



## Marden High School

Friday 31st March 2023

Dear All

From time to time I have discouraged parents and carers from driving on to the school site to drop their children off in the morning. I have appreciated that most people have understood the need for us to minimise traffic on site whilst children and staff are coming into school, so that we can keep everybody as safe as possible. I know that most people do adhere to this request, but we have had a number of near misses on recent mornings where parents' cars have come on site without due regard for the safety of other people. I will reiterate here therefore that, unless there is a previously communicated arrangement with me reflecting the medical needs of their child, parents should not drive through the school gates onto the school site. The last thing anyone wants is for an accident to happen resulting in injury or worse.

This week's end of term assemblies have been a fantastic way to celebrate individual successes across the year groups, with awards given out by Form tutors, Heads of Year and the Headteacher as well as Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards for the top 60 house points in each year group. The assemblies have had a Strike it Lucky theme, where House Captains have represented their houses in selecting a Strike it Lucky card. Winning cards were worth 250 house points, or they had to answer a question worth 250 house points whilst hoping to avoid picking up the dreaded Hotspot card! The house championship is extremely close with Alwick just holding a slender lead over Bamburgh, Warkworth and then Dunstanburgh. Every student contributes positively to their house totals and as we move into the summer term there are plenty of opportunities to earn house points and help their House in the race for the championship.

We are now just a few weeks away from the start of the summer exams and we have been impressed by the continued positive attitudes and work ethic of Year 11 students in their studies in readiness for their exams. There will be an assembly after Easter to remind students of the procedures and behaviours expected during the exams. Students should now have a clear idea of their preferred destinations for September, but if any student needs help or support with this they can approach any member of the senior team or Ms Harrison who can support these next steps where necessary.

You will remember that last week I reported on a meeting that governors had had with parents and carers

about the potential of academisation where some excellent questions were posed and discussed. One of the most salient of these questions was 'will academisation help us to make progress and enhance outcomes for our students, or are we better off staying as we are, a Local Authority maintained school?' As a strong school with good student outcomes, sound finances, and a happy school community, we have also needed to consider carefully any associated potential risks to academisation, and so our staff/governor working group have spent the last two months conducting a risk/benefit analysis for various scenarios. Following the Easter break, there will be the opportunity for parents and carers to join members of the governing body to hear feedback on this analysis, and we look forward to seeing lots of people at this meeting which will take place in the auditorium in school at 5pm on Wednesday 19th April. Following this meeting governors will regroup to make a decision on whether to pursue a route of academisation or not, a decision I will communicate to the school community via this newsletter.

Communication is key to our relationship with the community and we try to ensure that this is comprehensive and timely using this newsletter, our rewards system, social media, our website, emails and telephone calls from members of the team. We pride ourselves on the welcoming and open lines of communication we have which are the bedrock of our values and ethos. A key facet of this is the ability to identify support from our staff when it is required and this is something we have reminded everyone of recently through the social media posts we have shared with signposting to support around curriculum, safeguarding, careers and pastoral questions. The Pastoral Team and the Leadership Team will always listen should a member of the community need us or need external support. This may be related to free school meals (<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/238/free-school-meals>). It might be for support with holiday food vouchers ([participation@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:participation@northtyneside.gov.uk)) or it could be to report a safeguarding concern to any of our safeguarding team ([b.reece@mardenhigh.net](mailto:b.reece@mardenhigh.net), [d.anderson@mardenhigh.net](mailto:d.anderson@mardenhigh.net) and [a.charlton@mardenhigh.net](mailto:a.charlton@mardenhigh.net)). The safeguarding and wellbeing of our school community is paramount to all we do, all of the time, therefore keeping children safe in school and supported as best we can when out of school is something we will prioritise always. By working together and looking after each other, we will help encourage the change we hope to see in our world with the Marden High community at the heart of it.

Our Year 10 Engineers had a fantastic opportunity to visit Nissan Sunderland Plant this week. They were able to see first hand production line 1, producing made to order Nissan Qashqai and LEAF models, and how the engineers work under strict time pressures to assemble over 3000 parts of each personalised vehicle. They saw how each car was rigorously tested, how they kept track of their quality control measures and how they efficiently used 'just in time' systems within the assembly process. They ended their day with a teamwork challenge where they impressed a team of engineers with their design ideas and creativity. It was great to see their engagement and enthusiasm as well as their problem solving skills at work.

On Monday evening the Year 7 boys football team took on Churchill Community College in the semifinals of the North Tyneside Schools cup competition. They went into this game on a winning streak dating back to early November so confidence was high as the first half kicked off. However, it looked like the Churchill team were determined not to let Marden have it all their own way and made the away team battle for everything. Despite having only one or two clear chances in the first half, the Marden team did get a breakthrough as half time neared, with a neatly taken shot on the turn firing past the Churchill keeper. 1-0 at half time. The second half started brightly as within 30 seconds the Marden team had doubled their lead after an intricate run through the Churchill defence. From there, the Marden team got the bit between their teeth and turned up the pressure, scoring a further 5 goals to make the result 7-0 to Marden. They eagerly await the result of the other semi final to find out who they will play in the final. The Year 7 girls netball team took part in the North Tyneside School tournament on Monday afternoon, held at John Spence. The girls played brilliantly winning 2 games and drawing one to book a place in the final against Marden Bridge Middle School. It was a close fought contest and the girls played their hearts out until the final whistle, but finished the tournament as runners up. The Year 8 boys football team had a hugely successful week, winning yet another league game and remained in top spot in the league. They also won the Tyneside cup quarter final against Longbenton 5-0 which put them into the semi final and kept them on track for the Tyneside double. Well done to all players. It has been an amazingly successful term for our sports teams, and congratulations and credit should be given to everyone who has trained, played and supported throughout.

King Charles III's coronation will take place on Saturday 6 May 2023 at Westminster Abbey in London, and during the ceremony, the King will be crowned alongside Camilla, the Queen Consort. The coronation is both the symbolic religious ceremony during which a sovereign is crowned and the physical act of placing a crown on a monarch's head, and as such it formalises the monarch's role as the head of the Church of England and marks the transfer of their title and powers. As a celebration of this event there will be an additional bank holiday on Monday 8th May when school will be closed.

I hope that everyone has a pleasant Easter break. Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher