



Marden High School

Friday 9th February 2024

Dear All

There has been a recent high profile case in the press of the sad death of a young man in Newcastle as a result of an allergic reaction. At Marden we have always taken the health and well-being of our students seriously, including supporting students with allergies. For example, we take a whole school approach with all staff having an awareness of allergies and how to respond in the event of an allergic reaction. We have regular training of key staff in managing anaphylaxis as well as qualified first aiders. Allergy awareness is also taught as part of the curriculum. We communicate clearly with a clear allergy policy, and we encourage open communication between staff, parents and carers and our catering team. Students with allergies have an individual health care plan and during transition discussions are held between parents, Mrs Thompson and the catering manager. We have clear governance and risk management with a designated allergy lead (Mrs Thompson) and we ensure policies are updated regularly. Allergies form part of every risk assessment, particularly in food technology and in preparation for any trip off site. We have systems, processes and medication in place for emergencies, ensuring that students who are prescribed adrenaline pens have two accessible at all times, we hold spare adrenaline pens, and we establish annual risk reduction training for all staff. Should the allergy related health of your child change at any point, please do ensure that we are aware by contacting the school office or Mrs Thompson directly.

On Wednesday evening a group of Year 10 students came together as part of the Girl's Network mentoring programme to discuss self-promotion, and to consider how to celebrate what they have to offer in the wider world. Students found their mentoring sessions useful, and reflected on their progress since starting the programme last year. If you would like to know more about our work with The Girl's Network in school, please contact Miss Laing.

This week the 'Represent Roadshow' came to Marden, led by Stephen Riley. The students enjoyed a variety of workshops from a range of professionals aimed at providing them with skills for presenting themselves, including video communication, body language, CV building, interview skills, teamwork and how to tell their authentic story. Students were also able to take part in a panel session where they could ask questions of the professionals involved. Students were curious to know what those working in a variety

of industries had learned along the way and what they would go back and ask their fifteen year old selves. The day was highly valued by Year 10 students who felt it had equipped them with skills that would be necessary when applying for jobs. Stephen Riley said, "working with the students in Marden High is always a delight. We love the way students engage in new learning and appreciate the investment from external professionals."

This week's assemblies centred on the immediacy the internet brings us and the benefits of that but also the potential dangers that it can pose and the ways in which we can protect ourselves. With the development of Artificial Intelligence, the broadening of the number of social media websites and the variety of 'influencers' online who can speak and act often without regulation, there are more areas of danger that children are exposed to at a younger age than ever before. It is therefore vital that we continue to provide the correct support and advice to young people as they negotiate their way through this digital age. Our [esafety page](#) has information which can help, whilst each Wednesday our Instagram page and X feed have 'Wake Up Wednesday' advice that can support parents and carers with understanding how the internet can be enjoyed safely. These following links are from recognised organisations that have authoritative advice and guidance which will help children make informed decisions about their online experiences:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues sexting/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/sex-relationships/>

This past Monday evening, our Year 7 Netball teams were away to John Spence High School for a round of friendlies. Marden High, once again, had two teams and additional subs representing the school. They took part in the round robin tournament, resulting in a mix of draws, losses and wins. The girls had a great time and have come away with some important areas and tactics to work on for next time!

On Thursday evening the U15 North Tyneside Netball Tournament saw two Marden teams; the Year 10 netball team and the Year 9 squad for match experience, against older opposition. The Year 9 netball team played amazingly well, winning all of their matches. Alas, due to the team being in Year 9, the competition rules state they could not progress past the preliminary rounds, but this was a great learning experience for them and will stand them in good stead for future competitions. The Year 10 team played magnificently well and dominated possession in a lot of games. The team eventually progressed to the semi final, and in a thrilling end to end game, the team narrowly missed out on a place in the final. A great night of Netball was had by all.

The boys football teams have all been in action this week in the latest rounds of the Central Venue Leagues. The Year 11 competition started the week off, with the Marden team coming away with a record of two defeats and one draw. The Year 10 team fared better the following day, winning one game and drawing two in tough, blustery conditions. On Wednesday it was the Year 9 boys that took to the field, coming away with an impressive record of three wins and one defeat. On Thursday the Year 8 team braved the elements to come away with a record of two wins and one defeat. Friday evening is the final instalment of the CVL where the Year 7 team round off the competition. We wish them the best of luck in what will be a hotly contested tournament.

Finally, the Year 9 boys rugby team were in action at Whitley Bay Rockcliff RFC in a three-way competition against Bede Academy and Burnside College. Facing Burnside in the first game, the boys quickly settled into the game and scored some scintillating tries. The defence was equally impressive, with good tackling technique and line discipline keeping the Burnside team out until the closing play of the match, which ended 35-5 to Marden. Bede Academy proved to be a sterner test for the boys, with the opposition scoring 3 quick tries in the first half to effectively seal the game early on. The Marden boys rallied in the second half scoring three tries of their own, but could do nothing to prevent the fleet-footed Bede winger scoring another three himself. Final score 30-15 but a great experience for the team to be pushed hard by tough opponents.

As part of our commitment to ensure that students look smart and in proper uniform at all times, we hold some stock at school which can be borrowed by students if they do not have the correct uniform for any reason. Some of this has been bought with school funds and some donated. We are presently running low on blazers and school ties so if your child has outgrown their uniform please do consider donating it to the school. You can contact [Mrs Seal](#) for information on uniform.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher