

# MARLING SCHOOL

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Message from the Principal

6 December 2024

Dear Parents and carers,

This week has been packed with exciting events and achievements across the school community.

We're proud to share that our students excelled in the Rotary Young Chef Competition, showcasing incredible culinary talent and creativity. We also celebrated the launch of the Year 13 Practice Interview Network, a valuable initiative designed to support our students as they prepare for the next steps in their careers.

For Year 10, the FORUM Programme kicked off, focusing on students who are interested in competitive university courses, offering them expert advice and guidance to set them up for success.

In House Rugby, all year groups except Year 9 have competed, with Greenstreet currently leading, having secured victories in half of the completed year groups. Year 9 will compete next week due to weather delays, so it's all still to play for!

Our Art students recently had an exciting opportunity to explore their passion during a trip to Barcelona, where the vibrant city inspired their creativity. Additionally, we celebrated National Linguistics Day in-house, honouring languages and aiming to inspire linguists of all ages within our school.

Looking ahead, we have Christmas Jumper Day coming up, a fun and festive way to get into the holiday spirit whilst also supporting two important charities, James Hopkins Trust and Save the Children UK.

We look forward to seeing students next Monday focused and ready to learn.

Best wishes,

Jules Godfrey



### Key Dates: Week Commencing 9 December

- Mon 9** GCSE Drama Exam  
D of E information meeting 6pm (virtual)
- Tue 10** Y13 Parents Evening (virtual)  
GCSE Drama Exam
- Wed 11** Y9 Options and careers talk during period 5  
Y11 Geography Bristol  
Y13 French Trip at Cam  
1st XV v Chosen Hill at Marling 2:30pm kick off  
Y7 A & B, Y8 v Monmouth at Monmouth School leave 12pm return 5:15pm  
Netball v Ribston High at Marling Tip Off 2:30pm
- Thu 12** Christmas Jumper Day  
Whole School Flu Vaccinations  
Concert rehearsals  
Y9 v Chosen Hill at Chosen Hill leave 1:15pm return 4:45pm  
Y10 District Basketball at Wycliffe leave 2:45pm and return 5:45pm
- Fri 13** Whole School Flu Vaccinations  
Y12 Renishaw Greencar

## Important Safety Reminder regarding Train Travel

Recently, we have received reports from Great Western Railway about students standing too close to the platform edge at Swindon Station, which is very dangerous. Please remind your children to stay behind the yellow line until the train has come to a complete stop. Additionally, we ask that students remember they are representing the school while on the trains. This means behaving respectfully and courteously to other passengers at all times.

## Vaccinations

Please be reminded that the Year 7 to 11 vaccinations will be held on Thursday, 12 December, and Friday, 13 December. Students should check their allocated day and time with their tutor.

## Reminder: Make sure you bring your cards for dining hall payment

Students must wear their lanyards with their ID card at all times. Starting next week, they will be expected to have their card in order to purchase lunch in the dining hall. They should speak to reception if they have lost their card.



## PSA Christmas Raffle

Please click [here](#) to enter the raffle. Raffle ends Sunday 15 December at 6pm or when the last ticket is sold. Raffle ticket price £1. All proceeds support Marling PSA. Please keep bringing donations to reception. All hampers must be picked up in person from Marling. Thank you for your support.

## Christmas Carol Service Tickets

Thank you to everyone for their kind donations. Tickets for this have now sold out.

## Huge Success at the Rotary Young Chef Competition!

On Saturday, nine talented boys from Marling School showcased their culinary skills and did a wonderful job. We are thrilled to announce that Aiden (Year 10) emerged as the winner and will advance to the direct competition in the new year. Congratulations to all participants: Rory and Ben (in Year 10), Arlo, Manni, Sonny, Zakariya, Monty and Adam (all in Year 9) for their hard work and creativity!"



## Marling & Crypt Schools Launch Practice Interview Network for Year 13 Students

The Marling & Crypt practice interview network is now active, helping Year 13 students prepare for university interviews. Marling staff conduct practice interviews for Crypt students and vice versa, with subject specialists. Special thanks to all the staff involved, including Heidi North, Lewis Jordan and Andy MacDonald (Maths), Bernie (Philosophy and Theology), Cath Harris and Sian Cunis (Medicine), Millie Cooper (Computer Science), Jules Godfrey (Law), Andy Godfrey (Engineering). Thanks also to Jon Testar for additional support offered. This initiative has already proven valuable for students from both schools.

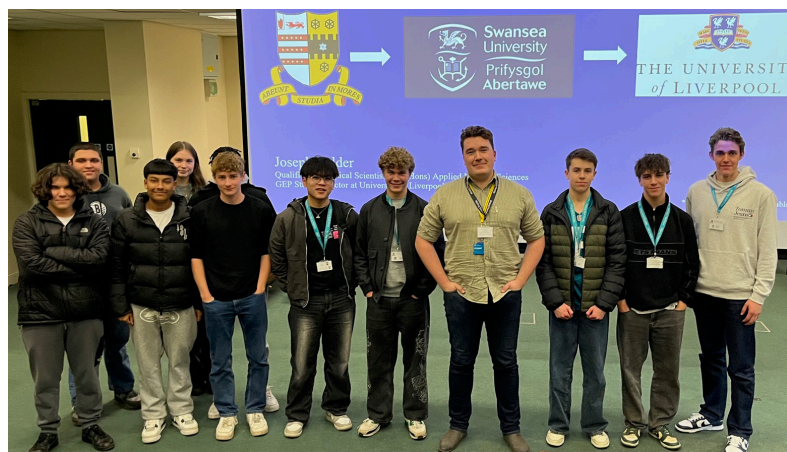
## FORUM Programme Introduced at Parents Information Evening for Y10 and Y11 Students

An online Parents Information evening was held recently for parents of Year 10 and Year 11 for students interested in competitive university courses. The presentation introduced the FORUM programme, launching in January, which will support these students. It covered how the programme will work and what competitive courses seek, helping parents and students understand how to maximise their chances of success. Please click [here](#) to see the higher level resources the school provides for students giving them access to academic material that will allow them to provide evidence of their 'supercurricular' interests in their subjects.

## MiRevisionPal - Online Revision Support

Tim Benton, an Old Marlingtonian, has long supported the school with his Revision Skills Masterclasses. This Thursday, he spoke to Year 11 students and their parents. Together with Laura Mears, he has created MiRevisionPal, an online course to help students and parents prepare for exams. The course features videos on 10 core revision strategies, proven invaluable for exam preparation.

MiRevisionPal is a great resource for both students and parents, reinforcing Tim's previous teachings. It launched this week at an introductory price of £19, but Marling parents can get it for just £9 with the code TENOFF [here](#).



## Pathways to Medicine

Joe Calder, a Marling alumnus from 2012 to 2019 (and brother to Isaac, currently in Year 12), returned today to speak to prospective Medicine students about pathways into the field. Joe pursued a degree in biochemistry, explored various care and medically related careers, and ultimately succeeded in gaining admission to Liverpool University's Medicine program this year. His session was incredibly informative, highlighting that with determination, you can achieve your goals. It also reinforced the importance of working hard on your A Levels!

## Barcelona Art Trip

Last Saturday, KS4 & 5 Art and Languages students returned from an exciting four-day adventure in sunny Barcelona. They visited iconic sites like Gaudi's Sagrada Familia and Parc Güell, the Picasso Museum, and the Museum of Modern Art. The group navigated the city by metro, immersed themselves in Spanish culture, savoured local cuisine at La Boqueria on Las Ramblas, and toured the Gothic Quarter, capturing photos of the vibrant street art.

## National Linguistics Day

We marked National Linguistics Day with students throughout the school watching an introductory video to this fascinating subject. Linguistics is the scientific study of language, and whilst it can only be studied at university, it has many cross-curricular links, not only with languages and classics, but also with Geography, History, Music, English, Biology, Physics, Psychology, and Politics. The video introduced students to the many areas of study and possible career paths, including working in AI, government intelligence, and speech therapy. Language students in Years 10 and 12 also looked at subject-specific materials in their language lessons to consider elements of French, German and Spanish that they might not usually study.

## Cyber Security Competition

A few weeks ago, Marling entered 8 teams to a Cyber Security competition run by local universities (UWE, Cardiff University and University of South Wales). Students worked in groups of 4 to complete encryption puzzles. The Phish Phingers made up of Billy, Jasper, Sam and Nathaniel all in Year 13 came first out of 247 teams competing across the South West and Wales. They have been invited to take part in the final in March. We wish them the best of luck.

## Sports Update

The sports results for this week:

Last Thursday:

Year 8 Rugby: Marling defeated Holmleigh Park 35-15.

Year 7 Rugby:

A Team: Marling won 30-0.

B Team: Marling won 35-30.

This Wednesday:

1st XV Rugby: Marling triumphed over Farmors 29-7.

Year 9 Rugby: Marling beat KLB in the EDF County Cup Quarter Final.

House Matches Results:

Monday Year 10: Carter House won overall.

Tuesday Year 8: Greenstreet won overall.

Wednesday Year 11: Greenstreet won overall.

Thursday Year 7: Elliot won overall.

Friday Year 9: Postponed until next week due to unfit pitches.

## Christmas Jumper Day

On Thursday 12 December, Marling School will hold a Christmas Jumper Day to support Save the Children UK and James Hopkins Trust Children's Hospice. Donations will be split equally between the two. James Hopkins Trust, based in Barnwood, provides respite nursing care to around 100 children in Gloucestershire with life-limiting conditions. Funds raised will support this care. We ask for voluntary donations of £1.50 per participant (paid via ParentPay). You can decorate or upcycle an old jumper! Students do not need to wear blazers over their Christmas jumpers, but trousers and footwear must follow normal uniform rules.

## Rotary Shoebox Appeal

Thank you to all those who made a donation to the shoebox appeal, the boxes were collected this week!

## Food Bank

We were overwhelmed by the response to our Christmas Food Bank Appeal. Each year, we collect food for the Stroud Food Bank to create Christmas hampers for those in need.



## Frank Earns Taekwondo Black Belt!

Frank, a Year 9 student, earned his Taekwondo Black Belt at Success Martial Arts in Swindon after a rigorous 5-hour grading session on 30 November. The grading included over 250 moves across nine patterns, sparring, and fending off four attackers. He is rightfully proud of his achievement.

