



Marden High School

Friday 4th October 2024

Dear All

This week we have been celebrating National Poetry Day, by sharing some of our favourite poems with each other, and launching a number of poetry based literacy competitions. Students have been invited to write a poem inspired by this year's theme 'numbers', or to create something - artwork, music, writing, baking ... - inspired by one of the poems around school, or to go on a poetry hunt and collect as many of the teachers' favourite poems displayed around school. A National Literacy Trust survey conducted recently showed that, as well as providing an outlet for creativity, engagement with poetry is associated with positive literacy behaviours. The findings also indicated that poetry is an important tool to express feelings and struggles, escape reality or make sense of the complex events going on in our world. So poetry is certainly something we would encourage for all members of our community.

There will be an information evening for all Key Stage 3 parents and carers on Thursday 10th October from 17:30 – 18:30. Students are also welcome. Mrs Sloan (Assistant Curriculum leader for maths), Mrs Cathcart (Assistant Curriculum leader for English) and Ms Vickers (Assistant Curriculum leader for science) will each deliver a short presentation about the curriculum at Key Stage 3 with tips and advice on how children can be supported with their studies at home. Staff and members of the Senior Leadership Team will be available for any questions afterwards. In order to help us plan for the evening, please indicate if you wish to attend by filling in the [attached form](#).

This week in assemblies we have explored how courageous black people have shaped the British cultural landscape for the better, as we celebrate Black History Month. I have linked here [an excellent and thought provoking video](#) which has formed the basis of our assemblies. The message that I take from this short film resonates closely with the Marden High values statement:

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

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.

The 2024 Student Development Programme is now underway with a variety of great opportunities. We have had excellent applications for the School Cabinet, who will meet soon with members of North Tyneside Council to discuss democracy and how young people can effect change. Newly appointed Form Reps met with Heads of Year to outline their work for the year. Year 8 and Year 10 students are preparing for Young Person's Question Time organised by North Tyneside Council and hosted by Marden High, and our Year 11 prefects start their Leadership Conferences. This diverse and rich variety of learning experiences will help students enhance a sense of leadership and of agency, and it has been gratifying to see the ongoing sense of belonging as we have received over 20 applications from former students now in sixth form who want to return to Marden High as mentors to younger students.

We are a popular and oversubscribed school which reflects the high standards of educational provision we have for our children. But it also means that the start and the end of the school day is very busy, particularly around the main gates and on the stretch of Hartington Road closest to school. We always have staff who are on duty in this area to supervise and support children coming into or leaving school, and as we know, the excellent attitudes and behaviour of our children is such that, whilst busy, the whole process of students coming and going is very smooth. However, we all have a part to play in this continuing to be the case, and to ensure that everybody is kept safe. So I would remind parents and carers not to drive through the main gates to drop their children off at school in the morning, and to not stop on the yellow zig-zags on Hartington Road to drop off or pick up their children. It is also important in the interests of maintaining good community relations that parents and carers are considerate about where else they might park outside school, in other words, not across people's driveways.

The Year 7 Boys football team played their inaugural match at home to John Spence on Monday afternoon. The Marden team soon settled into their rhythm and began to play some attractive, free-flowing football, scoring early with a wonderful team goal. This was followed by four more before the half time whistle to make the half time score 5-0 to the home team. After changes were made at the interval, the visitors started to put more pressure on the Marden goal, but it was the hosts that continued to find the net. Four more goals were scored by the Marden team in the second half to make the final score 9-0, a great performance in their debut for the school team and the boys all thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Also on Monday the Year 8 netball team were away for their first round of friendlies at John Spence High School. They played three matches in all; a close competitive match against St Thomas More, and two comfortable wins against Norham High and Marden Bridge Middle. The girls showed amazing teamwork and communication during all matches, an excellent start to the season.

The Year 10 and 11 boys displayed teamwork and determination during the Badminton CVL on Wednesday evening. Facing competition from John Spence and Kings Priory, the two teams rose to the challenge with impressive performances, demonstrating great communication and strategic play.

At the same time, the Year 9 Girls football team played their first CVL matches of the year against strong opposition from John Spence, Monkseaton High and St Thomas More. Playing some excellent football, the girls came away with an unbeaten record on the night winning one game and drawing two.

The Year 11 football team were in cup action on Thursday against George Stephenson High School. In a close contest, the game was tied at 2-2 heading into the final minutes when both teams scored in the final few minutes to make the dreaded penalty shootout a distinct possibility. With one final attack on the Marden goal the opponents managed to snatch the win. The Marden team were disappointed but performed superbly against tough opponents.

The Year 11 Basketball team played games against Whitley Bay, Burnside, Kings and John Spence - winning three and drawing the other. Considering it was their first game in almost a year the standard was very high and with the inter-county stage near they will only get better. Well done to all players involved.

On Thursday, the Year 9 netball league commenced. The team were up against tough opposition from John Spence, Norham High and St Thomas More, and with two great wins and one narrow defeat, the rest of the season is looking bright for this excellent Marden team.

And finally ... in a performance of perfect defending, amazing rebounds, outstanding shooting, wonderful team cohesion and down right raw talent the staff netball team were victorious this week beating a very competitive Year 11 team 27-20. Thank you and congratulations to all staff members who were involved, and thank you to the Year 11 team for being such great competitors.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher