



MARLING
SCHOOL

e-Newsletter 2022-2023 (Edition 4)

Welcome to our end of term 4 e-Newsletter.

Term 4 saw the return of our first full school production since the pandemic. The performances of Chicago, the acting, singing, dancing and musicianship, were quite outstanding and will live long in the memory. Thank you so much to the director, Mrs Ashley and her team for the dedication they showed to make it all possible. Our next school performance will be the Senior Spring Concert on Thursday 4 May. Tickets go on sale from Monday 17 April on ParentPay. Tickets are very likely to sell out, so please add a reminder to your calendar!

In Design and Technology, nine Year 9 students visited the Jet Age Museum to compete in this year's [Flying Start Challenge](#), a national competition run by a prestigious selection of engineering companies, including SAFRAN. The students were tasked with designing and building a hand launched glider to a precise specification and within a theoretical budget. During the day they took part in a range of STEM based activities, had a tour of the Jet Age Museum and presented their glider to a panel of engineers before completing in the Fly-Off event. All three teams did amazingly well throughout the day, but the Project Skylark team triumphed, coming third against tough competition. In addition, we later found out that Bunny Ears had been placed fourth overall. Congratulations to Sam Humphrey, Archie Nassif, Oscar Giacalone, Charlie Bratley, Olumayowa Oderinde, Mark Daniell and Arjun Jain-Brar who will compete in the grand final at Bristol University against schools from across the South West – click [here](#) to read more.

This term, the Year 9 Latin and Year 12 Classical Civilisation classes enjoyed a day out to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. They took part in a Roman source handling session using inference skills to discuss what each item was and what it could tell us about the Romans, followed by time to explore the museum. The Year 12 students had the opportunity to see primary sources relating to Augustus and the Odyssey to use in their Classical Civilisation AS exams in May. They finished the day with a trip to the Roman amphitheatre in Cirencester which, although very muddy, gave the students a great opportunity to see Roman remains on our door step.

Congratulations to William Layng-Dale in Year 9 who won the Marling heat for the Young Rotary Chef competition held in November which enabled him to progress to the next area round which was held in Pershore in February. He made a 3-course meal which consisted of leak and potato soup, full roast dinner and Eaton Mess. Will wowed the judges and was placed second which takes him to the national semi-final, in Cardiff. Will is a very talented chef and we wish him lots of luck for the final!

Our Year 9 FameLab Academy (a school's initiative which seeks to revolutionise science communication) Champion Ted Barnett took part in the Gloucestershire final at the Roses Theatre in Tewkesbury. Cheered on by some of our school heat winners, Ted narrowly missed out on a bronze medal. Well done Ted! Click [here](#) to read more.

The Chemistry department organised a small group visit to Urbaser Balfour Beatty at Javelin Park, Stonehouse. The newly operational Waste Facility provides energy which significantly reduces the county's dependence on landfill, whilst recovering value from waste in the form of electricity, recyclable metals, and aggregates. The visit started with a



presentation on the history of the site, the operational procedures, including details of the removal of the waste gases and uses of the waste materials. This was followed by a tour of the facility. It was a fantastic opportunity to see the huge scale of the operation and appreciate the science, engineering and technology in action.

The Maths department have run chess competitions for Sixth Form and KS4 this term, along with a very successful Chess Club for all ages. Congratulations to Thomas Daniell for achieving a Merit in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. Thirty students from Years 10 and 11 took part in the challenge and 4 have qualified for the next round called 'Pink Kangaroo'.

Twenty-five students across Years 12 and 13 competed in the UK Round One of the Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad in January. Of these students, 21 scored bronze, silver and gold certificates, representing some of the top Chemistry students across the country. Special commendation to Lucy Smith (Year 12) who scored silver and Danil Sapojnikov and Peter Parker who scored gold and represent the top 9% of the candidates.

