



Marden High School

Friday 17th October 2025

STEMFest

Last week some of our year 8 students attended STEMFest 2025 at Vertu Motors Arena. STEMFest is a hands-on exhibition where students meet and engage with a number of businesses which work within the stem sector in our region, such as local universities, the Royal Air Force, Siemens energy, BAE Systems and Nissan to name a few. Our students really stepped up to the challenge with activities such as cracking the code with Enigma Interactive, testing their reaction times with Sunderland University, and learning about our constellations in the planetarium with the Life Science Centre. Two of our students battled it out to make the best racing kart out of lego with Marden winning the best time over the 3 day event. The students spoke highly of their experience with many commenting on learning something new at each stall, as well as careers they now have an interest in. Their main highlights were using the VR headset to see what it was like working on a wind turbine and of course the robot dog. As with the last few years, we have had a brilliant response from our former students who are hoping to begin supporting in class after half term.

Retrieval

Assistant Headteacher Mr Tueart has been delivering an interesting and informative assembly this week to all year groups about 'remembering'. The idea of retention and retrieval is central to the success of our students in their exams, and it is therefore the focus of both activities and practice in classrooms, and of staff professional development at Marden. This theme continued in our well attended and successful evening event for Year 10 parents and carers on Tuesday this week. Retrieval practice is a learning concept centered on the idea that actively recalling prior knowledge plays a pivotal role in fostering sustained knowledge in learners. This active recall of information helps reinforce neural connections in the brain, hence consolidating learning. When information is successfully recalled from long-term memory, learners become more able to access that knowledge in the future, thus sustaining the knowledge they have accrued. Professional development at Marden High School has been centered on the concept of retrieval practice, building on previous work focusing on "checking for understanding".

In class, retrieval tasks often take the form of frequent, short, low-stakes testing activities. Strategies employed include quizzes, discussions, and games, alongside feedback to support further understanding. Homework tasks also frequently offer additional opportunities for retrieval practice. At home, parents, carers, and family members can provide great support by testing learners and encouraging knowledge recall. This type of activity is

considered a much more effective use of time compared to activities like creating posters for revision.

Artificial Intelligence

This term some of our staff are trialling the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) platforms to see how it might help in their work with, for example, the design of educational materials or the writing of documents such as policies and procedures. Whilst we believe it is important to maintain a degree of caution, the early signs are that, for some tasks, there could be a significant time saving factor. AI is set to become a key feature of our future lives, whether we like it or not, and so it is important that we learn how to use it effectively whilst staying in control. To this end, we will be engaging in some pilot projects where students use 'closed source' AI platforms to enhance their learning, followed by evaluating the outcomes to determine what the pros and cons might be.

Careers

- BIMA Digital Day is coming up on 12th November - letters will be emailed out to parents of Year 10 students studying CS and BTEC Digital information.
- This week, all of our Year 8 students took part in a workshop with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), learning all about how to manage money wisely. The interactive session helped students understand budgeting, saving, and making smart financial choices.
- Next week, we are hosting two Careers Conversations, one with a Veterinarian and another with an Estate Agent. These professionals will share their career journeys, insights and advice, giving students a real-world understanding of different pathways and the skills needed to succeed in these roles. These talks are open to all students, they can sign up via a Googleform that has been shared with them.

Young Person's Question Time

On Wednesday, as part of Local Democracy Week, a group of Year 8 students took part in Young Person's Question Time at North Tyneside Council headquarters, an annual event which gives young people the chance to have their say in front of a panel of decision-making adults. Along with students from other schools and members of the youth council, students had the opportunity to ask questions to councillors, business owners and representatives from the police and public health service. Students discussed their opinions on climate change, transportation and mental health provision, and also suggested ideas to improve the local area and benefit people of the borough. It was a great experience and one which may encourage them to pursue a position within the youth parliament in the near future. Here's a direct quote

from one of the Year 7 students who attended:


I really enjoyed taking part in Young Person's Question Time. It was great to hear different opinions and have the chance to share my own thoughts. I liked being able to ask questions and learn more about the issues that matter to young people. It was also nice to see how others think about topics that affect our community.

Sports

On Monday evening, the Year 7 netball team had their first round of friendlies. The girls faced off against two schools, Burnside College and John Spence, playing four matches in total. They showed great teamwork and determination, securing an impressive 6-0 win and 1-0 win. Despite their strong efforts, they narrowly lost one game 3-2 and faced a tough 6-0 defeat in another. Overall, it was a competitive evening with plenty of positives to take forward into future matches.

Also on Monday, the Year 8 Boys football team travelled to North Gosforth Academy to play the first round of the North Tyneside cup, the trophy that this team lifted last season in Year 7. The game started brightly with both teams having early chances to score, but it was Marden that broke the deadlock with a superbly taken header from a corner. This lifted the Marden team's spirits and they flooded forward in search of more. This pressure on the North Gosforth defence told, as Marden scored a further four times to make the half time score 5-0. The home team didn't give up and rallied in the second half to score two goals of their own, but the Marden boys kept their cool and played some attractive football to net another four goals. The final score 9-2 to Marden and progression to the next round where they will face St Thomas More. A superb effort from all that played. Well done.

On Wednesday afternoon, the Year 9 girls football team played in the U15 CVL held at John Spence. Despite playing girls a year older than themselves, the Marden team came away with an impressive record of 2 wins against John Spence (B) and Whitley Bay High, a 1-1 draw against Kings Priory and a narrow loss to John Spence (A). The girls should be proud of their performance against strong opposition.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher