



Friday 22nd May 2026

Summer half term 1

We have managed to pack a huge amount into this first summer half term. Our Year 11s have made a great start to their GCSEs, Year 10s will soon be stepping up to their positions of responsibility as senior students and prefects, and key stage 3 students continue with their excellent engagement and achievement both in and out of the classroom, something commented upon by the many visitors we have had in the school in recent weeks. There has been a lot going on, and I hope you are able to take time to dip into our half termly newsletter where you will get an insight into some of the detail of what has been happening in subject areas.

Marden She Wrote

Another year, and in its 'prime', *Marden She Wrote 2026: Steak-Out* was launched to Year 8 students last week with the secret of the stolen steak. Throughout the study, students will conduct careful investigation, using deduction and inference, to solve this masterful Marden mystery. We look forward to a range of critical and creative theories, supported by evidence and reasoning in a variety of written and spoken formats, before the culprit is finally revealed in a thrilling conclusion later this term. Part one and two are available now through the [English subject cloud](#). You may wish to propose a theory of your own!

Celebrations

Next week we are supporting members of our school community celebrating the Muslim holiday Eid al-Adha. Eid al-Adha, or the Holiday of Sacrifice, is the second and the larger of the two main holidays celebrated in Islam. "Eid Mubarak" is the traditional phrase used to greet people during the Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha celebrations, therefore to all those celebrating this month; a heartfelt Eid Mubarak. Meanwhile, early next month we have Race Unity Day. At Marden we are proud to have a diverse community of students, staff and others involved in our school. The purpose of the day is to raise awareness to the importance of racial harmony and understanding, and is in line with our school values. June is also Pride Month; a month dedicated to celebration and commemoration of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender pride. Pride Month began after the Stonewall riots, a series of gay liberation protests in 1969, and has since spread outside of the United States. All these celebrations are signs of agency, hope and leadership, our core values at Marden. It's with great pride that we celebrate everyone's individuality at Marden as we continue to promote diversity, equality and inclusion.

Funding opportunity

We have been contacted by Newcastle Royal Grammar School regarding an opportunity for a student planning to study at least 1 modern foreign language at A-Level, and is likely to study languages at university. Thanks to some recent funding from an alumnus of the school, the RGS have a fully-funded 6th form bursary available from September 2026. The funder has also indicated that they would like to support the student through university – it really is an incredible opportunity. Although the regular admissions season is now over and this opportunity comes late in the school year, if this is something that resonates and would be an opportunity you'd like to explore, please contact Mr Anderson via d.anderson@mardenhigh to discuss further.

Lost property

We have a large amount of lost property currently in school, including some rather expensive-looking coats that have not been claimed for some time. Unfortunately, due to a lack of storage space, we are unable to keep lost property in school indefinitely. Students are able to enquire about lost property at reception every day before and after school and also at break times. It is also on display in the LRC on a Thursday after school. As part of our Schools of Sanctuary programme, we support “Walking With”, a charity that advocates for Asylum seekers and Refugees living in North Tyneside. Any items not claimed by 12th June will be donated to this very worthy cause.

Sports report

The U15 tennis teams were in action this week, with the boys team travelling to play St Mary's Catholic School. In a tough game, the boys played well but were eventually outplayed by their opponents, who won the tie 10-2. The girl's tennis team made the short hop to Kings Priory on Wednesday afternoon for their Northumberland Schools fixture. Having previously rained off, the weather held out for the girls to play some spectacular tennis. The girls played four singles games and two doubles games across the fixture, winning 3 out of the four singles and both doubles games to make the result 10-2. The girls will look forward to their next fixture, away to RGS, Newcastle, after the half term break.

Year 11 assembly

Today we have our final Year 11 assembly held in the auditorium. Always a poignant moment, this will be a great celebration of the students' time here at Marden as we look back over the years. We are 2 weeks into the main exams now, and it has to be said that the attitudes and demeanour of Year 11 has been excellent, as we would all expect, and I am sure that will continue through the rest of the exam season.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher