great progress with securing their work experience placements. We are so pleased that 'real life' work experience is able to happen again after two years of virtual placements. Given the more challenging circumstances, we are able to extend the work experience deadline to Monday the 25th of April. If anyone feels their child needs some support with finding a suitable placement please email Mrs Brennan f.brennan@mardenhigh.net

Students in Year 9 are now in the final stages of completing their Arts Award Explore qualification. Through this, they have experienced a range of different aspects of the arts. This has ranged from playing the ukulele to making a silent movie and has culminated in them scrapbooking their experiences for submission to the Arts Council. This is a great achievement for the students involved who have overcome various challenges in completing the award since embarking on it in Year 8.

As everyone will no doubt be aware, there has been updated Covid-19 guidance from the government and from Friday 1st April the advice is that staff and students who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can return to school when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend. If anybody has a positive Covid test result, they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people - 5 days for adults and 3 days for school age children. The government is no longer recommending the use of tests, and they will no longer be available to schools.

This week the Year 8 netball team showed some fabulous shooting skills and fantastic footwork in the North Tyneside Championship. The team came fourth overall and showed great teamwork and communication skills. The umpires from other schools within North Tyneside commented on how polite and well mannered the students were. On Monday evening the Year 9 football team put in a tremendous performance against Kings Priory. The team dominated the performance from start to finish, the passing was quick and controlled with some fantastic runs and shots created, and at the half time whistle Marden High were 3-0 up. In the second half the students were playing into the wind but they did not let that deter them, the match finishing 5-1 with some phenomenal pieces of play. On Wednesday

evening Kings Priory returned to play football against the Year 8 football team in difficult conditions with a huge downpour of hail in the first half making for slippery play. Our boys continued to battle though and landed a 5-3 victory with superb performances and a show of true Marden resilience.

Our 'Wear a Hat Day' last week, was our way of coming together as a community to raise money for Brain Tumour Research. This event was nominated by students who have worked together previously to support this very important charity. We speak to our students about Hope, Agency and Leadership; attributes we seek to develop in our students, and forming the cornerstones of their lifelong progression through education and into future careers. Days like this, where students have nominated a charity and then worked to raise funds that will be donated to affect change, give real hope to all and when we consider that just a few weeks ago, our school community turned out to support Save the Children and those affected by the conflict in the Ukraine, it is a testament to the dedication of our school community in coming together to support others - acting locally and thinking globally.

Finally, a big thanks to everyone involved in the PTA quiz on Thursday night. This was the first such event in school since the start of the pandemic, with our fantastic PTA members organising a very successful evening. There was much friendly competition, and it was lovely to be back enjoying social time in school together as a community.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher