



## Marden High School

Friday 6th December 2024

Dear All

As I am sure you are aware, our [Values Statement](#), which can be found on the school website, talks about how the way we interact reflects the care and respect we have for one another:

*At Marden High School we celebrate what makes each of us the individual we are. We want to make sure everyone is confident being themselves, and that everyone respects each other.*

*Each of us is unique, and that is what we all have in common, and so being inclusive and celebrating diversity is important to all of us.*

*This is demonstrated by the way we think, the way we talk, and how we interact with each other - with respect and care.*

It is good to remind ourselves of this from time to time so we can be sure we are upholding these qualities in practice at all times, and so recently I spoke to Year 10 students about that care and respect that we have when we interact with one another. This gave us all the opportunity to reflect on the need to challenge any misogynistic, prejudicial or discriminatory talk that might be witnessed in or out of school. This assembly followed a number of student voice conversations about sexism and discrimination that I had with representatives from different year groups, and it was heartening to hear that generally students feel safe and confident in their daily lives at school. However, we cannot pretend that sexist language is never used here, and so we need to continue to foster the culture of respect and care that we have at Marden so that we can counter the prevalence of sexism and misogyny that sadly we find in wider society and in particular online. As our Child on Child Abuse policy says, sexual harassment does not occur in a vacuum, but occurs in a society where there are structures and norms that shape young people's views, experiences and behaviour, as well as responses towards them, and so being proactive in guiding young people in the right direction is an important part of their education.

This year's Girls Get Set STEM Initiative began last month with two groups of year 8 and 9 students taking part in their first online masterclass with Baker Hughes. The topic of this masterclass was carbon capture, utilisation and storage and will link to their future challenge in the new year. This challenge will involve the

students coming up with a practical solution to solve a problem set for them and will result in them giving presentations to business leaders at Baker Hughes about their findings in order to achieve their bronze and silver cadet awards. Their work continues this week with a career spotlight from several female members of the Baker Hughes team, one of them an ex-student from Marden, to discuss their varying roles and the routes they have taken to the jobs that they are in now. This is an excellent opportunity for the students to ask any career/job related questions to gain insight into the different routes available to them as to their next step post-16.

On Wednesday members of the cabinet and Miss Randall welcomed Jack and his dog Hunter, a rescue from Newcastle dog and cat shelter into school. Due to the overwhelming generosity of students, parents and staff, Jack was able to completely fill his car with donations for the shelter including food, treats, toys, blankets and bedding. This will have a huge impact on the welfare of the animals in their care. Thanks to all involved.

As we head towards the end of term, most sports competitions have paused for the festive period, but there was still lots of football played this week. Monday evening saw the Year 7 boys football team travel to Wallsend Boys Club for their CVL 7-a-side competition. In bitterly cold conditions, the boys faced tough opposition in the form of Burnside, Valley Gardens and Longbenton High. The team played some great football but just failed to secure a win. However, the players all enjoyed the experience and will learn from this in the next round of competition in the new year.

On Wednesday afternoon Prudhoe High School hosted our U15 Boys Football team in the second round of the County Cup. In cold and windy conditions Marden played some very good football which the opposition could not keep up with. Three late first half goals saw us go in at half time with a deserved lead. With the second half pressing into the wind, Marden held on comfortably for the win. We now face Ponteland High in the quarter finals in the new year.

The Year 8 Girls football team also played on Wednesday evening in the County Futsal competition. The newly formed competition has proved to be very popular amongst the competing schools, allowing some of the best and brightest players the chance to showcase their skills. In a round robin style competition, the girls faced John Spence in the opening round, but were unable to get their game flowing, resulting in an 8-1 defeat. This however sparked the team to life and responded by beating a very good Burnside team 5-0. In the third game, the girls played a determined St Thomas More team with the game at a stalemate 2-2 heading into the final seconds. The girls were hanging on for the draw, but a late surge from St Thomas More snatched the victory with a well taken goal in the final seconds. The final game against Valley

Gardens, one of the best girls football teams in the area, was played with relentless pressure, resulting in a 7-2 victory for Marden. A superb evening of futsal and the team look forward to the next competition in February.

And finally, on Thursday it was the turn of the Year 8 boys to take to the futsal court. In both of their games, the boys played brilliantly, scoring some fantastic goals and displaying neat footwork throughout. The results didn't go the way the Marden team would have wanted, losing to St Thomas More 6-4 and Burnside 3-1, but the teamwork and effort the boys showed throughout was exemplary.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, as on Thursday 12th December, we will be having our Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day, and, as I mentioned last week, we have our Christmas show on the same evening. We look forward to seeing lots of you there.

Planning ahead for the end of term we will be celebrating our school community with a carol service at St George's Church in Cullercoats on Friday 20 December 2024. This will be the last day of term. In this magnificent space we can come together (Years 7-10) to share in thanks for the term just passed and to look forward to our time together in the New Year. We will walk down to St George's at 1.20pm and students will be dismissed from the church at approximately 2.15pm, meaning an earlier finish for students on the last day of term. Year 11 students will be dismissed from school at 12.30pm. School will close at a slightly earlier time of 3.00pm. Any parents who wish their children to stay in school until then can let their child's Head of Year know and they can walk back to school with staff and spend the remainder of the afternoon being looked after at school.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher