



MARLING SCHOOL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

May 15 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy and high-profile week, with significant media attention and discussion surrounding the school's name and the proposed merger of Cotswold Beacon Academy Trust with Lift during the current consultation period. Meetings with parents and staff are continuing, and a public stakeholder event will be held on Tuesday at 4:30pm, with an additional session now scheduled for 6:00pm. Anyone wishing to attend a stakeholder event or consultation meeting is encouraged to email liftconsultation@marling.school.

Examinations have continued this week, and we wish all students the very best. Wednesday's Open Morning was a great success, while Thursday's INSET day offered a natural pause in the week. Today, the Sixth Form Debating Society welcomed MP Dr Simon Opher, prompting lively and thoughtful discussion.

Looking ahead to next week—our final week before the half-term break—there is much to look forward to. On Monday, Year 10 Geography students will visit Doughton Farm for their field trip, and a further Open Morning will take place on Tuesday. Also on Tuesday, a group of Year 12 students will visit Lady Margaret Hall at the University of Oxford. Early on Wednesday, the Normandy trip departs, while some Year 9 students will attend the Royal Society of Chemistry School Analyst Competition at Rendcomb—we wish them every success. On Thursday, students will set off on their Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, and on Friday, the Downfielders folk group will perform twice at the Chippenham Folk Festival.

We wish everyone a restful and enjoyable weekend.



Key Dates for next week commencing 18 May:

- Mon 18 Y10 Geography Field Trip
- Tue 19 Open Morning
Y12 Oxford Trip
- Wed 20 Y10 RE GCSE
Y9 Normandy Trip Departs
Y9 Chemistry RSC
- Thu 21 Silver D of E Final Departs
- Fri 22 Chippenham Folk Festival
Y11 Leaver's Day
- Sat 23 Silver D of E Returns
- Sun 24 Y9 Normandy Trip Returns

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

Lost Property

Please can students check for lost property before the end of term.

Mental Health Awareness Week

This week marked Mental Health Awareness Week, with the theme focusing on taking action—for ourselves, for each other, and for our wider community. As a school, there was a strong emphasis on the positive impact that small, everyday actions can have on wellbeing, whether through checking in with colleagues, creating opportunities for students to talk, or modelling good self-care.

Throughout the week, conversations around mental health were encouraged and staff shared ideas and resources that could be used in tutor time and lessons. Students were reminded of the importance of seeking support and made aware of the help available both within school and externally. Staff continued to show great care and support for both students and one another, contributing positively to the school community.

Artist of the Month

As the Year 7 drawing course comes to an end, it is a pleasure to celebrate the excellent progress made by students over the past term. They have shown growing confidence and creativity, developing key skills such as tone, texture and form, and applying them thoughtfully in their work. Many have demonstrated strong commitment and enthusiasm, refining techniques and responding well to feedback.

A special mention goes to Ethan, who has been named Artist of the Month for his outstanding work, marked by impressive attention to detail and clear artistic development. Congratulations to Ethan, and well done to all Year 7 students for their hard work and creativity.



Open Morning

We had a very successful Open Morning on Wednesday, with the weather largely holding off—aside from a brief spell of hail. We are extremely grateful to the many students who helped showcase the school so positively. Special thanks go to Abel in Year 8, James in Year 10 and Reuben in Year 12, who each delivered an excellent speech about life at Marling. The Jazz Band performed warmly outside the school, while Jake in Year 12 provided a wonderful Spanish guitar performance in the lecture theatre.

Our Year 7 students acted as tour guides and represented the school superbly. One parent commented in particular that their guides were “confident, polite, knowledgeable and clearly enjoyed their time at the school.”

We would also like to thank the parents and governors who volunteered their time to speak with visitors. We look forward to welcoming more guests at our next Open Morning on Tuesday.



Dr Simon Opher MP Visits Marling School

Marling School Debating Society was pleased to welcome local MP, Dr Simon Opher MBE, for an engaging and thought-provoking discussion with students. The visit came at a timely moment, following his recent call for the Prime Minister’s resignation, and students opened with the question: “You recently called for the resignation of Keir Starmer—why?”

They went on to challenge him on a wide range of topics, including party politics, public spending, civil liberties, teachers’ rights, local infrastructure, and international issues. The session provided a valuable opportunity for students to engage critically with current affairs and gain a deeper understanding of the role of an MP.

