



Friday 8th May 2026

Excellence

Marden High School is a consistently successful school, and its students achieve great outcomes - we are looking forward to another great set of exam results this summer. Parents want their children to come here - we are oversubscribed in every year group - and professionals want to work here. Reports that are written about us - whether in the Shields Gazette, The Parliamentary Review, or from our own governors - invariably celebrate our brilliant value added outcomes, the excellent attendance and behaviour of our students, and the exciting and engaging opportunities we provide for our children. Visitors to the school always comment on the engagement and enjoyment they see around the school, and the courtesy they experience from students. This does not happen by accident. Staff, students, parents, and governors have worked hard over many years to set these high standards and expectations, and it is down to us all to continue to work hard and build on this legacy so that standards and expectations can be maintained and enhanced still further. There are certain ways that we do things here at Marden, and this results in our culture:

- Show respect
- Take responsibility
- Focus on the learning

It is useful for us all to think from time to time about this culture and to remind ourselves of the importance of doing these things all the time, day in and day out. After all, *"Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, and intelligent execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives – choice, not chance, determines your destiny. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."* (Aristotle)

Drama

Year 10 GCSE Drama students recently performed their devised performances to an invited audience of family and friends. This component requires students to work together to create original plays in response to stimulus material. This year, the audience enjoyed three pieces: 'Clockwork Calamity' which explored belonging, 'Everything Is Fine Now' exploring immigration and the impact of deportation on family life. The final performance, 'The Web' focused on the impact of social media. In addition, one of our students chose to be assessed on costume design; designing and making complex costumes for some of the performers. All three performances were exceptional and audience members were very impressed with the high standards of work produced by our students.

Sports Report

Our Year 11 boys football team played their North Tyneside Cup semi final game on Wednesday afternoon, making the short trip to John Spence. The boys were in buoyant mood before the game, but were put under pressure from the hosts for much of the first half. It was the final 5 minutes before the break before the Marden team were able to break the deadlock when a rasping shot from outside the box was parried by the goalkeeper straight into the path of the Marden players following up, which resulted in a simple tap in to make it 1-0. Two minutes later, a pinpoint cross from the right touchline found the Marden striker at the back post for another goal just before the whistle. The John Spence team rallied in the second half as they scored from outside the box to make it 2-1 heading into the final 10 minutes. Despite the pressure, Marden hit back next with a well taken goal, chipping the keeper from 20 yards out and with it, taking the game away from the hosts. There was time for one more Marden goal when a thunderous shot from distance took a wicked deflection and spun beyond the outstretched hand of the keeper and into the net to make the final score 4-1. The boys will play their final game as a Marden team in the final next Thursday. We wish them the very best of luck.

Our Year 10 boys tennis team were also playing on Wednesday night, as they travelled down the coast road to take on Jesmond Park Academy. In what was their first game this year, the Marden boys played extremely well, proving the winter cobwebs had well and truly been blown away. Each Marden player won their singles game and then both doubles games to take the match 12-0. The games were not as easy as the scoreline suggests, with all players having to dig deep to secure the win. They move on to their next game against Kings Priory in great spirits.

Year 11

Year 11 students have been working very hard in the run up to their exams. They have already completed their French and German speaking and German listening as well as Photography and Art practical exams. Students have also sat their Drama this week. We have all been very impressed with their tenacity, resilience and independent work. Mrs Robson delivered [this](#) presentation to Year 11 students last week, regarding their conduct in exams, key dates and results information. Due to their continued hard work, in Marden tradition, Year 11 will be able to come in non-uniform from Monday 11th May, when the bulk of their exams start.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher