



Friday, 23 March 2018

Dear All,

Today, Friday 23rd March, we have been raising funds for Sports Relief with both a sponsored non-uniform day and also sporting events happening at lunchtime in the sports hall. We have had a series of activities including the 'Golf Bucket Challenge', the 'Penny Floater Challenge' and the 'Basketball Free Throw Challenge'. The support from students was excellent and the atmosphere during the lunchtime activities was collaborative and vibrant. We were delighted to raise over £700, showing Marden's collective responsibility towards fundraising and support for charities, both local and national.

Year 9 students completed the 'Explore' stage of their TICE Creative Writing workshops this week. Students were treated to a tour of Newcastle's Literary and Philosophical Society where they encountered thousands of books, including one that was published in 1504. They also visited Northern Stage to work with playwright Susan Mulholland and writer and lecturer Steve Chambers. Feeling inspired by their experiences, they are raring to go with their 'Create' stage and interviews, which will take place after Easter. The students' attitudes and participation throughout the day couldn't be faulted and they acted as brilliant ambassadors for the school throughout the visit.

We have had some great sporting results this week. On Monday evening our U13 netball team played in the North Tyneside Championships at John Spence. An excellent performance throughout the competition ensured they became Runners Up overall. Congratulations to all of the girls involved. There have also been some excellent individual achievements with students being selected to represent the county in badminton at U18 level at the Inter County Tournament in Nottingham in April, and qualifying for the National Athletics Final as the top performing athlete in the U15 category. Congratulations to both students.

Year 11 students have been busy in their lessons this week, working on their revision strategies and practising exam questions. Many students have already bought revision folders and guides from the LRC, and have planned out revision timetables to make the most of their time over the next 3 weeks or so. The Easter holidays will certainly be a good opportunity to get some extended revision done and make a real difference to exam preparation, and it is good to see that the majority of students have already signed

up to classes on our Easter Revision programme. You can see this in the 'Exams' section of our website. Year 11 will be sitting another round of mock exams in Science from Monday - Thursday next week.

Our year 11 students have in the past enjoyed non-uniform during the exam season. This is not an automatic right and is something which needs to be earned, and so I will be speaking to students following the Easter holidays to explain how their continued hard work, good behaviour and commitment to exam preparation will influence this decision.

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is the biggest change in international data protection law for 20 years. When it comes into effect on May 25th, 2018, it is hoped that it will give European citizens more control over how their personal data is used. At Marden High School, it is extremely important to us that we safeguard the data we use in school, and we currently have good data protection principles in place. We have been working closely with North Tyneside Council to make sure that we are compliant with changes in the new GDPR in good time.

Parents and carers will shortly be receiving our updated Annual Educational Visits form to be filled in. This form requests medical and contact information for our students, and will be used for all low risk educational visits, day trips and off-site sporting activities. The idea is that once we have this information, parents will not have to fill in a new medical form each time there is a visit. It is worth reminding everyone that it is the responsibility of the parent or carer to keep the school updated on any medicine requirements their child may have. It is also important to note that students should not offer each other medicine such as, for example, a ventolin inhaler. If there is a medical need a member of staff must be informed straight away.

On Monday, 26th March, we will be holding our Year 10 Science Information Parents Evening at 6pm in the Auditorium . Students are welcome to accompany parents/carers. The meeting will last 30 minutes and include a presentation outlining the new GCSE Science courses, the importance of independent revision and we will be showcasing SAMlearning, which is an excellent revision resource for use at home.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher