



## Marden High School

Friday 14th March 2025

Dear All

Our thought for the week this week has been “If knowledge is power, then curiosity is the muscle”, and in this vein, it was good this week to welcome parents to my Parents Forum where we had the opportunity for some rich conversation around school life and developments that are coming up in the future. Discussion, questioning and listening are not just aspects of the great learning and teaching that takes place every day here at Marden, but are also the vital ingredients for the conversations that build trust between people and cement strong relationships, something that I think we enjoy within our community here. My next Parents Forum is 9th June at 5.30pm, and I look forward to more interesting discussion then.

British science and engineering week this year is 7-17 March and has the theme 'Adapt and change'. This has fit in nicely with our year 7 and 8 curriculum, where they are learning about Genes and inheritance in year 7, as well as Evolution and variation, in year 8. Year 7 did some practical work involving measuring their height and number of students with different eye colours to investigate the distribution in the population. Year 8 also took part in practical work to look at adaptations of animals in their environment and trying different 'beaks' to see which one picks up seeds and beans the best. Practical work allows our students to develop their curiosity and thinking skills, as well as teamwork and independence. Mrs. Russell also went to Cullercoats primary school to do some work on adaptations of marine organisms with Reception and year 1 students. This was a great opportunity for future Marden students to have an expert marine biologist discuss the adaptations of sea creatures with them and develop their awe and wonder of science.'

It has been another busy week for our Careers Programme. On Tuesday, we were delighted to welcome a representative from Ask Apprenticeships, who delivered an insightful presentation to our Year 10 students. The session covered various key aspects of apprenticeships, including the different qualification levels, pay scales, how to search and apply for opportunities and an overview of the wide range of companies offering apprenticeship programmes. For those who would like to learn more, the slides from the presentation are available on the school website.

This week our Year 10 students participated in a fantastic opportunity to engage in mock interviews. The students were well-prepared for this event, having received valuable support from their form tutors during registration. This preparation included guidance on completing application forms, improving body language, and mastering effective questioning techniques. Each student had the chance to participate in a 15-minute one-to-one interview with an employer from a variety of sectors across the North East. We were fortunate to have representatives from renowned organizations, including the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), the Environment Agency, Newcastle Building Society, North Tyneside Council Digital Services and Aecom, who kindly volunteered their time to support this initiative. The experience proved to be invaluable for many of our students, offering them real-world insights and boosting their confidence. It was great to see so many happy and confident faces as they left the interview area. We look forward to sharing the feedback from the employers with our students next week, which will undoubtedly help them as they embark on their career pathway.

This week we have had a number of successful sports fixtures. These include the Year 10/11 Basketball team who played in the regional finals at the Newcastle Eagles Arena, playing 4 games, winning 2 and finishing 3rd in the group overall. We also had a Year 7 boys football team fixture away to Marden Bridge which they won 7-1, hopefully inspiring Newcastle to do the same on Sunday. There will be full reports on these and other fixtures in next week's newsletter.

This year's support for Red Nose Day is going to be through our sporting activities which will be held on 10th April. There will be events during the day and a quiz in the evening, where the PTA will be providing their usual refreshments and treats. Our deferring of the charitable event allows us to draw together various activities that can help raise even more funds for a good cause. Therefore, on Friday 21st March, it will be normal school uniform for all students. Further information about the 10th April will be shared soon after, by our PE department.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher