



## Marden High School

Friday 7th October 2022

Dear All

As part of our end-of-year programme of activities we enjoyed a hugely successful Marden's Got Talent back in July raising £600 for the South African charity with whom we have worked for a number of years. Our plasma screens in the cafe and LRC show the impact our support makes to the lives of children who are orphans, affected by AIDS and to the lives of those who live in impoverished areas of the region around the city of Newcastle in South Africa. This time, we have been informed by Father Thami Shange that our money raised has supported a children and women's refuge which was damaged by storms and flooding. It has also supported a hospital which supports children who are requiring support both physically and mentally. The impact, we gather, has been huge and we are reminded of how our work locally impacts globally and of our role as an international partner to those around the world, forging friendships and celebrating the opportunities afforded to learn about lives on the other side of the world to enrich our own.

Our four Head Prefects were announced this week, and they are Tahmid Ahmed, Ben Burgon, Amelia Chima and Jess Hart. We are very proud that they will spearhead a dynamic and inspirational group of senior prefects as they embark on their first project, with staff, to work towards Marden being recognised as a School of Sanctuary. Supported by the charity Walking With, we are looking forward to working with other schools as we foster a culture of sanctuary to those seeking it, here in North Tyneside. Our student leaders will be vital in driving this work as agents of change, as they develop their own skills in order to carry on this work as they progress through Marden and beyond.

This week we celebrated National Poetry Day, looking at some of our favourite poems and how they enhance our reading and thinking in such a special way. One particular writer has suggested that "poetry at its best calls forth our deep *being*. It dares us to break free from the safe strategies of the cautious mind; it calls to us, from an open sky. Some say it is a magical art, a making of language spells designed to open our eyes, open our doors and welcome us into a bigger world, one of possibilities we may never have dared to dream of." Poetry can also teach us the value of choosing our words carefully, teach us to own our words, by developing in us the ability to make our words impactful, whilst having total control over them - an important lesson for everybody. In Form Time, we have been exploring our theme of the week, 'International

Day of the Girl', through the lens of poetry - celebrating women's voices and considering the issues and challenges young women are facing in the world today. Students have been exploring poems and writing their own poetry in their English lessons, culminating in some exciting poetry slams and powerful pieces of creative writing. Embarking upon their new role, the Literacy Prefects have been working with the young Literacy Leaders over the last couple of weeks to mark the event with impressive displays and exciting competitions involving both staff and students. There are four competitions to take part in: a Poetry Treasure Hunt; Poetry Writing; Creative Responses to Poetry; and Poetry Photography. Every entry receives 50 house points and more information can be found on the Literacy Cloud. We look forward to students, staff (and parents and carers, if they want to join in!) sharing their poetry and other creations.

Year 9 will soon be approaching the point at which they choose their optional subjects for GCSE. There will be some key dates coming up that are important for both parents and children in order to assist them in this process. Students will all take English Language, English Literature, Maths and Science as compulsory subjects and also follow PE and Personal Development. Students will then pick three additional subjects, and we aim to ensure that their curriculum choices are broad and balanced. There will be Guided Choices assemblies where students will be given an introduction to the process of choosing their subjects, as well as information from curriculum leaders about the subjects offered at GCSE. These presentations will be available on the website in 'learning' and 'guided choices' following the assemblies which start in November. A letter with further details will be sent to parents and carers next week.

After half term Year 11 will be completing their formal mock exams between the 14th and 25th November. These exams are supervised by external invigilators. Mock exams provide a dual purpose. Firstly, they provide important diagnostic information about where students are in their learning and the areas they need to work on, and secondly, they give a useful insight into how the summer exams will work. We would ask all parents and carers to ensure that their child has a plan in place for revision and we encourage them to contact us at school if any support is required with this. Below is a link to a useful presentation which includes the mock exam timetable and some useful revision resources:

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1puYbjW9THw8V3yApQeIWWZgJEyFgB2-F\\_7cq4N2D5hA/edit#slide=id.g101cb40ba0a\\_0\\_37](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1puYbjW9THw8V3yApQeIWWZgJEyFgB2-F_7cq4N2D5hA/edit#slide=id.g101cb40ba0a_0_37)

Following the half term break students will receive individual timetables containing information about rooms and seating, and parents and carers will receive more detailed information about their child's performance in the January full report and have the opportunity to discuss their progress on January 19th during remote Parents' Evening.

We know that families may currently be struggling with increases in the cost of living and that they may be worried about energy bills and the cost of food over the winter. Through our Governing Body we have close links with Citizens Advice North Tyneside who are offering free, confidential, impartial and independent advice on a wide range of subjects, and particularly on welfare benefits and management of debt. If any parents or carers are in need of advice they can contact Citizens Advice North Tyneside ([www.ntcab.org.uk](http://www.ntcab.org.uk)), emailing for a ringback (visiting [www.ntcab.org.uk/get-advice/email-us-ringback/](http://www.ntcab.org.uk/get-advice/email-us-ringback/)) or calling the Adviceline on 0300 3309047.

As the winter months draw in, pupils will continue to have PE outdoors which may mean that their PE kit may become wet and muddy. Rather than have pupils stay like this for the rest of the day, they may choose to change out of their PE kit and into their school uniform at the end of their lesson. All uniform items should be brought in their school bag, including school shoes. If pupils have had an indoor lesson, or if their PE kit is not wet or muddy from their lesson, they may remain in their PE kit for the rest of the day.

The Year 11 boys football team had a tough start to their season, facing a strong Whitley Bay High team in blustery conditions. They battled hard but could not find the breakthrough they needed to get a foothold in the game, with Whitley Bay eventually running out 3-0 victors. An excellent week has been had by the Year 8 boys football team who have won no fewer than three games in a week. Last Thursday they beat Norham in the Tyneside Cup by an amazing 13 goals to 0. Then on Monday Wellfield were beaten in the League 8-2, and on Wednesday they beat Gosforth 6-2 in the County Cup. The team is clearly in great form, as is the Year 7 Boys football team who met Whytrig Middle School in the Under 12 County Cup on Thursday afternoon. Despite going down by 2 goals, the Marden boys kept pressing and scored 2 quick goals midway through the half. With 5 minutes left to play, Marden finally took the lead through a well struck free kick from their Captain. A fourth with 2 minutes left was the icing on the cake in what was a remarkable comeback display. Final score 4-2 to Marden and into the second round.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher