



## Marden High School

Friday 3rd March 2023

Dear All

This week we have seen another excellent example of student leadership as a team of students from various year groups delivered an engaging and informative assembly each morning all about literacy and World Book Day. A growing number of studies show that promoting reading can have a major impact on children and adults and their future. In addition to the obvious benefits of improving reading attainment and writing ability, a meta-analysis of the research literature identifies several other areas of the benefits to reading for pleasure:

- Enhancing text comprehension and grammar;
- Promoting greater breadth of vocabulary;
- Developing positive reading attitudes;
- Giving greater self-confidence as a reader and generally;
- Facilitating pleasure in reading in later life;
- Improving general knowledge, and giving a better understanding of other cultures;
- Developing a greater insight into human nature and decision-making.

Evidence also suggests that reading for pleasure leads to increased attainment. There is a significant positive relationship between enjoyment and attainment indicating that children who read more are also better readers, and are better able to access and understand the language of exams. World Book Day is about celebrating books and reading all year round. It's never too early or too late to encourage a love of reading and we hope that students and parents alike find the activities and advice given regularly by Ms Taylor and our Literacy Leaders help you enjoy sharing stories together as a family not just on World Book Day but every day of the year. I would remind students about the digital book tokens which have been emailed to them which they can use to get a free book.

I mentioned some weeks ago that we have been discussing whether academisation could help support and enhance the excellent standards that we currently have, and I wrote about the importance of us considering carefully what it is that is dear to us, in other words:

- Enhancing opportunities and outcomes for our children
- Ensuring that our staff can flourish as professionals, have career opportunities, and enjoy well-being at work
- Building strong support structures and networks with other schools and professionals
- Continuing to enjoy our own unique identity, autonomy and excellent reputation

We need to engage in an open conversation about the benefits and disadvantages that various future scenarios may bring us, so that everybody has the opportunity to contribute views and be listened to. With this in mind the Governing Body are inviting parents and carers to an informal discussion so that governors can understand the thoughts and questions this important group of stakeholders may have around this question. This meeting will be at 5pm on Wednesday 22nd March in the school auditorium, where everybody is welcome.

During the half term break, Mr Prytherch, Mr Richards, Miss Harrison, Mr Topping, Miss Clark and Miss Boyle took 40 Year 11 students to the Austrian Alpine resort of Alpendorf. After a full day of travelling, students arrived on Sunday evening in the small Austrian town of Werfen, tucked away behind snow capped mountains, ready for a week of skiing. Sunshine and blue skies dominated every day, providing perfect conditions for our youngsters to hit the slopes. Every student progressed from the nursery slope and by the end of the week each group could be seen parallel turning their way down the pistes. All of the students have to be commended for their attitude and behaviour, they represented themselves and Marden High School superbly and were a pleasure to be around all week. Hotel staff, ski instructors and coach drivers could not speak any more highly of them. The week was capped off with an awards celebration on the mountain and a visit to Salzburg, the home of Mozart, to top up on some cultural capital.

This week we see the beginning of the new Boys Network cohort with M:10, whilst the Coastal Explorations work with Hand Of moves into its next phase having started before half term. Both projects, designed to develop the independence, confidence and work skills of students across a range of years are initiatives we have developed for students as part of our philosophy that vital work at this stage will allow students to grow beyond their time at Marden and flourish in their careers. Something we have begun this year is the development of the Student Leadership Programme for prefects and this half term we see two final sessions before their graduation.

A group of our Year 11 students have spent this morning at St James' Park, attending an Apprenticeship workshop. The event was a joint collaboration between North Tyneside Learning Trust and The Newcastle United Foundation. There were over 15 major companies involved, including Northumbria NHS, HSBC, AkzoNobel and Siemens Energy. Throughout the morning the students spent 10 minutes speaking to each

of the companies, finding out about the apprenticeships that they offer and being given advice on application and interview processes. It was a very worthwhile experience for the students involved and we will continue to work closely with apprenticeship providers as part of our CEIAG programme. If you would like to find out more about apprenticeships please have a look at this website <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/about-ask/>.

In English lessons this term, Year 9 have been studying a module surrounding social inequality, injustice and the role of government in our society. This week they have been preparing for a visit from local MP, Sir Alan Campbell, who will be coming into school next Friday to discuss the role of local and national government. He will also take part in a "Year 9 Question Time," answering questions from each class on a range of topics that matter most to our students. We look forward to reporting back on the answers Sir Alan gives.

On March 22nd we will be supporting students who witness Ramadan. This is a time when the Muslim faith observes a holy month of fasting, prayer, reflection and community. A commemoration of Muhammad's first revelation, the annual observance of Ramadan is regarded as one of the five pillars of Islam and lasts between twenty-nine to thirty days, from one sighting of the crescent moon to the next. Should any student need any further support or adaptation made during this time, they can see their Head of Year or member of the Senior Leadership Team.

We have a range of rewards and means of recognition for all students, that range from postcards home, phone calls on a Friday from the Senior Leadership Team and end of term certificates, through to additional House Points that are part of the House Competition and Work of the Week. This reminds everyone that hard work brings reward, and our rewards support the culture of celebration and success that visitors to the school often comment upon. This year has seen a higher number of House Points given out and this is reflected in our strong attendance, which remains one of the highest in North Tyneside. Well done to all students who have received recognition for their work and efforts so far this year and with half the year still to go, there is plenty of opportunity to keep earning.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher