



Friday, 25 January 2019

Dear All

We have just had our Year 11 group photograph taken this morning, and it was a proud moment for all the staff involved, seeing the young people looking so smart. What added to this sense of pride was the fact that the photographer, addressing the year group after the photos had been taken, told them he travelled the length and breadth of the country taking photos in schools of Year 11 groups, and he wished he could bring other groups here to Marden to show them how well it could be done. What a great accolade to our wonderful young people, and again what great ambassadors our students continue to be.

Later this year we have our annual educational visit to High Borrans, an outdoor activity centre run by North Tyneside Council, located in the beautiful countryside of the Lake District. We are pleased that we can offer this opportunity to our Year 7 students at the end of a year of study at Marden High School. This visit to an area with many Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, supports engagement and aspiration in a range of subjects and there are a number of very enjoyable outdoor activities, such as kayaking, ghyll scrambling and caving available to students on the trip. Letters for the trip are available from Head of Year 7, Ms Laing.

Fast approaching in February is our Free To Be project involving Year 8 students, an innovative programme designed by the Anne Frank Trust to promote a culture of tolerance and empathy amongst young people. Year 8 Marden students will take part in a two hour interactive workshop, led by members of the Anne Frank Trust's education team. The programme uses peer education to encourage the development of pupils' critical thinking about their own views and those that they encounter in their everyday lives. The programme will also give students the opportunity to become 'Anne Frank ambassadors' and create and share their own films about different forms of prejudice and discrimination, providing a catalyst for on-going debate and leaving a legacy for the programme beyond its delivery in-school.

Over the coming weeks, we have four of our students vying for places within youth politics. We have two students running for Young Mayor and two campaigning to be members of Youth Parliament. To have four students all campaigning for these positions is an indication of the sense of responsibility our students have. We wish them all luck in the coming weeks for these exciting opportunities which lie ahead.

A reminder that lunchtime extra-curricular activities for all our students are advertised around school and on the website. We now have a film on Fridays in the Dance Studio, Science with

Bill Nye, SAM Learning Support and Sporting House Competitions in addition to other clubs already running.

Next Friday we see a group of Year 9 and Year 10 students head off to the YMCA Lakeside Centre in Cumbria for a weekend of outdoor activities. Mr Topping, Miss Griffiths and Mr Prytherch are leading the trip which includes building rafts, nightline, canoeing and other exciting team challenges, which culminate in a competition pitched against other schools nationally. We wish them luck and hope that they can follow in the success of last year who were runners up in the national competition.

We have welcomed Claire Graham from the ICT department of the Local Authority this week who has presented to each year group on the opportunities within coding and the safety measures all young people need to be aware of when working and playing online. These assemblies have been informative and interesting and will, I'm sure, have sparked thoughts of future careers in this field for some. These assemblies also highlighted how important it is for parents to be aware of the potential online perils for their children, and to have open dialogue with them to be sure they are taking appropriate safeguards.

TICE (This Is Creative Enterprise) has got off to a great start with many talented students involved in a workshop last Friday. Marden has opted to participate in the Music Industry strand of the programme this year and students spent the day learning about careers from industry professionals and writing their own songs. It was a great day and the quality of students' creations was very high. We are very much looking forward to the next stage which takes place after half term where students will be taken on a tour of music facilities in the North East before embarking on their next creative project.

Well done to both the U12 and U13 netball teams. Both teams successfully won their first matches against Marden Bridge.

I would like to highlight an important forthcoming charity event organised by the Cullercoats Primary School PTA. The charity evening taking place at Cullercoats Crescent Club on Saturday 16 March at 7.00pm is in memory of Olly Bilcliffe, and money raised will be shared between Clic Sargent, Ward 1B RVI Hospital, and the Teenage Cancer Trust.

The Year 11 Parents Evening Bookings are now available through our parent portal. The Parents Evening takes place on the 7th February 2019, from 4pm until 6:30pm.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher