



Marden High School

Friday 11th July 2025

Dear All

We are five days into our new academic year now in which we have welcomed our new students into Year 9 and Year 10. It has been really good to visit classrooms during the week and see the excellent engagement with learning from students eager to get started with new timetables and new courses. Our new students are settling in well, and speaking to them and their parents, the feedback is that they are enjoying themselves and that it has not been quite as daunting as they thought it might have been. Reports from staff are that students generally have been very impressive. We have also had the pleasure of two nights of our school production Mary Poppins. This was a quite simply amazing production, a brilliant showcasing of the talent and courage of our young people, and huge thanks go to all staff involved.

Some of our students have been working with Children's North East charity to promote awareness of poverty-proofing within schools and have had their very own children's book published. The story is about a young monster called Blue and details the many scenarios that students living in poverty may face on a daily basis. The young authors visited two local primary schools on Monday to read their story to some Year 1 and Year 2 pupils who really enjoyed the book and it sparked some deep discussions about poverty and how they could help their peers who may be struggling. Our young writers were a credit to Marden and the staff at both schools were extremely grateful for their time, creativity and enthusiasm. Copies of the book are available to purchase from the Children's North East website.

Last month we invited parents and carers to take part in our most recent Parent Survey. We had a really good response which means that the feedback we have received from it represents a significant and meaningful reflection of what our parents and carers experiences are. The results were overwhelmingly positive, though, as ever, I want to share a couple of areas where we will be focusing some additional attention in the future. One hundred per cent of respondents felt that their child is "safe at this school", reflecting our excellent pastoral and safeguarding arrangements, and ninety eight per cent said that their child is "happy at this school". There was nobody that did not think that "school makes sure its pupils are well behaved", or that " school has high expectations of my child", or that "my child does well at this school". Other feedback around extra-curricular activities, range of subjects, recommending the school to another

parent, were equally strong. The two statements that had less agreement were around firstly the reporting and parents evening system, and secondly the signposting of information on our school website. Whilst still strong agreement at 82% and 77% respectively, these are areas that we will return to in the autumn term to explore what enhancements we could make. Thanks to all parents and carers who took the time to contribute to this survey.

Refugee Week last month was a huge success and we are still receiving generous donations for the food and clothing bank at The Walking With in Wallsend. The Walking With supports refugees and asylum seekers in North Tyneside, many of whom arrive with nothing. The Schools of Sanctuary Team have been reflecting on the successes of the year, including their student leadership of Personal Development lessons with Year 7 and production of a video for assembly encouraging acts of kindness around the school. The group continues to be committed to creating a culture of kindness and we look forward to welcoming all the new students who have joined us and who will do so in September.

Last Friday was the annual Marden High sports day, with all pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 out on the school fields, competing in various athletics events for their school house team. Last year's competition was won by Bamburgh house, and this year the other houses were keen to wrestle the title away from them. On an overcast and windy day, the pupils gathered in their house teams to partake in the events and to show support to other competitors in their house teams. Each year group and house had their own team, and would compete to win the title for their year group, as well as gain points towards the overall House cup. The pupils performed brilliantly throughout the day, with over 300 competitors overall vying to win their event. School records were broken and new benchmarks set for future pupils to aspire to beat, with fantastic individual performances, as well as team performances in events like the relay. At the presentation of medals it was clear that the Year 7 competition was fiercely contested, with only three points separating the first, second and third place houses, but in the end, Dunstanburgh House were the victors and lifted the Year 7 trophy. It was a similar story in Year 8, with Alnwick beating Warkworth by a single point to be crowned champions, and in Year 9 where two points separated the winners Dunstanburgh from second placed Alnwick. The overall House Cup was won by Alnwick House who were crowned overall champions. The Alnwick captains from all Year groups were presented with the House cup to rapturous applause, to round off a fantastic day of sport.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher