



Friday 10th July 2026

Duke of Edinburgh Award

This year has been another outstanding year for the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award at Marden High School. Participation has continued to grow, with 116 students taking part in the expedition section, up from 77 in our first year and 97 last year. Of the 491 Bronze Award participants across North Tyneside, 116 were from Marden, highlighting the school's significant contribution to the award across the borough. Marden's 2025–26 Bronze Award completion rate of 73% far exceeds both the North Tyneside average of 31% and the national average of 40%, reflecting the commitment and resilience of our students and the support of staff, volunteers and families. After establishing the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme at Marden High School and leading it for the past three years, Mr Wallace will be handing over the reins to Ms Russell, and I would like to thank Mr Wallace for all the support he has given the students in their endeavours.

Made in Marden

This week our new Year 10 students continued developing their CV (curriculum vitae) documents that they began at the end of the Spring term. On Tuesday they reflected on their first drafts and looked to add further information which may have been missed last time or added during their past term. On Wednesday the redrafting took place, and this means that every child who has completed Year 9 and is now entering Year 10 has a CV of their experiences whilst at Marden High School. Next year this is rolling out across Key Stage 3 as part of the 'Made in Marden' Student Accreditation Programme where students will build up their learning and experience journeys to be able to take into the next stages of their education or employment.

Girls Get Set

This week our Girls Get Set STEM students visited Baker Hughes for their final graduation. The girls had an exciting day of activities, careers talks and a tour around their FPS (flexible pipe system) factory when they got to see the sheer scale of manufacture of their flexible pipes in action. The winners of the gold, silver and bronze award presentations were announced, with Marden High School ending up victorious again. Our Gold award students, 'The Traitors', won the Innovation award and our mixed bronze and silver students came out top against some stiff competition from other schools winning the overall best project title. Our team 'P.Navi' was made up of Year 9 students and they wowed the judges with their confidence, depth of detail and the addition of an AI generated image of a vessel to transport their carbon capture. It showed just how engaged the girls were in every step of their project work with Baker Hughes. We'd like to congratulate them all for their hard work and effort as they all received their gold, silver or bronze cadet awards at the end of the day. The day was topped off with a guest speaker appearance from an ex Marden student who will be starting her apprenticeship with Baker Hughes in September. It was lovely for the girls

to hear how her hard work with Baker Hughes and her determination to keep in contact with them since leaving Marden has paid off. She will be working at their NETIC site and has already fitted so well into Baker Hughes.

Ofsted

This week we welcomed a team of inspectors from Ofsted into the school. They spent the first part of the week observing standards in classrooms, talking to lots of different student groups, and in various interviews with staff, as well as analysing data, routines and systems. During their time here at Marden, we felt that they got to understand our ethos and culture and made lots of positive and complimentary observations about the high quality of provision that children received here. I would like to thank parents and students for their engagement in the Ofsted surveys and meetings that took place. The sense of us all belonging to the Marden community clearly came through. The report won't be published until September, at which time we will let everyone know the official outcome.

Arts and Minds

The Teachers' Union (NASUWT) held an Arts and Minds competition for students to produce a piece based around Equality and Diversity. There were some excellent entries including painting, collage, and sculpture, from all across the North East, making it very hard for Emma Shankland, Durham Bannermakers, and Ms Mellor, chair of North East Equalities committee, to choose prize winners. It was good to see several entries from Marden High, and great to see one of our Year 9 students on the winners' podium for her entry focusing on disability. All winners received vouchers for themselves and the Art department and have been invited for an award ceremony at the Radisson Blu in Durham.

Sports Day

Last week on Friday we enjoyed our annual Sport Day event here at Marden, with all pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 competing in a full athletics competition, supported by the full staff body. It was amazing to see such passion and determination from our young people, with all those involved displaying fantastic sportsmanship and determination throughout. The competitors battled it out for points for their House team, as well as for personal glory, and the outcome could not have been much closer. Our congratulations go to the winning houses in each Year group, with Bamburgh House winning the Year 7 competition and Alnwick House winning the Year 8 and 9 trophies. The House with the most cumulative points across all Year groups is declared the overall winning house, and this Year that honour went to Bamburgh House, in the most fiercely fought contest we have had in many years. Congratulations to everyone in Bamburgh House and a huge well done to everyone that took part in the day.

Sports report

On Monday, our Year 7 Girls and the Year 8 Boys cricket teams took part in the North Tyneside 8-a-side, U13 Softball Cricket Competition at Tynemouth Cricket Club. The students spent the whole day competing against other schools from the area in a league format. Even though it was their first ever time playing

together, the girls played superbly and managed to achieve joint second place, winning 3 of their 5 games. A fantastic achievement in their debut for Marden. The boys team went one better, winning all of their games to become North Tyneside Champions. A fantastic achievement and well done to all involved.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'M. Snape'.

Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher