



Friday 19th June 2026

Hope, agency, and leadership

One of the wonderful aspects of being part of the Marden community is that every week I see demonstrations of those three very important attributes, hope, agency, and leadership. At Marden we look for every opportunity for students to develop and demonstrate those qualities. Because these things are so important, there are three key questions that I often ask students.

- What am I hoping for in my life?
- How can I exercise my agency - how can I change what I know needs changing?
- How do I show leadership - how do I persuade other people to do the right thing?

To help answer these it is sometimes useful to look further afield to see examples of what those qualities look like and of the many different examples I will sometimes use, I have been reminded recently of the legacy of two very different people, [Anne Frank](#) and [Kevin Sinfield](#), and of the inspiration that they have given so many people including ourselves. The qualities that they have demonstrated during their lives is reflected in our Marden Values Statement. For example:

“Within the Marden family, we know each other well and are kind to one another.

We see hope and opportunity for everyone, recognising the great range of talents we all have, and we leave no stone unturned in helping our young people to a bright future.

At Marden we are able to express our own personalities, confident that we will be supported in the achievement of our goals and dreams.

Our focus on student leadership helps develop our strong moral compass, giving our young people a global awareness and a sense of agency to shape a more equal society for the future.”

Each of our students is part of the hope that is our school community, looking forward to good things happening. In a world where so much of the news and media we receive is difficult to process, it is worth remembering that every act of kindness and helpfulness we make serves to change people's lives for the better, and the example that our young people set helps to lead other people in doing the right thing. So let's keep it going - we're doing really well!

School Cabinet charity

The money raised from this year's Marden's Got Talent has been donated to the [Northumberland National Park Mountain Rescue Team](#), which was the charity chosen by the School Cabinet. Volunteers from the team, along with 2 of their search and rescue dogs, came into school to meet with the Cabinet to talk about

their work and let us know how our money would be used. The team operate 2 rescue vehicles specially equipped with lifesaving equipment. Students were able to try out some of the equipment. What perhaps surprised us the most, was that the team do not just rescue people on mountains, but also play an important role in searching for missing people, often older people who may be confused, in our own community.

Lockdown

While the risk of attacks on schools is extremely rare, it is essential to have these lockdown procedures in place to protect children and staff from harm. Just as with a fire alarm, lockdown drills should be regularly carried out to ensure that all staff and students know how to respond during an emergency, and the Department for Education guidance recommends that schools carry out a lockdown practice at least once annually. Most students and staff have experienced a lockdown drill before, and for those who have not, there will be reassurance beforehand from form tutors about the relatively simple procedure which takes place. We will be running our next lockdown drill on Thursday June 25th. The expected response is for students to remain in the classroom with the staff in charge, who will secure the door and instruct students to remain calm and quiet, following the protocol outlined in our lockdown procedure. The drill is likely to last around 15 minutes. This forthcoming lockdown drill will be a really useful opportunity to become increasingly familiar with the lockdown procedure, and, of course, to evaluate how it goes and whether there are any tweaks we may need to make.

Sports report

Last weekend, 5 Marden High students from Year 10 and 11 represented Northumberland in the Inter-Counties Championship in Hexham. It is a great honour for any athlete to represent their County and those Marden pupils performed brilliantly in such an elite level competition. Four of the five athletes placed in the top 3 in their event, meaning they are at the very top of their respective age groups across the North of England. Three of these students, Fearne, Ben and Phoenix, attained scores in the Hammer throw and the 1,500m, to qualify them for the English Schools games next month held at Alexander Stadium in Birmingham, and have subsequently been selected by the county to be part of the 28 strong team for the event. This is an outstanding achievement and is testament to their hard work, dedication and exceptional talent. Another of the athletes, Noah, achieved a time in the 110m Hurdles to qualify for the National Athletics competition in Bedford next month, where he will hopefully represent his club at a National level. We wish all of our athletes the very best of luck in these competitions and are very proud of their achievements.



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