



Marden High School

Friday 31st January 2025

Dear All

Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremony in the UK brings together the civic, faith and political leadership of the country, alongside survivors of the Holocaust and more recent genocides. Holocaust Memorial Day this year is a particularly significant year as we mark 80 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and 30 years since the genocide in Bosnia. Holocaust Memorial Day reminds us that the Holocaust threatened the fabric of civilisation, and that genocide must still be resisted every day. Our world can at times feel fragile and vulnerable and we cannot be complacent. Prejudice and the language of hatred must be challenged by us all, also here in the UK. Each year on Holocaust Memorial Day, thousands of people come together to learn more about the past and take action to create a safer future, and in this vein last week a group of Year 9 students presented their learning, along with Mrs Thompson, our Head of History, at the North Tyneside Council's annual Holocaust Memorial Day service.

Our Summer Show this year will be Mary Poppins the musical, and recently auditions have been taking place. Students have shown excellent commitment and initiative in using music practice rooms at lunchtime and after school to practise their parts and songs for the auditions and it has been great to once again see so many children so enthusiastic to be involved. The quality of the auditions has been so high that I think we should all be very much looking forward to the performance in July. Of course, there is lots of hard work between now and then to bring everything together and make this happen, and a huge thanks goes to the staff who spend so much dedicated time in getting the children ready for our amazing shows.

Recently our Robotics team was back in action taking part in this year's High Stakes VEX Robotics competition at Nissan Sports and Leisure Centre. Our team, made up of Year 7 and 9 students, took part in some tough but exciting qualifying rounds, spoke confidently to several judges about their designs, the challenges they faced during the assembly of their robot and also their thoughts behind their coding for the autonomous section of each game. The team showed great team spirit throughout the whole day and made it through to the quarter finals which is where they were eventually knocked out. The team thoroughly enjoyed their day and are already waiting in anticipation for next year's event.

On Monday 20th January we welcomed 20 School Centred Initial Teacher Trainees (ITTs) into school. The ITTs, who were all English specialists, have recently begun their second placement at various schools across the North East as part of their teacher training qualification. Along with course leaders from both Universities, the ITTs took part in a number of professional development activities over the course of the day. These included visiting lessons to see some of the expert practice embedded in practice at Marden High School. This was a particularly positive experience and both the trainees and course leaders expressed just how impressive each classroom was. Having examined the theory behind assessment, attention, cognitive load, and various other key aspects of teaching, they found seeing those ideas in action extremely beneficial.

Trainees were also asked to plan and deliver some teaching to our students in year 7 and 8. In line with the content of the English curriculum at Marden, each trainee planned and delivered a lesson focussing on the theme of Love and Relationships. The lessons were incredibly positive and each trainee really appreciated the opportunity to implement their ideas. The feedback from the day was excellent and the trainees were grateful for such a positive and useful professional learning experience. Perhaps most notably however, all of our guests were eager to share just how impressed they were with the conduct and learning behaviours demonstrated throughout the day by our pupils.

The netball fixtures resumed on Thursday evening after the winter break. The Year 9 team were in action against St Thomas More and Whitley Bay High School. Both games were very competitive and there was not much separating the sides. Overall, Marden won both games with a 7-4 victory against St Thomas More and a 6-5 win over Whitley Bay High School. Well done to all players.

The start of the football season has fixtures coming thick and fast. First up, on Monday evening, the U15 girls travelled North to face Bede Academy in the first round of the county cup. The team were hampered by injury and illness, and started the game with only nine players on the field. The girls worked tremendously hard but were unable to get their game flowing. The final score was a 6-1 win for the hosts, but the girls played very well and should be commended for their tenacity throughout the game.

On Tuesday afternoon, the Year 8 boys team played host to their counterparts from Marden Bridge Middle School in a league fixture. On a heavy pitch, the Marden team struggled to get into the game and gave away two early goals. The visitors capitalised on their lead and kept up the pressure on the Marden goal. The final score was a 6-0 win for Marden Bridge, but the home team deserved credit for playing right up to the final whistle.

The Year 7 boys team played in their indoor Futsal competition on Wednesday evening. They continued their winning form on Wednesday, with victories against St Thomas More (4-3), Churchill (6-0), Burnside (5-0) and John Spence (3-1). They progress to the next stage of competition where they face the best teams from across Northumberland, a fantastic achievement.

The U16 girls concluded their CVL games on Wednesday afternoon, playing 4 games on the night. They all played brilliantly coming away with 3 wins and one defeat. This means they also qualify for the next level of competition and will go on to represent North Tyneside in the Northumberland County Competition later this term. Well done to all players that contributed to this brilliant achievement.

Finally, the Year 8 girls team played their much rearranged County Cup game on Thursday at home to a strong St Thomas More team. On a heavy pitch and in windy conditions, it was the visitors that broke the deadlock, capitalising on a loose clearance by the home defence and racing through to score. This woke up the Marden girls, who piled on the pressure and leveled the score soon after with a smartly taken goal from outside the box. The home team were in front soon after, with two goals coming after great interplay down the right flank. The visitors snatched one back before half time to make the score 3-2 to Marden at the turn around. With the wind behind them in the second half, the home team pressed forward looking to extend their lead and got their fourth with another long range shot from outside the box. The final score of 4-2 sees the girls through to the quarter finals of the cup. Well done to all involved.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher