



Marden High School

Friday, 8 February 2019

Dear All

Our year 9 students have had the opportunity to find out more about the world of work this week by taking part in a Careers Speed Dating event. 15 representatives from a wide range of industry sectors including the NHS, RAF, Newcastle Building Society, Wave, Department for Work and Pensions and Kwikfit came into school to speak with our students and answer their questions about job roles and responsibilities. The students were extremely engaged and asked some excellent questions. During their PD lesson, the students were able to carry out further research into careers they had found interesting and look at the qualifications and skills needed to enter specific job sectors. The feedback from both students and employers was very positive and we look forward to holding the event again next year.

We have had our BBC school reporters busy again this week generating news stories and opinion. In one of the reporters words:

“BBC School Reporter is when a select number of Year 8 students are given the opportunity to speak their voice and report on stories around the world. On the 8th of February we will be around the school asking your opinions on our stories, which could range from gaming to Brexit. It is an amazing opportunity offered by school and gives you a taste of how the media system works, the technicalities of camera position, and what questions to ask. On behalf of all the students I can surely say that we are enjoying our time as journalists!”

It was mentioned last year that we would be looking at the possibility of changing the uniform to trousers and skirts which would incorporate a small Marden badge. We wanted to ensure, however, that this would not result in an increase in the cost of uniform. Having consulted with a variety of suppliers we have concluded that these badged items of uniform would not be available at the same price as normal items, and therefore governors have agreed that badged trousers and skirts will not be compulsory items of uniform, but will remain as an option. There will, therefore, be no change to our school uniform which is published in the student planner and in the Marden High School Uniform Policy which can be found on the school website. Many jobs require staff to wear a uniform and even if there isn't a uniform there is often a dress code. We believe that uniform helps young people to get used to dressing to a prescribed standard and to know the difference between formal and informal dress. It is also the case that uniform and team kits help our students to demonstrate pride in their school. It is important therefore that students adhere to full uniform and maintain their high standards. We appreciate parents' support in this matter.

On Wednesday afternoon Friday Choir participated in the Durham Vocal Festival's Choir of the Year competition in Durham Cathedral. It was amazing for the students to perform in

such a beautiful venue and there was excellent praise from the judges who "loved the huge range in volume that we performed with". Other audience members commented on how powerful the performance was. Sadly we didn't win this year but we will be back next year with an even more powerful performance so watch this space!

The Year 7 netball team played in their first matches this week in the new league and delivered a very encouraging performance, losing only one match. The U16 team played well in their games on Thursday, winning against Churchill and securing a draw against John Spence, and the U15 team were narrowly defeated in their games. Well done to all for taking part.

One of our year 9 students performed exceptionally well at the Northern Inter Counties Championships at Temple Park, winning the U14 competition and now will go on to the National Championships, a superb performance.

In football, the U13 boys' team beat John Spence 2-0 earlier in the week, and the U12 girls' team managed to come 4th in an area 5 a side tournament held at the Royal Quays. Well done to all of the players involved.

We will be celebrating World Book Day later this term on Thursday 7 March 2019. Details will follow shortly outlining the range of activities planned for around school, and will include a fancy dress competition, so planning can start for your imaginative and creative book character costumes, as well as the book and literacy themed lunchtime quiz, so get revising.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher