



Marden High School

Friday 11th April 2025

Dear All

On Thursday, our Year 8 students participated in a *Career Explorer* event that provided them with an opportunity to learn about various industries and potential career paths. The event featured a series of interactive workshops, with employers from diverse sectors, including Barclays Bank, Waves Leisure Centre, Nexus and Agilio Software. During the event students spent 15 minutes with each employer, gaining valuable insights into career pathways, roles, responsibilities, opportunities for progression and salary expectations. The sessions were designed not only to inform but to inspire, as students had the chance to ask questions and engage in hands-on tasks relevant to each industry. This event was an excellent chance for our students to begin thinking about their future careers and the steps they can take to achieve their professional goals. It also provided them with a clearer understanding of the variety of opportunities available in the world of work. We would like to extend a warm invitation to any parents or carers who are interested in supporting future careers events at the school. If you would like to get involved, please contact Fiona Brennan at f.brennan@mardenhigh.net.

As you are probably aware, and as you can see from the example above, Mrs Brennan has been leading Careers provision at Marden very successfully for a number of years. The plethora of excellent opportunities for our students includes on a regular basis classes and individuals working with visiting industry, careers fairs, mock interviews with visiting business leaders, work experience out of school, Careers Conversations, and a whole host of information, advice and guidance through lessons, assemblies and form time. What you may not have been aware of, however, is that over the past few years Mrs Brennan has been using her own time to train and practise as a fully qualified careers advisor, which means that she will now add individual careers interviews to the long list of existing provision we have. We are grateful to the Connexions team from North Tyneside Council who have conducted interviews in the past, and we are excited and confident about the excellent provision students will now get 'in house'.

One of the key pathways that we provide for students, in terms of developing leadership, agency and careers related knowledge and understanding is our Student Development Programme. With support from the North East Combined Authority we have been running two programmes this year; one in Y9 and one in Y10. Recently we reached a milestone within both projects and the monitoring of the outcomes from it have

been heartening and hopeful. The students engaging in each have higher attendance than corresponding cohorts from last year, achievement points are higher than this time last year and the student voice completed has shown an increase in confidence when completing classwork and homework. Part of the work we undertake is with three other local high schools and following a day at Northumbria University where students engaged with a series of activities relating to Higher Education, students then completed an afternoon's English workshop before watching *An Inspector Calls* at the Sunderland Empire. The academic rigour, focus on personal development and dedication in ensuring effective careers education is central to the opportunities provided by our Student Development Programme which again this year is having a great impact on all involved.

Communication is key to our relationship with the community and we try to ensure that this is comprehensive and timely using this newsletter, our rewards system, social media, our website, emails and telephone calls from members of the team. We pride ourselves on the welcoming and open lines of communication we have which are the bedrock of our values and ethos. A key facet of this is the ability to identify support from our staff when it is required and this is something we have reminded everyone of recently through the social media posts we have shared with signposting to support around curriculum, safeguarding, careers and pastoral questions. The Pastoral Team and the Leadership Team will always listen should a member of the community need us or need external support. This may be related to free school meals (<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/238/free-school-meals>). It might be for support with holiday food vouchers (participation@northtyneside.gov.uk) or it could be to report a safeguarding concern to any of our safeguarding team (b.reece@mardenhigh.net, d.anderson@mardenhigh.net and a.charlton@mardenhigh.net). The safeguarding and wellbeing of our school community is paramount to all we do, all of the time, therefore keeping children safe in school and supported as best we can when out of school is something we will prioritise always. By working together and looking after each other, we will help encourage the change we hope to see in our world with the Marden High community at the heart of it.

On Monday evening the Year 10 rugby team played their final game of the season against a strong, visiting Queen Elizabeth High School team. The Marden team started brightly scoring the opening two tries, converting one to take a 12-0 lead. The Hexham team grew into the game and by half time had gained a narrow lead. The second half was a free scoring affair, with both teams seeming to beat the defence time and time again, Marden managing to add three more scores to the visitors five. Final score 36-54. A fantastic effort from all players, in a game played in fantastic spirit.

The Year 7 football team have had a very exciting end to their season, playing a semi final and final in quick succession. The semi final was played last Wednesday afternoon, at home to a strong George Stephenson

team. The Marden team started the game with the bit between their teeth, scoring twice in the opening 10 minutes to take command of the tie. The visitors were not going to let Marden have it all their own way and rallied from the early setback to put real pressure on the hosts. Early in the second half, they got the goal they were searching for and it looked like the game was going to go down to the wire. The visitors kept searching for their equaliser but it was the home team that scored next to take back their two goal advantage. With time running out, the home team struck again, to finish the tie as a contest and held out for a hard earned 4-1 win.

This took them into the Final of the North Tyneside Schools cup on Tuesday of this week, where they met a very determined and well-drilled Longbenton team. The opening exchanges were a very tight and nervous period of the game, with both teams getting to grips with each other and sizing up the contest ahead. Both teams had early chances to take the lead, but it was a rare defensive mix up by Marden that allowed Longbenton an opportunity at goal, which they gratefully took to take the lead 1-0. Despite further chances, the Marden team couldn't convert and went into the half time break a goal down. After a pep talk, and a shuffle of the team, the Marden team came out all guns blazing in search of their equaliser, but the Longbenton team stood resolute and hit Marden on a counter-attack, finding their striker with some space to work and he calmly scored to extend the lead to 2-0. Marden kept up their efforts and were rewarded with a goal almost immediately after the kick off. A precise through ball found the Marden striker in on the keeper, coolly sliding home the ball to get one back. Continued pressure had Longbenton pegged back in their half and Marden found an equaliser when a cross drifted close to the goal and somehow found the top corner. 2-2. With 10 minutes on the clock, it was anyone's game, and both teams kept up the relentless pace in search of the winner. With the likelihood of a dreaded penalty shootout looming on the horizon, Marden launched one last attack and fed the ball into the box. The ball ricocheted between defenders and found the feet of the Marden captain, who needed no second invitation to lash the ball into the net and take his side into a 3-2 lead with one minute left on the clock. A nervous wait for the final whistle finally came and with it, the victory the boys so thoroughly deserved. A marvellous achievement for this team, and a great way to cap a debut season for all of the players.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher