



Marden High School

Friday, 15 March 2019

Dear All

On Thursday evening we hosted our first POW Night (Proud of our Work Night). This event was an opportunity to share our pride in the work of groups of students across the year groups. Students selected work they are proud of and presented it in an exhibition for parents and carers. This is the first event of its kind and following the positive conversations had and real sense of pride in the room, we look forward to future events of its kind for more of our students.

On Friday we supported Comic Relief with a non uniform day. Our Cabinet continued to show their student leadership as they collected donations and led the fundraising. The money will go to a worthwhile cause and we continue to be very proud of our students' efforts in supporting those who are less fortunate. At the end of term we will have two charity days where we will have a range of events to raise money for a number of charities

We are happy to have been accredited with Stage 1 of the 'Inspiring IAG' Award which is a nationally recognised Quality in Careers Standard award. The award provides a good practice framework for the delivery of CEAIG in schools. We are now embarking on the next stage of the award and look forward to gaining Stage 2 in the near future. Continuing on with work related learning, the year 10's will be taking part in mock interviews after Easter. Employers from a wide range of backgrounds will be coming into school to conduct mock interviews with the students and, most importantly, give them feedback and advice. This has been a very successful event in the past, helping to build confidence and preparing our students' for life after Marden High.

I have spoken to Year 9 students in assembly this week about their work experience. Whilst this is still some time away - usually in the spring term of year 10 - it is important that students and parents start to think about the areas that they might like to consider for their week long placement. This opportunity can be transformational in the way young people start to see their futures, and certainly it will give them an insight into what they may want to do in the future, and sometimes, equally important, into what they do not want to do. Of course, we will provide support for students and parents in this process as it approaches, but it pays to start researching which organisations and businesses may be worth approaching and to make initial enquiries with them. Work experience is most definitely one of those areas where "you get out what you put in", and so forward planning is key.

Boys in Y10 and Y11 met with their Boys' Network coaches on Wednesday afternoon. This was the 7th meeting in the programme and focused on communication. The boys and their coaches worked together (silently) to build marshmallow and spaghetti towers to raise their

awareness of communication methods. Afterwards they spent time talking about the activity and the importance of communication in the world of work, another important step in developing the “etiquette for success”.

Also this week we have had a group of Year 9 students visiting the Newcastle University Medical and Dentistry (M.A.D.) school to learn more about what it is like to study either medicine or dentistry at university. They experienced a variety of activities from lectures to practical sessions. They gave it their all with CPR, intubating Simon the SIMman, reassembling a pile of human bones and painting on specific facial muscles in the medical practicals. They also looked at animal dentition, carving a replacement tooth and using disclosure tablets in dentistry. Well done to all students involved!

After Easter we are beginning a body of work with Show Racism The Red Card. The organisation will be delivering a presentation to each year group which will be followed up by a workshop in form times. Alongside this, there will be a group of Ambassadors undertaking some work with the Show Racism The Red Card team over a series of sessions to help promote equality and diversity within our community. There will be more updates as we begin this work.

Our Spring concert will be held on Thursday next week which, featuring a variety of performers and music styles, promises to be another great night of entertainment showcasing the infinite talents of our young people. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher