



## Marden High School

Friday 21st March 2025

Dear All

This week ex-England footballer and manager, Gareth Southgate, delivered [this year's Dimpleby Lecture](#), and it was well worth watching as the content and the message of his presentation resonated with what we aim to do here at Marden on a daily basis, and I am sure with what we would all want for our community. He spoke about boys growing up and the need for them to have good role models who can show them how to become a man and how to withstand the bombardment from social media of posts and videos portraying toxic masculinity. If you have not yet, and whether you have a son or a daughter, I would recommend watching Mr Southgate's lecture. After all, bringing our boys up to be resilient, respectful and kind benefits not just them but everyone. The three key factors that Gareth Southgate talked about in his lecture: identity, connection and culture, are things that much of our work here at Marden seeks to embed.

Marden Environment club is promoting Earth Hour which takes place every year in March to highlight what steps we can take to help the environment. It asks you to turn off your lights/electricity for one hour on Saturday, March 22 between 8.30pm - 9.30pm so that globally we can create the Biggest Hour for Earth! The club is also asking students to 'Give an hour doing something you love to help the planet'. This will continue until the half term break and there are different categories for this: Fitness and Wellness; Nature; Food; Sustainability; Arts and creativity; and Entertainment. The club has sent out a google form to all students and house points are awarded for any uploaded photos, pictures, videos, artwork, written work showing what they have done to help our wonderful planet. Find out more here: [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org)

On Tuesday this week, Year 9 and Year 10 Music and Drama students participated in an all-day workshop with the [English Touring Opera](#), exploring the genre and narrative of Bellini's *Il Capuleti ei Montecchi* (The Capulets and The Montagues). Students explored composition, created an alternative ending and worked together to perform the overture and finale with industry professionals, then on Wednesday evening were lucky enough to visit the Gala Theatre in Durham to watch the opera in full. It was a special and enriching experience enjoyed by all!

The Girls Get Set STEM teams were out at Baker Hughes on Thursday morning to give their final presentations on their carbon footprint project. The Year 8 and 9 students were tasked with calculating the school carbon footprint and then challenged to work on solutions that could be implemented in school. Their confidence shone through with a series of presentations and rigorous questioning about their designs, and the judges were extremely impressed with their ideas which included new water stations, generating electricity whilst using the exercise bikes in the gym, new light dependent LED lights and finally dancing their way through the corridors on magic kinetic tiles. The winners will be announced on the 25th June when the girls will be taking part in their graduation day at Baker Hughes along with another North East school, where they will also receive their Bronze and Silver Cadet Awards.

Also on Thursday two of our Year 11 students took part in their first Female Advisory Board session with Baker Hughes. In this first session the girls met with students from the USA and Saudi Arabia. There was lots of discussion around future careers and typically the weather in each country. Next week, the girls will be meeting with three directors from Texas, London and the Netherlands to begin their discussions on how Baker Hughes can work with young women to encourage them into what, at the moment, is a male dominated career path. The girls are really excited for what the outcomes of these sessions could mean for their own future careers.

Marden's Got Talent on 3rd April is fast approaching and tickets are on sale from reception. Tickets which cost £3 for adults and £2 for children are bound to sell quickly, as it promises to be a fantastic evening of entertainment.

The Year 10 boys rugby team travelled to Gosforth Academy on Wednesday evening to play in the most recent round of the County Cup competition. After a short warm up, the Marden team kicked off and found themselves a try down inside the first minute after the hosts produced some slick handling to spin the ball wide and score in the corner. Gosforth quickly scored again, but Marden finally got on the scoreboard with a try of their own after some rampaging runs by the forward pack. The hosts then scored 2 more tries, and looked to be coasting to an easy victory, but something changed in the Marden team in the 10 minutes leading up to half time. From 28-7 down, the boys managed to score 4 tries before the half time whistle to take the lead 35-28. The second half continued to be a fierce competition, with both teams putting in some great examples of tackling. The only score of the second half went to Marden, extending their lead to 42-28. The game was a great advert for school rugby, with both teams showing flair, speed and determination. Well done to all players involved.

On Thursday evening, the Year 7 boys football team played in a league fixture against Burnside College. The game started brightly, in near perfect conditions, and it was the Marden team that broke the deadlock with a superb individual effort. This led to a second shortly after and the goals kept coming, with the Marden team managing to score nine goals in the first half. The second half continued to be controlled by the visitors, but the hosts dug deep and kept the Marden team out for large parts of the game. Eventually though, Marden scored their tenth and continued to press for more. In the end, the visitors took the game 14-0 but credit to both teams, who kept playing right up to the final whistle. A fantastic effort from everyone involved.

Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'M. Snape'.

Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher