



Marden High School

Friday 21st October 2022

Dear All

This week we have had a focus on Black History Month with additional information slides on the plasma screens around school, information shared in lessons and an assembly led by M:10 Mission. In our conversations in school we use the word *hope* frequently as one of our core values, and we are reminded this week of Dr Martin Luther King Jr's quote that '*the time is always right to do what is right*'. The hope we offer our students is manifested in our belief in and actions to ensure equality, inclusivity and high expectations for all. Offering opportunities to our community to be leaders is something we know will help the *right thing* to be done for generations to come and it has been heartening to see the excellent work of prefects and school cabinet members continuing this week.

During this half term we have been conducting one of our regular internal reviews of the quality of teaching which involves learning walks, and of course in addition to this we have conducted learning walks alongside Ofsted inspectors. Many lessons from different subject areas have been seen and the findings of these learning walks indicate very effective, and in some cases, exemplary practice in classrooms. Some of the strengths of many lessons have been teaching delivered in the context of the real world, and resources and activities being used to stimulate creative thinking and curiosity. It has also been good to see students' independence being developed over time resulting in them being more able to manage their own time and learning, and it is always great to see the students working with a sense of pride and accomplishment and making good progress.

It is always useful for me to be able to talk to parents at the various parents evenings, functions and events that we have here at Marden, as it enables me to hear various points of view which is important when we are working as a team. There are other opportunities for parents to communicate with me too, of course, and I always appreciate emails and phone calls that may come in. As I have said in this newsletter previously, the provision of the best opportunities for our children is a team effort - 'a child is brought up by the whole village' - which is why we place such an emphasis on communication between home and school. In order to maintain good communication between home and school, remember that staff email addresses are available on the school website, so please feel free to use these if you need to contact us. Over the years I have also held Parents' Forum meetings each term, and this is a chance for parents to come in to

chat with me in a relatively informal setting about their views of and ideas for the school. The next Parents Forum will be on 22nd November at 4.30pm, and anyone who wants to come along should contact Elaine Scott at school. I look forward to meeting people then.

Meanwhile, our House Competitions continue, and next week sees the continuation of the ParkRun challenge. Anyone who takes part in a Park Run this weekend will earn 150 House Points, and if anyone cannot make these, but still runs or walks 5km, they can still earn 150 house points by emailing Mr Richards to give him the details. This is a great way to get a substantial number of House points at the same time as getting some good exercise. Our Art competition, Inktober is still going on and there have been some superb pieces of artwork submitted so far, so keep that going over the holidays.

A group of Year 9 and 10 students visited the Northern Stage theatre on Wednesday evening to see a powerful performance of Noughts & Crosses; a play based on the dystopian novel written by popular author Malorie Blackman. The students had a fantastic, yet emotional evening that allowed students to broaden their cultural mindset and consider a range of themes such as injustice, race and relationships. The English department looks forward to the next theatre visit in November to see Stephen Daldry's production of An Inspector Calls.

The Year 9 netball team started the season with an outstanding 16-1 win against Whitley Bay High School. The team's communication skills allowed them to link perfect passes to the goal attack and goal shooter who scored some wonderful shots. The team's determination and attitude was brilliant. It was a pleasure to take the students and it was a great way to start the season against a tough opposition. The Year 8 and 9 Basketball team played in the Central Venue League at Burnside last Thursday, winning all four of their games. The boys played top draw Basketball and are looking forward to the next round. The Year 10 and Year 11 Volleyball teams played in the Central Venue League competition on Wednesday this week at Whitley Bay High School. The players gave a magnificent account of themselves with the Year 10 team finishing 4th and the Year 11 team going one better and finishing 3rd. In a tight game at George Stephenson High, the Year 9 Football team battled hard and came away with a 1-0 victory against a tough opposition, progressing to the next round of the League Cup. The Year 10 boys football team had a tough evening on Thursday against a well-drilled Whitley Bay High team. The boys were under pressure for most of the game but never gave up and fought right to the end. Year 7 boys football had a fantastic come back in their game against Marden Bridge Middle School on Monday night. In very difficult conditions, the boys found themselves down 2-3 at half time, but rallied and fought their way back into the game to eventually win 7-3, progressing to the semi-final of the league cup. The Year 7/8 girls football team had their first friendly game on Wednesday night against an experienced Valley Gardens Middle School side. Although

the result wasn't what the girls were hoping for, they showed great promise and played some exciting football in their debut game.

As we are now well and truly into Autumn and the darker evenings approach, I would like to remind parents and carers who are picking children up from school to ensure they think carefully about where they wait for their children so that everybody is kept safe. The end of school is a busy time and, whilst we remind the children regularly about road safety and we have staff on duty at the end of the school day, we must all be aware of the potential risks for our children of moving traffic and dangerously parked cars. Please also consider our neighbours when parking near the school and avoid blocking any driveways.

Finally, I would like to extend a huge thanks to the PTA for organising a very successful Halloween Quiz this week. In a packed drama studio we had some very creative costumes and team names as everybody enjoyed more of Ms Mellor's fantastically fiendish quiz questions - massive thanks to her also, and we hope her voice recovers by the time she has to teach again! I would also like to extend my thanks to all our wonderful staff who have been very busy this half term, and who have orchestrated some huge successes, the main one of course being to deliver brilliant learning and care to our children every day.

I hope that all our students and staff have a good half term break, and we look forward to seeing everyone back safe and sound for another great half term.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher