



Friday 24th April 2026

Parent and carer survey

As you are aware, we are always very keen to hear parents' views of their own children's experiences at school. I hope, therefore, that all parents will take a few moments to complete our summer term questionnaire which is linked in this newsletter, as the more responses we have, the clearer the picture is to us of our areas of strength and areas for development. We will soon be working on our School Development Plan for next year, and the findings from this parent survey will feed into the content of this important working document. The survey can be found at [this link](#) and has been emailed directly to all parents and carers. The survey will close at the end of Friday 8th May, and I will feedback findings thereafter. I look forward also to seeing parents and carers at my next parent forum meeting at 5.30pm on 11th June.

Coding Competition

We have now received our results from this year's Perse Coding Competition, and our students have performed extremely well. Both of our teams earned a place on the leaderboard, finishing 115th out of more than 750 schools. Even more notably, their score ranked them as the 6th highest-performing state school within the top 150. This placed them alongside some of the country's biggest independent schools, including some specialist programming colleges in London and Dubai, as well as Eton College and, closer to home, RGS. Both teams performed exceptionally well and put in a lot of hard work, answering questions that were often at A level and beyond.

Proud of our Work

This week we held our face to face Proud of our Work (POW) evening for Year 7. This was a great opportunity for Year 7 parents and carers, together with their children, to come in and look at their children's books ahead of the forthcoming Parents' Evening. There was a high turn out and it was a great opportunity to have parents/carers in the school building. It was also very rewarding to see so many fruitful conversations between parents/carers with their children about their learning. We look forward to the Parents' Evening when we will no doubt continue to celebrate the excellent progress the children are making.

Literacy

As you are no doubt aware, Ms Taylor puts out literacy activities and notices each week for students and staff, and I thought this week I would share some of those with everyone. I know that many of our parents and carers have weekly conversations about these activities with their children, and this is a great way to

encourage the children to get involved and develop a lifelong love of reading and all things literacy, such an essential life skill, as well as bringing much pleasure.

- Weekly LRC Challenge! The Library Club has created a weekly challenge for students to complete either in their own time or in the LRC at lunchtimes.
- Reflection Time Oracy. Presentation slides are shared with Literacy Leaders via email ahead of delivering the session so that the students can lead a class discussion in each form.
- Whole School Literacy Leaders/Library Club now in the LRC every lunchtime.

All of the detailed information and links for the above is available in the Form Time Google Classroom which can be accessed by the students. Again, this is a good trigger for those conversations that parents and carers can have with their children about what they have been doing during their week.

Uniform

We often receive positive comments about how smart and responsible our students appear around school and in the local community as they wear their uniforms with pride. The Marden uniform is worn well and represents the community we are part of and reflects the pride there is in being part of it. It is important that we provide value to our community with the purchasing of the uniform and so we continue to identify ways to ensure all students can access good quality uniform at an affordable cost. One way we are able to support families is by providing uniform from school when something is missing or damaged. This supply is supported through the 'pre-loved' scheme where families donate uniform no longer needed to the school. We wash the items donated and ensure they are in good condition before redistributing and therefore thank anyone, in advance, who might be in a position to donate spare uniform to our reception. We will always be able to make good use of it.

Holiday food vouchers

There have been changes recently to the free school meal system in the country and therefore, the HAF programme in North Tyneside has adapted. Therefore, holiday food vouchers which were previously issued by the Participation Team at North Tyneside Council, are now distributed twice a year (winter and summer) for a value of £65. Please feel free to contact participation@northtyneside.gov.uk should you have any questions.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher