



# MARDEN NEWS

*Christmas edition 2018*



*Featuring*

**Message from the  
Headteacher**

**PTA News**

**Sports News &  
Reviews**

**Marden's Fundraising  
Activities**

**Learning Resource  
Centre News**

**Department News  
& information**

**Marden High School**

Friday 21st December 2018

Dear All,

It has been a long and successful term with many and varied successes. I have much enjoyed talking to the students this week whilst giving out my weekly Headteacher's Work of the Week Awards and many speak about taking new opportunities this term, and having enjoyed the process of learning and developing their skills as they work with their peers and their teachers. You can read some of the great activities that students have been getting involved with in this newsletter. Our assemblies this week have celebrated the achievements of the four Houses, Alnwick, Bamburgh, Dunstanburgh and Warkworth, and of the students' attendance. There have been so many students with 100% attendance this term that there hasn't always been time to announce them all. There have also been several house competitions this term where students have been able to work towards house points and it has been good to see so many of our students learn the value of hard work by working hard. Congratulations to Warkworth for being top of the league at the end of this term. The totals, however, are very close, so it's still all to play for next term.

In the New Year our School of Sanctuary group will be starting an anti-prejudice project called 'Free to Be'. This is a fantastic opportunity for our school to get involved in a series of workshops, use film clips and discussion activities in order to explore common prejudices that can give rise to bullying in modern society.

We hope that some of the group will go on to become Anne Frank Ambassadors, taking part in an innovative drama and media-based events, which create spaces for young people to creatively explore topics and concepts that may be difficult to discuss. Working alongside a professional filmmaker, Ambassadors will develop their own prejudice awareness raising film to incorporate into their workshops where they create their own assembly and workshop to challenge attitudes and elicit empathy and critical thinking through peer education.

As this newsletter is published we are on our way down to St George's Church to enjoy another wonderful Carol Service. This really is a great occasion when almost the whole school comes together to celebrate the term we have had and to rejoice in the community that we are. It is so important that we don't underestimate the opportunities we have now to enjoy developing and making progress together, especially when we remember that such opportunities and such communities are not available to others around the country and further afield. As the great writer Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a restful and enjoyable Christmas holiday and a pleasant New Year, and we look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday 7th January.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M.Snape  
Head Teacher



# BBC Young Reporter

During Takeover Week at Marden High our Year 8s have taken over the Media Studio and found out what is like in the high pressure world of journalism.



They produced some fantastic reports during our first practice Young Reporter day of the year. Young journalists of the future handled complex topics maturely and confidently, and some of them even hit the deadline too! A great experience of the world of journalism and media!

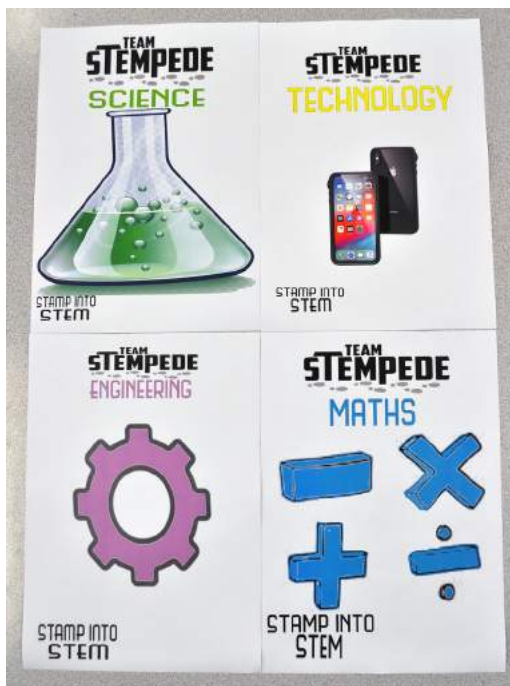
Stories covered included environmental issues, the controversy surrounding palm oil, Article 13 and how it effects YouTube creators, and a maturely handled story about the controversy that still surrounds breastfeeding in public.

Our Year 8s had a brilliant day, and reports will appear online very soon!

Mr Ranson

# Year 7 get creative in Cross Curricular Project

This term, a small group of Year 7 students have been working on a cross-curricular project between the Technology and Media Studies departments; their task was to create a digital media marketing campaign promoting careers in STEM!



This could promote STEM in school or STEM careers and also give Year 7 the opportunity to take part in some practical Media Studies lessons and learn about the world of media marketing.

In an 'Apprentice'-style task over twelve lessons, they went head-to-head as rival teams and designed team logos, posters and campaign videos, as well as learning about careers in STEM and the importance of brand identity.

Another intrepid group will now take on the task over the coming weeks.

Well done to everyone who worked so hard!

Mr Ranson

# Marden High Lumiere

All year 8 students enthusiastically took part in a variety of experiences during the latest Super Learning Day.



The programme for the day involved reflecting on the use made of light in the local churches and we were grateful to both Cullercoats Methodist Church and St George's Church Cullercoats for hosting groups of students.

In the afternoon, all students created and made a Christmas themed stained glass effect panel to help decorate the school



Here is the result of one of the other activities which students took part in for our yr 8 Superlearning Day, **Lumiere**.

Students used knowledge of shadow and lighting to create these superb light boxes.

Mrs Glover

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## X-Country Championships

Well done to all of our runners who competed in the North Tyneside Championships in November. We are waiting for confirmation of results but we already know that a key number of our students have qualified to represent the area. Thrilled with the involvement of many of our Yr7 students.



## X-Country North Tyneside Championships

Our teams performed superbly well at the event with many of our runners qualifying to go to the county competition at Temple Park in January.

Minor Girls' and Boys' Teams each came 2nd in their events.

Junior Boys' Team came 4th and the Junior Girls' Team achieved 6th place.

Inter Boys' Team came 1st overall. Seventeen students will now go forward to represent the area. Two students in Year 9 again dominated their races to come in 1st. A student in year 8 and a student in year 7 achieved 3rd place in their races and in the inter competition a student in Year 10 achieved 2nd place.

A fantastic set of results for our x-country runners.

## Netball

U16 team played in a couple of league matches last week. They successfully beat Churchill High School 17-3 but didn't manage to secure a win over Whitley Bay High School. Both the U14 and U16 teams went to RGS on Saturday to play in a friendly triangular event. Well done to all players!

## Badminton

U16 'A' Badminton Team (boys) successfully won their games in the league competition and will now go forward to represent North Tyneside.

The 'B' team won one of their games but were not able to go through to the next stage.

Well done to both teams for taking part.

## Tennis

A Year 7 student successfully won the David Lloyd Sunderland Winter County Tour in the U14 singles category. An excellent achievement for her.

## Dance City

Our dancers are currently rehearsing for the Dance Festival which will go ahead in the new year. Two classes are successfully running and the students are about to enrol for the next block of ten weeks.

## Trampolining

Well done to a Year 10 student for her successful achievement at the Tyne & Wear Trampolining Finals, coming second in her category.

## Football (girls)

Well done to our Yr7 football team who took part in the Rotary Club Cup competition last week. They were runners up to Valley Gardens and played exceptionally well throughout the competition.

## Indoor athletics

Yr8 boys performed well in an indoor event at Marden Bridge coming 4th overall. A student in Year 8 performed particularly well coming first in the standing long jump.



## Football (boys)

U12 football team came 3rd in the Rotary Club Cup competition held at Royal Quays. Well done to the players involved.

## Gymnastics

Congratulations to a Year 7 for his impressive performance at the 2018 Mens' Artistic National Elite + Club Development Grades Competition.

## National Taekwondo competition

Congratulations to two Year 8 students who both competed in the ITF British Championships at the weekend in Scotland. One student achieved two gold medals and a silver and the other achieved two bronze medals at the event. One of the students was also successful at the ITF English Championship in London where she achieved both a gold and silver in special technique and patterns. A superb set of results for both girls.



Miss Stamp

# RE at Marden

This term in the RE department students in year 9 have been looking at the idea that suffering in the world can be difficult to understand, particularly in the context of religious belief, where people may feel that a God should be looking after them. This has brought up some really interesting discussions, and as usual, I have been impressed with the thoughtfulness, empathy and insight of our students.



As we moved towards Christmas we began to look at how people respond to suffering and some of the inspirational ways that people are able to deal with adversity or selflessly help others. Within this we looked at street pastors, the importance of food banks and Sikh selfless service in particular.



Our GCSE students were lucky enough to be visited by the Whitley Bay Street Pastor Coordinator, Chris Lincoln. We were blown away by the compassion he demonstrated through his work and also by the time he was willing to give to support others.



We also learned about his work with the severe weather emergency protocol team, supporting the homeless in North Tyneside in cold weather conditions. I think we all left feeling inspired by the impact individuals can have on our local community.

Through these discussions I hope that many students at Marden leave their RE lessons understanding the importance of individual's actions and the benefits of helping others. I think this has been reflected though the volume of donations we have received for the Whitley Bay Food Bank and the Cat and Dog Shelter.

Mrs Macleod

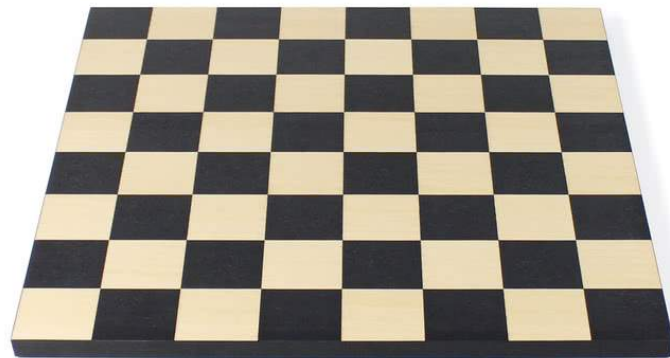
Four students from Marden went to The Bay Foodbank to deliver all the food that the school had collected. They were very grateful for everything that had been donated by the school.



They explained that it had been their busiest ever and had already delivered hundreds of food parcels to families in North Tyneside. They asked us to send a heartfelt thank you to all involved!

## Mr Hiscock's puzzle time

How many squares on this chessboard?





# English @ Marden

**Looking for a little festive reading this season?**

**Take a look at the English department's top choices:**

*The Goblins who Stole a Sexton -  
Charles Dickens*

*The Haunted Man and The Ghost's  
Bargain - Charles Dickens*

*Letters from Father Christmas - J.R.R. Tolkien*

*Twas the Night Before Christmas - Clement Clarke Moore*

*What Christmas is as We Grow Older - Charles Dickens*

*How the Grinch Stole Christmas - Dr. Seuss*

*Smee - A.M. Burridge*

*The Tractate Middoth - M.R. James*

*The Greatest Gift - Philip Van Doren Stern*

*Little Women - Louisa May Alcott*



## **Year 10 Christmas Compositions: A Warning to the Curious**

*In the great Victorian tradition of M.R. James and Charles Dickens, Year 10 have composed their own seasonal narratives to tell around the fireside this Yuletide. Here are some extracts:*

If I were to tell you about it, about what happened, where would I start? I could tell you about the place; a small town at Christmas with snow delicately drifting down to an ocean of white. Or, I could tell you about the time; the year 1902, when I was a young man of 26, happily married. Or, I could tell you about *her*. Now, you don't know Angela (you never met her after all) but she truly was the light of my life, the bauble on the tree, making me that little bit better, all the while. Oh, if only you could have seen her ...

*(Abigail Gerrard)*



“Christmas is fantastic!” he says, his young voice one of eager and joyous cheer. “Isn’t it, Granddad?”

I give a generous smile in answer to his enthusiasm, catching his curious eyes, before turning back to the hearth and grate. The fire crackles warmly, embraced by the soft metal as it sings its song of welcome to all.

Unfortunately, on this day of all days, even the welcoming hum and heat of the hearth is hard pressed to warm me.

***(George Grainger)***

It was exactly 13 Christmases ago, in the year ‘73, and I was trying to remedy a rather awful cold with a brisk walk in the salty air (though I had begun to loathe its bitter current after months upon its waves). But habit and custom are a given at this time of year and I had nowhere else to be but that ancient tavern in the company of my fellow isolated. It was one of those places where people were friendly and you never remained at the bar alone for too long, despite how brooding and begging to remain undisturbed you might look.

However, there was a man in the corner of the room, his face basking in a raw, golden light; his features shrouded in some meaningful shadow. I was glad for the light, for it was the only one that illuminated the wooden carcass of his body, stiff, unmoving and ancient beyond his years.

Right, well, I think it’s time for a particular seasonal story and one in which I start at the very beginning.

A number of years ago, when I was much younger than I am now, I chanced upon a man by the name Robert Taylor who lived in some large country estate just off the coast of Scotland. He had, as I understand, not acquired his fortune by his own hard work, rather through a large sum of money he had inherited from a distant uncle who had died some years before. However, that did not matter because he was a man who knew just how privileged his was.

***(Emma Brown)***

As the fires roar in the hearth and we share another Christmas, I am reminded of a story less jovial and festive than the one you might have hoped.

It was a stormy night, soft snow rattled against the immense windows of the grand manor house. The tall, highly decorated rooms were illuminated by only candle lights that projected singular shadows upon the walls, allowing darkness to creep around it.

It was in one of the larger rooms, of the east wing, that *he* sat enclosed in his high back armchair. To his left stood a grand oak cabinet that he had placed his drink upon to rest. A thick leather bound book nestled in his lap. The man sat with a certain elegance; his well-trimmed beard brought an air of the professional, as did his attire: a well-tailored waistcoat painted against a crisp, white shirt.

*(James Robertson)*

Mr Horn

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## The Geography department

This term has seen an increased interest in our regular geography club which takes place every Thursday after school. The powerful Iceland advert telling the story of the impact of deforestation on Orangutan population in the rainforest has sparked a passionate response from our students and as a result a pupil lead campaign is underway. The aim of the campaign is to raise awareness about the use of unsustainable palm oil and our students are working hard on posters, presentations and surveys to try and get the school community to think more carefully about the choices they make at the tills.



Mr Blakey



# Marden's Drama Department

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

After weeks of preparing for auditions we were finally able to begin rehearsals for this year's school production, 'The Addams Family'. The show has been so popular that we will once again have two casts performing on 5th and 6th March 2019. Behind the scenes is becoming very busy too with many of students regularly rehearsing the live music and preparing for backstage elements of the production.

This term has also seen the launch of our key stage 3 drama club who meet weekly and rehearsals are underway for a variety show in the Spring term. What makes this club so special is that it is planned and facilitated entirely by our Year 11 performing arts prefects. They are doing a fantastic job and our younger students are enjoying making new friends. Some of our older drama students had the great opportunity to participate in a devising workshop led by actor/playwright, David Cartwright. It was great to see so many of our students exploring new, imaginative ways of creating theatre!



It's been a busy term in the Drama curriculum too. After weeks of preparation Year 11 students completed their mock written exam paper and rehearsals will soon be underway for their performance exam in March.

Meanwhile Year 10 students have showcased their first devised performance to pupils from some of our local primary schools as well as our Year 7 students. The show was a huge success and students are looking forward to devising their next piece.





Key Stage 3 students have been exploring Poetry and The Crucible and next term Year 7 are looking forward to 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. Super Singers, Choir, Ukulele and Orchestra clubs recently showcased their work once again in our Christmas concert. We are eagerly awaiting their next performance!

Mrs Berriman

## Musical Dates for the Diary

<b>Adams Family Show</b>	<b>Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th March</b>
<b>Spring Concert</b>	<b>Thursday 28th March</b>
<b>Marden's got talent</b>	<b>Tuesday 2nd July</b>
<b>Summer Concert</b>	<b>Thursday 11th July</b>

Mrs Gibbings

# European day of languages 2018

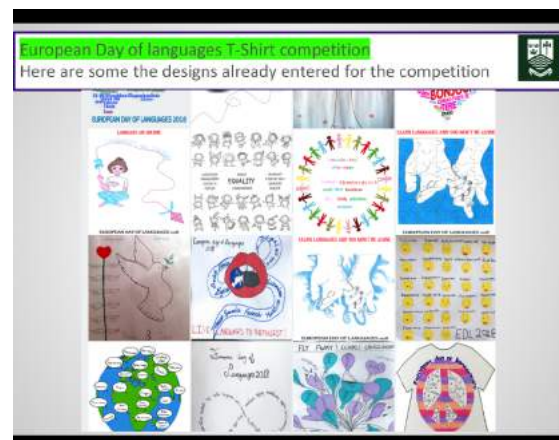
To mark this day, all staff were encouraged to greet students in a different language as they came into classrooms in all departments. Mrs Mellor organised badges for all teachers with basic greetings in a range of languages such as Icelandic, Croatian, Polish etc. Both staff and students enjoyed the initiative and we all learnt something new!

## Russian Shopping Trip

Students from our Russian class will soon be trying out their speaking skills in a local business. Mrs Lyman has organised a short shopping trip to an Eastern European food store in Newcastle and pupils will have the chance to practise their role-play skills with native speakers and also pick up some Russian treats. A great opportunity for the class to improve their accents and boost their confidence.

## Spanish buffet

That time of year again when the Spanish club hold their annual Christmas buffet. Staff and students will bring in typically Spanish food which they will share over a December lunchtime. A great chance for the pupils to sample traditional dishes with Mr Watson and Mrs Peters and good preparation for a tapas restaurant trip later in the year.



Miss Mulvenney

# Merry Christmas from Marden

In recent Art lessons, our Key Stage 3 students have been designing Christmas cards, with the winning entries selected for our official Christmas card this year.



*Merry Christmas*

# PTA Christmas News

The enthusiasm for the PTA events and fundraising has continued this term and we have had a few very productive meetings.

Our Halloween Quiz night was very well supported by our students and families and a great night was had by all. We also held a raffle which was well supported by students, their families and local businesses. Between the two events we raised over £1000, which exceeded all of our expectations! Thanks to everyone involved and all those who donated prizes, bought tickets and supported the events.



This term we have used money raised to:

- buy production rights to the Addams Family performance to enable this production to go ahead next year
- fund a theatre company to come into school and perform a historical drama about suffragettes and local women for all Year 7's and pupils studying Key Stage 4 Drama
- Set up and develop a gardening club



2019 ideas are in the early stages of planning and we have some very exciting events coming up so stay tuned for updates!

Whilst we raise money for the school, we are also looking at various ideas around helping our local community and we are supporting the Community School Clothing Company. Further details of how our families can help will be sent out in the New Year.



Finally we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



# Mrs Potter's poetry competition winners!



**This years Christmas poetry competition finalists:**

**1st- Lucy Guy and Mia Smalley**

**2nd- Scarlett Ellis**

**3rd - Samirah Ramzan and Grace Hogan**

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## Marden's LRC



The LRC is open to students between 8.30am and 4.00pm, although the space is limited. Morning passes are available from the school office. 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



# 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 11th January

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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.**