



Marden High School

Friday 3rd February 2023

Dear All

As you are aware, one of the key priorities of our School Development Plan this year is to guide and support students to understand and realise their ambitions, by providing personalised careers, post-16 and higher education advice so that every student leaving Marden has a clear pathway to follow. With this in mind, the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) supported by the North of Tyne Combined Authority, has launched a new pilot with ten schools across Northumberland, Newcastle and North Tyneside. Over the course of this academic year, the pilot aims to support secondary and middle school curriculum leaders and teachers to engage effectively with local employers, with a specific focus on key stage 3 physics. The North East LEP are now working with Marden High School to develop partnerships with local businesses and further education providers to develop the delivery of a practical research activity linked to the energy curriculum topic with a specific focus on renewables. Students will benefit from meeting and visiting local businesses and further education providers, engaging in a practical investigation, and showcasing work to an authentic audience of pilot stakeholders. We look forward to seeing the undoubted benefits this will bring our young people.

Key to the success we enjoy as a school is the continued focus we have on raising the academic achievement of all our students through evidence-based research into learning, and the continued professional development of our teachers. Much of this professional development comes in the form of staff sharing the great practice and expertise that exists within the school, so that outcomes for our children can be consistently excellent. To this end, staff have been visiting each other's classrooms recently, conducting learning walks to identify, and then share and celebrate techniques and strategies. These visits to lessons have been across all subjects, and it has been great to see such a high level of skill from our teachers in identifying the needs of our children and creating engaging activities to promote their understanding and progress. It is clear to see the passion the teachers have for their subjects being passed on to our students.

Each week our form time activities are designed to offer opportunities to deepen learning and experience across a range of areas including numeracy, literacy, oracy, study skills, the theme of the week and world

events. Next week in form time, our Year 10 students will have their assembly presented by M:10 as this year's annual launch of 'Mission to Mexico' takes place. Meanwhile for other year groups, Heads of Year are delivering assemblies relating to the theme of the week which is Internet Safety. At Marden we take safety online very seriously. We held our first parent and carer e-safety evening last month and our website has lots of [useful information](#) for everyone to keep safe when navigating the digital world. We will also be taking time to reflect on the life of former student Leah Casson who sadly passed away recently. Students will be leading on fundraising whilst also collating a book of memories during form time next week, and a screencast for students will be shared relating to this very soon.

We know that “it takes a whole village to raise a child”, and that for every child to have the best chance to achieve, communication between home and school is essential. We hope that our positive phone calls home, reward postcards, information text messages and social media help to enhance the already strong relationships that exist between students, staff, parents and carers. To support this communication, you will see in the coming weeks, information being shared about who you can contact regarding various topics. Be it questions about careers, options, pastoral welfare or the use of QR codes, our messages over the coming weeks are designed to signpost you to the right person. Should you ever be unsure about who to ask if you have a question, a member of the Senior Leadership Team or your child's Head of Year will always help answer your question.

Marden High School has taken the pledge to become a School of Sanctuary, along with five other specially selected schools in North Tyneside. This is an exciting opportunity to showcase our welcoming nature and to celebrate our diversity. A group of Year 11 prefects are spearheading the School of Sanctuary Committee and will be launching the project in a special assembly next half term. As part of the project, prefects will be collecting supplies for the foodbank of the *Walking With* Centre in Wallsend, which supports refugees and asylum seekers in North Tyneside. Meanwhile, Ms Lymar and the Ukrainian students are also planning an event to celebrate Pancake Day, a day of great cultural significance in Ukraine.

Our Year 10 Robotics Team was in action again this week at the Vex Championships. Sailing smoothly through the eight qualifying games, which helped the team to understand the strengths and weaknesses of their robot, the Marden team were pitted against the top performing team Durham Johnson in the knockout round. However, Marden performed very well and won all of their games easily, landing them in the three way final against Tanfield and Consett Academy. This was a tough battle, with the Marden robot eventually coming second. This was a brilliant performance, which was further enhanced by the team winning the Vex Championship Design Trophy, on the strength of their Engineering Log which documented all the design ideas and adaptations made to the robot. Well done to the whole team for representing Marden in such

great style.

The Year 9 netball team were back in action on Thursday evening. They played a very strong John Spence team, and the girls played extremely well. It was a nail biting game with both teams playing end to end netball, the first half finishing 8 each. The second half was very fast and both teams played brilliantly. Unfortunately 30 seconds before the final whistle John Spence scored and the match finished 12-11 to John Spence. All the players should be very proud of their performance and their efforts.

This week, it was the turn of the Year 10 pupils to battle it out in the House competitions. Monday was the football competition, which was a very close contest. Warkworth prevailed in the end winning the last match with a playoff golden goal. Thursday saw the Netball competition fiercely contested by all of the houses, with Alnwick coming out on top, winning all three of their games. Both competitions were played with great spirit and competition in all games. Congratulations to all players.

We have just had our Year 11 group photograph taken this morning, and it was a proud moment for all the staff involved, seeing the young people looking so smart. What added to this sense of pride was the fact that the photographer, addressing the year group, commented on how fantastic they were at getting themselves organised and listening so well to instructions. What a great accolade to our wonderful young people, and again, what great ambassadors our students continue to be.

Our Enterprise Club will be busy next week, selling a range of Valentine's gifts from sea glass keyrings, handmade roses, jewellery, a Valentines hamper and lots of other goodies. The team will be based in IT2 during break and lunch and they are looking forward to meeting lots of customers.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher