




# MARDEN NEWS

Autumn 2025 End of Term Edition



*Featuring*

- |                                 |          |                    |    |            |
|---------------------------------|----------|--------------------|----|------------|
| Message from<br>The Headteacher | Business | English<br>& Media | PE | Science    |
| Literacy at Marden              | Drama    | Geography          | RE | Technology |



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/carers 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



As we move towards the end of term, we are pleased to share an update on the fantastic work happening across all year groups.

Our Year 11 students have now completed their mock exams and will soon be receiving their results along with thorough, personalised feedback. It is essential that students take this feedback on board and use it to guide their revision and strengthen areas for improvement as they work towards the summer exams. Revision sessions will begin again in the new year, and we strongly encourage all Year 11 students to make the most of these opportunities.

Year 10 have recently completed their end-of-unit assessment for Business Activity and now have their results. Students are now beginning an exciting new unit of work on Marketing, where they will explore topics such as customer needs, market research and the marketing mix.

Our Year 9 classes are currently midway through their introductory unit on Business. This unit is designed to give students a flavour of what it's like to study GCSE Business and to help them understand the real-world relevance of the subject. Following this, students will have a dedicated taster lesson where they can learn everything they need to know before making their options choices.

As always we encourage all students to watch or read the news regularly. Staying up to date with current events is one of the best ways to develop a strong business mindset and deepen their understanding of the world around them.

Mrs D Joyce



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

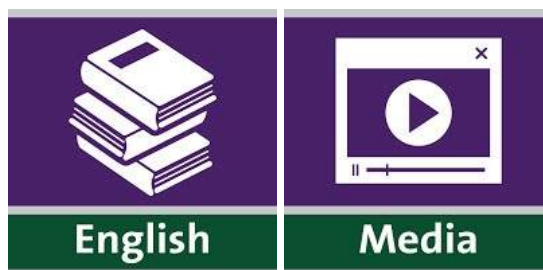
It's been a busy term for the drama curriculum with key stage 3 students enjoying learning new skills as they explore a range of topics: Year 9 have been experiencing GCSE Drama skills creating their own short play. Year 7 students have settled in well and are enjoying sharing their performance skills each lesson with their peers.

GCSE Drama students have had a productive term too, developing new techniques for their group devised performances. We have also been fortunate to have secured tickets for a workshop and performance of John Godber's 'Teechers' for Year 10 in March, more information to follow. Year 11 have worked very hard preparing for a mock exam of the written paper and it's great to see them approach the exam with confidence. Students will be embarking on their performance exam in January and we can't wait to see a showcase of high quality work later in the Spring term.

Our Christmas Extravaganza took place on 11th December. It was great to see so many students coming together to share their talents. We can now confirm that our next school production will be 'Legally Blonde Jnr.' There has been a huge amount of interest this year, with almost 90 students participating in auditions and technical elements. It's a fabulous opportunity for students to work together, showcase their leadership and make new friends along the way! There are lots of opportunities for performance, choreography and technical support and we're looking forward to showcasing this event in July 2026.

On behalf of the Performing Arts team, we wish you all a Merry Christmas!

Mrs S Berriman



## Desert Island Discs: A Marden Media Podcast

KS4 Media Studies students explore a range of different media texts and platforms across the GCSE course: film, adverts, music videos and radio to name a few. Alongside their study of radio, Year 11 have been looking at the iconic *Desert Island Discs* programme, considering its importance, structure and features for the modern radio audience. Alongside this, Mr Ranson (Marden's media coordinator) has developed and hosted our very own Marden *Desert Island Discs* by interviewing various members of staff across the school so GCSE students can listen and embed their understanding and enjoyment of this show more effectively (and also - for anyone else to enjoy who would like to). Additionally, some of our Year 9 English students have also explored the concept of this show in their lessons surrounding their key text: *Never Let Me Go* as the protagonist in the novel discusses her own favourite song and the nostalgic reasons for this, therefore this has also worked perfectly as a Spoken Language task for our Year 9 students too!

Episodes so far have included talks with Mr Horn, Ms Laing and Mr Snape, as well as many more. Episodes are available to listen to on Google Classroom or on our website (on the Media Subject Cloud) if you are interested in finding out what your teacher's favourite songs, films, books and luxury items are!

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## Gothic Writing

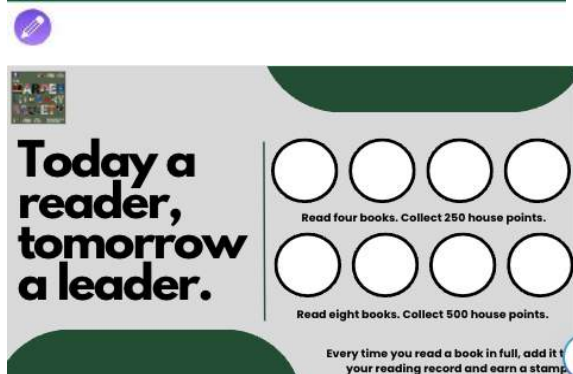
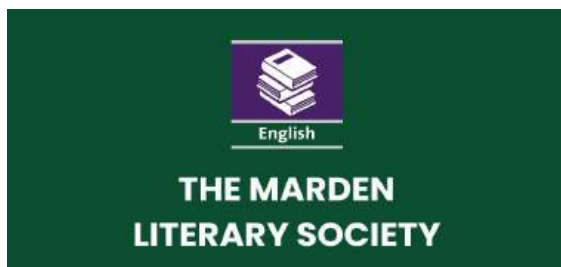
Year 7 have got their first term of Marden English off to a superb, but spooky start by exploring the key theme of 'Gothic' through the central texts *The Woman in Black* by Susan Hill and *Cirque du Freak* by Darren Shan. As part of this unit, the students aren't just exploring these texts critically, but are also taking inspiration from these for their own eerie and exciting Gothic tales showing off their excellent creative talents. This will culminate in our annual Gothic writing competition whereby our top stories will be published in our very own Marden High School *Gothic Tales* collection, with the theme for 2025/26 being 'A Dark Christmas'. We can already tell we will have a challenging job on our hands choosing our winners this year! Alongside this unit, students have been completing their own Gothic inspired homework tasks including *Woman in Black* dioramas depicting moments from this key novel. Here are some of these excellent creative tasks:



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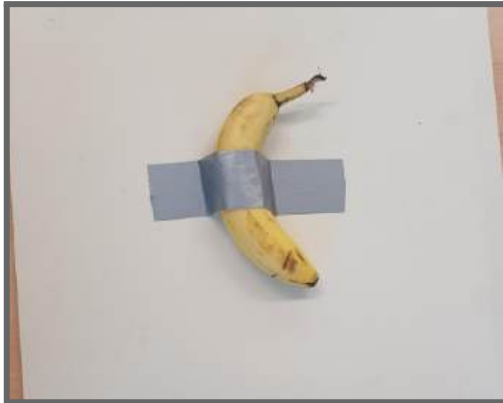
## Marden Literary Society

One of our continued key departmental priorities this year is encouraging literacy and challenge through literary texts, and therefore we have created and introduced: 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 for 2025/26, 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 have collected four stamps they will receive 250 house points and after eight stamps they will be rewarded with 500 house points! Students have made a superb start to this this year so far and it has been brilliant for the department to see such a buzz around reading! Remember, students can find book recommendations and reading lists on the *Literacy Subject Cloud* available on our website, or can ask their English teacher for further assistance.

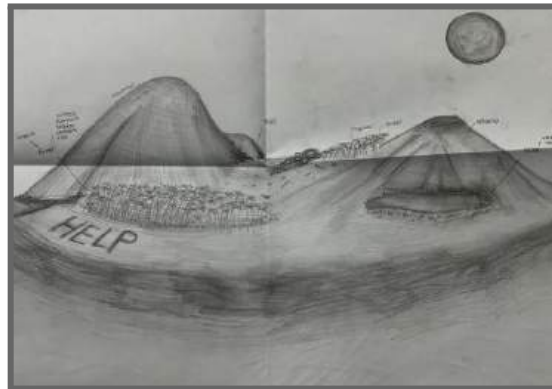


## Getting Creative

Year 9 students this term have been studying a range of texts such as *Never Let Me Go*, *Lord of the Flies* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, which has led to perceptive consideration of themes and topics such as dystopian fiction, growing up and cloning. During our study of *Never Let Me Go*, a large part of this novel surrounds a school in which students take part in an 'Exchange' whereby they create a piece of work and fellow classmates are given 'tokens' to purchase other student work and build their own collection of creative personal items. Inspired by this part of the novel, as homework, students studying this text decided to host their own 'Exchange' and create something to show off and bring this section of the book to life! Students were incredibly thoughtful and creative bringing in a wide range of items such as: cakes, artwork and even a selection of handmade jewellery! Here are some examples of the brilliant work produced:



Students studying *Lord of the Flies* have been using themes in this novel to inspire their creative writing based on 'The Island' considering characterisation and narrative based on survival. Students have had to create their own Island settings and plummet their own developed characters and events into this to immerse themselves in the world of the text more effectively. Here is some student creations based on this topic:



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

**Mr Horn:** *A Lake District Christmas* by Various

**Mrs Cathcart:** *Milkman* by Anna Burns

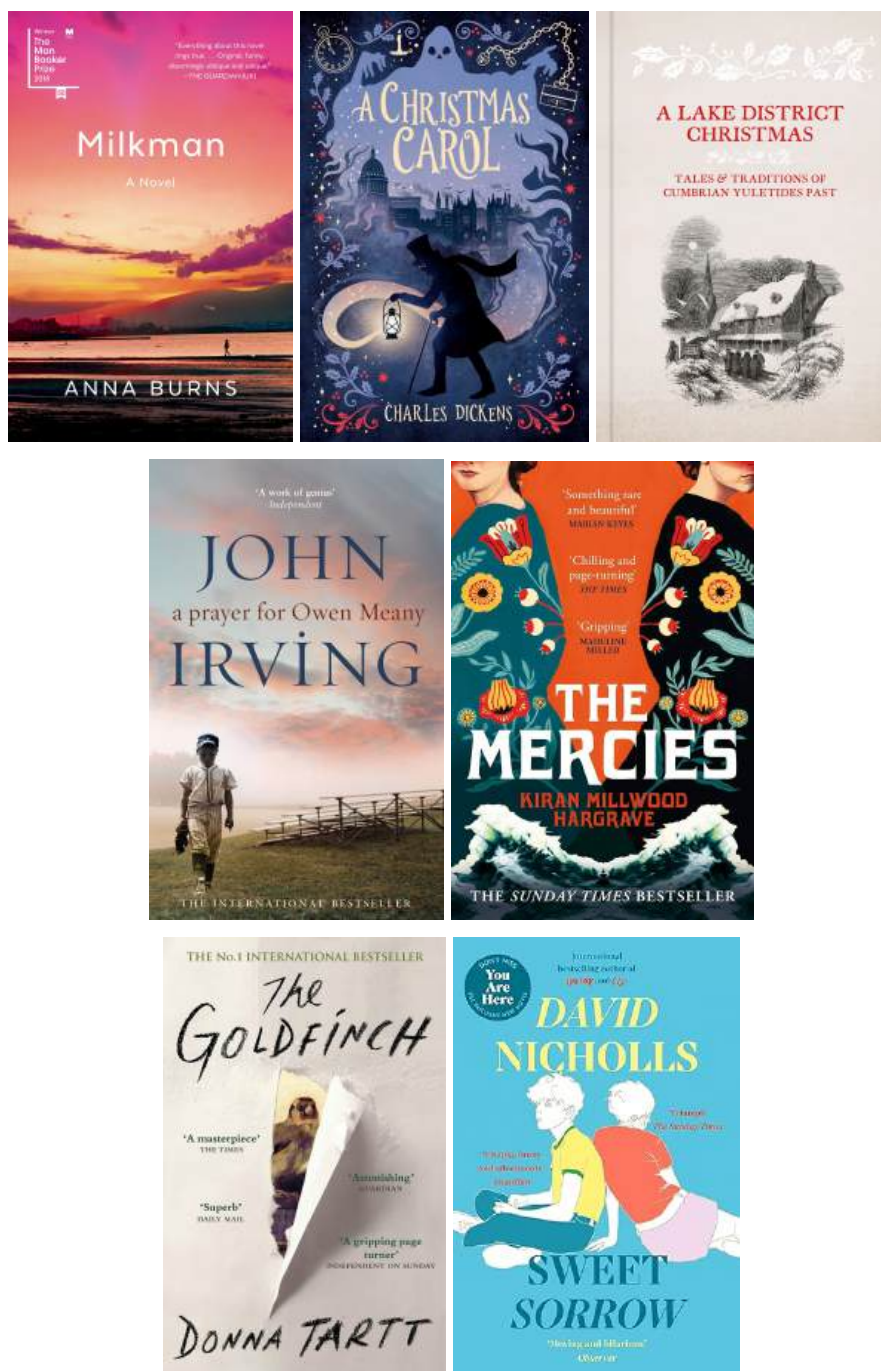
**Miss Laing:** *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens

**Mr Ranson:** *A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving

**Ms Taylor:** *The Mercies* by Kiran Millwood Hargrave

**Miss Lees:** *Sweet Sorrow* by David Nicholls

**Miss Boyle:** *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt



Mrs E Cathcart



As we reach the end of the autumn term, we would like to celebrate the hard work and progress made by all our geography students from Year 7 through to Year 11. This term has been full of exciting learning, new skills and important assessments. Below is a summary of what each year group has been studying.

### **Year 7 - Discovering Geography.**

This term they have:

- Learned what geography is and why it is important
- Developed key geographical skills including map skills by practising their atlas skills through the use of grid references and map symbols. They have also developed their numeracy skills by practising the mean, range, turning numbers into a percentage and calculating the percentage change.
- Explored physical and human geography through the studying of Amazing Places.
- Begun learning about population.

### **Year 8 - Understanding our World.**

Year 8 have built on their geographical knowledge and skills this term by studying:

- Development including how you can measure development in a country, economic indicators v social indicators of development. They have used their Year 7 Population knowledge to highlight the features of a LIC population and how this influences development.
- Natural Hazards such as metrological hazards, tectonic hazards and geomorphological hazards. They have used their Year 7 knowledge from Population and Climate Change to identify and explain what impact they would have upon natural hazards.

They have continued to improve their use of geographical vocabulary, data analysis and extended written answers.

### **Year 9 - Preparing for GCSE Geography.**

Year 9 students have been preparing for the transition to GCSE geography. This term they have focused on:

- Superpowers including the different types of power, the factors a country needs to become a superpower, the current superpower and how this has changed throughout history, how IGO's such as the UN, organisations such as the NATO and Individuals such as Elon Musk can challenge superpowers.
- Conflict including different types of conflict such as piracy, modern day conflict and historical conflict by looking at the Middle East with a focus on Palestine and Israel. They have utilised their superpowers knowledge often and developed it further within the conflict topic.
- Their most recent assessment included a GCSE 9 mark Question based on Superpowers.

This term has helped students decide whether they wish to continue geography at GCSE. They will continue to watch the remaining option subjects screencasts on Friday mornings during form time.

### **Year 10 - GCSE Geography in Action.**

Year 10 students have made a strong start to their GCSE course. This term they have studied:

- Physical geography through the completion of Living World which they started in Year 9. Within the topic of Living World they look at a small-scale ecosystem; pond looking at the key components and the difference between food chains and food webs.  
They look at two biomes in depth; tropical rainforests and hot deserts. They studied the key components, how animals and plants have adapted to survive in that biome and the key factors that impact upon the biome.
- Resources by looking at the three main resources; energy, food and water in the UK and around the world. Water is our in-depth study. Students have looked at two case studies; South to North China water transfer scheme and Hitsoa in Ethiopia for improving water supplies.

Students are becoming more confident with GCSE content and expectations. They have completed two assessments so they are becoming more confident within their exam practice by utilising their feedback from their first assessment to improve and develop in their second assessment.

**Year 11 - GCSE Focus and Mock Exams.**

Year 11 have worked extremely hard this term. They have:

- Completed key content across physical (Topic 4 Rivers) and human geography (Topic 1 Urban Issues and Challenges comparing London and Lagos).
- Taken part in GCSE Paper 1 mock examinations demonstrating their progress.
- Received detailed feedback that can be found in their assessment folder and on their Google Classroom to help identify strengths and areas for improvement.

Students are now beginning focused revision as they prepare for their Paper 2 mock next term and their final GCSE exams in the summer. I know many students have been attending Revision Sessions at lunch time and after school to fully make the most of their revision. These sessions will continue after Christmas with a particular focus on exam practice.

The Geography Department would like to thank Miss Brown, our geography trainee teacher, and wish her the best of luck in her new placement school. Miss Brown has taught a number of classes in KS3 and has been team teaching Miss Robson's Year 10 geography class.

Thank you for your continued support. We wish all the students a restful and well deserved break and look forward to another successful term in geography.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Geography Department.

Miss C Robson



## Extracurricular activities

Pupils have enjoyed a full programme of extracurricular activities this term, with clubs being run in a variety of sports . Pupils have had the opportunity to take part in football, netball, rugby, badminton, table tennis, volleyball, and cross country running. The popularity of these clubs has proved to be huge, with students engaging in team practices and fun recreation activities before school, lunchtimes and after school. In addition to this, the fitness suite has become available for pupils to use at lunchtimes and has proved very popular, with many signing up to use the facility to improve their fitness, as well as their physical, mental and social health.

We in the PE department are proud of the effort and commitment shown by the pupils that take part in these clubs, and we welcome anyone else that would like to join in.

## Football

The popularity of football continues to grow and all year groups have played in the local league, North Tyneside cup and County cup competitions. Both the boys and girls teams have performed brilliantly with many victories earned so far. The Year 8 boys football team has made a good start to the season this year. They have not dropped a point in the league and have progressed in the North Tyneside Schools cup competition. The Year 7, 9 and 10 boys teams are still in at least one cup competition and will look to carry this form into their next round of games in the new year.

The girls U13 and U15 teams have also played in the County Cup competitions this term and The U15 team is through to the quarter finals in the new year. We have a huge pool of talented players at Marden and the standard of football is very high. We wish all our teams well in the new year fixtures.

Monday and Wednesday nights have seen our teams take part in Central Venue League 7-a-side competitions held at schools around the district. The pupils have enjoyed these small sided games, even though some were played in fairly extreme weather conditions!

The Futsal competitions have proved hugely popular, with teams from Years 7 to 9 competing in the county cup competitions.

Finally, the teams have all played in their respective County Cup competitions this term, with the Year 9 and 10 boys teams progressing to the quarter finals to be held in the new year. The Year 8 and 10 girls teams are also still in their County Cup competition and we wish all teams every success in their next round fixtures.

### **Netball**

The Netball leagues for Year 7 to 11 pupils are well underway and will continue after the Christmas holidays. The teams have been dedicated to training and that has shown in their form so far this year. The Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 netball teams have started off the year in a superb manner. The Year 8 team have been unbeaten throughout all of their friendly matches since the start of October, with several of their wins being double figures. The turnout at training sessions has been extremely high, a sign of the brilliant dedication and competition for places that exists in the squads.

The Year 9s have had success on the court playing against tough oppositions from new schools. The Year 11 team remains undefeated for the fifth year in a row. We look forward to the high levels of competition from all our netballers after the Christmas Holiday.

### **Rugby**

The Year 9 boys rugby team have competed in the County Cup competition this term, with games against Bede Academy and Kings Priory. The boys have played some magnificent rugby in these games, and will be back in action in the new year. The Year 7 boys team began their playing career with some brilliant rugby which resulted in a win against Bede Academy, a draw with Blyth Academy and a narrow loss to Ponteland High School. All other Year group teams start their season in January with competitions throughout the spring term.

### **Cross country**

Before half term, all pupils in Marden completed the cross country event in their PE lessons. The pupils' finishing positions were used for the House Cross Country competition, with Alnwick House the overall winner in the girls competition, and Dunstanburgh in the boys competition.

The top performing pupils were selected to represent the school at the North Tyneside championships. Runners across Years 7-11 competed at Monkseaton High School in the North Tyneside Championships this term. The Marden teams had a 1st place finish in the Inter Boys and Inter Girls competition, as well as the Junior Boys and Junior Girls team events and individually, had 22 runners qualify for the County Championships in January. Very well done to all runners.

**Badminton and Volleyball**

The KS4 Volleyball teams have also been in action in their Central Venue League this term, with the boys having played two competitions and the girls one. The boys teams won their competitions, and the KS3 girls also victorious in their tournament. Volleyball is a growing sport at Marden, but players have learned quickly and developed a great team mentality.

**House Competitions 2024**

And finally, the PE team are pleased to announce that there will be House sports competitions starting after school next term. Each Monday and Wednesday there will be a tournament between the houses in a variety of sports. Please watch out for the posters around school and on social media for information of what is coming up.

Mr G Smith



This term Year 7 students took part in a drop down day as part of their personal development curriculum. The sessions were focused around keeping themselves safe and they were able to attend sessions delivered by the police, fire service and a gambling awareness organisation called NECA. There was also a focus on online safety where students explored healthy screen time, healthy use of mobile phones, and awareness of their digital footprint.

Year 9 had a similar experience but with the theme of respect. The aim was to enable students to explore the importance of respecting themselves and having positive relationships with those around them. The day began with a talk about healthy masculinity and how social expectations placed on young men can be damaging to both men and women. The students engaged extremely well, with some thought provoking and insightful questions asked at the end by our students. Students then moved into workshops delivered by a variety of external speakers, including developing empathy, the risks we face online, and unconscious bias. As usual, our guest speakers were impressed with the maturity shown by our students and made comments on how confident and polite they are.

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.

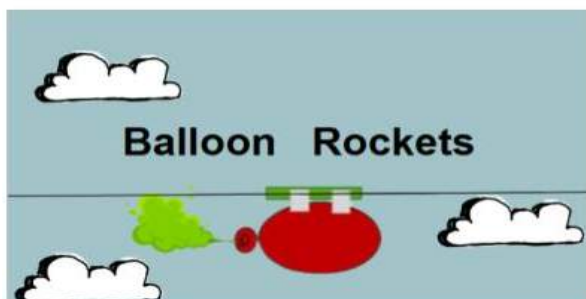
This is an important part of the GCSE Chemistry syllabus so it was a fantastic opportunity to hear first hand how this technology is being developed in industry.

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 have had great fun planning activities to share with Key Stage 2 students at Monkhouse Primary school. Students have considered activities that would be exciting and safe for 7 to 11 year olds. They have created eye catching presentations, ordered equipment and practiced their presentation skills.

## STEM CLUB



## MONKHOUSE STEM CLUB

Students in Key stage 3 have spent 6 weeks with Key Stage 2 children from Monkhouse. Each Wednesday night, members of the STEM Club have been visiting Monkhouse primary school and delivering exciting Science activities to 14 children in Year 3-6 at Monkhouse.

Our students have been outstanding ambassadors and have shown amazing confidence and maturity when working with younger students. The main focus has been on fun and developing the curiosity of the children from Monkhouse.

The students have made and raced balloon rockets, investigated the best recipe for ooblek and for making bouncing bubbles and have even made their own batteries to power an LED

Monkhouse  
Primary School



# GCSE Astronomy

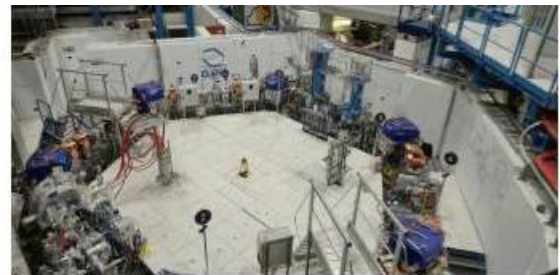
The first term of our GCSE Astronomy has started with a BIG BANG. We have learned about the Earth-Sun-Moon system, and how we can use time to calculate our longitude!

We have recently started our Celestial Observations topic, learning about the different objects in the night sky and how to navigate the stars in the night sky.

## CERN Trip

This December, Mr Yeoman was invited on the UK Teacher Programme trip to CERN (Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire, (European Council of Nuclear Research)) in Switzerland. This gave him the opportunity to be at the forefront of physics research, and to make links to the Physics Curriculum at school.

During the trip, he learned about current research including Antimatter, the Higgs Boson and Nuclear Radiation. He also found out about how developments in these fields can help improve cancer survival rates.



# STEMFEST

In October our year 8 students attended STEMfest 2025 which is a hands-on exhibition where students meet and engage with a number of businesses which work within the stem sector in our region.

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.

Mrs C Atkinson



## Technology Department

Welcome to the Design and Technology Department Newsletter!

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**Year 7:** Year 7 STEM students have been studying Smart Materials and Scale as part of their Chinese New Year Keyring Project. Students have learned about the traditions and history of Chinese New Year and are in the process of creating their own unique Keyring to celebrate the occasion with some fantastic and creative outcomes planned. In Technology lessons students have made a fantastic start to their three topic areas (Textiles, Food and Metal Design). They're proving to be a very creative and skilled year group as well as independent and determined learners.



**Year 8:** Year 8 have completed their first rotation in Technology, completing one of our 4 projects of the year. Fantastic progress has been shown across all classes with creativity resilience shown in all areas resulting in excellent practical outcomes in woodwork, metal work and food, and fascinating presentations given in STEM.



**Year 10 and 11:**

Coursework is well underway with all Technology Subjects in Year 11 (Food Prep and Nutrition, Design and Technology, Engineering Design and Child Development). Students are working hard to complete this work and achieve as many marks as possible towards their final grade ahead of the Summer exams.

Those studying D&T are gearing up to start making their prototypes in the New Year, a highlight of the course where they bring together their making skills to produce an accurate representation of their personalised design solution. Meanwhile Food students are being their second NEA piece investigating their chosen brief ahead of their practical exam in February where they are challenged with creating 3 high skill dishes from scratch in 3 hours.

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Ms K Nicholls



## The Library Book of the Week: Winter Term Reads

Each week the *Library Club* selects a book for students to read an extract from together in form time. 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 for the Winter Term!

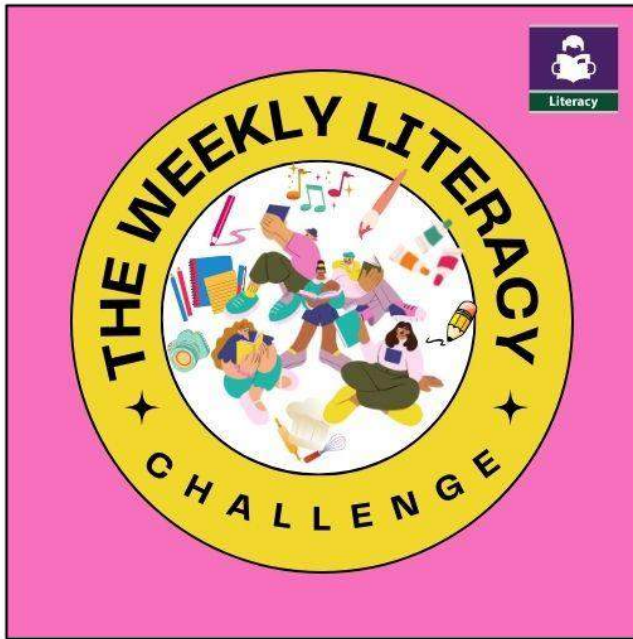


Books of the Week



## Winter Literacy Competition

Students have a creative writing competition to get involved in over the festive period. They can send their creations to the Literacy Cloud for publication and house points! They explored some poems written by Valerie Bloom, James Carter and A.F. Harrold during [Reflection Time](#) last week for inspiration, culminating in a whole-class performance of a poem! Below are two of them- *Baffled Turkey* by Valeria Bloom and *Melted Friend* by A.F. Harrold- for you to have a go at performing them at home!



**This week's Literacy Challenge...**

***WRITE SOMETHING  
INSPIRED BY WINTER.***

- You could write:
- ★ a poem
  - ★ a story
  - ★ an article
  - ★ a speech
  - ★ a graphic novel

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)

**Melted Friend (2025)**

The snow has gone  
and the lawn is green.  
You can hardly tell  
it's even been.

A carrot sits,  
an orange shock -  
for she who knows  
it marks the spot.

1. Read the poem aloud a few times all together!

2. Divide into groups and take a line or section of the poem each.

3. In your group, practice reading your line(s) together.

**PERFORMING POETRY**

- How will you do it?
- In unison? Taking a phrase each? Using a main reader and then secondary readers who repeat words for emphasis?
  - Play with your performance! Where will you pause for dramatic effect? Which words will you emphasize? How will you vary your volume and change your tone?

- Voice**
- Pace of speech
  - Tonal variation
  - Clarity of pronunciation
  - Voice projection

- Body language**
- Gesture & posture
  - Facial expression & eye contact

- Confidence in speaking**
- Self assurance
  - Liveliness & flair

**Baffled Turkey (2001)**

Last night they brought a tree home,  
They took it into the hall,  
Now why would they do a thing like that?  
I don't understand it at all.

Now they're hanging some tinsel upon it,  
Some coloured streamers and balls,  
And long loopy ribbons of twinkling lights,  
I don't understand it at all.

There's a red and green circle on the front door,  
And mistletoe on the wall,  
And the farmer's inspecting a red and white suit,  
I don't understand it at all.

Out on the perch they're erecting  
What looks like a manger and stall,  
With a stuffed donkey, a baby, and three kings,  
I don't understand it at all.

Lately they've given me so much to eat,  
I'm almost as round as a ball,  
And now they are taking me up to the house,  
I don't understand it, at all.



## The Weekly Literacy Challenge

Every Monday students are emailed the [Weekly Literacy Challenge](#). Linked to the theme of the week, they will have the opportunity to be creative, receive 50 house points and have their pieces published on the [Literacy Cloud](#). Below are some of the contributions we have received this half term, inspired by two of our Themes of the Week, *Our Environment* and *Learn Something New...*



**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)

LEARN SOMETHING NEW

**Criminology**



**What is it?**

The scientific study of crime, focusing on its causes, pattern and effects on individuals and society


A degree in this topic can lead to many jobs like the ones in law.


**Jobs in criminology**

- Private investigator
- detective
- Crime scene investigator
- Prison officer
- criminologist
- counselor

**What do you do?**

Learn about the causing of crime, workings of the criminal justice system and how to prevent crime



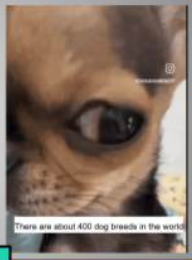


DOGS


Dogs

Dogs have unique nose prints, an incredible sense of smell that can detect diseases, and can be left or right pawed. They can also see in color, though not as vibrant as humans, and have three eyelids. Dogs sweat through their paws, can be as smart as a two-year-old, and can even dream.

- Sense of smell: A dog's sense of smell is 10,000 to 100,000 times more sensitive than a human's and their nose prints are unique, like human fingerprints. They can see this used to detect diseases like cancer and diabetes.
- Sense of sight: Dogs can see some colors, including blue, green, yellow, and gray, but their color perception is similar to that of a person with color blindness. They can see better in the dark than humans due to a special membrane in their eyes.
- Hearing: A dog's hearing is superior to a human's and they can locate the source of a sound in 0.1/1000th of a second.
- Intelligence: Dogs are about as smart as a five-year-old child and can learn to understand over 200 words and gestures.




There are about 400 dog breeds in the world



IMOGEN


LILY & MIA



STOP LITTERING

STOP LITTERING ON OUR BEACHES


IMOGEN



Don't  
Don't Litter

MATILDA

OUR ENVIRONMENT



**Bright Shores. Clear Choices**

The shoreline sparkles in the sun,  
A place where calm and wonder meet;  
Yet scattered trash, by careless hands,  
Disrupts the rhythm of the beach.

The gulls cry out above the waves,  
As plastic drifts where shells should be;  
But every piece we choose to lift  
Helps keep the coastline wild and free.

So walk with care along the sand,  
And leave no mark that harms the view;  
A cleaner beach begins with us—  
One small act that starts with you.

**ADNAN**

*Keep Our Coast Clean. Keep Our Home Beautiful.*

**Respect the Beach**

- Put rubbish in the bin
- Reduce single-use plastics
- Leave shells, plants, and wildlife undisturbed


**Care for the Environment**

- Recycle whenever possible
- Join local clean-up days
- Spread awareness in your community

**Every Action Counts**

Together we can protect our oceans, wildlife, and the beauty of our local beaches.


**HARRY**



**How YOU can save our seas.**

Please try and take rubbish home if bins are already overflowing. Pick up litter if you can, even if it's not yours or report those who are littering. We highly appreciate it if you contribute in organised clean ups.

Cleaner seas result in healthier marine life, improved public health through safer water, and stronger economies from industries like tourism and fishing.



The UK contributes an approx of 1.7 million tonnes of plastic into our oceans, 50% being single use plastic, 48% being household plastic.

**OUR ENVIRONMENT**



## 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.

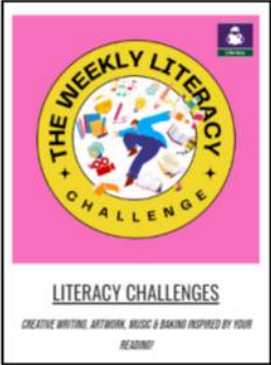


WHY CAN I READ?  
MARDEN HEADS  
Project Curiosity  
EPI  
LIT HUB  
LIT HUB

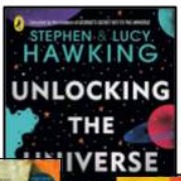
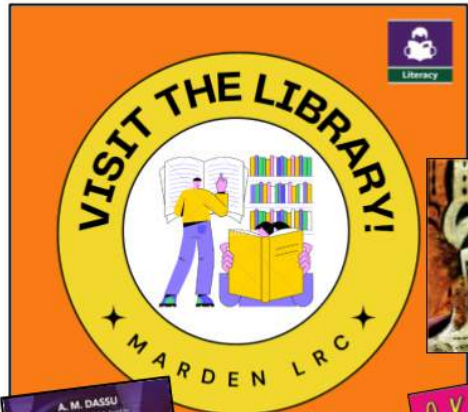
Novels, poems, news articles, blogs, talks, magazines, journals, audiobooks...

### Get published on the Literacy Cloud!

If you would like to be featured on the [Literacy Cloud](https://literacycloud.com) then check out the weekly challenges & competitions !



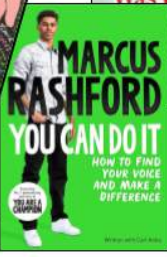
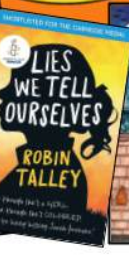
Send your entries to [literacycloud@mardenhigh.net](mailto:literacycloud@mardenhigh.net).  
  
Each entry wins 50 house points!



### Visit the Library in the LRC!



Remember to bring your book to school each day!



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 - *JRR 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*