



## Marden High School

Friday 19th May 2023

Dear All

As you are aware, we are always very keen to hear parents' views of their own children's experiences at school. I hope therefore, that all parents will take a few moments to complete the questionnaire which we will be sending out, as the more responses we have, the clearer the picture is to us of our areas of strength and areas for development. I mentioned last week that we are currently working on our School Development Plan for next year, and the findings from this parent survey will feed into the content of this important working document. The [survey can be found at this link](#) and has been emailed directly to all parents and carers. I look forward also to seeing parents and carers at my next parent forum meeting at 5.30pm on 12th June.

Exams have started really well as we had expected and Year 10 seem to have stepped up to their position as almost the most senior students in the school. We have received a fantastic number of prefect applications, so many of which, again as we had expected, are of a very high quality. The personal qualities that their letters exhibit reflect the values we hold dear at Marden, including self-discipline, leadership skills, communication skills, politeness, helpfulness, respect and care for others. It is wonderful to be able to reflect on our students as reliable and responsible members of the School's community. The Senior Leadership team met this week to consider the applications and Mr Prytherch and I will inform those successful applicants next week that they are to be the proud wearers of the coveted purple tie.

Thank you to the parents and carers who have already contacted me about coming into school to talk about their own careers. There has been a really quick response but I would still invite more parents and carers to contact me to discuss the potential of them contributing to our careers programme. We are aiming for a broad cross section of types of jobs and of ages of people presenting, so if there are any recent Marden leavers out there who would like to come back in to speak to students about what they are doing, we would love to hear from them too.

This week the new cohort of students who will benefit from taking part in the next TICE project have engaged in their first workshop. TICE (This Is Creative Enterprise) explores and focuses on developing

creative opportunities for students to experience an insight into jobs within the creative industry. The Year 9 students will participate in an exciting ten week Photography and Film programme. Projects are chosen by students and focus on particular areas of photography and film. The thought provoking projects are designed to combine the experience of new skills and knowledge through projects linked to photography and film industry professionals. All the students enjoyed a highly interesting workshop and they are all looking forward to continuing their work with visiting professionals.

As you are aware, standards of behaviour at Marden are very high, and there is always much positive feedback from visitors, guest speakers and colleagues from other schools who visit us. Sometimes a young person from elsewhere in North Tyneside may have difficulties and in spite of support from their own school, it may be appropriate for them to have a trial period at another school with the aim of their behaviour improving. This arrangement is called a supported move. It has been notable how successful these supported moves have been when young people have been able to come to Marden for their trial period, so that they have settled and focused on their school work and on forming positive relationships with their peers. This is a reflection of the skills, expertise and enthusiasm of staff at Marden who are able to help these young people meet high expectations.

On Thursday 11th May, the Senior North Tyneside Athletics Championships were held at Monkton Stadium in Jarrow. Representing Marden were twenty-six Year 9 and 10 pupils, including the current GCSE group. The pupils performed and conducted themselves superbly and gained many successes throughout the afternoon. Some of these successes will earn pupils a visit to Gateshead International Stadium for the County Championships in the next half term. Well done to all.

On Wednesday 17th May, it was the turn of the junior athletes, competing in the Tynemouth Area competition at St Thomas More School. Forty-six Year 7 and 8 pupils represented Marden at this meet, with many of the pupils winning their respective events or finishing in second place. This means those pupils will progress to the next stage of competition where they will represent the area in the North Tyneside championships. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience and will no doubt be looking forward to the next one.


The Year 8/9 Basketball team represented North Tyneside at the Tyne and Wear finals at the Newcastle Eagles Arena. The pupils won their group winning 4 out of 4 games playing some excellent basketball. In the semi-final in a close game vs St Aidans, the boys came from behind to make it to the final. In the final they played St Mary's Catholic School, who they beat in the group stages, but unfortunately victory went to the opposition who made all of their shots. The boys played brilliantly and they should be very proud of

their achievement, the second best team in Tyne and Wear.

The conclusion of the football season this week brought fantastic success to the Marden teams in Years 7 and 8. The Year 7 team played in the final of the Tyneside Schools cup on Wednesday evening against a strong Longbenton team. The opening stages of the game were a tense affair, with both teams pressing hard to find the opening score. Marden eventually found the breakthrough they were looking for midway through the first half with a flowing move out on the right flank. After half time, Longbenton came back well looking for the equaliser, but Marden scored again to make it 2-0. Longbenton were awarded a penalty, which they converted, making for an exciting finish to the game. But just as the Longbenton team were getting back into the game, Marden broke from their own half to score another with 10 minutes to go. In the final 5 minutes Marden took advantage of a tiring Longbenton defence and scored twice more to add the final touches to a magnificent performance. Final score 5-1.

On the same night, the Year 8 team played in the Semi Final of their Tyneside Cup against St Thomas More. In a pulsating first half, Marden struck first with a header from a corner and followed it up with another goal from a close range shot midway through the half. St Thomas More pulled a goal back before the half time whistle to keep the game close. After the break, Marden added a third goal and hung onto the two goal lead until the final moments of the match when St Thomas More pulled one back. Marden hung on to the lead to make the final score 3-2 and progress into the final. A great performance by all the players involved.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher