



## Marden High School

Friday 30th November 2018

Dear All,

Our year 11 students have started their mock exams this week, and they have approached them with an excellent attitude, showing maturity and responsibility. The mock exam time is always an important time for year 11 and a key point in their education. It is from this point that the students who identify their areas of weakness, and who listen to and act on the feedback given to them by their teachers, will make the best progress towards their exams in the summer. We talk to the students regularly about managing their time so that they can plan their revision, and can include periods of rest and recreation to keep themselves fit and healthy and with an appetite for work. There is no need for students to get stressed about the exams as long as they are chipping away at their revision, and they should be reminded that if they are worried about them in any way, there is always someone at school to talk to who can offer a solution.

Marden students performed with Monkhouse and Cullercoats primary schools last night as one uplifting choir at the annual Christingle concert. The audience was treated to some brilliant renditions of Christmas favourites before the Christingle procession by candlelight in St George's church. We all agreed it was an excellent way to introduce the forthcoming festive season.

This term, a small group of Year 7 students have been working on a cross-curricular project between the Technology and Media Studies departments; their task was to create a digital media marketing campaign promoting careers in STEM. This has also given Year 7 the opportunity to take part in some practical Media Studies lessons and learn about the world of media marketing. In an 'Apprentice'-style task over twelve lessons, they went head-to-head as rival teams and designed team logos, posters and campaign videos, as well as learning about careers in STEM and the importance of brand identity. Their final presentations were delivered to an audience of very impressed staff.

It was good to get feedback at the Parents Forum meeting on changes we have made to the nature of homework that is set. There is a feeling that homework is now more meaningful and more manageable for students. We do all need to continue encouraging our children to complete homework to high standard, so that they can enjoy the benefits that homework brings, namely consolidating learning from the classroom and developing essential research and application of knowledge skills.

This week we have enjoyed the first of our three BBC News Days throughout the academic year. It has now been rebranded as *BBC Young Reporter*, and we have had a number of intrepid Year 8 students off timetable involved in research, filming and interviewing on a

variety of topics ranging from beached whales to advent calendars to uniform. The news report films will be published on the website later this year, and should certainly make for interesting viewing.

Results have now come in for the North Tyneside cross country championships and our teams performed superbly well at the event with many of our runners qualifying to go to the county competition at Temple Park in January. The Minor Girls' and Boys' Teams each came 2nd in their events, with the Junior Boys' Team a creditable 4th, and the Junior Girls' Team achieving 6th place. Our Inter Boys' Team came 1st overall, and seventeen students will now go forward to represent the area. This is a fantastic set of results for our cross-country runners, with no fewer than 5 top 3 places.

Well done to our Year 7 football team who took part in the Rotary Cup competition last week. They were runners up to Valley Gardens and played exceptionally well throughout the competition.

Our Year 8 boys performed well in an indoor athletics event at Marden Bridge coming 4th overall.

We have our next PTA meeting on Monday starting at 6.15pm in the LRC. As I have mentioned before, we have grown in numbers, and if there is anybody who has not yet met us, but would like to, please do come along on Monday when we will be discussing various fund-raising and community events for the future.

As you are aware, here at Marden we have a very supportive pastoral team of support and teaching staff, so when a student is not feeling well in school, often they can be looked after in school and return to lessons. Occasionally, however, a child will need to return home. We have a duty of care to all our students and so it is important that when they are leaving school, they are collected by adults known to us at school. If parents or carers are planning to have their child collected by someone other than themselves, it is essential that they let us know this so that we can verify their identity.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher