



Friday 9th January 2026

This week seems to have flown by and, in spite of some challenging weather in the early mornings, we have enjoyed a great start back, with everyone seemingly refreshed and ready for another busy term.

Year 11

Following an enjoyable Proud of our Work evening on Thursday this week, next week we look forward to the Year 11 Parents Evening when parents and carers will be discussing those all important plans and strategies as our students prepare for their GCSE exams this summer. This Spring term is always one which can make a huge difference to the individual success of GCSE outcomes, as we are now close enough to the exams to really step up the time our young people should dedicate to revision and preparation. Teaching staff have, as ever, planned extra revision sessions for students, before and after school, as well as at lunchtimes. But students should also remember not to underestimate the importance of making the most of each hour of lessons that they have. Nobody likes to live with regret.

On Friday 30th January we have our Year 11 group photo which offers the opportunity to capture a wonderful memento of the year groups journey through Marden High School. Copies of this photo will be available to purchase, and further details will be sent out in due course.

Contacting school

Safeguarding remains our number one priority and part of this is adherence with GDPR; protecting all our children from vulnerability created by information being shared. With this in mind, when parents and carers make contact with the school to enquire about a child, our staff will ask for a piece of information to verify the caller to ensure the safeguarding of the school sharing the information being requested. This may be information such as date of birth. This element of safeguarding only applies when information is being requested by the caller (such as ringing to check a child is in school). When information is being given by home (such as student absence or information about home) school won't need the checking question.

PTA news

The PTA is always looking for new ideas and events to raise money for the school. We support our music evenings with refreshments and a raffle/tombola. With this in mind we are putting a call out for any unwanted Christmas gifts or offers of prizes for our 2026 events - Marden's Got Talent: March 19th; School production: July 6th/7th. All donations are greatly received and please drop these off at reception. Anyone who is interested in helping out with the PTA is very welcome, no massive commitment is required. We would like to build up our fundraising possibilities and we know that our parents have a wealth of expertise

in this matter. Please contact the school for information. Our next PTA meeting is next week on Tuesday 13th January.

Parliament visit

On the final day of the autumn term, our Year 10 students enjoyed a memorable trip to London to visit the Palace of Westminster. Travelling down by train in the morning, they took a short walk around Parliament Square before entering the heart of British democracy through the Sovereign's Gate, the ceremonial entrance traditionally used by the monarch during the State Opening of Parliament. During the visit, students explored both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, standing in front of the famous green and red seats, usually reserved for MPs or Lords and Baronesses. Students were also shown the King's Robing Room and the stunning Westminster Hall. Throughout the day, students learnt the history of the incredible building as they also deepened their understanding of the parliamentary process and how ideas are developed into law. Staff at the Education Centre were full of praise for our students and their thoughtful ideas during the interactive workshop, where students discussed improvements that could be made to education, health and travel. It was a fantastic day for all, with the students being a real credit to the school.

An Evening Under the Stars

We are delighted to announce that experts from Kielder Observatory will be visiting us on Monday 19th January, for an exclusive family stargazing event. This immersive evening offers a rare opportunity to explore the cosmos through a captivating show inside their inflatable planetarium, followed by a guided tour of the night sky. Weather permitting, Kielder's knowledgeable astronomers will deploy their high-powered telescopes, allowing attendees to view distant celestial wonders firsthand. We look forward to families joining us for this inspiring educational experience as we bring the magic of the universe to our school grounds.

E-safety

This week we welcomed parents into school for an information session on keeping children safe online. Topics discussed included parental control settings, children's screen time and app usage, and using AI safely. If you were unable to attend the session or would like to revisit the information shared, Miss Laing's presentation slides and other useful resources can be found on the [e-Safety](#) page of the school website, which is updated weekly with new information.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher