




MARDEN NEWS

Spring 2026 End of Term Edition



Spring Term Reads for the Easter Holidays

Featuring

Message from The Headteacher	Business	English & Media	RE	Technology
---------------------------------	----------	--------------------	----	------------

Literacy at Marden	Drama	PE	Science	Careers
--------------------	-------	----	---------	---------



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



It has been fantastic to see the dedication and commitment from our Year 11 students as they prepare for their upcoming summer examinations. They have been working incredibly hard both in lessons and independently, and we are very proud of the effort they are putting in.

A reminder that **lunchtime revision sessions take place every Thursday**, and all Year 11 Business students are strongly encouraged to attend to maximise their preparation.

The GCSE Business exam dates are:

- **Monday 11th May**
- **Thursday 21st May**

Meanwhile, our Year 10 students sat their exam. They revised thoroughly and were able to demonstrate all the knowledge and skills they have developed so far. This was a great opportunity for them to showcase their progress and build confidence ahead of Year 11.

Mrs D Joyce



It's been a busy term in Drama. After weeks of preparation, Year 11 students performed their scripted extracts to a visiting examiner on Friday 27 March. Final preparations are also underway for the written exam on 8 May. We enjoyed a dynamic performance of 'Noughts and Crosses' earlier this half term and students have prepared their written evaluations - good luck Year 11!

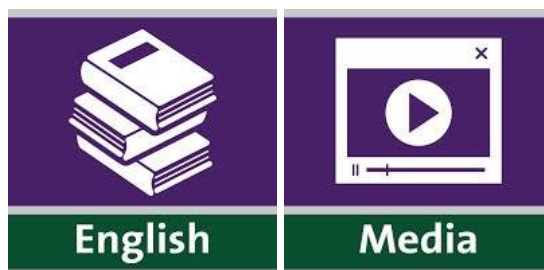
Meanwhile Year 10 students have been developing their skills in preparation for their devising project. We're looking forward to seeing some imaginative performances once again from our GCSE Drama students on 29 April.

Key Stage 3 students have been exploring Blood Brothers and The Crucible. Our Year 7 students have enjoyed a busy term too, exploring Shakespeare where they've had opportunities to develop skills in sword fighting, masks, props and costume. Next term students will begin to develop their skills in off text improvisation for the scripted play, 'Our Day Out'.

On 31 March, Year 9 and Year 10 Drama students participated in an acting workshop with industry professionals before enjoying a live theatre performance of 'Teachers' at Gala Theatre, Durham.

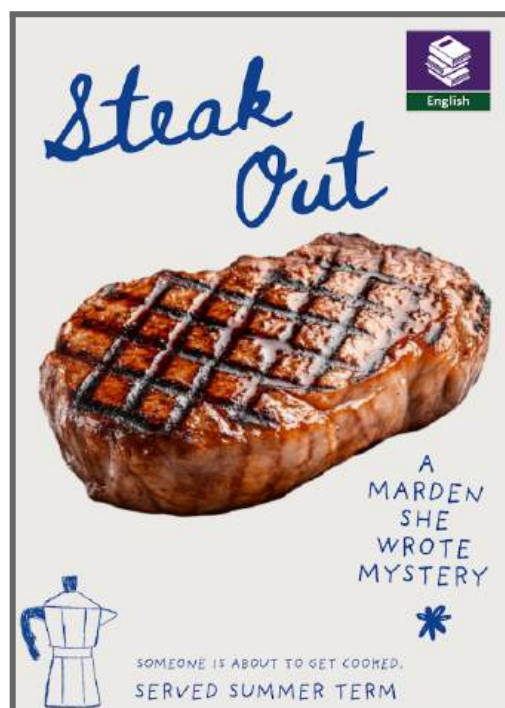
Rehearsals for our school production 'Legally Blonde Jnr.' are well underway and students are making fantastic progress. We look forward to welcoming you to our performance in July.

Mrs S Berriman



Marden She Wrote

The English department is, as always, excited to announce this year's Marden She Wrote mystery: Steak Out! Alongside their study of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *Sherlock Holmes* classic short stories, our Year 8 students will also become the detectives themselves to investigate and creatively write about our Marden mystery emulating Conan Doyle's typical writing style. We can't give too much away at this stage, but promotional posters have now been displayed in English classrooms across the school, and after Easter, students will begin their own detective journeys to discover the truth. See examples of student work and their theories in the next edition of the English newsletter...



World Book Day

World Book Day celebrations were, of course, celebrated across the department during the week of this annual event which took place on Thursday 5th March. There were a plethora of activities to get involved with around school during the week, led by our Literacy Coordinator Ms Taylor and the English department. A World Book Day assembly was produced across the last few months during our KS3 fortnightly Reading for Pleasure lessons and students were tasked with filming sections about their favourite books, the benefits of reading and even places they like to read! Additionally, we had the big World Book Day quiz including rounds on literary classic book covers and a new round for 2026: The Masked Reader! It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm students across the school had for books, authors and reading in general.

See if you can spot the 10 literary characters in the image below:



Creative Independent Study

We have had some fantastic examples of creative and thoughtful homework tasks produced this term across all years during our various literature studies. Here are some examples of Year 7 student homework based on their study of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*:



Sir Alan Campbell MP Visit

On Friday 20th March we welcomed local MP Sir Alan Campbell into school to talk to our Year 9 students in a Question Time style lecture in the Auditorium. This links to our current Year 9 topic on social injustice whereby students have studied a number of poems, articles and texts (including the critically acclaimed film: I, Daniel Blake) linked to this theme. Because of the students' thoughtful responses to this study, each English class was able to come up with mature and insightful questions to ask Sir Alan during his talk: these questions linked to topics such as the post-16 options for students in our area, current conflict going on around the world, and the potential social media ban for under 16s. Students have then been using their research, discussion, and indeed, Sir Alan's talk to inspire their own protest poetry, political manifestos and some students have even been inspired to write letters to Parliament about topics they feel strongly about.

Here is an extract from a group of students putting together their own party manifesto inspired by the changes they would like to see in the world:

*What does the United Kingdom mean to us all? If we are to break apart these words, we can see something that most people nowadays ignore. Divide these words into individuals, and you get United, and you get Kingdom. To be united, it means for people to stand together, to be one, and to help one another as for each member of the unison to be together. A kingdom is an area, a land where people, no matter what they believe or what they look like, all belong to the Kingdom. Likewise, we as a country must be united in this Kingdom, caring for all people that live here, and giving aid to those who come to us.**

Social Care

Firstly, addressing the idea of social care, we believe that this is a requisite for every single person living in the UK, so as a party, we will create more changes to the benefit system. Currently, to claim government benefits for children, people need to go online to receive £25 per week for their first child, and £17 for their other children, however, this plan has many flaws. For one, 7% of all households are unable to access the internet, being 2.4 million adults. Due to this, many adults will be unable to claim these benefits for children, struggling more, especially those in deep poverty. To resolve this issue, it seems necessary that we should create more public spaces with computers and offer jobs for people to help those who want to claim these benefits on the computers.

Education

In the UK we have been seeing schools facing issues such as significant teacher shortages, severe underfunding, and sharp rises with students being absent. These are major issues that need to be sorted out due to the fact that we need to teach the next generation who could be our doctors, police officers, military, teachers, and even scientists. It is crucial that we make changes to education to make sure the generations of tomorrow's future will be bright. Furthermore, the cost of higher education makes it inaccessible, and makes skilled jobs exclusive. To combat these issues, we will increase funding for schools. This will allow schools to afford more equipment such as stationary, and also allow them to make school lunches cheaper. Also we will increase funding for government grants, scholarships and bursaries, making university less costly, so that more able people can reach good jobs that help the people.

Healthcare

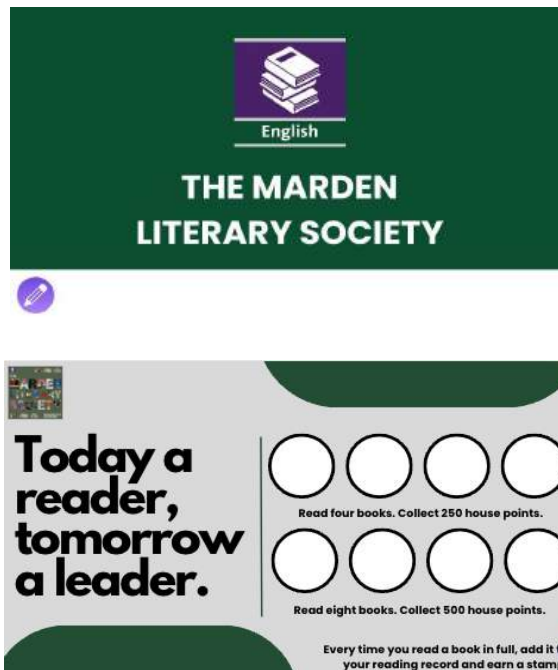
The NHS suffers from severe understaffing, with over 100,00 vacancies in the NHS. This leads to long wait times for patients, and long, draining shifts for the staff. Furthermore, unable to keep up with the stress of working in the NHS, many NHS staff leave the job, further adding to the lack of staff. These are very pressing issues, as we rely on the NHS to keep our nation in good health. To solve these problems, we will increase funding for the NHS. We will also make medical schools less costly, making healthcare careers more accessible. This will make medical jobs more attractive, drawing more of the workforce to the sector, therefore resolving the aforementioned problems.

*The world is massive and has room for 8 billion people as well as having room for kindness, a sense of community and pride but what the United Kingdom doesn't have room for hatred, war, poverty and bigotry because we are part of the united kingdom and one big family... the human family ever expanding and moving onward to greater glory in other words, **THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC.***



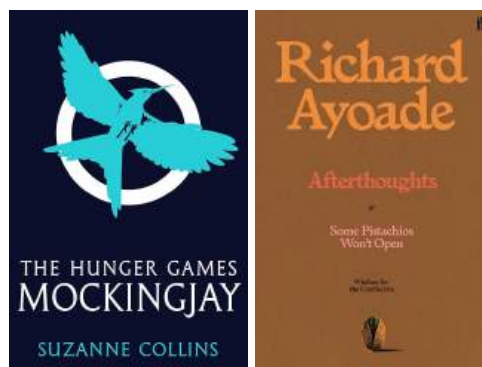
Marden Literary Society

We are continuing to promote one of our key departmental priorities this year: The Marden Literary Society! In their fortnightly Reading for Pleasure lessons KS3 students have the opportunity to discuss and reflect on their own reading habits, as well as spending time completing a range of engaging and creative tasks built around the importance of reading. Continuing throughout the year, each student has been given a reading card to collect stamps each time they have completed a book and discussed their reading with their teacher. Once students have collected four stamps they will receive 250 house points and after eight stamps they will be rewarded with 500 house points! Students have made a superb start to this new initiative and it has been brilliant for the department to see such a buzz around reading! Remember, students can find book recommendations and reading lists on the *Literacy Subject Cloud* available on our website, or can ask their English teacher for further assistance.



Here is what your English & Media Teachers have on their Spring Reading List:

- Mr Horn:** *The Revenant* by Michael Punke
Mrs Cathcart: *Under the Eye of the Big Bird* by Hiromi Kawakami
Mr Ranson: *The Island of Missing Trees* by Elif Shafak
Ms Taylor: *Butter* by Asako Yuzuki
Mrs Todd: *My Husband's Wife* by Alice Feeney
Ms Fenwick: *The Mockingjay* by Suzanne Collins
Miss Lees: *Afterthoughts* by Richard Ayoade



Mrs E Cathcart



Extracurricular activities

Over the winter months pupils have continued to enjoy the extracurricular programme on offer, with many pupils attending the volleyball, badminton, netball and futsal clubs. The table tennis club also developed into a competitive league, with lots of pupils signed up to play each week.

Football

League and cup fixtures took a break during the winter months, with only the 7-a-side central venue tournaments taking place during January and February. Boys and girls from all year groups represented the school in these competitions, with many Marden teams leading their respective leagues after this round of games. The final round for these competitions will be early in the summer term and we wish all teams the best of luck.

March saw the recommencement of the league and cup competitions with the Year 8 boys team through to the semi final stage of the North Tyneside Schools Cup competitions. The team have performed brilliantly in the games they have had and are looking forward to the cup final in the last week of the spring term.

The Year 9 and Year 10 girls team were in action again, after the winter break, playing against Kings Priory School in a County Cup quarter final game. They performed brilliantly securing a 10-3 win to take them through to the semi final where they will face John Spence. We wish them every success in the game.

All football teams have played brilliantly this season, and for the few that still have important games to play, we have our fingers crossed for silverware come the start of May!

Netball

The Marden High netball teams have continued to dominate the local schools leagues in the spring term, with all teams gathering wins in their games this term. The Year 10 team remain unbeaten in their North Tyneside league and knockout tournament, claiming the top spot in both competitions. The Year 8 team finished as winners in both of the knock out tournaments, whilst the Year 7 team won the North Tyneside tournament and finished second in the Tri-area competition. The Year 11 team have also had a positive end to their season, finishing in 2nd place in the league.

Rugby

The Year 7, 8 and 9 boys teams and the Year 8 and 9 girls teams were involved in the Northumberland Schools 7's competitions this term, playing games against schools from across the county. They have performed brilliantly and all players have enjoyed their experience.

Dance

This term we saw Marden High pupils take part in the North Tyneside Dance Festival at The Parks Sports Centre. The dance festival is a celebration of different genres of dance and one of the highlights of the year. Our dance group performed alongside many primary and secondary schools in North Tyneside, and their hard work, commitment to dance rehearsals and effort was apparent in the performance.

Basketball

The U16 and U14 basketball teams have enjoyed great success in their North Tyneside tournaments this term, winning all of their games to progress and represent North Tyneside at the regional finals held at the Newcastle Eagles Basketball Arena.

Mr G Smith



Year 9 students have recently chosen their GCSE options, many are now starting to think about preparing for next year.

For students taking the RE GCSE course the subject cloud supplements the guided choices information already shared.

Students going into year 10 have a variety of resources, reading and tasks which could support their learning and preparation over the summer and hopefully give them a great base from which to explore the new GCSE content. The reading list of fiction books available can also support their philosophical thinking, for example, 'A Brave New World' by Aldous Huxley or 'Sophie's World' by Jostein Gaarder.

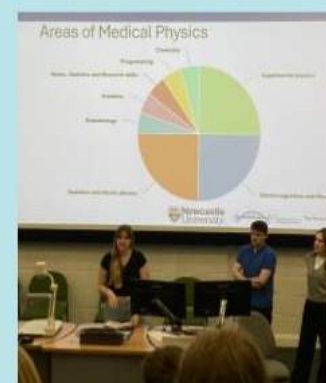
Some of these are available to loan from the RE department so please direct students toward Mrs MacLeod for support with accessing books.

Mrs C MacLeod



Scientific Careers in the NHS

A group of Year 9 and 10 students visited Newcastle University Medical School to learn about different scientific careers in the NHS. They heard from several current medical school students who were part of the Scientist Training Programme (STP); a 3 year programme of work-based learning, supported by a master's degree. They heard about the likes of medical physics, cardiac science and gastrointestinal physiology, the pathways into some of these careers, and what day-to-day working life could involve. Our students thoroughly enjoyed the session and came away inspired with many new career options.





Chemistry in real life Context



Year 11 Students Get Hands-On Experience with Chemical Engineers



We were delighted to welcome chemical engineers from CF Fertilisers, Billingham, who led an exciting and interactive workshop for our Year 11 students. Over the course of an hour, students gained valuable insights into the world of chemical engineering and what it's like to work in a real industrial setting.



During the session, students explored career pathways within the company, from entry-level apprenticeships to degree-level chemical engineering roles - and even the journey to becoming a CEO! They also had the chance to try on specialist safety gear and take part in a hands-on design challenge. Their task? To design a system capable of transporting tonnes of ammonia gas safely across the factory site.

This fantastic opportunity gave our students a real taste of the skills and problem-solving required in the field of chemical engineering. A huge thank you to CF Fertilisers for inspiring our future engineers!



Bringing GCSE Chemistry to Life with Northumbrian Water



We were delighted to welcome representatives from Northumbrian Water to speak with our Year 11 students. Water treatment is an important part of the GCSE Chemistry curriculum, and Tony and Emma helped make this topic more engaging and real. Students gained valuable insight into the sewage treatment process at Howdon, learning firsthand about the science behind keeping our water clean.



STEM Club - A Journey Through the Stars

Over the last ten weeks, our young astronomers have been diving deep into everything from the mechanics of the night sky to the mystery of the Northern Lights. Using professional tools like **Stellarium** and **planispheres**, they've mastered how to navigate the stars, and they've even explored the technical side of things with sessions on **telescopes, satellites, and the electromagnetic spectrum**. It's been fantastic to see them get so hands-on with the science behind the "big picture."

A real highlight of the term was the visit from the Kielder Observatory team earlier this year. It was wonderful to see so many families joining us to explore their **portable planetarium** and get a close-up look through their professional telescopes. Whether they were mapping out the Solar System or learning about lunar craters, the students have shown incredible curiosity. A huge well done to everyone involved for making this project such a "stellar" success!



PhD research physicists and the Orbyts project have partnered with 6 students in year 10 at Marden to deliver sessions on research into the effects of solar winds on. The sessions so far have taught the students about solar winds and plasma turbulence, including the mathematical formulas used to calculate how these travel. The students are also using Python and Google Collab and Jupyter to use coding to find the values of the formulas.



Jurassic Sparks Shine at Nissan Tournament

What an incredible day for our resident engineers! Today, our robotics team, the Jurassic Sparks, headed to the Nissan plant in Sunderland to compete in the First Lego League tournament. The atmosphere was electric as the team and their trusty robot, Sparky, took on three intense rounds of the Robot Game. Beyond the technical challenges, the team delivered a standout presentation on their innovation project, “The Subnautica.” This clever submersible design uses temperature and



UNEARTHED

humidity-controlled compartments to safely retrieve and preserve underwater archaeological artifacts—a brilliant solution that really caught the judges’ attention.



While the robot runs were impressive, it was the team’s character that truly stole the show. Throughout the day, the Jurassic Sparks were the embodiment of the competition’s Core Values, stepping up to support other teams and demonstrating fantastic composure under pressure. Their teamwork and confidence didn’t go unnoticed; the panel was so impressed by their collaborative spirit that they honored the team with the Judges’ Motivation Award. We are incredibly proud of how they represented our school with both technical skill and genuine sportsmanship. Well done, team!



Mrs C Atkinson



The Spring Term is always a busy one for us in Technology, with Year 11 students working hard to complete their NEA work across all four subject areas: Design and Technology, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Engineering, and Child Development.

Design and Technology students have worked tirelessly to complete the practical aspect of their course, developing prototypes of their design solutions to test physical aspects and finalise their coursework with evaluations and developments for industry. It has been fantastic to see the independence, resilience, and initiative demonstrated by students in this area, with real pride shown in what has been an excellent range of creative outcomes.

Similarly, in Food Preparation and Nutrition, students completed their practical exam earlier this term, producing some fantastic dishes within a three-hour timeframe. I was particularly impressed with the creativity shown in the presentation of these dishes. Unfortunately, images cannot be shared at this time as the work is still 'live'.

Following on in the same fashion our groups of engineering students in both year 10 and year 11 have come to the end of their coursework challenges. Year 10 have been challenged with creating picture frames, and despite it being a challenging theme to get creative with, their ideas and innovation have been fabulous. Year 11 are finalising the last touches of their practical work and completing their product evaluations and that brings them to the end of their coursework, which has seen them carry out a range of product analysis tasks, as well as planning the manufacture of the garden lantern that was set for them by OCR.

Year 10 students have been developing their skills in preparation for their NEA next year, with some excellent examples of work shown below:



Extra Curricular

Miss Tait is once again offering students the opportunity to take part in TICE. This exciting Creative Enterprise programme encourages students to develop their creative skills by designing, creating unique design pieces. TICE allows participants to gain hands-on experience in teamwork, problem-solving all while expressing their creativity and innovation.



This year students will be exploring the topic of Kintentional Collage which explores how fashion reflects cultural shifts, personal identity, and global movements. The group will be introduced to the four Kintentional trends and will examine fashion not as surface-level style, but as a powerful visual language shaped by society, history, and lived experience. It is a fantastic chance for students to build confidence, think independently, and understand how ideas can be transformed into successful ventures in the creative industry.

Girls Get Set STEM Initiative

This year we have another cohort of girls from years 7-10 who are all working in partnership with Baker Hughes to complete their STEM projects on carbon capture and field development. The students are working towards their Cadet Awards at various levels.

Earlier this month the girls visited Baker Hughes to give their final presentations on their carbon capture and field development projects. Our teams of bronze and silver awards students wowed the judges, including the CEO, with their ideas on how carbon capture can be transported in the most efficient way. Our 3 teams, Destructive Ducks, The Carbon Horizon and P.Navi gave enthusiastic and very competitive representations of their ideas, with teams even looking at what their proposed vessels would look like in real life using AI and also using their maths skills to compare the speed of their vessels, as well as the mass of carbon capture that could be carried on each journey.

Our gold award students entered the room as "traitors", fully cloaked for their themed presentation on their oil field layout. The students had some difficult decisions to make, a specification and budget to work to and excelled in justifying the design choices that they had made. The girls have a long wait until the end of June to find out who the winners are at graduation day.

Gold Award - Externship

Our three Gold Award girls have just completed their 2 day externship at Baker Hughes where they spent time gaining valuable experience of what it would be like working for such a multinational company. They met with various Baker Hughes staff, took part in some project work, created their own 'personal brand', did some job shadowing and were given the opportunity to discuss their CV's and take part in a mock interview. The girls have thoroughly enjoyed themselves for the two days, so much so that they are going back for some work experience in their own summer holidays at the end of next term.

Ms K Nicholls



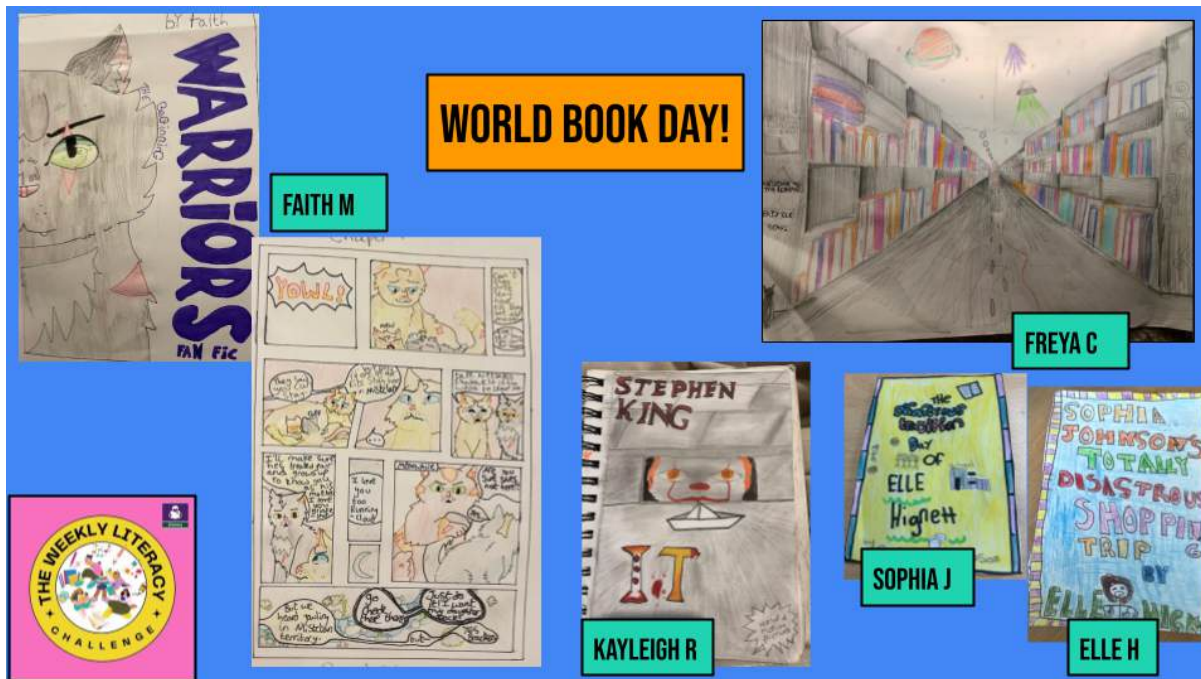
Book of the Week: Spring Term Reads for the Easter Holidays

Each week the *Library Club* selects a book from which form classes read an extract during *Reading for Pleasure*. Here are all the recommendations that we have had for the Spring Term - just in time for some Easter holiday reading!



World Book Day 2026 Celebrations!

We have been celebrating World Book Day and the theme of 'Go All In' this half term. We had a *Reading for Pleasure* special, where form classes received their book tokens and explored extracts from this year's free books. On World Book Day itself, we had an impressive assembly featuring Years 7-9 students; and in English lessons students celebrated with a quiz and *The Ultimate Character Championship*. We had some excellent entries to this year's competitions: here are the winning pieces!



WORLD BOOK DAY!

FAITH M

FREYA C

KAYLEIGH R

SOPHIA J

ELLE H



WORLD BOOK DAY!

JOSHUA H

THEO M

GUIN G

JAKE R

FREYA AND EMILY



WORLD BOOK DAY!

What books make me think about

Writers
Occupation
Reflection
Learn
Dream

Breathe
Opinion
Observe
Keen

Discovery
Accomplish
Young.

MIA H

Reading is amazing! It helps our brains to grow,
Adventure, horror and tragedy are some genres you may know,
You can read in a book shop, at a friend's or library
You may like J. K. Rowling or even famous Shakesy P,
You can escape in the pages of your very favourite book,
And meet characters like Peter Pan and even Captain Hook,
So take some time to settle down and open on page one,
Let the world around you disappear as the stories just begun!

AVA C

Come up to read you, tell you I'm sorry
You don't know how lovely books are
I had to find you, tell you I need you
Tell you I set you apart

Tell me your secrets, ask me your questions
Oh, let's go back to the start
Reading in circles, chasing the meanings
Stories that live in the heart

Nobody said it was easy
It's such a joy to read deep
Nobody said it was easy
But books are worth every leap
Oh, take me back to the start
I was just guessing at plots and the symbols
Questions of theme and of art
Drawing conclusions from margins and chapters
Searching for meaning and heart

Nobody said it was easy
It's such a joy to read deep
Nobody said it was easy
But books are worth every leap
I'm going to the start

JONATHAN, ACE, ZACH



LIBBY, AVA & DAISY



CHARLIE M

WORLD BOOK DAY!



BROOKE, EVELYN & POLLY



OLIVIA & ISADORA



The Weekly Literacy Challenge

Every Monday students are 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](#). Below are some of the contributions we have received this half term, inspired by three of our Themes of the Week: *International Women's Day*, *Pi Day*, and *We have more in common than that which divides us...*



The challenge will be connected to the Theme of the Week...

- Be creative and use your imagination!
- ★ Write poems, songs, stories, articles, speeches...
 - ★ Draw, design, collage, sculpture, paint...
 - ★ Dance, video, sing, play an instrument...
 - ★ Bake!

All entries will be published on the Literacy Cloud and receive 50 house-points!

Email your creations to literacycloud@mardenhigh.net

WEEKLY LITERACY CHALLENGE

IMOGEN K

We have more in common than which divides us

We are all people, me and you,
We laugh and smile the same way too.
We all feel happy, we all feel sad,
We all have good days and bad.
We may look different, that is true,
But we have more the same in me and you

ISLA M

Things in common

For every 1 that is angry, 2 are grateful.
For every 1 that is selfish, 2 are sympathetic.
For every 1 that is greedy, 2 are generous.
For every 1 that is boastful, 2 are caring.
For every 1 that is nasty, 2 are like YOU!

PHOEBE M

We are better together #UNITY

IMOGEN K

This is what my pi-em goes like

3. sea
1 a
4 slow
1 a
5 rough
9 adventure

EWAN D

(3-1-4-1-5-9-2-6-5-3-5-8-9-7-9-3-2-3-8-4-6)

I walk a quiet shoreline by silver waves and soft starlight beautiful sunset colouring the sky so my mind wanders beyond.

MILES B



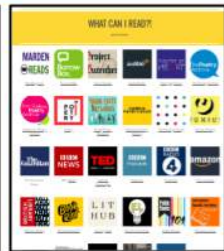
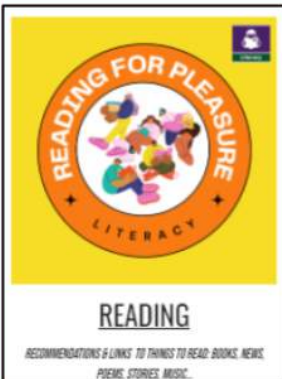
Literacy at Home on *The Literacy Cloud*

There are lots of reading recommendations and links, literacy challenges and a celebration of students' creations on The [Literacy Cloud](#). Take a look!



Looking for things to read alongside your books?

Visit the "Reading" section of the [Literacy Cloud](#).



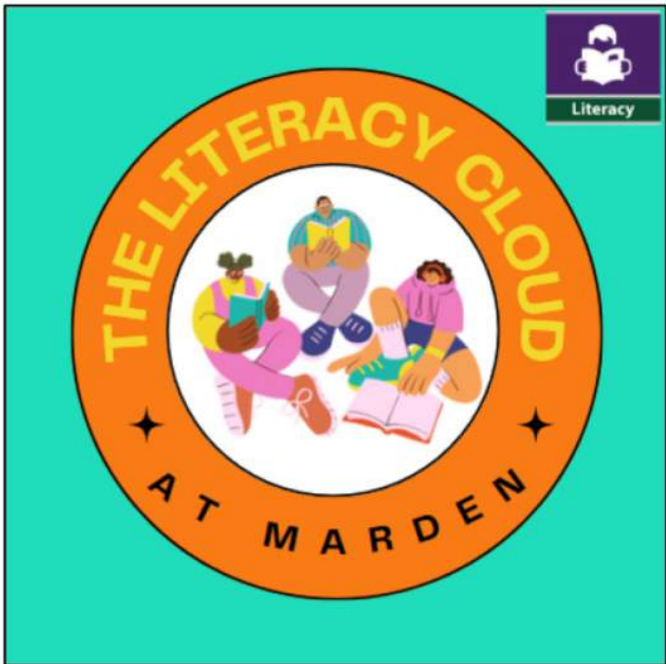
Novels, poems, news articles, blogs, talks, magazines, journals, audiobooks...

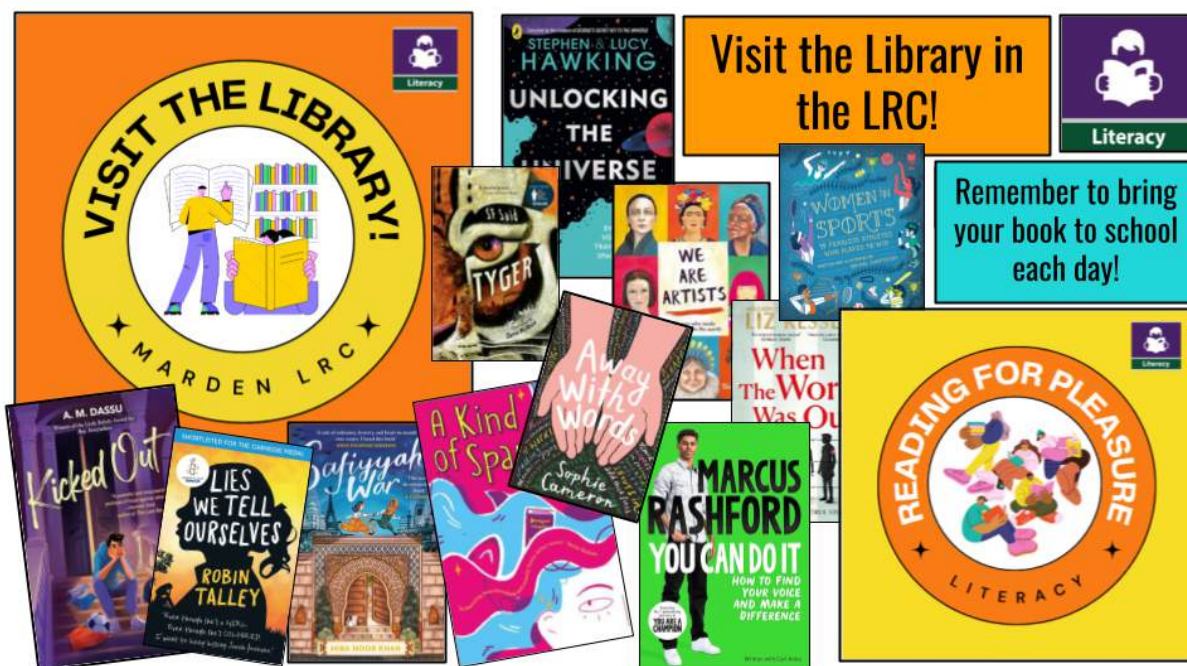
Get published on the Literacy Cloud!

If you would like to be featured on the [Literacy Cloud](#) then check out the weekly challenges & competitions!



Send your entries to literacycloud@mardenhigh.net.
Each entry wins 50 house points!





Ms A Taylor



Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

Newsletter Year 11 – Spring Term Update

This newsletter is designed to support students and families in making informed decisions about post-16 pathways, in line with the **Gatsby Benchmarks for Good Career Guidance**. It includes key opportunities, events, and guidance to help students explore their next steps. If you would like further information and advice regarding career pathways, please email f.brennan@mardenhigh.net

Post-16 Pathways Overview

Students are encouraged to consider the pathway that best suits their learning style, strength and career aspirations.

Level 3 College Courses (Vocational)

- Coursework and practical assessment focus
- Typically one subject area with a career focus
- Opportunities for work placement
- Equivalent UCAS tariff points to A Levels (up to 168)
- Progression routes: university, apprenticeships, employment

A Levels (Sixth Form)

- Academic study with a focus on examinations
- Typically three subjects studied
- Structured timetable with independent study
- Equivalent UCAS tariff points (up to 168)
- Progression routes: university, apprenticeships, employment

Apprenticeships

- Paid employment combined with structured training
- Development of practical skills and industry-specific knowledge
- Levels available from Level 2 through to Degree Apprenticeships
- Typically 80% on-the-job training and 20% classroom-based learning
- No tuition fees; students earn a salary while training
- Progression routes: full-time employment, higher/degree apprenticeships, or further study

Key Considerations for Apprenticeships

- Apprenticeships are competitive and require early preparation
- Employers look for evidence of employability skills such as teamwork, communication, and reliability
- Students are strongly advised to apply for a college or sixth form place as a contingency.

Apprenticeships – Guidance and Preparation

Students considering apprenticeships are advised to begin researching opportunities early. While many vacancies currently available are for immediate starts, many of Year 11 opportunities will be advertised later in the academic year for **September 2026 entry**. [Find an apprenticeship](#) is the government site which has details of many vacancies. You can also sign up with the local colleges [Apprenticeships - Tyne Metropolitan College](#) and [Apprenticeship Vacancies](#) and training providers [Tyne North Training](#) and [TDR Training](#)

Key guidance:

- Students should apply for a college or sixth form place as a contingency
- Apprenticeships are competitive and recruitment timelines can vary

Recommended actions:

- Register for vacancy alerts via the Government apprenticeship service
- Contact employers to enquire about future opportunities
- Seek work experience to strengthen applications
- Maintain a record of roles and employers of interest
- Review job descriptions and prepare evidence of relevant skills

Example skills development:

- Teamwork: collaborative school projects
 - Communication: volunteering or customer-facing role
-

Post-16 Taster Opportunities

Tyne Metropolitan College is offering “Try It Out” sessions on **23rd April** across a range of subject areas. These sessions provide valuable insight into vocational courses and college life. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these free sessions to support informed decision-making.

[Try it Out - sessions](#)

[SEND Easter Transition Event - Tyne Metropolitan College](#)

Curriculum Enrichment Opportunity – Rugby and Football Academy

Students in Year 11 with an interest in rugby or football, a potential college pathway you may wish to consider is the **Tyne Metropolitan College Rugby Academy** or **The Blyth Spartans Academy**. Taster sessions are being held during the Easter holidays, offering an opportunity to experience college-level training and provision. [Tynemet Rugby open event](#) [Blyth Spartan Football open event](#)

Open Events – Local Providers

Attending open events is strongly recommended as part of the post-16 decision-making process. These visits enable students to explore learning environments, speak with staff and understand course expectations. Please note: Submitting an application to a provider does not commit a student to enrolment but ensures a place is available.

Upcoming events include:

- [Tyne Metropolitan College – 5th May \(5:00–7:00pm\)](#)
 - [Newcastle College – 6th May \(5:00–7:00pm\)](#)
 - Northumberland College
 - [Ashington Campus – 5th May](#)
 - [Kirkley Hall Campus – 9th May](#)
 - [Gateshead College – 27th April](#)
 - [Northumbria Youth Action – 8th & 9th April](#)
 - [South Shields Marine School – 25th April](#)
-

Supporting Parents and Carers

Parents and carers play a vital role in supporting young people’s career development. The following resources provide impartial advice and guidance:

- [Further and Higher Education Career Tips for Parents - Talking Futures](#)
 - [Parents advice and resources | Skills for Careers](#)
 - [Help a young person make career choices | National Careers Service](#)
 - [Careers Advice for Parents | Youth Employment UK](#)
 - [Careermag for Parents | Careermap](#)
 - [Careers guidance and access | Parentkind](#)
 - [Careerpilot : Parent zone](#)
-

Mrs F Brennan

MARDEN

READS

Reading List

Here are some suggestions of books you might want to read over year 7.

(You should be trying to read at least

- The Enemy - *Charlie Higson*
- Cosmic - *Frank Cottrell Boyce*
- Wonder - *R.J Palacio*
- Treasure Island - *R.L Stevenson*
- The Adventure Series *Lee Tony*
- The Adventure of Huckleberry Finn - *Mark Twain*
- Blitzcat - *Robert Westall*
- Holes - *Louis Sachar*
- Stormbreaker - *Anthony Horowitz*
- The Hobbit - *J.R.R Tolkien*
- Madame Doubtfire - *Anne Fine*
- The Edge - *Alan Gibbons*
- Millions - *Frank Cottrell Boyce*

Want a challenge?

- War Horse - *Michael Morpurgo*
- Great Expectations - *Charles Dickens*
- The Lord of the Rings Trilogy - *J.R.R Tolkien*
- The Book Thief - *Marcus Zusak*
- The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes - *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*

Reading List

Here are some suggestions of books you might want to read over year 8.

(You should be trying to read at least one of these per half-term)

- The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes - *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*
- The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy - *Douglas Adams*
- The Hunger Games - *Suzanne Collins*
- After the First Death - *Robert Cormier*
- The Universe Versus Alex Woods - *Gavin Extance*
- The Enemy - *Charlie Higson*
- Cosmic - *Frank Cottrell Boyce*
- Carrie's War - *Nina Bawden*
- The Foreshadowing - *Marcus Sedgewick*
- The Northern Lights series - *Philip Pullman*
- Noughts and Crosses - *Malorie Blackman*
- Treasure Island - *R.L Stevenson*
- Martyn Pig - *Kevin Brooks*
- The Ruby in the Smoke - *Philip Pullman*
- Small Steps - *Louis Sachar*

Want a challenge?

- The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time - *Mark Haddon*
- Life of Pi - *Yann Martel*
- The Help - *Kathryn Stockett*
- Animal Farm - *George Orwell*
- Jane Eyre - *Charlotte Bronte*



MARDEN



READS

Reading List

Here are some suggestions of books you might want to read over year 9.

(You should be trying to read at least

Animal Farm - George Orwell

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time - Mark Haddon

Of Mice and Men - John Steinbeck

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian - Sherman Alexie

Looking for Alaska - John Green

Lord of the Flies - William Golding

The Help - Kathryn Stockett

Life of Pi - Yann Martel

Want a challenge?

Wuthering Heights - Emily Bronte

Junk - Melvin Burgess

1984 - George Orwell

The Catcher in the Rye - J.D. Salinger

The Great Gatsby - F.Scott Fitzgerald

Reading List

Here are some suggestions of books you might want to read over year 10 & 11.

(You should be trying to read at least

Tip! Try to get into the habit of reading newspapers too! This will help for your

1984 - George Orwell

Animal Farm - George Orwell

A Room with a View - E.M. Forster

The Book Thief - Markus Zusak

Brighton Rock - Graham Greene

Catch 22 - Joseph Heller

The Catcher in the Rye - J.D. Salinger

The Color Purple - Alice Walker

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time - Mark Haddon

David Copperfield - Charles Dickens

East of Eden - John Steinbeck

Frankenstein - Mary Shelley

The Grapes of Wrath - John Steinbeck

The Great Gatsby - F.Scott Fitzgerald

The Help - Kathryn Stockett

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings - Maya Angelou