

MARLING SCHOOL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

May 22 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

The final week of term has been characteristically full and eventful here at Marling. Earlier in the week, we held a series of consultation meetings regarding the proposed merger of Cotswold Beacon Academy Trust with Lift Schools, alongside two Public Stakeholder Events with Rebecca Boomer-Clark, CEO of Lift Schools. Thank you to everyone who attended or has taken the time to share their views by email—your feedback continues to be valued and plays an important role in the consultation process.

We were delighted to welcome so many families to our second May Open Morning on Tuesday. The enthusiasm and positive feedback were greatly appreciated and reflect both the excellent work of our Year 7 and Year 8 tour guides and the quality of teaching and learning at Marling School. Staff and students worked superbly together to create a warm and informative experience, giving visitors a clear sense of what makes the school such a special place.

It has also been a busy week of wider activities. On Monday, Year 10 Geography students visited Doughton Farm for their fieldwork. On Tuesday, a group of Year 12 students travelled to Lady Margaret Hall at the University of Oxford. Early on Wednesday, students departed for the Normandy trip, while some Year 9 students took part in the Royal Society of Chemistry School Analyst Competition at Rendcomb. On Thursday, students set off on their Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. Today, the Downfielders folk group are performing at the Cheltenham Folk Festival, and we wish them every success.

Year 11 students are marking their final day today with leavers' events, including the much-anticipated shirt signing. We wish them all the very best as they move on to their next steps.

Wishing all students, staff and families a restful and enjoyable half-term break—it looks like the weather will be sunny!



Key Dates for the fortnight commencing 1 June:

**Mon 1 Y9 Assessment Week Begins
Y10 RE GCSE**

Wed 3 Y10 Exams Begin

Sun 7 Gold D of E Practice Departs

Wed 10 Gold D of E Practice Returns

There is no PE Newsletter this week

Message from Mr Smith to the Year 11 Leavers

It only feels like yesterday that they all started in Y7 and now they are sitting their GCSEs. I want to wish every single one of the Year 11s the best of luck for the future, whether that is carrying on at Marling Sixth form or going to pastures new. It has been a great pleasure and a delight to be their Head of Year for this academic year. As they move onto the next chapter of their lives, I really hope they remember the lessons they have learnt here. Embrace new opportunities with the same courage and enthusiasm they have shown throughout their time at this school. I want them to continue to believe in themselves, because I believe in each and every one of them.

Congratulations, Year 11. This is not the end, but the beginning of a new and exciting adventure. Go out there and make your mark on the world! Remember this is not the end mainly because you have some exams after the half term!

Summer Uniform

Students should wear normal uniform unless they have PE, with blazers not required to be worn but still brought to school. Only the school blazer or approved PE layers may be worn as additional clothing. Year 11 should remain in uniform for exams, and students may wear PE kit on practical days or cricket whites for fixtures. Further relaxations may be introduced during particularly hot weather.

Entrance Test Registration is Now Open

Parents and Carers with students in Year 5 wishing to take the Entrance Test for Year 7 entry in September 2027, the registration is now open for a 6-week period and will close at 12 noon on Friday 26 June 2026. We advise you to read the informative [Gloucestershire Admissions Information Booklet 2027 Entry](#) before registering for the test which will take place on Saturday 12 September. Links to register for the test are available on the [Marling School website main page](#) or by following this [link](#). If you have any questions, ask Mrs Barrow our Admissions Officer on admissions@marling.school.

Year 10 Geography Field Trip - Doughton's Farm, Tetbury

Our Year 10 geographers recently enjoyed a fantastic fieldtrip to Doughton's Farm in Tetbury, where they investigated the enquiry question: "How does plant biodiversity change with proximity to farmland?"

During the visit, pupils demonstrated excellent fieldwork skills by collecting primary data, producing detailed field sketches, identifying a range of plant species, and using quadrats to measure biodiversity across different sites.

Back at Marling, students applied their findings to complete a full GCSE-style write-up, including methodology, data presentation, analysis, conclusions, and evaluation.

It was a highly successful trip, with pupils showing great curiosity, teamwork, and resilience – truly embodying the Marling ethos throughout.



Marling Highly Commended in Classics for All Impact Awards

Marling School is delighted to have been recognised in the Classics for All Impact Awards 2026, receiving a Highly Commended award in the Secondary School of the Year category. We are delighted that this recognition celebrates the success of Latin and Classics at Marling, and the enthusiasm shown by students and staff alike. The school will receive an official Impact Awards certificate in acknowledgement of this achievement. This accolade reflects the continued growth and strength of the Classics programme, and congratulations are extended to all involved for their dedication to excellence in Classical studies.



German Competition

Students studying German in Years 7–10 are invited to take part in the British-German Association (BGA) Awards competition. Entries should be presented in German and explore an aspect of German language or culture, with topics ranging from music, history, sport or travel. Students can choose how they present their work, whether as an essay, poetry, filmed interviews or a presentation. Prizes include a £15 German-themed book for first place, along with certificates and house points for all winners. Entries should be submitted to Ms James by Monday 22 June.

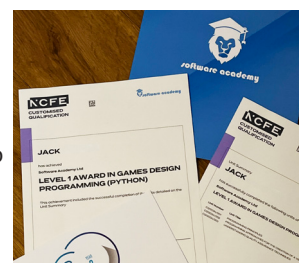
Flying Start Challenge GRAND final

On Friday 15 May, two teams from Marling School competed in the Flying Start Challenge Grand Final at Aerospace Bristol, after qualifying in the regional heats. The students were required to complete a range of STEM Challenges throughout the day, as well as launch their hand-built glider in the "Fly-Off" event under the wings of Concorde herself. The event was sponsored by a host of international engineering companies, such as MBDA, SAFRAN, Dowty and Airbus, and the students had the opportunity to speak with young engineers from these companies to develop a better understanding of the careers and opportunities available in STEM based industries.

Both teams did incredibly well throughout the day, tackling the challenges with enthusiasm and great skill, however it was Team "Wright Brothers" that secured 2nd Place overall in the competition (Arthur, Benjie, Charlie, George). This was an amazing achievement against some of the top schools in the Southwest region and is the culmination of many hours during lunch and after school, working on their glider and developing their STEM skills and subject knowledge. Congratulations!

Jack's Success in Games Design Programming

Congratulations to Jack in Year 7 on his fantastic achievement in completing the NCFE Level 1 Award in Games Design Programming (Python) through Software Academy. This success reflects his hard work and commitment, and it is wonderful to see him progressing to Level 2 in September. We look forward to seeing his skills continue to develop.





Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford Trip

A group of Marling students visited Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, for a South West-linked taster day, gaining an insight into university learning and life. Fourteen students took part in engaging sessions exploring topics such as “Do we need laws?” and “Should we treat ageing as a disease?”, alongside a tour of the college, application guidance, and the opportunity to speak with current Oxford students. Founded in 1879 as the first Oxford college to admit women, Lady Margaret Hall—named after Lady Margaret Beaufort, a particular favourite of Mr Elson—provided a fascinating and inspiring setting for the visit, making it a valuable and memorable experience for all involved.



Year 10 Burger Challenge

Who doesn't love a good burger? Year 10 students recently completed a mock practical, preparing burgers entirely from scratch—including baking their own buns. Special recognition goes to Aaron, Charlie and Oliver for their excellent presentation.

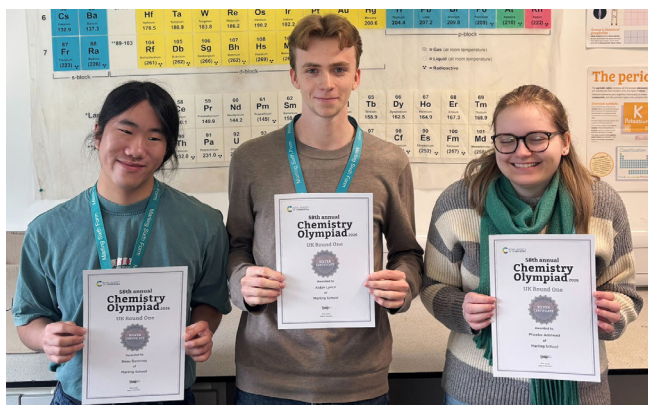


Year 9 Chemists Compete in RSC Analysis Event

A select group of nine Year 9 chemists recently visited Rendcomb College, accompanied by Mr Koller, to take part in a special version of the annual Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) Analysis Competition. Although the competition is traditionally designed for Year 12 students, Rendcomb and Marling worked together to create a modified version suited to our younger participants. The day brought together nine students from Marling and nine from Rendcomb, who were placed into mixed teams to encourage collaboration and shared learning. Throughout the day, students completed a range of practical and analytical tasks.

These included a titration to determine the mass of caffeine in a coffee sachet, a gravimetric analysis to measure the oil content of common hand creams, and thin layer chromatography (TLC) to analyse different lipsticks. Following the practical work, students carried out calculations and analysed their results before presenting their findings in the final session.

All groups performed exceptionally well, producing some excellent results and demonstrating impressive teamwork, resilience, and scientific thinking. It was a fantastic opportunity for our Year 9 students to experience advanced practical chemistry and work alongside peers from another school.



RSC Chemistry Olympiad Success

We are delighted to celebrate this year's excellent performance in the Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad. Our students achieved an impressive haul of awards, including 4 Bronze, 10 Silver and 2 Gold.

Particularly notable was the enthusiasm and commitment shown by our Year 12 students, many of whom chose to take on the challenge of a demanding Year 13 paper. Their efforts were richly rewarded, with five Year 12 students achieving Silver awards - an outstanding accomplishment at this level.

Our two Gold awards were secured by Year 13 students Charles and Finn, whose exceptional performances place them among the very strongest chemists in the cohort.

The Chemistry Department is incredibly proud of all students who took part and would like to wish our Year 13 students every success as they approach their upcoming examinations.

Poetry Anthology

Congratulations to Year 13 student Theo Jones, who has been featured in the Inspiring Voices Poetry Anthology run by English Heritage. Theo's poem, inspired by Uley Long Barrow (locally known as 'Hetty Pegler's Tump'), was selected following a competition inviting entries based on English heritage sites. This marks Theo's first poetry competition success, and his work—showing influences of Rossetti—can be found on page 74 of the published anthology.