



Marden High School

Friday 14th February 2025

Dear All

The old adage goes that “it takes a whole village to raise a child”, and for every child to have the best chance to achieve, communication between home and school is essential. We hope that our positive phone calls home, reward postcards, information text messages and social media help to enhance the already strong relationships that exist between students, staff, parents and carers. To support this communication, you will see that currently, information is being shared about who you can contact regarding various topics. Be it questions about careers, options, or pastoral welfare, our messages are designed to signpost you to the right person. Should you ever be unsure about who to ask if you have a question, a member of the Senior Leadership Team or your child's Head of Year will always help answer your question.

This deadline is approaching for digital auditions to be submitted for students wishing to participate in this year's Marden's Got Talent, our annual talent competition show now in its tenth year. We welcome students to send in a video of them performing their talent to be included in the show. Previous years' showcases have included a range of talents including magic tricks, dance, martial arts and musical performances. Students should send their auditions to mgt@mardenhigh.net by 3 March 2025 to get involved.

We have now had confirmation that later this year we will be welcoming students displaced by the closure of Monkseaton High School. In order to accommodate this expansion to Marden High School the Local Authority is working with us to commission additional buildings on site, and we will be employing additional staff to ensure that we can continue to provide, and even enhance, the excellent provision we give all our students. In readiness for September, we will be making some changes to the tutor groups in current years 8 and 9. As these children approach the very important GCSE years and we welcome additional students into their year group, we will be reducing the number of students in each tutor group by increasing the number of tutor groups from 6 to 8. Parents and carers of current Year 8 and Year 9 students will receive further instruction from our Deputy Head, Mrs Robson, on Monday next week. This will further enhance the personalised approach to study skills and revision practice that each form tutor facilitates. This, we are sure, will maintain the high level of pastoral care that the children receive. I will keep everyone updated on these exciting developments as they unfold.

This week, students have been learning about apprenticeships as part of National Apprenticeship Week, exploring this exciting post-16 option during form time. In addition, we were pleased to welcome a representative from [Amazing Apprenticeships](#) for the final session in a three-part workshop with our Year 11 students. These sessions have focused on sourcing, applying, and preparing for apprenticeship interviews, equipping students with valuable knowledge and skills for their next steps. Interest in apprenticeships has grown in recent years, as they offer an excellent route into training and employment. Only approved training providers can deliver apprenticeship training, ensuring high-quality learning alongside real workplace experience. A key benefit of an apprenticeship is the “earn as you learn” model. Apprentices gain hands-on experience in a real job while spending 20% of their working hours in training—and because this training is fully funded, apprentices don’t have to worry about student debt.

Next week marks the final Careers Conversation of this half term, rounding off a fantastic series of lunchtime career talks. We’ve had an overwhelmingly positive response, with around 30 students signing up for each session. These short but impactful talks last 20 minutes, followed by a 10-minute Q&A, giving students the opportunity to gain valuable insights into different career paths. We are always looking for professionals to support our Careers Education, Information, Advice, and Guidance (CEIAG) programme. If you or someone you know could spare just 30 minutes to come into school and share your career journey with our students, we’d love to hear from you. If you’re interested, please contact: f.brennan@mardenhigh.net

Last Friday evening, the Year 7 boys footballers were in action in the CVL. The boys have been training hard through the winter months and the extra work showed in their 4 games. The boys started with a draw against St Thomas More, followed by a hard fought victory over Norham. Their third game against North Gosforth High ended in a 0-0 draw and in their final game, they faced a strong Longbenton team, who managed to snatch a winner with the last kick of the game. The boys played some great football and showed some excellent teamwork throughout.

On Monday evening, the Year 8 netball team were in the first round of friendlies since the new year. They successfully won their matches against John Spence, St Thomas More and Kings Priory, and had a narrow 4-3 loss against Valley Gardens. It was a competitive night with excellent sportsmanship and teamwork throughout.

The Year 9 boys football team played Burnside in their league fixture on Wednesday afternoon. Kicking off into a stiff wind, the boys quickly settled into the game, passing the ball around with confidence. Midway through the half, the Marden team opened the scoring with a long-range effort squeezing in the bottom corner. Quickly after, a deflected shot doubled their lead at half time. The second half was much the same, with the Marden team dominating possession of the ball and denying their hosts an opportunity to get into

the game. This eventually led to another long range shot finding the net, followed by a smartly taken header from a corner, to give the Marden boys a 4-0 lead and the game, a great effort.

The Year 10 boys football team played their County Cup quarter-final away to Ponteland on Thursday afternoon. A dominant first half saw Marden in at the break with a 1-0 lead which could have been more. A controversial penalty decision saw Ponteland equalise only for Marden to re-take the lead minutes later. With 3 minutes on the clock the hosts were able to equalise again and take the game to extra time. With legs tiring, Ponteland snatched the win and a great run in this year's County Cup came to an emotional end. Well done to all players involved who were superb throughout.

Unfortunately we have had reports from our neighbours of inconsiderate parking on Hartington Road at school drop off and pick up times. We understand, of course, that these are busy times when people are often in a rush to drop children off and continue on to work. However, I would ask that any parents or carers dropping off or picking up their children do so with a view to not inconveniencing any local residents by parking over their drives. It is also very important that the road markings close to the entrance to school are observed and adhered to, as they are there for our children's safety. Stopping to drop off children on these yellow markings is not only inconsiderate to other road users, but putting people's lives at risk.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher