



Marden High School

Friday 24th January 2025

Dear All

This year our Career Conversations events become more and more popular with students interested in finding out directly from the workforce what different possibilities are out there for them in the future. These events have continued this week with a specialist in Criminology coming in to talk about careers within the criminal justice system, including the very interesting areas of the Police, the Prison Service, Magistrates and High Court Judges, Barristers and Parole Officers. These talks have provided students with a deeper understanding of the qualifications, roles and responsibilities associated with these fields. We are very grateful to the professionals who offer their time and expertise. If you are able to support our Careers Conversation Programme, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch with Mrs Brennan at f.brennan@mardenhigh.net if you would be willing to share your career experiences with our students.

As you are aware our [values statement](#) can be found on the school website, and part of it says:

'We focus on thinking about learning and developing student independence. Through their learning our children develop confidence and effective communication skills. They enjoy being creative and have a grounded sense of wellbeing. Learning is at the heart of all that we do, and the personalised provision we give helps develop resilient and resourceful young people.'

Our Student Development Programme is designed to facilitate this and so it has been good this week to see several strands of this programme in action:

- Former students (now at sixth form and college) returning to Marden to mentor younger students both one-to-one and in lessons;
- Parents and carers visiting on Monday and Tuesday for the launch of our collaboration with the North East Combined Authority (NECA) and other North Tyneside Schools;
- Students engaging in activities at the end of the school day, both with Ben Oliver (Worth Educating) and the YMCA.

Each strand of this work is designed to strengthen the hope, agency and leadership which we believe will inspire our students to achieve more than they ever thought possible, both in and outside the classroom.

Our student cabinet members met this week to discuss their role within the school-wide literacy and oracy work, supporting Miss Taylor in the Learning Resource Centre, alongside their involvement in effective communication in developing the student bulletin and the student noticeboards. Our student cabinet has already made an impact this term as they have helped with the selection of charities we support from fundraising and also developed information signage around the school. This pathway to student leadership is already leading to exciting opportunities as this year we have two students hoping to become the new Young Mayor of North Tyneside. Following assemblies last week, we have had campaign videos and voting taking place this week and we wish both candidates the best of luck in their next steps towards local council leadership.

This week in assemblies we have been celebrating the life and work of Martin Luther King. Drawing inspiration from both his Christian faith and the peaceful teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. King led a nonviolent movement in the late 1950s and '60s to achieve legal equality for African-Americans in the United States. While others were advocating for freedom by "any means necessary," including violence, Martin Luther King, Jr. used the power of words and acts of nonviolent resistance, such as protests, grassroots organizing, and civil disobedience to achieve seemingly-impossible goals. He went on to lead similar campaigns against poverty and international conflict, always maintaining fidelity to his principles that men and women everywhere, regardless of color or creed, are equal members of the human family.

Heads of Year assemblies this week have seen some powerful testimonies to the work of the civil rights movement led by Dr King, and have shown how Dr King's example influences our values as a school community, reflected in our quote for the week: "I have decided to stick with love; hate is too great a burden to bear".

Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, Nobel Peace Prize lecture and "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" are among the most revered orations and writings in the English language. His accomplishments are now taught to American children of all races, and his teachings are studied by scholars and students worldwide. He is the only non-president to have a national holiday dedicated in his honor and is the only non-president memorialized on the Great Mall in the nation's capital. He is memorialized in hundreds of statues, parks, streets, squares, churches and other public facilities around the world as a leader whose teachings are increasingly-relevant to the progress of humankind.

The Year 7 boys football team made the short journey to Valley Gardens on Tuesday afternoon to play a league game rearranged from before the Christmas holiday. The boys have been training hard indoors over the winter months and this showed in the opening exchanges. The Marden team had the lion's share of possession in the opening 20 minutes but could not find a way past the determined home defence. Against the run of play, Valley Gardens opened the scoring after a rare defensive mix up from the Marden team. This spurred the Marden team into life and they found themselves level shortly after through a smart through ball and thunderbolt shot that beat the keeper from outside the box. The pressure continued from the visiting team and they found the net again just before the half time whistle. Buoyed by this, the Marden team kept their foot on the accelerator in the second half and scored another goal midway through the half. Another defensive mistake let Valley through to score their second of the game and made for an exciting end to the game. With the score at 3-2 to Marden, Valley pressed to find an equaliser, but the Marden team ended the game with 2 more smartly taken goals to make the final score 5-2 to Marden. A fantastic team effort from all the players.

On Tuesday afternoon it was the turn of the Year 9 girls football team in the Central Venue League. Playing a spirited St Thomas More team in their first game, the girls played some brilliant football and came away with a 1-0 win. In their second game they faced Churchill and in spite of Marden pressure and numerous chances, they were kept at bay by the Churchill keeper and had to settle for a 0-0 draw. Their final game of the evening was against Norham High School where the Marden girls produced their best football of the evening, ending in a 5-0 win. This was the second time in the competition that the girls had played and so far have yet to concede a goal. A marvellous statistic that shows how well they all play together.

No doubt many of our Year 11 students will be up a little earlier next Friday to prepare themselves for the Class of 2025 group photograph. Each year this event marks a particular moment in the school year, when we come together to reflect on the memorable times we have spent together, and to look forward to the final few months of hard work before the exams. The Class of 2025 group photograph will be available to buy later this term, and it is a great memento of each student's time here at Marden.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher