



Marden High School

Friday 16th June 2023

Dear All

As I mentioned previously, this half term we will be finalising our School Development Plan and I will be sharing the priorities from this with everyone via this newsletter. Contained within our current three year development plan is a description of who we are, and what it is that we value. This can be read in full [here](#), and includes the following:

Our school community is built on the commitment and expertise of staff, and the contributions of our parents and the wider business community. This means our students experience a rich cultural life, helping develop the life skills needed for their future success.

In many ways this can be summarised by the old adage “*it takes a whole village to raise a child*”. So it is with this in mind that next year, as part of our School Development Plan, we will be developing a Marden Alumni community which will aim to bring together past students of Marden for a variety of events over the coming years. In particular, alumni involvement is often cited as evidence of good careers practice and supporting the goals set within the ‘Careers and the World of Work Framework’. Alumni can act as a source of information for young people, and help them to find out about the world of work as well as recognise their own strengths, and in this sense alumni communities have two distinctive strengths: relatability and sustainability. Having grown up in the same area and perhaps having had some of the same teachers, former students are ideal role models as they are instantly relatable. They can offer advice to students from their own context and help show the young people what’s possible, and potentially we have a lasting pool of support available because as new students leave the school each year, they can join a growing community of alumni volunteers. I know that many of our parents and carers are past students of Marden, and so I am reaching out to those that may be interested in being a part of occasional events where past students get together for careers, fundraising and social events which centre around the school. At this early stage I am looking for a small group of parents/carers who are also past students to meet with me to discuss the most effective way of organising an alumni group and to think about what sort of an initial event would be the best to get other people interested in being involved. If you would like to be part of this initial discussion of no more than an hour please email me and I will arrange a meeting one evening at

school.

This week saw the Girls Get Set STEM teams give their final presentations to a panel of judges at Baker Hughes. They have been tasked over the last few months with calculating the schools carbon footprint, leading to them carrying out some research on a specific area that they felt they could have an impact on if developed within school. Our two teams, The Lab Rats and The Next Step, gave confident presentations and impressed the judging panel with their initiatives linked to outdoor classrooms and composting within school. Our two teams were in competition with two teams at North Durham Academy and Marden's The Next Step came out victorious. The judging panel was not only impressed by their initiative and its viability to be implemented in school, but also their understanding of the concept, the impact it could have on reducing the school's carbon footprint. The panel also remarked on the confidence of the team when challenged on their idea. The girls are looking forward to a site visit to Baker Hughes later this month when they will attend their graduation, receive their winners' prizes and also receive their Bronze Industrial Cadet Awards. Well done to all involved and thanks to Mrs Green for all her support for the girls.

On Wednesday this week our Year 9 TICE students participated in a workshop experience at Northumbria University. TICE (This Is Creative Enterprise) focuses on and explores career development giving opportunities for students to experience an insight into careers within the creative industry. This time students were completing projects with a focus on photography and film. Amongst a whole array of activities, the students were involved in various workshops and had a tour of the university photography facilities, resulting in a thoroughly enjoyable and inspirational event.

The final preparations for our Creativity Festival on 19 and 20 July are currently being put in place and we are very much looking forward to what promises to be an amazingly varied and exciting two days of activities, many involving visiting professionals from the creative industries, local artists and art organisations. On 26 June, students will be notified via an assembly of the packages on offer, and following this, children and parents will have access to the menu of activities from which to choose via Google Classroom, and we hope that parents and their children will enjoy having conversations about what they may want to do. Once selections have been made for the two days, Mrs Berriman and Ms Olbrecht will confirm which activities the students will be doing. We are confident that our students will have a great time during the festival and there will be an opportunity for Year 7 to document their experiences as part of their ongoing Arts Award Explore qualification.

Marden High School has been chosen to participate in a maths competition at Whitley Bay High School next week. The competition will be game show themed and involve our students going head-to-head

against other local Middle Schools for some great prizes and the overall title of 'Mathletics Champions 2023'. We wish all participants the best of luck.

As mentioned last week, on Thursday 22 June we will be holding a short memorial reflection in honour of Alan Shields at 3.45 in our Memorial Garden at the front of school.

Summer sports have continued this week and I look forward to bringing everyone a bumper sports report next week.

This week saw the final assembly for Year 11 take place, and as part of it I spoke to the students about the impact they have on people around them. The way our students are with people, how they communicate, the attitudes they present always has an impact on us, their staff, their parents. I also spoke to them about the aspect of my role as headteacher where staff will come to me to talk about their own lives, in particular, when they are considering applying for another job, or when they are going through some particular personal difficulty in their lives. If somebody is considering applying for a new job it is generally because they are going for a promotion, taking on more responsibility, and so getting an increase in pay, and yet it is so often that the member of staff considering this exciting prospect decides in the end not to proceed with their application because of the students here at Marden, because of the way they are, and because of the fantastic attitudes they present. And when people come to me to talk about a personal difficulty they are experiencing in their life, we often end up talking about how it is the students, with their energy, enthusiasm, spirit and kindness, that help us through those difficult times, who give us that balance and remind us that good times will return. So yes, the Class of 2023 has impacted on us in so many positive ways and I wish them all the best for the future, and I look forward to hearing about their successes.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher