



Marden High School

Friday 25th October 2024

Dear All

I would like to thank the hundreds of parents and carers who engaged with us in the recent parent voice survey, the results of which are now in. The overall feedback from parents and carers is overwhelmingly positive, with almost everybody saying that they feel that their child is happy and safe in school. A similar response can be seen in the majority of other questions in the survey, and where there has been an occasional negative response, I have contacted people individually for a conversation and to see how we might be able to help. The question which had the biggest negative response was where 15% of people disagreed with the statement that 'the school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.' This then tells us that we may need to do a little more, for example, in promoting those places on the school website which give that information, for example, the pages on the [curriculum](#) and on the [subject clouds](#) give lots of information on what is being studied. We are also considering what additional methods we might employ to communicate this information. We very much appreciate being able to engage with parents and carers in this way and I would like to remind everyone that my next Parents Forum meeting will be 19th November at 4.30pm. This is a good opportunity for parents and carers to join a group discussion in a relatively informal setting about any matters they wish to raise about school life at Marden. One particular topic I am interested in hearing about is the different types of parents evenings we hold. If anybody would like to come along they should contact my PA, Mrs Scott, at school.

Students at Marden High School have been working closely with the charity Children North East to raise awareness of the impact that living in poverty has on thousands of children in our region. Together they have created a children's book designed for primary schools called 'Blue's Sad Day at School', which has now been published by Children North East. Through engaging stories and illustrations, the book encourages empathy and understanding in young readers, teaching them about kindness and the importance of helping others in need. This not only supports the charity's mission but also aims to inspire the next generation to realise their sense of agency and understand that they can be instrumental in influencing decision makers in our country, and even in becoming those decision makers in the future.

The NHS team that run the Solihull Approach have a new website inourplace.co.uk which aims to give parents and carers help and advice supporting well being in their families. inourplace.co.uk is an online learning environment developed by psychologists and health practitioners providing accessible learning about emotional health and wellbeing, proven to positively impact mental health, behaviour and relationships. As part of the NHS sponsorship of [inourplace](https://inourplace.co.uk), all of the courses and content is free to parents and well worth investigating.

This week we enjoyed our PTA Halloween quiz with a great turnout and some amazing costumes. As ever, our quiz tsar, Ms Mellor, kept the grey matter whirring, and, as ever, the Senior Leadership Team did not win. Where were the questions on the school development plan and the duties rota? Thanks to everyone involved and especially members of our newly enhanced PTA who put on a great evening.

On Monday evening, the Year 7 netball girls played in a friendly tournament, some playing their first matches for the school, and they showcased their talents well. The team of nine worked well together organising positions, motivating and supporting with a great result of three wins.

Also on Monday, the Year 7 boys football team played Walker Riverside in the first round of the County Cup. The Marden team were first to score with a well-taken, opportunistic goal, but found the rest of the game a tough challenge. Walker Riverside came back strong and scored six unanswered goals. The Marden team never gave up and were rewarded with a goal late in the second half to make the final score 6-2 to the hosts. Despite the scoreline, the game was competitive throughout and the team will learn from this game moving forward.

Tuesday evening saw the Year 10 rugby team start their County Cup competition away to St Mary's Catholic School. The Marden team got off to a brilliant start scoring straight away from the opening kick off. In an exciting to and fro game Marden opened up a 17-5 lead. But St Mary's fought back and scored two more tries, the second coming in the final play of the game. The hosts needed the conversion kick to level the score, but a charge down from Marden meant they kept hold of the lead and won the game 17-15. A great game played in the right spirit by all.

It was the turn of the Year 10 and 11 boys volleyball teams on Wednesday afternoon, as they were in action at a CVL competition. The Year 10 team came up against strong opponents, often made up of Year 11 players, and managed one win from four games. The Year 11 team won all four of their games, taking their place at the top of the table. All players were outstanding throughout the competition and we look forward to their next round of games after the half term break.

On Thursday evening the Year 10 netball team took part in the U16 netball league, playing St Thomas More A and B team. With a dominant performance Marden had a considerable lead at half time, and after a reshuffle of positions and a well needed water break the team went on to successfully win both games 20-3 and 17-3. The Year 11 team put in two fabulous performances but unfortunately were beaten by John Spence but came back with a brilliant win against St Thomas More B.

It has been another enjoyable and successful half term, on the back of another set of record breaking results in the summer - a great start to this academic year. I hope that everyone gets the chance to recharge the batteries ready for next half term. In particular, I hope that our Year 11 students capitalise on the time they have next week to do just a little revision alongside rest and recreation in preparation for the mock exams which will be starting the second week back.

Wishing everyone a pleasant half term break, and thanking you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher