



## Marden High School

Friday 17th February 2023

Dear All

As you are aware, our focus on student leadership is an important feature of our children's development at Marden, and a good example of this is the work that our students are doing in preparation for The Chronicle 'takeover'. A group of Year 8 students are busy researching, analysing, interviewing, and drafting news articles for a special edition of The Chronicle which will be published later this Spring. The students are working on a number of issues, topical both in our region and in school. The group of students who interviewed me gave me a good opportunity to reflect on the importance of our House System, and to evaluate how successful it has been this term so far. We have just finished a series of enjoyable House Assemblies where the sense of teamwork and competition was palpable. Our House Captains have done a great job as they have organised, motivated and inspired their teammates to get fully involved in the range of House competitions which have taken place this half term. One of the questions I was asked by the reporting team was what do we look for in a House Captain? First and foremost House Captains need to be role models, setting an example to everyone around them. They also need to be able to describe confidently and clearly to their team what they can achieve, but they also need to be able to listen to their teammates so they get to know and understand them, and so play to their strengths. We have seen some great examples of this in our students.

This week I have spoken to a number of visitors to the school who commented that the attitudes of our students and staff must make the school a wonderful place to work and 'do learning'. They are right, it does, and this is something I have the privilege of witnessing every day. It reminds me of a beautiful quote that is sometimes attributed to James van der Zee:

"Happiness is a perfume, you can't pour it on someone without getting a few drops on yourself".

Each week we see the outcomes of this virtuous circle in the work that students produce, and this week has certainly been no exception to that, reflected in the amazing work I have enjoyed talking about with students who have received their Work of the Week certificates. This work is always a fantastic illustration of the joy and enjoyment that students and staff experience through their learning here, and I recommend

you have a look at the Work of the Week section on the school website.

In another conversation with a parent this week, I was informed of forthcoming 'Kidical' mass rides which are being organised in North Tyneside. These mass cycling events are campaigning rides with the aim of drawing attention to and making the case for infrastructures that enable children to cycle safely, with and without their families, and [Street Life North Tyneside](#), are organising the third North Tyneside Kidical mass ride in May.

We are now well into the work experience process for Year 10. It is great to see that many students have already secured themselves a placement for July. The students have been receiving support on how to approach potential placement providers from their form tutors and workshops delivered by the North East Uni Connect Programme. As all placements need to undergo health and safety checks prior to the placement commencing, all paperwork must be completed and handed into school by 31 March 2023. If you have any questions regarding work experience please email our careers lead Mrs Brennan, [f.brennan@mardenhigh.net](mailto:f.brennan@mardenhigh.net).

Our school uniform store is very popular and available to all students who need replacement uniform at any time for any reason. As a result though our stocks are running low, particularly blazers, ties, PE polo shirts and PE purple hoodies. If anyone has any of these spare and you would like to donate them to school please leave them at reception or email [r.seal@mardenhigh.net](mailto:r.seal@mardenhigh.net). This email can also be used by anyone requiring uniform for their child.

This term students in both Year 7 and Year 10 have worked very hard creating products to sell for a 'Valentines Pop Up Market'. They worked in small teams to create, advertise and then sell the products. Each team was given £10 to buy in products and raw materials, and the aim was to generate as much profit as they could, with the winning team getting Amazon vouchers as a prize. There were 7 teams overall and a grand total of £211 profit. A team from Year 7 claimed the winners prize, making £68 profit. Well done to all involved.

It was the turn of the Year 7 boys football team to play in the Central Venue League this week, playing two very competitive games against strong opposition in St Thomas More and Longbenton. The 7-a-side format allows for very fast, skillful football to be played and the Marden team did not disappoint. In both games, the players demonstrated why they are unbeaten in the North Tyneside leagues, showing skill and tenacity in equal measure to push the opposition for the whole match. Both games ended in a hard fought draw, with the players coming away happy that they have maintained their unbeaten run.

The Year 9 boys football team played Ponteland High in the quarter final of the county cup on Thursday afternoon. With an exciting first half, the Marden team created a number of chances. Going into the second half 0-0, it remained competitive but the boys eventually succumbed losing 3-0. This defeat against the current county cup holders demonstrates the potential of this football team and they will look to bounce back next game.

At the end of this half term we see Ms Lymer leave us after many years of service to the students of Marden. I am sure that everyone will join me in wishing her all the very best for the next exciting chapter in her life. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Lymer for the care and support she has provided during her time here, and in particular for our Ukrainian students and families over this last year.

In our conversations around school we often reflect on the ideas and words of inspirational figures, and recently I have had cause to think about a quote from one of the world's great sports people, Arthur Ashe, whose life sadly ended prematurely from a long illness: "Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can." This is a useful reminder to all of us at times to stop wishing "if only", and to remember that the great talents that lie within each of us right now are what will take us on to future success. So I hope all our students and staff have a good rest over the half term break and return revitalised in a week's time to make the best of our talents.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher