



Marden High School

Friday 11th November 2022

Dear All

Today we paused for a moment of reflection and to remember all those who have suffered in wars through history and around the world. We listened to a beautiful rendition of the Last Post played by Year 10 student Ruben Parnell, and we quietly hope that this act of remembrance brings to mind for all decision makers the awful consequences of conflict so that they are driven to work towards a peaceful and inclusive future for all of us. The famous words of Laurence Binyon (1869 - 1943) still serve as a salient meditation:

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

This week Year 11 students have been involved in an assembly each day led by a host of post-16 providers. A key piece of advice was to attend open evenings and find out as much as possible about the courses on offer and the entry requirements. Please look at the websites of the organisations with your child to explore all of the opportunities available to them: [Whitley Bay Sixth Form](#), [Monkseaton](#), [Queen Alexandra Sixth Form College](#), [Tyne Metropolitan College](#), [North East Futures UTC](#) and [Newcastle College](#).

We have had some interesting data arrive in school this week shining a light on the destinations of past students. Of last year's Year 11 cohort we have now had official confirmation that 83 students are now studying at FE colleges, and 77 at school sixth forms, whilst 6 young people have apprenticeships, and 3 have entered employment with training. These numbers reflect the range of possible progression routes for our young people, and, as we have been saying to current Year 11 students, it is most important that they go and visit the various options open to them to help them make the decision about what will suit them best next year. We have also had information on some of our young people from the Class of 2020, those that went on to study A levels at Whitley Bay High. They have all achieved excellent results and 74% of them have gone on to a university of their choice, including Durham, Newcastle, Northumbria, Leeds and Cambridge, to name a few. Congratulations to them all.

On Wednesday evening the English department took a group of 60 Year 10 and 11 students to the Theatre Royal, Newcastle to watch Stephen Daldry's acclaimed adaptation of An Inspector Calls. This was an incredibly powerful and enjoyable performance, and as one of their GCSE English literature texts, this

allowed students to explore the play outside of the classroom as audience members, considering key themes, questions and characters to further their own understanding and appreciation of the play.

It has also been great this week to hear about two relatively new extra-curricular clubs. On Monday after school, the Classics Club were busy completing a photo challenge based on the Greek Alphabet. English teacher Ms Boyle said that it was lovely to see the two teams immersing themselves in the language of the Ancient World. Students are welcome to attend Classics Club each week for more ancient challenges in E2. On Thursday afternoons STEM club are always involved in innovative projects and they have an exciting opportunity coming up for students which will involve entries to the BioArt Attack competition run by the Royal Society of Biology, where students will be using pre-used paper and plastic materials to produce 'towering models of cells, paint pictures of organs, or papier-mâché proteins, animals and more.' We look forward to seeing their creations.

Our Year 10 GCSE Computer Science students have taken part in BIMA Digital Day 2022 this week. BIMA Digital Day gives 11-16 year olds an insight into the world of digital careers. The Centre for Economics and Business Research have stated that the shortage of tech and digital talent is costing the UK £21.8bn. in spite of the fact that the digital industry has been growing at twice the rate of the broader economy, so it is vitally important that we continue to develop these skills in our young people. During this Digital Day students were given a challenge from either Royal Mail or Primark, and they worked in groups to design and develop a digital solution to challenges in the organisation, and they are now competing in a sponsored, nationwide digital challenge for a chance to win £500 cash for the school and some fantastic prizes for themselves. We are very lucky to have Hedgehog Lab as our external agency and looking forward, they will be working with our students, delivering the brief and discussing what it is like to work for one of the top ranked Global Mobile App Development organisations, working for customers in the UK and USA, delivering mobile, web and digital products to brands such as Deliveroo, Northumbrian Water, Microsoft and Santander.

Faced with a growing energy crisis, record greenhouse gas concentrations, and increasing extreme weather events, delegates at COP27 are seeking renewed solidarity between countries to deliver on the landmark Paris Agreement, and it's fair to say that there is an increasing acknowledgement of the urgency for this to happen. Parents and carers may wish to be aware of a topic of conversation amongst young people currently which is that there is a COP27 march and demo in Newcastle starting at 11.45am this Saturday at Monument. There is also a placard session for the COP27 demo this afternoon at Big Local in Whitley Bay between 4.30pm - 7pm.

The Year 8 Football team continued their excellent start to the season with another solid victory, beating Churchill 7-1 in a very hard and physical match last Thursday, which means they have won their first 4

league games and sit top of the league. The badminton Central Venue Leagues started last week with the boys competitions. The Year 10 boys had hard matches against strong opposition, and although the results were not in their favour, it was a good learning experience for the boys playing against other schools. The Year 9 Boys won 2 of their matches and lost 2, and the Year 8 Boys lost 3 and won 1, including a narrow defeat to the Year 9 boys. All the teams were a credit to the school, showing exemplary attitude and effort.

The netball teams at Marden High School continue to dominate the leagues within North Tyneside. The Year 11 team put in a magnificent performance against Whitley Bay High School on Wednesday evening. It was a hard first half with the team losing 3-1 at half time, but after a little pep talk the students supported one another to put in a dominant second half performance and came away victorious with a 12-4 win. The mixed Year 10/11 team also played and showed great determination until the final whistle but unfortunately came away losing by the narrowest of margins 8-7. On Thursday evening the Year 9 netball team played John Spence. The girls were apprehensive before the match but after some positive motivation the team were a force to be reckoned with. They played hard and fast from the start, dominating possession and they led from the end of the first quarter. They came away with their second win of the season beating John Spence 14-9.

Please remember in the wet and muddy conditions of winter, that students should bring their uniform with them on PE days so that they can get changed into dry, clean clothes if they need to at the end of the lesson. This will enable them to be warm and comfortable for the remainder of the day.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher