



Marden High School

Friday 17th May 2024

Dear All

Each week our Literacy Coordinator and English teacher Ms Taylor puts out literacy activities and notices for students and staff. I know that many of our parents and carers have weekly conversations about these activities with their children, and this is a great way to encourage the children to get involved and develop a lifelong love of reading and all things literacy, such an essential life skill, as well as bringing much pleasure.

This week the highlights are:

- Literacy Notices and the Reading for Pleasure slide includes a new book of the week to share, selected by the Library Club, called 'Unlocking the universe' written by Stephen and Lucy Hawking. In many classes these notices and slides were presented by the Literacy Leaders.
- Literacy Leaders have also led discussions in Form Time on 'our place in the universe', reflecting on the quote from Buzz Aldrin: "Exploration is wired into our brains. If we can see the horizon, we want to know what's beyond", and fifty house points were available for students who created something inspired by this quote.

All of the detailed information and links for the above is available in the Form Time Google Classroom which can be accessed by the students. Again, this is a good trigger for those conversations that parents and carers can have with their children about what they have been doing during their week.

We speak often of hope, agency and leadership within our school community, and as the summer term nears its halfway point, it is time again to see our young leaders, full of hope, be the agents of change as our Year 10 students apply for the position of prefect. The purple tie that they wear is the outward sign that our students are prefects but it is the attitudes and standards shown by those in post that really reflect that position of leadership. It has been heartening to see our student community demonstrate the leadership qualities that are admirable and desirable in any post holder; integrity, inclusivity, creativity, authority and being supportive towards others. I look forward to the launch of the prefect application process on Tuesday 4th of June when we will hold a special assembly with Year 10, inviting them to make an application and to put themselves forward for the role of prefects and senior prefects.

At the start of the half term break we have our first practice expedition day for Year 9 students who have taken on the challenge of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. On the first Saturday of the holidays students will spend a full day walking before setting up tents and practising a variety of other camp craft skills, in preparation for their actual expedition later in the year. This year we have seen a huge increase in the number of students who want to take this exciting opportunity, and it seems that this heightened interest is reflected in national figures that have been released recently. During the current academic year over 330,000 young people started their DofE award, with participants giving nearly 5 million hours of volunteering to communities all over the UK; and more than 30% of 14-year-olds in the UK started their Bronze DofE. I would like to thank Mr Wallace and all the staff who support our young people with the DofE Award, and their expeditions.

This week's theme has been about the environment and the way we treat the area around us, to preserve it not only for our own enjoyment and use, but also that of future generations. Our students' work with Surfers Against Sewage, for example, has been highlighted as a beacon of work within education. This activity also supports the work of the North Tyneside Council Community Protection Team, the RNLI, lifeguards, and Northumbria Police, local businesses and residents to help deal with the pressure of visitors to the coast during warmer weather and potential problems that can occur as a consequence. We are always proud to hear from these organisations of the great example set by our students when out in the community. Such positive behaviours include taking litter home and using the bins provided, disposing of BBQs responsibly, observing the safety flags and signs at all times, and generally behaving in a manner that is kind, respectful and supportive of others, all of which is particularly important at the beginning of summer holidays when students are looking to celebrate the end of their school year, exam conclusion and the arrival of warm weather.

Next week we have an exciting opportunity for a group of Year 10 students working with The Girl's Network. The students will be involved in a Career's Round Table session on Tuesday, where they will speak to professionals from a variety of industries and areas of work, to find out about different jobs. This session is part of the wider work that the students are doing with The Girl's Network around careers and their professional futures.

Athletics season is in full swing as the Marden athletes took to the track and field this week. On Monday afternoon, the Year 9 and Year 10 teams travelled to Monkton Stadium for the North Tyneside Schools competition. Marden had a lot of success in the events, with lots of pupils finishing in the top three. This will qualify them for the Northumberland County competition, which takes place in Hexham after the half term holiday. Likewise, the Year 7 and Year 8 athletes were in action on Wednesday evening at the Tynemouth

Schools competition held at St Thomas More School. Again, there were lots of successes for these athletes, and they progress to the North Tyneside games held at Monkton Stadium next half term. We wish every Marden pupil that qualified for the next round the very best of luck.

The Year 8 boys football team finished their season with a defeat in the North Tyneside Schools cup last Friday afternoon. Playing away to a very well drilled Valley Gardens team, the boys found the breakthrough early in the game with a penalty. From there they fought hard but were hit on the break three times to make the final score 3-1. The team have performed brilliantly this year, finishing runners up in the league, and should be very proud of their efforts.

The Year 10 boys football team also finished their season this week with a resounding 6-0 win at home to Churchill. The players were all on the top of their game and showed a great team spirit to secure a great win against a good opposition. Well done to all who played.

On Monday July 8th we will start our new timetable for the academic year 24/25. This is an excellent opportunity for students and teachers to meet each other and get ready for the year ahead. We will begin on week A, so staff and students have an opportunity to experience a full cycle of the timetable before the end of the summer term. Timetables will be given to students at the start of July during form time.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher