



Marden High School

Friday 26th May 2023

Dear All

As part of our Post-Covid Positive Choices: Character Support work we now have the opportunity to work with the cyber support section of the police. Next academic year, this will become a regular feature of Personal Development and Form Time, but in the first instance, later in June a group of thirty students from a variety of year groups will work with the police on:

- How to protect yourself online
- How to ensure you keep online security tight
- Understanding what PREVENT is and how to spot signs of danger
- Cyber Choices (skills and signposting)
- Computer Misuse Act

We look forward to hearing the feedback from students following these sessions. Please remember also that we have useful information on our website regarding online safety on our *e-safety at Marden* pages.

The Science and Maths department have been working closely this year with a team of students from Year 7 to Year 9 at STEAM club. Each week, there have been activities linked to Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths, including code breaking challenges, making cinder toffee, learning to code a web based interactive advent calendar and students have also entered a number of competitions. Before Christmas, the group completed the Royal Society of Biology 'BioArt Attack' competition and created some amazing pieces of artwork themed on marine biology. More recently, students have completed an engineering challenge in the 'If you were an engineer, what would you do?' project. The designs of three of our students were chosen from the thousands of entrants as winners in their age category, with Year 7 and Year 9 successes in the form of highly commended awards, whilst one of our Year 7 students was overall winner for his category. All three of these students attended Sunderland University this week to receive their well deserved awards. The STEAM club are currently preparing their 'Street Science' performances, which they will deliver to our primary schools before the end of the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all our new Prefects who will soon receive their purple tie. We have nearly ninety prefects, the largest number ever, and I look forward to this group of fine young people exercising hope, agency and leadership as they undertake their duties.

As you may be aware, The Star Awards is North Tyneside Learning Trust's annual celebration of the outstanding non-academic achievements of the children and young people from around North Tyneside schools and this year it is celebrating its 10th anniversary. The first Star Awards ceremony was held back in 2014 at the Village Hotel and since then the North Tyneside Learning Trust have recognised the phenomenal achievement of 368 finalist and this year, they will be adding another 48 names to the NTLT Star Awards Hall of Fame. Selecting the finalists is the unenviable job of a panel of experts from within the Trust and the main sponsor Vision for Education. Special letters have now been sent out to all schools with a finalist (including Marden of course) notifying them of this outstanding achievement and inviting them to the glittering award ceremony at St James Park later in July 2023. Congratulations to everyone and good luck at the finals.

A number of Year 10 students spent the day on campus at Newcastle University this week working with the Chemistry department as part of their annual Salters' Festivals of Chemistry 2023. Students experienced what it would be like to be a student at University and participated in an interactive chemistry lecture, making aspirin in the lab and testing its purity. They also interviewed a panel of experts on their chemistry careers. This was an exciting opportunity to inspire students about the potential of chemistry, motivate students to pursue the subject to an advanced level, and to learn about future career options in science. We look forward to similar events at universities in the future.

You will be aware of the North Tyneside Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, known locally as the ease INTO programme and may already be aware that the programme offers free activities and food to children during the school holidays. At Easter, North Tyneside Local Authority launched a new online booking system for families to register and book onto activities and therefore to make sure students don't miss out on activities during the summer, we are working with North Tyneside Council to help families register. On Thursday 22nd June at 5pm there will be a visit to the school by members of the North Tyneside Council team to help parents / carers register ahead of summer. The session will run from 5pm until 6pm in our LRC and refreshments will be available - as we prepare for the PTA quiz beginning that evening at 6pm. If you have any questions, please email d.anderson@mardenhigh.net

Many thanks to all those parents and carers who have already responded to our survey - there has been some great feedback so far. [Here is the link](#) to the survey which will close at 11pm on Sunday 4th June. I

look forward to feeding back some of the headlines from the survey results in this newsletter next half term.

As the winter sports season draws to a close, the commencement of the summer sports program got underway last week with the Year 7 and 8 Boys tennis teams playing Hexham Middle School in their first game of the season in the Northumberland Tennis League. With a mixture of seasoned players and some brand new to the sport, the boys played some really impressive tennis, winning all of their matches. This week the team travelled to Ponteland for the second round of games. Again, the boys played well winning 10 out of the 12 league matches, and all of their friendly games. On Monday, the Year 8/9 cricket team played their opening round of the County Cup away to Royal Grammar School, Newcastle. After bowling the host team out for 140, the Marden team set about chasing down the required runs in great style. For only 4 wickets down, Marden were in a good position going into the final 4 overs. However, the RGS team turned to their spinners, who pinned the batsmen down and held on for the win. The Marden team gave a great account of themselves against such a strong opposition and are looking forward to their next match

Recently students have been taking part in celebrations for National Numeracy Day which took place on Wednesday. In their Maths lessons they studied payslips and the deductions that are made from them, particularly looking at the different income tax and national insurance thresholds. Many students were surprised to find out potentially how much is deducted from gross pay, especially when looking at the annual deductions. The lesson was adapted from the MoneySense resources provided by NatWest - there are a number of excellent resources on their website, which you might find useful to explore with your children. Last year's National Numeracy Day saw the launch of Marden's own weekly numeracy newspaper - Marden's Numeracy News - so in form time this week students looked back at that first edition to see what numbers were in the news a year ago. This included a recipe to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee and Eddie Howe's managerial statistics since joining Newcastle United. If you want to improve your own numeracy there are a number of excellent resources from National Numeracy - <https://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/>, including the National Numeracy Challenge which helps you check and improve your numeracy.

I hope that everyone has a good half term break. Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher