



Marden High School

Friday 12th December 2025

Student Development Programme

In January 2025, together with three other local schools, we embarked on the Combined NorthEast Authority Student Development Programme with five days created with the aim of developing literacy, numeracy, creativity, confidence, team working and independence. Through visits to the theatre, to Newcastle United Foundation, Northumbria University and the Northern Stage, we have seen the forty students involved make great progress across a range of areas and this week graduate from the course. With a guest speaker, a meal and a tour of St James' Park part of the celebration event, every student graduated the course with their certificate acknowledging the great work completed and the amazing progress made. We look forward to seeing the students embed the skills honed into their learning across the rest of Y10 and into Y11.

Careers

Last week, all Year 10 students took part in a series of mock interviews designed to help them build confidence and prepare for future career opportunities. The event was a great success, supported by 25 employers, including several parents from our own school community. We are incredibly grateful for their time and expertise. We also welcomed representatives from major organisations such as DWP, Sage, Home Group and Rook Matthew Sayers, who offered students valuable insight into real-world recruitment processes. In the weeks leading up to the event, form tutors delivered targeted sessions on interview techniques, positive body language and effective responses to common interview questions. Every student received verbal and written feedback, with many achieving outstanding comments. This experience has strengthened our Year 10s' skills and confidence for the future. This is what one of our visitors commented:

“The students were absolutely outstanding. Their behaviour was exemplary, demonstrating respect and professionalism throughout. The level of commitment and preparation they displayed was truly impressive, reflecting a maturity and eagerness to learn that sets a high standard. If this is a glimpse of the early talent pipeline into the world of work, then the future is incredibly bright. I look forward to supporting future events.”

This week, we hosted our final Careers Conversation of the year, a fascinating session led by a Heart Surgeon from the Freeman Hospital. Students from all year groups had the opportunity to learn about the realities of working in medicine, including the qualifications, training and commitment needed to pursue such a career. The talk was extremely engaging, and students asked thoughtful and insightful questions during the Q&A. It was a fantastic chance for them to gain first-hand knowledge from a medical professional and explore what a future in healthcare might look like.

This term, we have delivered seven Careers Conversations, each providing valuable insight into a diverse range of professions. These sessions continue to broaden students' understanding of the world of work and inspire future aspirations. We are now planning our Spring and Summer term talks and our Year 8 students have been particularly enthusiastic in suggesting ideas. One Year 8 form has requested speakers from the following professions:

- Scuba Diving Instructor
- Judge / Magistrate / Barrister
- Chef
- Interior Designer
- Member of the Royal Navy
- Flight Attendant
- Singer / Actor
- Swimmer or Swimming Coach
- Footballer

We look forward to arranging as many of these sessions as possible in the New Year. If you are able to support any of the requested areas, or represent another career sector, please contact Mrs Brennan at f.brennan@mardenhigh.net.

Gifts

As we approach the Christmas break many people will be preparing to celebrate this important religious festival, or getting ready to give and receive gifts over the holiday period. If we think for a moment about why we do this, most of the time it is probably because we care about the people around us. So this time of year is a good opportunity for us all to remember that the way we interact with each other makes all the difference to people's well being. "The greatest gift you can give another person is your own happiness" is an oft quoted line. If we make assumptions about someone and are dismissive, or say something unkind,

that could end up making them feel very down or sad. On the other hand, if we show kindness in our words and manner towards people, this could give them hope or happiness - and that causes a positive chain reaction. The person who receives those kind words and feels positive about themselves or their situation is then positive and kind towards other people that they then interact with. What better gift could we offer? This same sentiment is reflected in our Marden Values and it has been great to see this happening around school every day this term.

Christmas Concert

We enjoyed a wonderful evening of music entertainment this week in the form of our Christmas Concert. With a broad range of music and the opportunity for the audience to sing along with Mariah Carey, this was a great showcase for the talents of our young people. A huge thanks to Ms Gibbings and Ms Fardoe our music teachers, without whom none of this would be possible.

Sports

The Year 7 Boys football team played in their CVL this week at Marden Bridge. On a wild and windy night, the boys played some excellent football winning 3 of their 5 games putting them in a good league position with 2 more rounds to go. Well done to all players.

The Year 8 Netball team made the short trip to John Spence to play the host school and Kings Priory. The girls played John Spence first up and in an extremely close game, managed to sneak a win 11-10. The game against Kings was a little more open, with the girls winning 4-1. Well done to all, a thoroughly enjoyable evening of play.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher