



Friday 12th June 2026

Self evaluation

As mentioned previously, the Governing Body has been discussing our Self Evaluation Document recently. We have based this document around the new Ofsted Framework to be sure that we are meeting the expectations which have been set out by the government and by which we are measured. The new Ofsted framework replaces single-word judgments with detailed Report Cards. Instead of a single grade like "Good" or "Outstanding", schools and nurseries are given color-coded grades across multiple key areas, allowing parents to see exactly where a provider excels and where they need to improve. We have done the same in our Self Evaluation Document, and have described strengths and areas for improvement in:

- Inclusion: How well the setting meets the needs of all children, particularly those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) or from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Curriculum and Teaching: How lessons are planned, taught, and sequenced.
- Achievement: How well pupils progress and reach their potential.
- Attendance and Behaviour: How the school encourages positive routines and reduces absence.
- Personal Development and Well-being: Support for pupils' social, emotional, and moral growth.
- Leadership and Governance: How leaders manage the school and support staff well-being

Key strengths:

- Our curriculum and teaching results in strong academic outcomes. For example, for the last three years, the school's performance has been significantly above the national average for headline attainment measures, including the overall Attainment 8 score and the percentage of pupils achieving English and mathematics at grades 4 and 5 or above.
- Attendance and behaviour - overall attendance for all pupils is consistently "Above" national averages. Furthermore, persistent absence is significantly below the national average, indicating strong engagement across the student body. Suspensions are below national averages and student voice indicates that students feel safe at school.
- Personal development and wellbeing - high levels of pastoral support make Marden a school of choice for parents. Students learn how to stay safe. There are opportunities for student leadership and extra curricular activities as well as a well embedded house system which contribute to a culture of belonging and community.

Key areas for development:

- To reduce any gaps in student outcomes for key groups of students, including pupil premium and SEND.
- To further reduce the number of children who are persistently absent.
- To ensure that the attainment of higher prior attaining students is maintained at a high level.

The Big Future

We have been contacted by the Children's Commissioner, regarding helping children at Marden take part in a national survey, The Big Future. The findings will help inform national conversations and decision-making about children's lives and futures at the highest levels. Direct student participation is essential to ensuring that young people's voices are heard and represented, therefore next week the survey will be shared with all students via email, but so you can also access it and support at home, the link can be found here too: <http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>

Attendance

As I am sure you will be aware, we monitor student attendance rates carefully here at Marden, and we are always on hand to encourage children to work towards 100% attendance, and to support our young people and their families with strategies to achieve this. Our own monitoring indicates that attendance rates at Marden are very good, and we have recently had shared with us data from the Department for Education which gives us a comparison with statistically similar schools nationally. This information puts schools into deciles, groups of 10%, and Marden is very high in a variety of metrics. This confirms that Marden students really do have excellent attendance, and that the help we are able to give when it is needed is effective. If any parent or carer requires further information about attendance strategies they should contact their child's Head of Year.

Sports report

Our U15 girls football team was invited to take part in the Foundation of Light Inspires Cup last Friday afternoon in Sunderland. 21 schools from across the region were invited to compete in what proved to be a very high level competition. The girls faced tough opponents in all of their games, playing Manor Academy, Wellfield School, Hetton Academy and St Leonards in their group matches. The team played very well throughout, managing a record of one win, two draws and a loss, meaning they finished third in the group, just missing out on progression to the quarter finals. In the same competition, two Year 10 pupils played for the Academy of Light team that progressed into the finals on the day. Well done to all pupils involved.

The Year 7 and 8 athletics teams travelled to Monkton Stadium in Jarrow last Thursday, competing in the North Tyneside Schools competition. Many of our pupils qualified for the event through the Tynemouth Schools competition in May and all performed brilliantly in their events. The top 3 in each event will go on to make up the North Tyneside team at the Northumberland Schools competition held at Gateshead International Stadium this Saturday and 13 Marden pupils made the cut. We wish them well and look forward to seeing how they perform.

Also last Saturday, the Northumberland Seniors Athletics competition took place at Wentworth track in Hexham. Pupils from Marden represented North Tyneside in the competition, facing off against the top athletes in the county. There were lots of 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishes for our pupils, which means that they will represent Northumberland in the Inter Counties competition at the same venue this weekend. A special mention to one of our Year 10 pupils who won the Inter Girls Hammer Throw event, with a distance which will qualify her to compete at the English Schools competition next month. A fantastic achievement and we wish all of our athletes good luck this weekend.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher