



Marden High School

Friday 2nd December 2022

Dear All

Our assembly this week (<https://youtu.be/j9er645YKbc>) reflected some of the qualities referred to in our values statement that I spoke about last week. In it, we explored the quote of the week, that the “greatest gift you can give another person is your own happiness.” This was a good opportunity for us all to remember that the way we interact with each other makes all the difference to people’s well being. If we make assumptions about someone and are dismissive, or say something unkind, that could end up making them feel very down or sad. On the other hand, if we show kindness in our words and manner towards people, this could give them hope or happiness - and that causes a positive chain reaction. The person who receives those kind words and feels positive about themselves or their situation is then positive and kind towards other people that they then interact with. This same sentiment is reflected in our [Marden Values](#) and it is lovely to see this happening around school every day.

Next week the assembly theme is Human Rights, and as part of this we are highlighting the [Global 16 Days Campaign](#), launched by the Center for Women’s Global Leadership (CWGL) and feminists from around the world are using this campaign to call for the elimination of gender-based violence (GBV). It is run annually from November 25 (International Day Against Violence Against Women) to December 10 (International Human Rights Day). On Monday morning, our year groups will have information shared with them relating to this and the opportunity to learn more via information taken from the United Nations. Given the statistics that more than 1 in 3 women experience gender-based violence during their lifetime, more than five women or girls are killed every hour by someone in their own family and less than 40% of women who experience violence seek help of any sort, it is vital that we recognise the need to raise awareness, help educate to change behaviours towards women and ensure we play our part to end femicide, which forms the core of the Global 16 days Campaign in 2022.

Student voice is key to informing our work here in school and we take the opportunity to meet students on a regular basis, and over the next couple of weeks we will be meeting with Year 8 students to discuss various topics including how they can use social spaces at break and lunchtimes, and their thoughts on our pastoral care systems and learning in the classroom. Next week we also have our termly student voice survey

when all students can share their thoughts and opinions. This will look at a range of school aspects and from this the staff team will analyse the information for future planning.

Literacy development, of course, continues to be key in our activities in school, and certainly there is a lot going on with Ms Taylor providing lots of information to the students on the various competitions they can get involved in, as well as suggesting some good reads for those long winter evenings. Members of the Library Club continue to ensure the LRC is an attractive and vibrant location for students to come and read or do some extra work or homework after school. It is worth remembering also that every day after school we have Learning Support Assistants in the LRC to support students with their work should they want that.

As you are aware, here at Marden we have a very supportive pastoral team of support and teaching staff, so when a student is not feeling well in school, often they can be looked after in school and return to lessons. Occasionally, however, a child will need to return home. We have a duty of care to all our students and so it is important that when they are leaving school, they are collected by adults known to us at school. If parents or carers are planning to have their child collected by someone other than themselves, it is essential that they let us know this so that we can verify their identity.

On Monday, the Year 7 netball team travelled to John Spence for the Central Venue League. It has been great to see so many Year 7 girls attend the after school club for netball this term, so much so that an entirely different squad was selected for this competition. The girls played in some tough matches and came away from the tournament with a record of one win and two defeats. The effort and team spirit shown by the girls on the night was fantastic and all squad members thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The Year 8 Netball team were back in action, playing four games and winning all four. The girls continue their unbeaten run, showcasing some superb individual skill and team cohesion. As always each pupil represented our school brilliantly thanking officials, organisers and opposition.

On Thursday the Year 9 boys football team made the long journey west to Haydon Bridge in the County Cup. Despite the travel, the boys made a good start and took a quick 2-0 lead early in the game. The opposition battled back to 2-2, before Marden responded positively with a few quick goals. In an entertaining game, the Marden team came away with a 7-4 victory, with their captain scoring 5 important goals. Everyone played for each other and the team spirit was very evident throughout the game. On Monday the Year 8 boys football team continued their successful season by finishing top of the table after round 1 (of 3) of the North Tyneside 7-a-side league, playing some excellent football in very cold and challenging conditions.

On Wednesday, again in bitterley cold conditions, 40 students ranging from Year 7-11 took part in the North Tyneside cross-country championships. There were some exceptional performances in both the team and individual events - we now have the Tyneside Champion for Year 8/9 boys in our midst - with many other students qualifying for the county championships in the new year. The students showed great character throughout the afternoon in such challenging conditions.

As we are now well and truly in the wet and muddy season, I would remind parents, carers and students that they can bring uniform with them on days when they have PE, and there will be the opportunity for them to get changed into dry clothes at the end of their PE lesson if they so wish. Also, as the mornings and afternoons become darker and wetter, this is a good time to remind parents and carers that if they are dropping children off in the morning, not to drive into the school car park to do so, but use a safe space away from the school gates on Hartington Road. This is a busy time in the morning and we obviously want to minimise the mix of cars and pedestrians. If any child needs to be dropped off in the car park due to an injury or other incapacity, please let the school office know, and arrangements can be put in place.

On the final day of term, Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 will celebrate our Carol Service at St George's Church in Tynemouth. We will be walking down to the church early afternoon and students will be dismissed from the church following the service at around 2.15. Year 11 will be dismissed from school at 12.40. If any parent or carer wishes their child to return to school with staff until 3.15 that can be arranged so please let us know if that is the case. There will be more details on arrangements for the end of term next week.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher