



Friday 26th June 2026

Geography fieldwork

Our Year 10 GCSE Geography students visited our local coastline this week to undertake their essential fieldwork investigations, which provide vital preparation for their Paper 3 exam next year. During the physical geography portion of the visit, students travelled to Blyth South Beach to investigate whether coastal management strategies are effectively reducing erosion. They engaged in hands-on data collection, including measuring sediment levels at groynes to track longshore drift and conducting bipolar surveys to evaluate the impact of hard engineering methods like sea walls and rock armour. The human geography component took place in Whitley Bay, where students examined the regeneration of the Spanish City. To assess the social and economic impact on the town, students performed Environmental Quality Assessments (EQA) and conducted questionnaires with local residents and business owners. This fieldwork is always a fantastic opportunity for students to apply classroom concepts to the real world while developing the analytical skills necessary for their upcoming examinations, and, needless to say, our students were a credit to themselves, their families and the school when out and about in the community.

Prefects

Year 10 students have been working to a deadline at the end of this week to apply to become a prefect. They have now submitted their letters of application to Mr Richards and Mrs Robson. This is a great opportunity for students to take on extra responsibilities and to enhance their leadership skills, and is always an impressive thing to talk about at interviews for sixth form, college, university and work. The purple tie that they wear is the outward sign that our students are prefects but it is worth remembering that it is the attitudes and standards shown by those in post that really reflect that position of leadership. Students will be informed of whether or not they have been successful at the end of next week. When the new year starts in September, there will be a student and staff vote to appoint our Head Prefects.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award expedition will take place next week, and excitement is building as students prepare for this rewarding challenge. The expedition will provide an opportunity for students to put into practice the teamwork and problem-solving skills they have been developing throughout the year as part of the award, while also demonstrating increasing leadership and agency as they make decisions, overcome challenges and support one another. We wish all of our Year 9 participants the very best of luck and look forward to hearing about their achievements and experiences when they return.

Visitors to school

This week, we were delighted to welcome colleagues from a number of other schools, including Whitley Bay High School and George Stephenson High School, who visited us to share and celebrate good practice in teaching and learning. The visits provided an opportunity for school leaders, heads of department, and teachers to spend time in classrooms, observing our teachers in action and seeing our students' learning first-hand. Our visitors were very impressed by the quality of experiences taking place across the school, particularly the excellent learning behaviours demonstrated by our students. They saw focused, purposeful lessons where children were confident to share their ideas, eager to explore new concepts, and fully engaged in their learning. They also praised the quality of teaching, highlighting the impact of clear explanations through explicit instruction, effective checking for understanding and the way teachers build knowledge over time. A particular strength identified was the important role of oracy, with visitors noting the positive routines teachers have established that enable students to express themselves confidently and effectively. Overall, the visits were a fantastic opportunity to reflect on the excellent work taking place in our classrooms and to celebrate the commitment of both our staff and students to high-quality learning.

UK Parliament Teacher Ambassador Programme

This week, Miss Lees has been in London taking part in the prestigious UK Parliament Teacher Ambassador programme at the Palace of Westminster. The programme consisted of tours around the Parliamentary estate, meeting Members of the House of Commons and House of Lords to learn about their work, as well as from staff based behind the scenes who help keep our democracy running. This year the programme received over 500 applications from teachers all across the UK, and Miss Lees was selected to be part of a cohort of 65 teachers. Miss Lees will be putting this training, expertise and resources to use in the next academic year, aiming to improve political provision and student engagement at Marden and work towards accreditation for the school. With the voting age being lowered to 16 in the near future, it has never been more pertinent for our students to develop a greater understanding of British democracy and our political system and we look forward to seeing how Miss Lees will lead on developing this here at Marden.

Sports Report

The Year 8 Basketball team were in action last Thursday afternoon as they hosted a strong Valley Gardens team in a friendly match. The visitors got off to a blistering start, moving the ball down court quickly and setting up opportunities to score, opening up a 12 point lead within the first 5 minutes. The Marden team in contrast, took a while to warm into the game, but kept the scoreboard ticking over and eventually found their rhythm late on in the half, to make the scoreline 9-18 to the Valley Gardens team at the break. Some positional changes made in the interval seemed to have worked wonders as Marden came back into the game with some quick baskets to reduce the deficit. With time running out, the score was close at 21-24, when Marden stole the ball and scored 3 times to take the lead with only a minute on the clock. They held

on to keep the lead and win the game 27-26. A fantastic comeback from the team who were delighted with their performance and the result. A great display of resilience and determination from all players involved.

On Saturday, many of our Year 7 and 8 athletes made the trip over the Tyne to represent the North Tyneside team in the Northumberland Schools Junior Athletics competition. Our pupils performed brilliantly with many of them finishing in first, second or third place. Well done to everyone involved.

A huge well done to our Year 7 Rounders team who competed brilliantly in their recent tournament at John Spence on Monday 22nd June, finishing an impressive 3rd place out of 7 teams. The team represented the school exceptionally well, demonstrating fantastic teamwork. Congratulations to all of the girls involved on an amazing achievement!

Other staff changes

Further to my newsletter of 15 May when I informed you of the exciting staff appointments we have made for September, we have also made a few internal changes in our staffing. From September 2026, Miss Laing will take up the new role of Assistant SENDCo, working alongside Mrs Reece to support the coordination and implementation of provision for students with SEND across all year groups. Mrs Sloan will then replace Miss Laing as Head of Year 10, and a planned handover is already underway to ensure a smooth transition and to maintain consistency and continuity in the pastoral support provided to the year group.

New timetables

On Monday 6th July all students will move to their timetables for the academic year 26/27. This is always an excellent opportunity for students to become familiar with their new classes and get to know their teachers. Year 9 into 10 will start their options subjects. Students will receive their new timetables next week. New Year 11 will receive theirs on their return from experience. This will be an A week and no Year 11 will have PE on this first Monday

Last day of term

The last day of term is Friday 17 July, and as per tradition, we will be finishing early on that day, so students will be dismissed at 1.20pm. Should there be any parents/carers who wish their children to remain in school until 3.15pm, please contact your child's Head of Year who will facilitate this.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher