



Marden High School

Friday 8th March 2024

Dear All

This week we have been celebrating [World Book Day](#) and the power of reading. Monday began with an epic assembly, created by Ms Taylor's Literacy Prefects and the Library Club, celebrating the evolution of the book with a story read by staff and students: *My Name is Book* by John Agard. Through poetry and prose, we heard the journey of the book in its own words, from the first oral tales to clay tablets, papyrus to the paperback. Tuesday was a *Reading for Pleasure* special as Form Classes shared their favourite books with one another and took the opportunity to exchange their books in the library - thanks to the Library Club. On Wednesday students spent *Reflection Time* exploring extracts and author videos from this year's *World Book Day* books - available free from supermarkets and bookshops using the tokens handed out by Literacy Leaders. Finally there have been numerous activities and competitions for students to get involved in over the week: from the [Marden English podcast](#) and accompanying challenge, to a creativity competition, recommendations and reviews, and creative writing - all inspired by reading. A wonderful way to celebrate the power of the book and win some house points! We are looking forward to seeing the entries and hearing the winners, available to view on the Literacy Cloud.

You may be aware that in December North Tyneside Council gave notice to all schools that they would no longer be providing a catering service and that with effect from the 1st April we would need to find a new provider. The service was put out to tender early in the new year and we received three bids from potential providers. After a careful evaluation process Dolce was awarded the contract after scoring highly on all the key performance indicators. Dolce has promised a varied and exciting offer, there will be an expanded breakfast offer and at break and lunchtime students will be able to choose from a wide range of foods served from five different outlets each serving a different style of cuisine. Further information on the menu choices, prices and payment systems will be on our website soon. All credit balances on ParentPay will automatically be transferred to Dolce's cashless system. However, if you would prefer to receive a credit from North Tyneside Council, you will need to request this by the 21st March by emailing parentpay@northtyneside.gov.uk

From March 11th we will be supporting students who witness Ramadan. This is a time when the Muslim

faith observes a holy month of fasting, prayer, reflection and community. A commemoration of Muhammad's first revelation, the annual observance of Ramadan is regarded as one of the five pillars of Islam and lasts twenty-nine to thirty days, from one sighting of the crescent moon to the next. Should any student need any further support or adaptation made during this time, they can see their Head of Year or member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Last week I reported on Mayor Jamie Driscoll's Question Time which we hosted here at Marden. There is now an [excellent short video](#) of the event in the latest news section of the school website.

After the success of winning Regionals at Nissan back in January our VEX Robotics students made their way to Telford to compete in the National Finals at the weekend. Up against 63 other schools from all over England the students took part in a day and a half of qualification matches and were the top performing north east school for the majority of these matches. They were eventually knocked out in the final rounds of 16 on day two. The students were an absolute credit to the school and managed to walk away with an award for their sportsmanship. This Judges Award was given to them by members of external companies and was awarded to them for their conduct whilst in the arena where they were noted to be supportive of their alliance team members and were praised for how they spoke to others throughout both days.

Monday evening saw the Year 8 boys football team in action in the North Tyneside Schools Cup competition. Marden started well, pressing the visitors hard for the opening goal. That breakthrough came midway through the first half with a well taken goal from a corner to make it 1-0 to Marden. The second half saw the visitors come back at the Marden team, but it was the hosts that managed to score to make it 2-0, the goal again coming from a corner. The St Thomas More team never gave up and kept searching for a goal of their own. However, the Marden team made it 3-0, again from a corner, in the last minute of the game. The team were delighted with their win and look forward to travelling to George Stephenson High School in the quarter finals. Also on Monday night, the Year 10 boys football team played a tricky away game against St Thomas More. The windy conditions made it difficult in the first half, but the team defended well and went into the second half at 0-0. With the wind behind them in the second half, the team grew in confidence, scoring two brilliant team goals and ending the game with a 2-0 win. Well done to everyone who took part in both games.

On Tuesday evening Marden High pupils took part in the North Tyneside Dance Festival at The Parks Sports centre. The Dance Festival is a celebration of different genres of dance and one of the highlights of the year. Our dance group performed alongside ten primary and secondary schools in North Tyneside, and their hard work, commitment to dance rehearsals and efforts over the past 8 weeks, in preparation for this

event, was apparent. We now look forward to the second, and final, show next week at the Whitley Bay Playhouse.

On Wednesday evening, the Year 8 netball team took part in the U13 Tri Area Netball Tournament. With two wins, two close losses and a draw, the team worked brilliantly together. The results were close at the end, and Marden High came away in fourth place. A marvellous achievement against such strong opponents. Finally, the Year 9 netball team were crowned champions in the North Tyneside Netball Tournament on Thursday evening. There were 6 teams playing, and it was fantastic to see so many girls from different schools come together to play competitive sport. The team put in a wonderful display of togetherness, putting together some slick passes from the defensive third to the attacking third, making for some entertaining play for those on the sidelines. The girls dominated in all five matches and were well deserved victors of the tournament.

An important part of the education our children receive at Marden is in developing those good habits that will support them in their adult working lives. To this end we remind them of the importance of good punctuality and how this relates to their future and to their success in school, and it is encouraging that the number of students who are late to school, which has never been large, has become fewer this year. We appreciate parents' support in ensuring the children are punctual to school.

Our Year 8 students have returned from High Borrans after a fantastic week of activities, and having enjoyed some beautiful spring weather over in the Lake District. There are some great photographs of the students enjoying activities in the latest news section of the school website, and a fuller report will appear here next week.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher