



Marden High School

Friday 10th January 2025

Dear All

In our [assembly this week](#) we reflected on our quote for the week, “Awareness is the greatest agent for change” and heard about the work of Tyne & Wear Citizens, an organisation which is part of Citizens UK. Their basic premise is that everyday people have the ability to shape the world around them. By bringing people together, they enable power to be put back into people’s hands to hold those responsible to account. Citizens UK brings people together across their differences, to find common ground and win change:

“We build positive working relationships between communities, elected power-holders and businesses, making sure everyone is heard and no one is left out.”

Tyne & Wear Citizens come together to form an alliance from churches, mosques, schools, charities, trade union branches and universities. Together, they aim to tackle injustices in our local communities and bring about change. Priority issues voted on by members in our community include: racial justice in education; tackling the cost of living crisis; advocating for a fairer housing system for the region. For 2025 Tyne and Wear citizens want to help further improve educational attainment in the North East. Evidence shows that having mental health counsellors based within schools improves academic and behavioural outcomes. Tyne and Wear Citizens are campaigning to have a trained counsellor in every school in the North East, and for the funding to make this happen. They have invited Marden High School to help with this, and specifically to get behind a petition to persuade local councillors. The petition is to ask North Tyneside Council to support a schools-based mental health counselling pilot through the North East Combined Authority (NECA), and to welcome the pilot within North Tyneside. We at Marden think this is an excellent idea and so we will be talking to the children about the benefits that a schools-based counselling scheme could make to the welfare and achievement of students, and giving them the opportunity to seize the day and exercise their agency by signing the petition during form time this coming week. Unfortunately North Tyneside Council does not have an online facility for petitioning, but there will be the opportunity for parents, carers and visitors to the school to sign the petition at the main reception in school.

E-Safety is clearly an important part of keeping children safe in the modern world, and teaching children how to be safe online is a responsibility that we all share. If you would like support or information about popular apps, games or social networks, our [e-Safety webpage](#), includes weekly tips, safety guidance and information on popular online platforms that are popular with children. This week's guidance is about Snapchat and TikTok, and will be a very useful resource for parents and carers of children who may use these apps. Following the excellent feedback we had from our Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) e-safety information evening last year, we are holding another such event on Thursday 23rd January in the auditorium (5.30pm - 6.15pm). Even if you attended last year, the rate of change in this area is such that it may well be worth coming along again this year.

At Marden High School one aspect of our CEIAG programme that we attach great importance to is our Work Experience Programme. We know it can be one of the most transformational experiences young people have during their education. For Year 10 students this will be in July. All year 10 students will be involved in a series of preparation lessons over this half term, which are designed to support them in finding a suitable placement and completing the online documentation. We are using Unifrog (www.unifrog.org) to manage the administration side of the work experience programme – for example collecting information from the employer about their Risk Assessment and Health & Safety policy, as well as getting agreement from parents and carers for the placement to go ahead. The students have received their Unifrog login this week and we would encourage them to log onto the website and start to explore the Placement section of the site. We have added some information for parents and carers on how to navigate Unifrog, including a short video explaining how to add a placement to the system. This can be found on our school website under the Life At Marden, CEIAG, Unifrog banner.

Over the holiday period we had some fantastic news about two of our students, Eva Henderson and Leah King, being selected to be on the Baker Hughes Female Advisory Board. This is a new Girls Get Set initiative that involves having a female advisory board that would be giving feedback to a board of directors on how Baker Hughes can make themselves more attractive to young female talent. This will be an opportunity to be exposed to a real-life organization and to decide how companies need to evolve for future generations of people joining the working world, as well as to develop skills of research, public speaking, presentation skills and team working. For two of the four girls who represent students on the national board to come from Marden is a great accolade for the school, and, needless to say, we are very proud of Eva and Leah.

It is with great pleasure that we found out this week that the Poverty Proofing Young Ambassadors of Marden High have been chosen as the winners of the Voices of Hope Awards. The Voices of Hope Awards are run by Children North East to recognise the wonderful achievements of the children and young people connected to the charity. Staff were invited to nominate groups they think are making a special difference to people, places and communities. This award reflects how the students have approached their role as Young Ambassadors with passion and thoughtfulness. The judges were particularly impressed by the creativity that went into the story-telling book '*Blue's Sad Day*' and the confidence of our young people in presenting to an audience of some 200 professionals.

Marden PTA will be organising more events this term, including raffles and tombolas, and so they would be interested in any unwanted gifts or donations that could be used as prizes. If anybody has any items they feel would be suitable they can be dropped off at our main reception.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher