



## Marden High School

Friday 14th June 2024

Dear All

Our assembly theme for this week has been those three very important attributes, hope, agency, and leadership. We use those words often at Marden and we look for every opportunity for students to develop and demonstrate those qualities. Because these things are so important, there are three key questions that I often ask students.

- What am I hoping for in my life?
- How can I exercise my agency - how can I change what I know needs changing?
- How do I show leadership - how do I persuade other people to do the right thing?

To help answer these it is sometimes useful to look further afield to see examples of what those qualities look like and so in the assembly this week we have reflected on the lives of two very different people, Anne Frank and Rob Burrow, on the lives they led, and on the inspiration that they have given so many people including ourselves. The qualities that they demonstrated during their lives is reflected in our Marden Values Statement. For example:

*“Within the Marden family, we know each other well and are kind to one another.*

*We see hope and opportunity for everyone, recognising the great range of talents we all have, and we leave no stone unturned in helping our young people to a bright future.*

*At Marden we are able to express our own personalities, confident that we will be supported in the achievement of our goals and dreams.*

*Our focus on student leadership helps develop our strong moral compass, giving our young people a global awareness and a sense of agency to shape a more equal society for the future.”*

Each of our students is part of the hope that is our school community, looking forward to good things happening. Every act of kindness and helpfulness we make serves to change people's lives for the better, and the example that our young people set helps to lead other people in doing the right thing. As I said to everyone in the assembly, let's keep it going - we're doing really well!

In recent years we have worked closely with the North of Tyne Combined Authority to help develop educational provision and to access some additional funding. One of the key ways that the North of Tyne Combined Authority is impacting on education is through the establishment of the North East Ambition project, which works with businesses around the North East. A good example of this is, over the past year, staff in our science department, working with North East Ambition and Equinor to produce some excellent physics teaching materials on the Dogger Bank wind farm. These are resources which will impact positively on thousands of students throughout the North East over the next few years, and the quality is testament to the imagination and expertise of Marden staff.

School lockdown procedures are increasingly being implemented in educational facilities across the UK. While the risk of attacks on schools is extremely rare, it is essential to have these procedures in place to protect children and staff from harm. Just as with a fire alarm, lockdown drills should be regularly carried out to ensure that all staff and students know how to respond during an emergency, and the Department for Education guidance recommends that schools carry out a lockdown practice at least once annually. We will be running our first lockdown drill on Thursday June 27th at 10.30am, during which we will hear the lockdown message sound over the public address system, followed by staff and students responding appropriately to this message. In most cases this will be a matter of students remaining in the classroom with the staff in charge, who will secure the door and instruct students to remain calm and quiet, following the protocol outlined in our lockdown procedure. The drill is likely to last around 15 minutes. You may remember that earlier this year, staff and students went through training and lessons on what actions are contained in this lockdown procedure, and there was useful thinking and discussion about what people would need to do and why. This forthcoming lockdown drill will be a really useful opportunity to put that learning into practice, and, of course, to evaluate how it goes and whether there are any tweaks we may need to make.

The tennis season is in full swing and Tuesday saw the Year 9 Boys team play St Mary's Catholic School. Despite the rain, the boys produced some superb tennis but unfortunately came away with a defeat. On Thursday, both the Year 8 and Year 9/10 boys teams played Kings Priory, and again at times, in really wet conditions. The Year 9/10 team came away with a narrow loss but the Year 8 team won their match against strong opposition. All 12 pupils involved in these games were superb ambassadors for the school.

Thursday also saw the Year 8 boys and girls Cricket teams take part in the rearranged North Tyneside 8-a-side tournament at Tynemouth Cricket Club. The event was well attended by schools, and the level of competition was high. There was some excellent cricket played by all of the Marden pupils and both teams did extremely well to finish runners-up in their respective groups.

And rounding off a very busy Thursday, the Year 10 girls competed in the U15 North Tyneside Rounders Tournament, against John Spence, Monkseaton and St Thomas More. The team showed great teamwork, communication and resilience during the first games, despite the poor weather conditions. However, as a result of the tournament being cut short with heavy rain, it has been postponed to a later date, and hopefully they will bring the same energy next time.

Beginning next week, we are updating our detention system slightly. Whilst the evenings will still be Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, and the timings remain 3.15pm to 3.45pm, the locations will change slightly. Year 7 will continue to do theirs in Conduct, whilst Year 8 and Year 9 will do theirs in Art 1, and Years 10 and 11 will do theirs in Science 2. This system comes into operation on Monday 17 June.

On Friday 19 July, the school will be closing slightly earlier than normal for the Summer holidays. Students will be dismissed from their lessons after period 4 and will be allowed to leave the school premises at 2.15pm. Looking further ahead, we have a staff training day on Monday 2 September, so the first day back for all students is Tuesday 3 September, at the normal starting time of 8.45am. Finally a reminder that Friday 21st June is a staff training day and the school will be closed to students.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher