



Friday 13th March 2026

Reece Foundation

This week I received information about the Reece Foundation. There are two fully funded Reece Foundation Sixth Form awards available at Newcastle High School for Girls for students intending to pursue a career in engineering, including robotics, IT, biomedical etc. The award covers up to 100% of school fees, lunches and travel. It is intended for girls who are predicted to achieve top GCSE grades, who can demonstrate particular strengths in maths and the sciences, and who plan to study A level maths and physics. Of course, each year we have quite a number of students that fit that bill. The bursary is means tested and invitations are invited for current Year 11 students. There is an Open Week at Newcastle High School for Girls for 10-13 March which will provide prospective applicants and their families with the opportunity to visit the school. Further information can be found on their website or by contacting admissions@ncl.gdst.net.

Governors visits

Each month or so we have a small group of governors who visit classrooms for a morning with the express intent of becoming familiar with various aspects of school life. The understanding they gain from this activity about how the school actually operates, and how the inside of the school looks and sounds during a typical day is absolutely key in them making informed decisions about the strategic direction of the school. This week governors came in to see how well Year 11 and their staff are preparing for the upcoming exams. Governors saw that students and staff are working very effectively and that is reflected in our current data analysis which shows the year group as a whole on track to continue the very good GCSE outcomes achieved by previous cohorts.

Punctuality

An important part of the education our children receive at Marden is in developing those good habits that will support them in their adult working lives. To this end we remind them of the importance of good punctuality and how this relates to their future and to their success in school, and it is encouraging that the number of students who are late to school, which has never been large, has become fewer this year. We appreciate parents' support in ensuring the children are punctual to school.

100% of the shots ...

One of the key messages we give our children is to take opportunities that arise, remembering that “100% of the shots you don’t take, don’t go in”. Our students achieve great things because of the opportunities they have at school. Marden is one of the highest performing schools in the area, but more than that, each day as students and staff we enrich our lives, taking pleasure and enjoyment from the wide variety of creative, academic, technical and sporting opportunities. A vibrant, exciting place to be, there is always something happening at Marden, from first thing before school, right through into the evening. The anticipation of Spring is upon us, and with it the opportunity of ventures new for our young people.

New Headteacher

I am delighted to let you know that the Governing Body has approved the appointment of Mrs Karen Robson as Head Teacher of the school from 1 September 2026. There was an excellent range of applications for the post, and candidates engaged in a very rigorous and competitive two day testing and interview process. The Governing Body and I wish Mrs Robson every success in her new role and I look forward to seeing how our happy and successful school goes from strength to strength under her leadership.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher