



Marden High School

Friday 9th May 2025

Dear All

Whilst chatting to students at lunchtimes and making my routine visits to classrooms this week, it was one of my favourite quotes which came to mind as I spoke to students about the work they were completing with their teachers. The quote is from a very interesting woman, Pearl Buck, an American writer and novelist, and Pulitzer and Nobel prize winner, who famously said: "to know how to do something well is to enjoy it." It is worth reflecting on this, and thinking about how, when we give our students time to engage with an activity and opportunity to practise what it is they are doing, they end up knowing how to do that thing well. In this way they learn to enjoy their creative writing, their trigonometry, their drop shots or whatever it is they are busy with in school. Of course, the same goes for activities our children do at home, so making time and building routines for homework and revision mean that those things too can become enjoyable.

Last Wednesday, all of Year 10 took part in the 'Represent Roadshow' led by M10 CEO, Stephen Riley. Special guests from the world of work came in to share their skills with students who took part in a range of workshops focusing on how they could represent themselves. The workshops included a session where students stepped into the shoes of an interviewee to experience what it's like to go through the hiring process; a focus on body language and how to use posture, gestures, and facial expressions to project confidence, credibility, and professionalism; how to speak positively about themselves; interview questions skills; how to present themselves using video communication and a team building exercise. The day was highly evaluated by the students who enjoyed learning new skills across the day. The staff who delivered the sessions were impressed not just by the exemplary behaviour of our students but also their enthusiasm and engagement throughout.

The School Cabinet is an opportunity for students to develop leadership skills and the sense of agency that we encourage at Marden. We have students from all year groups and this year they have been easily identified by their pin badges. School Cabinet members are key to providing information for students in school by updating the notice boards, the Cabinet page on the Student Bulletin, as well as displaying posters promoting events in school and recently support for the Young Mayor candidates. This year they have chosen a number of charities to receive donations from fundraising events including Guide Dogs for

the Blind, Macmillan Cancer and the M10 Mission in Mexico, a total of £1700 has been raised so far. Members of the Cabinet are keen to look after our environment too. Conscious of the need to reduce and recycle waste, this term they will be volunteering to litter pick during their lunch breaks, and encouraging others to do the same.

We are always so proud of our students around school and in the local community as they wear their uniforms with pride. The Marden uniform represents the community we are part of and the pride there is in being part of it. One way we are able to support families is by providing uniforms from school when needed. This supply is supported through a number of routes, including the 'previously loved' scheme where families donate uniforms no longer needed to the school, and therefore thank anyone who might be in a position to donate spare uniform that no longer fits to our reception.

An African proverb I often refer to is that 'it takes a whole village to raise a child'. This sense of agency we seek to encourage in our community is supported by the sharing of information and to this end you will see some new information in the 'e-safety' section on our school website which is designed to support parents and carers with conversations at home about online toxic masculinity. We hope this help sheet provides some context for families when discussing this topic.

On Wednesday the Year 9 and 10 girls rugby team played a game at home against Norham High School. This was the last chance for the girls to get a run out before the summer break and straight from the first whistle, the Marden team went on the attack, scoring five first half tries to the visitors' single score. There were lots of great skills on show from both teams in the second half as well, when Marden ran in another seven tries to take the contest beyond a comeback from the visitors. To their credit, Norham never gave up and scored another try late on in the game to make the final score 60-10. A great end to the season.

Thursday saw pupils from Year 7 to 10 take on John Spence in table tennis. This was the first event of this kind and we hope to host many similar events in the future. The Marden pupils performed very well, showing great sportsmanship throughout, and eventually won the competition 9-1.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher