



Marden High School

Friday 1st December 2023

Dear All

We are very much looking forward to our school production of Matilda, and the great performances from all the children. The PTA always gets involved in these productions to raise money for the school. As such the PTA will be providing refreshments including teas, coffees, cakes, a tuck shop and a tombola, on both 12th and 13th December. We are looking for parents, carers and other family members to help out with baking or providing cakes, and helping out during the evening with serving and selling. This help would be needed before the performance and in the interval so you would still be able to enjoy the performance, and anybody offering their help will get priority front row seats. Please let us know how you might like to help by using this [link](#). All the help is hugely appreciated and all monies raised will go towards our Performing Arts Enhancement project, of which I'll say more in future newsletters.

Many of our students are involved in a whole variety of extra-curricular activities and as the weather becomes colder and wetter, there are lots of opportunities for students to socialise in a warm and comfortable environment during their break, lunchtime and after school. These range from structured sports activities in the sports hall, through to coding in computer science, or simply spending time socialising together in a classroom with a form tutor. I would encourage all students to get involved in extra-curricular activities, and perhaps try something new from the extensive list of opportunities which can be found on our website and posters around school.. Remember the famous quote from Wayne Gretzky, "100% of the shots you don't take don't go in".

As I mentioned earlier this term, we have been developing our procedure for a 'partial' and a 'full' lockdown, which has been used by North Tyneside Local Authority as a model for other schools to develop theirs. The probability of an incident where someone might cause students harm in any school is very low. However, as with fire procedures, we should be prepared to respond to all eventualities. This week students took part in a special Form Time lesson looking at these procedures. This is clearly important information, which staff have been aware of getting across clearly at the same time as mitigating any potential anxiety students may have regarding the context. Just as we do with our fire drills, we will continue to emphasise the

importance of knowing what to do in emergency situations so that everybody can stay safe. Later in the year we will be looking to run a lockdown drill for the whole school.

The Girls Get Set team have returned this year to complete their Silver Cadet Award with Baker Hughes. They have been joined by 10 eager Year 8 students who are all keen to follow in their footsteps for their own Bronze Cadet Awards. The girls have taken part in their first masterclass, led by Baker Hughes themselves, which was titled "Crude or Cool" and had students investigating the uses of hydrocarbons and how Baker Hughes extract the crude oil produced by these hydrocarbons from the seabed. This coming week the girls are taking part in a career spotlight session led by GE Healthcare where the students will be given insights into different careers and the pathways that lead into them. It should prove to be a very interesting and inspirational session for the students, getting them ready for their upcoming group challenges in the new year.

Recently, North Tyneside have joined in with The Big Ambition, a new campaign to hear directly from children, young people, and parents across the country about what they need to make their lives better. As we approach a general election, now is a crucial moment to make young people's voices heard by policymakers. North Tyneside Council expressed their hope to hear from all children, from all backgrounds, including those in care and those receiving support from children's social care to make sure that policymakers are putting their voices and needs at the heart of their policies. The survey can be completed here: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition, and I would encourage all young people to complete the survey. Parents and carers can complete the survey on behalf of children aged 0-5 years.

In a demonstration of agency, next week we will see students undertake this term's student survey where in form time they are able to share their views on a range of school matters. I always find the analysis of this form of student voice interesting as it not only gives us a measure of how we are progressing against the objectives in our School Development Plan, but also informs our decision making for the future. Alongside this, the week's theme; 'Volunteering Week' will see assemblies that focus on the opportunities that can be offered through this. Each Saturday, students in Year 9 and Year 10 volunteer at the local Whitley Bay Park Run, whilst our Year 9 students have been coaching younger age groups at Cullercoats Football Club. We can all be very proud of these young leaders, and how they are demonstrating and sharing their positive outlook and our core values.

The weather managed to spoil a lot of the sport this week but there were some fixtures that were able to go ahead. This week it was the turn of the Year 8 boys football team to represent the school at the North Tyneside CVL, hosted by John Spence. The team were drawn against strong opponents from Churchill, Marden Bridge and Kings Priory in their group and managed to play some exciting football despite the bitter

conditions. The final record from their games was played three, won three. An excellent record to take into their home county cup game next week against Ponteland.

The Year 11 and Year 10 Netball teams travelled to Whitley Bay High School on Thursday afternoon to play in their respective North Tyneside Schools league games. The Year 11 teams played some brilliant netball, but were unlucky to come away on the wrong side of a 14-9 scoreline. The Year 10 team also played magnificently and managed to secure a 13-2 victory. A wonderful evening of play and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher