



Friday 15th May 2026

Exams start

This week has seen the main bulk of the GCSE exams start, and it has to be said that our students have approached them in the way that we thought they would - with a serious, mature and, at times, enthusiastic approach. I am sure that they will continue in this vein, and that our students will continue with the careful and effective preparation they have done so far.

New staff for September

We have made some exciting staffing appointments over the past months in readiness for September, in response to a number of retirements.

Mrs Robson - Headteacher

Ms Power - Deputy Head

Mrs Mallaburn - Business Manager

Mrs Dyke - Specialist Support Assistant

Miss Lively - Specialist Support Assistant

Mrs Dowse-Thewlis - Specialist Support Assistant

Miss Crozier - teacher of French and German

Ms Wright - teacher of French and German

Mrs Cowan - Attendance and Home School Liaison Leader

Miss Bickley - teacher of PE

Miss Dunn - teacher of PE (maternity cover for Mrs Stafford)

Mr Richards will take over the Head of Year role for Year 10 whilst Mrs Stafford is on maternity leave

I would like to wish all our new staff the very best for their future careers at Marden. I know that they are all very excited about their new roles at Marden and I am sure that they will thrive professionally and contribute hugely to our community.

House updates

Following a massive congratulations to Dunstanburgh for their well earned and hard fought battle in winning the House Trophy for 2025/26, students now embark on the House Competition for next year. The opportunity for students to grab house points has soared over the recent weeks. At the end of March we had our History House Competition with students from Year 7-11 showcasing their enthusiasm and effort in History alongside the crowning of our first House Hero, an accolade we will be looking to present to many

of our students as the competition progresses. The following week saw our first Mystery House Challenge with students putting their scientific knowledge to the test working out how to use a vortex to remove an object from the water without spilling a drop. On Tuesday this week we had our very first House TV quiz. The focus of our quiz this week was Geography, where students took on three segments, segment one 'The Drop' seeing students guess the continent from the clues after being dropped into google earth street view. Alnwick and Warkworth had a strong start both gaining a host of points with Alnwick in the lead, Dunstanburgh and Bamburgh had catching up to do. Segment two looked at students trying to guess famous landmarks from blurry images, again a strong start from Alnwick, but points were claimed by Dunstanburgh and Bamburgh. Going into the final round Alnwick had a strong lead with Warkworth in second followed by a tied Dunstanburgh and Bamburgh. The final round was the local challenge and saw Mr. Jilley take off around the school to three different locations with a point scored by Warkworth early on, but the rest of the points were mopped up by Alnwick. A dominant performance by Alnwick saw them claim the first ever Marden House Quiz and 200 extra points for their House. Whilst the house captains battled it out in person form groups attempted to be the quickest to send in their answers, with the fastest form being Mrs Mannions who has distributed her 100 house points amongst the four houses. This week sees our Marden Geographers take on the House Geography Competition and the crowning of another House Hero, with the winners being announced next week alongside a certificate to celebrate their hard work. Upon returning from half-term we will see another Mystery House Challenge with a theme around football and another subject seeing its House Competition begin - lots to look forward to!

Governors

There has been a great response to our call for applications for co-opted governors and Dr Stewart, the Chair of Governors, and I have been in the fortunate position of conducting interviews to select who would be the best fit. The Governing Body met this week for the penultimate Full Board meeting of the year. There was the usual very full agenda with many standing items including this week an excellent presentation from Mrs Robson on Marden's Self Evaluation Document. This is an important document, and it does 'what it says on the tin', in other words it is our own assessment of our strengths and areas for development, and this would be used by, for example, OFSTED, before they came to inspect us. I will be sharing some key aspects of this analysis with everyone via this newsletter next week.

Sports report

Our Year 8 cricket team played their first match last Thursday, making the long trip West to play Hexham Middle School in the first round of the county cup. The hosts won the toss and decided to bat first, setting a huge score of 117 from their 20 overs of play. This target proved too much for the Marden team to chase down, who gave it a valiant effort, falling just short by managing to score 99 runs in their innings. A great first game of the season for the team, who will look to progress in their upcoming fixtures after half term.

Athletics season got off to a great start with all of our athletes from Year 7 to Year 10 competing in the North Tyneside competitions this week. The Year 9 and 10 pupils travelled to Monkton Stadium on Tuesday

afternoon with many of them coming away with a top 3 finish. The Year 7 and 8 pupils took part in the Tynemouth Area prelims at St Thomas More on Wednesday afternoon, and are eagerly awaiting the results to see if they progress to the next round.

And finally, we would like to congratulate the Year 8 and Year 11 boys football teams on their fantastic North Tyneside Cup wins this week. The Year 8 team played on Monday afternoon against Wellfield Middle School. Both teams played the first half with much enthusiasm, but it was the Marden team that held the half time lead 3-0 via a penalty and two well taken long range strikes. The Wellfield team came out strong after the break, but Marden took charge of the game with 3 more smartly finished goals to stretch the lead to 6-0. Well done to all and worthy winners.

The Year 11 team played on Thursday evening at North Shields FC's ground against their old rivals St Thomas More. Having lost the last tie between the two teams, Marden knew that they would need to up their game in this, their final game together. In a tense game, Marden scored first and battled hard to keep the lead. Midway through the second half they doubled their lead with a sublime long range effort finding the top corner. St Thomas More scored a late free kick to make it a nervy final few minutes but Marden held on to take the win and lift the trophy. A fantastic way to end their Marden football careers.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher