



# Marling School

An 11-18 Grammar School for Boys

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Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

## Admissions Arrangements for Marling School Sixth Form

In December 2017 the Governing Body of Marling School consulted on changing the School Admissions Policy for entry in 2019 to admit girls into our Sixth Form and to increase our Sixth Form Admission Number accordingly. At the same time the Governing Body extended its commitment to provide every student with the opportunity to access a grammar school education by amending the policy for Year 7 entry in 2019 and increasing priority for students who are in receipt of Pupil Premium. The determined policy for entry 2019 is now published on our website.

The Admissions Committee of the Governing Body have since been looking at ways to further develop this fair access commitment for Pupil Premium students entering Year 7 and to extend the same principle to students entering the Sixth Form. Pupil Premium students are currently under-represented in grammar schools and the governors are keen to remove any misconceptions and barriers and encourage more to apply. The number of students on Pupil Premium in Year 7-11 at Marling has risen from 4% to 6% in the past four years and we would like to see this number grow further to in excess of 10%. The Admissions Committee have therefore developed a number of proposals, some of which would result in a change to the admissions policy and others are aimed at breaking down some of the barriers that might prevent disadvantaged families from applying or gaining a place.

We would now like to share some of the changes and initiatives we are proposing and hold an initial consultation to gather feedback. From this consultation we will then plan changes this autumn to the Admission Policy for entry in 2020, and develop some of the ideas further. Below we outline the changes and initiatives we are proposing, covering those that affect the admissions policy first. With regard to Sixth Form changes, please remember that **all applicants** progressing into the Sixth Form from Year 11 of Marling School who achieve the academic entry requirements will automatically be offered a place in the Sixth Form.

### A. Proposed changes to the Admissions Policy:

- 2019 entry
  - a) Year 7 entry – No change to the published policy. Please note that for 2019 entry, applicants in receipt of Pupil Premium are prioritised in the oversubscription criteria and automatically offered a place if they meet the qualifying standard.
  - b) Sixth Form entry - No change to the published policy
- 2020 entry
  - a) Year 7 entry – No change to the published policy (see above)
  - b) Sixth Form entry - Applicants who have been in receipt of Pupil Premium at any time in their secondary education and meet the Sixth Form academic entry requirements for the school will automatically gain a place in Marling Sixth Form. Furthermore, the Governing Body plan to establish a Pupil Premium Review Group to review applications of students from Marling and other schools who have been in receipt of Pupil Premium but do not meet the academic entry requirements for the school. A place will be offered to any applicants that the group consider will be able to access an A-level curriculum, with programmes of study adjusted as necessary to suit individual circumstances.

*Raising Aspirations, Inspiring Excellence, Succeeding Together*

Marling School, part of Cotswold Beacon Academy Trust, registered in England and Wales no. 7692339, registered office Cainscross Road, Stroud, GL5 4HE



## **B. Other initiatives to promote fair access**

- Year 7 entry
  - a) To provide parent information meetings at specific primary schools with high numbers of Pupil Premium students to discuss the grammar school test and familiarisation material and address any negative perceptions or concerns. Familiarisation materials will be provided
  - b) To offer one or more Test Centres at primary schools in an areas of high deprivation to remove some of the barriers that Pupil Premium children may face
  - c) To develop and publish a Marling Pupil Premium Commitment that explains clearly how parents of eligible students can access Pupil Premium funding for support with transport, uniform, school trips and visits and other school equipment or activities
  
- Sixth Form entry
  - a) To offer bespoke open morning visits for local secondary schools for KS4 students including those eligible for Pupil Premium who aspire to the Sixth Form
  - b) To offer subject specific lectures to Year 9 and 10 students across the area to enrich, inspire and engage them in post-16 education
  - c) To invite those students applying to join Marling Sixth Form, who are or have been eligible for Pupil Premium at any time during their secondary education to GCSE revision sessions in English, Mathematics and Science
  - d) To extend the eligibility for Level 2 16-19 Bursary funding to include those students that were eligible for Pupil Premium at any time during KS4 (see <http://www.marling.gloucs.sch.uk/financial-assistance/> for current policy)

## **C. Wider partnership activities that support fair access**

- a) To deliver master classes for more able primary school students, including those eligible for Pupil Premium, in reading, writing and mathematics. These would be delivered at specific primary schools within our Teaching School Alliance CETA (<http://www.ceta.school/>), including those in high areas of deprivation, that would act as hubs for other schools in the area to widen access.
- b) To work with our primary and secondary teaching school partners to develop, model and test new assessment methodologies that maximise impact and raise overall attainment including for those students eligible for Pupil Premium.

We hope you will see that our aim is to provide a comprehensive range of initiatives for both Year 7 and Sixth Form entry to remove some of the barriers to, and misconceptions of, grammar schools to encourage and promote wider and fairer access. As our Sixth Form goes co-educational in September 2019 and we increase the Sixth Form admissions number to 200, we will also be applying for funding to develop our East Campus buildings into new Sixth Form facilities.

For those who wish to discuss these changes with members of the Admissions Committee, Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form, consultation events are planned for Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June at 6:00pm and Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July at 6:00pm.

We welcome your views on these proposed changes. The initial consultation will last from 15<sup>th</sup> June until 14<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at noon. Should you wish to attend an event or send a written response, please contact Mrs Hannah Kelly (Clerk to the Governors, [hannah.kelly@marling.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:hannah.kelly@marling.gloucs.sch.uk))

Yours sincerely



**Dr Stuart Wilson**  
Headteacher



**Mr John Gilbert**  
Chair of Admissions