

MARLING SCHOOL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

April 24 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been a little quieter than usual — something of a rarity here at Marling — and the welcome sunshine has certainly helped to lift spirits across the site. On Tuesday evening, an information meeting was held for parents in preparation for the upcoming Battlefields Trip. Later in the week, our Year 9 students set off on their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition. We wish them every success and hope they enjoy both the challenge of the twelve-mile walk and the opportunity to spend time outdoors. The group set off from Stinchcombe Hill, walking to Pen Wood Scout Camp and back, carrying all the equipment required for the expedition, including tents, sleeping bags and food. They have been fortunate to enjoy warm, sunny weather throughout.

Looking ahead to next week, a number of Year 9 students who have opted to study GCSE Design and Technology will be taking part in a full-day STEM Challenge in the Music Hall. This exciting event will provide students with the opportunity to develop key subject skills, work collaboratively, and gain an insight into engineering industries and future career pathways.

We are now firmly entering the exam season, with GCSE and A Level Art examinations taking place, alongside speaking exams and GCSE PE moderation. It is an important and busy time for our students, and we wish everyone involved the very best of luck.

We hope you have a lovely weekend.

Key Dates for the fortnight commencing 27 April:

Mon 27	GCSE Art Exam A Level Speaking Exams
Tue 28	GCSE Art Exam A Level Speaking Exams
Wed 29	A Level Art Exam
Thu 30	A Level Art Exam Y9 STEM Challenge
Fri 1	A Level Art Exam Y11 GCSE PE Moderation GCSE Speaking Exams
Mon 4	Bank Holiday Silver DofE Practice Departs
Tue 5	GCSE Speaking Exams
Wed 6	GCSE Speaking Exams Silver DofE Returns
Thu 7	GCSE Speaking Exams Spring Concert 6pm
Fri 8	GCSE Speaking Exams Year 13 Leavers Day

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

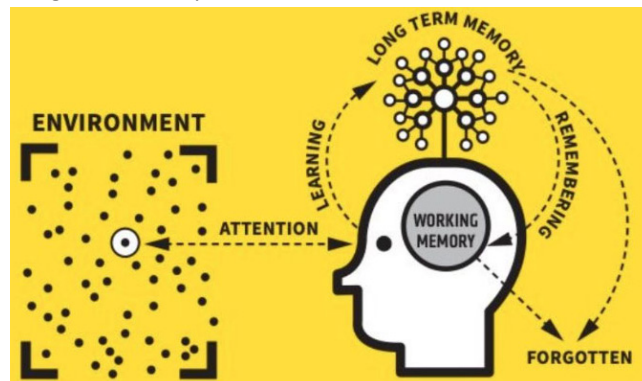


Students Given Tips to 'Unlock Their Brains' Ahead of Exams

This week, students have taken part in assemblies and tutor time activities focused on understanding how the brain learns and remembers information, helping them prepare for upcoming assessments, GCSEs and A Levels. Students learned that the brain is made up of billions of tiny cells called neurons, which pass messages to each other. Every time a student learns something new, these neurons form connections. The more often learning is revisited, the stronger these connections become. This is why regular revision, completed little and often, is much more effective than last-minute cramming. We also explored the idea of neuroplasticity, which means the brain can change and improve through practice. Each time students practise or test themselves, their brain becomes quicker and more efficient at recalling that information. This helps to build confidence as exams approach and reinforces the message that intelligence is not fixed – it grows with effort and perseverance. Students were also taught about the Forgetting Curve, which shows that new learning can be forgotten quickly if it is not revisited. To avoid this, they are encouraged to use spaced repetition, reviewing topics over time to help learning move into long-term memory. In lessons, students are supported to:

- Pay close attention to new learning when it is taught
- Link new ideas to what they already know
- Practise skills with increasing independence
- Use active revision strategies, such as self-testing and retrieval practice

Students are encouraged to use active revision techniques, including answering practice questions, explaining ideas aloud and testing themselves, rather than relying on passive approaches such as rereading notes. By understanding how the brain works and using these evidence-based strategies, students are better equipped to remember more, feel more confident, and perform at their best during exam season.



Sixth formers Secured Great Apprenticeships

We are delighted to celebrate the success of two of our Sixth Form students who have secured excellent apprenticeship opportunities. Sam has been offered a highly competitive Level 6 engineering apprenticeship with Renishaw, while Oscar has achieved a Level 4 apprenticeship with Babcock. These achievements reflect the growing range of high-quality pathways available to young people beyond traditional university routes. Apprenticeships allow students to combine academic study with valuable, hands-on experience in the workplace, while earning a salary and developing industry-relevant skills. It is encouraging to see more students recognising apprenticeships as a strong and aspirational option for their future, and we are proud of Sam and Oscar for reaching this important milestone.



Sixth Form Geologists Explore Portishead

Our Sixth Form Geology students recently enjoyed an exciting and hands-on field trip to Portishead, bringing their classroom learning vividly to life. Students investigated Devonian sandstones, constructing detailed sedimentary logs and analysing the evidence to determine the depositional environments in which these rocks were formed hundreds of millions of years ago. From ancient river channels to changing sea levels, students pieced together the stories locked within the rocks beneath their feet.

The day also included a fascinating exploration of Carboniferous rocks, where students measured and interpreted structural features such as folds and bedding planes. Using professional fieldwork techniques, they developed key practical skills essential for exam success and future study in geology.

The trip was a fantastic opportunity for students to deepen their understanding and build confidence. A huge well done to our Sixth Form geologists for their hard work and curiosity and thank you to Mrs Berry for supporting such a memorable and inspiring day.

Marling Music Achievements

Well done to Thackerey in Year 7 for achieving a Merit in his Grade 2 Tenor Horn Exam.

Eco Club

Now that the weather is a bit brighter, Eco Club have been able to get out and plant, garlic, beans and radishes. They have been looking at the optimal times for planting these and we have our fingers crossed the weather stays on our side for successful crops. They have also planted a variety of trees around the borders which started to grow over the Easter holidays. Well done to Mr Waterfield and the eco club team for their dedication and hard work.



The poster features a school crest at the top with the motto 'ABBREVIATUM ESTUDIA IN MORIBUS'. Below the crest, the words 'Spring Concert' are written in a large, elegant script. The date 'Thursday 7th May 6pm' is displayed in a green box. The venue 'Music Hall' is listed below. It also mentions 'SPECIAL PERFORMANCES BY Marling Y11 and Y13 Leavers' and 'Tickets available on ParentPay @ £4'. The bottom of the poster includes social media icons for Instagram and Facebook, with the handle '@marling_music'.