



## Marden High School

Friday 14th December 2018

Dear All,

Assemblies resumed this week following the Year 11 mock exams and we considered the idea of the potential we all have to do fantastic things, but which we do not always realise we have. It is by getting involved in new activities and learning new things that we can sometimes start to see our true potential. Coupled with the idea of potential is the habit of persistence - just because an athlete has the potential to run 100 metres in under 10 seconds does not mean they will be able to do it without practising and training time and time again. To remind us of this our thought for the week this week has been from the best selling American author James Whitcomb Riley who said that "The most essential factor is persistence - the determination never to allow your energy or enthusiasm to be dampened by the discouragement that must inevitably come." Students have been reminded to reflect on the great things they have done this term and to think about what opportunities they may want to take in the New Year.

Last Thursday was the final mentoring meeting of Marden's Girls' Network but, far from being the end of the programme, this is the beginning of a lifelong membership to the National Girls' Network. The unique premise of the programme is that any member has access to the network for career-related information, support and advice whenever they might need it in the future. All of the girls participating will attend a celebration event in January where they will be formally welcomed into the network as Girls' Network Ambassadors. It is a hope that in the future, when they are older, these young women will act as mentors to younger girls in need of the same support and encouragement.

We are currently enjoying our Marden Lumiere, one of the splendid outcomes of the Year 8 Super Learning Day this week. The programme for the day involved reflecting on the use made of light in the local churches and we are grateful to both Cullercoats Methodist Church and St George's Church in Cullercoats for hosting groups of students as they researched stained glass windows. Other groups used knowledge of shadow and lighting to create superb light boxes and many took part in a Science and Dance based activity in which they created a motion piece to illustrate the energy transferred by coloured light, as well as a Media project, designing Christmas themed adverts which used the colour theme of the day. In the afternoon, all students created and made Christmas themed stained glass effect panels to help decorate the school.

We have had a number of visits from our primary school pupils this week, and they have been educated and entertained, I dare say in equal measure, by our wonderful staff and students. On Friday Year 5 children were treated to the Year 10 drama production, which students have devised as a run through for their real GCSE performance. A modern and

regional take on a whole combination of fairy tale stories, this was a class act and the children had great fun. Well done to all involved.

We also welcomed Year 6 students from Monkhouse Primary School for their first taster lesson at Marden High School. The students compared market leader products with supermarket brands in a Food Technology lesson, before sampling our school cafe menu for lunch.

Thank you to Mrs Gibbings and well done to all the children for the Christmas Concert this week. The standard was excellent and it's great to see more and more students participating. Also thanks to our fantastic PTA who once again supported with refreshments and further fund raising. A lovely evening was had by all.

Parents of Year 7 students will receive their child's interim report this week, and Year 8 interim reports will be sent out next week. Please remember that you can find detailed information on the curriculum studied by each year group on the school website under the 'Learning' and then 'Curriculum Skills and Content' tabs. There is also information here on assessment and measuring students' progress over time.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher