



MARLING SCHOOL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

February 6 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last Saturday, we welcomed prospective sixth formers from local schools to our Discovery Day. Visitors had the chance to experience life at Marling Sixth Form, and we extend a huge thank you to our fantastic Year 12 student leaders for hosting, as well as to our A Level teachers for delivering such inspiring sessions. We look forward to providing a similar experience for current Marling Year 11 students at the A Level taster day on Tuesday 24 February.

It has also been a busy week for trips. Year 12 Geographers took part in two hands-on fieldwork days, visiting both Bristol city centre (pictured below) and Penn Wood. Year 10 Chemistry students explored the Javelin Park Waste Facility, while our Classical Civilisation students enjoyed a visit to the Ashmolean Museum on Thursday.

On Wednesday we held the Year 8 Options Talk, followed on Thursday by a successful Year 12 Parents' Evening.

Looking ahead, next week is National Apprenticeship Week, with a range of activities and assemblies planned to support students in thinking about their future aspirations. Year 9 students will also be taking part in the FameLab Final.

We are especially excited for next week's School Production, We Will Rock You, at the Cotswold Playhouse. We wish all those involved the very best—break a leg!

Key Dates for the week commencing
8 February:

Sun 8 Production Rehearsals
Mon 9 Fame Lab
Y8 Chess Competition in Bristol
Tue 10 School Production
Wed 11 School Production
Thu 12 School Production

Mon 16 Half Term Week Begins

Click [here](#) for the PE Newsletter containing fixtures, match reports and PE Kit information.



Open Mic Night

Marling is hosting an Open Mic Night on the 5 March at 6pm. Tickets are £3. Performance slots are open to all students in Years 9 to 13. Sign up [here](#).



The OddBalls Marling Bobble Hats Have arrived!

Students who pre-ordered can now collect theirs from Sc9.

A limited number of additional hats are also available for parents to purchase via ParentPay. Once this small remaining stock is sold, it will automatically be removed from [ParentPay](#).

All proceeds support the development of sport at Marling, and the hats are provided in partnership with OddBalls, a company dedicated to raising awareness of testicular cancer.



Ashmolean Trip

Year 12 Classical Civilisation students enjoyed a fantastic day at the Ashmolean yesterday. They took part in a workshop on Greek life, where they investigated a range of sources and took part in an artefact-handling session. Students also explored material linked to their AS studies on Augustus and The Odyssey, including viewing copies of the Prima Porta and the Meroë Head. They commented on how inspiring it was to see in person the objects they have been learning about.



Javelin Park Trip

Groups of Year 10 and Year 12 Chemistry students attended a tour of the Javelin Park Incinerator; Gloucestershire's Energy from Waste facility, over the past week. They saw how waste was deposited at the site and got to look inside the furnace to see the waste being burned. The steam given off from this is used to generate electricity and powers 25,000 homes in the area. The students were fascinated to learn that the ash remnants from the burning process were used to make products like roads and hardly any waste remained. This was a great opportunity for them to see what happens to household waste firsthand, ask many great questions, and identify where improvements in the process could be made to increase energy release and reduce emissions.

Geography Trips

This week, our Year 12 Geographers took part in two valuable fieldwork days designed to strengthen their understanding of key A-level concepts while developing the practical skills they will need for their NEA projects this summer.

On Monday, students travelled to Bristol to explore Changing Places through first-hand investigation. Focusing on both the city centre and Bedminster, they examined how endogenous and exogenous factors shape the character, identity, and transformation of urban areas. Pupils gathered data, made observations, and considered the complex interactions that contribute to a place's sense of community and change over time.

On Tuesday, the group headed outdoors to Selsley Common, where they investigated how different factors influence the flow of water through soil on a slope. Despite the challenging weather, students showed impressive resilience and teamwork as they collected infiltration data, discussed soil characteristics, and considered how physical geography can shape hydrological processes.

The determination and enthusiasm shown throughout both days were commendable. Students demonstrated the essential fieldwork skills that will be crucial for completing their A-level Geography NEAs later this year.



National Apprenticeships Week

Last week, two Maling alumni, Olly and Ben came in to deliver assemblies for National Apprenticeship week.

Both are in their first year of their degree apprenticeships, Olly in Surveying and Real Estate with LSH, and Ben in civil engineering with Tony Gee. After the assembly, they gave a number of students who are considering apprenticeships as one of their post 18 options a talk on what life is like as an apprentice. The students found it to be a really valuable and insightful experience.

Chess Competition

Marling students delivered a strong encounter as we welcomed Sir Thomas Rich's chess team for the ECF National Schools Competition. It was a tight match that came down to the final game, with Marling narrowly losing 2.5–3.5. Congratulations to Ashish for an excellent performance, winning both of his games. Our team was Thusith, Toby, Gavin, Ashish, Sam and Atharv. If any students are interested in developing their chess skills, the Chess Club will be running during 4a and 4b on Week 2 Wednesdays in WB15. To sign up, please contact [Ms Thompson](#). Spaces are limited. Details of all extra curricular clubs is [here](#).



James' Hamnet Media Appearances

Before Christmas, we shared the exciting news that James in Year 7 features in the film *Hamnet*. Since the film's release, James has had a remarkable run of media appearances, including Points West News, live TV, and Radio Gloucestershire, and he was even interviewed by Dubai Eye, a talk radio station in the UAE. The BBC also ran an [article](#) about his involvement. Filmed back in August—before James knew which secondary school he would join—*Hamnet* required him to speak Latin, so he was delighted to discover that Marling offers Latin as a subject.



PSA Christmas Fayre

Thank you once again to all the parent volunteers who so kindly gave up their time to help with the Marling School Christmas Fayre 2025. Following on from the success of the fayre, raising over six thousand pounds for the school, the PSA are now considering a similar event for Christmas 2026 and hoping the next event could be even more successful! We are reaching out to find more Marling parents who can help us plan and organise this year's fayre. We are particularly looking for parents who would be willing to take on one of the following roles: Raffle Co-ordinator, Marketing Assistant, or PSA Stall Holder Co-ordinator. If you are able to join the team, please email [Emma Darbyshire](#) by the end of term and let her know which role you would be happy to take on.