



Marden High School

Friday 4th April 2025

Dear All

On Thursday this week we hosted our annual talent show, Marden's Got Talent, for the tenth year. As always, the show's celebratory atmosphere and the collaborative effort from students and staff involved was an excellent example of the supportive and positive spirit that is commonplace here at Marden. Students competed to earn up to 800 house points for their school houses, showcasing a range of talent including singing, dancing and piano skills. The funds raised from ticket sales will be donated to Guide Dogs for the Blind, as voted for by our School Cabinet. I would like to extend a huge thanks to all the staff who helped the preparation for this remarkable event and on the night.

Year 11 students now have three and a half weeks of school time before the exam season proper begins. I have said previously in this newsletter that it has been good to see therefore this year group working hard in preparation for these exams. This is also a significant point in time for Year 10 students. They are currently doing their Year 10 exams, and they should be very aware that Year 11 are about to start their final GCSE exams. They will therefore also realise that they have five and a half weeks and one year (including holidays) before their final GCSE exams start. I know that this has been a moment of realisation for some Year 10 students that things are starting to get serious for them. It is not overstating the case to say that GCSE exams really are key for our young people's futures and depending on the results, they can make or break their plans and ambitions. Each student needs to have a realistic sense of how well they are working, how much effort they are putting in, what sort of progress they are making, and, critically, what they need to do to take the next steps in improving their work and learning. Now is a good time for them to think very honestly about whether the perception they have of themselves is accurate. Useful questions they may ask themselves are:

- What do I want to do when I leave Marden?
- What sort of qualifications will I need to do that?
- What level of effort will I need to put in to get them?
- What learning and revision skills will I need to achieve what I want?

The answers to these questions will vary for each young person, but this is an essential first step to getting serious about achieving potential. I think these questions also provide a useful framework for parents and carers to use in conversations with their children, as support for the students will obviously come from both home and school. Now is a great time for Year 10 students to reflect on these questions, and it is worth them, and the rest of us too, remembering the words of Oprah Winfrey “The smallest change in perspective can change a life. What tiny attitude adjustment might turn your world around?”

This Is Creative Enterprise (TICE) focuses on giving students opportunities to gain an experience into careers within the creative industry. Fifteen Year 9 students have undertaken projects focusing on fashion, design, illustration, photography and film. The projects have proven to be a thought provoking experience for all involved in this year's cohort of students. They have participated in three workshop experiences, including a day at Northumbria University, and students have been able to see how industry professionals work within a number of different creative sectors. The TICE experience is not stopping just here for some students though, as some of their work has been chosen to be presented in a TICE showcase at TICEFest this coming November, a fitting culmination for the dedication that students have shown during this project.

We often hear in this newsletter about students who have taken up opportunities to develop their leadership skills, and another great example of this is the British Sign Language club that takes place each Thursday in T3 after school. This is a club which involves interested staff who support students, but which is led entirely by the students themselves, as they research, plan and deliver a variety of lessons and workshops to other students and staff to help them learn sign language. It is a great privilege to be able to witness this level of community spirit and leadership in our young people. If anybody is interested in learning British Sign Language and would like to join the classes, they are very welcome to come along.

With the weather now warmer and drier, we have opened up the fields at lunchtimes and it has been so enjoyable to walk around the site at lunchtime and talk to students about progress they are making, activities they are enjoying and next steps they are taking with their learning. We have Year 7 and Year 8 on the front field, with the back field divided into three sections; the lower field, the main field and the upper field. Here all year groups can enjoy the space we have. Duty staff, pastoral staff and senior leaders are always on hand to interact with students and help make sure that play is safe and enjoyable for all. The LRC and two computer rooms remain open for quiet work, whilst the games room remains a popular choice too. Students can also obtain a pass to attend one of our [clubs](#) on the upper floors. It remains absolutely key that everybody remembers the three elements of positive interaction: to show respect, to take responsibility and to have a focus on learning. The school community is a vibrant and exciting place to be, with deep learning taking place in lessons and positive interactions happening throughout the day, so as we

move into the summer term it is a useful reminder to all students that we play with respect, we take responsibility of finding somewhere to spend our lunchtimes and I look forward to continuing fruitful conversations regarding learning as I enjoy my lunchtime walks.

On Monday evening, one of the two Year 7 netball teams played in the North Tyneside Schools tournament. The girls showed fantastic teamwork and determination leading to them coming first out of five schools. On Wednesday evening, the second year 7 netball team played in the Tri-area tournament, where they faced the best schools from North Tyneside, Newcastle and South Northumberland. The girls played brilliantly, especially as many of them had to play out of their normal positions due to injuries in the team. They faced tough opponents from Longbenton, Kings Priory, Westfield and John Spence, as well as Newcastle RGS. They finished with a record of four wins, one draw and one loss, meaning they finished in second place with RGS gaining a close victory. A fantastic achievement to end what has been a brilliant season.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher