



Friday 19th December 2025

## **Year 11**

Parents and carers of Year 11 students have recently received reports for their children following the mock GCSE exams held this term. We were pleased with the attitude and manner in which the year group approached these exams and it is pleasing to see that many students have achieved good grades for this point in the year. All students will have been receiving feedback from their teachers about next steps to take in the preparation for the real exams in the summer, and it is this which is now so important for them. They must find out what they did not know or could not do, and plan out next steps for improvement. This might be a revision plan for use at home or it may be attending the revision sessions that staff are putting on at lunchtime or after school. In any case it will involve continuing to be focused and engaged in lessons and involving themselves in conversation with their teachers about what their next steps should be. I am looking forward to seeing what the students will achieve with these great opportunities. In the meantime we will be inviting parents and carers into school to look at their children's books and mock exams on Thursday 8th January. This will be on a drop in basis between 4.30pm and 6.00pm. Members of the Senior Leadership Team, as well as Head of Year Mr Swain, will be available for parents to talk to in the Learning Resource Centre. There will also be a remote Parents' Evening on Tuesday 13 January, which is an opportunity for parents and carers to talk to their child's subject teachers.

## **Guided Choices**

Year 9 have been engaging well with the Guided Choices process and by the end of next week they will have watched screencasts for nearly all options subjects. Students have also been taking part in taster lessons in various subjects to get a feel for what it would be like to study a particular subject at GCSE. Provisional choices will be made by the students in January, and at the start of next term the blocks that students can choose from will be emailed out to students and their parents and carers. Over the Christmas break, we would ask parents and carers to prepare for this decision making by talking to their child about the options they think they might like to take in Year 10. More information on the Guided Choices process can be found in the 'learning' section of the website and the Guided Choices booklet is also linked [here](#) and screencasts [here](#).

## **Exciting Career Opportunities in Energy and Engineering**

In the New Year, we will continue to build stronger links with local businesses, focusing on some of the UK's fastest-growing industries: Energy, Offshore renewables and Subsea Engineering. By working closely with Newcastle College's Energy Academy, based on the River Tyne in Wallsend, we aim to raise awareness of the wide range of job opportunities available right here in our local area. The Energy Academy is a leader in

training students for the rapidly expanding energy sector. With cutting-edge facilities such as the world's most immersive Hybrid Reality (iHR) system, welding bays, CAD software and testing equipment for wind turbines and solar panels, students will have access to the latest technology to help develop the skills employers are looking for. Through this exciting partnership, our students will gain invaluable hands-on experience and a deep insight into careers in renewable energy, all within our own region. As the North East continues to lead the way in renewable energy, this is a brilliant opportunity for students to explore potential career paths and develop the skills needed to succeed in one of the world's most innovative and forward-thinking industries.

## **PTA**

Our PTA has continued this term to provide fund-raising events as well as refreshments at various parent/carer events this term. We will next be meeting on Tuesday 13th January at 5pm in the school library (LRC) to have a cup of tea and a chat about ideas for upcoming events and fundraising. If you would like to come along and meet us, with or without your own ideas, you will be warmly welcomed. There is no need to come along to lots of meetings, or to commit to attending forthcoming events next term as we work on the basis of people helping out when they can.

## **Admissions Policy**

There is a statutory requirement that arrangements are consulted upon in a seven-year period even if there are no changes to the arrangements. The proposed draft admission arrangements for Marden High School can be found on the school websites. There are no changes to the arrangements, only some wording within the oversubscription criteria in accordance with a recent report from the Office of the Schools Adjudicator . The consultation runs from 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025 until 28 January 2026. Please let me know via email if you have any feedback.

## **Uniform**

As you may be aware we house quite a stock of pre-loved uniform all washed and in good condition. We are finding that people find this very useful in saving a bit of money and also being eco-conscious. Currently we have an especially large surplus of size 11-12 Purple PE Hoodies, black school jumpers in all sizes and purple rugby tops. Parents and carers are welcome to have any of those items at no cost. Please contact Mrs McIndewar at [j.mcindewar@mardenhigh.net](mailto:j.mcindewar@mardenhigh.net).

I would like to wish everyone a peaceful Christmas holiday and look forward to seeing all our students back on Tuesday 6 January at 8.45am for a great Spring term.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher