



Friday, 9 February 2018

Dear All,

As one of our focal points this term continues to be drive our standards of literacy ever higher, it has been good to see so many students getting actively involved in the local campaigning to prevent cuts to our library services. Their messages are being displayed in the local community and hopefully will send out a clear message about how important books and reading are. We have also had further success in creative writing as Joelle's short story was not only published in the National Young Writers Anthology, but was voted the best piece of writing in the country! Quite an accolade and testament to the high standards of writing at Marden. With Valentine's Day approaching we have had another poetry competition, with some excellent entries, the winner of which can be read on our school website.

At Marden we are fortunate to have great staff. In our school vision it states that "Our teachers are highly qualified specialists who are committed to their continuing professional development. They put the students first and fully subscribe to the values and ethos of our school." Earlier this week, and throughout the year, each teacher in the school has been looking at an aspect of their own teaching, and using action research to improve it further, and so provide enhanced outcomes for their students. This week we have also provided training for teachers from other North Tyneside schools as part of an Aspiring Senior Leaders program, where we have been able to pass on some of our expertise. This sort of collaboration is always good for our school community as it means there is a continual focus on what works best for our children's learning.

The Girls' Network is a mentoring programme set up for some of our year 9 and year 10 students to tap into the experience and expertise of local professional women who will provide support and advice to our youngsters as they work towards exam preparation and decisions about the next phase of their education. This week saw an exciting stage in the process as the girls were matched up with their mentors.

Also this week our year 9 students took part in an exciting Career Speed Dating event. This involved over 20 different businesses and organisations giving our young people information and ideas on a variety of training and employment pathways. There was a great atmosphere and the students initial feedback was that they learnt a lot from the experience.

It has been a very successful week for our sports teams. Our U12 and U14 netball teams have both been involved in league matches and were unbeaten in all their games, and our U12 girls football team came 4th overall in the North Tyneside 5 a-side competition, an excellent result for their first competition.

I hope that all our students and staff have a well deserved break over the half term holidays. They have certainly worked hard this half term, and it has been a pleasure to see the progress our students continue to make, especially year 11 as they are supported by their teachers in preparation for the GCSE exams. I hope also that our year 10 and year 11 students will be taking advantage of the extra time they have to put in place some well timed revision - year 10 exams start on 26th February.

Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'M. Snape'.

Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher