



MARLING SCHOOL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Message from the Principal

4 April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been such a busy week here at Marling, we have really seen the best of students and staff. The week kicked off with Learning Community Football and it has been clear, just how invested the students are, as each day's winners return buoyant from the sports' field. We have Year 11 still to play, so I can't report the final score until next week, but I can tell you it is all to play for today. The sporting theme has continued with the Under 18 Gloucestershire County Cup Final, which Marling won. This is a huge achievement and both staff and students have really done themselves proud.

The Drama and Music departments have also had a busy week with the much anticipated school production 'Everybody's Talking About Jamie' on Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd April at the Cotswold Playhouse. There were fantastic performances from the whole cast, with some truly professional solo numbers from the lead performers. The orchestra didn't miss a beat and the backstage crew ensured that the whole production ran without a hitch. This was a huge team effort for all staff and students involved, and this will be a performance which we will all remember for a long time. Well done!

Latin and Classical Civilisation students also had an exciting week when they embarked on a trip to the British Museum, where they enjoyed exploring the ancient worlds of Rome, Greece, and Egypt.

To round off the week, students taking part in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, have been practising their expedition skills. The weather has been thankfully cooperative for them, so we can look forward to hearing about their exploits next week. As we head into the last week of term, there is another full week ahead of activities ahead, including a Geology field trip and the Normandy trip, before we break up for the Easter holiday on 11th April.

You will all have received a letter this week, telling you about the exciting news that we are joining the Lift Schools Trust, as time goes on and I have more news to share with you about this development, I will be in touch. In the meantime, please be reassured, that school life for the students at Marling is continuing as normal. As we approach the weekend I look forward to welcoming our students back on Monday, focussed and ready to learn.

Best wishes,

Dr Jules Godfrey



Key Dates: Commencing 7 April

Mon	Y12 UCAS Discovery Day
Wed	AS Geology Fieldwork Normandy Trip departs
Thu	Y13 Parents Evening 4:30pm - 7pm (in school)
Fri	Last Day of Term



School Production: 'Everybody's Talking About Jamie'

On Wednesday and Thursday this week our wonderful cast, band and crew performed 'Everybody's Talking About Jamie: Teen Edition' to sell out audiences at Cotswold Playhouse. The students were incredible - we are so proud of their hard work and commitment. Congratulations on a fantastic production! A special mention to our 'Jamie', performed by Josh (Year 13). This was his final production at Marling, having been in every show since Year 7. He was exceptional and we look forward to seeing him on stage in the future!

Excursion to the British Museum

On Monday, students from Year 9 and Year 10 Latin classes, along with Year 12 Classical Civilisation students, embarked on an enriching trip to the British Museum in London. The visit offered a unique opportunity to delve into the ancient worlds of Greece, Rome, and Egypt.

Students were captivated by a diverse array of artefacts, including intricate vases, majestic statues, ancient coins, and the Lindow Man. Highlights of the visit included the Parthenon Marbles and the Rosetta Stone.

The trip was both educational and enjoyable, leaving students with a deeper appreciation for classical antiquities. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many finding the day incredibly inspiring.

Immerse Education Essay Competition

Congratulations to Josh in Year 12. Josh was placed in the top 5% globally out of over 10,000 applicants in the Immerse Education essay competition. He wrote an outstanding essay on the ethical implications of gene editing technologies like CRISPR in human medicine. Joshua is applying for medicine and hopefully this achievement will help him stand out from the crowd!



RSE Year 10 Parents:

Starting next week, Year 10 will begin their Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) lessons. For more information, please refer to our RSE policy available on our website.

Marling Music Achievements

Well done to Ethan in Year 7 for achieving Piano Grade 1 Merit and also Benjie in Year 7 who has obtained Grade 1 in Saxophone.

Malsbury Youth Strings Orchestra

Ibrahim (Year 10) and Haroun (Year 8), both playing the viola, joined a group of young string musicians from the Malsbury area and Orchestra Pro Anima, led by Michael Bochmann MBE, to perform at Malsbury Abbey for an audience of 100 people.

Spring Concert - Thursday 1st May 6pm Music Hall

The Spring Concert will celebrate the musical talents of our students, and will include contributions from Jazz Band, Orchestra, Strings, Downfielders Folk Group, and our choirs, as well as solo and ensemble items presented by our senior department musicians from Year 11 and Year 13. Tickets will be available to purchase on [ParentPay](#) from Monday 7 April and will cost £4 each. We hope to see you there!



Gloucestershire Young Photographer of the Year

Laurie, a Year 9 student, has been honoured with a Commended Award in the Gloucestershire Young Photographer of the Year 2025 competition. His captivating piece, titled "Eye of the Sky," featuring a bearded vulture, has been selected for inclusion in the Audio-Visual Presentation and will be exhibited at the Cheltenham Playhouse.

Year 8 Success at Flying Start Regional Final

On Wednesday, three teams of Year 8 students attended the regional final of the Flying Start Challenge, a STEM competition organised by major engineering companies like BAE Systems, MBDA, and SAFRAN. Since November, the students have been designing and building hand-launched gliders with support from SAFRAN Graduate Engineers, competing against local schools including Pates and Crypt. Hosted by

the Jet Age Museum in Cheltenham, the teams participated in various STEM challenges, presented to SAFRAN engineers, and toured the museum, including sitting in the cockpit of a Vulcan bomber. The day ended with a "fly-off" to see whose glider would fly the furthest. Marling teams placed 2nd (Rory, Henry, Jonty, Tom), 3rd (Woody, Ewan, Adam, Haroun), and 4th (Tom, Callum, Marlowe, Fred) overall, with Rory, Henry, Jonty, and Tom also winning 1st Place for the individual STEM Activity Award. This achievement secures at least two teams a spot in the Grand Final at Aerospace Bristol in May, where they will launch their gliders under the wings of Concorde.

Sports Update

Football

Monday

Year 7 v Westonbirt

Lost 2-1

Year 8 v Westonbirt

Lost 5-2

Wednesday

1st XI v Cleeve School County Cup Final

Won - details below

Rugby

Marling was well represented in the Under 14 and Under 15 Stroud District Schools teams which played Bristol Schools on Wednesday at North Bristol RFC. The Under 14's representatives were Will, Rory, Nathan, George, James, Austin and Toby.

The Under 15 representatives were Harry, Max, Ike, James and Max. The team won convincingly.

Table Tennis Championships

Despite the school season having ended, Marling's table-tennis players continue to shine at the Stroud District Open Championships.

Will (Year 9) won the Under 18 and Under 15 singles titles, as well as the Under 18 Doubles title. Benji (Year 9) reached the semi-finals in both the Under 18 and Under 15 singles, and teamed up with Niall (Year 8) to reach the Under 18 Doubles final. Niall won the Under 13 singles but lost to Benji in the Under 15 singles final.

In the Stroud District Under 18 Junior League, Benji and Niall retained the Division 1 title, winning 24 of their 25 matches. Benji also achieved a perfect 100% individual record.

Gloucestershire Tennis - Well Done Jonty!

Jonty in Year 9 has been selected to represent Gloucestershire Tennis in the Under 14 Cup. The County Cup is a highly competitive team event organised by the Lawn Tennis Association. We look forward to hear how Jonty does in his competition at the beginning of May.



Under 14's Stroud District Schools Rugby



Under 15's Stroud District Schools Rugby



County Cup

The Sixth Form boys triumphed in their County Cup final against Cleeve School at Gloucester City FC's ground, earning the title of the best Sixth Form football team in Gloucestershire! This remarkable achievement is a source of immense pride for the students and will undoubtedly be a lifelong memory.

In a thrilling match, Marling scored first through team captain Henry (Year 13), but Cleeve equalised against the run of play. Despite dominating the rest of the match, Marling had two goals disallowed for offside and the Cleeve goalkeeper made several crucial saves. The game concluded with a 1-1 draw after 90 minutes, leading to a penalty shootout. Goalkeeper Casey (Year 13) was the star, saving three penalties, and Tom (Year 13) scored the decisive penalty, resulting in Marling winning 3-2 and becoming Gloucestershire Schools Under 18 County Champions.