



Friday 11th May 2018

Dear All,

You may remember I mentioned recently in my newsletter the Prayer Space that we set up in school to encourage students to engage in quiet reflection and mindfulness. In the Prayer Space was information on an orphanage in South Africa called Kwa Hilda, where young children who have lost their parents and who have had a very difficult start in life, are fed and looked after. Conditions in the orphanage are rudimentary and it is a constant battle to ensure there is money to feed, clothe and look after the children who go there, as it is funded entirely on voluntary contributions. On hearing about the orphanage, some of our students came to me to suggest that we do some charity fundraising for them. This idea has now blossomed into a week of events which will take place later this term organised by the students and supported by their teachers. This work will provide additional opportunities for our young people to explore new areas of knowledge beyond the classroom, connecting them to others living far afield and will help nurture a sense of tolerance and community cohesion. The idea of supporting others less fortunate than ourselves, in another very different part of the world, has really captured the imaginations of our students, and there will be more details on the events on our website later this term.

Our Year 9 students participated in a Super Learning Day this week, where they had to come up with a business proposal, working out finances and marketing strategies alongside professionals from the water retail company Wave. This was not always a straightforward task for the students, with various challenges during the day, and because of this there were many skills developed including, at various times resilience, resourcefulness, teamwork, organisation, and time management. This was a first for Marden, and the feedback from our visitors from Wave was very positive, and we will be continuing to work with them on other projects in the future.

As mentioned, our senior athletes competed in the North Tyneside Area Trials for athletics at the end of last week. They all should be congratulated on their personal achievements. Many of the athletes have now qualified to go forward to represent North Tyneside.

Students in Year 7 and Year 8 are now attending sessions after school to prepare for the Tynemouth Schools Trials to be held in the week before half term. This will be the first major competition for the Year 7 athletes at this level and we wish them all the best.

Well done to the U13 tennis team who won their first match of the season against Churchill. There was some excellent play which bodes well for the rest of the term.

Some of our Year 9 and Year 10 students attended the Careers Fair held at the Parks Sports Centre during the week. They were able to gather a good deal of information from

post-16 education providers, as well as information on apprenticeships and work based placements. This trip was part of our expanding World of Work programme here at Marden, which is aimed at encouraging our students to be aware of and consider the wide variety of options that are open to them, so that they can make the right, informed decision when the time comes. All participants enjoyed the trip, and handling the corn snakes and bearded dragon lizards from Kirkley Hall was particularly popular!

Finally I would like to wish all our Year 11 students good luck as they start the bulk of their exams next week. At the same time, I should remind them of the words of Arnold Palmer (one of the world's greatest golfers), "The more I practice, the luckier I get." So keep working hard and practising!

Thank you for your continued support.

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

Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher