



Marden High School

Friday 2nd May 2025

Dear All

Those students who have ever spoken to me about football know that despite coming from that great city on the west coast, I am not a Liverpool fan. In my assembly this week however, I admitted my admiration for what Liverpool FC have done this season in winning the premier league in such convincing fashion. I also suggested a significant link between Liverpool FC and Marden High School. Both institutions have, over the years, developed a culture of spending time and energy on getting the basics right. Investment in young people, and working hard to remove barriers to young peoples' achievements, has meant that both Liverpool and Marden have nurtured considerable talent. This focus on doing the basics right, consistently over time, and working constantly on what they need to improve is why Marden High School is a lot like Liverpool Football Club.

As I highlighted in the assembly, Marden High School is a consistently successful school, and its students achieve great outcomes. Parents want their children to come here - we are oversubscribed in every year group - and professionals want to work here. Reports that are written about us - whether in the Shields Gazette, The Parliamentary Review, or from our own governors - invariably celebrate our brilliant value added outcomes, the excellent attendance and behaviour of our students, and the exciting and engaging opportunities we provide for our children. Visitors to the school always comment on the engagement and enjoyment they see around the school, and the courtesy they experience from students. This does not happen by accident. Staff, students, parents, and governors have worked hard over many years to set these high standards and expectations, and it is down to us all to continue to work hard and build on this legacy so that standards and expectations can be maintained and enhanced still further. There are certain ways that we do things here at Marden, and this results in our culture:

- Show respect
- Take responsibility
- Focus on the learning

The assembly finished with the message that the start of this term is the ideal moment for us all to think about this culture and to remind ourselves of the importance of doing these things all the time, day in and day out. After all, *"Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort,*

and intelligent execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives – choice, not chance, determines your destiny. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.”

Hope, Agency and Leadership underpin everything that we do at Marden High School. This week student leadership has been very evident with a group of Year 9 students taking part in the National Youth Strategy Consultation with the Participation Team at North Tyneside. On Tuesday morning, alongside the newly appointed Young Mayor, the group spent time identifying areas for development in our area, and what they want the Council and the Government to do to make improvements. Then on Wednesday, we visited Whitley Bay High School to see our former Marden High students graduate from the mentoring work they have completed as part of the Student Development Programme. This programme will begin again in September with next year's Year 12 cohort returning to work alongside current Marden High students.

Now in its thirteenth year, and as popular as ever, *Marden She Wrote 2025: Crunch Time* was launched to Year 8 students this week with the mystery of the missing crisps. Equipped with their own detective's notebook, students will conduct careful investigation, using deduction and inference, to solve this masterful Marden 'whodunnit'. We look forward to a range of critical and creative theories, supported by evidence and reasoning in a variety of written and spoken formats, before the culprit is finally revealed in a thrilling conclusion later this term. The opening film is available now through the [English subject cloud](#). You may wish to propose a theory of your own!

On Tuesday evening, the Year 9 boys football team played their long awaited County Cup semi final game away to St Thomas More. Throughout the first half both teams worked tirelessly to break down their opponents, but despite their endeavours, both teams drew a blank at the half time whistle. The play in the second half opened up a little, Marden seeing their best chance rattle the crossbar from a long range effort. With the game looking like it was heading to a penalty shootout, the hosts broke the deadlock with a shot from outside the box which curled round the Marden keeper. With time running out, Marden threw everything they had at St Thomas More, but the hosts hung on to claim a place in the final. A tremendous effort from the Marden team, who can hold their heads high after what has proved to be a very successful season.

The Year 7 and 8 girls rugby team played in the Girls Games competition on Wednesday afternoon, playing games against Kings Priory, Norham High and Valley Gardens Middle school. The tournament, hosted by Marden, saw girls playing competitive rugby, some for the very first time. The Marden team won two of their games, beating Kings Priory and Norham, but lost a close game with Valley Gardens. Everyone played in a wonderful spirit, and the smiles on the players' faces showed they all enjoyed the experience.

Finally, the Year 7 and 8 Girls tennis team played their first game of the season in a home fixture against St Mary's CS on Thursday afternoon. For all of the Marden players, it was their first game of competitive tennis, but everyone found their feet very quickly, with some great tennis played by both teams. The visitors ended the game on top, winning 8-4, but the Marden girls showed superb sportsmanship and determination throughout the match and are looking forward to their next game against Kings Priory.

Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Snape', written in a cursive style.

Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher