



## Marden High School

Friday 18th October 2024

Dear All

As part of North Tyneside Council's Local Democracy Week on Tuesday, a group of Year 8 students took part in Young Person's Question Time. Along with students from other schools in North Tyneside and youth councillors, students had the opportunity to ask questions of members of the council, business owners and other representatives about important and current topics, such as climate change, transportation, and apprenticeships. Our students also suggested ideas to improve the local area and benefit the people of our borough. There were lively and robust interactions, the enthusiasm of our representatives shining through. It was certainly an enjoyable event, and another excellent example of our students getting involved in real world debate and decision making. With our annual campaign for Young Mayor on the horizon we are continuing to support students in their understanding of how Government works, the vital role that democracy plays within society and the difference that young people can make.

We are delighted to have been accepted onto the Voice 21 North East Oracy Project. This fully-funded programme led by national charity Voice 21, offers us the exciting opportunity to explore ways of further enhancing our students' learning and life chances through oracy. Oracy is the ability to articulate ideas, develop understanding and engage with others through spoken language and listening. Over the year, staff will be able to engage with professional development opportunities and to collaborate with other schools in the North East, in order to continue to effectively build speaking and listening into our curriculum, teaching and learning, and wider school life.

I often refer to the quote "100% of the shots you don't take don't go in". Providing a wide range of quality opportunities for students outside of lessons, to support the teaching and learning that takes place in the classroom is part of the brilliant extra curricular offer we have for all students. On Monday evening, we held our first Student Development Programme parent's information evening. Parents and carers were invited into school to meet the external providers involved in delivering the Student Development Programme and learn more about the exciting workshops that will take place. The programme combines workshops from Hand Of, M10, Worth Educating and ACT2CAM with the aim of building confidence and a range of skills that will support students to achieve success. We look forward to seeing the progress that students make

throughout the year and inviting parents and carers back at the end of the year to celebrate students' accomplishments. If you're interested in finding out more about our extra curricular offer, you can find [details on the school website](#).

The Art Department is getting excited this month as Inktober entries start to flood their desks. The Inktober competition always produces a variety of creative ideas, techniques and ink mediums. The students never cease to impress us with the outcomes they produce. This year will be no exception as we are already seeing lots of entries arriving through email as well as physically handed in work. Inktober 2024 has its own prompt list which is provided in the link below along with the rules. We would ask parents and carers to encourage their children to get involved and not only earn themselves house points but also the opportunity to be posted on the #Inktober instagram official page which is seen by thousands of people. Please enjoy the gallery of previous entries and winners. We look forward to seeing our students' entries.

On Monday I took the opportunity to visit some of our Year 10 students who are engaged in alternative provision at Moorbridge Student Support Centre. It was a pleasure to see them succeeding and achieving in their lessons and a great opportunity to talk to them about their learning and the progress they are making. Moorbridge is an important strand of the provision map for some of our students, and so Heads of Year and Mr Anderson keep in regular touch with them through their visits.

Over the past few weeks we have had a number of very well attended open mornings. As you know, one of the privileges I enjoy as Headteacher is being able to walk around school visiting various classrooms and witnessing the great learning that goes on in our school. So it has been with great pride that I have listened to the comments made by visiting parents as they too have seen our students and staff deeply engaged in their lessons. Our final open mornings of the season take place next Monday and Thursday, in readiness for parents and carers making that all important decision about which school they would like their child to come to.

Monday afternoon saw the Year 9 boys football team begin their season with a friendly game at home to St Thomas More which started at a ferocious pace, with the visitors showing no let up in their attack. St Thomas More took an early lead and hit a second midway through the half to take control of the game. Having scored just before halftime, Marden continued their momentum, but were met by a strong defence. Finally in the closing stages of the game Marden managed to force the ball home before scoring a third in the final minute of the game. A great game and a deserved victory for their hard work.

On Wednesday the Year 9 and Year 10 girls badminton team were in action in the CVL competition. The Year 9 team played two tough games against Kings Priory and George Stephenson High School, narrowly losing to Kings but managing a comfortable victory against George Stephenson. The Year 10 team faced Kings Priory and St Thomas More but despite playing some brilliant badminton, they were unable to force a victory in either game. The girls all played fantastically well and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

The Year 8 boys football team were away to Monkseaton Middle School. In a tough game, they managed to comeback from a 4-1 deficit to make the score 4-4, but were caught out in the final play of the game by a well worked Monkseaton free kick.

The Year 9 team were in cup action at home to Churchill. The visitors scored two goals against the run of play in the first half and defended their lead with everything they had. Marden pressed hard, scoring midway through the second half, but despite their best efforts, the visitors held out to make it to the next round of the cup.

The Year 10 team played Whitley Bay High School at home in a league fixture. In an initially close game, Marden gradually took control and scored twice in the second half to complete a 4-1 victory, delivering two wins out of two.

On Tuesday 19 November, Kielder Observatory will be coming to our school again for an evening of astronomy. They will bring in their inflatable planetarium and a number of telescopes to give opportunities for students and parents/carers to look at some planets (Jupiter and Saturn will be visible). Fingers are crossed for clear skies. An email regarding booking for this event will be sent out closer to the time.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher