



## Marden High School

Friday 5th May 2023

Dear All

As you are no doubt aware, Ms Taylor puts out literacy activities and notices each week for students and staff, and I thought this week I would share some of those with everyone. I know that many of our parents and carers have weekly conversations about these activities with their children, and this is a great way to encourage the children to get involved and develop a lifelong love of reading and all things literacy, such an essential life skill, as well as bringing much pleasure.

- Weekly LRC Challenge! The Library Club has created a weekly challenge for students to complete either in their own time or in the LRC at lunchtimes.
- Reflection Time Oracy. The theme this week is Diversity. Presentation slides are shared with Literacy Leaders via email ahead of delivering the session so that the students can lead a class discussion in each form.
- Whole School Literacy Leaders/Library Club now in the LRC every lunchtime.

All of the detailed information and links for the above is available in the Form Time Google Classroom which can be accessed by the students. Again, this is a good trigger for those conversations that parents and carers can have with their children about what they have been doing during their week.

This week has been the Theravada Buddhist festival which observes the birth, death and enlightenment of the Buddha. This date changes each year as it takes place at the time of the first full moon of the ancient lunar month of Vesakha. The festival often involves visitors to temples pouring water over a statue of a baby Buddha in order to symbolise new beginnings. Later this month we welcome the Jewish holiday that celebrates the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai and a grain harvest. This holiday falls seven weeks after Passover. Our theme this week - which we shared in the assembly - is that of Diversity, encouraging everyone to see the beauty in others' differences and celebrating each other's individuality.

It is always good to meet parents face to face to discuss how we are developing as a learning community, and so I would like to remind you that our next Parents' Forum is on Monday 12th June 5.30pm. This is a good opportunity for parents to come into school for informal conversation about general developments in

the school. It is also a great opportunity for parents and carers and the senior team to get to know each other. Past topics have included things such as homework which have then been incorporated into our School Development Plan. If you would like to come along, please contact Mrs Scott at school, and I will look forward to meeting you over a cup of tea and biscuits.

As you are aware we have very high expectations of courtesy and behaviour for our students, and I am generally very proud of how our children conduct themselves both in and out of school living up to those high expectations. It is not uncommon for members of the public to comment on how well behaved our children are when on school visits. This was again the case when we went to Sunderland this week to see The Lion King on stage with Year 7 students, and people remarked on how well the children represented their school. On the subject of theatre, I am always very impressed with the talents of our young people when they themselves get up on the stage, and it has been good to see such large numbers of students getting involved in auditions and rehearsals for our school production this year which will be the musical Matilda. We have so many students that there will be two full casts. This will be performed in the Autumn term and more details will follow as we get closer to the performance date.

It was great to see so many parents and students at our Year 10 revision evening on Thursday this week. This was a fantastic event with superb engaging presentations from staff and some really useful conversations with parents and students. Mrs Robson has now emailed the presentations used to parents of Year 10 students.

As this year's football season draws to its conclusion, the Marden teams have enjoyed both success and heartache in what has proved to be an excellent campaign for all teams.

The Year 7 boys team played St Thomas More in their final league game last Wednesday, knowing a victory would seal an unbeaten league title in their first year as a team. Their opponents were determined to spoil any celebrations though, and took the lead after Marden gave away a penalty midway through the first half. Marden battled hard and pulled one back from an excellent long range effort. Before half time Marden took the lead through a well worked team goal. In the second half, with the bit between the teeth, Marden's team pressed hard for a victory. St Thomas More never gave up and pulled one back, but Marden struck twice more to make the final score 4-2 to Marden, giving them victory and the league title. The boys can make it a league and cup double, with the final of the Tyneside Schools cup still to play.

On the same night, the Year 8 boys football team also travelled to John Spence school as an unbeaten league side. The first half of the game was tight, with the strong John Spence defence holding out well

against the Marden attack, stopping a couple of good chances. In the second half though, the Marden team found an opener early on and from that, were able to kick on and score 3 more goals, which means the boys are one game away from winning the Tyneside league.

The Year 9 Boys have had three matches in the last two weeks, starting with a friendly against John Spence that resulted in a 4-2 loss. This was a great opportunity for many of the boys to make the school team debut. They were magnificent and their positive and respectful attitude was highlighted by the referee. The following evening they played St Thomas More in a league match, in a tense game all the players gave 100% commitment, their desire and work rate was superb. As a result they won the game 2-1. Congratulations to all the players involved in those matches. In their final game, the Year 9 team drew 3-3 in normal time in a league and cup semi final double with Whitley Bay. The result at the final whistle counted for the league, but extra time was played for the cup portion of the fixture. With no further goals, the dreaded penalty shoot out loomed. The boys eventually lost 6-5 on penalties but they can hold their heads high and have represented the school and themselves with distinction this season.

In their final game for Marden, the Year 11 team put up a brilliant performance away from home against a strong St Thomas More side. With the game poised at 3-3 going into the final minutes, the St Thomas More side managed to sneak the ball into the net and snatch the victory, final score 4-3 to the hosts.

Finally, our Year 8 students took part in their first table tennis fixture this week against St Thomas More. The students have put a lot of time and effort into table tennis during lunch times and it seems to have paid off, as they played some outstanding matches and won the fixture 29 - 18. The staff at St Thomas More were full of praise for the students and sent the following after the event: *'Just a quick email regarding your students, who represented Marden High School. The behaviour was impeccable along with outstanding manners from your pupils. A really enjoyable event took place where both sets of children showed really good sportsmanship and talent, throughout the event.'*

I hope everyone enjoys another long weekend. Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher