



# MARDEN NEWS

*Spring Edition February 2020*



*YMCA Windermere Lakeside Challenge*

## *Featuring this Half Term*

Message from the  
Head Teacher

Valentine's  
poetry competition

NEW Geography Club

Photography Club  
competition winners

## Special Highlights:-

YMCA Windermere Lakeside  
Challenge

Year 7 Wellbeing Day -  
Try Something Different

Languages Event - Newcastle  
University

## Key Subjects:-

Design & Technology  
(inc DT Clubs and STEM)

Business Studies

Music

Geography

RE



Friday 14th February 2020

Dear All,

I hope that in this half-termly newsletter you can see what an enjoyable and busy half term it has been with lots of excellent learning and extra-curricular activities going on. We know that generally our students and staff enjoy coming to school, and that they feel they belong to the Marden family, and it is always good to see when this is reflected in feedback from our regular surveys.

In our latest student survey we found that an increasing proportion of students felt the school provided them with opportunities to contribute to the community, which reflects the development of the PTA summer fayre, and of the charity work we partake in as well as the links we have with local sports clubs and the police cadets. 92% of students felt that school teaches them about respect for people of all races, backgrounds and religions, reflecting the work we have done with Show Racism The Red Card, something which gives us hope for a more peaceful and positive future, with our students leading the way in showing respect and kindness for others. The majority of students feel they have someone to talk to about their mental healthiness, and this will be enhanced by our work in achieving the Bronze Mental Health Award in 2019. 93% of students feel that the level of challenge is right with homework. A significant proportion felt that they enjoyed lessons and were making progress, whilst a greater proportion than ever before stated that they felt they had a say in school decisions. This development in resilience, belonging, enjoyment and student leadership is a reflection of the work we continue to do around school and we look forward to the outcomes of the Spring student survey next half term.



Our staff are our most precious resource. We know that in order to meet our core purpose, to provide the best educational experiences for our children, it works best when our staff are happy and fulfilled in their work, so we have a keen focus on well being throughout the school. The Valued Worker Scheme, which Marden has now joined, seeks to reinforce this ethos, and we are very much looking forward to bringing together a group of staff from across the school during the coming weeks to see how we can further enhance the well being, and enjoyment at work for our staff.

Marden High school is one of the early adopter schools who are piloting the new statutory relationships and sex education curriculum. As of September 2020 all schools in the country will be expected to deliver lessons on particular aspects of relationship and sex education. This means that as a school we will be compliant with the new government regulations ahead of time and also that we have the opportunity to feed our experiences into the Department for Education through research work. There is also a strong link between the safeguarding of students and the new statutory requirements. If anyone is interested in looking at the new Personal Development curriculum you can find the information on the school website.

We have an exciting House competition coming up after the half term holiday. As you know, not all plastic is recyclable, and constructing Eco Bricks is a way to make use of these plastics. Of course, while we should all strive to use less, this novel use of waste plastic is certainly a step in the right direction for our planet, wildlife and communities. Eco Bricks are made from plastic bottles packed with used, clean and dry plastic to create a building block that can be used over and over again, and the competition will be to see which House collects the most Eco Bricks. These will then be used on our school site in creating an area decided upon by the School Cabinet, for example, a walled garden. Best of luck to everyone in this competition, and start saving your plastics now.

I hope all our students and staff have a restful half term break and we look forward to seeing each other again on Monday 24th February. Thank you for your continued support.

MR M. SNAPE  
Head Teacher



Our M:10 students organised and held our first Y7 Disco on Thursday night which was a great success.

The student leadership shown in the organising, planning and running of the event was evident throughout and helped them raise over £250 for the visit to Mexico next summer.

Following the very positive feedback from those who attended and the great agency shown during the planning stages, by the student, there is hope that a future disco, for Y8 will take place as our tradition of school discos begins.



## Pupils focus on ‘Wellbeing’

On the 31st of February Marden High School launched its first ever ‘Wellbeing day’ for Year 7 pupils. This was following the success of two very well-received staff ‘Wellbeing days’ over the previous two years.

The theme for the day was to ‘Try Something Different.’

Mrs Robson said, “at Marden we strongly believe that in order to thrive it is important that pupils know how to look after their own well being and create balance in their lives between their academic studies and their developing interests.”

“The thinking behind this day was to give Year 7 pupils an opportunity to take part in activities that they might not have considered before with other pupils that they might not usually mix with.”

Ahead of the day itself pupils were asked to pick two activities from a list including: ceramics - making clay sculptures; music - where pupils got to play steel pans and try their hand at Samba drumming; drama, consisting of masks, mime and movement and a session of musical theatre; food, where pupils made pinata cupcakes; silent film making in media; making a photo frame in design and technology and entering the ‘Dragon’s Den’ with their own enterprise ideas.





Alongside the activities, all pupils took part in a session led by Daryl Mckinley from 'The Tree of Knowledge' where they took part in activities that explored the six behaviours of positive psychology: zest, optimism, gratitude, grit, self-control and emotional / social intelligence. Mr Snape remarked, 'there was a real buzz around the school and I was impressed with how engaged the pupils were with the activities and how willing they were to 'try something different.'

The evaluation from the pupils was extremely positive with comments such as, "I would like to have another day like this in the future. It was amazing!" and "I enjoyed the day, as I got to do new things (playing the steel drums) and learnt other things in the Tree of Knowledge session."

Mrs Robson summed up the end of the day by congratulating the pupils on their engagement and expressing how well pupils had tried something new and displayed zest, optimism, gratitude, grit, self-control and emotional / social intelligence across the day.

Mrs Robson

## Try Something Different Day

As well as continuing to offer extra-curricular opportunities after school with Mrs Rae's Cookery Club, Mrs Green's UpCycling Group and Miss Nicholls' CREST Award students, Technology also offered sessions as part of Year 7's 'Try Something Different' day.

Students worked with great independence and care with Miss Nicholls to produce photo frames in the workshop. With only two hours, the outcomes were fantastic with all students creating their own frame from scratch using tools and machinery in the workshop.



In the food room Mrs Rae made hidden sweet cupcakes. Again, students worked quickly and carefully to produce their own design of cupcakes filled with sweets.

*In both cases students were trying skills that were brand new and did a fabulous job, the frames looked great and the cakes smelled delicious!*

Ms Nicholls

## Design & Technology

The Spring Term has seen a lot of change happening within Technology with many projects coming to an end ready for the next rotation to start. Year 9 in particular have been putting their design and practical skills to the test creating their own aluminium bottle openers in the engineering room and utilising the workshop to produce lamps inspired by the 1927 classic Anglepoise (more commonly recognised now as the Pixar lamp).



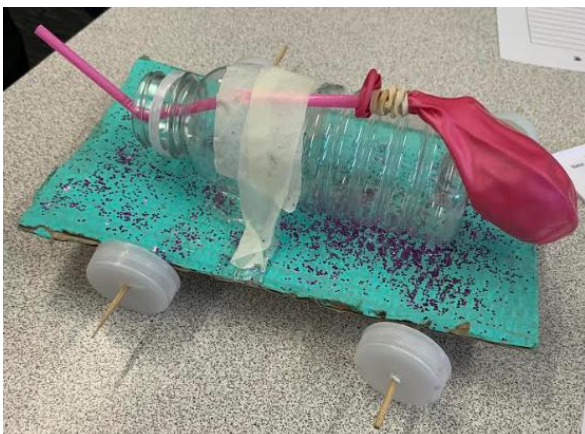
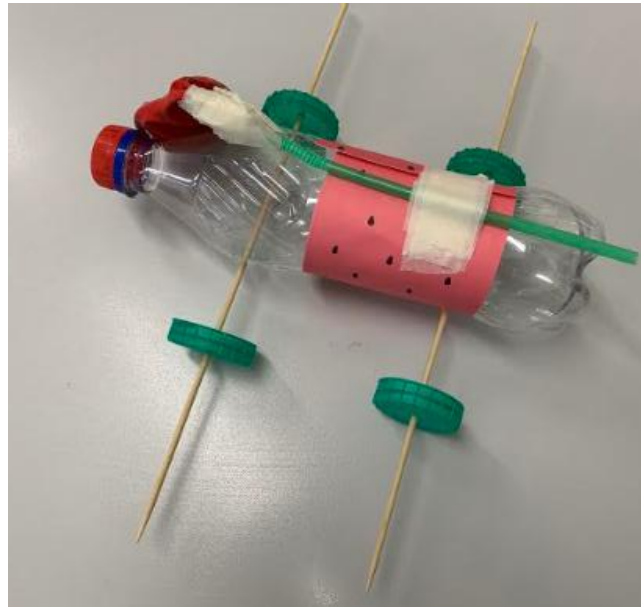
Ms Nicholls



## Year 7 STEM

With STEM lessons, Year 7 have been designing the perfect balloon powered cars.

Testing their understanding of aerodynamics, students worked creatively in teams to produce their own car design and race them against one another in competition to see who could travel the furthest and quickest.



In more recent lessons students are trying out their skills as structural engineers and architects, using their maths and science knowledge to develop their own paper straw towers in hope of having the tallest and strongest structure.

Ms Nicholls

## YMCA Lakeside Challenge

Last weekend, a selected group of students attended the YMCA centre in Windermere for the Lakeside Challenge, an intense outward bounds activity competition, involving schools from around the country and taking place over a number of weekends in February.

The students worked very hard late into Friday night and right through to Sunday lunchtime, learning new skills and representing the school to the highest standard.





*They were a credit to the school – well done to all who took part!*

Mr Prytherch and  
Mr Topping



# Music

## TICE Insight Day

A talented group of Year 9 musicians have been invited to participate in TICE (This is Creative Enterprise) Music Industry this year. On 21st of January they completed the Insight Day of the program which involved a whole day workshop in school with professional musicians. They learnt about different career options in the industry and wrote their own songs to a music industry brief. The next stage of the process called 'Explore' will see them visiting various venues to investigate different careers as well as preparing music for another creative brief.

## School Production of We Will Rock You

Staff and students of the drama and music department have been busy rehearsing away for the annual school production and this year it is We Will Rock You. Lines are being learnt, songs rehearsed, and scenes are being put together for what promises to be a great show on the 4th and 5th March. Tickets will be on sale after February half term from LRC and are £5.00 for adults and £3.00 for concessions. There are two casts this year due to the large number of students involved so be sure to double check which night you would like to see as there will be different pupils performing on each night.

## Performing Arts Dates for the Diary

School Production of We Will Rock You	4th and 5th March Tickets available from the LRC after February Half Term
Spring Concert	24th March

Ms Gibbings

## Business Studies

Once again, Marden High School GCSE Business students have had a busy half term.

Y11 continue to feverishly work towards their GCSE exams in summer by acquiring the last few bits of new knowledge before diving head first into full revision mode to solidify that content to the best of their abilities using a range of different revision strategies.

In Y10, students have not only been learning about the theoretical underpinnings of business, but for one week in mid January, have been able to witness business in action first hand. By undertaking a week long work experience placement, Y10 students, as Y11 did twelve months prior, have had the chance to put their theory into practice, and witness that what they see in textbooks and lessons really is what happens in the wider business world.

We look forward to welcoming back Y10 and hearing all about their work experience and how they can apply what they've seen to what they've been studying. Work experience is often the first chance to begin to form an answer to the age-long question of "what do you want to do when you're older?". We're sure Y10 will have found work experience as enjoyable as they did enlightening.





The Marden *Dragon's Den* Enterprise Club witnessed a roaring trade over the Christmas period. Between them, the 5 groups that took part managed to generate a staggering £315 in revenue thanks to some incredibly supportive customers, both in and out of school.

As all keen business people are, the groups are chomping at the bit to keep the momentum going and are already considering their next product launch.

A new year, a new decade, and a new chance for new students to join Marden *Dragon's Den* Enterprise Club starts now! As part of the next task, we're asking students, both existing and new members, to undertake the *Tenner Challenge*. With not a penny more than £10 available to spend, just how much revenue can our budding entrepreneurs make? Only time will tell. Which side of the business fence do you want to be on, the buyer or the seller?

Whether you have a group or not, come along to Marden *Dragon's Den* Enterprise Club that runs on a Thursday lunchtime (week B) to see what all the fuss is about!



Mr Yarde

## Languages Event - Newcastle University

Every year, Whitley Bay High MFL department invites Marden High students to attend a great event supported by the University of Newcastle. PGCE and language degree students come along to support the students in improving their linguistic abilities and speaking skills.



Our Marden MFL group.



Firstly they are introduced to a variety of different languages, having a go at pronunciation and also learning cultural aspects.

Having a go at learning different languages: Arabic, Spanish, Catalan, Italian, Chinese, Portuguese.

In groups they then prepare shop based conversations and shopping lists to go and buy a variety of items in their target language.



Trying out shop conversations.



Now it is time for shopping and practising those speaking skills.



Making the shopping list in French and German.

The students worked very well together with those from Whitley Bay High and were a credit to the school, winning some of the best student prizes nominated by the University Ambassadors.

Ms Mellor



## Galette des Rois

On January 6, in thousands of French homes – and hundreds of English ones – a flaky cake known as a *galette des rois* (kings' tart) is served.

Tradition has it that if you find a tiny figure in your slice, you are king or queen for the night, and you're given a golden crown.



Our French speaking assistant, Nathalie, kindly brought in one of the frangipane tarts to share with the Year 11 French class last week. The youngest student in the class (Emma) called out names and Nathalie served the slices of galette to the class as they were named.

Sophie was crowned queen for the day after finding the 'fève' in her slice of tart and this may be the start of a new tradition in KS4 lessons.



Ms Mulvenney

# Geography

## Geography Spring 1



With year 9 options upon us and Year 11 considering their next moves we have had a focus on careers in Geography this term. We have been carrying out decision making exercises in class which will help to build our students autonomy and critical thinking skills. Our students have carried out work from the perspective of disaster management authorities in Haiti, road developers in the Peruvian Rainforest and tourism managers in the Australian Desert.

The skills on show have demonstrated that our students will go on to great things when they leave school and those considering a career in the working world of geographers are well equipped to do so. We have some of the career options on display in Hu5 which should make for interesting reading for anyone thinking of pursuing a career in a Geography related job.

### Geogglebox Geography Club

Our new Geography Club got underway last term and has been very well attended since starting. “Geogglebox” is an opportunity for students to come together to watch programs which will help to broaden their understanding of the concepts we learn about in Geography.



LISTINGS	
TV THIS WEEK	18/11/19
	 <b>Geography</b>
Watching factual television programmes can help to deepen and strengthen your knowledge of the world.	Here are the TV shows you could watch this week to broaden your awareness of contemporary geographical issues

Look out for the weekly “Geogglebox” listings around the humanities classrooms and join us on a Thursday after school to watch one of the programs from the list.

Mr Blakey

## RE

### Holocaust Memorial Day

This term in RE Year 8 students have begun looking at the concept of human rights and social justice. As this coincided with Holocaust Memorial Day we spent some time looking at the Holocaust and how this dark event in history influenced the human rights we have today.

During our lessons we explored the stories of those lucky enough to survive, and thought carefully about the emotions of both victims and perpetrators. Trying to analyse why people are capable of doing such terrible things to others is extremely important in terms of identifying and preventing injustice today.

We have discussed at length how during this time in history while we did see the very worst of humanity, we also saw some of the very best of humanity. People who put themselves at risk to save others demonstrates the capacity of humans to love.

British heroes of the Holocaust such as Nicholas Winton and Frank Foley were the epitome of this and students enjoyed very much learning about their stories.



Ms MacLeod



**PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB**

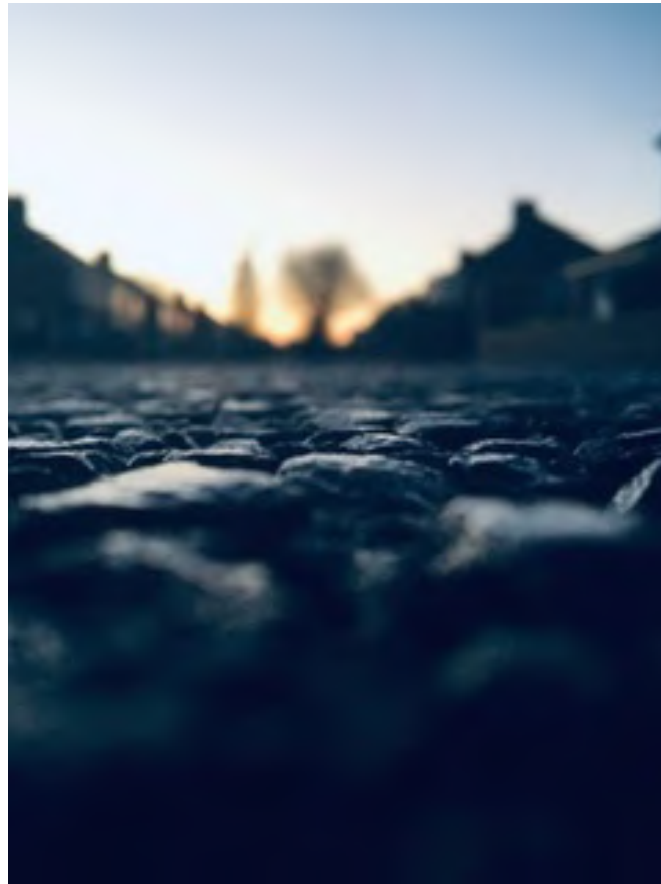
**MEDIA STUDIO**

YR 7: TUESDAY LUNCHTIME  
YR 8&9: THURSDAY AFTER SCHOOL

See Mr Ranson to sign up

J.RANSON@MARDENHIGH.NET

Two different clubs now run each week in the Media Studio; Year 7 during Tuesday lunchtime and Year 8 & 9 after school on a Thursday.



### WINTER PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

YEAR 7 WINNER

Libby Shaw

Libby has demonstrated some superb skills in this photograph, most notably in the use of light and depth of field, and has chosen the perfect time of day.

The tree, bathed in the dying of the light, acts as a focal point, positioned so that the road follows your eye towards it, but in choosing to focus on the cobbles which take up most of the frame it subverts the conventional sunset picture.

“A brilliant concept and I love the textures of the outcome.”

- Mr Snape

“I love the tilt shift effect.”

- Ms Olbrecht



## WINTER PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

### YEAR 8 WINNER

Zoe Armstrong

This image really shows that sometimes you have to be in the right place at the right time. Zoe is not afraid to capture as much darkness as possible in this photograph; the sun breaking through the clouds turning the sky a soft yellow colour, but it is the rest of the dominant greys and blacks which demonstrate the winter theme superbly.

The silhouette of the dog walker captured in the sun's beam makes this photograph extra special, giving it a grand scale and an other-worldly feel.



## WINTER PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

### YEAR 9 WINNER

Adam Jones

This photograph is a technical triumph, perfectly framed to draw your eye to all sorts of interesting things; the sweep of the pier on the left, the off centre lifeboat, the jagged rock face to the right, the log in the immediate foreground and the clean straight lines of the beach, sea and post.

The stormy sky and richly textured sand encapsulate the winter theme. A seemingly ordinary setting has been made more interesting by the thoughtful framing and moody light. Very well done!

Mr Ranson



# Valentine's Poetry Competition

The results of the Valentine's Poetry Competition are as follows:-

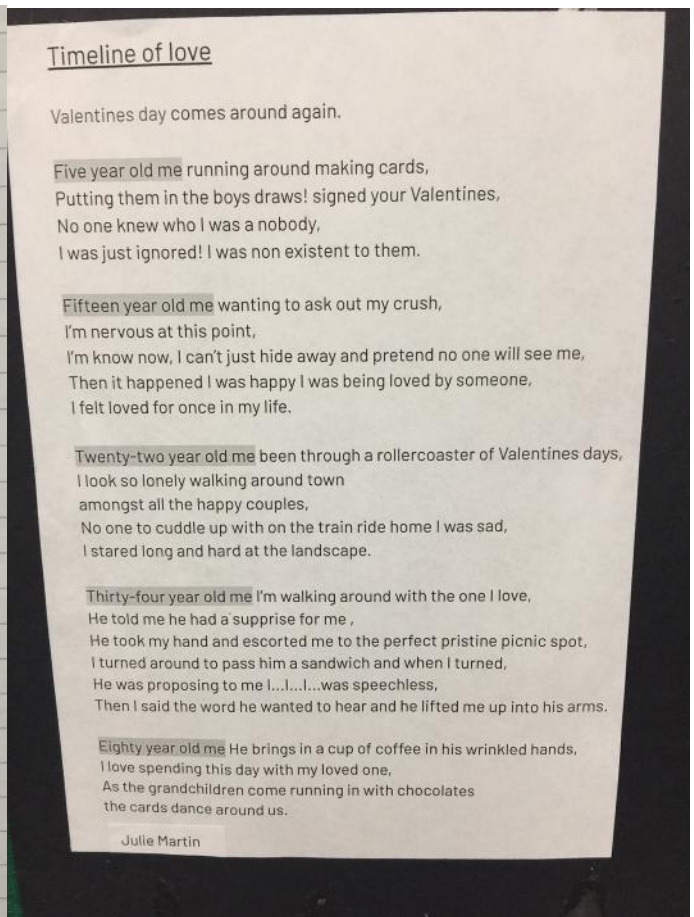
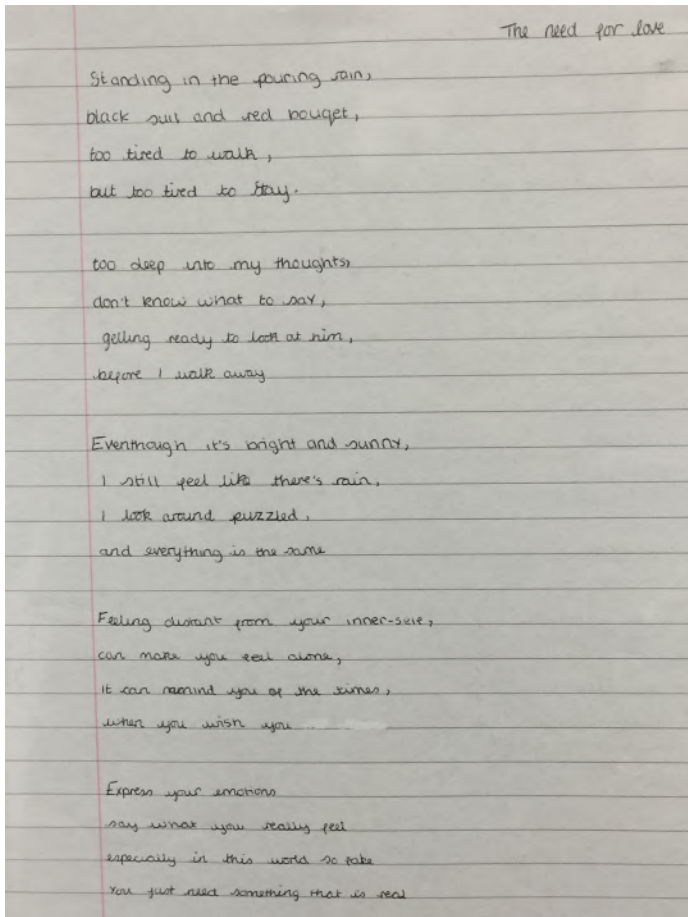
*First place* Esther Atonio (9E)

*Second place* Julie Martin (9E)

There were 39 entries altogether so a huge congratulations to all for taking part and for their efforts!

Esther Atonio

Julie Martin



Ms Potter



# MARDEN

## READS

### Reading List

Here are some suggestions of books you might want to read over **year 7**.

(You should be trying to read at least one of these per half-term)

- The Enemy - *Charlie Higson*
- Cosmic - *Frank Cottrell Boyce*
- Wonder - *R.J Palacio*
- Treasure Island - *R.L Stevenson*
- The Adventure Series *Lee Tony*
- The Adventure of Huckleberry Finn - *Mark Twain*
- Blitzcat - *Robert Westall*
- Holes - *Louis Sachar*
- Stormbreaker - *Anthony Horowitz*
- The Hobbit - *J R R Tolkien*
- Madame Doubtfire - *Anne Fine*
- The Edge - *Alan Gibbons*
- Millions - *Frank Cottrell Boyce*
- The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole - *Sue Townsend*

### Want a challenge?

- War Horse - *Michael Morpurgo*
- Great Expectations - *Charles Dickens*
- The Lord of the Rings Trilogy - *JRR Tolkien*
- The Book Thief - *Marcus Zusak*
- The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes - *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*

### Reading List

Here are some suggestions of books you might want to read over **year 8**.

(You should be trying to read at least one of these per half-term)

- The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes - *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*
- The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy - *Douglas Adams*
- The Hunger Games - *Suzanne Collins*
- After the First Death - *Robert Cormier*
- The Universe Versus Alex Woods - *Gavin Extance*
- The Enemy - *Charlie Higson*
- Cosmic - *Frank Cottrell Boyce*
- Carrie's War - *Nina Bawden*
- The Foreshadowing - *Marcus Sedgewick*
- The Northern Lights series - *Philip Pullman*
- Noughts and Crosses - *Malorie Blackman*
- Treasure Island - *R.L Stevenson*
- Martyn Pig - *Kevin Brooks*
- The Ruby in the Smoke - *Philip Pullman*
- Small Steps - *Louis Sachar*
- A Child Called 'It' - *Dave Pelzer*
- The Woman in Black - *Susan Hill*

### Want a challenge?

- The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time - *Mark Haddon*
- Life of Pi - *Yann Martel*
- The Help - *Kathryn Stockett*
- Animal Farm - *George Orwell*
- Jane Eyre - *Charlotte Bronte*
- Lord of the Flies - *William Golding*





# MARDEN



## Reading List

Here are some suggestions of books you might want to read over year 9.

(You should be trying to read at least one of these per half-term)

*Animal Farm - George Orwell*

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time - Mark Haddon*

*Of Mice and Men - John Steinbeck*

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian - Sherman Alexie*

*Looking for Alaska - John Green*

*Lord of the Flies - William Golding*

*The Help - Kathryn Stockett*

*Life of Pi - Yann Martel*

*Angel Blood John Singleton*

## Want a challenge?

*Wuthering Heights - Emily Bronte*

*Junk - Melvin Burgess*

*1984 - George Orwell*

*The Catcher in the Rye - J.D. Salinger*

*The Great Gatsby - F.Scott Fitzgerald*

*The War of the Worlds - H.G. Wells*

## Reading List

Here are some suggestions of books you might want to read over year 10 & 11.

(You should be trying to read at least one of these per half-term)

*Tip! Try to get into the habit of reading newspapers too! This will help for your English exam.*

*1984 - George Orwell*

*Animal Farm - George Orwell*

*A Room with a View - E.M. Forster*

*The Book Thief - Markus Zusak*

*Brighton Rock - Graham Greene*

*Catch 22 - Joseph Heller*

*The Catcher in the Rye - J.D. Salinger*

*The Color Purple - Alice Walker*

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time - Mark Haddon*

*David Copperfield - Charles Dickens*

*East of Eden -John Steinbeck*

*Frankenstein - Mary Shelley*

*The Grapes of Wrath - John Steinbeck*

*The Great Gatsby - F.Scott Fitzgerald*

*The Help - Kathryn Stockett*

*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings - Maya Angelou*

*Jane Eyre - Charlotte Bronte*

## Marden's LRC



The LRC is open to students between 8.30am and 4.00pm, although the space is limited. 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

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## Medication in School Important Notice

At Marden high School we support students with a wide range of medical conditions.

We'd like to remind parents that students should not be carrying any medication in school unless by prior agreement for those with asthma, diabetes and allergies.

Where medication is absolutely necessary for other conditions, e.g. antibiotics, pain relief, we have trained staff who will make arrangements for safe storage and administration of medication. Parents are responsible for bringing medicines into school and we require written consent (form available from Reception); all medicines should be in their original packaging and clearly labelled.

Any queries please contact Mrs Sonia Thompson, Medications Officer.



## 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.

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 [office@mardenhigh.net](mailto:office@mardenhigh.net) to get your email address updated. If you don't want to use

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 General 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.

### 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. (8.45am - 15.15pm)

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