



Friday 13th February 2026

Year 10 Work Experience

A key event in our careers programme is the Year 10 Work Experience Programme, which provides students with first-hand experience of the workplace. This opportunity allows students to explore potential career pathways, develop essential employability skills such as communication, teamwork and problem-solving and begin building a professional CV. The work experience process began before Christmas, with students receiving guidance from form tutors, the Head of Year and Mrs Brennan to help them secure suitable placements. This structured support ensures students are proactive and well-prepared when approaching employers.

We use the Unifrog platform to manage the administration of placements, including health and safety checks and insurance documentation, ensuring all placements meet required standards. The deadline for placements to be entered onto Unifrog is 1 May, and the work experience week will take place from 29 June to 3 July.

National Apprenticeship Week

This week has been National Apprenticeship Week, and students have been exploring apprenticeships as a high-quality and increasingly popular post-16 pathway. Through form time activities, they examined the wide range of sectors offering apprenticeships and considered progression routes into skilled employment and higher-level training. We were pleased to welcome representatives from local colleges and the Department for Work and Pensions who worked with students considering the apprenticeship route. These sessions focused on developing practical employability skills, including CV writing and preparing for the assessment centre stage of apprenticeship recruitment processes.

We strongly encourage students and families to explore all post-16 pathways carefully to ensure well-informed decisions. Further information is available on the school website and via Amazing Apprenticeships.

Careers Conversations: Architecture

As part of our ongoing Careers Conversations programme, we were delighted to welcome back Paul Yeomans from Medical Architecture. Students from across all year groups attended to gain insight into careers in architecture, including different qualification routes and real-world project experience. Paul shared examples of major projects, including The Seven Stories building in Ouseburn, helping students understand how classroom learning connects to professional practice. A copy of the presentation is available on the school website.

We are always keen to strengthen our CEIAG provision by working in partnership with professionals from a wide range of industries. If you or someone you know could spare 30 minutes to share your career journey and inspire our students, please contact f.brennan@mardenhigh.net.

Young Mayor

We are delighted that Evie, Year 9, has progressed to the final round of voting for this year's North Tyneside's Young Mayor election, as voted for by young people across North Tyneside. You can watch Evie's campaign video [here](#). Students will receive information about how to vote during registration time after half term.

Connect Mental Health

We know that children and young people may face additional barriers to their education including mental health concerns, and we want to ensure that all young people have support and that their families, schools and other professionals are able to provide the right support. The Connect Mental Health Support Team works with the majority of schools in North Tyneside now to deliver low and moderate intensity interventions to support pupils with low mood, anxiety, and poor self-esteem. By working with our communities, schools, parents and carers and young people the service aims to encourage early treatment and prevention to decrease the number of children and young people requiring long term mental health support. At Marden we are working closely with the Connect team to enhance our whole school approach to emotional wellbeing and to signpost to other relevant services to ensure the needs of children and young people are met in a timely way. For links to Connect's online resources and social pages please visit [connect_mhst | Twitter, Instagram | Linktree](#)

Prayer Space

Children and young people are innately curious about life. Many people have an interest in the non-material aspects of life, the spirit or soul, and want to explore how these ideas and experiences help us to develop our own sense of identity, self-worth, personal insight, meaning and purpose. Next half term in the RE department we will be hosting a Prayer Space for students to allow them to explore these ideas through interactive activities and creating a space for quiet reflection. If anyone would like further information about this here is a useful link: <https://prayerspacesinschools.com/>

Sports

The Year 11 boys football team attended the North Tyneside Schools CVL on Monday afternoon, playing against teams from John Spence and Whitley Bay High School. Marden was able to enter two teams into this competition and both teams performed very well as both teams came out of the competition without a loss, which means that Marden top the competition heading into the final round of competition next half term. Well done to all players.

Also on Monday, our Year 7 Netball teams enjoyed a friendly tournament at John Spence against St

Thomas More, Longbenton and John Spence. The girls showed excellent teamwork throughout, winning three out of four matches, with the fourth ending in a draw. A brilliant effort from all.

On Thursday, the Marden staff faced our Year 11 team in an exciting and closely contested netball match. There was a great turnout, with Year 9 pupils providing fantastic support from the bench. After a competitive game, the staff narrowly secured the win with a final score of 22–19. A great event and enjoyed by all involved. Well done to all!

Forthcoming Dates

24 February - Year 9 Parents Evening, Parent Forum (2.30pm), Year 10 Represent Roadshow

2 March (week commencing) - High Borrans (Year 7)

5 March - World Book Day, Year 10 POW

6 March - Guided Choices deadline (Year 9)

9 March - Year 10 Parents Evening

16 March - Parent Forum (4.30pm)

19 March - Marden's Got Talent

24 March - Year 8 POW

26 March - Year 8 Parents Evening

And finally...

I wrote to parents and carers earlier this week to let them know that at the end of this academic year I will be retiring from my post as headteacher of Marden High School. I have very much enjoyed the past ten years at Marden, and it has been a privilege to serve our wonderful school community and to work with our amazing students. I know that the school is in a good position to go from strength to strength and to build upon the excellent provision for which it is renowned in the local area. The brilliant staff here at Marden will make sure of that. I am looking forward to continuing to work with staff and students during the rest of this year, and I will be supporting the governors in ensuring an effective and smooth transition to the school's new leadership, ready for September.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher