



## Marden High School

Friday 13th December 2024

Dear All

For more than half a century now students at Marden have been wearing our school badge on their uniform. Our students wear it with pride on their jumpers and their blazers, and it appears on many of our paper and digital documents and letters. As the end of term approaches, I have been reflecting on the busy and successful four months we have had in school, and as part of that reflection I would like to share with you all my understanding of the crest which sits above our school motto of 'Carpe Diem'. This Latin inscription is well understood by our students, but what is symbolised in the crest perhaps less so. The following is very much my interpretation, following a little research. If anybody knows of a 'definitive' description I would be happy to hear from them.

*The three crowns represent the three kings who found their final resting place at Tynemouth Priory. Oswin, King of Deria (651), Osred, King of Northumbria (792) and Malcolm III, King of Scotland (1093) all rest here, and symbolise the attributes of leadership and agency which we aim to develop in all members of our school community.*

*The sword pointing downwards signifies the peace which we currently enjoy in our country and reminds us of the importance of maintaining that peace and harmony within our community - a community of individuals that care for each other.*

*The waves depict our links with the sea, not only as a source of industry, employment and recreation, but also as a reminder of the natural environment that we must take care to look after for future generations. Our seaview also reflects our outward looking attitude, of being aware of, and communicating effectively with, other communities in all parts of the world. It encourages the idea of members of our community understanding their part in, and having a sense of belonging to, the global community.*

Our School Performance this week was another fantastic event, enjoyed by a full auditorium and featuring top quality acts from our young people. A huge thanks goes to the staff who have worked tirelessly over the past weeks to prepare the students and get the show ready.

On Thursday this week I enjoyed visiting the Year 11 mock art exam on a number of occasions during the day, and it was wonderful to see students' work develop as the hours went by. This is a long exam, the actual exam being two days, and we have tried to give the students a taste of this experience with a full 5 hour exam this week. The quality of work is outstanding with several pieces of work not looking out of place in a high end art gallery. The focus and effort from students and staff has been impressive, and their work bodes well for next summer's exams.

Last week I received more information from the Local Authority on their plans for provision for Year 9 students at Monkseaton High School, and for Year 8 students at middle schools, should the decision be made to close Monkseaton High School. There is to be an extraordinary admissions round in the New Year for parents of Year 9 children and then later on for Year 8 children for entry to new high schools in September. North Tyneside Council is keen for parents to have an element of choice, and so all high schools have been invited to say how many additional students they could take into their schools in years 9 and 10 in September. Currently we would not be able to take any as we are full in all year groups. However, in the case of the Local Authority being able to provide additional buildings on the Marden site, we have offered to take up to thirty additional students into these year groups in September. I am told that Local Authority officers are currently actively looking at additional building options. There are of course a number of decisions that need to be made before we know for certain that this will happen, and I will keep everyone updated as developments progress.

This December, the National Crime Agency's CEOP Education team will be posting a series of tips across X and Facebook called #SaferByChristmas. #SaferByChristmas started this week on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and will share 12 days of quick, easy actions for parents and carers to take to better protect their children online. Each post will share actions that can be taken both for the 4 to 10 year old age range and 11 to 17 year olds. #SaferByChristmas aims to increase the protective capabilities of parents and carers, particularly at a time of year when many children and young people are gifted new devices and when online usage increases with schools closed for the festive break.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher