



Marden High School

Friday 22nd March 2024

Dear All

On Friday 15th March, Year 9 students were visited by local MP and Chief Whip of the Labour Party, Sir Alan Campbell, who answered student questions in a 'Question Time' style presentation. Year 9 students have been doing work in English around social equality and justice this term and the questions asked were produced by students in their English lessons. Sir Alan discussed his role in politics, the economy, and answered questions about social issues. This was a very enjoyable event for all, and the quality of questioning reflected the sense of agency and interest in shaping the future that many of our students have, and this should certainly give us hope for the future.

Over the last fortnight, all our Year 7 students have been taking part in a cross curricular project during their Science and Geography lessons. The theme of the project was 'Water Conservation and Sustainability.' We were supported by our Enterprise Advisors, Jane Austin and Matthew Hobbs from Wave Utilities. Jane and Matthew launched the project with an assembly and spoke to the students about their career responsibilities within Wave. Over the fortnight the students participated in a range of lessons to help raise awareness of water conservation at both a global and local scale, culminating in a creative task of designing a sustainable school. Jane and Matthew came back into school to listen to the students present their ideas, and they were so impressed that they chose six of the designs to feature on the Wave website. The feedback from students, staff and our business representatives was extremely positive and we look forward to running similar projects in the future.

Thanks to those parents who responded to my invitation to come and talk about their professional work to our students. This is so important as it allows students to hear from real-life role models who can demonstrate the relevance and connection of what is taught in the classroom. We are always grateful for these offers which help students in their understanding of what different careers actually entail, as well as bringing the curriculum to life.

On Thursday this week we enjoyed a successful Year 7 evening when parents and carers came into school to look at their children's books and chat to members of the Senior Leadership Team. This format of parents

and carers having the opportunity to come into school before the parents' evening seems to be working well - feedback is certainly positive - and it provides for useful, informed conversations with their child's subject teachers when they meet them. As previously advertised, for Year 7 parents and carers this will be on Monday next week.

Last week in this newsletter I announced that after Thursday 23 May, there will not be the expectation for all Year 11 students to attend school as normal as we will be well into the exam season by that stage. Many of our students will be able, by that time, to sustain revision for the remaining exams at home. There will be some students though that teaching staff will require to be in school for certain revision sessions and this will allow for very focused, targeted intervention to prepare for the last exams. This has worked very well in the past and we appreciate the support of parents and carers in making sure that this can happen effectively.

The ease INTO Easter programme (part of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme) is now available for parents and carers to book activities. The programme offers food and activities which include sports clubs, drama and performing arts, photography, games, surfing, swimming, forest schools and more. 'Ease INTO Easter' is a programme of activities which has been running successfully since 2021 and helps children to stay healthy and active whilst off school, try new activities, make friends, learn new skills, and have fun. Activities are free for children who receive income-based free school meals but there are paid spaces that parents and carers can book for children who do not meet criteria for a funded space. You can find out more about the programme and how to book through the website here: [Book ease INTO activities | North Tyneside Council](#)

Since beginning in 2007, [Earth Hour](#) has been known for the "lights off" moment – a symbolic event to show our collective support for the planet. Earth Hour is a worldwide movement organised by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The event is held annually, encouraging individuals, communities, and businesses to turn off non-essential electric lights for one hour on the last Saturday of March, as a symbol of commitment to the planet. The Marden Green Team would like all students, parents and the community as a whole to take part in this important event on Saturday 23rd March between 8.30pm and 9.30pm. While the lights are out, you could chat with friends and family or play games in the dark. Earth Hour encourages you to think about the amount of energy we use every single day which contributes to our planet heating up. Nearly 400 landmark buildings, like Buckingham Palace and Edinburgh Castle, will be switching off for Earth Hour. Last year, around 9 million people took part in the UK alone and this year's Earth Hour is set to be the biggest yet.

The Year 9 Basketball team played at the Newcastle Eagles Arena on Wednesday representing North Tyneside in the Tyne and Wear Regional Championship. They played in the Bronze medal match and despite producing some wonderful basketball, they suffered a narrow defeat taking 4th place overall. A great learning experience and they should be very proud of their achievements.

The Year 8 and Year 9 boys rugby teams were in action on Wednesday at Percy Park Rugby Club for the Coastal Schools festival. The Year 8 team played a vastly more experienced Bede Academy and found the game hard going, but kept battling until the final whistle, eventually succumbing to their opponents 5 tries to 1. The Year 9 team fared better, playing two games against Blyth Academy and St Wilfrid's RC Academy. The first game saw the Marden team take early control, running in six tries in quick succession without conceding, resulting in the final whistle being blown early. The second game followed much the same pattern, with Marden scoring seven tries in the first half. Credit goes to their opponents who wanted to keep playing, and who managed to score two tries of their own in the second half, but the Marden team kept up their relentless attack and scored six more tries to make the final score 13-2 at the final whistle.

On Thursday evening the Year 10 netball team played their final game of the season playing a well drilled Whitley Bay High School team. It was an end to end game with outstanding defensive work from both teams. At the end of the first half the teams were drawn 1-1. After the half time break Whitley scored 4 goals in quick succession which meant the score was 5-1. In true Marden style the girls showed sheer determination and grit and put in a stellar performance and ended up winning 6-5. A fantastic performance and a great way to end the netball season.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher