



MARLING SCHOOL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

March 27 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the final week of term, school life has been busy as ever. We have had a Year 13 Parents' Evening, drama exams, and a series of keenly contested House football events as well as our very first Sports Awards Evening. Our Geography trip for Years 9, 10 and 12 set off yesterday for Sicily and have already visited Mount Etna, while our Year 8 and 9 students are departing tomorrow for their ski adventure in Isola in France.

Looking ahead to after Easter, we have an exciting programme of activities planned, including the Year 12 Geology Trip to Portishead, a Year 9 visit to Birmingham Hippodrome to see *To Kill a Mockingbird*, DT's STEM Flying Start Challenge, a visit from an A Level Drama examiner, and our much-anticipated House Drama competition.

We are delighted to be welcoming our new Principal, Mr Peter Knight, who will be joining us shortly. Click [here](#) to read the *Stroud Times* introduction to Mr Knight. As we prepare for this transition, we also extend a warm welcome to Mr Dougie Waller, who will be joining the Senior Leadership Team as Assistant Principal (Inclusion) and SENDCO. At the same time, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Mr Cook for his exceptional leadership and support during his time as Acting Principal.

We wish you a lovely Easter break.

Key Dates for the fortnight commencing 13 April:

Mon 13 First Day Back
Tue 14 Y12 Geology Trip
Wed 15 Y8 DT Flying Start
Y9 To Kill a Mockingbird
Thu 16 A Level Drama Exam
Y10 Parents Evening (in school) 4:30 - 7pm
Fri 17 House Drama

Thu 25 Bronze DofE Practice
Fri 26 Bronze DofE Practice

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



New Menu

There is a new menu for the Summer Term. This is available on the school website and can be found by clicking [here](#).

Marling Duolingo League

Please could all students in the Marling Duolingo League check posters in the Language department, and claim their prizes.

Year 9 Bake Off Competition

This week is all about our Year 9 bakers! We were treated to an amazing selection of cakes - thank you to everyone who took part. After much admiration (and tasting), the winners are:

1st Place: Marcus - coffee cake

2nd Place: Bertie - lemon cake

3rd Place: Magnus - apple and cinnamon cake



Marling Music Achievements

Well done to Woody in Year 9 for achieving a distinction in his Grade 4 Music Exam.

Year 11 Drama

This week, Year 11 Drama completed the second of their practical exams, performing extracts from: 'Journey's End', 'Lord of the Flies', 'Blood Brothers', 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time', and 'Julius Caesar.' A huge well done to the group who worked exceptionally hard to prepare!



Gene Technology Workshop at Oxford University

Twenty A Level Biology students attended a Gene Technology workshop at Oxford University on Friday 20 March. The session linked directly to the A Level units on gene technology and genetics, giving students hands-on experience with advanced molecular biology techniques and specialist equipment not available in school. During the workshop, students explored the genetics of bitter-taste perception by comparing their genotype with their phenotype. Activities included a taste test, DNA extraction from cheek cells, PCR amplification of a taste receptor gene, restriction enzyme analysis, and gel electrophoresis to visualise their results. The day concluded with a discussion on how these genetic variations relate to human evolution.



A Sobering Journey of Remembrance

Year 12 students recently had the profound opportunity to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau and honour the memory of its victims. The visit was both moving and sobering, serving as a powerful reminder that the suffering endured must never be forgotten.

Gloucester Crown Court Visit

Fifteen Sixth form students who expressed an interest in Law as a degree or career, had the opportunity to spend a day in Gloucester Crown Court, observing sentencing of a variety of crimes. They got to question a judge, and even heard from an ex criminal who now works as part of the Gloucester Youth Justice team. It was an inspirational and insightful trip.



Youth Forum Project

Faith and Jasmine in Year 12 have led inspiring work to improve safety for women and girls. They launched the Stroud Town Five Valleys Youth Forum's Light Display Project—featured on ITV and BBC—which transforms the Dudbridge tunnel with a moon-phase light installation, turning it into a safer, more welcoming space.

Economics Olympiad

A huge congratulations to Sofia in Year 12 for winning a place to compete in the Economics Olympiad in June. The Economics Olympiad is a prestigious international competition for secondary school students (typically ages 14–19) designed to test and promote knowledge in economics, financial literacy, and business.

Reuben's Quotation Bank Essay Prize: A Day at Oxford University

Reuben (Year 12) recently enjoyed his prize for winning 3rd place in The Quotation Bank's national English essay competition, which included attending an Awards Day at Oxford University. The day featured tours, academic visits, a Q&A session with a lecturer, and afternoon tea. As part of his prize, Reuben will also receive access to specialist study resources and long-term mentorship to support his future university aspirations—an achievement we are incredibly proud to celebrate.

Spring Concert

Thursday 7th May 6pm

Music Hall

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES BY

Marling Y11 and Y13 Leavers

Tickets available on ParentPay @ £4