



MARLING SCHOOL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Message from the Principal

14 February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the term comes to an end, the signs of spring are becoming evident around the school. Even on a gloomy day, Marling is a beautiful place to work. We have had such a busy term here at Marling with some of the highlights including the Sixth Form Chamber Concert, the Learning Community 'Bake Off' competition and the election of new student leaders in the Sixth form. There have been 'Option evenings' and 'Taster days' and range of trips including theatre trips, a trip to a recycling and waste management centre, university trips and many more. Looking ahead Term four holds a great deal of promise, with the school production of 'Everybody's Talking about Jamie', trips to Normandy and Berlin and the Learning Community Football Championship.

For those students in exam years the time is passing quickly I am sure and they will want to spend some of their week off studying, there is plenty of support available and teachers will have signposted useful subject revision sources. I hope everyone manages to find a balance between work and recuperation during the week ahead.

Term starts again on Monday 24th February. I am looking forward to seeing the students well rested, focussed and ready to learn.

Best wishes,

Dr Jules Godfrey



Key Dates: Commencing 24 February

Tue	Y11 Food NEA Practical
Wed	Y11 Exam Results Release Date Y11 Food NEA Practical 1st Football v Crypt (home) 2:30pm kick off
Thu	Y11 Food NEA Practical Y12 Maths Fest Trip to London

Bike Safety reminder

For students cycling to and from school, please ensure they wear helmets, have lights on their bikes, and wear reflective clothing to stay visible and safe on the roads.

Subject Options

There are a number of options processes currently underway. A reminder of the deadline dates, for Year 8 to Year 9 options, Monday 3 March, Year 9 to Year 10 options, Monday 24 February and for Year 11 to Year 12 options, Wednesday 26 February.

New PE Kit for Year 7 beginning September 2025

We are excited to welcome our new Year 7 students in September 2025. This year group will have a revised PE kit, featuring a new rugby shirt and PE T-shirt. Only dark blue shorts and socks will be used, and house vests will no longer be part of the uniform. The new kit will be available at Bateman's from late May.

For students already at Marling School there is no immediate expectation that they change their current PE kit, but Bateman's have advised that as students require new PE kit (for example because they need a new size or need to replace lost or damaged kit), this will transition to the new style. The school will therefore have a mix of styles over a period of time. If you require a change of rugby shirt before May, then Bateman's advise contacting them for advice regarding possible advanced delivery of sizes that are no longer available from current stock.

From Term 6 2025, current students may wear either their current house vests and white shorts or the new PE T shirt and blue shorts for PE lessons.

Safer Internet Week Assemblies

In assemblies this week, students have been asked to reflect on how life would be different without the internet. We have spoken about the many benefits that increased connectivity brings, but also some of the problems linked to the pressure to always be online, unhealthy habits and lifestyles, online bullying, and unrealistic lifestyles. We have reflected on how technology addiction can affect each of our physical and mental health. Students have been challenged to think about building healthy habits to support their relationship with technology, such as leaving phones and games consoles outside of their bedrooms at night, switching off notifications for key group chats/apps, and having a break from social media/gaming during the week. However, the challenge that has generated the most discussion among our students was the idea of a family digital detox at home. Who would be the first in the family to pick up a piece of technology over the weekend or half term? Could there be a reward for the family member who lasts the longest without their devices? Students have been encouraged to have open conversations about technology with the adults in their lives, whether that be at home or with our pastoral team in school.

Here are a few useful online resources to support technology balance: [UK Safer Internet Centre](#), [Keep Children Safe Online](#), [Smartphone Free Childhood](#)

World Book Day

Thursday, 6 March is World Book Day. Students are encouraged to bring a book to read during an extended tutor time. Additionally, there will be a reading café and book swap in the library on both Wednesday, 5 March and Thursday, 6 March.

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

Theatre Trip - Animal Farm

Year 7 students recently enjoyed a trip to the Wyvern Theatre to watch a live performance of "Animal Farm." The adaptation captivated them, bringing George Orwell's themes and characters to life. It was a fantastic opportunity to experience live theatre and deepen their understanding of the book.



Year 10 visit the University of Birmingham

Our Year 10 students had an exciting opportunity to visit the University of Birmingham for a taster day as part of their careers programme. They enjoyed a comprehensive tour of the campus and attended engaging lectures in civil engineering, English literature, psychology, and politics. This experience provided them with valuable insights into university life and potential career paths.



Introducing the Sixth Form Student Leaders

As highlighted in last week's newsletter, we have a new team of Student Leaders in the Sixth Form. Here they are pictured.



Canada Trip Ski Lessons

This week, beginner skiers heading to Jasper, Canada, for Easter completed their final dry ski session at Gloucester Ski and Snowboard Centre. They made great progress and are ready for the real slopes.

Thank you to those who signed up for the Easter 2026 ski trip to Isola 2000. Similar beginner lessons will be offered before departure.

Celebrate Speaking 2025

Year 9 students have enjoyed taking part in the British Council's online festival language, where students can show off their language skills. It's about sharing a love of language and celebrating the diversity of people in the UK who speak a language other than English.

Olly, Delvin, Jacob, Aaron, Leo and Arnie have all produced some outstanding work in many languages, such as Thai, Polish and Japanese.

More information here: [Celebrate Speaking | British Council](#)

Marling Attendance League

Introducing the New Marling Attendance League on the ground floor of South Block. This initiative helps students track their Learning Community's performance, fostering teamwork and achievement. The Term Time Cup recognises outstanding attendance each term. Congratulations to Greenstreet, the Term 3 Cup Champion! Keep up the great work, and let's see who tops the next term!

Marling Music Achievements

A huge well done to Jack in Year 13 for achieving a Distinction in his Piano Grade 8!

NEW Year 7 Keyboard Club starting next term on Monday 24 February at lunchtime in MU5 - all abilities welcome!



Careers

National Apprenticeships Week

This week is National Apprenticeships Week. Marling students explored apprenticeships through tutor time activities. On Wednesday, Tony Gee and Renishaw ran a virtual talk to our Year 12 students interested in Engineering. Students can sign up for virtual Apprenticeships Fairs, including the [Unifrog Apprenticeships Fair](#) and the [National Apprenticeship Week Online Careers Fair 2025](#).

[The Parent Zone](#) offers support for your child's apprenticeship and technical education journey. Find answers to common questions, guides on apprenticeship levels and degree apprenticeships, and read Choices magazine for insights. Listen to the Parent Perspective Podcast for discussions on post-16 options and available support.

Sports Update

Sports results from this weeks fixtures:

Monday

Y11 Football v Archway Postponed
Y9 Football v Archway Lost 4-1

Tuesday

Y10 Football v Archway Won 5-1
Y8 Football v Archway Lost 2-1

Wednesday

1st XI Football v Rednock Postponed

KS4 County Badminton Championships at Rednock School, Marling came 4th out of 6 teams.

Thursday

Y7 Football v Archway Marling fielded three teams in a round-robin against Archway's two teams. Marling won 3 matches, drew 1, and lost 1, making it a successful event with excellent player performances.

Reminder that PE kit, for ALL Year groups, is Blue games kit, studded boots & bring clean (i.e. they have never been worn outside) non-marking trainers for all PE lessons.

Fencing: Tom Wins Bronze

Tom in Year 11 secured a bronze medal in the Under-18 Epee category at the Southern Region British Youth Championship qualifiers, competing against a field of 13 talented athletes. Well done Tom!