



# MARDEN NEWS

July 2025 End of Term Edition



Year 7 boys team lift the trophy in the final of the North Tyneside Schools Cup

*Featuring*

Message from  
The Headteacher

Business

English  
& Media

PE

Science

Literacy at Marden

Drama

Geography

RE

Technology



Friday 18th July 2025

Dear All

I would like to start this newsletter, the final one of the school year, by saying a huge thank you to everyone for another fantastic year at Marden. Staff, students, parents and governors have all worked so hard to provide our young people with some excellent opportunities. Many of these are featured in our half termly newsletter published on the school website today, and I hope that you enjoy reading about some of the amazing things the children and staff have been doing.

It was with sadness that I let staff know earlier this week of the passing of Wendy Dowse, a much loved and valued member of our cleaning team. Wendy was such a consistent presence in school, and seemed always to have a cheery and kind word for everyone. Our cleaning team is second to none and are such an integral part of the caring atmosphere here at Marden, and Wendy led by example in this team. Wendy will be terribly missed, and we pass on our deepest and sincere condolences to her family.

We have been honoured to host Leodhais Macpherson in school this week, as he led an assembly about his famous and amazing feat of running 128 marathons in 128 days. Leodhais raised a huge amount of money doing this for charity, and in addition raised awareness of support for mental health as this enormous feat was in memory of his older brother Connor who the Macpherson family lost to suicide six years ago. Students and staff were suitably amazed at and appreciative of such an inspirational talk. We are looking forward to Leodhais coming into school in the autumn term to work alongside some of our classes.

We are delighted to have received confirmation that we will be continuing our work in the *Voice North East Oracy Project* next academic year. This fully-funded programme, led by national charity *Voice 21*, will allow us to continue to explore ways of effectively building speaking and listening opportunities into our curriculum, teaching and learning, and wider school life, further enhancing our students' learning and life chances through oracy.

To celebrate the work completed as part of the project this year, we were thrilled to have two Marden students invited to compère the *Oracy Exhibition*, an event bringing together the 95 schools involved, held at The Biscuit Factory in Newcastle. Presenting across the day with impressive confidence and flair, the students welcomed and thanked each speaker with their own thoughtful comments and reflections; took questions from the audience to ask to a panel of experts; and assisted in teaching a live oracy lesson. This is what one attendee at the conference emailed:

*"I just wanted to pass on my thoughts further to the Voice 21 Conference in Newcastle on Thursday to the headteacher, teachers and pupils. It was so great to have two such articulate and genuinely amazing pupils help with the presentation of the day. They were both amazing and on behalf of myself and my two colleagues, I just wanted to pass on my congratulations. What a credit they were to you and your school. No easy task when faced with a sea of 300 teachers."*

This week the Year 10 Girl's Network mentoring cohort reflected on their successes at their end of year Celebration Event. Each student was presented with a certificate and commemorative pin to demonstrate their progression to 'Ambassador' status within the network, having completed their mentoring program this year. The students are now lifelong members of The Girl's Network, and will be able to access development opportunities, careers support and networking events via The Girl's Network for as long as they need.

Yesterday afternoon we sent an email to every student with contacts and suggestions for self care over the summer. We want all students to feel safe and happy and that they are making progress and part of this is how we look after ourselves when we're not in school. The links include Childline, Samaritans, CAMHS Crisis and Kooth, and the self care advice includes useful information from Anna Freud and other organisations that have strategies for managing mental wellbeing.

I hope that everyone enjoys a relaxing summer and I look forward to seeing everybody on our return in September. Staff return on Monday 1st September, and students on Tuesday 2nd September, at the normal time.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher



As we wrap up another busy and successful academic year, we'd like to share some highlights from the Business team.

Our Year 10 GCSE Business students recently took part in their work experience placements. This was a fantastic opportunity for them to embed their understanding of key business concepts such as customer service, marketing, operations, and the world of work. On their return, students completed a work experience project where they reflected thoughtfully on their week, linking their experiences to classroom learning – a valuable step in bringing business theory to life.

We also say a fond farewell to our Year 11 students, who have now completed their GCSE exams. We are incredibly proud of the effort, resilience, and maturity they have shown throughout the year. We look forward to welcoming them back on results day in August and celebrating their achievements together.

Finally, as always, we encourage all students to stay up to date with current affairs over the summer. Keeping an eye on the news, especially business and economic updates, is a great way to stay connected to the subject and deepen understanding of the world around us.

Miss D Parker



Another amazing term in Drama! We are very proud of the creative achievements of Marden High School students this term.

It's been a busy term for the drama curriculum with key stage 3 students enjoying learning new skills as they explore 'Our Day Out', 'TWOC' and 'Diversity'. There have been many examples of excellent work throughout the term ranging from imaginative characterisations to challenging physical theatre pieces.

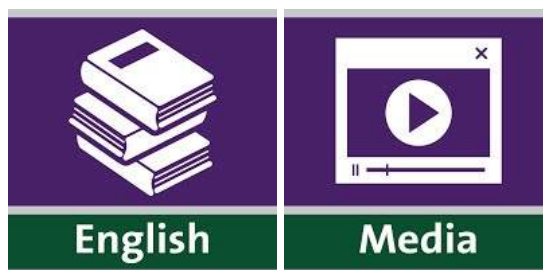
Now that our Year 11 students have left us our focus is upon our new Year 11's as they prepare for the written exam, exploring Jessica Swale's 'Blue Stockings'. Meanwhile, we've had an enthusiastic start to Year 10 as students begin to create adaptations of Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes. Performances will take place as part of our Year 6 Open Evening in September.

Our Key Stage 3 drama club will resume in September with our Year 9 and 10 students leading the way. We're looking forward to welcoming new members and making new friendships along the way.

It was great to see so many members of our school community come to support this year's school production of 'Mary Poppins Jrn.' We are very proud of all the students involved; it really was 'supercalifragilisticexpialidocious'!! We aim to start the next show in September so watch out for audition dates.

A huge thanks to all staff, students and parents for supporting the arts this year at Marden. We are looking forward to new opportunities in the next academic year. Enjoy a fabulous summer!

Mrs S Berriman



## Marden She Wrote: Crunch Time

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

It all started one afternoon: Mrs Cathcart, followed by Mr Ranson, suspiciously (and with determination) hurried to the English Department cupboard, only to find the secret emergency crisp stash mysteriously gone!

Immediately Ranson and Cathcart consulted Mr Horn on the matter (being a successful detective in our previous Marden She Wrote cases: *A Mug's Life* and *Unstuck* to name a few), to enlist his help to solve this shocking case. Why would someone have committed such a petty crime? Was this a personal attack on the English department? Was someone trying to frame another member of the English team? Or was someone just really hungry? Mr Horn decided to take on the case and find out: so the investigations and interrogations began!

Students were given a selection of suspects and motives and had to use their Sherlock style inference and deduction skills to try to pick the culprit - but did they succeed? There were a number of interesting hypotheses: The letters CBA and ECA were found on various folded crisp packets by Mr Horn, did these implicate Mrs Barnes and Mrs Cathcart who share these initials? Did the fact that Ms Laing was seen leaving the cupboard seconds before Mr Ranson and Mrs Cathcart found the empty crisp packet lead her to be a key suspect? Did Mr Turner's musical talents have anything to do with the case? All excellent theories: but who was to blame?

Our Year 8 students described the scene of the crime in their own creative writing perfectly:

*Marden High School is a school unlike any other. On the outside, it looks like any normal school, large buildings, a bike shed, football fields. However, on the inside, it was a place of darkness and terror, which flowed through the school like smoke. This darkness and fear made the school feel like a shadow and the students that went there were always nervous and questioning the crimes that lay inside the English department. Here, lies all of the corruption of Marden High School. Whiteboards were stolen, mugs were taken. There was always something happening in the English Department. Mr Horn, the head of the department, could not do anything about it, the crime was too extreme. As I said before, there is always something happening in Marden High School's English department. This time was the same as always, something was stolen. As time went on, people began to notice that crisps from the emergency crisp box were being taken. One week, there were McCoys stolen, the next Walkers, the next Watsits, the next Doritos. Mr Horn began to realise the problem occurring, and as he sat in his office, twizzling his moustache, he began to think of how he could solve this problem. Suddenly, a spark lit up in his head and smiling to himself assuringly, called a detective he knew in the local area. This detective worked for the local police department, helping them to solve crimes. He was one of the best in the business and Mr Horn knew that he would be perfect to solve this terrible crime.*

*The detective picked up on the other end of the phone, and with a deep gruff voice, exclaimed "Mr Horn, I know why you called me. You need help solving this crisp crime, am I correct?" Mr Horn heard the detective spit out a piece of gum and light a cigar, the flame dancing like a tango dancer. He hastily smoked it and threw it on the ground, stomping at it with his big, black foot, to kill off the flame and the almost poisonous smell of the cigar. "I will arrive tomorrow at 12:00, Mr Horn. Try to gather as much information as possible before I arrive" He hung up the phone and began to chew another piece of gum.*

*Mr Horn dropped the phone in fear. He was a paranoid soul, who was always nervous about what could happen next. He slowly rose to his feet, taking a small sip of his now cold and flavourless coffee. Mr Horn began to walk outside of his office and went over to Mr Anderson. "Sir, I need your help."  
"With what Sir?"  
"I need you to go around the English classrooms." Said Mr Horn, "See what you can find about this case"  
Mr Anderson, being the confident and determined man he was, replied "Of course, Sir" He exited his office and began to walk down the English corridor.*

*As he passed E1, he saw Miss Lees eating something with two hands. He could not see what it was, but he made a note. E2, he saw Mr Turner playing the guitar, without any pick. In E3, he saw Miss Kingston, stuffing something in her bag quickly, as she looked up in a very suspicious manner. In E4, sat Miss Todd, looking very seriously as Miss Howard and Mr Anderson walked past speedily. In E5, Mr Anderson caught Miss Barnes putting something in the bin and finally, in E6, he saw Miss Taylor wiping something off of her board with her hands. After he had finished his trip around the English department, inspecting all of the suspects for clues, he went home for the night, driving home in his Audi, with the windows down and the wind gushing into his face, giving him a cold blast of air.*

## Theo

The classrooms were filled with empty chairs as the bell to come in from lunch was about to go. The teachers were finishing off their lunches with at least one knowing their colleagues will not have any crisps as a snack. As the bell went to come in, all the kids filled the hallways and stairs to get to their lesson. Ryan and Stuart however were not having any ordinary day rushing to get to their lesson in time. They knew the crisps were stolen and were determined to figure out who had stolen them. As they passed through the English corridor they looked at all the suspects, Lees, Turner, Laing, Fenwick, Barnes, and Horn.

Firstly, it was Miss Lees. Every time you walked into the class you could get a distinct smell of food. Ryan looked at Stuart and found a confused look on his face. They looked at Miss Lees knowing that it could be the face of a criminal. As the lesson ended, the smell got less strong. However Miss Lees did like a snack so it could've just been normal.

Next was Turner, who as usual, was playing on his guitar. There was no scent of ready salted crisps however the expression on the face of Mr Turner looked suspicious. Stuart poked his head into the classroom to look for any clues and there seemed to be nothing except packets of sweets. It was clear that he liked snacks but possibly not crisps. Mr Turner was quiet though and could have sneakily nicked the crisps. Mr Turner who as usual, was sitting in his chair playing his guitar constantly taking a break to look out the window of his classroom.

## Oliver

Slowly getting out of the small, cramped car, Grace walked into the gloomy school building, ignoring her mum's comments about making friends; she saw Ms Laing walk suspiciously past her. She wanted to solve the missing crisps mystery herself but of course the school had hired a professional detective, it still didn't stop her though. She was suspicious of Ms Laing because she was the teacher who had walked out of the supply cupboard just as Mr Ranson and Ms Cathcart had discovered that the crisps were missing. Everyone had said that Grace should just leave the work for the detective and forget about the case herself but she didn't want to and she didn't trust that detective anyways. Grace only trusted herself.

Grace entered the school through the LRC entrance and walked down the narrow, dull corridor to the stairs. She passed the D-tech corridor where she saw the teachers chatting excitedly inside, preparing the fresh food ready for their lesson. Grace held onto the cold, metal banister as she ran upstairs. She arrived in her form room in science 1 just on time and she took her seat at the back of the lab where no one could talk to her. Ms Laing walked slowly into the lab, her long black flowing in her face. She took off her deep black cardigan and sat down at the teacher's desk. Yesterday Grace had seen her in the supply cupboard again. Ms Cathcart, who was covering her English lesson from Mr Ranson, had told her to get some highlighters from the supply cupboard, so she had. And she had seen Ms Laing talking to Ms Fennick about the crisp case. She hadn't heard what they were saying but she knew they were talking about the case because she had heard Ms Laing say "the crisps".

As soon as the roaring bell had gone, Grace raced down the crowded corridors to the cafe. The food tech lesson she had just had was really bad. She couldn't wait to get out of the room because the smell of Lucy burning her awful cakes had disturbed her all lesson. She entered the cafe where she could smell the delicious sweet food baking in the oven. She joined the back of the queue where a huge sea of purple and black stood in front of her. After waiting almost 10 minutes, Grace finally reached the front and bought a cookie and milk. She then opened the cool, metal

doors to the east yard. From the corner of her eye, she saw Mr Ranson go in through the double doors opposite the hot and stuffy greenhouse. Without warning herself, she followed him. After all he was a suspect just like Ms. Laing.

### Lucy

So who did it? Well this year there was a twist in the tale! Mr Turner did indeed take a bag of crisps to use as a guitar plectrum (hence the perfectly folded packets with the musical notes CBA and ECA written on them) and it seemed the case was solved; however he was adamant that he did not steal ALL of the crisps. So who did? Mr Horn! Mr Horn simply cannot bear to be without another investigative case as Detective Horn and needed to be seen in his superior role once again.

So is this it for Detective Horn? Now caught, will he hang up his deerstalker and pipe? Well he's certainly not finished yet...



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## The Great Leadership Race

As part of our Year 7 Animal Farm unit, English classes have been taking part in a task to champion to be the next leader of Animal Farm. Groups were tasked to create a promotional campaign including promotional videos, posters, merchandise and any other 'propaganda' they could think of! Groups were then given their chance to present their ideas to the class who then voted for their winner! Students were able to move around school, work independently using a range of materials and really revelled in being able to demonstrate their excellent acting skills to produce high quality campaign videos. Some groups had more challenging characters to champion than others: such as Mollie, the horse who only cares about her appearance and lumps of sugar; Napoleon, the eventual tyrannical leader of the farm and Mr Jones, the former abusive owner of the farm overthrown by the animals at the start of the novel.

Groups worked incredibly hard to gain successful votes - some even bringing in a jar of Percy Pigs to encourage students to 'VOTE SNOWBALL!' Overall students enhanced their persuasive and spoken language skills in an incredibly enjoyable and entertaining summer unit.

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## 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 collected four stamps they received 250 house points and after eight stamps they were rewarded with 500 house points!

As the academic year draws to a close, many of our English teachers have handed our awards to students who have impressed us with their reading habits and demonstrated a keen interest in reading across the year.

Next year we hope this initiative will continue to thrive as this becomes more embedded across the school, and as a department we already have a range of new ideas to promote, enhance and improve the Marden Literary Society even further. Watch this space!



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

Mr Horn: *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway

Mrs Cathcart: *Virginia Woolf* by Hermione Lee

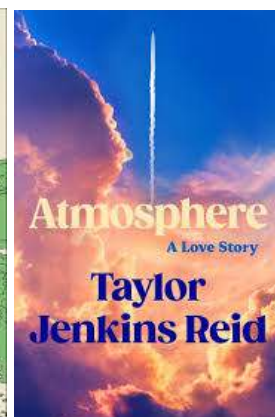
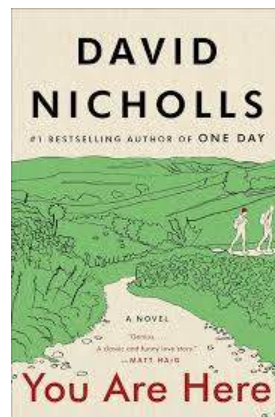
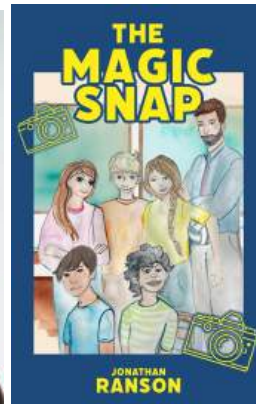
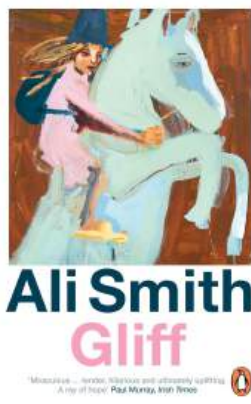
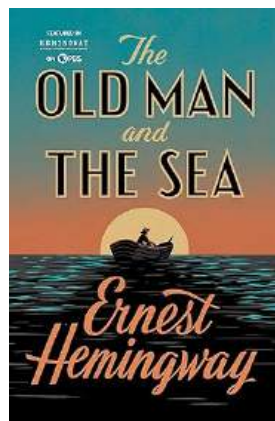
Miss Laing: *The Magic Snap* by Jonathan Ranson

Ms Taylor: *Gliff* by Ali Smith

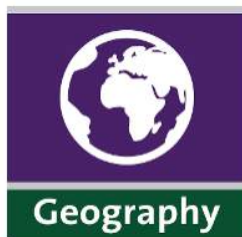
Mr Ranson: *How Not to be a Boy* by Robert Webb

Miss Lees: *You Are Here* by David Nicholls

Mrs Todd: *Atmosphere* by Taylor Jenkins Reid



Mrs E Cathcart



As we wrap up another exciting and productive term in the Geography Department, we want to share some of the fantastic work, memorable moments and achievements from this term. It's been a term packed with discovery, creativity and curiosity about our world!

From Year 7 to Year 11, students have been exploring a range of engaging topics:

Year 7 learned about coasts and tourism. We ended with students designing their own ecotourist resort showcasing some innovative ideas!

Year 8 took a deeper dive into the topics of megacities and rivers, applying critical thinking to real-world issues.

Year 9 explored the topic of ecosystems taking an in depth look at tropical rainforests and hot deserts.

Year 10 continued their GCSE journey by analysing urban issues and challenges. Geography comes alive when we step outside the classroom and Year 10 completed their fieldwork at the coast this term looking at the effectiveness of coastal management strategies and the regeneration of Whitley Bay.

Year 11 wrapped up their studies with revision and completing their three exams. The dedication and preparation the students have shown for their final exams has been exemplary and we wish them every success for the summer.



Overall it's been a very productive year, our students have demonstrated commendable levels of resilience this year, they are a credit to the school community and teaching them in Geography has been a real pleasure this year. Thank you to all students for your enthusiasm and effort this term. We hope you all have a restful and enjoyable summer break. Don't forget - the world is your classroom, so whether you're travelling or staying local, take notice of the geography all around you!

Miss C Robson



### **Extracurricular activities**

The PE extracurricular activities have proved to be very popular this term, with pupils from all year groups enjoying taking part in sports such as Cricket, Rounders, Athletics, Tennis, Table Tennis, Volleyball and Badminton.

#### **Cricket**

With the warm weather and light nights came the start of the school cricket season. The pupils in Year 7 Boys team played in a softball cricket tournament against many other local schools at Tynemouth CC. They played some scintillating cricket and managed to win games against tough opposition to top their group. In the semi final they faced a tough Kings Priory team but battled hard and managed to push their opponents until the final ball of the game, eventually falling short by only 3 runs. In the 3rd place play-off, the Marden team rallied and managed a comfortable win against North Gosforth Academy to claim 3rd place in the tournament.

#### **Rounders**

The rounders season has seen teams from Year 7-10 compete in tournaments against many local schools, with groups participating in tournaments held at Marden and John Spence. The girls that took part really enjoyed the experience and it was lovely to see some pupils that had not represented the school before step up and play brilliantly with their teammates.

#### **Volleyball**

The Year 8 and 9 girls Volleyball teams travelled to Monkseaton High for the North Tyneside Schools competition this term. For a lot of the players, it was their first taste of competitive Volleyball and they all thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

## Football

The Football season closed early in the summer term with the Year 7 boys team playing in the final of the North Tyneside Schools cup against Longbenton High School. Having battled through the semi final against George Stephenson, the boys were in a confident mood going into the game, but quickly realised that their opponents had also come to win the cup. Both teams played extremely well in the first half, both having chances to open the scoring but neither managing to convert the chances into goals. With the game finely balanced in the second period, it was Longbenton who scored first after a prolonged period of pressure on the Marden goal. Marden pressed for the equaliser and found it soon after the restart to make it 1-1. Longbenton came back strong and after a lucky bounce of the ball managed to score a second to retake the lead 2-1. Marden were now battling the clock as time ticked by and with Longbenton defending well, this meant the boys from Marden needed a bit of magic to draw level. Their wishes were answered with a superb long range effort from just inside the halfway line finding the top corner. The momentum was all with Marden now and in the final minute of normal time, they took the lead for the first time in the game through a fine solo effort from their Captain to make it 3-2 to Marden. The Marden team went into ultra defensive mode to protect their lead, and after what seemed like an eternity played for time added on, the final whistle was met with cries of joy as the Marden team had held on to lift the trophy. A fitting end to a fantastic first season.



## **Athletics**

Year 9 & 10 pupils travelled to Monkton stadium for the North Tyneside athletics competition, with many of our pupils qualifying for the North Tyneside team in the next round of competition at Hexham. Here, teams competed against 4 other regions of the county with the top two athletes making it into the county team for the Inter-Counties competition at Middlesbrough Athletics Stadium. Seven Marden pupils made it through to compete at this level, helping Northumberland to a 2nd place finish. Two Marden pupils ended the Hammer throw event with throws good enough to qualify for the English Schools Athletics competition in Birmingham this month. An amazing achievement and we wish them every success in the competition.

The Year 7 & 8 pupils started their athletics season with a competition between the Tynemouth area schools at St Thomas More School, with the top four athletes progressing to the North Tyneside competition, again held at Monkton Stadium. Many Marden pupils were again successful in this event, and progressed to represent North Tyneside in the Northumberland County competition at Gateshead Stadium. In this competition, the success continued with many of our athletes achieving Gold, Silver and Bronze positions in their events.

In the Under-15s Pentathlon and Under-17s Octathlon, where athletes compete in five events across one day, one Year 9 Marden pupil put in a strong performance for their county team. They achieved personal bests in various events, including long jump, hurdles, javelin and 800m. One Marden pupil competed in the U17 Octathlon, where athletes compete in eight events across two days, finishing 4th overall.

We are all very proud of the outstanding achievements our athletes have produced this season and wish them the very best over the rest of the summer.

## Tennis

The Marden tennis teams have been able to play many more games than last year, thanks to the weather being uncharacteristically kind this summer. Teams from all year groups have enjoyed fixtures against St Mary's RC School, Kings Priory, Dame Allens, John Spence and Ponteland. For many of our younger players, it was the first taste of competitive tennis and all players that have represented the school have done so with great displays of skill and sportsmanship.



Mr G Smith



As we are approaching the end of a busy year, many students are now starting to look towards the new academic year. In RE there are plenty of resources available on the subject cloud to support students in their transition to the following year group including useful websites such as BBC Bitesize and RE Online, and homework support. There is also a reading list of fiction books which feed into learning for the following year. For example, students going into year 8 may like to read 'The Diary of a Young Girl' by Anne Frank ahead of learning about the Holocaust. 'A Brave New World' by Aldous Huxley may be a good choice for students moving into year 9 & 10.

For students beginning the GCSE course the RE subject cloud supplements the guided choices information already shared. Students going into year 10 and 11 have a variety of sources, reading and tasks which could support their learning and preparation over the summer and hopefully give them a great base from which to explore the new GCSE content.

Mrs C MacLeod



### Bringing GCSE Chemistry to Life with Hydrogen fuel cells

Year 11 students had a visit from representatives at Northern Gas Networks demonstrating their work with hydrogen fuel cells.

This is an important part of the GCSE Chemistry syllabus so it was a fantastic opportunity to hear first hand how this technology is being developed in industry.

Students were given small hydrogen fuel cell cars to trial. They saw how electrical energy was used to electrolyse water, producing hydrogen and oxygen. The hydrogen and oxygen were then used by the fuel cell to generate electricity and make the car move!



## STEM CLUB

This term, our STEM Club students have completed the *STEM Technicians* programme, an exciting series of activities developed by STEM Learning in partnership with the *Technicians: We Make the Difference* campaign. Through hands-on challenges such as designing soundscapes for video games, creating scale lighting rigs, and designing prototype lateral flow tests, students explored the vital role technicians play in a range of careers.

These sessions not only strengthened their STEM knowledge and practical skills, but also gave them insight into real-world job roles that don't require a university degree, inspiring many to consider new and exciting future career paths.





## Equinor project and visit

Year 9 have been taking part in a range of activities deepening their knowledge of renewable energy. They have completed research on a range of energy resources, investigated wind turbines and had a careers Q&A panel with employees from Equinor, a local energy company.

A group of students then got the opportunity to visit Equinor's base at the Port of Tyne where they were very fortunate to get a tour of one of the ships used by the engineers working offshore at Dogger Bank Wind Farm.

Students then travelled to the Port of Blyth where they completed a workshop at the brand new Energy Central Campus, followed by a tour of the turbine testing facilities at ORE Catapult.



# Northumbria University

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

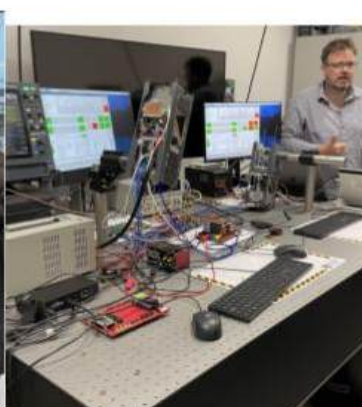
The project that 6 year 10 students had been participating in on 'Plasma turbulence in space' came to its conclusion a couple of weeks ago. The students attended the Orbyts conference at Northumbria university where they delivered their poster presentations and also got a tour of the state of the art laboratories and facilities. The students received compliments from top professors and other stakeholders about their participation and delivery of the project. Well done!





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## Duke of Edinburgh - Bronze Award

We're incredibly proud of the dedication, resilience, and spirit shown by all our Bronze DofE participants this year. As we move through the final phase of the award, here's a quick round-up of the fantastic progress our students have made:



### Practice & Qualifying Expeditions

Both Alpha and Beta groups have now completed their qualifying expeditions, facing everything from blistering heat to thunder and lightning – and showing true teamwork and determination throughout. A huge thank you to staff and volunteers who helped support and assess them. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and we're delighted with how each team conducted themselves under pressure.



### Thank You

Finally, a huge thank you to parents, carers, and staff for your continued support. DofE wouldn't be possible without your encouragement, lifts, packed lunches, and cheering from the sidelines!





## GCSE Astronomy coming next year

Mr. Yeoman has been working hard to get ready for the inaugural GCSE astronomy course.

Preparations for next years GCSE Astronomy class have been happening throughout the year. This is a new GCSE course being taught next year.

20 students have signed up for the GCSE which will be taking place after school.

The GCSE will delve into understanding our Moon and Sun, The Solar System, the Galaxy and beyond!

Mrs C Atkinson



## Technology Department

In this edition, we'll be showcasing the creativity, innovation, and problem-solving skills that our students have demonstrated this term. From hands-on projects to exciting competitions, find out how Design and Technology is inspiring the next generation of designers, engineers, and makers here at Marden!

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### Year 7

Year 7 have had an exciting term completing the last of their three rotations across Food, Textiles, and CAD/CAM Metal Work. They designed and created felt pencil cases in Textiles, developed pendants for Tynemouth Surf Company and Surfers Against Sewage in Metal Work using specialist workshop equipment, and gained valuable skills in independent working and idea development. It's been fantastic to see their creativity and confidence grow, as well as their skills in using new processes such as designing on the computer to laser cut moulds, learning embroidery techniques and discussing what recipes they've tried again at home from food lessons!



## Year 8

Year 8 have continued to build their skills in Technology this term. Under Miss Nicholls' guidance, students designed and crafted impressive clocks inspired by Bauhaus, Pop Art, and Art Deco design movements. They then took on a 2 week creative challenge using minimal materials, applying their newly learned skills to design practical items such as desk tidies, phone holders, and make-up stands — resulting in some fantastic outcomes!

Food classes have continued to fill the hallway with delicious aromas this term. With Miss Tait and Miss Gray-Renfrew, students have confidently discussed what they've learned, adapting recipes to suit their tastes and producing some fantastic dishes. Their enthusiasm and creativity in the kitchen have been truly impressive!



## Year 9

Year 9 students have again worked incredibly well this term. In woodwork, they've demonstrated fantastic creativity and focus, developing their knowledge of wood joints and confidently using specialist equipment to create practical storage solutions. In food, students have continued to grow in independence while deepening their understanding of food science—key preparation for GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition. Students have explored primary and secondary production, raising agents, fairtrade and food science through bread making, homemade jammy biscuits, fairtrade muffins and mini calzone pizzas. This has proved very enjoyable for the students and there have been some fantastic practical outcomes! With Mrs Green, students have produced wonderfully creative pizza cutter designs, applying their knowledge of ergonomics and anthropometrics to develop their own innovative handle concepts.



## Year 10 and 11

Year 11 have once again produced some fantastic coursework this year, demonstrating outstanding skill, creativity, and dedication. Over nine months, students worked with real maturity to problem-solve, analyse, and investigate their chosen design challenges—producing high-quality practical outcomes tailored to specific target markets. While we are unable to share the work publicly until after results day, the standard of practical work this year has been exceptionally high. Since Easter, students have continued to show impressive focus and determination as they refined and completed their projects.

Meanwhile, Year 10 have just begun their coursework journey, which will take them through to next Easter. Students have selected one of three design contexts and are currently deep into the research and investigation stage, preparing to begin the design process in September. As a class, they are working exceptionally well—already producing work of fantastic quality, which comes as no surprise given their dedication and the high standards they've demonstrated throughout the year in preparation for this task.

Year 10 Engineers have completed their first coursework and are now looking ahead to their second. Their new theme, set by the exam board, is lanterns and the students are going to be working hard on their analysis and planning skills to evaluate existing products and plan the production of their own lanterns from the working drawings provided for them.

Year 10 food students have begun preparing for the NEA 1 coursework which will start this September. They will be exploring the functions and science behind how ingredients work and will be taking part in a range of exciting activities and experiments.

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## GirlsGetSET

The Girls Get Set STEM students were out this week for their graduation at Baker Hughes, where they received their bronze and silver cadet awards. Throughout the day the girls were involved in a series of sessions including icebreakers, guess the job role, and hiding and finding each other's oil reserves. The competition was on with each team creating maps (with decoys), whilst working out costings for each of their attempts by calculating their drill depths as well as the number of coordinates tested. The girls were also given the fantastic opportunity of a plant tour where they were able to see Baker Hughes's Flexiple Pipe System in production. The scale of manufacturing and sheer size of the engineering equipment had all the girls in awe. Earlier in the year all 19 students had taken part in this year's carbon footprint project and this week saw the winners of the presentations announced. Up against some tough competition not only from their peers but another North East school, Marden were victorious for the 2nd year running. The girls from team Pedal Energy gave an energetic, fun, confident, detailed and engaging presentation on how to use our current gym equipment to help reduce our school's carbon footprint. Two of our students also won the carbon capture poster competition too. Well done to all of the girls for their hard work this year.



Following on from this, 2 of your students are part of a Female Advisory Board, working with Baker Hughes to help develop their partnership with schools around the world and how they can encourage young females into what are still predominantly male job roles. The girls have been working with other students from the US and Saudi Arabia, along with mentors and the CEO from Baker Hughes to support future developments within education and working with young women.

The same 2 students have also been working hard on 3 days work experience at Baker Hughes this week, grilling the CEO with a series of rigorous and thought provoking questions, whilst also working within their manufacturing and testing facilities. The girls have thoroughly enjoyed their time at Baker Hughes and have relished the opportunity to learn new skills.

## VEX Robotics

This year sees a new team competing in this year's robotics competition - Push Back. The game sees the students creating, programming and driving their robot in a series of games where they are challenged with placing the most game pieces in the allocated and coloured areas within the game field, whilst also sabotaging the opposing team.

Here's a [link](#) to this year's game release. The students are already hard at work building their robot and completing their design book alongside. Watch this space for future developments and see how "Keanu" is coming along.



## TICE

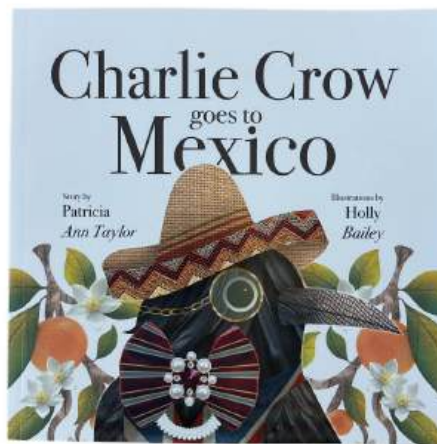
TICE explores career development creating opportunities for students to experience an insight into careers within the creative industry. Earlier this year fifteen year 9 students took part in project areas focusing on fashion, design, illustration, photography and film. The TICE programme came to an end after 10 weeks and during this time the students took part in three workshop experiences, including a day at Northumbria University. The TICE experience is not stopping just here for some students though, as some of their work has been chosen to be presented in a TICE showcase at TICEFest this coming November!





## Alumni

We're incredibly proud of former Marden student Holly Bailey, who has recently completed a Graphic Design course at Newcastle College and showcased her phenomenal work at a recent exhibition, which Miss Nicholls was delighted to attend. Holly's portfolio already reflects degree-level quality, demonstrating the creativity and skill she began developing during her time at Marden. A truly outstanding Design and Technology student, Holly will now be continuing her journey in Graphic Design and Illustration at UCA in London later this year. It's always fantastic to see how our students build on what they learned at Marden to take the next steps towards exciting creative careers.



Ms K Nicholls



## The Library Book of the Week: Summer Holiday Reads

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 this Summer Term - just in time for some holiday reading!

### Summer Term Books of the Week



The collage features the following books and their associated themes:


- Reading for Pleasure Literacy** (Circular logo)
- Fear of Nature Poems** (Label: Nature)
- Quiet Riot** (Label: Hope, Agency, Leadership)
- Away With Words** (Label: Creativity)
- Northern Lights** (Label: International Day of Light)
- The Light in Everything** (Label: International Day of Light)
- The Girl Who Couldn't Lie** (Label: Empathy Day)
- Big Ideas for Curious Minds** (Label: Curiosity)
- Sophie McKenzie The Fix** (Label: Sports Day)
- Pride Power** (Label: Pride)
- Shadow Thieves** (Label: Opportunity & Adventure)
- Impossible Creatures** (Label: Opportunity & Adventure)






## The Summer Literacy Challenge

Each week the [Weekly Literacy Challenge](#) is released, offering students the opportunity to respond creatively to the Theme of the Week, become published on the [Literacy Cloud](#), and boost their house points, with 50 house points per entry! Here is a special Summer Literacy Challenge for students to get involved in and start the new year with a house-point-boost!



**Summer Literacy Challenge!**



CREATE A POETRY POSTER INSPIRED BY SUMMER. USE IMAGES, ARTWORK AND WRITE YOUR OWN POEM.

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)



## Enter the Young Writers Annual Showcase 2025

The company Young Writers is holding its annual summer competition asking students to submit their best pieces of writing, in any style. It could be a speech, a story, a poem or an article. Students could enter a piece they have already written this year, or create something new. Here is the [link to the entry portal](#).



**YoungWriters**  
Est. 1991

### ANNUAL SHOWCASE 2025

**1000**  
WORDS TO WRITE ABOUT ANYTHING!

Here are some ideas to inspire a new piece of work...

|       |                    |             |                |
|-------|--------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Poem  | TV or Movie Script | Speech      | Letter         |
| Story | Essay              | Song Lyrics | Article        |
| Play  | Memoir             | Blog        | Journal/ Diary |

**PRIZES!**  
A winner in each age category will be chosen once the showcase is published in winter 2025:

- 10-12 year-olds
- 13-15 year-olds
- 16-18 year-olds

Each winner will receive £100 and a trophy.

Every entrant receives a bookmark and writers selected for the showcase will receive a certificate.

From stories and poems to blog posts and essays, choose your best piece of writing from this academic year OR write a new piece!

1,000 word limit.





## 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 a few of the contributions we have received this half term...



**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)





## Lamine Yamal Young Leader

### Who Is Lamine Yamal ?

Lamine Yamal is a 17 year old football phenominal who has won several trophies including the UEFA Euros. He has played an amazing 127 games and reached 29 goals and 33 assists for club and country. At his age, Messi had only made 2 starts and Ronaldo hasn't made a single appearance. He is outshining the best ever football players at the young age of 17. He has showed he can cope with pressure despite his young age as he's been in Euro and Nations League finals and Champions League semi-finals. Everywhere he goes success follows making him one of the greatest young phenomenon ever.

### Why is Yamal a Leader ?

Despite his young age, he displays quality and experience of a 35 year old footballer. His three main qualities that match with the most exceptional leaders are as follows:

- Composure**- Lamine Yamal has showed amazing levels of composure throughout his brief career so far. He steps up week in week out against some of the best defenders in the world and it would be strange for him to struggle but instead he is calm and thrives no m after the occasion, final, friendly or league game.
- Teamwork**- Normally, when an academy baller breaks through to the first team, they hide away slightly and don't try to claim the spotlight. Yamal was the opposite breaking through as a shining light. He immediately built strong relationships which showed on and off the pitch, also a quality more experienced player should have.
- Hard Work**- Players that breakthrough and make that many appearances straight away usually get injured or struggle with consistency. His success is a testament to his hard work.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, I think Yamal's success is a result of his strong mentality and hard work. He is inspirational to me and all young footballers for his playing style, ability and success at such an impressive age.

## INSPIRATIONAL YOUNG LEADERS

Frankie





## INSPIRATIONAL YOUNG LEADERS

### Making Waves: THE ELLIE SIMMONDS STORY

**01**

The Swimmer

Ellie Simmonds is a Paralympic swimming champion who made history at just 12 years old, becoming the youngest British athlete to win a gold medal at the Paralympics. Born with tetraplegia, a form of disability, she never let that stop her from chasing her dreams. She competed in four Paralympic games, winning five gold and setting world records. Ellie's strength, speed, and determination made her a star in the pool and an inspiration to people everywhere.

**02**

The dancer

In 2011, Ellie Simmonds took on a brand new challenge by joining Strictly Come Dancing. She became the first contestant with a disability to appear on the show, dancing with professional partner Nikita Kuzmin. Ellie amazed the judges and the audience with her confidence, creativity, and courage, proving that dancing — like swimming — is for everyone. Her time on Strictly inspired millions and helped break down barriers on national television.

**03**

The leader

Outside of sport and entertainment, Ellie Simmonds has continued to inspire by speaking up for disability rights and helping to change attitudes across the UK. She's worked with charities, given motivational talks, and was even awarded an MBE at just 17 years old for her services to sport. Ellie uses her voice to stand up for others, showing that true strength isn't just about winning medals — it's about making a difference.

## GEVA MENTOR

She has even made her own autobiography, which i am reading at the moment. It is all about the achievements she has made in life and the struggles she has gone through to get where she is now.



*"Be happy & be yourself, as the key is accepting where you are in life and to make the most out of every day"*



Geva is a professional netball player who played for England roses and Leeds Rhinos. She is a huge inspiration to me as although she doesn't play my position she is amazing at what she does and how far she has come. I have been to the game before and she signed the autobiography which I brought.

Evie

Isla



**The Leaf**

A tree does not cry when it loses a leaf  
It does not wheeze and choke with grief

That lonely leaf lands on the ground  
And beholds the world around

The sky a blue, the clouds so grey  
Each beautiful in its own way

The birds that circle, and swoop and soar  
Make the leaf seem oh so small

And amidst this glorious sight  
The tree it came from bathed in light

The leaf's home, its friends, its past  
And so determined to make it last

It gives itself up to the soil  
Enters the roots that twist and coil

But this is not its final end  
For upon a branch that bends

A bud appears, begins to flower  
Burst into leaf with strength and power

And so the cycle starts anew  
But while I am here with you

There is one thing that I must ask  
My one request, your only task

When my body lay upon the ground  
Beholden to the world around

Do not stand alone and cry  
For I did not truly die

Into the ground I sent my Power  
To help the trees in their darkest hour

So that amongst the morning dew  
The cycle may restart anew

So, do not weep for me my friend  
My story did not reach its end

END



**POETRY**

Caleb Mercer

## The beginning

### CURIOSITY

- ❑ There is evidence that shows that humans started making grains into food around 30,000 years ago.
- ❑ The first form of bread, however was later recorded around 14,500 years ago which was found in Jordan.

## The Agricultural revolution

- ❑ Around 10,000 BC, the Neolithic period brought agriculture, and more importantly, bread.



## Bread's significance

- ❑ Bread has been the main parts of people's diets for thousands of years
- ❑ It has evolved from flavourless food to very diverse flavours through baking techniques and traditions.

### Literacy Challenge- The History of Bread

Sam



## 6 Fun Facts about the Baltic Sea Anomaly

- 1 What is it?**  
The Baltic Sea Anomaly is a mysterious, circular formation discovered on the seafloor in the northern Baltic Sea in June 2011 by the Ocean X diving team.
- 2 Flying or formation?**  
Sonar images initially suggested an object with unusual features, leading to speculation that it might be a sunken UFO. However, scientific consensus points to it being a natural geological formation, possibly a glacial deposit or a rock formation.
- 3 Super Size**  
The Baltic Sea Anomaly is around 60 metres wide and 8 metres tall, about the size of a jumbo jet lying flat on the seafloor. It's shaped like a large disc with strange ridges and features, making it stand out from the natural surroundings – and sparking theories that it might not be just a rock.
- 4 Could it be...**  
While the exact nature remains unknown, some theories suggest the object could be a natural geological formation like a glacial deposit, a meteorite, or even a rock outcropping.
- 5 Malfunctioning mayhem!**  
Ocean X reported that when they got close to the anomaly, electrical equipment stopped working – including cameras and lights. When they backed away, it worked again. That made people think it was emitting some weird energy...
- 6 What do you think?**  
Hi!  
  - A massive Stone Age pizza
  - A submerged cheese wheel of galactic proportions
  - A frozen pancake launched by angry sea giants during a battle with Vikings!



**CURIOSITY**

Evie

## LANGUAGES

### ESPERANTO

Esperanto is a constructed international auxiliary language created by L.L. Zamenhof in 1887. It is designed to be easy to learn and politically neutral, aiming to facilitate communication between people from different language backgrounds. While not widely spoken as a native language, it is the most successful constructed language, boasting an estimated 100,000 to 2 million speakers worldwide.

Imogen



**EMPATHY**

Elodie

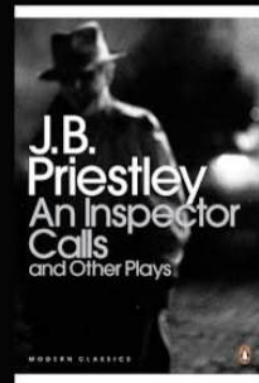
Dear Diary,  
It's Sheila Birling

Tonight was awful. I can't stop thinking about that girl – Eva Smith. Or Daisy Renton. I feel so guilty. I didn't know what my actions could lead to, but now I see it clearly. I was jealous and angry over something silly, and she lost her job because of me.

The Inspector made me realise how wrong I was. He made us all see what we did. But not everyone wants to admit it. Mother and Father just want to forget what happened. Im very angry at them, it felt weird speaking to them with such disrespect but i just felt so angry and disappointed of them, Gerald too. But I can't. I don't want to go back to pretending nothing's wrong.

I've changed. I want to be better now. I hope it's not too late.

Sheila x





EMPATHY

Isla

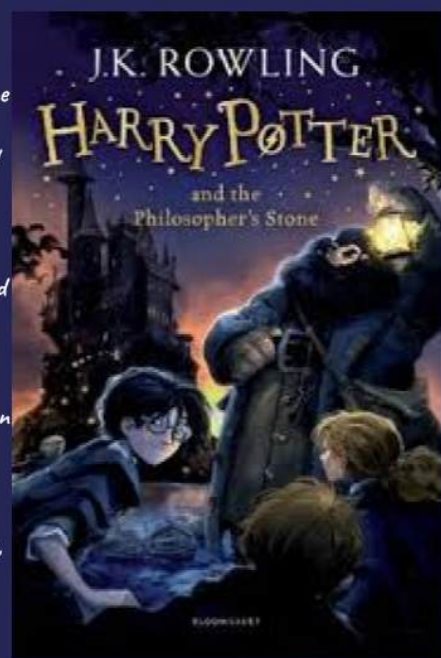
Today was the most exciting day of my life.

I finally arrived at Hogwarts! The castle is even bigger and more magical than I imagined. The ceiling in the Great Hall looks just like the sky, there were floating candles and everything. I read about it, of course, but seeing it in real life is amazing.

The Sorting Hat put me in Gryffindor. I thought I might go to Ravenclaw, but the Hat said I'm brave. That made me feel proud. I hope I can live up to it.

I met some people on the train. Harry Potter, yes, the Harry Potter and a boy named Ron who doesn't seem to like me very much. I think I might have talked too much again. I get nervous sometimes.

Classes start tomorrow. I'm a little nervous, but mostly excited. I've already read most of our textbooks. I hope the professors aren't too strict.  
- Hermione



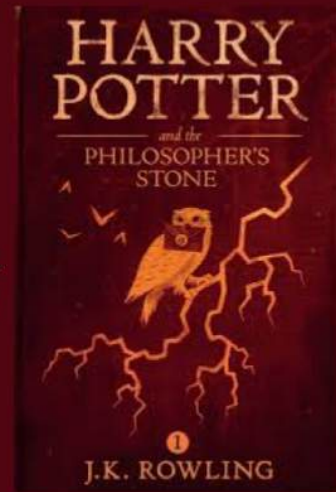


OCTOBER 27TH 1999

EMPATHY

William

LIVING WITH THE DURSLEY IS A HORRIBLE EXPERIENCE.THEY'RE NOT EXACTLY THE WARMEST FAMILY, TO PUT IT IN A WAY. THEY MAKE ME SLEEP IN A CUPBOARD UNDER THE STAIRS. IT FEELS UNCOMFORTABLE BECAUSE THERE IS NOT MUCH SPACE. THEY MAKE ME COOK THEIR BREAKFAST. THE WORST IS MY COUSIN; HE IS SELFISH,GREEDY AND A BULLY. I TRY TO KEEP TO MYSELF TO AVOID THEIR WRATH BUT IT'S HARD. I LONG FOR SOMETHING MORE NORMAL.



Light

Luke


Light feels like hope when I wake up,  
Like sunshine pouring in my cup.  
It hits my wall in streaks of gold,  
Like stories waiting to be told.



## 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!




  
Literacy

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

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



**READING**  
RECOMMENDATIONS & LINKS TO THINGS TO READ: BOOKS, NEWS, POEMS, STORIES, MUSIC.




WHAT CAN I READ?

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](#) then check out the weekly challenges & competitions!




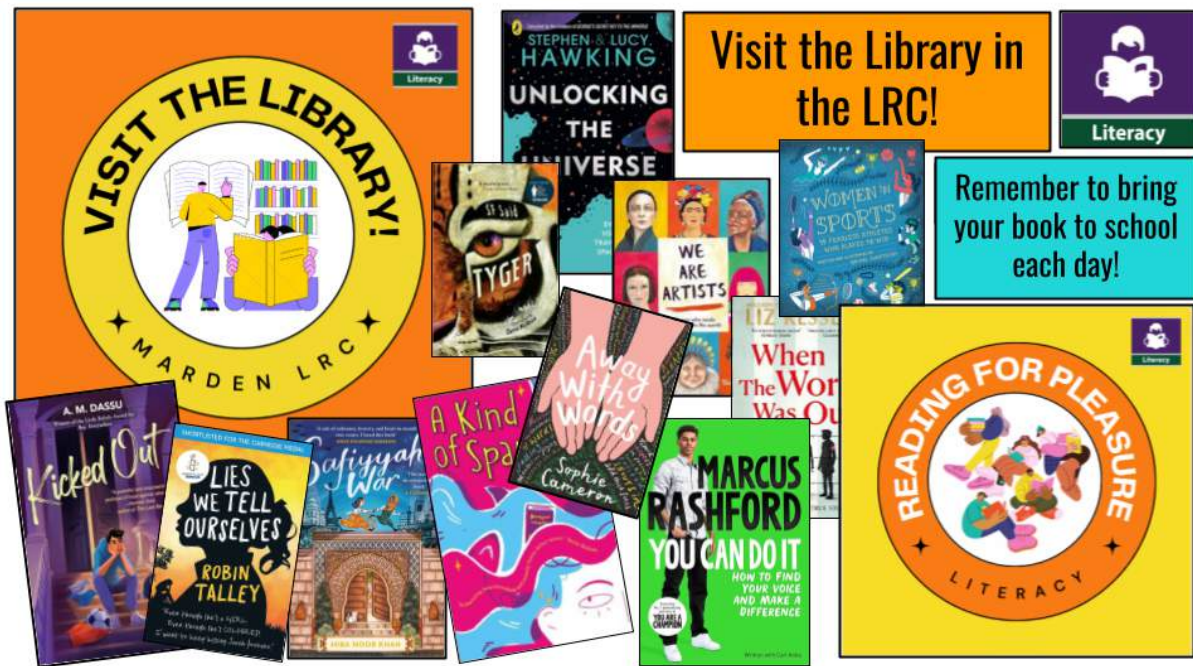
**LITERACY CHALLENGES**  
CREATIVE WRITING, ARTWORK, MUSIC & BAKING INSPIRED BY YOUR READING!

Send your entries to [literacycloud@mardenhigh.net](mailto:literacycloud@mardenhigh.net).

Each entry wins 50 house points!



  
Literacy



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*