

# MARLING SCHOOL

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

**Message from the Principal**

**13 December 2024**

Dear parents and carers

As we approach the end of the year, we have many wonderful events and achievements to celebrate. Here are some highlights from our recent activities:

### Christmas Carol Service

Our annual Christmas Carol Service was a resounding success! St Laurence Church was filled with festive cheer as students from all year groups performed a selection of traditional and contemporary Christmas carols and other music. A special thank you to our music department for their hard work in preparing the students and to everyone who attended, participated and supported the event. It was a magical evening that truly captured the spirit of the season.

### Trip to CERN

Our A Level physics students had the incredible opportunity to visit CERN in Switzerland. They explored the Large Hadron Collider and learned about groundbreaking research in particle physics. The trip was both educational and inspiring, providing our students with a unique insight into the world of scientific discovery. We are grateful to the staff who made this trip possible.

### Year 13 Virtual Parents' Evening

Thank you to all the parents and guardians who attended the Year 13 Parents' Evening. It was a valuable opportunity for teachers and parents to discuss the progress and future plans of our students. Your support and involvement are crucial as our Year 13 students prepare for their final exams and future endeavours.

### Christmas Jumper Day

Our school was a sea of festive colours on Thursday for Christmas Jumper Day! Students and staff donned their most creative and cozy Christmas jumpers to raise funds for charity. It was a fun-filled day that brought the school community together and spread holiday joy. Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to this worthy cause. So far we have raised £1026.50 for to support Save the Children UK and James Hopkins Trust Children's Hospice, the ability to donate will remain open until Monday.

We have one week left of term, and we are reminding students and staff to keep their standards high and remain dedicated to learning. I look forward to welcoming our students back on Monday, focussed and ready to learn.

Best wishes,

Jules Godfrey



### Key Dates: Week Commencing 16 December

- Mon 16** A Level Drama Exam  
Y9 House Rugby
- Tue 17** A Level Drama Exam  
Y12/13 DT Trip  
Year 9 Rugby v Crypt EDF County Semi  
Final at Marling 2:30pm kick off
- Wed 18** Sixth form Christmas Lunch
- Thu 19** Christmas Lunch  
Senior Celebration of Achievement 6pm
- Fri 20** School Finishes 12:30pm

## Meet the School Development Board



Mrs Jo Roberts  
(Co-Chair)  
SEND



Mrs Sandra Barber  
(Co-Chair)  
Teaching and Learning



Mrs Alice Bailey-Yip



Mr Mwai Daka



Dr Martyn Hewett  
Safeguarding



Mrs Maureen Shearman  
Staff



Dr Helen Tilly  
Staff



Mr Will Gosling  
Old Marlingtonian



Mrs Maria Fuente  
Parent



Mr Simon Begby  
Parent

On 25 November, a new School Development Board was formed, replacing the Interim Board. Jo Roberts and Sandra Barber were elected as co-Chairs. Jo, a parent of three and an independent energy consultant, has served on the Interim Board for the past year. Sandra, recently retired, has a background in secondary education and modern foreign languages. The board includes ten members from diverse professional backgrounds including medicine, finance and industry. Link governors for specific roles will be announced on the Marling School website soon.

## Stroud Times 'Education Matters' and Principal Jules Godfrey Earns Doctorate

Read the first of our regular Stroud Times '[Education Matters](#)' features to find out about our Principal's views on and experiences of education and her vision for Marling. Furthermore, we are proud to announce that Jules has now earned her Educational Doctorate from Bristol University and is now Dr Godfrey!

## Notice of Consultation: Admissions Arrangements for Marling School September 2026 Entry

In line with legal requirements set out in the School Admission Code 2021, we are consulting on changes to our admissions arrangements for September 2026 Entry. A copy of the consultation letter, the proposed 2026 Policy and who to contact if you wish to make comments regarding the policy, can be found on our [website](#). The consultation runs for six weeks until Thursday 19 December 2024.

## Drama

A huge well done to Year 11 Drama for completing their practical exams. They devised their own pieces in the style of Theatre in Education or Splendid Productions, choosing topics such as men's mental health, the futility of war, and political turmoil as their focus. The audience of Year 10 and Year 12 Drama thought their pieces were fantastic!

## Mental Health First Aid Course

On Wednesday 4 December, sixteen Year 12 students participated in a three-hour training session to become the school's Mental Health First Aid ambassadors. The session covered recognising signs of struggle, how to communicate, and provide support. These students will now serve as mental health ambassadors, working with both lower school and Sixth form on mental health issues and providing a support network for students.

## Christmas Jumper Day and the annual staff Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

Check out these festive snaps of our students from yesterday's Christmas Jumper Day! A huge thank you for your generous donations. If you missed out, don't worry—Parentpay will stay open until Monday. In addition to the jumper fun, some of our staff recently held a wreath making workshop. Everyone had a great time crafting beautiful wreaths to take home.



## Switzerland trip to CERN

Thirty Marling physicists visited CERN in Geneva, home to the world's largest particle accelerator. This annual trip is exclusive to A Level physicists. They explored the new visitors' centre with interactive exhibits and went 88 metres underground to see the CMS detector, part of the 27km Large Hadron Collider. This collider accelerates protons to 99.99992% of the speed of light, simulating early universe conditions and providing insights into fundamental forces. Students asked insightful questions about the LHC's future and the CMS detector, which captures 40 million 3D images per second. We look forward to returning next year!



## GCHQ National Language Competition Winners

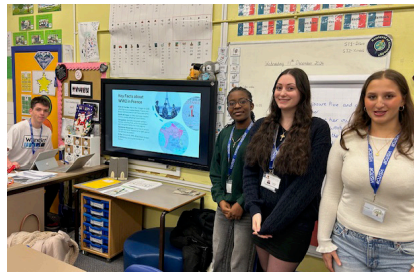
Year 9 excelled in the GCHQ National Language Competition, solving language-based puzzles and competing against over 2000 teams nationwide. Jack topped the Marling School Leaderboard, securing an impressive 103rd place. Close behind were Tasker and Benedict, Benjamin and Thomas. In third place was Josh, George, and Jeremiasz.

## Biology Lectures

Our A Level biologists recently attended fascinating lectures in London, covering topics from genetics to environmental challenges. Highlights included Greg Foot on Everest research, Nessa Carey on epigenetics, Mark Brandon on polar climates, Rachel Williams on birds' regenerative abilities, and Lewis Dartnell on the search for microbial life on Mars.

## Human Geography Fieldwork Trip to Bristol

On Wednesday, 70 Year 11 students conducted their human geography fieldwork in Bristol, investigating whether city centre regeneration has improved the urban environment. They collected data along a transect and enjoyed a boat tour of regeneration projects. Owen noted, "The regeneration in Bristol and ZaZa Bazaar, the UK's largest restaurant, creating jobs", showing the trip's success. The students were a credit to the school and upheld the ethos of true Marlingtonians.



## Year 13 visit Cam Woodfield Junior School

On Wednesday, our Year 13 French class visited Cam Woodfield Junior School to teach lessons to their Year 5 students. Our students have been studying the Occupation in France, while the Year 5 children have been learning about the Second World War this term. This visit provided a wonderful opportunity for collaboration. Year 13 did an outstanding job planning and delivering a lesson that discussed what life was like for a 10-year-old in France during the war, including how Christmas was celebrated in 1940. They concluded the lesson by singing the French version of "Jingle Bells." A huge 'Bravo' and 'Merci' to our students.

## Sports Update

Last weekend:

At the Gloucestershire Schools Individual Table Tennis Championships, Sam (Year 7), Benji (Year 7), Will (Year 10), and Niall (Year 8) competed with varied success. Sam played well, Will came 2nd in the Under 16s, Niall came 2nd in the Under 13s, and Benji (not in photo) did well, losing to Will in the quarterfinals



Last Wednesday:

Year 8 Rugby v Monmouth: Marling lost 35-15

Year 7 Rugby v Monmouth: Marling A team lost 40-0, Marling B team lost 40-5.

Message from Mr. Koller: This was the last fixture for Year 7 Rugby, so no training next week. Thank you to all students who contributed to Year 7 Rugby this year! Training will recommence in September 2025.

Sixth form Netball v Ribston High: Marling won 23-1. Special shoutout to Frida in Year 12 for being named Player of the Match!



Last Thursday:

Year 9 Rugby v Chosenhill: Marling won 7-5

Year 10 District Basketball: One win, two losses to the eventual finalists. The team came 5th out of 7 schools. They played their hearts out, enjoyed every minute, and put in a great deal of effort.

## Polite PE Reminder:

Year 8: Bring non-marking, clean indoor trainers and studded boots to all PE lessons until further notice.

Year 10 and 11: Indoor PE kit required: non-marking clean trainers, white socks, House vest, and a plain white t-shirt (may be worn under the House vest but not instead of).