



Thursday 2nd April 2026

## **A chance to read**

A growing number of studies show that promoting reading can have a major impact on children and adults and their future. In addition to the obvious benefits of improving reading attainment and writing ability, a meta-analysis of the research literature identifies several other areas of the benefits to reading for pleasure:

- Enhancing text comprehension and grammar;
- Promoting greater breadth of vocabulary;
- Developing positive reading attitudes;
- Giving greater self-confidence as a reader and generally;
- Facilitating pleasure in reading in later life;
- Improving general knowledge, and giving a better understanding of other cultures;
- Developing a greater insight into human nature and decision-making.

Evidence also suggests that reading for pleasure leads to increased attainment. There is a significant positive relationship between enjoyment and attainment indicating that children who read more are also better readers, and are better able to access and understand the language of exams. As we start the Easter break this is an ideal time to catch up on some reading, or to start a new habit of a lifetime, with all the benefits that brings. It's never too early or too late to encourage a love of reading and we hope that students and parents alike find the activities and advice given regularly by Ms Taylor and our Literacy Leaders help you enjoy sharing stories together as a family.

## **Rewards and recognition**

We have a range of rewards and means of recognition for all students, that range from postcards home, regular phone calls from teachers and senior staff, and end of term certificates, through to additional House Points that are part of the House Competition and Work of the Week. This reminds everyone that hard work brings reward, and our rewards support the culture of celebration and success that visitors to the school often comment upon. This term has seen a very high number of House Points given out and this is reflected in our strong attendance, which remains one of the highest in North Tyneside. Later this year we will be hosting a conference for professionals from around the region to showcase some of the excellent work we have done in this area. Details can be obtained from Mr Anderson. Well done to all students who have received recognition for their work and efforts so far this year and with half the year still to go, there is plenty of opportunity to keep earning.

## **Student Leadership Programme**

This week saw the conclusion of this year's Student Leadership Programme where former students have been attending Marden, each week, in a mentoring capacity to support current students either in class or through small group work. It has been inspiring to see future leaders enacting their agency in such a way. Staff have enjoyed seeing former students return and continue their work here at Marden High School and we look forward to seeing current students next year returning in the same vein.

## **Student Development Programme**

Meanwhile, our Student Development Programme reaches its final stages of the year. On Monday, Mrs Russell took a group of Year 8 and Year 9 students on a visit with Hand Of, as part of the Coastal Explorations project. This, together with the Year 10 and Year 11 study skills have had a great impact with a wide range of students across the year. The graduation is in May for most students whilst the Year 11s will receive recognition of their work, together with the prefects who will be concluding their term as school leaders during the leavers assembly.

## **House Competition**

The House Competition concludes shortly after Easter where Mr Richards and Mr Pennington will announce the winners of the 2025/2026 competition. With scores still very tight there is still a chance to earn points not only for individual success but also for the House Team. Therefore in lessons, points can be earned through punctuality, focus on learning and progress seen whilst out of lessons with the two week break upon us, a visit to some Northumberland castles can earn 750 points! Good luck to everyone.

## **Additional students into Year 9 (September)**

In September we will be welcoming fifteen additional students, from middle schools, into current Year 8. In order to accommodate students into form classes we will be making a new form class: 9H. This is an opportunity for all students, in current Year 8, to choose some friends they would like to be in a form class with. It may be that students change form teachers. To assist with this process, Mrs Robson will share a google form, with parents/carers, after the Easter holidays, where students will be able to identify other students they would like to be in a form class with.

## **Thank you**

I would like to end by saying a huge thank you to all our wonderful staff who have again worked tremendously hard this term, supporting all our children in their lessons, sports, and enrichment activities. The care they constantly show for our young people is well known in our community and is, I am sure, appreciated by everyone. I hope everybody has a great holiday and a good rest.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher