



Marden High School

Friday 28th June 2024

Dear All

On Thursday this week we conducted our first full lockdown drill and I am pleased to report that it ran very smoothly and was a valuable experience for the whole school community, practising keeping everybody safe when faced with potential danger. Our response was to an imagined large scale civil disturbance in the neighbourhood which would require us to initiate a full lockdown. Upon hearing the lockdown alarm, staff and students ensured that they were safely seated in classrooms and offices with doors locked awaiting further instructions. After a short while and following checks that were made around the building by senior staff there was an announcement that the drill was over and lessons continued as normal. So the drill went well, but in the spirit of always looking to see how things can be improved and how protocol can be consistently embedded, we have conducted a full evaluation of the lockdown drill in readiness for the next, at some point next academic year.

As you are no doubt aware, nationally there is concern around the falling attendance of school children stemming from the cost of living crisis, the impact of COVID and the cutbacks to public services and social care. We have worked hard to invest time and resources into building relationships with outside agencies, with partners in education and of course our strongest links, our local community to dedicate our attention to attendance and punctuality through a range of interventions and innovations. A huge testament to the success of any school is the good attendance of its students each day and it is pleasing to note that our attendance figures for the year - nearly 95% - are significantly above those nationally. Our [Values Statement](#) says that "our school community is built on the commitment and expertise of staff, and the contributions of our parents", and it is through meetings between families and school that our understanding of every child's circumstance builds which is one of the many reasons our attendance remains higher than average and a demonstration of the brilliant teaching and support that takes place here at Marden. This commitment to our children and their families is unwavering and therefore as we seek to maintain our excellent attendance, if ever there is cause for parents or carers to request further pastoral support, please do remember that our Heads of Year and Senior Leadership Team are just a phone call away.

A major event in our Careers Education calendar is Year 10 work experience, which takes place this coming week. Students in Year 10 should be commended for their initiative and resourcefulness in securing their placements. Invariably, the feedback we receive from employers and students is excellent and has been a pleasure to read, and we look forward to having our Year 10 students back in a week's time to hear all about their first ventures into the world of work.

On Wednesday, we hosted the educational charity M10, who spoke to students and their parents about the exciting opportunity to fundraise for a visit to Mexico in the summer of 2025. This annual work our students engage with involves travelling with students from other schools to northern Mexico to build a house for a family whilst providing voluntary work with a local charity for ten days. This agency our students show is built on that which we develop here at Marden in our morning reflection time, our assemblies and our lessons throughout the day.

As a school we are always proud of the agency shown by our students both in and out of lessons. Their willingness to facilitate change and lead others in that change shines through each year as we see the nominations and winners of the North Tyneside Learning Trust Star Awards. This year we have seen a huge number of nominations made with over 30 students recognised for their achievements in the community with two students making it to the final which will be held at St James' Park on 11th July. Congratulations to all our nominated students and to our finalists - good luck. All students thoroughly deserve recognition for their hope, agency and leadership.

This week saw the final graduation of the Girls Get Set teams who have been working hard on this year's carbon capture project with Baker Hughes. The girls have had to show their understanding of carbon capture and were challenged with designing a vessel that could transport the most load in the shortest time. Reflecting on their research the girls then presented to the CEO and staff at Baker Hughes. Continuing our success from last year, three Year 8 students and their design "The Susan" were the winners after a very well planned and entertaining presentation that impressed the judges. Our other 4 teams all impressed too, with the quality of their work and confident presentations. The girls have all now been successful in achieving their Bronze or Silver Cadet awards.

We are readying ourselves for an action-packed day on Friday 5 July as we host our annual Sports Day. School houses will compete against each other in a series of athletic events throughout the day. Students from Year 7, 8 and 9 will have the opportunity to take part in events such as the 100m sprint, 800m middle-distance and 4x100m relay, as well as the field events like javelin and high jump. House captains will be assembling their teams next week in preparation for the day, and we encourage as many students

as possible to take part in the different events, which will include some old-school favourites such as the egg and spoon race and the tug-of-war event.

We are pleased to announce our charity event on the 12th of July, where both staff and students will come together to raise money for Cancer Research. This important event will see pupils and staff running or walking a 3km course to show their support and contribute to a vital cause. The event will be held in year groups, with participants encouraged to wear pink accessories to their PE kit when completing the run/walk. All pupils have received an email with details of how they can receive sponsorship, and this information can also be found on the school website and social media pages. We hope parents, family and friends can support this noble cause by donating directly or by sponsoring a participant, and help to make it an enjoyable and memorable day for all involved.

We are pleased to inform you about the introduction of new accessibility tools on our school website. These tools are designed to make it easier for you to read and navigate the site by adjusting text size, changing background colours, and more. Our goal is to ensure that all parents and students can access the information they need in a way that is comfortable and convenient for them. To access these features, simply click the blue button at the top left of the website. We hope you find these features helpful in navigating our website more effectively.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher