



Marden High School

Friday 25th November 2022

Dear All

We have arrived at the end of another productive week, one in which student attendance has again been excellent. I think that one of the elements that encourages our students to do everything they can to be in school, is the sense of belonging and shared values that we have as a community. This sense of who we are has been put into words by staff, students, parents and governors in our Values Statement which can be viewed on the school website. I have a copy of the statement on my wall and, as I walk past it each day, there are three phrases that catch my eye which describe what I see in our students and staff:

“We are a strong **community**, each individual full of **hope**, looking forward to many **possibilities**.”

“We see hope and opportunity for everyone, recognising the great range of talents we all have, and we leave no stone unturned in helping our young people to a **bright future**.”

“Our focus on student **leadership** helps develop our strong moral compass, giving our young people a global awareness and a sense of **agency** to shape a more equal society for the future.”

It is this sense of optimism that has pervaded our work this term, and it is these values that bind us together in a common cause which will help us continue to provide opportunities for our young people to thrive. This is not a vision that an organisation might put out as an idea of who they might like to be or who they might become in the future. This is us - it is who we are, something we can be proud of.

E-Safety is an important part of keeping children safe in the modern world, and teaching children how to be safe online is a responsibility that we all share. This week we launched our new [e-Safety webpage](#), which includes weekly tips, safety guidance and information on popular apps, games and websites that are popular with children. This week's guidance is about WhatsApp, and will be a very useful resource for parents/carers of children who may use this app.

In addition to this we would like to invite all KS3 parents to our Keeping Children Safe Online information evening on Wednesday 14 December 2022, starting at 5.30pm with Miss Laing. Further information on this will be emailed to all parents of Year 7, 8 and 9 students next week.

Year 11 students have been hard at work this week and last with their mock exams, and we have been impressed with their focused attitude towards them. It has also been interesting and very pleasing to hear the feedback that, in particular, our new exam invigilators have given us about how Year 11 have approached the exams. They have commented on the high levels of maturity and engagement that they see around the school from all students, and what good role models they are on their way in and out of school. I have no doubt that our Year 11 students will do very well next summer, and will use the feedback from these mocks to sensibly analyse areas that they each need to work on in their various subjects in order to achieve their best in those exams.

Recently, Year 7 students have received their MidYIS breakdowns, and Year 10 their Yellis breakdowns and chance graphs. This information is very useful for teachers to help them adapt lessons for those who may need support, or to provide additional challenge for others. On each year group area of the school website there are links in '*curriculum*' to the numeracy and literacy clouds where there are resources to help support children at home. The Yellis test also provides a set of 'chances' for students in their KS4 subjects. They reflect what students, who achieved the same Yellis scores nationally, then went on to achieve in GCSE and vocational subjects. It is by no means a prediction of GCSE attainment but a useful conversational tool for staff and parents and carers to have with the children. Conversations around the chances of achieving particular grades will stimulate young people's curiosity about what they need to do to achieve those grades. There will be an evening in the new year where parents and carers will be invited in to find out more about how they can support their child at KS4, and we will send out details closer to the date.

As part of this week's Globalbridge week, students received a skills assembly from Mrs Robson that focused on the essential Skillsbuilder skills that we intertwine across our curriculum and which, in particular, organises our Personal Development curriculum. The eight essential skills are: listening; speaking; problem solving; creativity; staying positive; aiming high; leadership; teamwork. Students have used the [Skills Builder Benchmark tool](#) to identify the skills where they are strongest and those they need to develop. They can then use [Skills Builder Launchpad](#) to complete short modules to develop these skills and to then upload their achievements to [Globalbridge](#). Parents and carers can also help their children develop essential skills at home using [Skills Builder Homezone](#). All of these links can also be found in the 'Students and Parents' section of the website.

On Wednesday afternoon the Year 7 boys football team played the next round of the county cup away to Ponteland High School. The game was extremely competitive from the first whistle with both teams battling hard against each other. The pace was frenetic and the well-drilled Ponteland side took the lead midway through the first half. Despite their endeavours and some fantastic football, the Marden boys could not get the ball in the net and Ponteland managed to score twice again. The Marden team never gave up and did manage to pull one back with a bullet header from their captain. Despite the result not going their way, the boys were a credit to the school, with the opposition coach remarking on how well they played a hard game with such a positive attitude.

Thursday afternoon saw the Year 8 boys Rugby team playing the first round of the county cup competition at Newcastle University. In their pool they managed to draw both games, first against Newcastle School for Boys, and then Ashington Academy. In the following round they lost to a strong team from Dame Allen's, but managed to finish the day with a three tries to nil victory against Kings Priory. This win was enough to see them into the next round of games in two weeks time. Some of the boys were playing their first games of rugby and gave a fantastic account of themselves.

The Year 9 boys football team played in the local schools Central Venue competition on Monday, coming away with one win, one draw and one loss. The team played well and made a host of chances to score throughout all the games. A great learning experience as the players get ready for the county cup next week.

In the volleyball Central Venue competition the Girls U16 won one and lost two of their games, with both losses being narrow defeats. They played some lovely volleyball at times with evident improvements in technique and understanding. The girls are now looking forward to the next round of the competition.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher