



Friday 27th February 2026

Literacy

Each week students take part in Literacy activities, both in form time and as extra-curricular opportunities. One of these form time sessions is *Reading for Pleasure* where, alongside the chance to enjoy reading their own books, student Literacy Leaders lead a discussion around the recommended '[book of the week](#)': exploring the front cover and an extract from carefully selected novels, poetry and non-fiction. In another form time session each week, students take part in [Reflection Time](#). This is also led by student Literacy Leaders, and form classes explore the theme of the week through a range of discussion activities aimed at developing their oracy skills. Every Monday morning students are also 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*. There are lots of reading recommendations and links, literacy challenges and a celebration of students' creations on the [Literacy Cloud](#). Take a look!

Represent Roadshow

This week, our Year 10 students took part in an exciting careers-focused drop-down day: **Represent Roadshow**. The event brought together eight interactive workshops designed to help students understand how to present the best version of themselves to future employers and education providers. Throughout the day, students developed key employability skills in sessions covering:

- Social media – understanding the positives and potential risks for future employment
- Workplace resilience
- Interview skills
- Public speaking
- Overcoming obstacles and learning from setbacks

These sessions were designed to prepare students for real-life recruitment processes, further education applications and the modern workplace. Feedback from both visiting employers and students was extremely positive. Employers praised the exemplary behaviour, maturity and engagement shown by our students.

Students also recognised the value of the experience. One Year 10 commented:

“I found this session really helpful as they really went into detail about how to respond to interviewers' questions, especially how to explain your weaknesses without making it sound as though you're just being negative about yourself – something I didn't quite get right in my

mock interview.” Another reflected on the importance of resilience, saying: “I learnt that you need to fail to be able to achieve greater things.”

Apprenticeship Support for Year 11

Next week, we are pleased to welcome a member of the Apprenticeships Team from Tynemet College, who will be working with a group of Year 11 students who have requested support in searching and applying for apprenticeship opportunities.

We are seeing growing interest in apprenticeships, both as a post-16 pathway and as a degree apprenticeship route. Apprenticeships offer an excellent opportunity to earn while learning and gain valuable industry experience. However, they are highly competitive, with demand often exceeding the number of available positions.

It is therefore essential that students are well informed and fully prepared for the application and interview process. Families can find out more about apprenticeship pathways via <https://www.skillsforcareers.education.gov.uk/pages/training-choice/apprenticeships>

Prayer Space: A Moment for Reflection at Our School

This week, in RE lessons, students took part in a special initiative known as *Prayer Space*, providing them with a unique opportunity to pause, reflect, and explore some of life’s big questions. Prayer spaces, which have become increasingly popular in schools across the UK, offer pupils a safe and creative environment to engage with their thoughts and feelings.

The purpose of Prayer Space is to allow young people to take a moment away from the usual business of school life, creating space for personal reflection. During their visit, students participated in interactive activities designed to help them think deeply about themes such as hope, gratitude, identity, and purpose. Whether they chose to write, draw, or simply sit quietly, every activity was designed to encourage personal connection and mindfulness. If you would like further information about Prayer Space please see their website at <https://prayerspacesinschools.com/>

Forthcoming Festivals

As we say in the School Development Plan, Marden is a vibrant, exciting place to be where people thrive. We are a strong community, each individual full of hope, looking forward to many possibilities. We are a welcoming school, where students arrive from all parts of the region, the country and sometimes; the world. Posters from around the world adorn our walls, so that everyone feels that sense of belonging when at Marden. April is a month where religions from around the world are celebrated across a range of religions. These include Christianity’s Easter (April 5) with Good Friday (April 3) and Easter Monday (April 6); Jewish Passover (Pesach) ending around April 8-9; Hindu festivals like Hanuman Jayanti (April 2) and Akshaya Tritiya (April 19); and Sikh Vaisakhi (April 14). We wish everyone celebrating this month well.

Sports Report

In a nail-biting clash, our Year 11 boys football team emerged victorious in the Northumberland County Cup, with a hard-fought 2-1 win over a tough Gosforth Academy team in what can only be described as a thrilling game. Gosforth, known for their physicality and strength, came out with an aggressive approach, pushing forward relentlessly. They dominated the early stages of the game, but the Marden team held firm, showing impressive resilience at the back. It was Marden who struck first, albeit through a slice of good fortune, as an own goal gave the boys the lead. The goal injected energy into our side, but Gosforth weren't to be outdone, responding with their own attack and leveling the score at 1-1 before halftime. The second half was a real test of character as both sides pushed hard to break the deadlock. Marden capitalized on a counterattack, with a cool finish to seal the 2-1 win and ensure a deserved victory. The boys move on to face St Thomas More in the quarter-final round.

This match was a testament to the spirit and determination of our players. Despite facing a physically dominant side, they never backed down and showed true resilience to hold on to the lead. Well done to everyone involved – a fantastic performance that shows what the team is made of.

The U16 Basketball team travelled to St Thomas More on Wednesday afternoon, for the final round of games in the North Tyneside Schools competition. They faced off against the host school, Whitley Bay High and Kings Priory in the round robin tournament, and came away with an impressive three wins from three games which saw the Marden team progress to the North East finals, to be played at the Newcastle Eagles Arena later this term. A fantastic achievement by the players and we wish them every success in the next competition

Marden's Got Talent

Our annual talent show *Marden's Got Talent* will return this half term on 19 March 2026, starting at 6pm. Tickets will be on sale from the school office from Monday 2 March 2026, at £3 for adults and £2 for concessions. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Mrs Cathcart or Miss Laing: e.cathcart@mardenhigh.net or e.laing@mardenhigh.net.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher