



Marden High School

Friday 6th May 2022

Dear All,

You may remember that before the Easter holidays we had our Wear a Hat day in aid of raising money for Brain Tumour Research. I received a lovely letter from the CEO of the charity thanking us for the £600 which we were able to donate. During 2021, funding from Brain Tumour Research helped researchers at Queen Mary University of London develop new knowledge and breakthroughs in our understanding, all of which is moving us closer to improved treatments and, ultimately, cures for all types of brain tumours. Well done to all students for this fantastic effort - again, a great example of developing that important sense of agency.

This week Mrs Robson and I enjoyed a rich discussion with parents around our reports and how the system we currently have can be made more effective. The main priority here is for parents, teachers and students to all be able to use the information provided by school to have meaningful conversations with each other about the child's progress. We also want parents to have the opportunity to come into school to see the work that their child has been doing. The changes that we have suggested at the meeting were received very positively by parents and I will communicate further information on these developments in the near future.

This week our Year 10 students participated in mock interviews. The students have been supported by their form tutors during registration to help them prepare for the event which included advice on how to complete application forms, confident body language and questioning techniques. All the students had a 15 minute one to one interview with an employer from industries and businesses across the North East. The experience proved to be invaluable for many and it was great to see so many happy and confident faces when they left the interview area. We look forward to giving them their feedback from the employers next week.

This term so far has seen excellent attendance across the board, with percentage figures back up at 95%, which is very close to our pre-pandemic figures. I know our students enjoy coming to school, and so they are absent only when they have to be, but it is still worth remembering that there is a very close

correlation between attendance over 95% and excellent GCSE outcomes. Hopefully as we progress through the summer term we will see these excellent attendance rates improve further still.

On the 18th May students will be celebrating National Numeracy Day. This is the UK's only day dedicated to everyday maths, organised by the charity National Numeracy. It's a day that celebrates the importance of numbers for children and adults and inspires everyone to improve their numeracy in order to open up opportunities and brighter futures, and this year is the campaign's 5th birthday. As part of the celebrations, in their Maths lessons, students will hear about how people use numbers in work and in everyday life, in a '*Numeracy at work*' panel. This is being organised in conjunction with KPMG, one of the founding members of National Numeracy. We would also like to invite parents, carers and members of the wider school community to volunteer to be part of the panel, by recording a video to let our students know how they use numbers in their working lives. If you would like to be involved please email Mrs Goldie (s.goldie@mardenhigh.net).

As part of the House Competition at Marden, we enjoy a weekly challenge for students to take part in and earn House Points as each House competes to be the overall winner in the summer term. This week's challenge is to take part in a Park Run or attempt 5km. As the organisers of the Park Run say, 5km is the same distance whether it is run, walked or crawled. Therefore by logging onto the website <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/> you can find the nearest one to you and enjoy this challenge. The theme of the week is 'Celebrating our Skills' and if running is one of yours, then this week's House Challenge is for you. As we discussed in our assembly and oracy sessions in form time, skills are honed and developed over time and therefore something to be enjoyed and celebrated regardless of whether you're a beginner or expert. Practice, of course, is key to this journey of self discovery, and, one of the best sources of information on how to best practice is linked [here](#), and will I think provide a basis for useful discussion between parents and carers and their children.

At Marden High, we believe in 'Community, Individuality, Possibility', and that together, we can be agents of change. Part of this belief is working together, with other services, to support and develop the community we're in. This week we have been contacted by one of those services, Northumbria Police, to explain a new tool (Northumbria Connected). They want to understand the issues that most impact you, so that they can shape their Neighbourhood Policing to support the local communities. On sign up to Northumbria Connected you can decide on the information updates you want to receive in either text or email, and you will receive information bespoke to you. You will then receive a short survey - just like us, Northumbria Police believe no one knows their community better than the people who live and work

there so they want to hear from you. You can sign up and subscribe here:
www.northumbriaconnected.co.uk.

This week the summer extracurricular clubs started and what a brilliant week it has been. The tennis and athletic clubs on Wednesday evening had a great turn out. It was wonderful to see a range of students from different year groups practising their forehand in tennis and a wide range of athletic events from sprinting to javelin. On Thursday evening no fewer than 62 Year 8 students turned up to play rounders. There was much laughter, lots of hard work, and plenty of passionate teamwork. The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and it was a pleasure to see students from different friendship groups come together in a spirit of belonging and community. All summer sport clubs are available to sign up to on the school website.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher