



## Marden High School

Friday 26th January 2024

Dear All

This week we have been reflecting on Holocaust Memorial Day in assemblies led by Mrs Thompson, our Head of History. The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust encourages remembrance in a world scarred by genocide, and each year Holocaust Memorial Day, an international day of recognition on 27 January, remembers the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of people murdered under Nazi persecution of other groups, and during more recent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. 27 January marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.

Holocaust Memorial Day reminds us that the Holocaust threatened the fabric of civilisation, and that genocide must still be resisted every day. Our world can at times feel fragile and vulnerable and we cannot be complacent. Prejudice and the language of hatred must be challenged by us all, also here in the UK. Each year on Holocaust Memorial Day, thousands of people come together to learn more about the past and take action to create a safer future, and in this vein we have a group of Year 9 students who have today presented their learning, along with Miss Swearman, at the North Tyneside Council's annual Holocaust Memorial Day service. You may also have noticed that St Mary's Lighthouse has been illuminated by purple light as a sign of remembrance and solidarity.

I have shared in previous newsletters the school priorities that feature in our School Development Plan, and the continual development of our teachers' skills is, of course, extremely important to us. In order to continually develop the practice of teaching and learning at Marden High School, we have been working together this academic year to focus on retrieval practice. Retrieval practice offers opportunities for students to recall the things they have previously learned or seen in lessons. By recalling information from long-term memory learners become more able to access that knowledge in the future; in other words, they sustain the knowledge they have accrued. Without such opportunities, things that have been previously 'learned' can be forgotten. Retrieval tasks usually take the form of frequent, short, low-stakes testing activities that allow students to practise retrieving knowledge. This also allows the teacher to address any gaps in knowledge with individuals and groups. Homework tasks often offer additional opportunities for

retrieval practice and this is a great way to make progress and build confidence. If you have any questions about this or any other aspect of our teaching and learning approaches, please contact Mr Tueart.

As you are aware, we work closely with our Post-16 partners, including those organisations who facilitate apprenticeships in the region. This week we have been informed by TDR Training of two significant adverts for apprenticeship positions from two large, local employers, WD Close in Newcastle and Smulders Projects UK in Wallsend. Both are large fabrication and welding companies looking at recruiting apprentices this summer post GCSE and A Level, and they are planning on taking on twenty two apprentices, thus offering potential exciting opportunities. To apply for any of these positions, students should visit the TDR Training website and complete the form in the 'apply' section. We will, of course, be happy to support any interested students in their application.

TDR Training are also hosting an apprenticeship open day for years 11, 12 and 13 students in the February half term. (Friday 23rd February; 12 noon - 2.30pm). This event is geared to offering information, advice and guidance to all students so that they can make informed choices on their future careers post GCSE and A level. There will be the opportunity for students (and their parents) to tour the facility, and meet the instructors, tutors and assessors at their modern training school in Longbenton. Students can also meet a number of prospective employers at this event, including British Engines, Siemens Energy, Merit, WD Close, and Smulders. Free places can be registered at:

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tdr-apprenticeship-open-day-tickets-781398593227?aff=esli](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tdr-apprenticeship-open-day-tickets-781398593227?aff=esli).

On Wednesday evening the U16 girls football team played their final round of fixtures at the central venue league. The team went into the fixtures in a strong position in the league and were aiming for promotion to the next round of fixtures. The girls had to face some strong opposition on Wednesday evening in some blustery conditions, and, playing three games, they came away with a win, a draw and a loss, meaning that the team has achieved Marden's highest girls league position to date and finished in 2nd place. This is a fantastic achievement.

On Thursday evening the Year 9 netball team had their first fixture of the second half of the season. The team played against St. Thomas More. The girls dominated possession from the first whistle, and after the first quarter Marden led 15 goals to nil. After a change of positions the next quarter was a lot closer with Marden moving to 16-1. The girls' passes into the final third were sublime and all players contributed towards the teams final 26-1 victory.

The Inter-House competitions continued this week with the Year 7 and Year 10 netball tournaments, along with the Year 9 football competition all being played after school. In the Year 7 netball, there was a fantastic turnout of pupils taking up the roles of either players, captains, coaches or spectators. In a hotly contested final match, Alnwick beat Dunstanburgh in a close game to win 3 out of 3 games and clinch the title. The Year 10 competition was equally exciting with Dustanburgh and Warkworth facing each other for the title. Dustanburgh battled hard and eventually came out on top after a pulsating final few minutes. The Year 9 football competition saw Bamburgh and Warkworth sweep aside their opponents in the earlier rounds, and played out a fantastic final. Warkworth came from behind late on to force a draw and the dreaded penalty shootout. Bamburgh were unlucky to send their 2nd penalty over the bar, ultimately costing them the victory. A brilliant night of football, thoroughly enjoyed by all participants.

Also this week, the GCSE PE students have had the chance to add rock climbing to their ever growing list of sporting skills when they visited Burnside College on Thursday evening. In the first of six sessions, the students learned basic rope skills and climbing techniques, which will form the foundations of much more advanced techniques they will try in the coming weeks. Students will be able to use this activity as part of their GCSE PE assessment, and feedback has been extremely positive from the instructors and the students themselves about their first experience in this new activity.

No doubt many of our Year 11 students will be up a little earlier next Friday to prepare themselves for the Class of 2024 group photograph. Each year this event marks a particular moment in the school year, when we come together to reflect on the memorable times we have spent together, and to look forward to the final few months of hard work before the exams. The Class of 2024 group photograph will be available to buy later this term, and it is a great memento of each student's time here at Marden.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher