



Marden High School

Friday 7th December 2018

Dear All,

I am always so impressed with the talents of our young people, and with how enthusiastically they get involved in such a range of sporting, musical, drama and creative activities, as you can often see on our website. I am sure those performing in the Christmas Concert on Thursday 6.00pm next week will be true to form, and we are looking forward to a wonderful occasion to get us in the mood for the festive season. Tickets will be on sale on Monday from the school office. We also have a large number of students involved in rehearsals for our school performance of The Addams' Family coming up next Spring. This promises to be an excellent evening's entertainment, and tickets will be available soon from the LRC and main reception.

I am also very proud of how our children conduct themselves both in and out of school living up to the high expectations we have of them and we often receive comments from members of the public on how well behaved our children are when on school visits. There are often comments on how responsible and kind our children are, and it is certainly true that we look for opportunities for them to develop a sense of social justice. We have a group of year 9 students who are part of the Marden School of Sanctuary who are working on a campaign on equality and the true meaning of feminism. This shows true student leadership as it is the young people themselves who are planning and coordinating this work which will become part of the Personal Development curriculum and assemblies in the near future. This will undoubtedly develop in them the key skills of raising awareness, influencing people's opinions and shaping their own future.

Final preparations have now been made for Year 10 work experience in the New Year, when all of this year group will be out of school for the week. Work experience is an important part of building useful skills that cannot be taught in the classroom as well as developing contacts that students otherwise would not be exposed to. Global engineering consultancy Mott MacDonald's learning and development manager says: "It is essential to differentiate yourself. A willingness to work rather than have a good time shows diligence. Young people these days need to have work-ready skills from their first day, such as deadline management, phone and email etiquette, and the ability to work well with a variety of ages in a team." Of course, students will be reminded before they go that you get out what you put in.

As we continue to develop as one of the best learning providers in the North East, we will be hosting the North Tyneside Leadership Development program for Aspiring Senior Leaders next week. This will involve middle leader delegates coming into school from other North Tyneside schools to work with Marden staff on all things leadership and how it best impacts

on student learning. As well as being key to Marden's part in developing leaders of the future, it is also a great professional development opportunity for staff delivering the program.

Well done to our U12 football team who came 3rd in the Rotary Cup competition held at Royal Quays. All the players involved performed with characteristic Marden determination, and continue to gain in experience and skill.

Next week our students have the exciting opportunity to achieve House Points by making their work excellent. Throughout the week, they will all be challenged to improve their work. Instead of asking 'am I finished?' they will be asking 'is it excellent yet?'. Once they have improved their work, following feedback from the teacher, they will have their 'Make It Excellent' card signed. Five signatures will mean they can cash in for House Points....but also enjoying knowing that their work is excellent.

Next week sees the important tradition of Year 7 students going to the panto for a Christmas treat, and Year 8 students spending what should be an illuminating Super Learning Day exploring the scientific, artistic, and spiritual links around light.

There are still two busy weeks before the end of term but it is worth flagging up now the arrangements for the last day, which will already be familiar to many. After lunch on Friday 21st December, year 7-10 will be going down to St George's Church to enjoy our school carol service, and students will be dismissed from the church following the service. This will be at approximately 2.15pm. This is a wonderful occasion and a great opportunity for us all to come together to celebrate the term we have had and to reflect on the time we will have with families and as a community in the coming weeks and months. Year 11 will be dismissed from school at 12.30pm, and are welcome to stay for lunch if required.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher