



Marden High School

Friday 9th December 2022

Dear All

As you are only too aware we are still witnessing on a daily basis the ongoing horror being experienced by the people of Ukraine. People still in Ukraine are being impacted on by missiles and lack of food, water and electricity, and people who have managed to escape the immediate conflict but find themselves separated from family and loved ones, are isolated from their own country and culture. We have been privileged to be able to bring families affected in this way into our school community, and it has been both immensely interesting and humbling to hear about their experiences. I know that staff and students are enjoying having our Ukrainian students with us in school, and many have been touched by accounts of their experiences and by their resilience and positivity.

The new season of VEX Robotics has begun with students gearing up for the new Spin Up competition. Keanu II is well underway and our team of Year 10 students are showing some excellent collaboration, problem solving and teamwork in developing Keanu's features and skills, as well as their own independent programming skills. There are many tricky challenges that the teams face during competition, and they will need to be ready to show considerable skill and determination to maintain their high performing record. The regional finals are approaching quickly and are to be held at Nissan at the end of January, and the team are hoping to build on the success of last year and make their way down to Telford for the National Finals later in the year.

On Wednesday this week Year 9 students participated in an assembly with TICE (This Is Creative Enterprise). TICE focuses on and explores opportunities for students to gain an insight into careers within the creative industries. The successful 15 applicants will experience projects focusing on areas of fashion, design, illustration, photography and film, and they will be involved in thought provoking projects to do with the fashion industry. Students will participate in a ten week programme and will experience workshops with industry professionals.

In the New Year a group of our prefects will be working with Miss Fenwick to introduce the concept of Schools of Sanctuary to the wider school community, collating student voice on experiences of welcome

and inclusion in the school, organising a food bank collection for the charity Walking With, and planning events for refugee week. This promises to be interesting work, and we look forward to lots of students getting involved with these events.

The Hat-Trick charity based at the Beacon on Westgate Road are working with asylum seekers and refugees playing football. They are short of appropriate footwear to play on astro turf pitches, and so would welcome any old astro turf boots, moulded stud boots, or trainers. All sizes are welcome and, although many children are involved, it is adult footwear that would be most appreciated. If you have any old footwear that you would be happy to donate, please send it into school.

Earlier this month the Girls' Network programme celebrated their achievements at our final celebration evening. It has been great to see the girls developing professional relationships with their mentors who have encouraged them to explore their future aspirations. The programme has empowered the students involved to think about their goals and aspirations. The students, now they have graduated from the programme, will be able to access membership to a lifelong Ambassador Programme for continued opportunities. We look forward to future cohorts of students being involved in this empowering programme.

As you may be aware, The Ogden Trust is a collaborative partnership of schools to enhance and enrich the physics and STEM curriculum through a shared vision of increasing interest and uptake of physics A-levels and careers. We will be working closely with the leading partner to take part in STEM and physics specific activities over the coming year and look forward to sharing further information about this with parents.

December has seen Year 11 prefects enjoying the next stage of their Student Leadership Programme, following their mock exams; Year 9 receiving assemblies relating to Guided Choices; and Year 10 having careers 'Masterclasses' with M:10, alongside Study Skills with Hand Of that continue to support students with their personal organisation both in and out of class. This focus on learning and self development continues all the way to the end of term, as the annual end of autumn term arrangements also take shape:

- Students will cash in their House Points between Monday 5th and Thursday 8th December.
- Christmas Jumper Day, raising money for the Bone Cancer Charity, is the same day as Christmas lunch - 21st December.
- The final week will see End of Term assemblies each morning where awards are given and House updates are shared.

So there are still two busy weeks before the end of term but it is worth reminding everyone of the arrangements for the last day of term. After lunch on Friday 23rd December, Years 7-10 will be going down

to St George's Church to enjoy our school carol service, and students will be dismissed from the church following the service. This will be at approximately 2.15pm. This is a wonderful occasion and a great opportunity for us to come together to celebrate the term we have had and to reflect on the time we will have with families and as a community in the coming weeks and months. Year 11 will be dismissed from school at 12.30pm, and are welcome to stay for lunch if required.

The Year 7 boys football team played in the Central Venue League at John Spence High School on Monday night. The boys played some fantastic football in very testing conditions, winning all five of their games. This puts the team in a great position, topping the league table going into the new year. All players showed a great sense of pride and sportsmanship, making sure they shook hands with every member of the opposition after their games. On Wednesday night, the Year 9 boys football team played Burnside away. In a very close game, the team went two goals to nil down, but showed great team spirit and fantastic effort coming back to draw 2-2. On another day they could have won and they should be very proud of their effort. The Year 9 boys played in the North Tyneside Basketball finals on Thursday night. In a strong competition, they played three games and won three, and for the second successive year they became North Tyneside Champions. They will go on to represent North Tyneside at the Tyne and Wear Championships.

We have seen an increase in various illnesses in school recently, and whilst we would always promote excellent attendance at school, there is some useful information for parents and carers from the UK Health Security Agency regarding when children should potentially not come into school. This has been published on our website in the latest news section. On the topic of illness, I would ask that all parents and carers please remember that students should not bring medication into school for self administering. Medicines can be administered only after a written agreement has been completed by parents or carers and received by the school staff member responsible, Mrs Thompson. Parents and carers should contact school to obtain the parental/school agreement form to administer medicines, and this should be returned to school by the parent or carer when bringing the medicine in.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher