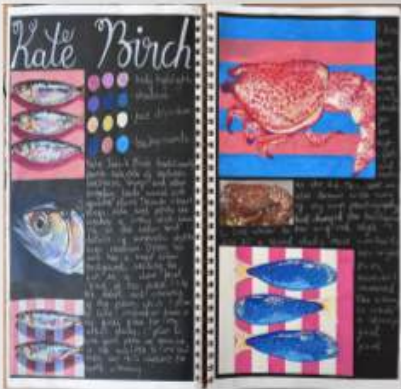




MARDEN NEWS

Autumn 2026 Half Term Edition



Art pieces from this half term.

Featuring

Message from
The Headteacher

Art &
Photography

Computing

History

Maths

MFL

Music



Friday 23rd October 2026

Dear all,

My final newsletter of half term closes what has been a purposeful and enjoyable start to the academic year. Thanks to all staff, students and parents/carers for all of the hard work and support.

Appointments

At the end of December **Mr Anderson** will be leaving us for an exciting new position as Head of School at Seaton Valley. Mr Anderson has been an integral part of our Senior Leadership Team (SLT) for a number of years and, although we wish him well in his new role, he will be a big miss to our school community. After a competitive and rigorous application process I am pleased to say that we will welcome **Mr Close-Ash** in January who will be our new Assistant Headteacher for Behaviour and Attendance. **Dr Margaret Stewart**, who has served Marden for a number of years as our Chair of Governors, has now stepped down from this role. **Mairi Bell** (pictured right), parent governor, has taken on the role as our new chair of governors. We thank Dr Stewart for the time and dedication that she has invested in Marden during her tenure. We have also welcomed a new cover supervisor to Marden, **Ms Petherbridge**. Ms Petherbridge joins our cover team who take lessons when staff are absent from school.



New menus

				
WEEK 1	MAIN 1	MAIN 2	VEGETABLES OF THE DAY	GAS OF THE DAY
MONDAY	BEET STEAK & CHICKEN MEDITERRANEAN SALAD RICE & BREAD	GRILLED CHICKEN MEDITERRANEAN SALAD RICE & BREAD	GRILLED CHICKEN MEDITERRANEAN SALAD RICE & BREAD	GRILLED CHICKEN MEDITERRANEAN SALAD RICE & BREAD
TUESDAY	GRILLED CHICKEN MEDITERRANEAN SALAD RICE & BREAD	GRILLED CHICKEN MEDITERRANEAN SALAD RICE & BREAD	GRILLED CHICKEN MEDITERRANEAN SALAD RICE & BREAD	GRILLED CHICKEN MEDITERRANEAN SALAD RICE & BREAD
WEDNESDAY	GRILLED CHICKEN MEDITERRANEAN SALAD RICE & BREAD	GRILLED CHICKEN MEDITERRANEAN SALAD RICE & BREAD	GRILLED CHICKEN MEDITERRANEAN SALAD RICE & BREAD	GRILLED CHICKEN MEDITERRANEAN SALAD RICE & BREAD
THURSDAY	GRILLED CHICKEN MEDITERRANEAN SALAD RICE & BREAD	GRILLED CHICKEN MEDITERRANEAN SALAD RICE & BREAD	GRILLED CHICKEN MEDITERRANEAN SALAD RICE & BREAD	GRILLED CHICKEN MEDITERRANEAN SALAD RICE & BREAD
FRIDAY	GRILLED CHICKEN MEDITERRANEAN SALAD RICE & BREAD	GRILLED CHICKEN MEDITERRANEAN SALAD RICE & BREAD	GRILLED CHICKEN MEDITERRANEAN SALAD RICE & BREAD	GRILLED CHICKEN MEDITERRANEAN SALAD RICE & BREAD

The [new menus](#) have been released from Dolce and are now on the website ready for after half term. A reminder that the menus are on the website and also on display near the PE corridor. Each menu runs for a half term and on a three weekly cycle. A reminder that there are four food outlets available at lunchtime:

- The Street Kitchen
- Casa Brasilia - Afro-Portuguese and Peri Peri
- The Italian Kitchen
- Boxt
- Toast Office

Students can also purchase a range of snacks and breakfast options at break time. In line with our allergy policy, chalkboards display allergens for the meals on offer.



Visitors with pets

In line with our school allergy policy, we kindly ask all visitors, parents and carers to refrain from bringing pets into the school reception area. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping us maintain a safe environment for all of our students, visitors, and staff. Mrs Loader, our Allergy Lead, can be contacted at e.loader@mardenhigh.net if you have any questions or require any further information.

Policy Reviews

Our attendance and behaviour policies are due for their annual review in December. Taking into account statutory changes such as mobile phones and allergies, we are keen to involve staff, parents/carers and students in this review. If as a parent/carer you are interested in being part of a small focus group as part of a consultation period, please contact Mr Anderson before the 6th November via email (d.anderson@mardenhigh.net).

Sports report from Mr Smith

Our cross country teams made the short trip to Monkseaton to take part in the North Tyneside Schools competition on Tuesday. Despite the blustery and cold conditions, our pupils performed superbly, with many achieving top 10 placings. This means they will qualify for the North Tyneside team that will compete at the Northumberland County event held in the new year. While we await the official times and placings being released, we congratulate all of those that took part and wish those selected for the North Tyneside team the very best of luck in the next competition.

Monday proved to be a great day for our Year 8 Netball Team, who won both their matches in a CVL at John Spence. The girls worked hard from start to finish with some fantastic passes and great defending. Well done to all the girls on two well deserved wins!

And finally a great effort was shown from the U16 girls football team on Wednesday, coming away from the CVL at John Spence with a loss, a draw and a 3-1 win in their first matches of the season. Brilliant teamwork and determination shown from all!

Houses assemblies

We have had an exciting week of house assemblies this week led by Mr Pennington. Students have had their photograph taken as a house team and House Captains have been announced. Working as a team ties in with our thought for the week below from Edward Everett Hale.



Have a great half term!

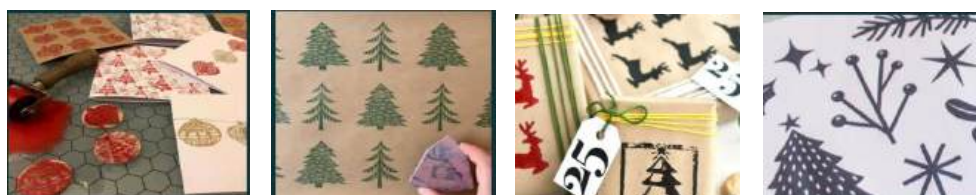
Mrs K Robson
Head Teacher



It has been a fantastic start to the academic year in the Arts, and well done to all of our students who are working hard, embracing new opportunities, and making the most of their lesson experiences. Across the department, Year 7 have begun exploring Underwater through key formal elements, Year 8 are studying their favourite foods in Truly Scrumptious, and Year 9 are blending design and culture with Trainers and Urban Art Styles. Higher up, our GCSE Art students are developing personal ideas around Nature and Destroy and Distort, while GCSE Photography students are pushing themselves creatively and technically through Horror and Destroy and Distort.

Beyond the classroom, we are running a North East Landscape Photography Competition open to all year groups—students can email their original (and optionally edited) landscape photos to the Head of Art and Photography at c.olbrecht@mardenhigh.net

Finally, we are hosting a Christmas Printing Workshop to make custom wrapping paper, labels and cards on Thursday 3rd December from



5:00pm until 7:00pm at a cost of £15 per adult/student. Places can be booked and paid for at reception with cash or card.

Thank you for your continued support as our students kick off what promises to be an inspiring year!





Miss C Olbrecht



With the November mocks fast approaching, Year 11 students should now be well into their revision for GCSE Computer Science and BTEC Digital IT.

To support students with their preparation, revision sessions are available every Wednesday lunchtime in IT2 with Mrs Joyce and Mr Townshend.

These sessions are a great opportunity for students to:

- Ask questions about topics they are finding difficult
- Get help with revision
- Practise exam-style questions
- Review areas they are less confident with
- Get some extra support ahead of the mocks

All Year 11 students are welcome — please encourage your child to attend if they feel they would benefit from some additional support.

The GCSE Computer Science and BTEC Digital IT mocks will take place in November, week commencing Monday 9th November.

Students should be well into their revision by now and making regular use of the resources available to them.

If students are unsure about what they should be revising or need help with a particular topic, they should speak to their subject teacher. We are always happy to point them in the right direction and provide additional support where needed.



There is still time to purchase a GCSE Computer Science or BTEC Digital IT revision guide to support revision at home.

Revision guides can be purchased through ParentPay. We strongly recommend that students make use of a revision guide alongside their class notes, revision resources and exam practice.

The earlier students start revising, the more manageable the process becomes — don't leave it until the week before the mocks!

The next few weeks are an important opportunity for students to build their confidence and make sure they are fully prepared for their November mocks. Regular revision + asking for help when needed = better preparation and greater confidence.

Mrs D Joyce



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Term 1 | October 2026

Welcome to the Department

Welcome to the first edition of our History Department Newsletter for the academic year! Whether investigating ancient empires or analyzing modern global diplomacy, studying history equips students with critical thinking, analytical writing, and evaluation skills. Our goal this term is to foster curiosity and deepen our students' understanding of how past events shape our world today.

What We're Learning This Term

- **Key Stage 3 (Years 7–9)**
 - **Year 7: *The Roman Empire*** - students will be investigating the different elements of the Roman Empire
 - **Year 8: *Elizabethan England***— Investigating how Elizabeth dealt with social, economic and political issues during her reign.
 - **Year 9: *The First World War*** — Analyzing the causes of the Conflict, trench warfare, and the social impact on the Home Front.
- **Key Stage 4 (Years 10–11 / GCSE History)**
 - **Health and the People** - Medieval, Renaissance, Industrial Britain and Modern Day development of medicine through time.
 - Year 11 will be moving on to their final unit Norman England after the mock exams
 - Year 10 students will be moving on to America 1920-973 after they have completed the Health and the People unit.



Year 11 support outside of lessons

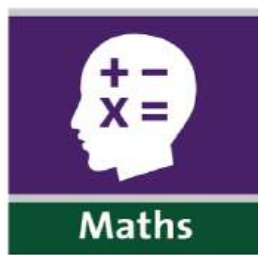
- **GCSE Revision Drop-Ins:** Wednesday lunchtimes with Mr Pennigton and Mrs Thompspon and Friday lunchtimes with Miss Swearman. During these sessions staff will be on hand for targeted exam techniques, and content review.

Upcoming Events

- **Remembrance Assembly** - The History Department will be leading a whole school assembly focusing on three local men. Our theme will be "More than just a name"
- **Holocaust Memorial Day 2027** - We will be taking part in North Tyneside's annual Holocaust Memorial Day with a small group of students presenting at the event.

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs A Thompson



A busy time within the Maths department, year 11 students are fully focussed on maximising the time they have left at Marden High. Extra revision and support for year 11 takes place on a Monday after school in what we call the Aftermath so please ensure your child is attending. In addition to this we have had an excellent uptake for further maths and the sessions held by Miss Cotterill have been very well attended and received. Again this takes place after school on Mondays.

We have held two maths support evenings this term one aimed at key stage 3 and the other at key stage 4. Both evenings were very well attended and received. The aim of the evening was to promote the subject and give parents the knowledge, resources and advice they need to best support their child in maths.

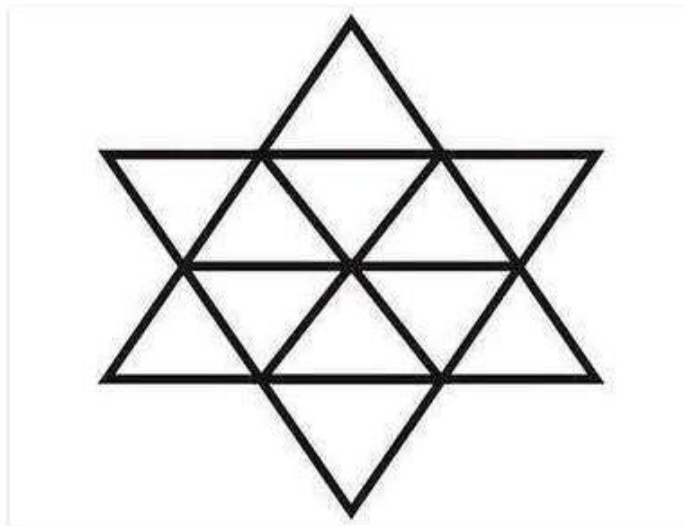
Maths in the real world.

Platonic solids are those 3d shapes that are made up of regular 2d shapes, there are 5 Platonic solids that exist and these are tetrahedron, cube (hexahedron), octahedron, dodecahedron, and icosahedron. Research into viruses have found that some of the most virulent are in the shape of a platonic solid. A few examples are **Icosahedron**: 20 triangular faces which form the predominant geometric blueprint for spherical viruses like HIV, poliovirus, and herpesviruses. Research has shown that these viruses do this to reduce their DNA making themselves more effective in getting past the human body's defense system



Puzzle Time

1.) How many triangles are in this picture ?



Mr M Hiscock



KS4 UPDATE

Year 11 students are currently making excellent progress in the exam preparation for the mock sessions and are working on information about their local area. They are also beginning preparation for speaking exams which will take place at the start of December

Y10 have begun work on family and relationships and have just produced some fantastic soap opera presentations

PARIS TRIP

At the end of last term we took 50 Year 9 students on our annual trip to Paris. We were blessed with some great weather and a fantastic time was had by all. We cruised along the Seine, ate lunch under the Eiffel Tower, visited a fromagerie and bought lunch ingredients in a market. The highlight for many was the trip to Disney on the final day. As always, the students were a credit to the school.



LANGUAGES BAKE-OFF

Last week we held the annual bake-off to celebrate the European Day of Languages. We had a lot of entries, depicting languages from all over the world. Entries included a German apple cake, a Kazakhstan flag, Sushi cakes, an Eiffel Tower and many more. Choosing a winner was extremely difficult but a decision was made and the winners will receive House points and an MFL prize.

The Great Languages Bake Off



1ST

2ND

3RD

4TH

1st Prize = Robyn Goicoechea, Grace Bibby
2nd Prize = Ellis Witty
3rd Prize = Chloe Shelton; Nate Makamure
4th Prize = Olivia Black, Isadora Hails; Molly McLoughlin, Isabella Bradbury

WE HAD SOME FANTASTIC ENTRIES THIS YEAR. WELL DONE TO ALL!! SEE OUR WINNERS HERE WE'LL BE IN TOUCH WITH THEM SOON! HOUSE POINTS FOR ALL ENTRIES

MFL CLUBS

Miss Crozier has started up a French Club on a Thursday lunchtime and attendees have been doing some fun activities to increase their cultural knowledge, as well as improving their vocabulary.

Mrs Derry has also started a Duolingo club where students can work on their language streaks and build up their points.



Ms L Mulvenney



A World of Pure Imagination! Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

There has been a real buzz of excitement in the Music and Drama Department as auditions have taken place for our next school production, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

We have been absolutely delighted by the enthusiasm, talent and commitment shown by our students throughout the audition process. It was wonderful to see so many students stepping forward, showcasing their singing, acting and performance skills, and embracing the challenge of being part of a major school musical.

Auditions are never easy, and we are incredibly proud of everyone who took part. It takes courage to step onto the stage and perform in front of others, and every student who auditioned should feel very proud of their efforts. The standard of talent on display has made the casting process a particularly exciting challenge.

We have already started with some whole cast singing rehearsals and have been impressed with everyone's talent, dedication and concentration.

Our final performances of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory will take place on **12th and 13th July**. We cannot wait to share the finished production with our school community and welcome families and friends to what promises to be a fantastic celebration of our students' hard work and creativity.

Keep an eye out for further updates as our journey into Wonka's wonderful world continues.

Mrs A Gibbings



MARDEN READS

Reading List

Here are some suggestions of books you might want to read over year 7.

(You should be trying to read at least

- The Enemy - *Charlie Higson*
- Cosmic - *Frank Cottrell Boyce*
- Wonder - *R.J Palacio*
- Treasure Island - *R.L Stevenson*
- The Adventure Series *Lee Tony*
- The Adventure of Huckleberry Finn - *Mark Twain*
- Blitzcat - *Robert Westall*
- Holes - *Louis Sachar*
- Stormbreaker - *Anthony Horowitz*
- The Hobbit - *J R R Tolkien*
- Madame Doubtfire - *Anne Fine*
- The Edge - *Alan Gibbons*
- Millions - *Frank Cottrell Boyce*

Want a challenge?

- War Horse - *Michael Morpurgo*
- Great Expectations - *Charles Dickens*
- The Lord of the Rings Trilogy - *JRR Tolkien*
- The Book Thief - *Marcus Zusak*
- The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes - *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*

Reading List

Here are some suggestions of books you might want to read over year 8.

(You should be trying to read at least one of these per half-term)

- The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes - *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*
- The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy - *Douglas Adams*
- The Hunger Games - *Suzanne Collins*
- After the First Death - *Robert Cormier*
- The Universe Versus Alex Woods - *Gavin Extance*
- The Enemy - *Charlie Higson*
- Cosmic - *Frank Cottrell Boyce*
- Carrie's War - *Nina Bawden*
- The Foreshadowing - *Marcus Sedgewick*
- The Northern Lights series - *Philip Pullman*
- Noughts and Crosses - *Malorie Blackman*
- Treasure Island - *R.L Stevenson*
- Martyn Pig - *Kevin Brooks*
- The Ruby in the Smoke - *Philip Pullman*
- Small Steps - *Louis Sachar*

Want a challenge?

- The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time - *Mark Haddon*
- Life of Pi - *Yann Martel*
- The Help - *Kathryn Stockett*
- Animal Farm - *George Orwell*
- Jane Eyre - *Charlotte Bronte*



MARDEN READS

Reading List

Here are some suggestions of books you might want to read over *year 9*.

(You should be trying to read at least

Animal Farm - George Orwell

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time - Mark Haddon

Of Mice and Men - John Steinbeck

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian - Sherman Alexie

Looking for Alaska - John Green

Lord of the Flies - William Golding

The Help - Kathryn Stockett

Life of Pi - Yann Martel

Want a challenge?

Wuthering Heights - Emily Bronte

Junk - Melvin Burgess

1984 - George Orwell

The Catcher in the Rye - J.D. Salinger

The Great Gatsby - F.Scott Fitzgerald

Reading List

Here are some suggestions of books you might want to read over *year 10 & 11*.

(You should be trying to read at least

Tip! Try to get into the habit of reading newspapers too! This will help for your

1984 - George Orwell

Animal Farm - George Orwell

A Room with a View - E.M. Forster

The Book Thief - Markus Zusak

Brighton Rock - Graham Greene

Catch 22 - Joseph Heller

The Catcher in the Rye - J.D. Salinger

The Color Purple - Alice Walker

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time - Mark Haddon

David Copperfield - Charles Dickens

East of Eden - John Steinbeck

Frankenstein - Mary Shelley

The Grapes of Wrath - John Steinbeck

The Great Gatsby - F.Scott Fitzgerald

The Help - Kathryn Stockett

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings - Maya Angelou