



## Marden High School

Friday 7th July 2023

Dear All

As I am sure you are all aware, we held our Sports Day this week, and what a fantastic event it was. In bright, very windy conditions, the whole of Year 7, 8 and 9 were out on the playing fields spectating and participating in a whole range of activities, including all the major track and field events, as well as some epic battles in the tug of war and the egg and spoon races. The commitment, efforts and competitiveness of the students was second to none, and everyone should be very proud of the attitudes and collegiate spirit which was demonstrated throughout the day. There were brilliant performances by individuals, but, as I said to all the students in the medal giving ceremony, there can be no winners without everyone participating fully, so a huge well done to everybody. None of this could have happened without superb support from staff and a special thanks and well done to the PE department for organising [a memorable day](#).

As a school we are always proud of the agency shown by our students both in and out of lessons. Their willingness to facilitate change and lead others in that change shines through each year as we see the nominations and winners of the North Tyneside Learning Trust Star Awards. This year we have seen a huge number of nominations made, recognising students' achievements in the community with one student making it to the final which will be held at St James' Park on 14th July. To all students; congratulations and to our finalist; good luck. All students thoroughly deserve recognition for their hope, agency and leadership.

The Girls Get Set STEM teams received their Bronze Cadet Awards last week, which ended their experience with an exciting visit to Baker Hughes. The girls took part in some engaging careers talks and also some inspiring conversations with engineers from different sectors within Baker Hughes, encouraging the girls to always challenge themselves and find something in their futures that gives them a sense of fulfilment. This was followed up with a fantastic opportunity to see their flexible pipes in production, seeing how each part is manufactured and the functions that each layer of the pipe has within its use at the bottom of the sea. The girls showed off their teamwork skills in a tower building challenge before receiving their winners' trophies and ending what has been a fantastic experience. They left Baker Hughes having asked about their next steps in achieving a Silver Cadet award, something we will be following up in future newsletters.

Recently, our Year 10 'Women in STEM' group were invited to visit Northumbria University, to spend time with staff and students of the Physics department, and for the students to learn about the role of Physics within the science industry. The day included an initial Welcome to Northumbria and the question was posed, "*why study physics?*" The students had a fascinating space weather talk by Professor Clare Watt, a leading scientist in her field, before then having the opportunity to do a project focussed on Space in the university's world class 'Think Lab'. The project consisted of the students being involved in resolving issues surrounding 'space communications' and the 'packing problem' (how do we send all that equipment?). This was followed by a Q&A session with various STEM colleagues from the university and a campus tour of the facilities. For all involved this was an eye opening experience with lots of discussion around future education and careers.

July is 'Duke of Edinburgh' Expedition Month and so last weekend 23 students from Year 9 headed into rural Northumberland to complete both the training and expedition components of their Bronze award. Day one consisted of setting up camp, and a five hour, sixteen kilometre walk through varying terrain. The students were trained and assessed on skills such as map reading and bearings, and on return to camp they were tasked with cooking their own nutritious and calorie rich meals before turning in for the night. The second day was very much about being assessed as the teams faced another sixteen kilometres through Roman Wall country. It was hard work and they were long days but all students successfully completed both days. Feedback from students and parents has been very positive, and thanks goes to the staff who helped across the weekend.

A small group of our Year 10 students had the opportunity to attend a trip to Cambridge University this week. Staying together with other Year 10 students from the North East, the group spent two days in Jesus College. They experienced taster lectures in Chemistry and English, attended workshops about higher education and careers, and toured the city. Led by Cambridge Student Ambassadors, the experience gave them an exciting taste of university life. Our students represented the school excellently and the trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all.


The science department has been working with the Local Enterprise Partnership and have developed an energy resources topic where students have been involved in a range of exciting activities. Marden has had the amazing opportunity to work with Equinor, a local energy company who are responsible for a number of wind farms, including the largest wind farm in the world, Dogger Bank. Representatives from Equinor, came in to talk to students describing the company's aims, a range of jobs in the business, and the pathways to enter this sector. Students were then set to work on a real-world challenge that involved using their problem solving and maths skills, followed by a practical investigation about wind turbines. This week, to wrap up

the project, Equinor returned to Marden for a Q&A panel focusing on career paths. As part of this, we proudly welcomed back Marden Alumni, Lewie Adams, who was the youngest ever Siemens apprentice. Next week, twenty keen students will travel to the Port of Tyne, the new home of Equinor followed by ORE Catapult in Blyth. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the inner workings of both companies and see the blade testing facilities. This has been an excellent opportunity for students to discover a range of jobs in a fast growing industry in the North East.

It was good to meet our newest students and their parents when we had our Induction Evening and Days this week. The children enjoyed two days of high school lessons and getting to know the school and staff, and we are now very much looking forward to them coming back in September.

Our outgoing Year 11 students - Class of 2023 - attended their school prom this week at the Village Hotel. It was great to see them enjoying themselves and celebrating 5 years of hard work and memories that they will take with them through the rest of their lives. I will remember this year group for the enthusiasm, commitment and joy they have brought to school at various times, and if there is just one thing I would ask them to think about in the future, whatever they choose to do, and whatever their chosen careers, it is that they each continue to bring that joy into the lives of others, whether that is family, colleagues, partners, whoever. I would like them to remember the saying '*be someone else's sunshine, be the reason someone smiles today*'. We are all going to miss this year group hugely - we have been through a lot together - and I wish them all the very best as they venture forth into an exciting future.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher