



Marden High School

Friday 9th November 2018

Dear All,

It has been good to welcome students and staff back to school this week, with classes picking up where they left off, providing a calm and purposeful atmosphere for everyone to work in and enjoy. One class of year 8 students, taught by Mrs Cathcart, has attracted considerable interest from teachers in other North Tyneside schools, as they were involved in a professional development event earlier this week. Teachers responsible for developing Teaching and Learning were invited into Marden to watch the English lesson in a theatre style event, and were then involved in discussion about developing literacy to support exam success. Students and staff enjoyed the event, and it was another opportunity to share the excellent work that goes on at Marden with colleagues in the region.

We have been this week remembering the brave men and women who have died in wars around the world in a variety of subjects around the school. Some of these can be seen on our website. Ways of commemorating the sacrifices made by so many brave people have changed over the years and it is important for future generations to find their own relevant ways to remember both the people who have died, as well as remembering the consequences of war. It was with this in mind that a group of year 11 students went onto Longsands on Thursday along with students from Monkhouse Primary and Cullercoats Primary, to take part in a special ceremony. They wrote the names of local soldiers in the sand and then listened to a reading by Fr. Adrian Hughes of St. George's Church, all in the shadow of the remembrance board that they designed at the beginning of the project, and just round the corner from many of the houses that they adorned with blue plaques in collaboration with the Northumbria WW1 Commemoration Project back in 2015. The waves then washed over the names as Fr. Adrian said a prayer and there was a moment of reflection as 'The Last Post' was played by former Marden student Calum Hartwell. We finished the week with student buglers playing out a 2 minute silence on Friday.

The Guided Choices process has started this week with pupils attending the first of a series of assemblies informing them of the process. In the coming weeks, each options subject leader will deliver an assembly and pupils will experience taster lessons. This will be followed by a Guided Choices evening on January 24th where parents and carers, as well as pupils, can visit curriculum areas to find out more.

As part of our Careers Information and Guidance, a group of Y10 girls were shown around the Armed Response Area Command for Northumbria Police last half term. There were several talks informing the girls about the important skills and qualities a police officer needs, possible career paths and the type of training the police have to do. The girls were also shown around the training facilities and had the opportunity to speak to two armed response

police constables. They returned to school buzzing with excitement and brimming with insightful ideas.

Before the half term holidays we had a well attended Year 11 parents information evening for the options subjects. The slide shows and resources from this evening are now on the school website, and will provide both students and parents with valuable information on the requirements for different exams as well as useful hints and tips on a variety of revision techniques. They can be found under the learning tab on the Marden website along with the timetable of revision classes currently running. Speaking to students this week, it has been good to hear that many of them have made a good start to their own independent revision during the half term holidays, such an essential ingredient in their success.

On Friday 16th November, our students will be partaking in four activities to support the fundraising for Children In Need. We will be hosting our second Mario Kart Tournament in the Auditorium, following the success of the first, during lunchtime. In addition, we have three challenges during the week, during form time. Our students will be tasked with guessing the number of sweets in a jar, naming a teddy bear and creatively constructing a quote which includes at least one of the 5 Rs, to inspire other students.

Over the course of next week, our Heads of Year are meeting with Form Reps. This is the first of the half termly meetings where our Student Council will continue the work of developing our student voice. The main agenda item will be the upcoming Take Over Week where our Form Reps will be leading Reflection Time and Personal Development and our Senior Prefects will be leading assemblies.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher