



## Marden High School

Friday 17th November 2023

Dear All

We have a number of ticketed events coming up which will take place in our auditorium in the near future. The first of those is GIRLtalks, (Girl's Inspiring Real Life Talks). This event on the evening of 6th December will be an evening of thought provoking and inspiring talks from six of our very own Year 10 girls, who will be making us all think about some of life's big questions. The evening will be all about life's journey and the process of personal development that we all experience as we make life's journey, and we have now secured our keynote speaker, Mina Leslie-Wujastyck, one of the world's leading rock climbers and climbing coaches. As promised I have included the link for tickets for this upcoming event which promises to be interesting and entertaining.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/girltalks-girlsinspiringreallife-talks-tickets-753094866017?aff=oddtcreator>

Then on Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th December we will be enjoying our school production, 'Matilda Jr.' and tickets for this are now on sale at the school office. I know this marvellous show will attract lots of family and friends of those taking part, but I would also encourage others to go along and enjoy what I know will be amazing performances and brilliant music.

The third exciting event taking place in the auditorium at Marden is in February and has been organised by staff at Monkhouse Primary School. This will be a fundraising evening featuring three people synonymous with Tyneside and the North East in general, Ray Laidlaw, Carol Malia and Ed Waugh. All proceeds will be going to Monkhouse Primary School.

One of the founding members of Lindisfarne, North Shields-lad Ray Laidlaw is also the producer of Geordie institutions Sunday for Sammy and Christmas in the Cathedral. Carol Malia, former Marden High pupil, has been reading the BBC local news since 1997, and Ed Waugh is an internationally produced playwright, with 21 professionally produced plays to his name. Tickets are available for the event on Wednesday 28th February at [this link](#).

Over the past few years we have had a strong PTA at Marden High with lots of events organised ranging from quizzes to raffles to organising refreshments and even a summer fete. The aim of the PTA has always been to help support the educational experience of our children, in particular with funding extra-curricular resources, as well as helping to foster that great sense of community we enjoy here at Marden. We have, however, lost a number of key people from the PTA as their children have left the school and gone on to sixth form and college. We want to ensure that we build numbers back up in the PTA so that we can continue to enjoy the wonderful contributions this group has brought us in recent years. It is with this in mind that I have organised a meeting for those parents and carers interested in getting involved on Tuesday 28 November at 5pm. This will be to outline the different ways that people can be involved and to discuss the events and activities that we want the PTA involved in. We appreciate that there may be people interested but who may find it difficult to attend in person so, whilst we would love to see you here in the LRC in person, there will also be the facility for people to join the meeting online

Recently Year 10 students from the computing department took part in a Digital:Day. The event is organised by BIMA, working in collaboration with local agencies. The only digital initiative of its kind, Digital:Day is aimed at students studying GCSE Computer Science and BTEC Digital Information Technology and sees digital professionals, HedgeHog Labs, head back to school for a day to inspire students and give them insight into a world of digital careers. Not only that, the afternoon was dedicated to a nationwide competition where students complete a challenge sponsored by VUE Cinema. All students worked very hard in small teams, following the Discover, Design & Deliver model, coming up with a range of digital solutions.

This week we have had a visit from the Royal Navy who led workshops for Year 10 students with the theme of teamwork. Students were involved in building communications towers that can withstand hurricane force winds for use during a humanitarian crisis - no mean feat and something the Royal Navy have plenty of experience of. All the students involved were very engaged and it was good to see a degree of friendly competition between the groups. As ever, our visitors commented on how well our students had done, and in particular on the quality of the questions they asked about the various job roles in the Royal Navy. You can see a series of photos from the event on the school website.

Year 9 students enjoyed an interesting afternoon out at the headquarters of Home Group on Strawberry Lane in Newcastle this week. Home Group's main provisions are housing and health care so there are a multitude of varying job roles within the organisation which support these provisions, and exploring this variety was the focus for the students. All the students did very well representing the school in a professional setting and I am sure gained much food for thought for their future study and work journey.

Year 11 students have reached the end of their first week of mock exams and we have been pleased with how they have settled into good routines as the week has progressed. This really is a key time for our Year 11 as the feedback from these exams will give each individual very clear direction about their next steps in preparing for the real thing next summer.

On Saturday the U14 netballers were involved in a Tyne and Wear Netball competition. The first game saw a high tempo game against Newcastle High School for Girls in which Marden led 7-3 at half time. Newcastle High School for Girls turned up the tempo still further in the second half bringing the final score to 10-10. Gosforth High School were very tough opposition, and in spite of the girls playing brilliantly they were defeated 9-5. Then a very close game against Dame Allans which finished 8-7 to Marden High. The girls then beat John Spence 16-3 with a dominant performance, before a tough game against RGS, whose well-drilled team won out against a valiant Marden squad. Everybody enjoyed a brilliant day, with all the team members feeling the quality of their game had moved on significantly.

On Thursday evening the U16 netball team took part in a North Tyneside competition. The girls played really well and put in some great performances with the team coming 4th overall, a great achievement. Monday saw the Year 7 girls netball team visit John Spence for another round of friendlies. They came away with a win, two draws and a loss. Everyone was in high spirits and are now looking forward to their next fixture at Marden Bridge.

Monday evening also saw the Year 8 boys football team travel to Burnside for the final league game before the winter break. In monsoon-like conditions, the Marden team managed to keep their composure and play some attractive, attacking football, scoring 4 first half goals playing into the wind. In the second half, the conditions worsened and dictated the way the game was played. Despite this, the Marden team managed to score 2 more goals to the hosts single. Well done to the whole team.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher