



## Marden High School

Friday 7th February 2025

Dear All

As you are aware, developing leadership qualities in our students is a key priority. Indeed, as noted in our most recent Ofsted report; *"Opportunities for student leadership are varied and meaningful for all those involved. Pupils are proud of what they do. They know their opinions make a difference within the school. The student council, prefects and pupil cabinets are an important part of school life"*. One such Leadership opportunity on offer each year is that of becoming North Tyneside Young Mayor. Having seen two previous students go on to become Young Mayor, we are very proud to see two of our students make it into the final four of this year's Young Mayor election.

We know that children and young people may face additional barriers to their education including mental health concerns, and we want to ensure that all young people have support and that their families, schools and other professionals are able to provide the right support. The Connect Mental Health Support Team works with 40 local schools to deliver low and moderate intensity interventions to support pupils with low mood, anxiety, and poor self-esteem. By working with our communities, schools, parents and carers and young people the service aims to encourage early treatment and prevention to decrease the number of children and young people requiring long term mental health support. At Marden we are working closely with the Connect team to enhance our whole school approach to emotional wellbeing and to signpost to other relevant services to ensure the needs of children and young people are met in a timely way. For links to Connect's online resources and social pages please visit [connect\\_mhst | Twitter. Instagram | Linktree](#)

Children and young people are innately curious about life. Many people have an interest in the non-material aspects of life, the spirit or soul, and want to explore how these ideas and experiences help us to develop our own sense of identity, self-worth, personal insight, meaning and purpose. Next week in the RE department we will be hosting a Prayer Space for students to allow them to explore these ideas through interactive activities and creating a space for quiet reflection. If anyone would like further information about this here is a useful link: <https://prayerspacesinschools.com/>

Last night the STEM club had a trip to Kielder Observatory. The students were able to use high tech telescopes at the observatory to see some magnificent views of the night sky. Venus, Jupiter and Saturn were amongst the exciting objects they saw. Following conversations about space exploration and careers in astronomy, the students were even treated to a view of our neighbour, the Andromeda galaxy.

This next item I have left in the words of one of our students who is part of the Lego Robotics team who competed this week in Sunderland:

*“Our Lego Robotics experience was amazing and we are so thankful to be a part of the team. The presentation in front of the judges went so well. We answered every question well and every answer they were impressed with. We made badges and bracelets to give to other teams and judges showing just how strong our team is. Even though we lost, we won the Core Value medal and we are so happy. There was nothing bad about this at all, the trip here was fun, the atmosphere here is amazing and we all really recommend this to people under 16.”*

On Monday evening, the Year 7 netball team played their first round of friendlies since the new year. They played against John Spence, Marden Bridge Middle, St Thomas More and Kings Priory, winning all four of their matches. It was another competitive night with excellent sportsmanship and teamwork throughout. The Year 8 girls Futsal team played in the second round of their County competition on Wednesday afternoon. The girls got off to a fantastic start against Burnside, opening with a 4-1 win. Their next game against St Thomas More was much closer, with the winning goal being scored by the St Thomas More team in the dying seconds of the game. The team bounced back with a 4-0 victory over Churchill before facing a very strong John Spence team, which they were unlucky to lose 2-1. In the final game of the event, the girls played a very good Valley Gardens team, and ended the tournament with a 3-2 win. After both rounds of competition, the girls took 3rd place in the league and should be very proud of their efforts. On Thursday evening, the Year 8 boys played in the CVL competition. Playing 4 games on the night, they battled hard and played some excellent football. They left with a record of 1 win, 1 draw and 2 defeats. Well done to all players.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher