



# MARDEN NEWS

*Spring Edition 2018*

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*Featuring*

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Headteacher**

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Reviews**

**Marden's Fundraising  
Activities**

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# MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear All,

As you are probably aware, there have been changes very recently to the GCSE exams. There is no longer coursework for most subjects, examinations are terminal ie at the end of year 11, and the amount and type of content has been made more challenging. This means that preparation for the exams has also necessarily changed. We have already started to be more explicit with how students should be revising, ensuring they know how to organise their time as well as understanding which revision techniques work best for them.

In the summer term we begin the process of Curriculum review for key stage 3. We will be designing a curriculum for years 7-9 which will even more effectively provide a strong foundation for the rigour of the revised GCSE exams. The development of literacy skills, in particular those of extended writing, will feature strongly. It is timely to remind ourselves of the importance of students reading and discussing topics at school and at home, as a vital part of developing their understanding and literacy skills. The Easter holidays is a good opportunity for our children to get some daily reading for pleasure done.

We have had our Rewards and House assemblies this week, and it is always a pleasure to see how many of our students receive certificates and recognition for a variety of achievements including House Points and good attendance. In particular, it is often difficult to select just two students from each year group for my Headteacher's Awards, and it is for this reason that the qualities I look to celebrate in these awards are those which both exemplify and model

what we are looking to develop. In year 10 this term, for example, the awards were for resilience in the face of adversity, and for outstanding work ethic, both attributes that we value highly at Marden.

The U14 netball team beat St Thomas More 13-10 in a very competitive game. Well done to all the girls involved. Our Year 10 team also had a great victory over John Spence, beating them 25-11 with a superb performance. Following successful coaching sessions in school by a coach from Newcastle Thunder Rugby League team working alongside staff, a team of Year 7 boys were invited to take part in a festival at Kingston Park on Tuesday afternoon. They performed really well and managed to win all of their games. Congratulations to the boys who played. Also congratulations to all our Year 11 GCSE PE students who took part in moderation with an external examiner coming into school. Their focus and effort was exemplary - well done.

The second meeting for the Girls' Network was held on Wednesday 28th March after school. Fifteen Year 9 and Year 10 girls attended the one-hour meeting which was held at the Leeds Building Society in the Cobalt Business Park. This is the second time that the girls and their individual mentors have met, so the focus of the session was to get to know each other a little better and find out what interests and career aspirations the girls have. The mentors are volunteers who are all enjoying successful careers in their chosen field. They have undergone training to be able to take part in the scheme and are committed to supporting girls achieve success. There will be a further 9 mentoring meetings this, and next, academic year before the girls graduate as Girls' Network Ambassadors in 2019.



# MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Following hot on the heels of the superb performance of Grease this term, we have our Spring concert in the Auditorium on Wednesday 25th April. This event promises to be a great showcase for the talents we have at school.

I would like to remind you that the programme for our Easter school can be found in the revision section of our website, and it is good to see so many year 11 students already signed up for a variety of classes. We look forward to working with them all, and making the most of the time we have.

We look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 16th April and to seeing parents of Y10 at the Parents Evening on Wednesday 18th April.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher



On March 14th, over 130 Marden staff and students took part in a 17 minute march around the school field to remember those who lost their lives in the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida last month. The march lasted 17 minutes in memory of the 17 people who lost their lives that day. The plan for the march at Marden was suggested by Robert Morley of Y8 and supported by a large number of staff and students.



# Lakeside School Challenge: 2nd-4th February

*'Year 9 Students Finish 2nd In National School Competition'*

On a very cold, but beautifully still Friday evening in the Lake District, we arrived at lake Windermere, ready for a weekend of challenges and outdoor activity. Mr Topping and Mr Prytherch took six Year 9 students to compete as a Marden team in the Lakeside School Challenge, 2018. Eager and determined, these six students did not let the below freezing temperatures hold them back at all.

Each February the YMCA National Outdoors Centre holds the Lakeside School Challenge. Year 9 and 10 students from schools throughout the UK compete against each other in a host of outdoor adventures to become Lakeside School Challenge Champions. All challenges are designed with outdoor learning in mind, to help young people:

- Improve communication and teamwork skills
- Try new and challenging activities
- Develop problem-solving skills
- Become more resilient
- Gain leadership skills
- Adapt to new environments and situations

The weekend was fantastically organised and our students were constantly busy with activities throughout our 2 day visit. The 2 days consisted of 10 team challenges, each challenge was rewarded with a number of points, depending on how successful the team had been. These challenges ranged from, building floating vessels out of barrels and wood, navigating obstacle course and tree swings to nighttime expeditions and spot challenges in the forest. Nigel, our instructor



was great, but didn't make tasks any easier for the students. Each challenge had its own brief and students had to figure out themselves how they could maximize their points return. Through excellent teamwork, constant reflection and sheer determinations our team of youngsters came out on top for the weekend. Setting new records for some challenges on their way, they scored a phenomenal 26,725 points. Only to be narrowly beaten to first place in the overall standings. This is a fantastic achievement for everyone involved and you should be extremely proud of your achievements. Well done indeed!





## Here is what our Year 9 Students thought of the weekend:

*“From the weekend we all developed our teamwork skills, communication and resilience. Throughout the weekend we became stronger as a team because we knew each other's strengths and weakness even better than before. My favourite activity was the team wall because everyone was working together to help each other”*

*“The challenges needed us to use skills like teamwork and cooperation/ communication to complete them. The part I enjoyed the most was the fact that we all worked as a team to complete activities. Towards the end of the weekend our team got stronger as the more we worked together the better our teamwork skills became”*

*“The best part of our weekend was that the whole team was stronger than at the beginning and we were able to cooperate and learn much better from each other. We also managed to listen to each other's ideas to make one big plan that would help us succeed in all activities and challenges we faced over the course of the weekend”*

*“I really surprised myself with my teamwork skills. By the end of the weekend we all knew our team and leader better we also worked*

*better as a group to complete the more challenging activities we all learned from each other. The part which I enjoyed the most was team wall and everyone working together to help each other”*

*“I thought all the activities were very fun and needed good thinking and communication to do well at them. We developed over the weekend as individuals and as a team which I think was how we got the edge over the other teams. It was good to see the struggle at the start of the challenge turn into success as we worked out how to work more effectively together”*

*“Amazing weekend! So glad I took part in the challenge and was taught a lot of life lessons and can't thank the volunteers there enough for being so friendly and helpful. I enjoyed every activity we took part in and enjoyed being with my team mates and working to solve problems. Would go there over and over again. Easily the best school trip I've ever taken part in”*

A great weekend had by all.

Mr Prytherch & Mr Topping





**Celebrate 60 years of computing at Newcastle University** - one of the oldest computing science departments in the UK.

On 13 April Newcastle University, School of Computing are opening their doors to the public for a day of hands-on activities and engaging talks.

They are welcoming the public to come along and take part in programming robotics, sending secret messages and tinkering with Raspberry Pis and Crumbles. There are opportunities to learn from experts about the genius of

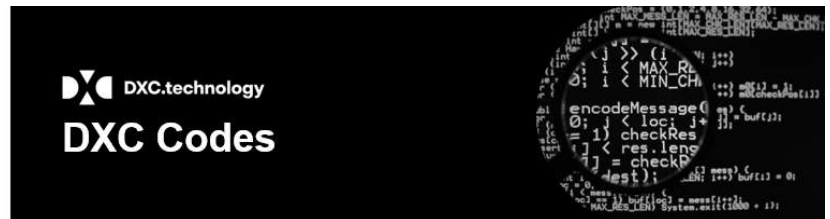
Alan Turing, what Big Data really means, how games are engineered and the magic of computing science!

The day runs from 10:30 to 15:00 with activities for children and adults of all ages. You can drop in at any time during the day and celebrate their 60th birthday at the new Urban Sciences Building at Science Central.

This is a drop-in day during the Easter holidays that is primarily aimed at family groups and small groups of children.

If you would like further information, please see Mr Wilson or Mr Robertson.

## DXC CODES – A global challenge creating excitement about Computer Science



Students at Marden High code club are participating in a nationwide competition ran by DXC technology. The competition involves students working together in groups of three to develop a digital game using the programming software scratch.

The competition is split into two categories, junior (10 - 12 years) and senior (12-14 years) with separate challenges for each category. For the junior challenge students need to create a game involving a sport and the senior challenge gets students to create a 2d plat forming game.

Students have until April 27 to develop and submit their project. Entries will be evaluated by a panel of judges for creativity, originality, technical merit & accuracy and good programming practices.

There will be local and regional winners and the regional winners will advance to the global championship for even more prizes. Good luck to everyone involved!



# GEOGRAPHY

- Mr Blakey

It's been another busy term in the geography department. 9M1 completed projects looking at the issue of responding to earthquakes in countries of varying degrees of development. The students were given the space to come up with their own enquiry questions and they rose to the challenge brilliantly; demonstrating curiosity and interest in the subject and producing some very creative work. Each group chose to deliver their research in their own way, including practical demonstrations, quizzes and even a satirical insurance sales pitch!

The department embraced a theme for world book day which was inspired by dystopian futures stories such as the divergent trilogy. Lessons were delivered on the future of mankind and possible utopian or dystopian worlds which await the human race!

Year 10 have completed their first full GCSE mock exam and the geographers prepared for the exam in a serious and studious way and they were happy with their results. It was lovely to see students preparing for exams by implementing a range of revision techniques and working with their teachers to address gaps in their knowledge.

Year 11 are getting close to exam time now and revision is picking up some momentum. There will be a program of revision available to year 11 in the first week of the Easter Holidays. I strongly advise students to make the most of the holidays to get started on the revision process using the revision techniques we have used in class, using SAMlearning activities and getting their head around some practice exam questions.

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## Race For the Line Rocket Car Challenge

During the Autumn term last year Marden High School year 7 STEM pupils worked on an exciting national project to design and build model rocket powered cars that they entered in the first round of the national 'Race for the line' rocket car challenge.

The Marden High School heat was run by representatives from the British Armed Forces who commented on the quality of the models produced by our students with support from their STEM teachers.

Despite a few earlier technical problems with detonating the rockets that propelled the cars it turned out to be a great day.

Marden student's had some really successful outcomes and we are now waiting for confirmation of the qualifiers for the next round of the competition to be held at RAF Boulmer where they will compete against more winning teams from other North East schools.

The eventual competition winners will be given the opportunity of a lifetime to witness the Bloodhound Supersonic Car race in Africa.



Race		
Podium	Team	Time (milliseconds)
1	The Golden Eagles	50.4
2	Baja	51.1
3	Big Block of Polystyrene	51.7
4	Evil	52.3
5	Dunno	53
6	Lightning Bolts	53.1
7	Honsi	54.4
8	Know Name	54.7
9	Fire 3	54.8
10	The Seal Mobile	54.8
11	Raven Corns	55
12	Flash 5	55.4
13	Hafa	56
14	The Tryangles	56.1
15	Devils Jam	56.3
16	Special People	56.8
17	Pink ladies	57.3
18	Celts	58.6
19	Rocket Riders	59.2
20	Rocket Master Kaca	59.4
21	Raggy Rollers	59.8
22	Rocket Blasters	60.8
23	Watermelon Squad	61.5
24	I'd like to win	62.7
25	The Unknown	62.9
26	The Buffalo	64.5
27	Bananas 4 Life	67.4
28	Flaming Pandas	67.6

# Marden School Performance - Grease

Wow! What a fantastic term in Creative Arts! We are immensely proud of the creative achievements of Marden High students in recent weeks.

After months of rehearsal and an intensive dress rehearsal process our students performed in the long awaited school production of 'Grease'. The show had generated a huge amount of interest from students resulting in two casts of performers. Staff and students worked tirelessly to rehearse song and dance routines, create their own dance choreography, perform live music and help out with set design and marketing. The show was a huge success with a full house both evenings. Students are now eagerly awaiting news of the next production!



It's been a busy term in the Drama curriculum too. After months of preparation Year 11 students completed their performance exam on 23 March to a visiting examiner. Students performed extracts and monologues from 'Find Me' (Olwen Wymark) and 'Two' (Jim Cartwright). Preparation will soon be under way for their written exam in May.

Meanwhile Year 10 students are busy preparing for a series of devised performances which will be showcased during next half term, more details coming soon. We hope that staff, family and friends can come along to support their work.

Key Stage 3 students have been exploring

Naturalism and scripted plays. We've had great fun with 'Our Day Out', 'TWOC' and 'Let Him Have It'. Next term Year 7 will be exploring Shakespeare where there will be opportunities to develop skills in stage combat, masks and costume. Look out for photographs posted on the school website!

The Music department have also been working hard this term as Year 11 students add the final touches to their compositions and performances. Super Singers, Choir, Ukulele and Orchestra clubs continue to rehearse ready for the Summer Concert. We look forward to celebrating even more creative talent and hope that you can join us in July.

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# World Book Day 2018 Miss Laing



After rescheduling due to our snow days, staff and students celebrated their love for reading in a variety of ways on Friday 9 March 2018. Fictional characters came to life as Y7 students and members of staff, spent the day in fancy dress as part of the literary celebrations. There was a fantastic array of costumes including Hagrid, Effie Trinket and Doctor Strange.

and writing competitions with the English department the week leading up to the big day, where Y7 crafted autobiographical texts to commemorate the occasion. Photographs from the event can be found on our school website.

In total, **£123.00** was raised for BOOK AID. A sincere well done and thank you to everyone who took part.



Our lunch time literature-themed quiz was well attended with a total of 15 teams. Mr Thomas and his team swiped first place while Miss Gibson's group came a close second with just half a point between them. Miss Goldie, Maths Teacher, won best staff costume.

Key Stage 3 students took part in literacy activities





# TICE: Creative Writing

By Miss Laing

March 2018 Year 9 students continue their creative writing for industry journey with Kath Wildman from *TICE*.

Our creative writers embarked upon a realm of academia, and what career paths exploration of how writing works beyond the writing may open. They were treated to lectures and seminars by guest speakers from an array of writing backgrounds at Northumbria University, and a trip to the Lit and Phil museum and Northern Stage theatre in Newcastle.

They learned valuable knowledge not only about writing fiction and non-fiction texts in industry, but had a taste of what it may be like to attend university as an English or Media Studies student too.

Details of further workshops, including preparation work for the students 'final show' will feature in our next newsletter.



# BBC School Report

2018 is Marden High School's 12th year of participating in BBC News School Report, where our intrepid reporters plan and create their own news reports.

A group of year 8 students worked hard planning, filming and editing their stories throughout the day to a strict news deadline of 2pm, as set by the BBC.

The team split into groups, and produced some intriguing reports on feminism, politics, sport, technology and our local area.

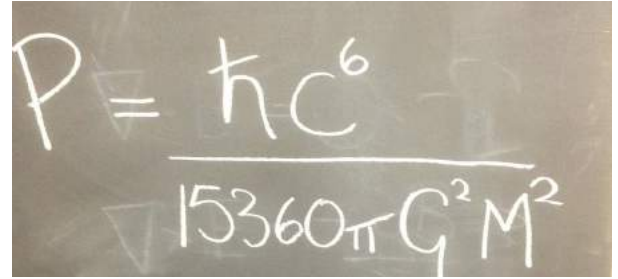
Students worked with impeccable attitudes and enthusiasm to ensure that their reports followed BBC reporting guidelines, and rose to the challenge of using new technology, such as moving image cameras and iMovie editing software, that they had not encountered before.

Finished reports and updates from throughout the day are available to view on the BBC School News Report section of the school website.



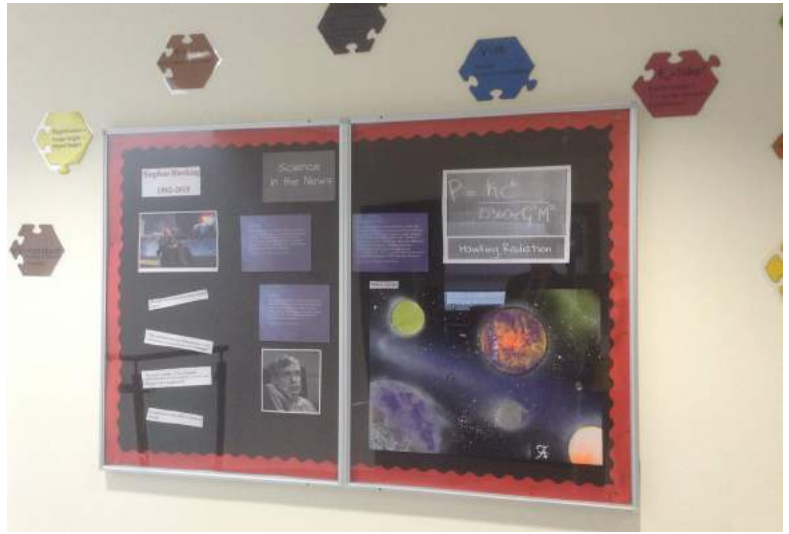
# Marden High celebrates Stephen Hawking

In the Science corridor we currently have a tribute to Stephen Hawking. Stephen Hawking had a rare early-onset slow-progressing form of motor neurone disease that gradually paralysed him over the decades. His brilliant mind came up with this equation which is a suggestion as to the radiation output from a Black Hole.


$$P = \frac{hc^6}{15360\pi G^2 M^2}$$



*Brilliant spray paint artwork of planets from Aiden Clark yr 8*



GCSE Physics students now have to learn more than 20 equations for their exams in year 11. These are displayed along the Science/Maths corridor.

Fortunately they don't have to remember the equation for Hawking Radiation

## Religious Education

After the Easter holidays the RE department will be hosting 'prayer spaces' again after the excellent feedback we had last year. Prayer spaces is an interactive experience where students have the opportunity to explore issues such as forgiveness, empathy, world issues and grief. We look at the idea of 'prayer' from both a religious and

non-religious perspective, where prayer is simply a form of communication, a method for expressing feelings and emotions and the majority of our students have really enjoyed this in past years. We are looking forward to this exciting event in our calendar and know that our students will benefit from it immensely. Please check the school website for updates on this as we will be looking forward to sharing some photos with you after Easter.

# Learning Resource Centre



The LRC is open to students between 8.00am and 4.30pm, although the space is limited. Morning passes are available from Mrs Proud in the LRC. This is a quiet area for students to read, revise and complete homework before school, break, lunchtimes and after school. There are desks and computers available to use and many newly released books and comfortable seating areas in which to read



The Evening Chronicle: a writeup of Josh Blevins (Year 8) about his excellent running success a few weeks ago. The photograph above is of Josh reading an article about himself.



**Sports relief** was held on Friday 23rd March. All students were allowed to wear yellow, red, orange or sporty items of clothing. We had a variety of activities in the sports hall during lunch time. We raised a grand total of **£693.45**

## Easter Poetry Competition

Congratulations to everyone who entered the Easter poetry competition!

The winner was Alexis Johnson from 7M, and runner-up Holly Mitchell from 7A. Well done to everyone who entered.





# PARENT PORTAL INFORMATION

At Marden High School, we have invested in a Parent Portal so that you can get accurate, up-to-date information about your child. We provide access to Attendance, Achievement, Behaviour, Exam Dates / Results and Reports in real-time, and we also use the Parent Portal to make Parents Evening bookings.

[office@mardenhigh.net](mailto:office@mardenhigh.net) to get your email address updated. If you don't want to use your email address, we can generate a username for you and provide you with those log on details. If you have forgotten your password, then you can use the "Don't know your password?" link on the Parent Portal log on page. Passwords can also be reset by emailing [office@mardenhigh.net](mailto:office@mardenhigh.net)

To access the parent portal, you need to visit [mardenhigh.net](http://mardenhigh.net), then click on either the Parent Portal link on the right, or click on Parents | Parent Portal. Your username will be your email address. If you haven't given us your email address, you can contact

There are some quick guides on how to use the portal under Parents | Parent Portal Guides.

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## LOST PROPERTY

Please ensure that all items of clothing are clearly marked with your child's name. We have a lost property box in the main office where students may search for 'lost' items.

The box is emptied at the end of each half term and all items remaining will be recycled.

The lost property will be emptied on :

**Friday 20th April**

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## REMINDER : MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOL

**Mobile phones are not to be used by students during school times, unless express permission has been given by a teacher for it to be used for learning purposes. ( 08.45hrs - 15.15hrs )**

**Students will have their phones confiscated until the end of the day if caught using them in school.**