



Marden High School

Friday 16th November 2018

Dear All,

This half term we have been conducting one of our regular internal reviews of the quality of teaching which involves observations of lessons. Many lessons from different subject areas have been seen so far and observations indicate much very effective, and in some cases, exemplary practice in classrooms. Some of the strengths of many lessons have been teaching delivered in the context of the real world, and resources and activities being used to stimulate creative thinking and curiosity. It has also been good to see students' independence being developed over time resulting in them being more able to manage their own time and learning, and it is always great to see the students working with a sense of pride and accomplishment and making good progress.

To reflect the development of the KS3 curriculum, Years 7, 8 and 9 will all receive a new look report by the end of the term. Each subject will be broken down into key skills and parents will be able to see the level at which their child is achieving: 'working towards', 'developing', 'meeting', 'mastering' or 'exceeding' in that specific skill. Children will still receive a number score for attitude to learning, behaviour for learning and independent learning. This term Year 9 will also receive a subject comment in order to assist with the guided choices process.

This term we are working towards being accredited with the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools Mental Health Award. The Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health exists to strengthen the mental health of the next generation by supporting schools to make a positive change. By embracing the award we hope to demonstrate a deep commitment to working towards excellent practice by making mental health and well being a part of our core ethos.

There have been some notable successes in sport this last week. The U16 netball team played in two league matches last week, with a convincing success over Churchill 17-3, unfortunately conceding to Whitley Bay High. Both the U14 and U16 teams went to RGS in Newcastle on Saturday to play in a friendly triangular event. Well done to all players!

Our U16 'A' boys badminton team successfully won their games in the league competition and will now go forward to represent North Tyneside. Well played!

A joint year 7 and 8 girls football team played Valley Gardens during the week. It was a tough game in dreadful conditions, and although they lost their match they have to be congratulated for showing excellent grit and determination.

We have also had more than 50 students from different year groups taking part in regional cross-country qualifiers this week with some superb performances. Well done to everyone who took part on a hilly, foggy course.

On Thursday this week we had over sixty students, from years 9 to 11, and seven staff attend the Theatre Royal for the acclaimed National Theatre production of *Macbeth*. It was an excellent opportunity for the students to engage with the chosen text for their GCSE study of Shakespeare and also to share the magic of live theatre.

As you may be aware our annual school production in March is *The Addams Family*, and we have had a superb response from students wanting to be a part of what is fast becoming an outstanding Marden tradition. Rehearsals for the production have been going well, and have involved two whole casts, such is the interest in it. There will be more details on dates and tickets on our website later this year.

This half term sees the first of our SEN review meetings for some children and parents will receive individualised invitations. The meetings will focus on reviewing the progress that has been made and planning support for the future. They will also be attended by Helen Bishop from Connexions, and will be a valuable opportunity to see how she can support the children in making decisions about their future studies and career.

It is always useful for me to be able to talk to parents at the various parents evenings, functions and events that we have here at Marden, as it enables me to hear various points of view which is important when we are working as a team. There are other opportunities for parents to communicate with me too, of course, and I always appreciate emails and phone calls that may come in. For the past 2 years I have also held Parents' Forum meetings each term, which is a chance for parents to come in to chat with me in a relatively informal setting about their views of and ideas for the school. The next Parents Forum will be on 26th November at 4.30pm, and anyone who wants to come along should contact Elaine Scott at school.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher