



Marden High School

Friday 22nd November 2024

Dear All

Communication is key to good relationships between home and school, and we try to ensure that this is comprehensive and timely using this newsletter, our rewards system, social media, our website, emails and telephone calls from members of the team. We hope that the welcoming and open lines of communication we have reflect the bedrock of our values and ethos. A key facet of this is the ability to identify support from our staff when it is required and this is something we have reminded everyone of recently through the social media posts we have shared with signposting to support around curriculum, safeguarding, careers and pastoral questions. The Pastoral Team and the Leadership Team will always listen should a member of the community need us or need external support. This may be related to free school meals, or to report a safeguarding concern to any of our safeguarding team (b.reece@mardenhigh.net, d.anderson@mardenhigh.net and a.charlton@mardenhigh.net). The wellbeing of our school community is paramount, and keeping children safe in school and supported as best we can when out of school is something we will always prioritise.

Many thanks to staff in the Science Department for hosting our stargazing evening this week. Whilst conditions were literally freezing, this meant that there were fine views of the heavens. Staff from Kielder Observatory brought a number of high powered telescopes with them and were able to point out and explain various astronomical phenomena. We managed to see some of the layers of Jupiter and three of its moons. We also managed to see Saturn and its rings. The feedback from parents and students has been very positive and the event was much appreciated by all who attended.

Our school community is built on the commitment and expertise of staff, and the contributions of our parents and the wider business community. This means our students experience a rich cultural life, helping develop the life skills needed for their future success. We include this philosophy within our Personal Development Programme that students receive each week. This half term students are covering a variety of topics, including Year 7 students looking at equality and human rights, exploring the differences between groups of people and why it is important to celebrate that; a theme picked up within our remembrance assemblies. Year 8 has a focus on prejudice and discrimination and the links to extremism, exploring some

of the groups within our society who encourage harmful stereotypes, aligning with the discussion around student agency in our assemblies earlier this term. Meanwhile Year 9 have career focus and have sessions planned on career stereotypes and post 16 pathways. They also have a visit from the Connexions officer who provides them with career advice.

Last week I mentioned some of the generous donations we have recently had to our school finances, and since then I have had some questions about the School Fund. School Fund is a separate account to our main school budget, and is mainly funded from very kind donations from parents and carers along with small profits we make from sales of stationery, ties, planners and locker rentals. We try to fairly allocate any school fund income for activities or enhancements to our student's educational experiences, for example, by subsidising some of our educational visits, paying for the UK Maths Challenge, and subsidising coach transport to various trips. A voluntary School Fund contribution of any amount, allows us to extend educational and extracurricular opportunities for all of our students. If parents wish to make a payment towards this they can log in to Parent Pay and select the option School Fund Contribution.

The change of weather has had an impact on our sports teams, but there were some fixtures that were unaffected. On Monday afternoon, the Year 8 Netball team made the short trip to John Spence to participate in a friendly tournament with other North Tyneside schools. The girls started brightly, taking on a determined St Thomas More team, but ultimately proved too strong for their opponents, winning the match 14-2. In their second game the Marden team faced George Stephenson, and the girls carried their momentum into this game with some outstanding team play. The final score was 22-0 to Marden, with an excellent sporting attitude throughout the game. Well done to all players involved.

The Year 10 Boys Football team played a mid-season friendly on Wednesday evening at Burnside. In freezing conditions the team were 4-1 winners, playing some excellent football. Not all of the players had started a game for the school before so they showed excellent teamwork and organisation throughout. Well done.

On Thursday evening the Year 11 netball team were in action in the U16 North Tyneside Girls Games Association Tournament. The girls were at a huge disadvantage as we only had 6 players due to illness within the team. However, undeterred, the girls went out onto the court with an impressive, optimistic 'can do' attitude. Positions were changed with students playing in unfamiliar positions, but with great team spirit from the first whistle in game one to the final whistle in the last game, the girls' work rate was relentless. The girls played absolutely fantastically and for the first time ever the team were crowned North Tyneside

Champions. A huge win and victory for a team who have trained together since they were in Year 7. Well done girls on a deserved victory and fantastic performance.

Newcastle Dog & Cat Shelter helps animals that are lost, unwanted, neglected, abused and abandoned. They reunite lost animals with their owners and find loving new homes for those no longer wanted. Sadly they are seeing more abandoned and vulnerable pets come through their doors. At Marden we have had a longstanding relationship with the shelter and are appealing for donations. The school cabinet, with Miss Randall are coordinating the collection of unopened cat and dog food, treats and other necessities to ensure these animals are looked after during their stay at the shelter. The last day for donations is Tuesday 3rd December. Donations can be brought to Miss Randall in SC6. For more information about the shelter and donations please click on this link <https://www.dogandcatshelter.com/>

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher