



Friday 6th February 2026

## **Communication**

We know that *"it takes a whole village to raise a child"*, and that for every child to have the best chance to achieve, communication between home and school is essential. We hope that our positive phone calls home, reward postcards, letters of commendation, information text messages and social media help to enhance the already strong relationships that exist between students, staff, parents and carers. To support this communication, you will see in the coming weeks, information being shared about who you can contact regarding various topics. Be it questions about careers, options or pastoral welfare, our messages over the coming weeks are designed to signpost you to the right person. Should you ever be unsure about who to ask if you have a question, a member of the Senior Leadership Team or your child's Head of Year will always help answer your question.

## **Teaching and Learning**

Key to the success we enjoy as a school is the continued focus we have on raising the academic achievement of all our students through evidence-based research into learning, and the continued professional development of our teachers. Much of this professional development comes in the form of staff sharing the great practice and expertise that exists within the school, so that outcomes for our children can be consistently excellent. To this end, staff have been visiting each other's classrooms recently, conducting learning walks to identify, and then share and celebrate techniques and strategies. These visits to lessons have been across all subjects, and it has been great to see such a high level of skill from our teachers in identifying the needs of our children and creating engaging activities to promote their understanding and progress. It is clear to see the passion the teachers have for their subjects being passed on to our students.

## **Festivals**

Some of our students are currently observing Ramadan. Ramadan is the ninth, holiest month in the Islamic lunar calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a period of fasting, prayer, reflection, and increased charity, commemorating the first revelation of the Quran to Prophet Muhammad, culminating in the Eid al-Fitr festival. It is a time for spiritual discipline, self-improvement, and empathy for the less fortunate, focusing on closeness to Allah. We will be supporting those students who are observing Ramadan, and so parents and carers should contact Heads of Year for any additional support which may be needed during the festival.

## **Theatre Royal**

A group of 25 Year 7 students visited the Theatre Royal this week to see the world premiere of a brand new musical 'Weird', exploring the back story of the three witches based on Shakespeare's Macbeth. Our students were chosen alongside a number of other North East schools to be the first to see this new play and they were thoroughly entertained and engrossed in the excellent stagecraft, music and characterisation. Students represented Marden High School brilliantly.

## **Marden's Got Talent**

Preparations for this year's Marden's Got Talent are currently underway, and students who expressed an interest in auditioning as either an act or a host have been invited to a Google Classroom to upload their digital auditions. The deadline for all auditions is Friday 20 February 2026. Tickets for the event will be on sale from the school office after the February half term break at £3 for adults and £2 for concessions. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Mrs Cathcart or Ms Laing: [e.cathcart@mardenhigh.net](mailto:e.cathcart@mardenhigh.net) or [e.laing@mardenhigh.net](mailto:e.laing@mardenhigh.net)

## **Newcastle University Partnership**

On Monday, we were delighted to welcome the Newcastle University Initial Teacher Training (English) cohort to Marden High School. These trainees are currently working towards Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and are placed in secondary schools across the region as they develop their classroom practice and professional expertise. For the third year running, we were proud to host a day of specialist training designed to support and inspire the next generation of teachers. Throughout the day, trainees engaged with some of our most valued teaching practices and explored why these approaches are so central to our success. This was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the strong partnership between Marden High School and Newcastle University, while also showcasing the consistently high-quality teaching that takes place in our classrooms every day. Trainees spoke highly of their experience, particularly praising our students for their excellent conduct, their enthusiasm for learning, and the positive, inclusive culture they help to create across the school.

## **Sports Report**

Our Under 15 girls futsal team played in the Northumberland County competition on Wednesday afternoon, hosted by John Spence. This was the first competition for this age group and the girls were in a buoyant mood, especially after their first game which they won 2-1 against the John Spence 'A' team. This victory set them up nicely for their second game against North Gosforth Academy, where slick passing and deadly finishing meant the girls walked away with an 8-0 win. Their third game was a thrilling encounter where a last second goal by St Thomas More snatched a win, with the end result 3-4 against Marden. Other results in the competition meant it was all still to play for heading into the final game against John Spence 'B'. However, the Hosts started brightly, scoring 3 unanswered goals and looking likely victors. The Marden team rallied towards the end of the game, scoring 3 goals of

their own to make it 3-3. A fantastic display of skills and determination by the team, who must wait to see if they progress in the competition.

Wednesday also saw our Under 16 basketball team in action, playing the second round of games in the North Tyneside Schools competition. The team were confident they could build on their performance in the last round and got off to a great start with two high scoring wins against Burnside College and Whitley Bay High School. That meant it was a winner take all finale against Kings Priory in their third game. The Marden team were beaten by their opponents in the previous round but went into the game in a positive mindset. The game was end to end with both teams giving their all. Unfortunately for Marden, their opponents were just too strong and it ended with a close win for the boys from Kings. A valiant effort from the Marden team, who can be proud of their performance.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher