



## Marden High School

Friday 21st June 2024

Dear All

*"I have developed confidence in a school environment that is safe and caring for everyone through the opportunities you have given me. This has made me realise that becoming a prefect, I can keep that standard for the next year group coming in and showing to them that we are a school that cares about the wellbeing of everyone".* This is a quote from one of the many prefect applications that I have been reading over the last week. It has been truly inspiring to understand the reasons our Year 10 applicants have given for wearing a purple tie and representing the school as a prefect. They all speak of the school, the community, of each other and of a service they want to give to the diverse and individual school that we are. As part of the Prefect Programme here at Marden next year we will be developing the leadership skills of those students but also sharing with all students some of the quotes from the applications as a means of communicating our shared values, such as the one above and this one: *"I feel passionately it would be a further opportunity to support others, to represent the high standards we already have, and to take on extra responsibilities to support the growth of our fantastic school."*

I often mention the importance of developing good literacy skills in our students, and certainly we place great emphasis on that in lessons and form time. Recently I have been visiting form rooms to see the fantastic work that form tutors and literacy leaders have been doing in the *Reading for Pleasure* and *Reflection Time* sessions that take place in the mornings. It has been a real pleasure to see the excellent practice and to hear some of the wonderful discussions taking place, and see examples of great Literacy Leadership. It has also been useful to hear the thoughtful feedback and ideas from students during student voice meetings, and I thought it would be good to share some of our observations so that everybody can understand the excellent work that goes on in this area:

- Students are shown the *Weekly Literacy Notices* and are either engaged in silent reading or exploring the extract from the *Book of the Week* together with their form tutor.
- Students appreciate being able to sit and read as there are not many opportunities for this during the week.

- Students enjoy being able to chat about their books with their form tutors and one another, and like having 5 minutes at the end to discuss the 'book club questions' or what they are reading at the moment.
- Reflection Time is led by student Literacy Leaders and is actively facilitated by the form tutor prompting, challenging or developing the responses of students.
- A no hands up rule, with students selected by Literacy Leaders, paired with thinking time means there is excellent engagement from classes, and this expectation is reinforced by form tutors through their circulation and involvement in the paired discussions, checking their understanding of the topic.

On Wednesday evening our Year 7, 8 and 9 students took to the stage at The Glasshouse, Gateshead to entertain a sell out audience with their fantastic renditions of numbers from our school production Matilda. The students were taking part in the North Tyneside Learning Trust's Musical Extravaganza, an annual event celebrating the performing and musical arts and the achievements of young people across North Tyneside. This was a night to remember with everyone enjoying a diverse repertoire of performances, and, besides the tremendous talent and skill on show, this event reflected the deep personal development benefits that the arts brings to our children in terms of their confidence, communication and empathy. Well done to all the students taking part and many thanks to Mrs Berriman and Ms Gibbings for their dedication and enthusiasm in supporting them.

On Saturday 15th June, Marden pupils represented Northumberland County in the Inter-Counties competition at Gateshead Stadium. Athletes from Northumberland, Cumbria, Durham, Cleveland and North Yorkshire battled it out on the track and in the field events in what was a very high standard of competition. All four of our pupils performed magnificently and contributed vital points towards Northumberland's score, which ended with Northumberland finishing in Second place overall.

After a long season, the Year 8 Boys football team finally concluded their league campaign after a home game against Churchill Community College. After scoring in the first half, Marden stepped up a gear and managed to score two more to ease the pressure, but credit to Churchill who kept going until the final whistle, with the final score 3-1 to Marden. The boys have had a great season, well done to everyone that has represented the team this year.

Also on Monday evening, the Year 8 girls competed in the U13 North Tyneside Rounders Tournament at John Spence High School. The girls were extremely focused and the tournament ended with Marden High coming fourth, after losing out on a few games by only half a rounder. Well done to all girls that represented

the school with such vigour and determination.

The Year 7 and 8 North Tyneside athletics competition concluded with many Marden students qualifying for the North Tyneside team at the Northumberland County competition at Gateshead Stadium next Saturday. We wish them the very best of luck next week.

And finally, this week has seen hundreds of pupils take part in a variety of activities at lunchtimes for National School Sports Week. The PE department has provided a range of activities for pupils to try, including rowing, basketball, netball, tennis and table tennis. The aim of National School Sports Week is to get pupils active for at least 60 minutes a day and these activities have gone a long way to achieving this.

Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'M. Snape'.

Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher