



Friday 3rd July 2026

## **Literacy**

I often mention the importance of developing good literacy skills in our students, and certainly we place great emphasis on that in lessons and form time. It is always a pleasure to see Form Time *Reading for Pleasure* and *Reflection Time* sessions and to see examples of great Literacy Leadership. It has also been useful to hear the thoughtful feedback and ideas from students during student voice meetings, and I thought it would be good to share some of our observations so that everybody can understand the excellent work that goes on in this area:

- Students appreciate being able to sit and read as there are not many opportunities for this during the week.
- Students enjoy being able to chat about their books with their form tutors and one another, and like having 5 minutes at the end to discuss the 'book club questions' or what they are reading at the moment.
- Reflection Time is led by student Literacy Leaders and is actively facilitated by the form tutor prompting, challenging or developing the responses of students.

The long summer break is an excellent opportunity to spend some extended time with a good book, and I would strongly recommend that all of our students do this, and so benefit from the key skills of comprehension and concentration that reading develops.

## **Visit to Equinor**

We are delighted to share that our Year 9 students recently had the opportunity to visit Equinor, an international energy company with a strong focus on innovation, engineering and the transition to lower-carbon energy solutions. During the visit, students had a tour of the facility and completed an engineering task, while learning about the challenges and opportunities involved in meeting the world's future energy needs. The students represented the school exceptionally well, demonstrating enthusiasm, curiosity and excellent behaviour throughout the day. We are proud of how they engaged with the experience and hope it has inspired them to consider the wide range of exciting career pathways available within the energy sector.

## **Link with Northumbria University**

Eight Year 10 students recently attended a celebration event at Northumbria University, marking the successful completion of a six-month Orbyts project. Throughout the programme, our students worked alongside Master's students, developing their understanding of STEM through collaborative research and

mentoring. The conference included a Space Lab tour, student poster presentations, inspiring guest speakers, and a certificate presentation to recognise the students' commitment and achievements. It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate their hard work while gaining further insight into university life and careers in science and technology. We are incredibly proud of how our students represented the school and embraced this unique learning experience.

### **School of Sanctuary**

Marden High has been a School of Sanctuary since 2023 and last Thursday we were visited by North Tyneside's Schools of Sanctuary Team. They came to meet the students involved and talk to them about all the work they do around school. They applauded the efforts made by students to create a culture of welcome at Marden High. They were very impressed by all their hard work; delivering assemblies; creating personal development lessons; fundraising and raising awareness on issues of forced migration and asylum. They were delighted to re-accredit Marden High as a School of Sanctuary for another three years.

### **Mission to Mexico**

Each year in July our Y10 cohort are delivered the assembly relating to the 'M10 Mission to Mexico'; an annual trip to Mexico for a group of students who want to utilise their sense of agency to make a difference in a part of the world where their kindness can make a real difference. The assembly next Friday (10th July) will outline the schedule for the trip to Mexico and how the students who are interested can raise the required funds to partake in this voluntary community project. The following Monday (13th July) at 5pm there will be a chance for families to attend a briefing with Stephen Riley from M10 to hear further detail around the project. Having run for more than ten years, the 'mission' is to visit Mexico and build houses for local people in the area who need the support. Further information can be gathered by emailing M10 on [M10missions@gmail.com](mailto:M10missions@gmail.com)

### **Sports report**

On Monday evening, our Year 8 rounders team took part in the North Tyneside Rounders Tournament at John Spence High School. The team showed fantastic teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship throughout the competition. It was a highly competitive tournament with five schools taking part. Well done to everyone who represented the school so brilliantly and gave their best effort in every match. With no more fixtures in the diary for the remainder of the year, there will be a report of the sports day currently taking place in this newsletter next week.



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