



Marden High School

Friday 8th November 2024

Dear All

Each year we remember those who have lost their lives in wars around the world, hearing stories of those who have fought for our freedom and learning about what has happened in the past. Our assemblies this week have focused on what we can do to prevent conflict in our own lives, and this is often done through acts of kindness and compassion. Kindness can often be powerfully felt when it is given to strangers. This sentiment has inspired our quote; that strength lies in us not necessarily being similar, but in our differences. We heard the story of Nicholas Winton who saved over 6000 Jewish children from Nazi Germany by working with UK and US governments to transport them to safety. [This clip from 'That's Life'](#) shows the moment Nicholas is made aware that the rest of the audience are made up of people he saved. His heroic gesture rescuing so many children lives long in our memories, as do all those who seek to bring peace, kindness and togetherness to the world. Students who are members of the Cadets, Scouts, Guides or uniformed services, are invited to wear the uniform of that organisation on Monday 11th November as part of Remembrance Day.

This week Year 9 have had their first Guided choices assembly where Mrs Robson launched the Guided Choices process. Over the coming weeks students in Year 9 will take part in taster lessons. In addition, each Friday, during form time, students will watch screencasts from each curriculum leader about the subjects that they can choose. At Marden all students study English, English literature, science and maths and then pick three additional choices (one of which should be geography, history, French, German or computer science). There is lots of information on the school website in 'Learning' and 'Guided Choices' including key dates, the options booklet, and screencasts. Students will then be asked to make their final choices by 7th March. It is very important that all Year 9 students engage fully with the process and ask lots of questions to ensure that, alongside their parents and carers, they make an informed decision about the subjects they would like to study in Year 10 and 11.

We know that children and young people may face additional barriers to their education including mental health concerns, and we want to ensure that all young people have support to manage their wellbeing. The Connect Mental Health Support Team works with 38 local schools to deliver low and moderate intensity

interventions to support pupils with low mood, anxiety and poor self-esteem. The service aims to encourage early treatment and prevention to decrease the number of children and young people requiring long term mental health support. This is done by providing information, advice, guidance, and support. They have a [very helpful website](#) with signposting resources for parents and carers on topics such as self care, anxiety, exam stress, low mood and resilience to help support wellbeing at home.

The Student Development Programme which launched last half term saw the second phase of the programme get underway this week. M10 Careers Masterclasses, a cooking workshop, and Study Skills mentoring all featured in helping students deepen their analytical and evaluative thinking. We look forward to seeing the impact of this work both in and out of lessons.

Our Year 8 Netball team continued their recent success this week with two comfortable wins in the North Tyneside schools netball league. The girls produced a magnificent display of teamwork to win against George Stephenson 20-0 and followed that up with a 13-3 victory over John Spence. The team has worked really hard in practices recently and this is certainly showing on the court.

The Year 11 boys football team have had a busy week, in the CVL competition, and then in County Cup action. The team battled hard against tough opponents on Monday, narrowly losing to St Thomas More and Monkseaton, before earning a draw against Kings Priory. This set up the team well for a tough game against KEVI, Morpeth on Thursday afternoon. Finding themselves 2-0 down early in the game, the Marden boys dug deep to bring the game back to 2-2 before the visitors scored what looked to be the winning goal late in the second half. With the full time whistle imminent, the Marden team launched one last attack and managed to force the ball home with the final kick of the game, levelling the scores and bringing about extra time. The visitors managed to score once again and cling on to this lead for the win. A disappointment for the players to go out of the cup, but a fantastic performance from which they can take away lots of positives.

On Tuesday afternoon, the Year 10 boys rugby team travelled North to play in a three-way tie against Bede Academy and Longridge Towers, Berwick in the Northumberland County league. Playing against Longridge Towers a determined start led to Marden scoring 4 tries. Their opponents managed a long range break away try in the final moments of the game to make the score 20-5 by the end of the match. In the second game, Marden took an early three tries to one lead against Bede through some fine individual tries from their backline. Bede came back strong towards the end of the game, running in five unanswered tries to make the final score 30-15 to the hosts. Both games were very competitive and Marden showed great spirit as a team throughout.

The Year 10 boys Football team were also in action on Tuesday afternoon, making the long trek to Hexham in the County cup. In a fiercely fought game, the Marden team scored some fine goals, including an overhead kick and a thunderbolt from outside the box. The game ended 4-4 and resulted in a penalty shootout. With neither team wanting to relinquish the tie, a total of 24 penalties were taken before Marden scored the winner. A brilliant team effort, and a great example of mental fortitude throughout.

On Wednesday it was the turn of the KS4 badminton teams, playing in a CVL competition. The Year 11 team played against St Thomas More, narrowly losing 3-2 against the A team, but comfortably winning 5-0 against the B side. The Marden Year 10 team played St Thomas More 'B', George Stephenson and Kings Priory 'B', winning all three games. A fabulous evening of badminton and a great display of skill and determination by the Marden players.

The Year 10/11 basketball team played in the North Tyneside Schools competition held at Burnside on Thursday evening. They faced the hosts Burnside in the first game, George Stephenson in the second and Kings Priory in the final game. In all games the players demonstrated great skill and determination, eventually winning all games comfortably to top the league and they now go on to represent North Tyneside in the final stage of competition in the new year.

On Tuesday 12th November Year 10 parents and carers are invited in for a 'Making the most of Year 10' evening from 5.30pm - 6.30pm. There will be information from Mrs Robson regarding GCSE grading and the Yellis tests and from Mr Tueart regarding how students can begin to prepare for exams early on. Revision books will be available to buy in the LRC from 4.45pm and Connexions careers advisers will also be available.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher