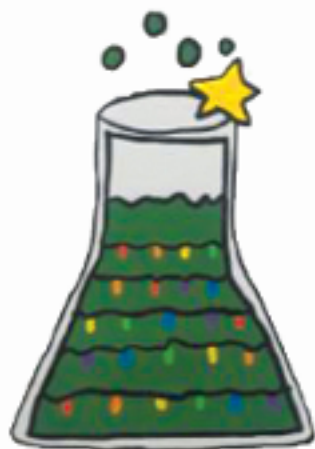




MARDEN NEWS

December 2022 End of Term Edition

Rocking Around The Chemistree



Merry Christmas
from Marden High School



Rocking Around The Chemistree



Merry Christmas
from Marden High School



Featuring

Message from
The Headteacher

Technology

Drama

English

Science

Geography

Literacy

PE

RE



Marden High School

Friday 23rd December 2022

Dear All

We have achieved much, and enjoyed many successes this term, and the past five days have typified that, a week crammed full of highlights, too many to mention, but including House Assemblies, Christmas Jumper Day (raising a generous amount of money in support of Bone Cancer Research), a fantastic Work of the Week collection, and of course two fantastic renditions of our school production *Sister Act*. The performing arts, sports and academic extras that happen at Marden are many and varied, all developing valuable skills and interests in our young people, and I think the school production exemplifies the breadth of attributes which make Marden students so special. Each day I witness our students' discipline and work ethic in classrooms, and this is mirrored in the learning of lines, choreographing of routines, and singing practice that I have enjoyed in these last few weeks. The total commitment and joy from all the children taking part was clear to see and hear, and I don't think there was a dry eye in the audience after some of the songs. It is the enthusiasm and commitment of our dedicated staff in "going the extra mile" which inspires our young people produce such performances and to increasingly take on leadership roles such as the student technical crew and backstage crew, and we are very grateful for the dedication of Mrs Berriman and Mrs Gibbings in producing and directing this audiovisual feast, ably supported by Mrs McIndewar in the costumes department. One of the key messages we give our children is to take opportunities that arise, and so it has been good to see this year so many students wanting to be involved in the show. If you were not able to come to one of the performances this week, I am afraid you missed something very special ... but there's always next year.

This term has seen the development of our Year 11 and Year 7 literacy pairings where older students listen to and support younger students to practise and improve their literacy skills, in particular through reading and discussion. Whenever I have seen this in action in the LRC it has been clear that all students have really enjoyed this project, with the opportunities it provides for student leadership and encouraging reading for pleasure. I always think that the Christmas and New Year period is a great time to catch up on some reading, and for parents and children to take the opportunity to read together or discuss books, no matter how old they are. In Ms Taylor's [Literacy Notices](#) this week, there is a whole list of suggested reads for the holiday period and beyond, well worth a look. Also in the Literacy Notices is



news of another Young Writers poetry competition with the theme of Winter Wonderland. In previous competitions Marden students have done very well, so I hope that lots of students give it a go. Remember, there's a poet in each of us, just waiting for the right moment to shine. Don't forget [Wayne Gretzky's](#) iconic quote: "100% of the shots you don't take don't go in".

We have just enjoyed a wonderful Carol Service at St George's Church, and we reflected on the fact that Christmas time is traditionally a time of giving and receiving gifts. The act of giving is something that is common to people all over the world - it is an instinct that goes right to the core of what it means to be human - people like to give each other things. It is a way of one person showing another person that they care, that they like them, that they want to contribute to their lives in a positive way that brings them real joy. We also remembered though, that it is the little things we do for others, the things we say, or the way we look at someone, that may seem superficial, but that actually mean so much to the people around us. These often are the real gifts, and Christmas and New Year is a good time to stop and reflect on how we want our interactions with others to be moving forward. On the theme of Christmas songs, I hope you enjoy this wonderful [British Sign Language Christmas message](#) performed by students and staff.

Our students achieve great things because of the opportunities they have at school. Yes, Marden is one of the highest performing schools in the area, but more than that, each day as students and staff we enrich our lives, taking pleasure and enjoyment from the wide variety of creative, academic, technical and sporting opportunities. That's what we've done this term, and it's what we're looking forward to doing again next term - but not before we've all had a well deserved break. Well done to all our students for what they have achieved this term, and a huge thank you to all our wonderful staff for the dedication, inspiration and sheer hard work that they all give each day.

I hope everybody has a good holiday. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Thank you for your continued support and take care.

Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher



Our first term back has been a busy one in Technology. We have loved having our department back up and running fully after covid and the roof damage meant we had to reduce what we could offer, especially when it came to practical tasks. Fortunately, this term we've seen classes back cooking and baking in food, creating clocks and storage solutions in woodwork, and casting pendants and forming aluminium keyrings in metalwork, and so much more! Students across both Key Stage 3 and 4 have been making excellent use of our facilities once again, exploring their creativity and problem solving across all 4 subject areas.

Key Stage 3:

This year, Key Stage 3 classes are working on a rotation and will make their way around the department as the year progresses, experiencing the different areas of Technology: STEM, Engineering, Design and Technology and Food Preparation. Below are just a few creations made this term.

Year 7 Ugly Dolls:



Year 7 Pewter:



Year 8 Keyring (country souvenir):



Year 9 Storage Solutions:





Key Stage 3 Food:





Key Stage 4:

This is a busy time for Year 11 students. Across all Technology subjects; GCSE Design and Technology, OCR Engineering and GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition, students are working on their NEA coursework units. For DTech students this means preparing their work to be ready to begin building their prototype models in the New Year. As the part of the course most students (and teachers) enjoy most, we're really looking forward to moving lessons into the workshop! After Christmas it will be a very fast paced 6 weeks of modelling and making to ensure they produce the highest quality prototype of their design solution, from storage to working from home solutions, pet toys and housing, souvenirs for places of interests local and afar, it should prove a productive and exciting time!

In Food, Year 11 have completed their first NEA unit, investigating the chemical and functional properties of choux pastry, pasta and a roux sauce. Students worked hard to investigate and explore these areas before completing their own 3 hour practical investigation. These marks count towards 30% of their final grade.

Engineering students are also working on their second NEA unit, producing their own speaker designs. Currently they are working on technical drawings, showing their own creative final outcomes in orthographic, isometric and exploded views. Students have made excellent progress in this unit, developing their creative skills both by hand, but also progressing the CAD skills using Fusion 360 to develop their ideas using the professional software.

Extra-Curricular:

Craft Club

The second half of this term has seen students in Year 8 get creative producing felt bookmarks before moving onto some festive baking. Starting simple with shortbread biscuits and gingerbread we're looking forward to trying our hands at puffpastry christmas tree twist. Unfortunately all evidence was consumed before photos could be taken!



Vex Robotics

Mrs Green is continuing on from last year's success at the regional VEX Robotics competition and entering a new team of students into the 2023 tournament; 'Spin Up'. Again students are working to develop their robot, this time with a new challenge of scooping up and throwing discs into designated areas to score

To date students have focused on building the robot, Keanu II, and are now fine tuning the features to develop his ability to throw further and more accurately for the competition.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wIZgvVDZc2Y>



First Lego League

We have been lucky enough to secure a place in the First LEGO League competition. Our team of 10 students from years 8 to 11 will work together to develop a range of lego robots that are to then be programmed to complete set challenges. Our team will compete against other local schools from the Region in Sunderland in early February, hoping to successfully complete all challenges, and in the quickest time possible. There was a lot of interest from students to be part of the team that was selected at random. We hope to continue to offer more similar activities in future to offer everyone the chance to be part of a STEM team

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=okR1AMFNV3Q>



Ms K Nicholls



Welcome to Drama!

We're glad to see that our Year 7 students have settled into Drama lessons very well and have been producing some imaginative work in response to poetry; 'Timothy Winters' and 'The Identification'. Students have explored basic skills such as hot seating, still image, slow motion movement and thought tracking. We're looking forward to developing our skills further next term with the delights of William Shakespeare!

Year 8 students have been building upon their knowledge and skills through exploration of 'Aberfan'. Students have enjoyed working together as part of an ensemble as well as learning about events from the past. Next term we will begin our off-text exploration of 'Blood Brothers'.

In Year 9, we have been developing our knowledge and understanding of 'Diversity' through a variety of drama skills; students have particularly enjoyed exploring physical theatre and symbolism. Next term students will focus upon The Crucible by Arthur Miller; they will work in small groups to explore performance skills and the design elements of the play.

Key Stage 4 students are as busy as always; Year 10 students have started their Devising project and there are some promising ideas beginning to develop. We aim to perform this work in the Summer term. Year 11's have completed exploration of 'Blue Stockings' in preparation for their written exam. We also enjoyed a long awaited visit to Northern Stage to see Pilot Theatre's adaptation of 'Noughts and Crosses', an inspiring and thought provoking piece. Next term, students will begin preparing scripted extracts for their performance exam In March.

Some of our Year 10 students have recently been awarded achievement for Arts Award Explore. We all had a wonderful time exploring creativity throughout the project. We've enjoyed working together, making new friends and building our creative confidence! We're looking forward to exploring even more creative opportunities with Year 7 and 8.





Once again we are encouraging students to access Digital Theatre Plus. More information about this can be found on Google Classroom. Students are enjoying watching and reviewing extracts from productions and it's a great way to develop knowledge and understanding of the performing arts. Students can access the website at any time which could be fun for the whole family!



Finally, as we approach the end of term we would like to invite our community to our school production, Sister Act Jnr. Further information and ticket prices can be found on the school website. We look forward to seeing some of you there to join our celebration of creativity!



Thank you all for an amazing term.

Merry Christmas!

Mrs S Berriman



Gothic Writing

Year 7 have got their first term of Marden English off to a superb, but spooky start by exploring the key theme of 'Gothic' through the central texts *The Woman in Black* by Susan Hill and *Cirque du Freak* by Darren Shan. As part of this unit, the students aren't just exploring these texts critically, but are also taking inspiration from these for their own eerie and exciting Gothic tales showing off their excellent creative talents. This will culminate in our annual Gothic writing competition whereby our top stories will be published in our very own *Marden High School Gothic Tales* collection, with the theme for 2022 being 'Dark Christmas'. We can already tell we will have a challenging job on our hands choosing our winners this year! Here are some extracts from this year's entries:

As the snow taps on the window, another Christmas draws closer. As the fire roars in the hearth, I am reminded of one particular Christmas that will scar me till the end. I lay my drink upon the grand oak cabinet and the candle light sweeps away spirits. I drop my book in terror, I found myself in my past once again.

Rowan

Later that evening, the moon was at its highest and the table was set perfectly once again. As the family started to tuck in to their glorious dinner, Charlotte felt someone pull her perfect little plait. Obviously being a young girl she screamed out with pain and her mother and father were outraged with this behaviour. But while getting scolded she could have sworn she saw a little girl run past the pillars behind the table...

Elsie

The knocker echoed with an ear splitting loudness throughout our old, terraced house. Past the stairs decked with lengths of wreaths, our grand door stood tall, at the end of our beautifully decorated hall. I answered.

"Charlie! I thought you weren't going to answer! I was starting to get cold..." Staring at the visitor, I tried to make out who it was through the thick snow and mist. The snow was pelting my best friend, Samuel Thompson, hard on the back and he looked very fed up with it. I let him in and, with a sigh, he took off his snow boots. He'd worn them, I'd guessed, to fight through the snow. Looking around, he gawped at the Christmas splendour that was our house - in fact, it was more of a Christmas grotto than a Victorian house.

Amy

The placid, illuminated moon gleamed in a pearlescent ball of glimmering light through the thicket of trees. The wild, mangled bushes grew thick and tangled in the overgrowth of thorns like sweeping vines that snaked up the thick, heavy trunks of oak trees old as time. They swayed gently like feathers in the wind on a calm day as a soft shower of snow drifted peacefully down from the grim, rumbling clouds. All traces of any flowers that once stood proud now lay droopily under a heavy sheet of snow cold as ice. The chattering noise of the wildlife nearby echoed throughout the woods.

Joey

Theatre Trips

This term has been a busy, but cultured one for our department. We have enjoyed two trips to the theatre across October and November. The first being to see an adaptation of Malorie Blackman's award winning dystopian novel *Noughts & Crosses*, performed at the Northern Stage in Newcastle. A group of year 9 & 10 students with a number of staff got to see this powerful and thought provoking performance exploring a range of themes such as racism, privilege and power. Our second theatre visit was to the Theatre Royal, Newcastle with year 10 & 11 students to see Stephen Daldry's critically acclaimed performance of J.B. Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*. As one of their GCSE English literature texts, this allowed the students to explore the play outside of the classroom as audience members; considering key themes, questions and characters to further their own understanding and appreciation of the play. Both trips were hugely successful and we look forward to seeing what our local theatres have to offer next.



World Literature

Our Year 8 students have been expanding their cultural knowledge of literature by exploring narratives, short stories and extracts from an array of different countries and locations across the globe. Students have taken part in 'writing workshops' to appreciate literature from Japan, Scandinavia, Afghanistan, India and many more, considering the key conventions of these to inspire their own creative writing. Additionally, many students have conducted their own research which has culminated in creative independent tasks which have been displayed across the English classrooms. Some examples of work from this creative unit can be seen below:

Wistful Woman

Cherry-blossom trees danced elegantly in the slight breeze, protecting the ground below in a thin, pink blanket. People chatted happily wandering through the neat city, admiring the pulchritudinous nature surrounding them. A Moses-like person parted the sea of people pootling down the street. Their eyes were all of a sudden greeted with a small, black-haired woman making her way through the crowd, her diminutive, black, buckle shoes clanking the unanticipated silence away. All watched as her fairly long, purple skirt flapped up and down through the breeze. All watched as her long, black sleeves fissled lightly. All watched as her sleek, black hair bobbed up and down leisurely, joining in with her neat fringe and tiny bun. Her sensitive skin shone brightly, lit up by the morning sun. The woman in the purple skirt was an unofficial celebrity in the area, everyone knew about the woman in the purple skirt, however, no one knew about Yuri, living alone in her tiny flat, mysteriously progressing through life. She had no friends and didn't know her family with her parents dying a long while ago, taking her meny spirit away with them. Now she was just boring old Yuri, no interests, no hobbies, no accomplishments. Even after all of the amazing that she achieved in her life, she still always felt as if there was something missing in her life - It was never enough. To her, it was never enough.

Daisy





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

Mr Horn: *The Penguin Book of Christmas Stories* ed. by Jessica Harrison

Mrs Cathcart: *The Passenger* by Cormac McCarthy

Miss Laing: *The Christmas Books* by Charles Dickens

Mr Ranson: *Love & Let Die: Bond, The Beatles & The British Psyche* by John Higgs

Ms Taylor: *Snow Country* by Sebastian Faulks

Miss Lees: *How to be Good* by Nick Hornby

Miss Boyle: *Dear Dolly* by Dolly Alderton

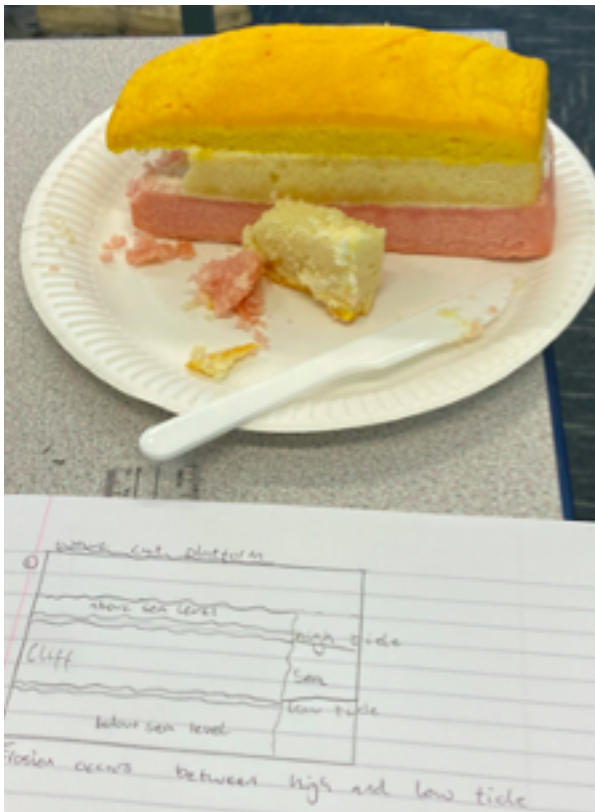
Mrs Todd: *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig

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

Mrs Barnes: *The Light We Carry* by Michelle Obama



Mrs E Cathcart



Year 11 students have been studying Coasts and took a creative approach when looking at coastal landforms. In order to explain the creation of some coastal landforms such as wave cut platforms students used angel cake to help them demonstrate each stage of the process. Students' creative efforts were rewarded with cake!

Year 11 students have had a busy term completing their mock exams. The dedication and preparation the students have shown for these assessments has been exemplary and puts them in an excellent position for their summer exams, keep up the hard work! The students should use these assessments to highlight areas to focus on for their revision in the upcoming months.



Year 10 students have been studying the Paper 1 Topic Living World and Paper 2 Resources. The topic of Resources has been particularly interesting for students to link our classroom based learning to issues in the news, for example the energy crisis. They have taken a mature approach to their studies by completing revision resources as homework at the end of each topic and this has been rewarded with excellent assessment grades.

Students in Year 9 have been studying the My Place topic. We have been exploring topical issues such as the effects of Brexit, Scottish Independence and employment patterns and opportunities across Europe. Students have had the chance to research different careers, during both lesson time and as homework activities. We have been using a great new careers website, Indigo, if you would like to have a look at this resource please follow the link and use the following login details:

<http://indigo.trotman.co.uk/marden-high-school/career/indigo/home/light>

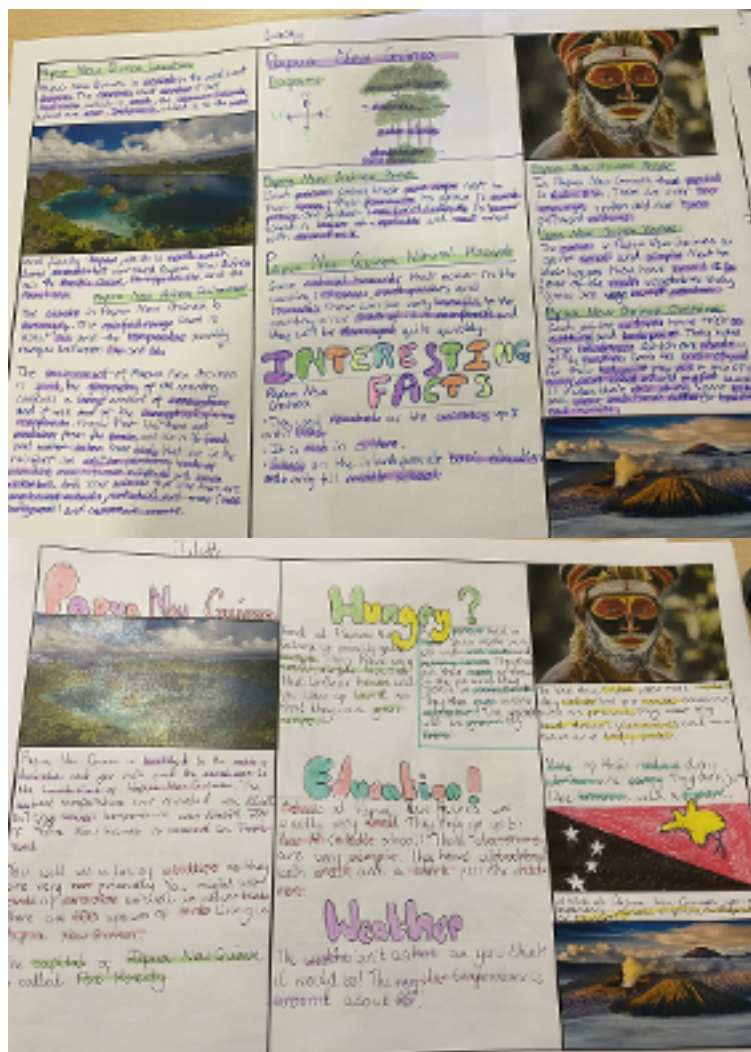
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Year 8 students have been studying Natural Hazards and Megacities this term. They have looked at recent examples of tectonic hazards and the impacts of these on people and the environment. This half term students have given excellent presentations on a megacity of their choice. It was great to see students develop their research skills and build their confidence.



Students in Year 7 have made an excellent start to their geography journey at Marden. They have been studying Fantastic Places and Population this term. A number of students have asked to take pictures of Geography work that they are proud of and upload them to their Globalbridge profiles. It is great to see students looking through their books and recognising their own achievements.



Enjoy a well earned Christmas break
and we look forward to seeing
everyone again in the New Year.

Miss C Robson



September brought much change to the PE team, with three new members of staff joining the department and another joining from the science team. The PE team welcomed Mr Smith as the new Head of PE, with Mr Tueart and Mrs Darlington also joining as part time PE teachers, and Mrs Vickers dividing her time between PE and Science. Miss Grigoriadi has also joined the PE team to complete her Initial Teacher Training placement, and will be with us until the end of the summer term.

Extracurricular activities:

Pupils have enjoyed a full programme of extracurricular activities this term, with clubs being run in a variety of sports . Pupils have had the opportunity to take part in football, netball, rugby, badminton, table tennis, volleyball, cross fit, hockey, rock climbing and cross country running. These clubs have proved hugely popular with the students either to use as an opportunity to get better at a sport or to simply hang out with their friends and have fun. The PE department are proud of the effort and commitment shown by the pupils that take part in these clubs, and we welcome anyone else that would like to join in.

Football:

Following a period of absence, September saw the recommencement of the North Tyneside Schools Football fixtures and Marden High have performed extremely well, with all Year groups, both boys and girls, taking part. There has been great success for the Year 7, 8 and 9 boys teams, who remain undefeated so far in the league and cup competitions.

Monday and Wednesday nights have seen our teams take part in Central Venue League 7-a-side competitions held at John Spence. The pupils have enjoyed these small sided games, even though some were played in fairly extreme weather conditions!

Finally, the Key Stage 3 teams have all played in their respective County Cup competitions this term, with the Year 9 boys team progressing to the Quarter Finals to be held in the new year. The Year 8 boys team are also still in their competition and we wish both teams every success in their next round fixtures.



Netball:

During the autumn term we have seen an excellent turn out at the netball extra curricular clubs for years 7-11. The clubs have been full of excitement, laughter and fantastic teamwork. As well as the netball club at school the North Tyneside netball season started at the end of September.

The netball teams have dominated the league tables and have put in some wonderful performances.

The year 7 netball team continue to go from strength to strength and develop holistically as a team where new friendships are developed weekly.

The year 8 netball team remain unbeaten since the start of year 7 and have a fantastic team spirit when they are playing.

Year 9 have moved up into a new league with the high schools across the local area. The girls have put in some wonderful performances and are a real force to be reckoned with. Their passing is sublime.

The year 10 and 11 team have been phenomenal and are very supportive of the younger years, they give the year 9 netball team hints and tips on defending the circle and how to turn it into attack.

They also congratulate the younger teams on their performances after reading about them in the weekly newsletter.



The year 10 and 11 teams also dominate the leagues and have been crowned North Tyneside Champions in the tournament that was held in November. It is clear from the results that as a school we are very strong and dominant in netball. That is due to the fabulous relationships the students have with one another and the dedication they show to one another as part of a team.

The staff who run the netball clubs often express how running the clubs and fixtures is the highlight of their working week.

Rugby:

The Year 8 rugby team competed in the County Cup competition held at Newcastle University this term, progressing to the shield Semi Finals. For some of the players, this was their first taste of competitive rugby, but they quickly got to grips with the game, beating more experienced opposition from some of the top private schools in the county. They have qualified for the next round of competition which is to be held in the new year.





Basketball:

The Year 9 basketball team have played in two Central Venue competitions so far this year and have had great success at both, being undefeated in all games so far. The pupils have played fantastically well in all of their games, learning new skills along the way and always playing with a smile on their faces.

Cross country:

In November, the cross country teams went to Monkseaton high for the North Tyneside District Cross Country competition. On a bitterly cold and muddy course, the pupils were magnificent, showing true grit and determination in their running. In the team events, the Junior boys (Year 8/9) and Inter Girls (Year 10/11) teams both finished in first place, with the Minor boys (Year 7) finishing in second place in their competition. Marden are proud of all of the pupils that competed, but especially proud of the 20 pupils that qualified for the North Tyneside district team that will compete in the Northumberland County competition in the new year.

Badminton and Volleyball:

Also this term, the Yr8 girls had their first Central Venue League badminton competition. The results were mixed but overall there were more wins than defeats. A great experience for the girls and they will only get stronger! Well done to all. The KS4 Volleyball teams have also been in action in their Central Venue League this term, with the boys having played two competitions and the girls one. Volleyball is a fairly new sport to most of the players, but they have learned quickly and developed a great team mentality.

GCSE PE Rock climbing:

The GCSE PE pupils have had the opportunity to develop their skills in a new sport this term, which will count towards their final grade for the course. Receiving expert tuition, the pupils have come on leaps and bounds in the short time they have been attending the sessions. It is hoped that off the back of this success, this off could be rolled out to other year groups.



House Competitions 2023

And finally, the PE team are pleased to announce that there will be House sports competitions starting after school next term. Each Monday and Wednesday there will be a tournament between the houses in a variety of sports. Please watch out for the posters around school and on social media for information of what is coming up.

Mr G Smith



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 an individual's actions and the benefits of helping others.

Mrs C Macleod



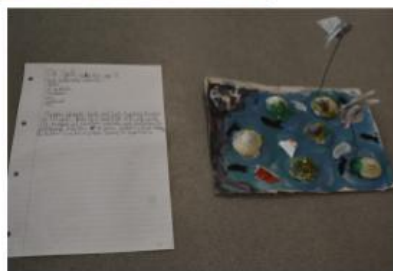
In October, 25 year 10 and 11 students visited the Port of Tyne to learn about the careers available for them post 16.



Students got to work with some of the people who work at the Port as well as do activities to help them learn about the workings of the jobs that happen around the Port.



STEAM club competed in the Royal society of Biology BioArtAttack competition. Using materials from nature as well as materials that might end up in the ocean to make sculptures



The science House Challenge was another Royal society competition, this time Chemistry Christmas cards. Some of the entries were fantastic and a winner was chosen by the science department for year 7 and 8.

Year 8 winner Enya Fitzgibbon



Year 7 winners Lily Dodd and Bella Winn



Some of the other entries



Mrs C Atkinson



Reading Recommendations.

Literacy Leaders have created a list of recommended books for each year group and emailed this to parents via the Parent Portal. Here is the shortlist, just in time for some festive reading over the winter break!

WINTER READING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE LITERACY LEADERS...



Interview with a local children's book author.



Literacy Leaders are getting ready for a visit from a local author at the end of this term. They will be interviewing the writer Deborah Bell on the craft of writing and how to become an author. Their questions are prepared and the camera is ready to roll! Students in Key Stage Three English lessons will then be able to use the interview to inspire their own creative writing in lessons.

Literacy Events, Competitions, Displays and Activities.

We have celebrated *Random Acts of Kindness* with the creation of a Kindness Tree in the LRC; *Remembrance Day* with a series of competitions; and *Human Rights Day* with reading recommendations to inspire empathy, create change and give voice to the voiceless. Take a look at some of the creations and competition entries, designed and curated by our Literacy Leaders and Prefects, below.



LITERACY EVENTS


 Literacy



Read for Human Rights



Random Acts of Kindness

Remembrance Day poetry, films and books



fallen men and women
lovers and strangers
never to see us again
families and foreigners
waiters and waiters
hoping for a home



death and destruction
ranas and grandpas waiting for us to come
rooms filled with poppies
fields stained with blood
loved ones gone to up above
birds of peace surrounding the skies
all at the end of the war tonight



War is nearly over, I can sense it. Both sides are burned out and resources are running low. Yet if I am to die tonight, let this message be passed on to my mother. Sophie Crowden at 12 Gardner Park sw43 03c Liverpool

Never let them forget, never allow them to bury this and overtime allow them to pretend it never existed because too much evil has been committed. At least once per week I can do nothing more than stand on the sideline as I watch men who have become family to me, fall to their death over a man who could not accept defeat. You could describe it as death around every turn in the trenches. There's always never enough to go around. At this point we are drinking mud as some form of tea. Rats the size of teddy bears lurk in every corner, feasting on your fallen friends. Who have in a way been lucky. To escape from this house of horrors into the peaceful garden of the lord. Yet on the other hand, if there was really a God up there. Why would it be safer to be dead? Maybe this wretched thing would never have happened. People with bright futures, wasted in a roll of the dice. If I were to return home, it doesn't sound nice either. German Heinkel he's III releasing bombs onto the streets of London. Probably killed the bright children of the future too.

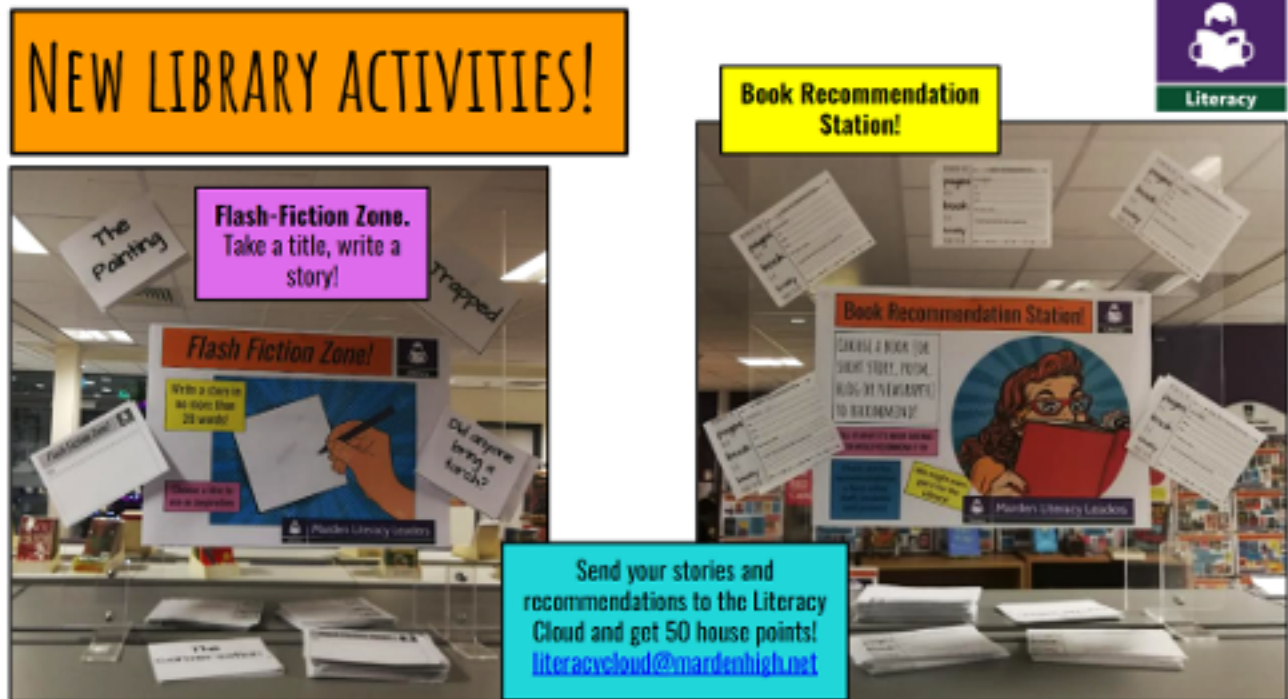


My hands shivering, the cold rain trickled from the grey ominous sky onto my clothes. They were damp with the harsh sooty water combined with the blood from injuries that I've obtained over the recent days. The trenches were consumed with mud and the corpses of unfortunate victims of war, suddenly the sounds of engines and the gulping sounds of the mud as the treads marched over. The enemy, the sound of bullets blasting through the air made even the bravest chilled to the spine. Then the roar of a shell pierced the air to be soon followed by a large fiery explosion launching debris as far as forty metres or so. I grabbed my rifle and poked my head up trying to gain an awareness of the enemy but then my shoulder felt as if it had been hit with a hammer and a bullet lay dormant in my shoulder the pain was unbearable. The enemy were tormenting closer and the battle seemed as if it had destroyed the once green grassy field now it was littered with the corpses of many soldiers. My vision began to blur and the pain went numb but then...

Last month, my squadron happened to unearth something that never should have been allowed. Something so dehumanising, it gives you the fire to keep fighting. So those people will not be forgotten. Humans of all features. Men, women, elderly even kids, trapped into slavery. Malnourished and so thin you wonder how they're still walking. Punished for being them. We did what we could and to hear their stories, makes you want to see Hitler dead before your eyes. To win this battle of eyes to big to even bother to walk the fields of battle

Yours truly, your son Luke Crowden

Students have also set up two new stations in the Library - a 'Flash-Fiction Zone' for creative writing, and a 'Book Recommendation Station' for students to recommend books they love to read. Visit and take part!



Literacy Prefect Mentoring.

Year 11 Literacy Prefects have been working with Year 7 students on a Tuesday and Thursday morning with a focus on mentoring through reading and creative writing. Together they have selected the following books and spend each week reading and chatting about them!



Published Writers!

Students in Years 7 and 8 have received their books containing their short stories! Their short stories, inspired by historical events, appear in the Young Writers' book *Ancient Adventures: A Step Back in Time*. All of the books containing Marden students' writing can be found in the school library on the Library Club book shelf!



PUBLISHED WRITERS!



Join the Literacy Leaders!

Literacy is Power

Interested in becoming a Literacy Leader?
Email Ms Taylor a.taylor@mardenhigh.net

Marden Literacy Leaders

We need Literacy Leaders to come up with ways to encourage writers, inspire readers and empower voices!

Are you a voracious reader, a brilliant writer, a superb public speaker? Would you love to be involved in planning events, activities and competitions?

Mentor younger students

Create engaging displays.

Create reading lists, books of the week & books of the month.

Create & run literacy events & competitions across the school to get other students interested in reading & writing!

Develop the library website!

Run activities & competitions.

Run the library & come up with ways to develop the library & make it an exciting place to be!

Develop the Literacy Cloud

Decide on new books for the LRC!



Ms A Taylor



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 Bowden*
- 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

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