Year 12 visited the University of Worcester for their UCAS Hub Discovery Day – think 'Freshers Fair for Year 12!' Universities from all over the UK were on hand to speak to students, answer any questions they had and hand out prospectuses (and even a few freebies). Students found it a very useful experience and it helped them to start thinking about their next steps post 18. Once Year 12 have finished their mock exams, they will be starting to plan their personal statements and research universities that they may wish to apply for next year and hopefully the trip has given them a head start. Students were impeccably behaved on the trip and represented Marling School extremely well.

An exciting opportunity presented itself to 33 Biology and Chemistry A-level students this term, as they travelled to Berlin to delve deeper into the world of German biochemistry! The students had the privilege of visiting numerous historical sites and museums around the city, while also spending two unforgettable days in university outreach labs during their stay. The first lab session involved the Chemistry students conducting a fascinating investigation into caffeine, before moving on to synthesizing a number of polymers in their second session. Meanwhile, the Biology students had the chance to utilise advanced techniques such as PCR and gel electrophoresis to identify genetically modified soy products. Additionally, they were able to identify carriers and sufferers of a genetic disease within a family, further enhancing their understanding of this important field.

In sport, the first XI football team made it to the second round of the ESFA Cup; the Year 10 team reached the second round and lost to a very strong St Peter's side. The Year 11 team reached the third round and lost to Rednock on penalties 6-5. The Year 11 team also reached the Stroud District semi-finals and won 2-1 against Farmor's. They will be playing Archway School in the final at Cirencester FC on Monday 17 April, kick off will be 3pm if you would like to support them.

As a result of their performances in the County Cross Country Championships and the Southwest Championships the following boys ran at the National Championships:

Juniors – Jack Pennell (228th) & Oliver Wilson (313th)
Intermediate - Dominic Martin (30th) & Sam Wilson (40th)
Senior Boys – Henry Sheffield (61st)

Also in cross country, both the Junior and Inter Boys teams made it through to the second round of the ESAA Cross Country Cup after comfortable wins in the first county round at Churchdown School. Individually, Sam Wilson came 1st in the Inter boys with Dominic Martin just behind in 2nd place. Jack Pennell was runner up in the Junior Boys race with Oliver Wilson in 3rd. Congratulations for the fantastic results!

Congratulations to Danny Townsend for finishing as the boys' runner up of the Golf County Championships at Lilly Brook Golf Club. There were 59 players from 22 schools and 23 clubs. Danny and Daniel Berry will go on to compete at the South West Schools team qualifiers at Downes Crediton, Devon in May – we wish them luck! Congratulations also to Liam Young for his training with Gloucester RFC U17s and to Ella Williams for being selected for the Scotland U19 Ladies for the Six Nations squad. Will Richards, Felix Gregory and Elliot Gregory joined as a team to compete in the National Junior League Table Tennis competition this season. After two dates they were promoted to the top half of the leagues, and after two

more days of competition playing against other U19 teams including Cardiff, Weymouth, Portishead and Bromsgrove they finished in first place, taking home gold medals. Click [here](#) to read more.

Our Lego and K'nex Club are in need of supplies. If you have any unwanted, complete sets that you would be happy to kindly donate to the club, they would be gratefully received. They can be dropped at Reception or Student Support.

The [term dates](#) for 2022/23 and 2023/24 can be found on our website and we return to school on Monday 17 April, which is a week 1. Please add to your calendar that the INSET postponed from Tuesday 14 March will now take place on **Friday 26 May**.

Finally, thank you to all parents and carers who took the time to complete last term's online survey. While it was heartening that the overwhelming majority of responses were positive about the work of the school, we are always eager to improve the experience of our students. All feedback received is being used to build next year's school development plan. As part of that process, we will also be hosting parent focus group sessions to allow deeper exploration of areas for development. Parents who left their contact details in the Term 3 survey will be invited to participate in these events which will also be advertised to the wider parent body.

At the end of this very busy term, I wish you all a well-deserved Easter break.

Glen Balmer - Headteacher (gcb@marling.school)

Instagram - @marling.school **Facebook** - @marlingschool **Twitter** - @MarlingSchool

EAL Volunteers Needed

Mrs Bedford is collating a list of contacts of parents/carers who speak another language and could help us in school with events held by the languages department. If you would be prepared to be involved in coming in and speaking with our students at an event or running lunchtime 'mini' lessons in a language that you speak, please email Mrs Bedford, head of Foreign Languages and Classics – HCB@marling.school.

Open Mornings

For all those with friends/neighbours or younger siblings (currently in year 5) looking at Year 7 Entry in September in 2024, the Entrance Test takes place on Saturday 16 September 2023. If you would like to join the Year 5 Mailing List, please complete the Google Form to add your email address. [CLICK HERE](#) to view the relevant webpage. The next opportunities for prospective parents and students to visit us will be at our Open Mornings on Wednesday 17 May, Thursday 18 May and Open Evening on Tuesday 20 June 2023. Please book your place via our website. We look forward to welcoming you and your son(s).

Pastoral Team

The pastoral team have an email address so that parents and students can contact the team directly about any pastoral concerns they may have. The email address is studentsupport@marling.school.

Train to Teach with Us

Are you interested in becoming a teacher either in the secondary or primary sector? Cotswold Edge Teaching Alliance (led by Marling School) is a provider of Initial Teacher Training. You would be placed at a local primary or secondary partner school and supported throughout the course by outstanding practitioners. Please contact us here at Marling through Nikki Embling (info@ceta.school) or visit <http://www.ceta.school/itt/> for further details.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AT MARLING SCHOOL

Assemblies

Our planned programme of assemblies this term complemented the students' Lifeskills/PSHE education, while reflecting and acknowledging events and issues in the world around us.

The term started with assemblies that provided students with information about vaping to support them in making informed decisions about their health and wellbeing. In week two, to coincide with International Women's Day (IWD) on Wednesday 8 March, our Year 12 student leadership team delivered sessions about tackling violence against women and girls on an international, national and local scale. This chimed with the governmental focus on gender violence and the launch of the new global strategy to tackle gender inequality around the world. In Marling we strive to create an inclusive community, in which prejudice of any kind is unacceptable. To reflect this, sixth formers have designed a trio of posters making clear Marling's stand against sexual harassment.

In week three, to acknowledge Young Carers Action Day, students learnt about the contribution made by young carers in families and the community. The Young Carers charity was one of the organisations being supported by Red Nose Day, which we took part in on the Friday of the same week. Following this, the weekly assembly focus was on neurodiversity. The concept of neurodiversity is the acceptance that all humans are different, with unique minds, needs and abilities. This approach moves beyond labels such as autism, dyslexia or ADHD and recognises that difference in ability is natural and can contain unique gifts and contributions, while often requiring understanding and support.

As always, we held house assemblies in the final week of term to celebrate the achievements of students across the school. We also gave students a peek at our plans for a whole week of Culture and Sport in the summer term (details will follow next term) and launched a House Drama competition that will culminate in performances in Culture and Sport Week.

Exam Stress and Revision

As we approach GCSE and A Level examinations, we thought it would be useful to share some information to support everyone during a stressful period. Last year, we invited Lorraine Cooper (Psychotherapist) to offer some helpful hints and tips for students to consider. Please click [HERE](#) for a reminder of the content shared.

Revision Guidance

Parents/Carers of students in Key Stage 4 will no doubt remember the work Tim Benton from Blue Caterpillar has done in recent years to support our students with revision in preparation for exams. Click [HERE](#) to see some of the ideas he shared.

Attendance

This term we welcome Mr Brand who is our new Deputy Attendance Officer. He will be working with students and parents/carers to support in attendance matters. Notably, Year 10 recorded a consistently high level of overall attendance by only dropping 0.1% of their overall attendance in Term 4 in comparison to Term 3.

Careers

We have a comprehensive careers and next steps programme that runs throughout the school. Please click [HERE](#) to read the termly Careers Education, Information and Guidance Newsletter.