



MARLING SCHOOL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Message from the Principal

May 2nd 2025



Dear Parents and Carers

We have enjoyed a sunny start to Term 5, and a number of you were able to join me yesterday evening to enjoy another fabulous evening of music at our Spring concert. There was a real mixture of performers from folk and jazz bands, choirs, the orchestra and some beautiful solo performances from our talented year 13 students. Thank you to the music department who have worked so hard encouraging and supporting our musicians, and good luck to those students performing in the Cheltenham Jazz Festival tomorrow.

Over the Easter holiday three trips took place and it was clear from the Instagram photographs that students on the Canadian Ski Trip, trip to Northern Ireland and trip to Normandy had fantastic experiences and made the most of their opportunities to experience other cultures and activities. Thank you to the staff who accompanied students on these trips.

Today we have had a non-uniform day to raise money for the Longfield Hospice, after the sad loss of one of our sixth form students in December, Harry Turner. We have raised £2244.55 so far, please donate to this worthy cause.

It is an incredibly busy but short term, with the start of external examinations taking place, students are being asked to focus on our core value of 'academic excellence' this term as they think about how they can achieve their full potential in the weeks ahead.

Monday May 5th is a Bank Holiday, and so I look forward to see the students focussed and ready to learn on Tuesday May 6th.

Best wishes

Dr Jules Godfrey

Key Dates: Commencing May 5th

Mon	Bank Holiday Y10 Silver DofE Practice
Tue	Y11/Y12 Language Oral Exams Y13 Art Exam Y10 Silver DofE Practice
Wed	Y11/Y12 Language Oral Exams Y13 Art Exam Y10 Silver DofE Practice Y10 10-a-side Rugby Festival at Kingsholm (GRFC) Leave 3pm, Return 8:30pm Y7 Cricket v Westonbirt County Cup at Marling 2:30pm start
Thu	Y11 Language Oral Exams Y8 & Y9 Cricket v Westonbirt, both County Cup Matches at Westonbirt Leave 1:15pm Return 6pm

Dog Walking Restrictions on Sports Field

We kindly ask parents and carers to refrain from walking dogs around the Sports field when collecting or waiting to collect students. Thank you for your cooperation.

Students Returning Textbooks

Students taking their GCSE / AS / A Level exams should return their textbooks after use by placing them in the designated box in the exam hall. Please note that the final date for returning books is the June 24th; any books not returned by then will incur a charge of £30 per book.

Duke of Edinburgh Dates

A reminder of the dates for those taking part in Duke of Edinburgh:
Silver Practice is Monday 5th to Wednesday 7th May.
Bronze Final is 15th to 16th May.
Gold Practice is 22nd to 25th May.

Marling Music Achievements

Well done to Toby Year 11 for achieving Singing Grade 6 Distinction.

Spring Concert

Last night's Spring Concert featured outstanding performances from the orchestra, choir, jazz band, and string group, along with impressive solo acts by students across various years. Highlights included Benedict's "Golden Hour," Seth's "In The Mood," and the solos by departing Sixth Formers. It was a wonderful evening, thanks to all participants, Miss Swinger for organising, and the PSA for refreshments.



Cheltenham Jazz Festival

Our Jazz Band will be lighting up the Cheltenham Jazz Festival on Saturday morning from 11 to 11:30am. Join us at the Free Stage in Montpellier Gardens for a fantastic show.

Short Story Competition

The Stroud Country Show is hosting a short story competition open to all year groups 7-13 and we want as many Marling School entries as possible! If you fancy submitting your own story, then come along to the drop in session with Mr Towler in SB04 at the following times.

Week 1: Wednesday period 4a
Week 2: Thursday period 4B

Short Story Competition rules:

- Entries must be in English
- They should be a work of fiction
- Entries must be a maximum of 500 words
- The story can be on any topic, but must mention biscuits.
- Entries must be received before the July 1st 2025.
- All winners receive cash prizes.

For more information about the competition, please visit the website [here](#).



Practical Drama Exams

Year 13 Drama & Theatre completed their final practical exams this week - a huge well done for their hard work and talent! They performed extracts from two plays: 'Di, Viv and Rose' which explores female experience and friendship in 1980s Britain, and 'People, Places and Things', which explores addiction and rehabilitation in our current society. Their performances were engaging and expertly performed!



Attendance Term Time Cup

As we head into Term 5 we would like to congratulate Greenstreet Learning Community for Winning the Attendance Term Time Cup with an impressive attendance of 96.6% with Elliott close behind with 96.4%.



Canada Trip

Over the Easter holidays, 37 students from Years 8 and 9 enjoyed an action-packed ski trip to Jasper, Canada. They spent five days skiing at Marmot Basin, experiencing excellent snow conditions and stunning views. With the help of fantastic instructors, all students made great progress, building both skill and confidence.

Beyond skiing, the group visited the Jasper Planetarium to learn about the night sky and took part in a wildlife tour, spotting bald eagles, moose, elk, and bighorn sheep. It was an unforgettable week of adventure, laughter, and personal achievements, inspiring a lifelong love of the mountains.



Northern Ireland Trip

Our geographers embarked on a three-day adventure in Northern Ireland. They explored the Giant's Causeway and Portstewart Strand, studying geology and coastal processes. Sunday included the Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge and Glencarriff Forest Park, focusing on coastal erosion, tourism, river systems, and microclimates. On the final day, they toured Stormont Parliament Buildings and Botanic Gardens, learning about political landscapes and urban sustainability, ending with the Titanic Belfast exhibition. The trip combined rigorous study with unforgettable experiences, thanks to the students' enthusiasm.



Normandy Trip

On April 9th, 25 French students from Years 9, 10, and 12 travelled to Normandy with Dr. Tilly and Mrs. Bedford for a language trip exploring French culture and 20th-century history. Based at the Chateau du Baffy, they visited local factories and farms, learning about production processes and enjoying samples. They also explored World War II history, visiting cemeteries and memorials. The trip concluded with a visit to Bayeux, where students saw the tapestry and shopped at the market. Tout le monde a passé un bon moment!



Sports Update

Football

Year 7 Football v Leckhampton (County Quarter Final). The team put in a fantastic performance, in very hot conditions but were just edged out 4-3. Still a great season becoming Stroud District Schools Championships.

Athletics

District Athletics trials - Miss George and Mr Stephens took 21 Year 8-11 athletes to Deer Park to trial for District selection. We should know who has been selected to represent the Stroud District at the County Championships within the coming weeks.

Malmsbury Young Sportsperson of the Year Award

A huge congratulations to Haroun in Year 8 for winning the Malmsbury Young Sportsperson of the Year Award at this year's Malmsbury Civic Awards! Well done, Haroun!

