



## Marden High School

Friday 14th October 2022

Dear All

In recent weeks we have seen more visitors coming around the school as our Open Days have continued. On these occasions there are no special preparations made, rather it is an opportunity for prospective parents and carers to get to see what our students do in their lessons on any normal school day, in other words, what it is really like at Marden High School. Our visitors' feedback has been very positive, and they tell us that as they have moved around the school and different lessons, they have seen children who are well looked after, who are happy, and who are making good progress. I hope to be able to report back to you very soon on what Ofsted thought when the team visited Marden earlier this half term.

We have had several Information Evenings for parents during this half term, offering a range of useful information regarding the GCSE exams in addition to revision strategies and techniques. Feedback from parents and students has been very positive and it is good to see the students' continued serious and mature attitude towards their upcoming exams. It is important that Year 11 have a good rest over the coming half term, but also that they take advantage of the time they have to get started on some serious revision - doing 2 hours of quality, intensive learning each day still leaves plenty of time for all of the other opportunities that holiday time brings, and will leave the student with a sense of accomplishment, knowing that good routines are being formed and sound preparation is being put in place for the mock exams which start on Monday 14th November.

For over a decade, the Brain Performance and Nutrition Research Centre, located within Northumbria University, has been investigating how nutritional supplementation can improve performance and wellbeing. This is a very interesting area of research which aims to create a better understanding of how diet and nutrition support optimal brain health and function across the lifespan. Researchers there specialise in conducting trials looking at how particular components of the diet, such as the plant chemicals contained in berries or chocolate, herbal ingredients, fish oils or other novel ingredients impact our memory, ability to concentrate and mood. They are currently looking for children and young people aged between 8 and 17 to take part in a study investigating the cognitive, behavioural and mood effects of Lemon Verbena extract supplementation and if any parent or carer is interested in getting involved in this work with their child, there is further information on the school website in the latest news section.

This week saw a very successful trip to The Port of Tyne. The students represented the school very well as they took part in a team challenge where they had to prepare and present their ideas on the future of the Port to staff there. The staff from the Port made several comments about how impressed they were with our students' teamwork, professionalism, and their innovative creative ideas. Speaking to me after the event, one of our Year 11 students told me, "Going to the Port of Tyne was very educational and taught us what an apprenticeship is really like. We were given a tour around the area and group work activities to show team building. We are all very grateful for their hospitality and we had a great time."

After half term Miss Seal will be starting an after school club for basic British Sign Language. This aims to be fun and informative and increase confidence when communicating with deaf or hearing impaired people. The weekly sessions will start at 3.15pm on Thursday 3rd November in the dance studio. Parents and carers can book places for their children on School Gateway.

In the light of continuing cases of Covid and an approaching flu season, we are currently reminding everybody of the importance of good hygiene around school, and we are replenishing stocks of sanitiser so that we can continue to clean hands on entry to classrooms.

The Year 8 girls played their first netball fixtures this week. Our A team carried on their undefeated streak from Year 7 winning all four matches, conceding only 3 points on the night. The newly formed B team worked extremely hard against some tough opposition, their hard work paid off winning three matches and losing one. A brilliant start, well done.

The Year 9 boys football have started the season in fabulous form, beating Longbenton last Thursday 6-1 in the league, before playing a very good St Cuthbert's team in the county cup on Monday night, winning 3-1 in extra time. Finally, on Wednesday the boys played Churchill Community College in the league, winning 3-1. They are looking forward to another game next Monday in the league cup away to George Stephenson. The Year 10 football team had the inaugural game of their season this week, facing a committed and able St Thomas More side in sunny conditions. They battled hard and in the first half had gained a well deserved 2-0 lead. However, St Thomas More battled back and gained a foothold in the game, with them eventually running out 3-2 victors. The whole team were committed and focused and the result could have been more goals for the opposition if it hadn't been for the Player of the Match making some heroic saves in the Marden goal. The Year 7 boys football team played back to back games on Wednesday and Thursday. The first was a home league game against Churchill Community College. In an entertaining first half, Marden managed to control the game well and score 4 goals in the process. The

second half was a bit more even and Churchill came back into the game well. The final score was 5-1 to Marden. On Thursday night, the team line-up changed for the Cup game against Norham. With the wind, slope and sun all against them, Marden conceded 5 first half goals to a determined Norham team. After half time however, the Marden team woke up and put pressure on the Norham defence, scoring 9 second half goals to make the final score 9-5. The Year 8 boys football team achieved an even bigger goal difference this week with an excellent 9-0 win against Marden Bridge Middle School, continuing their great start to the season.

On Monday our Year 11 cohort of Girls' Network students visited Newcastle University for a tour of the campus. This was an insightful trip that gave students a valuable view of university life and the different pathways available to them as they begin to think about their future. The students reported back, "I enjoyed learning about all the different opportunities that Newcastle University has - I never knew about the huge variety of subjects", and "Many opportunities were explained to me as we were taken around fascinating buildings".

Don't forget that our Halloween themed PTA quiz night is next week, on Thursday 20th October. This is always great fun, and I look forward to seeing lots of teams of students, staff and parents coming along to enjoy one of Ms Mellor's famously fiendish quizzes. Tickets can be bought using Parent Pay or from Main Reception.

And finally, stop press news about our students acting as community heroes. We heard from one of the Assistant Headteachers at John Spence High School this morning, as four of our Year 11 students had come across a lost two year old child on their way to school today. The students were forward thinking enough to flag down a member of the public who helped them take the child to John Spence where the police were called. The child has since been reunited with his parents. The Assistant Head wanted to pass on how amazing our students were - she said they were kind, sensible, considerate, a credit to our school and 'everything you would want your child to become'.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher