



# MIND OVER MATTER AT MARDEN



**W**elcome to our Easter newsletter. Once again, I'm full of pride because of the rich variety of opportunities Marden gives its students.

As you can see, learning comes first at Marden which explains why we're so optimistic about this year's GCSE results. Nevertheless, we take full advantage of opportunities to have fun and make sure that special days like Comic Relief are happy occasions.

I'm also proud of our sporting activities and the various links we have with schools across the world. None of this would be possible without our fantastic staff and our positive and highly motivated students.

As you know, there have been many improvements at Marden recently and that trend will continue. For example, the staff and I are currently reviewing our school uniform and are considering the introduction of a school jumper (in addition to the blazer) and a different style of school tie. I'll be consulting with parents and carers about this next term.

May I also give you advance notice of the arrangements for the start of the Autumn term 2013. Yrs 7 & 11 will commence on Wednesday 4 September, and all other Yr groups on Thursday 5 September.

Finally, may I wish all of our readers and their families a happy Easter holiday and thank everyone for their cooperation and support.

**Jonathan Morris**  
**Headteacher**

**A** group of Year 11 students have been involved in a new holistic approach to relieving exam stress.

Run by professional Mindfulness practitioner Jill Cox, the sessions help students to recognise, and cope with, the stress and worry they can encounter during the run up to their exams.

Since the course started, as well as feeling happier and more positive, students are also reporting that their sessions of meditation, positive thinking and reflection are making them feel calmer and sleep better.

**MEDIA STARS:** Mindfulness students with BBC's Gerry Jackson

Headteacher Mr Morris said: "Mindfulness has been exceptionally well received by our students and is definitely something we will continue with.

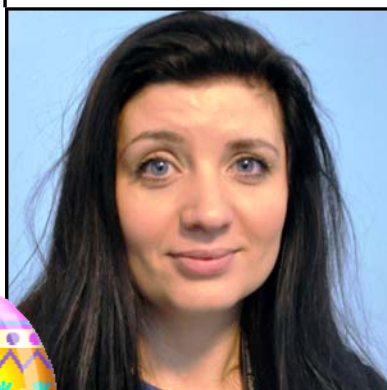
"In fact it has created a huge amount of interest outside of school as well.

"So much so that one of our Assistant Headteachers, Miss Abbott, has been invited to appear on national TV to be interviewed about it."

## STOP PRESS!!

**M**iss Abbott travelled down to the BBC's new TV studios in Salford near Manchester to appear on national Breakfast TV on Wednesday 27 March.

Now everyone knows about Marden's Mindfulness.





# EAST MEETS WEST



Pictured; Clockwise from top left: Mr Prytherch teaching Year 7 Art; Mr Evans shares ideas with the Korean teachers; the Korean teachers join a School Council meeting.

**M**arden High School recently had the opportunity to become part of a creative partnership with the CCE (Creativity, Culture & Education) in Newcastle, along with multiple schools in the local area and a selected number of South Korean schools. In July this year, Art teacher Mr Prytherch will be spending three weeks working in a school in Kwangju, South Korea's 'City of Culture'.

As part of this exciting opportunity, Marden High School hosted Sun-A, a South Korean Music teacher, in January. Sun-A thoroughly enjoyed observing our full curriculum and was treated to a range of great lessons. She spent time in the Music department and delivered Korean-themed lessons to a number of year groups.

she also taught an after school language lesson to eager students, and treated them to Korean money and gifts. They all left with their own names written in Korean.

On her final morning at Marden, Sun-A taught a delightful lesson to a small group of Year 7 students about the culture of Korean Origami. Every student left with their own hand-folded paper person, decorated in classical South Korean dress, and of course a smile on their face.

We were also lucky enough to invite two other Korean teachers, Choi and Miyoung, to teach their subject areas to our students. Choi delivered a Maths lesson to Mr Dodd's Year 10 class when he taught the pupils how to make some fascinating geometric shapes, known as kaleidos, out

of paper. He also delivered a short presentation about his life and school in Korea, which included a brief explanation about the origins of 'Gangnam Style!'

Miyoung visited and taught in the Music department and introduced traditional Korean songs to a group of very keen Marden musicians, while explaining a little more about herself, music and culture in Seoul, South Korea.

Students and staff welcomed and embraced the South Korean Culture, exchanged a few gifts before saying our goodbyes for now. Meanwhile, Mr Prytherch is frantically trying to learn a few lines of Korean and looking forward to continuing this exciting partnership when he travels to Kwangju in July.

## WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT



**Y**ear 8 and 9 students took part in an ambitious attempt to get into the Guinness Book of World Records recently.

Mrs Eastlake coordinated the event as 26 students wrote lines

of a story and passed them around for others to contribute to.

This process was repeated in schools up and down the country in an attempt to write a story with

the largest number of contributors. We are now waiting to learn whether a World Record has been created or not.

**Pictured above: some of the students hard at work, linking their stories together.**

## WORLD BOOK DAY



**E**leven teams of four took part in the World Book Day Quiz held in the LRC answering questions on Authors and Book Titles. **The winners, pictured above,** were the Fail Whales team comprising Chris Robson 8D, Laurie Robson 7D, Cameron Daniels 7D and Connor Carson 8E. It was a closely contested Quiz with the winning team only one point ahead of both the Cool Nerds and the Awesome Foursome! Each student in the winning team received a book as a prize.

To promote Literacy across the curriculum and to commemorate World Book Day, students and staff stopped everything for half an hour and read silently, tallying up their pages to see which form class could read the most. The winning class was 8R and every student received a fiction book as a prize.

This event also coincided with the launch of a pilot scheme in Year 7, 'On every desk a book' which has so far had an immediate impact on students reading for pleasure.

### TERM/HOLIDAY DATES 2013

**Easter:** Fri 29 March - Fri 12 April

**Half Term:** Mon 27 May - Fri 31 May

**Summer Hols:** Mon 22 July—Fri 30 Aug

**Half Term:** Mon 28 Oct - Fri 1 Nov

**Christmas:** Mon 23Dec -Fri 3 Jan 2014.

### **First Place Valentine Poetry Competition:**

#### Love

Love is like a delicate rose  
You are like a delicate rose

Love is beautiful, kind and sweet  
You are beautiful, kind and sweet

A rose a symbol of love, beauty and light  
You are a symbol of love, beauty and light

Love is the meaning of life  
You are the meaning of life

You are my love

Love is a sweet song from a songbird  
You are a sweet song from a songbird

**by Richard Humes, Year 7**

# INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS LECTURE



**M**arden High School recently hosted a lecture from the Institute of Physics, coordinated by Mr Swain.

Our Yr 9 and 10 students attended the 'Defying Gravity' event, along with students from many other schools in the North East, and

enjoyed a fascinating talk given by Astrophysicist Laura Thomas about Gravity and Space Travel.

## LOVE IS IN THE AIR

BE MY VALENTINE!



**F**ebruary 14 saw Marden students and staff celebrate St Valentine's Day in true romantic fashion.

Young Enterprise students sold roses and media students created a montage of short films depicting scenes from famous love stories which were shown on the 'big screen' during lunch. Lovebirds were given the opportunity to book a romantic 'table for two' at lunchtime with 'two for one' Valentine specials in the cafeteria. Each door around school was decorated with a paper heart containing a famous sonnet, love poem or phrase. Valentine competitions were held in the LRC and a 'Tree of Love' was 'planted' there for students to hang their own love messages on.

*The Sun Rising*  
by John Donne

She is all states, and all princes, I,  
Nothing else is.  
Princes do but play us; compared to this,  
All honour's minic; all wealth's alchemy,  
Thou sun art half as happy as we,  
In that the world's contracted thus;  
Thine age asks ease, and since thy duties be  
To warm the world that's done in warming us,  
Shine here to us, and thou art everywhere;  
This bed thy centre is, these walls,  
thy sphere.



## COMIC RELIEF 2013



**F**riday 15 March saw students and staff turn red in aid of Comic Relief.

Red noses were on sale in school, students held a delicious bake sale, a number took part in sponsored events, including a sponsored silence, and red was the theme for the non-uniform day. Then, at 3pm, Marden 'shook' as students and staff were called to the field and rounded off the day with a whole school 'Harlem Shake' - great fun!

Thanks to all of you, we raised in excess of £ 1,300 which is an incredible achievement.

## YOUNG AMERICANS 2013



### Young Americans Recipe

Take one thousand students and 45 Young Americans.

Mix 21 hours of rehearsals and lots of energy.

Blend in some great routines and thrilling music.

Gently add 200 parents and friends.....What have you got?

.....A fantastic 2 hour show of musical performance.

DVD's are available to order from Reception for £5.

Many thanks to everyone who made this huge regional event happen.

**Mrs J Bloomfield**

For up to the minute news and updates please visit [www.mardenhigh.net](http://www.mardenhigh.net)

## A TASTE OF TURKEY AT XMAS



**Pictured Above Left: Mrs Noble & Engin Dirikal  
Above Right: the Library building in the ancient Greek city of Ephesus.**

**D**uring the Christmas holidays I was fortunate enough to visit the fabulous city of Izmir in Turkey. The purpose of the visit was to plan and develop an exciting Comenius Art project between Camlaralti College, Izmir and ourselves. 'Comenius' is a type of project which is funded by the British Council to enable the sharing of good practice between schools from countries across the world. It is our intention to develop and run a joint Art and Design project, and possible student exchange over the next two academic years.

We flew out to Izmir and were met at the airport by Benturk,

one of the directors of Camlaralti. The next morning we were driven to the College and given a full tour of the school and its grounds. This gave me the opportunity to see the school's art rooms and facilities and discuss with the Fine Art teacher what type of materials and resources would be available for use in a joint Art project held in their school. I was then shown the magnificent views from the roof terrace of the College. This view would certainly provide a striking feature as part of a drawing workshop!

Our project is going to focus on the similarities of our students'

lives; their everyday journeys and surroundings, and the extreme contrast between their lifestyles. Both schools are situated on the coast so this common feature will be included. A full two year project has been designed which would involve students beginning preparatory drawings and the gathering of resources in September and October 2013, leading to the subsequent electronic exchange of work between the schools. This work will act as a catalyst to inspire the students to create a new piece of work based on the artwork and resources from their partner school. It is hoped that the second phase will involve the student exchange.

**Mrs L Noble  
Head of Creative Arts**

## A HUGE THANK YOU



**Y**ear 10 CoPE students raised an amazing £265.60 for blind children in Morocco (**Pictured Left**). The girls made and sold friendship bracelets and the boys held a sponsored swim.

The money raised enabled the children in Marrakesh to buy braille tablets and they were thrilled to have enough money to access the computers in

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**15-19 April 2013**  
Work Experience

**26 June 2013**  
Year 11 Prom

**27 June 2013**  
Year 11 Leavers' Assembly

another school.

Mrs Johnson and the CoPE students would like to thank everyone for their kind generosity.

# ENGINEERING A BRIGHT FUTURE



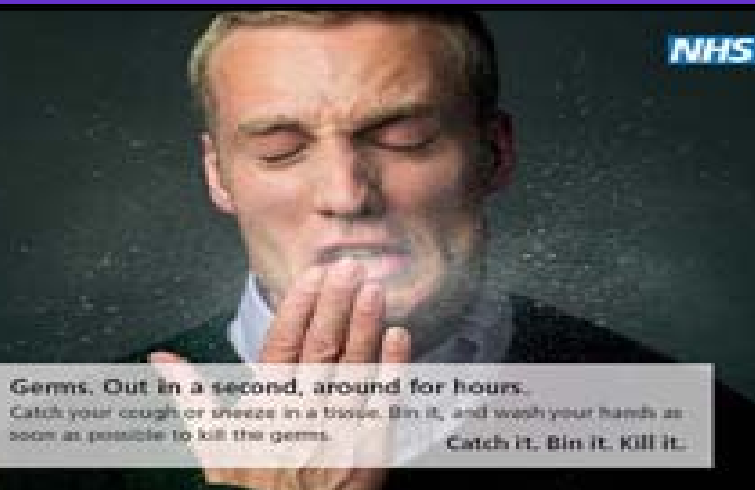
**B**udding Year 10 engineers from Marden are getting a head start in their careers.

The students are attending TyneMet College for two years, working towards the Level 2 Extended First Certificate in Engineering.

The college is equipped with state-of-the-art industry standard machinery and students are being taught by teachers who have many years experience of working in industry as top level engineers.

The course was designed due to the lack of industry-qualified young people, and allows them to work towards an engineering qualification while still at school.

## CATCH IT, BIN IT, KILL IT!



**T**he local NHS is reminding people to follow good hygiene practices to protect themselves and others under a campaign called Catch it, Bin it, Kill it.

Catch it, Bin it, Kill it, helps prevent the spread of the flu virus. These viruses are made up of tiny particles that can be spread through the droplets that come out of your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze.

To slow the spread of any virus, **Catch it** - always carry tissues and cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough and sneeze, **Bin it** - dispose of the tissue as soon as possible, **Kill it** - clean your hands as soon as you can.

This will be the single most

effective thing people can do to protect themselves and others against infection.

If you have flu like symptoms and are concerned, you can go online to check your symptoms on the symptom checker at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk). If you have taken these steps and are still concerned call your GP or NHS Direct.

## LOST PROPERTY

There is still a large amount of lost property in school. Please check with Reception if you have misplaced anything.

## BARGAIN BOOK FAIR

**S**tudents had a great time browsing the book shelves in the Scholastic half price Book Fair held in the LRC.

Many popular titles were quickly sold out, as were stationery

Items and posters.

Students were also given the opportunity to choose new books for the LRC which are now available to borrow.

## Cross Country

Several Marden students represented North Tyneside in the County Cross Country Championships at Temple Park in South Shields in January.

### Year 7

**Caitlin Chadwick**  
**Ellie Steedman**

### Year 8

**Rebecca Moore**  
**Katie Ellwood**

### Year 9

**Amy Hedworth**

**Leodhais MacPherson** in Year 7 qualified for the regional stages. He finished an incredible 8th out of 90 runners from our county.

## Girls Football

The Newcastle United Football Foundation Girls' U13 Tournament took place on Friday 8 March at Walker Activity Dome.

Twenty four schools from Newcastle, Gateshead, North Tyneside and Northumberland competed.

In our Section we played Chantry Middle and drew 0-0, Seaton Burn lost 0-1, Walker lost 0-2, Coates Middle won 2-0 and Seaton Burn drew 1-1. Although we failed to qualify for the knockout stages, the team played some very good football and competed in a very sporting manner.

Well done to Katy Ellwood - Team Manager, Hannah Latif (Capt), Scarlet Kane, Katie Laurie, Beth Robinson, Morgan Wilson Ford, Melissa Johnston, Amy Feetham, Jasmine Stephenson and Daisy Rowe.

## Hockey

The Year 8 Hockey team took part in the County U13 Hockey Tournament at the Parks on Tuesday 5 March. In the first game we played the Royal Grammar School followed by Longridge Towers, and in our final two matches against Bede Academy and Kings we drew 0-0 in both.

Well done to the squad who were a pleasure and a credit to the school.

North Tyneside U12 Hockey Tournament was held on Thursday 7 March at John Spence. Kings, Valley Gardens, John Spence and two teams from Marden were entered. On a bitterly cold night all of our players played well and were a credit to the school. The final results were:- 1st - Kings, 2nd - Valley Gardens, 3rd - Marden 1, 4th - John Spence and 5th - Marden 2.

## Boys Football

The Year 8 boys' football team have made big strides this season, finishing their league season two points better off than last year after winning four of their six games. The season started in an explosive style with an epic victory over last year's champions, St Thomas More, coming from 4-1 down to triumph 7-5 after four goals from Luke Monaghan and a Theo Riley hat-trick turned the game around.

It set them up for the strong season to follow, and the next game couldn't have been more different, as they defended superbly to grind out a 2-0 win over Wellfield, Will Kelly opening the scoring and Louis Adams converting a penalty.

Another clean sheet followed in a nervy 1-0 win over Monkseaton Middle, with Theo Riley scoring the only goal in a game that should have been a lot more

## Basketball

After winning the league, the Year 9 team represented North Tyneside schools in the regional finals held in Northumberland.

The team finished 3rd out of five teams - narrowly missing out on further progression into the North of England stage. An excellent achievement nevertheless.

comfortable, but it still meant that the U13s had rocketed to the top of their group with half of their league games played after a 100% start.

They suffered their first defeat of the season away to Valley Gardens, being knocked out of the cup 3-1 with Theo Riley scoring the only goal, but returned to winning ways in snowy conditions away to Marden Bridge with an entertaining 4-2 win, Luke Monaghan scoring three and Louis Adams adding another.

After four wins out of four in the league, the Year 8s had already exceeded expectations from last season, when they won three from six, but their good form ran out as they were beaten in successive home games by Valley Gardens and John Spence, meaning they will narrowly miss out on qualifying for the play-offs.

Coach Mr Ranson has been impressed with the attitude & commitment of the whole squad.

