



## Marden High School

Friday 23rd November 2018

Dear All,

Humans are made to live and work with others; we are social beings evolved to exist within communities. "Every successful individual knows that his or her achievement depends on a community of persons working together." The quality and integrity of those communities depends on the degree of engagement and happiness individuals can draw from community interactions which is why providing opportunities where students and staff can connect and build sound working relationships is an important priority for Marden.

Many of our students are involved in a whole variety of extra-curricular activities and as the weather becomes colder and wetter, there are lots of opportunities for students to socialise in a warm and comfortable environment during their break, lunchtime and even after school. These range from structured sports activities in the sports hall, through to coding in computer science, or simply spending time socialising together in a classroom with a form tutor. I would encourage all students to get involved in extra-curricular activities, and perhaps try something new from the extensive list of opportunities which can be found on our website.

Earlier this half term, North Tyneside Council conducted our Health and Safety review and after a two day visit in October, Inspectors looked at all aspects of premises management as well as arrangements for first aid, educational visits, and emergency procedures. They concluded the inspection with an in depth audit of higher risk curriculum areas. Following this rigorous process we were delighted to be awarded the highest Gold Standard that confirms a high level of compliance at Marden High School.

This week we welcomed Year 6 students from Cullercoats Primary School for their first taster lesson at Marden High School. The students were treated to a brilliant lesson by our outstanding Year 9 Learning Ambassadors and enjoyed sampling the school cafe menu. We are looking forward to seeing them again later in the year for further induction activities.

We were delighted to have raised money from three innovative challenges for Children In Need last week. The various challenges included a competition to create an inspirational quote and we had five winning quotes, all of which are remarkable reflections of the character of our students:

*"Be resilient - I've never known success come from giving up"*

*"You are responsible for your words, reflect on them, don't neglect them"*

*"Resilience is the key to success"*

*"No matter how hard it is, battle through. You will make it"*

*"Be the reason that someone smiles today"*

Useful reminders to us all at various times in life.

This week we held our Awards Evening for the students who left us in the summer. It was lovely to see the young people again and to hear about what they are now doing. Particularly poignant this year was the presenting of the award in memory of Olly Bilcliffe, a member of this year group, who was sadly taken from us when he was in year 9, and who has left an enduring legacy for the whole school community. Thanks to Vince, his father, and Olly's brother and sister for presenting the award.

As I hope you are aware standards of behaviour at Marden are very high, and there is often much positive feedback from visitors, guest speakers and colleagues from other schools who visit us. Sometimes a young person may have difficulties and in spite of support from their own school, it may be appropriate for them to have a trial period at another school with the aim of their behaviour improving. This arrangement is called a managed move. It has been notable how successful a number of these managed moves have been when young people have come to Marden for their trial period, so that they have settled and focused on their school work and on forming positive relationships with their peers. This is a reflection of the skills, expertise and enthusiasm of staff at Marden who are able to help these young people meet high expectations.

Our dancers, working with Dance City, are currently rehearsing for the Dance Festival which will go ahead in the new year. Two classes are successfully running and the students are about to enrol for the next block of ten weeks.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher