



MARDEN NEWS

Summer End of Term Edition 2021



Sports for Champions UK

Stephanie Inglis Team GB (2nd from right)

Featuring

Message from the
Head Teacher

Design &
Technology

Drama & Media

English

Geography

PE

RE

Science

Yr7 & Yr8 Creative Writers

The Environment Club - *The
Green Team*

PTA Summer Raffle Draw

Upcoming Recycling Competition

**Marden High School**

Friday 16 July 2021

Dear All,

We have just completed an academic year which has been quite extraordinary. Extraordinary, in terms of the challenges the ongoing pandemic has brought, but also extraordinary in terms of what our community has achieved, and the opportunities we have taken to ensure that our young people continue to make great progress in their learning and their personal development. Necessity being the mother of invention, there are so many ways in which we have had to adapt the way we live our lives, often giving us the opportunity to reflect on what our priorities really are. Of course, this past year has also brought loss to parts of our community, and we share in the sadness that brings, and we look to offer support in the months and years ahead. One of the things I have become increasingly clear about during this last year, is that it is the closeness of our school community and the sense of belonging that people have within it that has enabled us to work together so well. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone - students, staff, parents and carers, governors - for all their contributions and support during this past year. Looking forward to the coming year, my hope is that we will continue in this vein, and I would invite everyone to:

"Be a reflection of what you'd like to receive. If you want love, give love. If you want truth, be truthful. If you want respect, give respect. What you give out will always return."

I mentioned last week that there had been several Government announcements regarding the approach that would be taken in dealing with the ongoing pandemic in the new academic year. Included in this information was the news that schools would be asked to test all students on their return to school in September, once before they enter classrooms, and again a few days later. Following those first two tests there is the expectation that students will conduct twice weekly tests at home. As we will be testing children on entry to the school, we will operate a staggered start as follows:

Thursday 2/9/21 Staggered start			
	Year 7		Year 7
9.00	M	11.40	D
9.40	A	12.20	E



10.20	R	1.00	N
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Friday 3/9/21 Staggered start			
Morning	Year 11	Afternoon	Year 10
8.30	M	12.15	M
9.00	A	12.45	A
9.30	R	1.15	R
10.15	D	1.45	D
10.45	E	2.15	E
11.15	N	2.45	N

Monday 6/8/21 Staggered start			
Morning	Year 9	Afternoon	Year 8
8.30	M	12.15	M
9.00	A	12.45	A
9.30	R	1.15	R
10.15	D	1.45	D
10.45	E	2.15	E
11.15	N	2.45	N

Following the success of many of our previous Young Writers, some forty five more of our students have become published writers and their work will feature in an anthology entitled *Unsolved: Detective Tales!* This is a great accolade for our students and staff, as we continue to have an important focus on practising extended writing skills.

This half term, the Marden High Health Ambassadors have been working in partnership with the YMCA to promote healthy habits in school. This group of year 9 students decided that mental health would be the focus of their project, and they specifically wanted to create something which would help the new cohort of year 7 students joining us in September. What then followed were five weeks of planning, filming, recording and editing a video to promote mental wellbeing and habits to aid in the transition from primary to secondary education. The Health Ambassadors used their own experiences and expertise, and interviewed staff to create a wonderful video which can be viewed [here](#). We are very proud of what they have achieved, and as they can work on such a tight deadline, it's safe to say they may well have a future in the film and TV industry one day!



As we are becoming used to in holiday times, I would remind all parents and carers to let me know if any student tests positive with Covid within 48 hours of them having been in school. They should send - child's full name; date of COVID test; what date symptoms started if present - to my email address, m.snape@mardenhigh.net.

Over the past couple of weeks we have continued with the process of selecting our prefects for the next academic year. Hopeful applicants took part in several group planning activities where they had to discuss and come up with a plan for three induction activities for new Year 7 students, whilst being watched and assessed by Head of Year Mr Scott and a member of the senior team. The quality of discussion was very high, and not only did each group come up with some fantastic ideas which we will be able to take forward, but there was a range of high level communication and teamwork skills shown, which bodes well for the future of prefects at Marden, as well as for the individual careers of these young people.

We were extremely lucky on Wednesday to have a small celebration of some of the musical work that has been going on this term at Marden. Our little concert had a mixture of treats from some of Mardens solo singers to the Yr 7 Ukulele Club, the Yr 8 Arts award and the Yr 9 Ensemble. We were also delighted to have some of the year 11 leavers, who returned to share some close harmony with us. A small but appreciative audience of teachers and fellow performers made for a lovely event. Here is to more music at Marden!

And finally ... our successful activity week drew to a close with students having the opportunity to pour an ice bucket over Mr Anderson and Mr Shields. In a streamed live event during form time, names were drawn out of a hat and two lucky students were able to pour the icy buckets to the loud cheers of their fellow students and even louder cheers from staff! The video will be shared on the website so those not in school can enjoy it too. There is also a great compilation video on the website showing a sample of some of the other activities which students have undertaken this week.

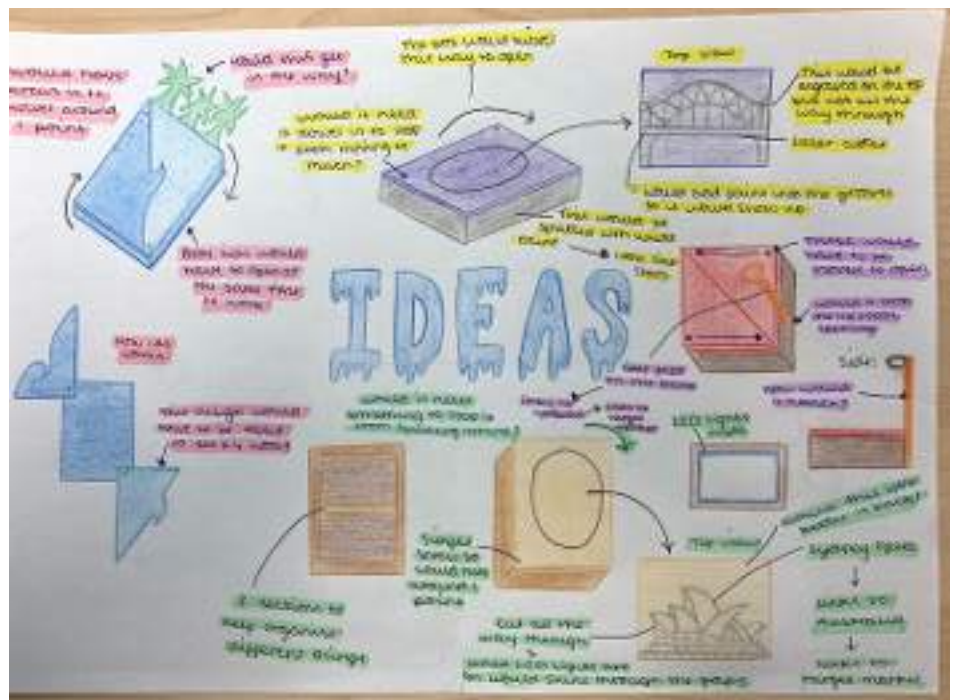
Thank you for your continued support, have a great summer, and take care.

Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher

Design & Technology



Term three in Technology has once again been a busy one with students at Key Stage three focusing on finishing off practical projects before the summer holidays, with some excellent results!





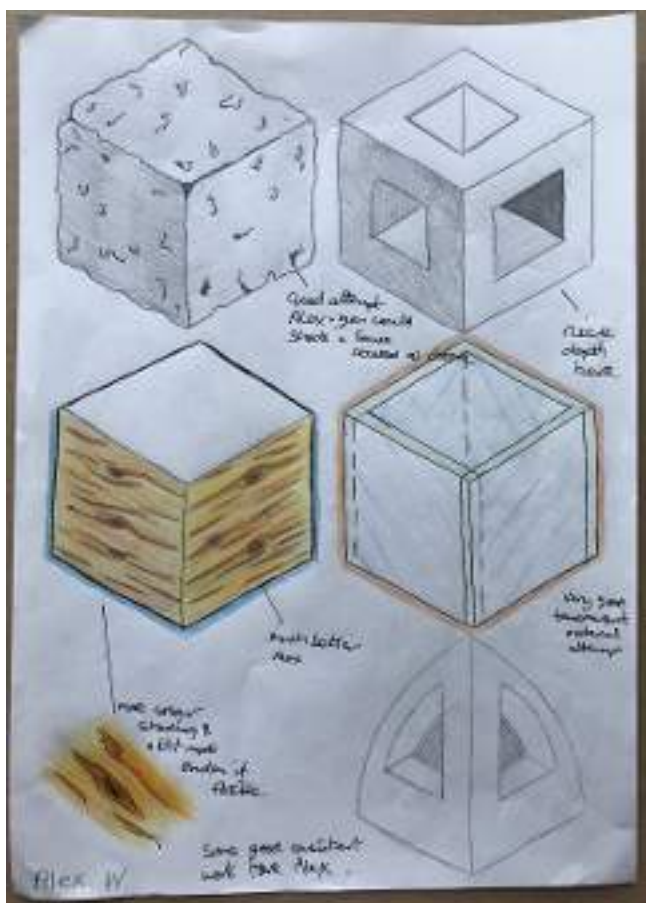
Key Stage 4 students are continuing to prepare for future assessments, Food Preparation and Nutrition are continuing to put the likes of Mary Berry to shame with their creations, as well as developing skills and techniques for savoury options; including learning to prepare a full fish, we'll leave those photos for another day!



Year 10 Design & Technology students have now started to complete their NEA coursework with students independently researching a topic assigned by AQA.

Students are working hard investigating their context, conducting research and interviews, testing products and visiting areas of relevance to form their work. This is a difficult challenge but one all students are rising too! Wednesday afternoons have seen a small group of this class take advantage of an opportunity to get back in the workshop and build something of their choice.

Again we have some excellent outcomes being achieved as we near the end of the year from jewellery making to plant pot to holders, students are showing great potential for their final year that is fast approaching.



Changes caused by lockdown mean the current Year 10 Engineers are working hard to prepare for their internally assessed exam unit. As a department we are proud of how maturely these students are approaching this work in the absence of a formal exam.

With Mr Mushen Engineers are continuing to build skills for future work with some excellent outcomes also being produced!

Ms Nicholls



Year 8 Arts Award Silent Movie Project

Last term the Media and Drama departments teamed up with a group of Year 8 students for an ambitious Arts Award project.

After learning about the early silent movie era, they spent a session perfecting their dramatic acting skills and filmmaking technique before creating scenarios, then filming and editing their own short silent films.





Mrs Berriman
& Mr Ranson



Unstuck...

As part of their Sherlock Holmes unit of work, Year 8 English students were given the task of becoming detectives themselves to solve this year's 'Marden She Wrote' case...*Unstuck*.

It all started on a normal day in school; Mrs Cathcart was informed of a delivery of precious glue sticks - an exciting day! She hurriedly collected them and unsuspectingly placed them in the department cupboard ready to be given out at the end of the day. Later that day the department (and in particular Mrs C) were shocked to find the box had been cruelly ripped open and all glue sticks were gone! Students were given a selection of suspects and motives and had to use their Sherlock style inference and deduction skills to try to pick the culprit - but did they succeed?

Students had a number of interesting hypotheses: did Mrs Todd's unwillingness to blame anyone imply it was actually her? Was Ms Taylor's tale about her using PVA glue and not actual glue sticks all a lie? Does Miss Boyle actually buy her own glue sticks, or was this just a cover up?

Year 8 student Francesca Herzberg describes the moment her chosen detective (Mrs Cathcart) thinks she has solved the case...

The next day, Mrs Cathcart sat at her desk with the notebook in hand. After days of looking at them, she had finally cracked the case. Everything came together. She jumped out of her chair and ran to Mr Horn's classroom. "I did it, I figured it all out. It's so clear!" she screamed in an excited panic. Mr. Horn didn't look impressed. "Well go on then, what's your theory?"

She took out a chair and sat on it delicately. "It took me ages to figure it out, but now it's all become clear to me. Last week, I interviewed every single person in the English department. But one of them was... interesting." Mr Horn intently leaned in. "Carry on..." "Gladly, when I interviewed Miss Boyle, she gave me a lot of information, here take a look." She handed Mr Horn her notebook and he read along. "Hmmm interesting." "But, the unusual thing is that she kept blaming Miss Lees for her perfect displays; she gets a lot of attention for it. Miss Boyle was jealous of Miss Lees. She also told me that she had had a conversation with Miss Lees on the day talking about their weekly trips to Wilkos and how the prices on the stationery went up, meaning that she couldn't afford to buy anymore. During this discussion, Mrs Todd walked in to collect her keys which she left the other day. Miss Boyle had kept them safe for her but gave them back the next day. Another thing then sprung to mind, Mrs Todd also has a key to the cupboard for where the glue sticks were kept. Miss Boyle wanted to get more glue but couldn't, so she used Mrs Todd's key to get into the cupboard and steal the glue sticks. But why would she do that? So she could make perfect displays and neat books so she could get all of the attention and NOT Miss Lees."

Mr Horn's face lit up, "you are a genius!"



Francesca presented a detailed description of her own theory, as did many other students, but still the question everybody wants answering; who actually stole the glue sticks? Students will find out next week...

Overall this has been an incredibly enjoyable and successful unit and students produced some gripping and wonderfully descriptive pieces of writing. Marden English now has the task of creating 2021/22's installment; who will be our next victim?

Unsolved Mysteries

Once again, our students have had a very successful year in their creative writing efforts; creative writing club has started again and many of our students have been published in local and national anthologies. One of the most recent anthologies being *Unsolved: Detective Stories*. 45 of our talented students were published in this collection after producing a range of gripping 100 word short narratives. Here is Year 7 student Stirling Griggs' tense writing:

The President's Last Night

News flashed up on my phone: 'The President is Dead!' I heard sirens getting louder and closer. "Get down on the ground!" Realisation hit me. Somehow they thought I was the imposter among the president's guards. My best friend, Steven, stepped out from the shadows. "He's not guilty, he was with me all night, I can prove it!" An officer took Steven's phone from his hand showing a photograph of us just minutes before. The officer squinted at the photo of the two of us.

"He's telling the truth, I can see the attacker in the background of this photo..."

We look forward to continuing to see fantastic creative writing skill and competition entries moving forward into 2021/22. And remember, if any student has produced a piece of writing they think would be suitable for a current competition or publication, please email getpublished@mardenhigh.net

Here is what your English teachers have on their Summer Reading List:

Mr Horn: *Brooklyn* by Colm Toibin

Mrs Cathcart: *Pine* by Francine Toon

Miss Laing: *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood

Mr Ranson: *A Spool of Blue Thread* by Anne Tyler

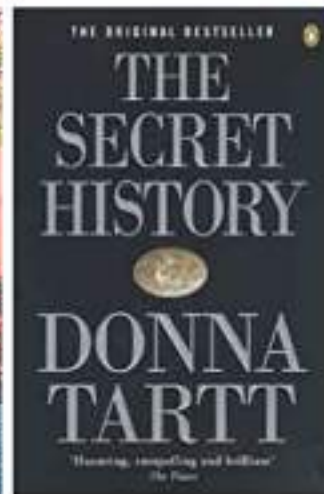
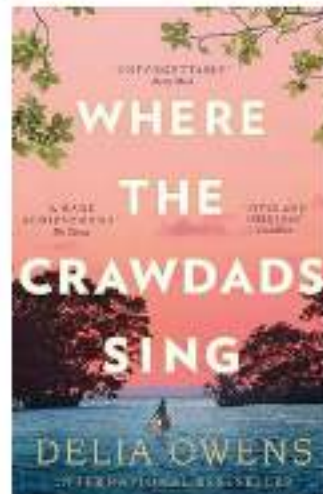
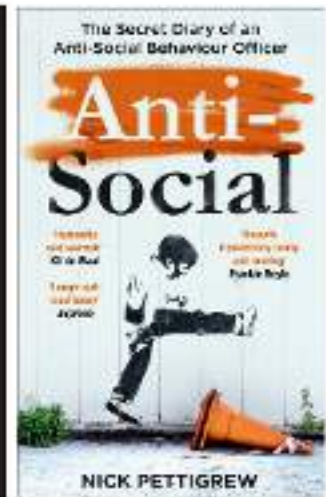
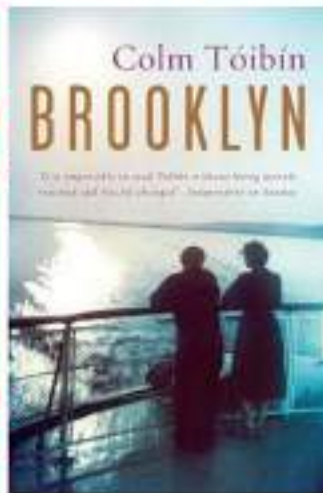
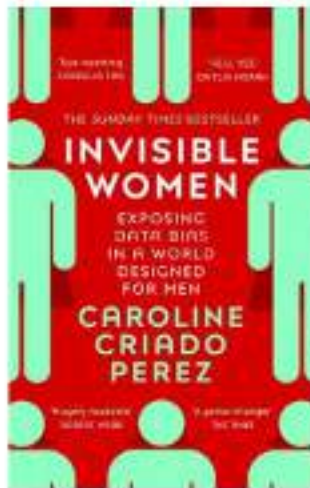
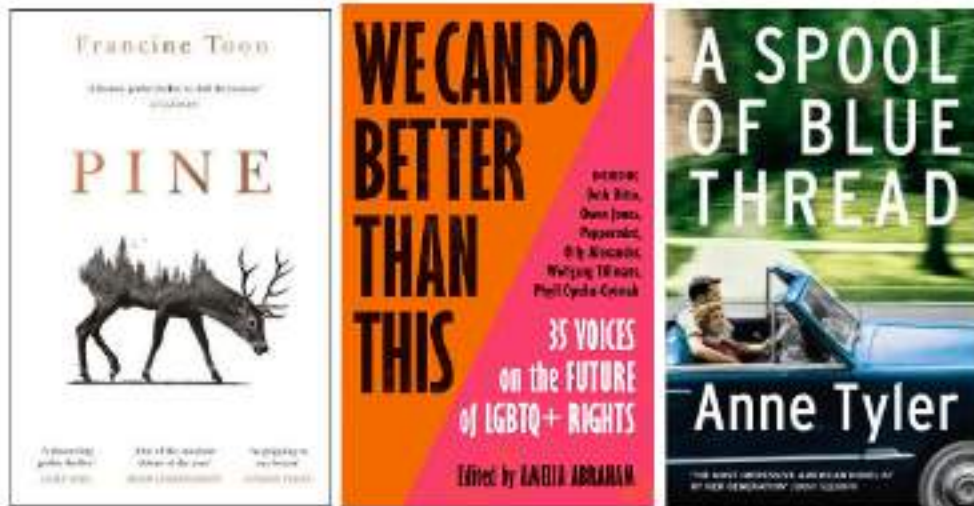
Ms Taylor: *Invisible Women* by Caroline Criado Perez

Miss Lees: *We Can Do Better Than This* edited by Amelia Abraham

Mrs Eastlake: *Anti-Social* by Nick Pettigrew

Miss Boyle: *The Secret History* by Donna Tartt

Mrs Barnes: *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens



Mrs Cathcart



As a busy year draws to a close it's a great opportunity to reflect on this term's progress.

Year 11 left us having completed a series of assessments. The students all acquitted themselves very well and they produced some excellent work and tackled the situation in the mature way we have come to expect from Marden High students. It has been nice to see some of them return to take part in A-Level taster sessions looking at how fieldwork will be delivered in their further education.

Year 10 have just completed a series of mocks which they prepared for in excellent fashion. Many of them capitalise on some of those independent study skills which would have been emerging during lockdown. The results so far have been very encouraging and they should feel very proud about how they have ended the year.



Year 9 have been studying natural disasters this term and in their lessons we have been looking at some of the recent tectonic events which have taken place in Iceland and St Vincent. Students have compared the slow but dramatic eruption of Fagradalsfjall Volcano in Geldingadalur, which sits on a constructive plate margin with La Soufriere on the Caribbean island of St Vincent which sits on a destructive plate margin.



Year 9 students have done a great job of applying the work they have been doing in class to compare two volcanoes in areas of differing levels of economic development.



Our year 8 students have been honing their geographical skills and applying them to the narrative of surviving a zombie apocalypse. Who knew there was so much geography involved in surviving a zombie attack? Whether it's preparing for disaster, mapping evacuation routes or rebuilding settlements, our students are now well prepared for survival. We were lucky enough to put these skills to the test in some real world situations when the RAF delivered some disaster training based around their involvement in the search and rescue following hurricane Irma when it struck the British Virgin Islands in 2017. The course was delivered remotely by members of the RAF and they were very impressed by our students' problem solving skills and their teamwork.



Year 7 students have been looking at the impact of tourism around the world and reflecting on the reasons that people travel. They have been able to spend some time thinking about being more sustainable to reduce the impact on the world through their travel. Some of our students have designed some amazing ecotourism resorts and they have thought about the possibility of working in ecotourism as a future career.

Overall it's been a very productive year, our students have demonstrated commendable levels of resilience this year, they are a credit to the school community and teaching them in geography has been a real pleasure this year.

Enjoy a well earned break and we look forward to seeing everyone again in the Autumn term.

Mr Blakey



As we have moved into the summer term and certain covid restrictions have been lifted, we have been able to deliver a summer programme of activities. As well as this we have been able to offer a variety of extra curricular opportunities which have included athletics, rounders, cricket and tennis. Students have remained in their year group bubbles for these activities and the sessions have been very well attended. Aligned to this programme we have also been delivering the Active Marden sessions for Yr8 which have focused upon Table Tennis, Cricket and Racket Sports.

Active Mile

At the end of April we took part in an initiative which was open to all schools across North Tyneside from primary level to high school level. It involved encouraging students to walk/jog on a field for up to fifteen minutes on Friday 30th April. Students could aim to cover a set distance or they could simply walk/jog to improve their level of exercise and fitness. Our students used break times to engage in this and it was very pleasing to see their level of enjoyment as they exercised together.

Healthy Active Lifestyles

Linked to the 'Active Mile' initiative we have continued to encourage physical activity before school by opening up the track areas at 8.15am every Friday morning for students to engage in active walking or jogging with friends. The students have remained in their bubbles for this so that each year group has had the opportunity to exercise within their specified area. It has been very encouraging to see the level of engagement in KS3.



Activ5

During the week of April 21st - 24th (inset day 25th) we were involved in the Tyne & Wear School Games Activ5 programme. The focus was placed upon such attributes as Self Belief, Respect, Teamwork, Honesty and Determination in sport and a range of activities were available to take part in. As a school we linked the programme to the current Euro 20 Football Tournament and organised students across all year groups into the different countries taking part in the tournament. They remained in their year group teams representing particular countries across the football and orienteering competitions organised within their PE lessons. Results were tabulated on the final day of competition and we were able to award trophies to the winning teams. The week proved to be very successful and enjoyable for all those involved.



Team GB

Sports for Champions UK

Sports for Champions is a programme which encourages promising athletes to visit schools to run workshops. On Friday 9th July Yr9 students will be taking part in a fitness circuit led by a GB talented athlete in the morning and will be able to view a virtual assembly in a later lesson. The students have been asked to be sponsored so that the money will help to support such athletes. Part of the money raised will come back into school. The athlete visiting our school will be Stephanie Inglis, a Judo performer.



Miss Stamp

RE



This term in Philosophy, Religion and Ethics we have been looking at a variety of topics across key stage 3. Year 7 have been exploring a philosophy for children topic where they have been considering how we know what is real, and where our morals and ethics come from.

Year 8 is finishing a topic about how we treat the environment by looking at human beings' treatment of animals, specifically the treatment of killer whales in seaworld. Some of the students have been outraged to find out how differently the orca live in comparison to how they live in the wild.



Our year 10 students are completing their learning about Buddhism and as a part of this we were lucky enough to have a Buddhist monk visit. He started with a guided meditation then talked a little about how he lives and worships. He ended the session with a question and answer session. I know the students enjoyed this as much as I did!

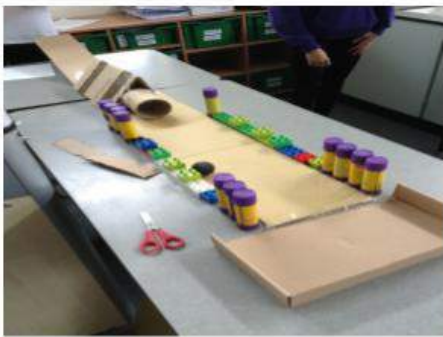
Mrs MacLeod



SCIENCE



In Science, for the end of the school year, we have been looking at the **science of sport**.



Year 9 Mini Golf Course



We made a **mini golf course** in the lab to demonstrate ideas of **forces** and **motion**.

For our year 6 virtual transition lesson the students looked at experiments about **electrical current** and **extension of a spring**. We talked about **variables** and how to carry out a fair scientific investigation. We were very impressed by some of the answers from the year 6 students!



INDEPENDENT VARIABLE

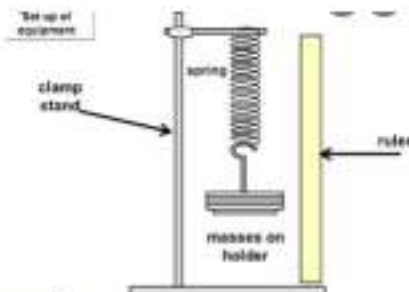
What I **CHANGE**

DEPENDENT VARIABLE

What I **OBSERVE**

CONTROLLED VARIABLE

What I **KEEP THE SAME**



Year 6 transition lesson

Experiment 1: Does the number of bulbs connected in series affect the current flowing through the circuit?



An ammeter is used to measure the current flowing through the circuit.

Independent variable-
Dependent variable-
Control variables-

Prediction: Does anyone know what will happen?



The science department have been taking full advantage of the Green Team's sunflower competition. Not only have the form classes been looking after their sunflowers in order to grow the best sunflower and win the competition, the science teachers have been using them in lessons too. Year 8 have been studying photosynthesis in their science lessons and the sunflowers have been perfect models for discussing the conditions plants need to grow. Students have been able to identify why we need to regularly water them and the benefits of the sunny windowsills in science. Miss Clark's sunflower even made a guest appearance during her year 6 transition lesson where she was teaching the future year 7's about different variables in science.

Sunflower competition



Mrs Vickers



Year 7 and Year 8 Creative Writers

We have been celebrating the exciting number of students who have become published writers this year at Marden. There has been a plethora of original, creative writing produced through in-house and national competitions! Most recently, 45 students have had their work published in an anthology of Mystery Stories following a national competition held by Young Writers. Here are a few with their certificates!



Ms Taylor



A plant in every class

One of the first ideas the Green Team decided upon was to try and get a plant in every classroom. To start this they created a Sunflower competition for all the forms in school. Each form was given a seedling to look after to then eventually be planted in the garden, which has now happened (see photo). The winner of the tallest and most developed sunflower will be announced in September. There has been some fierce competition amongst the forms.

From next term the team also hopes to get a variety of plants in each classroom as being a part of nature is an important part of our wellbeing.



Development of the Marden High Garden

The Green Team has been working hard on the Garden and it is starting to take shape. Many plants have been kindly donated by Morrisons as well as Staff members. We have also collected tyres for planters as well as pallets to create an insect hotel. With the funds from Northumberland Wildlife Trust we have also bought some tools. The team continues to think about how they would like to develop the garden and how students can access it. Ideas include a pond, a bench made of eco bricks, a living willow fence as well as bird boxes and a water butt. The team needs a shed for the equipment and are in developing stages of creating a plastic bottle greenhouse.



First, identify the site



Mark out boundaries



Put in flowers, raised beds, tomato plants, hanging baskets and an insect hotel.

Ms Mellor



The PTA has continued to run during the school year, supporting the school and running events. The latest event was the summer raffle. The PTA joined with the year 10 house team captains to create prizes around the topics that have become important to use during this strange time. Lots of lovely members of our community have donated prizes. The winners are announced on the website and our Twitter page.

Alnwick - Wellbeing - vouchers for Beauty 2000 and Louis Barber, M&S voucher and meditative colouring book.

Bamburgh - Environment - Plastic free soap products from Bottle Swap, vegan sweets, Hemp Football and plastic free frisbee.

Dunstanburgh - Local Area - gift card from Riley's Fish Shack, Local Artist print from Emily Ward, Newcastle United signed shirt, Metal poster from the Picture Tile company.

Warkworth - Connection - High tea served by Marden students and M&S gift card.

Ms Mellor



Crisp packet recycling at Marden High

We continue to collect crisp packets across the school and from the community, helping to reduce our rubbish and earn money from it.

Over 8 kilos of crisp packets were recently sent to Terracycle to be broken down and recycled into both more crisp packets and furniture.

COMPETITION

On returning to school in September we will be holding a competition of the form that can collect the most crisp packets. Get a head start and collect your crisp packets over the summer. Remember fewer crisp packets in the bin is better for the environment and also gains money for the school.

What can you recycle?

Bring any crisp packet (any brand). That includes Walkers, Tyrells, Hula Hoops, supermarket brand etc (including the large packet that holds the small ones)

Please keep in mind that we do not accept popcorn bags, pretzel bags or meat snack bags in any form

Happy recycling!

Ms Mellor



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

- 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*

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*

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*



MARDEN

READS

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- Animal Farm - *George Orwell*
- Jane Eyre - *Charlotte Bronte*



MARDEN READS

Reading List

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

(You should be trying to read at least

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

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

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

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

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