



Friday 23rd January 2026

Careers news

This week, we welcomed the Royal Navy into school to deliver an engaging Careers Conversation session for students from all year groups. Students learned about the wide range of career opportunities available within the Navy, including different roles, responsibilities and career pathways. The session included a 20-minute presentation, followed by an extended question and answer period, where students asked insightful questions about training routes, progression, travel opportunities, sport and involvement in humanitarian aid. The session was very well attended and provided valuable insight into careers beyond the classroom.

In addition, we were pleased to host Hanna from National Energy Action (NEA), the national charity working to end fuel poverty. Hanna worked with Year 8 students on a hands-on project to design a *Net Zero town*, linking learning from Geography and Science to real-world careers and challenges. Students explored ways to reduce energy consumption, investigated renewable energy sources and worked collaboratively to design sustainable communities. The project concluded with group presentations, helping students develop teamwork, communication and problem-solving skills while learning about careers in sustainability and energy.

These experiences support our commitment to providing meaningful careers education and helping students understand how their learning connects to future pathways.

Creativity

This week the Art Department has hosted another evening of creativity, using clay to produce some amazing art pieces based on our very own St Mary's lighthouse. Much enjoyment was had by all the parents, grandparents and children that came in for the event and a huge thank you goes to the Art Department for running such an exciting and successful event.

Girls Get Stem Initiative

This week the Girls Get Stem Initiative saw the girls begin this year's exciting challenges with Baker Hughes. Our Bronze and Silver Award students were tasked with creating a vessel that could transport carbon capture across the ocean. The 3 teams were competing to see which of them could carry the most carbon capture at the quickest speed, but our mentors challenged them even further with budgeting their design, leading some of the girls to show some very interesting negotiation skills. They all worked brilliantly and the competition was very closely contested with less than half a second splitting the top 2 teams. Our

Gold Award girls were challenged with a Field Development Project which looked at how the oil extracted from under the ocean could be transported up to the oil platforms. The girls worked closely with a client brief and budget, and had some difficult decisions to make. What type of platforms and pipes would they use? How could they connect them? What types of "trees" would they use to extract the oil? Baker Hughes did not make this an easy challenge for them putting obstacles in their way in their field too, but the girls got stuck in, worked brilliantly as a team and have modelled their final field plan ready to present to Baker Hughes. All of our teams are now working on their presentations which will take place at Baker Hughes in March where they will get to show off all of their creativity and hard work.

Holocaust Memorial Day

This week students took part in the Holocaust Memorial Day event hosted by North Tyneside Council. This annual event commemorates the victims of the Holocaust and provides an opportunity to reflect and learn from the past.

This year's theme, *Bridging Generations*, highlights the importance of keeping survivors' stories alive by retelling them, ensuring that lessons from history are not forgotten. A group of Year 9 students met weekly to develop a presentation focusing on the experiences of children during the Holocaust.

The students demonstrated outstanding enthusiasm and commitment throughout the project. They spoke with confidence and eloquence to a large audience and represented the school exceptionally well. Their work has also been recorded and will be shared in next week's assembly, allowing the wider school community to learn from their research and help continue *Bridging Generations*.

Sports report

On Monday evening, Marden's Year 8 netball team played with great determination in their first matches of the year winning three out of four, with their only defeat coming in a closely contested and narrow loss to Longbenton (4-3).

On Thursday evening, Marden then hosted the Year 9 netball friendly, welcoming John Spence and Kings Priory. The team performed exceptionally well, demonstrating excellent teamwork and skill to secure two wins, 19-3 and 18-1. It was a fantastic effort from all players!

Pupils from all year groups ran at the Northumberland County Cross Country Championships. In testing conditions they performed superbly well and two runners qualified for the next round where they will represent Northumberland County. A big well done to everyone involved.

The Year 7 Girls football team braved the elements on Wednesday night playing in the U13 North Tyneside Schools league. The girls performed extremely well against tough opponents, managing one win against Marden Bridge, a draw against Kings Priory and two narrow defeats to Valley Gardens and St Thomas More. Well done to all players.

Our Year 11 Basketball team had their first round of Tyneside cup matches on Wednesday. They played three games, winning two which puts them in a very strong position for the next round of games. Well done to all.

Upcoming dates

Friday 30th January 2026 - Year 11 photograph

Wednesday 4 February 2026 - Diphtheria/Tetanus/Polio/Meningitis - Year 9 vaccinations

Thursday 5 February 2026 - Year 9 Guided Choices Evening

Thursday 12 February 2026 - Year 9 POW Evening

Tuesday 24 February 2026 - Year 9 Parents Evening



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher