



Marden High School

Friday 15th November 2024

Dear All

We often refer to Marden High School as a family and refer to the African proverb that it takes a whole village to raise a child. With this in mind, it has been lovely to see our ex-students who are now post-16 returning to Marden to either support in lessons or mentor students. This is another great example of the opportunities our young people have, as described in our School Development Plan:

*We see hope and opportunity for everyone, recognising the great range of talents we all have, and we leave no stone unturned in helping our young people to a bright future. 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.*

Learning really is at the heart of all that we do, and the personalised provision we give, now including the post-16 students, helps develop resilient and resourceful young people who are becoming well equipped to take their place in the world.

This week our Y10 GCSE Computer Science and BTEC Digital Information Technology students took part in BIMA Digital Day. This is an exciting and innovative event working in collaboration with a global organisation called Hedgehog Lab. The only digital initiative of its kind, Digital:Day sees digital professionals head back to school for a day to inspire students and give them insight into a world of digital careers. Not only that, the day is dedicated to a nationwide competition where our students complete one of three sponsored challenges and be in with the chance to be crowned Digital:Day champions – winning £500 cash for their school plus a host of other great prizes. The challenges this year are sponsored by Microsoft, RSPCA and Burberry.

In our ongoing commitment to providing high-quality learning experiences, we are focusing on enhancing teacher questioning practices across the school. The aim is to ensure that all students are actively engaged in the learning process during questioning, rather than a select few dominating the conversation. By using thoughtful and inclusive questioning techniques, we give every student the time and space to think and

respond, helping to deepen their understanding and critical thinking skills. This approach also allows teachers to check individual progress, ensuring that all students are challenged and supported appropriately. We believe this creates a more dynamic and participatory classroom environment, where every student's voice can be heard and valued. To further strengthen our teaching practices, teachers are collaborating through 'Paired Observations,' where they work together to observe and support each other in developing their questioning techniques. During these sessions, teachers take turns observing each other's lessons, providing constructive feedback, and sharing strategies for engaging all students in meaningful ways. This collaborative approach fosters a culture of continuous professional growth, where teachers can learn from one another's strengths and collectively refine their practice. By working together in this way, we are building a supportive community of educators who are committed to ensuring that every student's learning experience is both challenging and inclusive.

The Year 10 boys football team had their first 7-a-side CVL games this week. After playing some excellent football throughout they won one and drew two games to finish the evening unbeaten. The next round will be in the new year. Well done to all involved.

The Year 7 girls netball team played another round of friendlies against 6 other local schools. Yet again, the Year 7 netball team showed amazing teamwork and communication during all three of their matches against St Thomas More, George Stevenson and Churchill with 3-1, 9-0 and 5-0 wins respectively.

On Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning Year 7 and Year 8 teams took part in the annual Sportshall Athletics competition at Marden Bridge Middle School. With ten schools competing, there was an excellent atmosphere with a mix of indoor track and field events. All Marden pupils were exemplary, showing impeccable behaviour and determination throughout. Results will be out in due course.

The girls badminton teams from Year 9 and 10 had their second CVL competition of the term this week. The Year 9 team won their matches against St Thomas More and John Spence, and narrowly lost their third match with Kings Priory by a single point. The Year 10 'A' team also won two of their matches against St Thomas More and Churchill, whilst the 'B' team won their match with John Spence but lost to Kings Priory. The girls all gave a brilliant account of themselves and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

The Year 9 boys football team played their league game with John Spence on Thursday evening. The boys started brightly, playing some crisp passes into the final third and putting the John Spence defence under pressure. The deadlock was finally broken midway through the half with a wonder goal struck from the centre circle, and the Marden team doubled their lead 5 minutes later. In the second half, the John Spence

team came out determined to get back in the game, hitting the bar and having a goal cleared off the line from the Marden defence. However, it was the Marden team that scored next with another well taken goal to make the final score 3-0. A great team performance from all involved.

The Year 10 and 11 Netball teams travelled to St Thomas More on Thursday evening. Both teams have been in good form recently and the Year 10 team continued this with a comfortable victory. The Year 11 team were much changed for this match, and struggled to match their recent form. The team worked hard but were beaten on the night by a stronger St Thomas More team. Well done to all involved.

It seems that it is that time of year again already when some of us start to prepare for Christmas. With that in mind the Science Department has announced the annual [Chemistry Christmas Card house challenge](#). This House competition is open to students of all years and the deadline is Monday 25th November. This competition always demonstrates the wonderful creativity of our young people and I look forward to seeing this year's entries, which will also be entered into The Royal Society of Chemistry annual competition, where prizes are available for individuals as well as for the school.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank a number of parents who have made very generous donations to our school fund. We really appreciate this as central funding for Marden High has fallen over recent years and every bit of extra income really does make a difference.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher