



Marden High School

Friday 23rd May 2025

Dear All

This one has been a short half term but nevertheless a huge amount has been packed into it. Our Year 11s have made a great start to their GCSEs, Year 10s are stepping up to their positions of responsibility as senior students and prefects, and key stage 3 students continue with their excellent engagement and achievement both in and out of the classroom, something commented upon by the many visitors we have had in the school in recent weeks. There has been a lot going on, and I hope you are able to take time to dip into our half termly newsletter where you will get an insight into some of the detail of what has been happening in subject areas.

You may recall that we recently invited parents to engage in a survey regarding a chrome book scheme operated by the company Stone which, for a monthly fee, would provide children with their own chromebook for use at school and at home. We felt that there were pros and cons to the scheme but were interested to get an idea of the appetite from parents for it. Clearly one of the 'disadvantages' of the scheme was the cost. Whilst a relatively modest monthly fee, the 3 year contract did add up to more than the cost of a similar device on the high street. The main 'advantage' however, is that for that price parents get the facility of handing in a damaged device in exchange for a working one should there be an accident. These pros and cons were echoed by parents in the survey as well as lots of other really useful feedback. Stone has indicated that there is no minimum number of subscribers necessary, and as there are parents who are interested in this scheme, I am sending out another simple survey complete with further details on the scheme. Parents should use [this survey](#) to indicate that they are interested in becoming a subscriber.

Our new building "The Pavilion" has now been open and in use for three weeks now. The Pavilion is a new intervention used to support a few students who have barriers to attending school full time. Feedback from parents and students who have used the resource has been extremely positive. If you feel that your child would benefit from using The Pavilion, please contact Mrs Reece, Assistant Headteacher (b.reece@mardenhigh.net).

The 'collaborative consultancy' day held at Marden this week with Voice 21 and other schools in the *Voice North East Project* was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the oracy skills of our staff and students. It was excellent to see the way in which students were able to articulate themselves with such confidence, using reasoning and vocabulary so effectively. Those involved in the Student Voice meeting also represented our school impressively with their thoughtful, engaged discussions in response to the questions from Voice 21. The day has given us the opportunity to reflect on how to continue our great work on developing oracy across the curriculum here at Marden.

As part of our Student Development Programme, a group of Year 7 and Year 9 students have been taking part in an arts project called Stomping Ground, run by the arts education charity Hand Of. They have been working with creative professionals including musicians, visual artists, historians and cinematographers, to produce their very own multimedia art-films. These films are inspired by the North East, the place we call home. Their films explore the region in three different but interconnected ways, considering its nature, its industry, and its culture. In July our students, together with those they have been working with, will host the premiere of the Stomping Ground films at the Tyneside Cinema. All are welcome to come and celebrate the work of our young filmmakers. Tickets are free but must be reserved via this link: <https://stompingground.eventbrite.co.uk>.

One of our past students, Leo Macpherson, is running the equivalent distance of Newcastle to New York, a marathon a day for 128 consecutive days. Leo will be undertaking this [extraordinary challenge](#) during 2026, running 3332 miles, whilst continuing with his 9-5 job. This distance symbolizes running from Newcastle to New York, the place where his brother Conor always dreamed of living. Conor's life was tragically cut short in 2018 when he died by suicide at the age of 21. This challenge is Leo's way of honoring Conor's memory and raising awareness for suicide prevention and mental health support. Funds raised will be donated to the RNLI and If U Care Share. The RNLI saves lives at sea, and If U Care Share, based in the North East, offers mental health training, 24/7 support, and help to families. Leo's Just Giving page is linked above.

Monday evening saw our tennis teams in action against Kings Priory, with the Year 7 & 8 girls teams playing away and the Year 7 & 8 Boys, along with the Year 9 boys, playing at home. The girls games were very competitive, with Marden winning some of the singles and doubles games. However, their opponents were too strong in the end and came away with the match result. The girls all played magnificently well and showed sportsmanship and respect to their opponents at all times. The boys fared better in their home matches, with both teams securing comfortable wins. The Year 7 & 8 team won their match 10 games to 2 and the Year 9 team won 12 games to 0. A fantastic evening of tennis was had by all, well done to everyone involved.

The Year 10 boys tennis team were in action on Tuesday afternoon against a strong Dame Allan's side. The visitors made an impressive start winning all singles games, before completing the match with victories in both doubles games. Not the result the Marden team were looking for, but a strong first game of the year against last year's league winners. Well done to all involved.

And finally, the Year 10 rounders team hosted a tournament on Thursday afternoon. Teams from John Spence, St Thomas More, Kings Priory and Marden battled it out in a round robin event, with the Marden girls ending up third in the competition after narrow defeats to Kings Priory and John Spence. The competitions continue after the half term with Year 7-9 all in action.

With the Year 11s now in full exam mode, we have received lots of donations of uniform which is very much appreciated. If any other students wish to donate their old uniform, we would be very grateful for any blazers and ties which are always in high demand. We would also welcome any donations from any Year 7, 8 or 9 students that may have outgrown their old blazers or PE hoodies. There is the potential to offer a straight swap for another that may be a better fit.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher