



## Marden High School

Friday 13th October 2023

Dear All

This week the whole of Year 9 enjoyed a varied and interesting day on the theme of *respect*. The day began with a keynote presentation and question and answer session from Chris Hemmings, a psychotherapist, coach, author and public speaker who has dedicated his career to exploring issues of masculinity, gender, and identity. His most notable work is the book "Be A Man: How Macho Culture Damages Us and How to Escape It," which examines the damaging effects of traditional masculine stereotypes on men's mental health, relationships, and wellbeing. In this first session Chris outlined how certain aspects of masculine expectation can not only damage individual men and boys, but also women and girls, too. The students learned about Chris and his journey away from the damaging, toxic masculine environments of his late teens and early twenties and why he is now an advocate for male social development. Throughout the rest of the day students attended a mix of workshops including digital safety and sexual harassment, knife crime, healthy relationships and child sexual exploitation, and Show Racism the Red Card - unconscious bias and being an ally. All in all this was a special day, both consolidating our existing Marden ethos where *"we know each other well and are kind to one another"*, as well as further developing our culture of *"seeing hope and opportunity for everyone, recognising the great range of talents we all have, and leaving no stone unturned in helping our young people to a bright future."*

In January of this year we worked with Children's North East to Poverty Proof the School Day; the outcome of which you can see on our website: <https://www.mardenhigh.net/poverty-proofing-summary/> This work was part of our efforts to ensure that in a country that has faced a cost of living crisis, national decisions that have impacted pay, inflation and ease of living together with the repercussions of COVID 19, we are working with our community to help ensure all students are happy, safe and making progress. As a follow up to the work, it is important that we continue to monitor the impact of any adaptations we made following the visit. Therefore if you click the following link there are some questions to answer that will help us see the progress we continue to make in supporting everyone in our community: <https://children-ne.org.uk/survey/?uac=7033018b-3654-4f6c-a87a-76e0e5f7fad6>

Our Pupil Premium Strategy document is being updated for this coming year, ready to be published on the

school website by October half term. The current version includes the strategies we employ to support students, develop opportunities, train staff and evaluate impact. One organisation we have worked with as part of this, is Hand Of. They work with a range of students across all years with some work dedicated to our Pupil Premium Strategy, some work centred around the [Catch Up Premium](#), which has been developed Post-COVID and other work being centred around creativity and heritage. This week has seen the Hand Of team working once again with Year 10 students, developing their study skills. The cohort they worked with last year, now in Year 11 have seen their grades improve, and their organisational skills and autonomy develop. Exam outcomes this summer for students eligible for Pupil Premium rose again, and so we look forward to the continued enhanced provision we offer our current Year 10 students having a similar positive benefit for them. Year 11 students are now developing their study skills with their Head of Year and core Curriculum Leaders every Wednesday morning in revision and exam preparation sessions. It is paramount to us that all students feel safe, happy and able to make progress and this rich tapestry of support is designed to provide that feeling and a sense of belonging to all.

This year's National Poetry Day took place last week and we celebrated the power of poetry with an array of activities across the week. The theme this year was 'refuge' and was a powerful opportunity for students to explore ideas about safety, home, sanctuary and tolerance: how voices, words and stories help to bridge understanding in our communities. Students took part in a school-wide treasure hunt, searching for their teachers' favourite poems; they reflected on their own personal places of refuge using Roger Robinson's poem 'Portable Paradise' in Form Time; and explored some of this year's official poems in English *Reading for Pleasure* lessons. The poem 'Refugees' by Brian Bilston was a particular favourite of students. There have been some wonderful entries to this year's poetry writing competition and creativity challenge. Students can still send their poetry to Ms Taylor for publication on the Literacy Cloud ([literacycloud@mardenhigh.net](mailto:literacycloud@mardenhigh.net)) and 50 house points.

We are excited to have a number of Year 8, 9 and 10 students involved in the Science Ambassadors in North Tyneside programme this year. Science Ambassadors are school students who inspire and engage others in science, including their peers and younger pupils. The Science Ambassadors programme aims to increase students' confidence and transferable skills such as presentation, teamwork, and planning, whilst at the same time providing role models to younger pupils and contributing to a strong science ethos in our schools. Students will also work towards achievement of the CREST award, and I look forward to sharing some of their future successes in this newsletter.

Next week we have the Year 7 Halloween disco on Thursday organised by some of our Year 11 students. They will be fundraising for their M10 Mission project next summer when they will be visiting Mexico and helping to build houses for some of the poorest in the country.

The Year 7 cross country teams attended a Northumberland County event at Temple Park on Tuesday afternoon. In a very strong field of competitors, there were successes for the girls team with a 6th, 7th and 9th place finish. All three of these girls will go forward to represent Northumberland County in the Inter-Counties events later this term. A fantastic achievement for the girls in their first term at Marden

The Year 11 football team started their league campaign on Monday evening with a trip to St Thomas More. In a very evenly matched game, the Marden team performed extremely well and twice took the lead. However the hosts struck back quickly and in the last few minutes, the home team scored what turned out to be the winner and hung onto the lead up to the final whistle and a final score of 3-2.

The Year 10 and 11 basketball team took part in the central venue league on Thursday night, hosted at Burnside High School. The event was a very enjoyable and successful night for the Marden team, who came away with a record of 4 wins and 1 narrow defeat.

Thursday evening also saw the Year 9 Rugby team in action in the first of the County Cup competitions. With some players having their first taste of rugby, the team played extremely well, winning games against Kings Priory and Whitley Bay High School, and in a tight game, suffered their only defeat to St Thomas More. All players thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to the next game.

In the final event of a busy Thursday, the Year 8 football team played John Spence, scoring early in the first half after a fantastic build up. John Spence bounced back quickly with a goal making the score 1-1 at half time. Both teams found the net again in the second half and Marden looked the more likely team to grab a winner. John Spence defended well however and the game finished 2-2.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher