



Marden High School

Friday 24th October 2025

Successful half term

This has been a very successful half term, one in which lots of 'new' students have settled into useful work routines, taking many of the opportunities that school life at Marden offers. Over the past few weeks we have had a number of very well attended open mornings. One of the privileges I enjoy as Headteacher is being able to walk around school visiting various classrooms and witnessing the great learning that goes on in our school. So it has been with great pride that I have listened to the complimentary comments made by visiting parents as they too have seen our students and staff deeply engaged in their lessons.

School Cabinet

This year's Cabinet is continuing their work on the student bulletin, development of the notice boards and helping with charity events. In addition to this we are providing a Leadership Programme as part of a series of workshops. Following their induction, there have been two excellent workshops provided by the YMCA and the Youth Participation team from North Tyneside Council providing a session as part of Local Democracy Week. Students engaged wonderfully with both. We have further sessions coming up from local fundraiser [David Matthews](#) and from [M10 Missions](#). Of course, we also have our Student Leadership Programme and former students who come back as mentors, and these are two more examples of our ethos of Hope, Agency, and Leadership which runs through every opportunity offered to all our students.

European Day of Languages

This half term has also seen the school celebrate European Day of Languages, where all teachers greeted their students in a different language. We also had two competitions, the first being the exceptionally successful Great Languages Bake Off. Students showed off their baking and decorating skills with a beautiful show of cakes celebrating different languages and cultures, before being sold to students and staff raising £208 for charity. We also have the European T-shirt competition, where students are challenged to create a design that celebrates languages (deadline 10 November) and the winner will have a printed t-shirt of their design.

PTA

This week we enjoyed our PTA Halloween quiz featuring some amazing costumes. As ever, our quiz tsar, Ms Mellor, kept us thinking and guessing, and, as ever, the Senior Leadership Team did not win. If only there had been a round of questions on the teaching and learning policy and OFSTED criteria. Thanks to everyone involved and especially members of our PTA who put on a great evening.

Communication

Communication is key to good relationships between home and school, 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 hope that the welcoming and open lines of communication we have reflect 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](#), or to report a safeguarding concern to any of our safeguarding team (b.reece@mardenhigh.net, d.anderson@mardenhigh.net and a.charlton@mardenhigh.net). The wellbeing of our school community is paramount, and keeping children safe in school and supported as best we can when out of school is something we will always prioritise.

Oracy

Our work on the Voice 21 North East Oracy Project has continued this term, with all classrooms displaying the Oracy Toolkit and teachers using opportunities to extend students' oracy skills and deepen their understanding of different subjects. Oracy is the ability to articulate ideas, develop understanding and engage with others through spoken language and listening, so this work offers us the exciting opportunity to explore ways of further enhancing our students' learning and life chances, developing skills they will need in their future lives.

Year 7 parents and carers

Year 7 will receive their first report just after half term. All parents/carers of Year 7 are invited to drop into school between 4.30pm and 6.00pm to our POW (Proud of our Work) night on November 6th.

Latest mini-series

We have completed our latest mini-series of evenings for parents which have focused on learning, retention and recall, key ingredients for the success of our young people. The latest of these interesting and

informative evenings for Year 11 was very well attended and it was clear that parents and carers appreciated the valuable advice from Mrs Robson, Mr Horn, Mrs Atkinson and Mr Hiscock. Presentations from each of the three evenings can be found here:

[Making the most of Year 10 evening](#)

[Key stage 3 information evening](#)

[KS4 core evening for Year 11](#)

Sports

Last Friday the Year 7 boys rugby team took part in the Northumberland County Schools competition. For many of the team, this was their first taste of competitive rugby, but all players showed great skill and effort in all of their games. The first game ended in a 4 tries to 1 defeat to Ponteland, but the boys rallied in their next match to win 4 tries to 1 against Bede Academy. In their final match, the tries continued as they earned a hard fought draw against the host school Blyth Academy. The team came away with a record of one win, one draw and a defeat, but also gained great experience in the process.

Monday evening saw the Year 7 and 8 girls football team take on Churchill College in the Northumberland U13 county cup. The girls were very excited to get their season underway after a delayed start, and took little time to put their opponents on the back foot. The Marden team quickly found themselves 2 goals up in the first five minutes and continued to play fluid football for the rest of the first half, scoring some magnificent goals making the half time scoreline 8-0. The second half was more of the same, with Marden finding the net a further eight times to make the final score 16-2. A fantastic performance, which sees the girls progress to the next round where they will face Valley Gardens Middle School.

On Wednesday, the Year 10 girls football team played in the North Tyneside U16 CVL at John Spence, facing teams from Whitley Bay High, John Spence and Churchill. The girls played some lovely football, with crisp interpassing and a fantastic determination in defence. They finished with a record of 2 draws (0-0 against Whitley Bay and 1-1 against John Spence) and a win (1-0) against Churchill. Well done to all players.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher