



# MARDEN NEWS

April 2025 End of Term Edition



*Winning Team - Year 10 Girls Rugby*

*Featuring*

Message from  
The Headteacher

Business

English  
& Media

PE

Science

Literacy at Marden

Drama

Geography

RE

Technology



Friday 11th April 2025

Dear All

On Thursday, our Year 8 students participated in a *Career Explorer* event that provided them with an opportunity to learn about various industries and potential career paths. The event featured a series of interactive workshops, with employers from diverse sectors, including Barclays Bank, Waves Leisure Centre, Nexus and Agilio Software. During the event students spent 15 minutes with each employer, gaining valuable insights into career pathways, roles, responsibilities, opportunities for progression and salary expectations. The sessions were designed not only to inform but to inspire, as students had the chance to ask questions and engage in hands-on tasks relevant to each industry. This event was an excellent chance for our students to begin thinking about their future careers and the steps they can take to achieve their professional goals. It also provided them with a clearer understanding of the variety of opportunities available in the world of work. We would like to extend a warm invitation to any parents or carers who are interested in supporting future careers events at the school. If you would like to get involved, please contact Fiona Brennan at [f.brennan@mardenhigh.net](mailto:f.brennan@mardenhigh.net).

As you are probably aware, and as you can see from the example above, Mrs Brennan has been leading Careers provision at Marden very successfully for a number of years. The plethora of excellent opportunities for our students includes on a regular basis classes and individuals working with visiting industry, careers fairs, mock interviews with visiting business leaders, work experience out of school, Careers Conversations, and a whole host of information, advice and guidance through lessons, assemblies and form time. What you may not have been aware of, however, is that over the past few years Mrs Brennan has been using her own time to train and practise as a fully qualified careers advisor, which means that she will now add individual careers interviews to the long list of existing provision we have. We are grateful to the Connexions team from North Tyneside Council who have conducted interviews in the past, and we are excited and confident about the excellent provision students will now get 'in house'.

One of the key pathways that we provide for students, in terms of developing leadership, agency and careers related knowledge and understanding is our Student Development Programme. With support from the North East Combined Authority we have been running two programmes this year; one in Y9 and one in Y10. Recently we reached a milestone within both projects and the monitoring of the outcomes from it have been heartening and hopeful. The students engaging in each have higher attendance than corresponding cohorts from last year, achievement points are higher than this time last year and the student voice completed has shown an increase in confidence when completing classwork and homework. Part of the work we undertake is with three other local high schools and following a day at Northumbria University where students engaged with a series of activities relating to Higher Education, students then completed an afternoon's English workshop before watching An Inspector Calls at the Sunderland Empire. The academic rigour, focus on personal development and dedication in ensuring effective careers education is central to the opportunities provided by our Student Development Programme which again this year is having a great impact on all involved.

Communication is key to our relationship with the community and we try to ensure that this is comprehensive and timely using this newsletter, our rewards system, social media, our website, emails and telephone calls from members of the team. We pride ourselves on the welcoming and open lines of communication we have which are the bedrock of our values and ethos. A key facet of this is the ability to identify support from our staff when it is required and this is something we have reminded everyone of recently through the social media posts we have shared with signposting to support around curriculum, safeguarding, careers and pastoral questions. The Pastoral Team and the Leadership Team will always listen should a member of the community need us or need external support. This may be related to free school meals (<https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/238/free-school-meals>). It might be for support with holiday food vouchers ([participation@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:participation@northtyneside.gov.uk)) or it could be to report a safeguarding concern to any of our safeguarding team ([b.reece@mardenhigh.net](mailto:b.reece@mardenhigh.net), [d.anderson@mardenhigh.net](mailto:d.anderson@mardenhigh.net) and [a.charlton@mardenhigh.net](mailto:a.charlton@mardenhigh.net)). The safeguarding and wellbeing of our school community is paramount to all we do, all of the time, therefore keeping children safe in school and supported as best we can when out of school is something we will prioritise always. By working together and looking after each other, we will help encourage the change we hope to see in our world with the Marden High community at the heart of it.

On Monday evening the Year 10 rugby team played their final game of the season against a strong, visiting Queen Elizabeth High School team. The Marden team started brightly scoring the opening two tries, converting one to take a 12-0 lead. The Hexham team grew into the game and by half time had gained a narrow lead. The second half was a free scoring affair, with both teams seeming to beat the defence time and time again, Marden managing to add three more scores to the visitors five. Final score 36-54. A fantastic effort from all players, in a game played in fantastic spirit.

The Year 7 football team have had a very exciting end to their season, playing a semi final and final in quick succession. The semi final was played last Wednesday afternoon, at home to a strong George Stephenson team. The Marden team started the game with the bit between their teeth, scoring twice in the opening 10 minutes to take command of the tie. The visitors were not going to let Marden have it all their own way and rallied from the early setback to put real pressure on the hosts. Early in the second half, they got the goal they were searching for and it looked like the game was going to go down to the wire. The visitors kept searching for their equaliser but it was the home team that scored next to take back their two goal advantage. With time running out, the home team struck again, to finish the tie as a contest and held out for a hard earned 4-1 win.

This took them into the Final of the North Tyneside Schools cup on Tuesday of this week, where they met a very determined and well-drilled Longbenton team. The opening exchanges were a very tight and nervous period of the game, with both teams getting to grips with each other and sizing up the contest ahead. Both teams had early chances to take the lead, but it was a rare defensive mix up by Marden that allowed Longbenton an opportunity at goal, which they gratefully took to take the lead 1-0. Despite further chances, the Marden team couldn't convert and went into the half time break a goal down. After a pep talk, and a shuffle of the team, the Marden team came out all guns blazing in search of their equaliser, but the Longbenton team stood resolute and hit Marden on a counter-attack, finding their striker with some space to work and he calmly scored to extend the lead to 2-0. Marden kept up their efforts and were rewarded with a goal almost immediately after the kick off. A precise through ball found the Marden striker in on the keeper, coolly sliding home the ball to get one back. Continued pressure had Longbenton pegged back in their half and Marden found an equaliser when a cross drifted close to the goal and somehow found the top corner. 2-2. With 10 minutes on the clock, it was anyone's game, and both teams kept up the relentless pace in search of the winner. With the likelihood of a dreaded penalty shootout



looming on the horizon, Marden launched one last attack and fed the ball into the box. The ball ricocheted between defenders and found the feet of the Marden captain, who needed no second invitation to lash the ball into the net and take his side into a 3-2 lead with one minute left on the clock. A nervous wait for the final whistle finally came and with it, the victory the boys so thoroughly deserved. A marvellous achievement for this team, and a great way to cap a debut season for all of the players.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher



## **GCSE Business**

As we approach the final term of the academic year, we would like to share some updates from the Business department and celebrate the hard work of our students.

### **Year 11 – Preparing for Success**

Our Year 11 students are working exceptionally hard as they prepare for their upcoming GCSE exams this summer, the countdown has well and truly started. With revision sessions underway, we encourage all students to remain focused, make use of the resources provided, and attend any extra support sessions available. We appreciate the effort and commitment they are showing and wish them all the best in these final stages of their studies.

### **Year 10 – A Milestone Achieved**

Year 10 students recently sat their first Paper 1 exam, giving them a valuable opportunity to showcase their learning and understand the exam format. This experience will help them identify areas for improvement and build confidence ahead of their final exams next year. Well done to all students for their hard work and determination!

### **Keeping Up with Current Affairs**

With so much happening in the world of business and politics, we encourage students to keep up to date with the latest news. The ongoing discussions surrounding Donald Trump and international tariffs provide a fantastic real-world example of the topics we cover in our International Trade unit. Watching the news and discussing current events at home will help students apply their knowledge to real-world scenarios and deepen their understanding of the subject.

### **Looking Ahead – Welcoming Future Business Leaders**

We are excited to welcome our new cohort of GCSE Business students who will be starting in September. We look forward to inspiring the next generation of business leaders and entrepreneurs, helping them to develop essential skills and knowledge that will benefit them in the future.

Miss D Parker



Wow! It's been a busy term in Drama. After weeks of preparation, Year 11 students have performed their scripted scenes to a visiting examiner. Final preparations are now underway as they have their written exam on 8 May - Good Luck year 11!

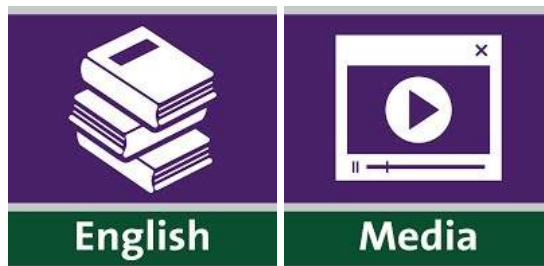
Meanwhile Year 10 students have been developing their skills in preparation for their devising project. We're looking forward to seeing some imaginative performances once again from our GCSE Drama students on 7 May.

Key Stage 3 students have been exploring *Blood Brothers* and *The Crucible*. Our Year 7 students have enjoyed a busy term too, exploring Shakespeare where they've had opportunities to develop skills in sword fighting, masks, props and costume. Next term students will begin to develop their skills in off text improvisation for the scripted play, 'Our Day Out'. In addition to the main curriculum, some of our Year 7 and 8 students have been enjoying participation in Drama Club, facilitated by Year 9 Arts Award students. We have been very impressed at the great levels of organisation and rapport demonstrated by our older students.

On 18 March, Year 9 and Year 10 Music and Drama students took part in an all-day workshop with the [English Touring Opera](#) company, exploring the genre and narrative of Bellini's *I Capuleti e i Montecchi* (*The Capulets and The Montagues*). They 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!

Rehearsals for our school production 'Mary Poppins' are well underway and students are making fantastic progress. We look forward to welcoming you to our performance later next term.

Mrs S Berriman



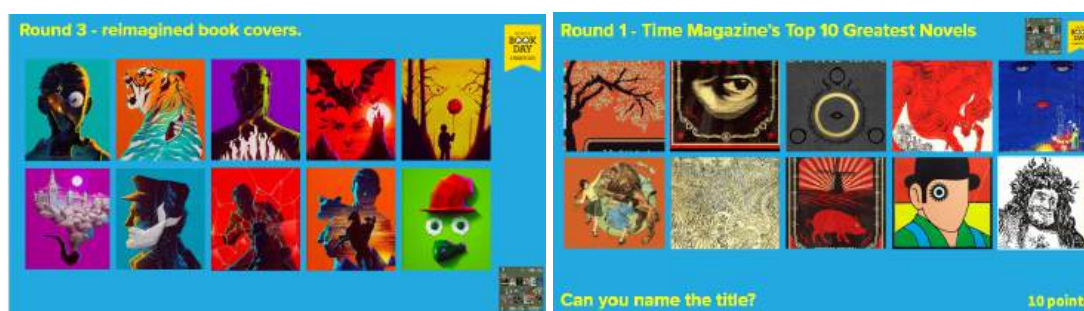
## Marden She Wrote

The English department is, as always, excited to announce this year's Marden She Wrote mystery: Crunch Time! Alongside their study of some of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *Sherlock Holmes* classic short stories, our Year 8 students will also become the detectives themselves to investigate and creatively write about our Marden mystery emulating Conan Doyle's typical writing style. We can't give too much away at this stage, but promotional posters have now been displayed in English classrooms across the school, and after Easter, students will begin their own detective journeys to discover the truth. See examples of student work and their theories in the next edition of the English newsletter...



## World Book Day

World Book Day celebrations were, of course, celebrated across the department during the week of this annual event which took place on Thursday 6th March. There were a plethora of activities to get involved with around school during the week, led by our Literacy Coordinator Ms Taylor and her student Literacy Ambassadors. These activities included a book treasure hunt, quizzes to guess the teacher 'shelfie' and literacy challenges from additional house points. In English lessons (more particularly our Reading for Pleasure lessons), we had the big World Book Day quiz including rounds on literary classic book covers, our most popular read books across the school and Dickens/Dahl famous book titles. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm students across the school had for books, authors and reading in general. Ms Taylor has posted a range of examples of student winning work from across the week on the Literacy Cloud, available on our website.



## Sir Alan Campbell MP Visit

On Friday 28th March we welcomed local MP Sir Alan Campbell into school to talk to our Year 9 students in a Question Time style lecture in the Auditorium. This links to our current Year 9 topic on social injustice whereby students have studied a number of poems, articles and texts (including the critically acclaimed film: I, Daniel Blake) linked to this theme. Because of the students' thoughtful responses to this study, each English class was able to come up with mature and insightful questions to ask Sir Alan during his talk: these questions linked to topics about the extensive CAMHS waiting list, homelessness in the UK (and more particularly the North East), and the reduction of disability benefits.. Students have then been using their research, discussion, and indeed, Sir Alan's talk to inspire their own protest poetry, political manifestos and some students have even been inspired to write letters to Parliament about topics they feel strongly about.

Here is an example of a group of students putting together their own party manifesto inspired by the changes they would like to see in the world:

*Ladies and gentlemen, fellow citizens of Britain,*

*Today, I stand before you at a pivotal moment in our history. We face challenges that require not only our attention but our collective action, creativity, and compassion. Together, we can build a brighter future for our beloved nation—one that nurtures our environment, strengthens our economy, secures our defenses, and enhances the quality of life for all.*

*First, let's talk about our environment. The climate crisis is not just a distant threat; it's a reality that affects us all. We must commit to achieving these goals: Investing in renewable energy to power our homes and factories while also protecting our natural landscape. By doing so, we can ensure a healthy planet for future generations while also having energy to keep us alive.*

*Next, our economy. We must foster a vibrant, inclusive economy that works for everyone. This means the green energy will be used to power our factories making the planet a better place for us. Let's create a system where everyone has the opportunity to thrive, lifting people out of poverty and creating a more equitable society.*

*Our National Health Service is the backbone of our public services, and it deserves our unwavering support. We must invest in NHS funding, ensuring it has the resources to provide timely and high-quality care. We need to take action and lower the waiting time in the NHS. Additionally, we should prioritize mental health services, understanding that overall well-being is just as critical as physical health.*

*When it comes to our military, we must ensure that our armed forces are not only well-funded but also well-equipped and well-prepared to face the challenges of the modern world. Our commitment to national security is vital, and we must invest in technology and intelligence to keep our country safe while also forging strong alliances on the global stage.*

*Lower taxes can stimulate growth and innovation, but we must strike a balance that ensures essential services are funded. By simplifying our tax system and eliminating wasteful spending, we can ease the burden on hardworking families while still investing in the future of our country.*

*Lastly, let's address immigration. We are a nation built on diversity, and our strength lies in our ability to welcome those who seek a better life. We must create an immigration system that is fair, compassionate, and effective—one that attracts the talent and skills we need while honoring our commitment to those in need of refuge.*

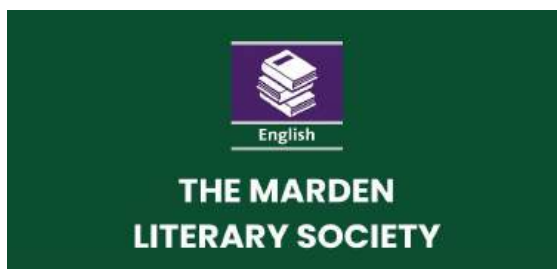
*In conclusion, the path to a better Britain is one we must walk together. Let us unite in our efforts to create an environment where everyone can thrive, where our values are reflected in our policies, and where we work hand in hand for a sustainable and prosperous future.*

*Thank you from a pitta patta perfect parliament.*



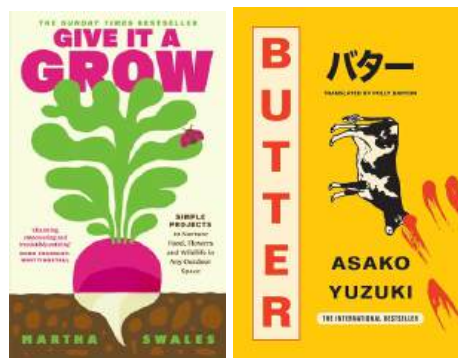
## Marden Literary Society

One of our key departmental priorities this year is encouraging literacy and challenge through literary texts, and therefore we have continued to develop and promote: The Marden Literary Society! In their fortnightly Reading for Pleasure lessons KS3 students have the opportunity to discuss and reflect on their own reading habits, as well as spending time completing a range of engaging and creative tasks built around the importance of reading. Continuing throughout the year, each student has been given a reading card to collect stamps each time they have completed a book and discussed their reading with their teacher. Once students have collected four stamps they will receive 250 house points and after eight stamps they will be rewarded with 500 house points! Students have made a superb start to this new initiative and it has been brilliant for the department to see such a buzz around reading! Remember, students can find book recommendations and reading lists on the *Literacy Subject Cloud* available on our website, or can ask their English teacher for further assistance.

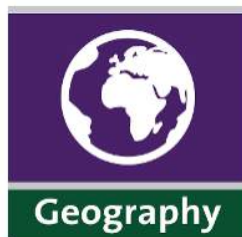


Here is what your English & media teachers have on their Spring Reading List:

- Mr Horn: *Give it a Grow* by Martha Swales
- Mrs Cathcart: *Butter* by Asako Yuzuki
- Miss Laing: *Strange Pictures* by Uketsu
- Mrs Todd: *Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yaros
- Mr Ranson: *The Mirror and The Light* by Hilary Mantel
- Ms Taylor: *Happiness Falls* by Angie Kim
- Miss Lees: *Out There Screaming* edited by Jordan Peele



Mrs E Cathcart



Students have been studying their final topic, Changing Economic World. It has been lovely to see students engaging well with this topic particularly around topical issues such as the development of HS2 and Heathrow airport. This half term, Year 11 students received the pre-release booklet for their Paper 3 exam. Students can find lots of resources to support them in their preparation on their Google Classroom, including video clips, interactive flashcards and infographics.

Year 10 students have been studying the Paper 1 Topic Hazards. They have taken a mature approach to their studies by completing revision resources as homework at the end of each topic. This topic highlighted to students the relevance of the subject with numerous natural hazards being in the news whilst they studied the topic. As a department we are currently planning GCSE fieldwork, we are really looking forward to taking our GCSE students out in the field! We will be completing two fieldwork enquiries, one physical and one human. Both trips allow the students the opportunity to develop their geographical and enquiry skills outside of the classroom environment.

Year 9 students have been studying the topic of Extreme Events. Students have enjoyed learning about different extreme events and in particular tornadoes and hurricanes. Students have produced some excellent presentations on storm chasing in the USA.

Year 8 students have been studying the topic of hot and cold environments. Students have enjoyed looking at how plants and animals have adapted to survive in such hostile environments. Looking at the different cultures, traditions and tribes within the Arctic has allowed students to develop their cultural capital.

Year 7 students have been studying the topic of climate change. They have been reviewing their own carbon footprint and looking at how to reduce their impact on the planet. They have developed their persuasive techniques by compiling speeches to persuade others to act on climate change. Their creative skills were put to the test by creating their own sustainable city!

Miss C Robson



## Extracurricular activities

Over the winter months pupils have continued to enjoy the extracurricular programme on offer, with many pupils attending the volleyball, badminton, netball and futsal clubs. The table tennis club also developed into a competitive league, with lots of Year 10 and 11 pupils signed up to play each week. This proved to be hugely successful and has led to a Year 7 and 8 league being formed, with these games being played after the Easter break.

## Football

League and cup fixtures took a break during the winter months, with only the 7-a-side central venue tournaments taking place during January and February. Boys and girls from all Year groups represented the school in these competitions, with many Marden teams leading their respective leagues after this round of games. The final round for these competitions will be early in the summer term and we wish all teams the best of luck.

March saw the recommencement of the league and cup competitions with the Year 7 boys team through to the Semi-Final stage of the North Tyneside Schools Cup competitions. The team have performed brilliantly in the games they have had and are looking forward to the Cup Final in the last week of the spring term.

The Year 9 boys team have performed brilliantly in the County Cup this year, playing teams from right across Northumberland. They face St Thomas More in the Semi final in the first week back after the Easter holiday. We wish them all the best in what will be a fiercely fought encounter.

The Year 8 Girls team were in action again, after the winter break, playing against Ovingham Middle School in a County Cup Quarter Final game. Having progressed earlier in the season, the girls showed great spirit and determination but unfortunately could not find the breakthrough they needed in the game.

Our Year 7 girls team played their first game against a strong Valley Gardens team earlier this term, managing to come away with a hard fought 1-1 draw. The girls were brilliant against a team that has been together for much longer and we look forward to seeing our girls progress in the coming years.



All football teams have played brilliantly this season, and for the few that still have important games to play, we have our fingers crossed for silverware come the start of May!

### **Netball**

The Marden High Netball teams have continued to dominate the local schools leagues in the spring term, with all teams gathering wins in their games this term. The Year 10 team remain unbeaten in their North Tyneside league and knockout tournament, claiming the top spot in both competitions. The Year 8 team finished as winners in both of the knock out tournaments, whilst the Year 7 team won the North Tyneside tournament and finished second in the Tri-area competition. The Year 11 team have also had a positive end to their season, finishing in 2nd place in the league.

### **Rugby**

The Year 10 boys team were involved in the Northumberland Schools League this year, playing games against St Mary's, Gosforth Academy, Bede Academy, Longridge Towers and Queen Elizabeth High School. They have performed brilliantly winning 4 out of their 5 games.

The Year 10 Girls rugby team continues to go from strength to strength, with more girls joining the team all the time. They have managed to play games against Kings Priory and Dame Allens. In both of these matches, the Marden girls were formidable, winning both and showing their growing love of the game through the smiles on their faces.



The Newly formed Year 7 and 8 girls team will be in action in the first week of the new term in their north Tyneside schools competition. We wish them the best of luck!

### **Dance**

This term we saw Marden High pupils take part in the North Tyneside Dance Festival at The Parks Sports centre. The dance festival is a celebration of different genres of dance and one of the highlights of the year. Our dance group performed alongside many primary and secondary schools in North Tyneside, and their hard work, commitment to dance rehearsals and effort was apparent in the performance.

### **Basketball**

The U16 Basketball team has enjoyed great success in their North Tyneside tournaments this term, winning all of their games to progress and represent North Tyneside at the Regional finals held at the Newcastle Eagles Basketball arena. The boys narrowly missed out on the final of the regional competition, after losing one of their games in the group stage. They finished in 3rd place overall, a great achievement for the team as they hope to go one better and make the final next time out.

Mr G Smith



This term in RE Year 8 students have been 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 demonstrate 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.

Mrs C MacLeod



## LEGO league winners

Our talented team of designers and programmers from Year 7 attended the First Lego League competition at Nissan Sports and recreation club in Sunderland. The team, named Marden Mechanics, programmed and practiced a series of missions to perform in the Robot Game, consisting of 3 rounds of competition. The team used problem solving and improved their performance each time. As well as this, they gave an outstanding presentation to a team of judges on the topic of Ocean Conservation. They spoke knowledgeably on their subject and were also quizzed on how they worked successfully as a team to choose their robot design. In recognition of their outstanding 'Gracious professionalism' the team were awarded the trophy for meeting the 'Core Values'; these include Discovery, Innovation, Impact, Inclusion, Teamwork and Fun. This is a highly prestigious award and thoroughly deserved by the team.





## Chemistry in real life Context



### Year 11 Students Get Hands-On Experience with Chemical Engineers

We were delighted to welcome chemical engineers from CF Fertilisers, Billingham, who led an exciting and interactive workshop for our Year 11 students. Over the course of an hour, students gained valuable insights into the world of chemical engineering and what it's like to work in a real industrial setting.



During the session, students explored career pathways within the company, from entry-level apprenticeships to degree-level chemical engineering roles - and even the journey to becoming a CEO! They also had the chance to try on specialist safety gear and take part in a hands-on design challenge. Their task? To design a system capable of transporting tonnes of ammonia gas safely across the factory site.



This fantastic opportunity gave our students a real taste of the skills and problem-solving required in the field of chemical engineering. A huge thank you to CF Fertilisers for inspiring our future engineers!



### Bringing GCSE Chemistry to Life with Northumbrian Water

We were delighted to welcome representatives from Northumbrian Water to speak with our Year 11 students. Water treatment is an important part of the GCSE Chemistry curriculum, and Tony and Emma helped make this topic more engaging and real. Students gained valuable insight into the sewage treatment process at Howdon, learning firsthand about the science behind keeping our water clean.





## STEM club in the spring term

STEM club were completing a space project this term, run by Kielder Observatory. Each week, we carried out a task that was remotely led by an astronomer. Examples of these tasks were; making asteroids, designing our own planets, designing and making moon bases, designing and making satellites and researching about some of the stars in the best known constellations.

As part of this project, we travelled to Kielder Observatory to look at some of the stars with their telescopes, and were lucky to have cloudless skies.





## Exploring 'Change and Adapt' for British Science Week

As part of British Science Week, which focused on the theme of 'Change and Adapt,' we had a fantastic opportunity to work with Reception and Year 1 children at Cullercoats Primary School.



During our session, the children explored marine habitats, learned how to classify different sea creatures, and discovered the incredible ways marine life has adapted to survive. A highlight of the session was learning about the European lobster and how it has evolved to become one of the North Sea's top predators.



To make the experience even more memorable, each child had the exciting opportunity to hold a real lobster! It was a wonderful hands-on learning experience that sparked curiosity and enthusiasm about the natural world.



Partnering **researchers** with **schools**

PHD research physicists and the Orbyts project have partnered with 6 year 10 students at Marden to deliver sessions on research into the effects of solar winds on plasma turbulence in space. The sessions so far have taught the students about solar winds and plasma turbulence, including the mathematical formulas used to calculate how these travel. The students are also using Python and Google Collab and Jupyter to use coding to find the values of the formulas.

Mrs C Atkinson



## Technology Department

Welcome to the Spring 2025 edition of the Design & Technology Department newsletter! It's been an exciting term so far, filled with creativity, hands-on projects, and new learning experiences. We're thrilled to share some of the fantastic work happening in the department, and we hope you enjoy reading about the exciting developments across all year groups.

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### Year 11

Year 11 have continued to work exceptionally well with those studying Engineering, Design and Technology and Food Preparation and Nutrition focusing their attention on wrapping up the NEA units of their respective courses. Students have attended lunch and after school sessions to ensure their work is to the best of their ability, and although we can't share their live work with you now we're exceptionally proud of the dedication and creativity students have shown in the workshop and food room, but also the vast research and investigations that support this work.

After Easter we turn our attention to the exam unit, students will be encouraged to attend sessions throughout the exam season to support their performance come June as well as accessing resources in their own time via Google Classroom.

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### Year 10

In Year 10 the Engineers have also been completing their first unit of NEA Coursework which counts towards their final grades and saw students design and develop desk tidies for a primary school.

Meanwhile Food and DTech have been developing their skills and knowledge ahead of the NEA starting soon. In recent weeks Food students have been creating a variety of dishes from choux pastry to homemade coleslaw, Pizzas to burgers.

In Year 10 the Engineers have also been completing their first unit of NEA Coursework which counts towards 30% of their final grades, and saw students design and develop desk tidies for a primary school. Their work included a range of different drawing techniques followed by some technical Engineering drawings and modelling their designs in Fusion 360.

In DTech we have continued to develop design skills alongside our theory knowledge ready for the NEA starting on 1st June. This work gives students the opportunity to interpret a context and develop a design solution to their own identified problem/need through investigations and design development, eventually producing a prototype of their proposal.

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## **Robotics**

This year's robotics team, made up of Y9 and Y7 students took part in the regional finals of the High Stakes VEX competition at Nissan. This year's game involved moving giant donuts onto various scoring posts followed by an "end game" where they had to program their robot to hang at a higher distance than the other team's robots. Although it was a tough fought competition, the Team were unfortunately knocked out at the quarter final stages this year. Well done to them all for their hard work and enthusiasm and we look forward to the release of next year's competition at the end of this academic year.

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## **Jewellery club**

This half term saw the startup of our laser cut jewellery club which has had a great uptake from students. They have begun to combine their 2D design drawing skills with their textiles embroidery skills to create a range of rings and bangles so far. We look forward to what they all come up with next!

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## **Girls Get Set**

The Girls Get Set STEM teams were out at Baker Hughes earlier this half term to give their final presentations on their carbon footprint project. The 4 teams, Water Up!, Shalya, Magic Tiles and Pedal energy are made up of 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, but the girls were incredibly professional in how they handled everything that was thrown at them. 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.

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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.

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## Female Advisory Board

Two of our Year 11 students took part in their first Female Advisory Board sessions in March with Baker Hughes. These included their first introductory session, where the girls met with the students from the USA and Saudi Arabia. There was lots of discussion around future careers and typically the weather in each country. The second session happened the following week with the girls 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.

Ms K Nicholls



## The Library Book of the Week: Spring Term Reads for the Easter Holidays

Each week the *Library Club* selects a book from which form classes read an extract during *Reading for Pleasure*. Literacy Leaders lead the discussion and it offers the opportunity to explore the books we have on offer in the library. Here are all the recommendations that we have had for the Spring Term- just in time for some Easter holiday reading!



## World Book Day 2025 Celebrations!

We have been celebrating World Book Day and the theme of 'Read Your Way' this half term, with Ms Taylor and the Literacy Leaders having planned a whole week's worth of activities for staff and students to take part in. We had a *Reading for Pleasure* special, where form classes received their book tokens and explored extracts from this year's free books. Literacy Leaders had photographed staff "shelfies" and compiled them into a quiz along with discussion questions for *Reflection Time*. On World Book Day itself, Literacy Leaders showcased their impressive assembly, designed and filmed by them; at lunchtime students got together to create book origami and story chains; and in English lessons students celebrated with a quiz and creative responses to their books and reading. We had some excellent entries to this year's competitions: here are the winning pieces!

### World Book Day Competition Winners!

Evie Dixon

Nancy Newman & Charlotte Ging

Poppy Oliver

### World Book Day Competition Winners!

Evie Dixon

Isla Mackenzie

Evie Richardson



## New Young Writers Competition!

Students can get involved in a new national story writing competition from the organisation *Young Writers*. They need to write a short story inspired by a fairy tale or legend. The winning authors will have the opportunity to get their writing published in a real book! Here is the link to enter via the writing portal:

[www.youngwriters.co.uk/w?code=75320-671](http://www.youngwriters.co.uk/w?code=75320-671), and below you can find some inspiration to help get you started!

<p><b>HAPPILY EVER AFTER</b> <i>Write a story with an unexpected happy ending.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The villain gets what they want.</li> <li>• An unlikely friendship forms between former enemies.</li> <li>• You make friends with the monster under the bed.</li> <li>• You find yourself in the middle of a fairy tale - how do you help?</li> <li>• A curse is broken, but gets transferred to someone else.</li> <li>• A character's death leads to something good, e.g. inheritance or a curse is broken.</li> </ul>	<p><b>A NEW POINT OF VIEW</b> <i>Tell a story from an original perspective:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A victim e.g. a rich man robbed by Robin Hood</li> <li>• An object e.g. a cursed ring</li> <li>• An animal e.g. a crab on Treasure Island.</li> <li>• A background character e.g. The Little Mermaid's sister</li> <li>• The villain e.g. Frankenstein's monster</li> <li>• The story of how the villain became 'evil'</li> </ul>
<p><b>AFTER EVER AFTER</b> <i>What happens beyond the story we know? Write the sequel.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the characters goes looking for revenge.</li> <li>• After the wedding, the prince discovers a secret about the princess.</li> <li>• The villain's child tries to clear their parent's name.</li> <li>• The hero reveals their true identity.</li> <li>• The villain escapes to start a new life</li> </ul>	<p><b>AROUND THE WORLD</b> <i>Explore myths and legends from around the world</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two mythical characters fight.</li> <li>• A legendary place is discovered to be real e.g. Atlantis.</li> <li>• A Greek god returns to modern times.</li> <li>• Create a local legend based on where you live.</li> <li>• You find a mythical creature in your garden.</li> </ul>



## Year 7 Sparx Reader Easter Holiday Challenge!

Students in year 7 can compete to win the Sparx Reader Easter Holiday Challenge by reading their e-books, completing quizzes and collecting Sparx points. The top 3 readers will begin the summer term with a house point boost!

**YEAR 7 SPARX READER EASTER HOLIDAY CHALLENGE!**

Read your ebooks, take quizzes and collect Sparx points over the winter break!



The top 3 readers will start the new half term with a house point boost!

1st: 300 HPs  
2nd: 200 HPs  
3rd: 100 HPs



# The Weekly Literacy Challenge

Every Monday students are emailed the [Weekly Literacy Challenge](#). Linked to the theme of the week, each challenge gives students the opportunity to be creative, receive 50 house points and have their pieces published on the [Literacy Cloud](#). Students should send their creative writing to the [literacycloud@mardenhigh.net](mailto:literacycloud@mardenhigh.net). Every entry wins 50 house points and will be published on the [Literacy Cloud](#). Below are some of the contributions we have received this half term, inspired by *Women's History Month*, *Acts of Kindness*, *Numeracy Week* and *Celebrating Diversity*...



**The challenge will be connected to the Theme of the Week...**

- Be creative and use your imagination!
- ★ Write poems, songs, stories, articles, speeches...
  - ★ Draw, design, collage, sculpture, paint...
  - ★ Dance, video, sing, play an instrument...
  - ★ Bake!

All entries will be **published on the Literacy Cloud** and receive **50 house-points!**

Email your creations to [literacycloud@mardenhigh.net](mailto:literacycloud@mardenhigh.net)



## Inspirational Women



### Mary Seacole

Mary Seacole was best known for being a British nurse and business woman but she was much more. Born on the 23rd November 1805 in Kingston, Jamaica. She broke social rules to travel the world, run businesses and help those in need. Even in the most dangerous places. But her best known work was what she did in the Crimean War. Mary Seacole will forever be remembered as an incredible woman and inspiring role model.

Isla Mackenzie

## Acts of Kindness

One sunny afternoon, a teenager named Sam was riding his bike through the park when he saw a little boy struggling to fly a kite. The kite kept crashing to the ground, and the boy looked disappointed. Instead of just passing by, Sam decided to stop and lend a hand.

He approached the boy and said, "Want some help with that?" The boy nodded eagerly. Sam showed him how to hold the string and run a little to get the kite up in the air. After a few tries, they finally got it soaring high. The boy's face lit up with joy as he watched his kite dance in the wind.

After a few minutes of flying, Sam waved goodbye and continued on his way, feeling good about his small act of kindness. The boy, now filled with excitement, ran to tell his mom about the new friend who helped him with the kite. Sometimes, a little help can turn a frustrating moment into a fun memory.

## Celebrating Diversity



Imogen Kinney

We are all different yet the same,  
Different colors and different names,  
But when we stand side by side,  
There's nothing we can't face and we shall not hide.

Together we can make things right,  
Inclusion shines so pure and its so bright,  
Our powers are found in who we are,  
No matter how near or far we are.

Elodie Pearson





## Numeracy Week Stories



Leila Mannan

### Oppression

Dim light spilled through the bars on the window.

Not enough to fend off the darkness consuming these four walls, invading my soul and snuffing out any ember of hope.

Hope that I'll escape.

Hope that I'll ever see the outer world again.

Hope—an abstract concept humans cling to in order to keep sane.

The same emotional impulse that landed me here.

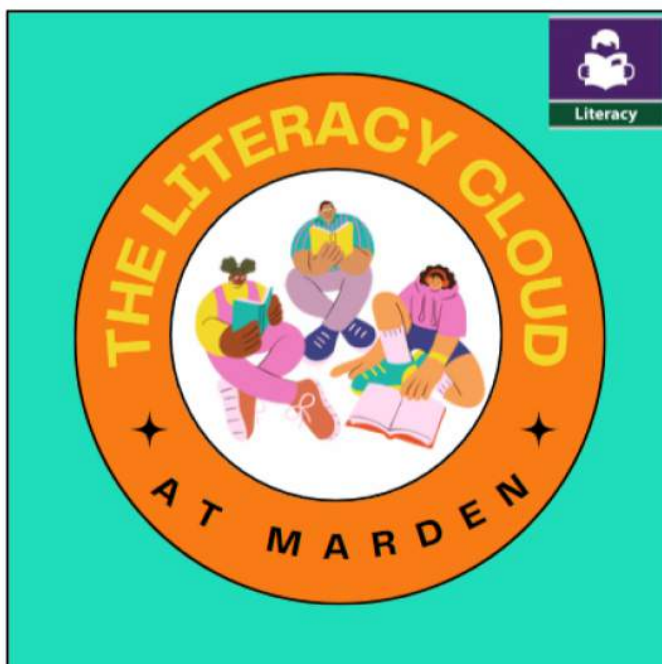
Now I am doomed to rot in this prison, forever desolate as each day passes. Despite being intent upon escaping, I knew logically that it would never happen. I felt the shame in my bones, the disappointment that I've deteriorated after only 128 days of malnourishment and isolation. No matter how much I tried to exercise to build muscle, I wasn't being fed enough protein to make significant progress. I am hardly being fed enough to survive.

All because I had hope for change, for a voice. Now I lay here, stripped of my pride, hopeless.



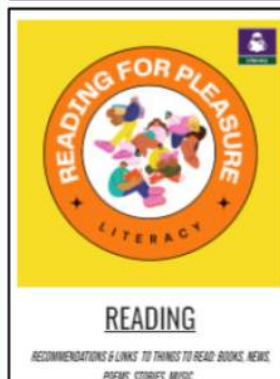
## Literacy at Home on The Literacy Cloud.

There are lots of reading recommendations and links, literacy challenges and a celebration of students' creations on The [Literacy Cloud](#). Take a look!



### Looking for things to read alongside your books?

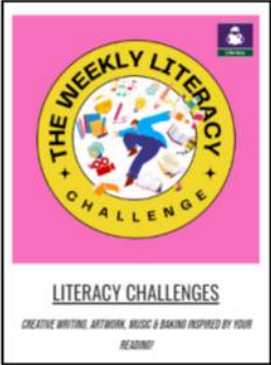
Visit the "Reading" section of the [Literacy Cloud](#).



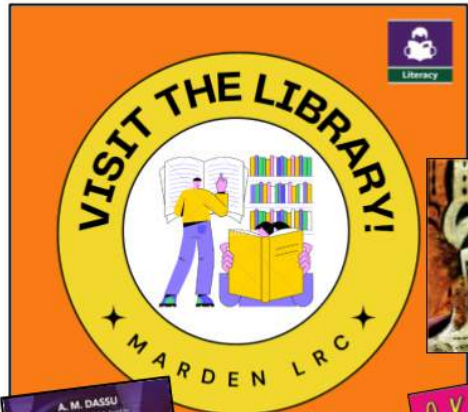
Novels, poems, news articles, blogs, talks, magazines, journals, audiobooks...

**Get published on the Literacy Cloud!**

If you would like to be featured on the [Literacy Cloud](https://literacycloud.com) then check out the weekly challenges & competitions!

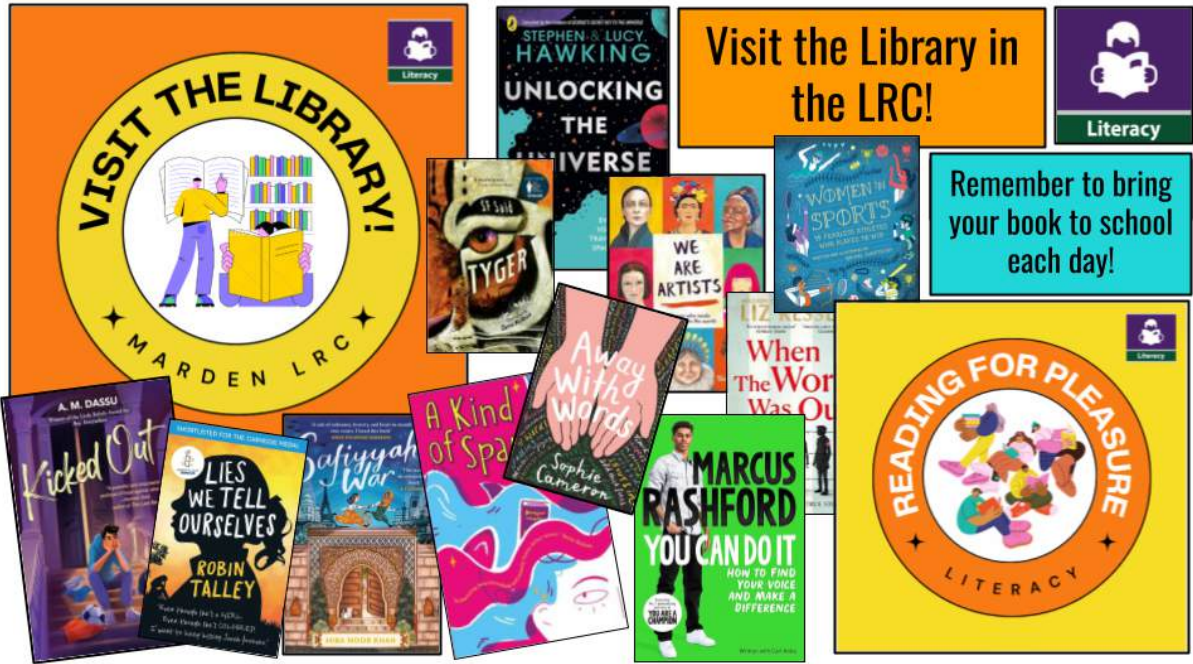


Send your entries to [literacycloud@mardenhigh.net](mailto:literacycloud@mardenhigh.net).  
Each entry wins 50 house points!



**Visit the Library in the LRC!**

Remember to bring your book to school each day!



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 - *J.R.R 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

## 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*