



Marden High School

Friday 11th October 2024

Dear All

Next term will see our Career Conversations starting up again. After a successful calendar of events last year, we are looking forward to giving our students the opportunity to listen to industry specialists talk about their career pathways and give their insights into the world of work. The talks will be open to students from all age groups and will run as part of our lunchtime extra curricular programme. Like last year, we are asking parents and carers if they would like to get involved with the Career Conversations. If you would like to find out more or you think this is something you would like to get involved with please contact f.brennan@mardenhigh.net. Once we have our schedule of events confirmed, it will be emailed out to all students and will also be added to the school website.

Next week on Thursday Year 9 students will all be taking part in a Personal Development day around the theme of respect. We have a variety of speakers coming in to do a carousel of workshops. To start the day [m-path](#) will be engaging students in some thought provoking work, outlining how certain aspects of masculine expectation can not only damage individual men and boys, but also women and girls, too. The students will learn about Darrell and his journey away from the damaging, toxic masculine environments of his late teens and early twenties and why he is now an advocate for male social development. Following this students will attend a mix of workshops on empathy, reporting and challenging sexual harassment ([Worth Educating](#)), legal and moral ideas around using social media, and on being an ally. This promises to be an informative and interesting day for everyone, both reflecting and further developing the values we at Marden hold dear:

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.

There was an excellent turn out at our core curriculum evening this week for Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 students and their parents. Assistant curriculum leaders for maths, English and science discussed their Key

Stage 3 curriculums and how parents and carers can support their children at home. The slides from the presentation can be found [here](#). We are looking forward to some more upcoming events where we will be inviting parents and carers into school. Year 11, this week, have had an [assembly](#) about their mock exams and parents/carers of Year 11 students are invited to our next core evening on Thursday 24th October where the curriculum leaders for maths, English and science will share tips about supporting their children to revise. Year 7 parents are also invited in on Wednesday 6th November for a POW (Proud of our Work) night to look at their children's learning so far this year. In addition, Year 10 parents are welcome to attend an introduction to Year 10 evening on Tuesday 12th November. More information about these events will be shared closer to the time.

This week thirty Year 9 students have been to the Beacon of Light for the annual STEMfest event. This involved an exhibition of local STEM companies, from different sectors including space, manufacturing, cyber security and environment & energy. The students really took the opportunity to get involved in different activities and challenges. They spent time talking to professionals working in these companies and became more aware of the various career opportunities and pathways. The students also found out about the moons in our solar system whilst visiting the planetarium, ensuring they had a really enjoyable day, as well as being inspired and encouraged to consider a career in STEM.

The Year 7 netball team began their Marden journey with a tournament on Monday. Starting with John Spence, the Marden side looked a little nervous and fell behind by two goals in the first half, but soon got into their rhythm and managed to score twice, making the final score 2-2. They continued this momentum into the second game against Marden Bridge Middle School, winning 2-1, and by their final game against Norham they were well into their groove, winning 6-0. A fabulous start to the season for our newest team.

The Year 8 football team delivered an outstanding performance on a very wet Tuesday night against Longbenton High School. The team showcased remarkable teamwork and determination, demonstrating their commitment to each other and the game. Every player contributed, displaying skill and resilience as they battled through every minute of the match to secure a 7-4 win.

On Wednesday evening, the U16 Girls football team played their first games of the year. Despite the dismal conditions, the girls started brightly, beating John Spence 4-0. After a brief break, the girls faced a very strong Whitley Bay High School team, who proved to be a tough opponent to break down, with the game ending in a defeat for the Marden team, but overall a fantastic team effort on the night.

On Thursday evening the U16 netball league commenced, featuring both Year 10 and Year 11. Playing John Spence, the girls got off to a fabulous start, some sublime passing and wonderful teamwork meaning they led 7-4 at half time, and 16-9 at full time. A brilliant start to the U16 league. The Year 11 team began strongly against Monkseaton High winning 20-5. In their game against Churchill, the girls played brilliantly and won 5-0. Overall a really positive start to the season.

The Year 10 boys football team played their old adversaries St Thomas More on Thursday evening. After an early goal against them, the Marden team rallied, scoring an equaliser midway through the half but quickly fell behind again to a well worked goal from St Thomas More. Just before the half time whistle, the Marden team scored their second equaliser to make the score 2-2. In a tough second half, it was the Marden team that broke the deadlock, taking the lead for the first time in the game, and hanging on to make the final score 3-2, a brilliant win against a tough opponent.

We were very pleased to receive some additional funding from a central government bid we put in this summer, and over the next few days we will see the finishing touches being made to our new building called The Pavillion. This will give extra capacity in the school in terms of space for a variety of purposes, including for small group interventions when students may be in need of additional support for their learning. I look forward to showing parents around at my next Parents Forum at 4.30pm on 19 November. It may be that parents/carers want to combine coming along to the Parents Forum with an evening of Star Gazing, an event the science department is putting on that same evening. More details will follow next week.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher