



MARLING SCHOOL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

April 17 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are pleased to extend a very warm welcome to Mr Knight, who has joined Marling as our new Principal. The school community is delighted to have him leading Marling and looks forward to the next chapter under his leadership. We also warmly welcome Mr Waller, our new SENCO and Assistant Principal for Inclusion. We are very much looking forward to working with them both.

We hope that everyone enjoyed a restful and refreshing Easter break. During the holidays, students benefited from a Geography trip to Sicily and a ski trip to Isola, France. Sincere thanks are extended to the staff who generously gave their time to support these enriching curricular and extracurricular opportunities.

A wide range of activities has taken place over the course of the week. On Tuesday, students participated in a Geology trip to Portishead, followed on Wednesday by an English and Drama trip to see *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Twelve students also represented the school at the DT Flying Start Regional Final held at the Jet Age Museum, with several progressing to the final stage — further details can be found below, and finally we welcomed Year 10 parents into school on Thursday for a hugely productive Parents' Evening.

Looking ahead to next week, there is a meeting for parents about the Battlefields Trip and Year 9 will depart for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition.

Best wishes to all for a pleasant and relaxing weekend.

Key Dates for the fortnight commencing 20 April:

- Tue 21 Battlefields Parents Meeting 6-7pm
- Thu 23 Bronze DofE Practice
- Fri 24 Bronze DofE Practice

- Mon 27 GCSE Art Exam
A Level Speaking Mocks
- Tue 28 GCSE Art Exam
A Level Speaking Mocks
- 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 Exam

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



New Provider for the Entrance Exam for Gloucestershire Grammar Schools

Gloucestershire Grammar Schools have announced Future Stories Community Enterprise (FSCE) as their new admissions test provider for entry to Year 7 from 2028 onwards. Click [here](#) to see the full press release.

Clubs

The extra and super curricular clubs timetable has been updated and is on the website, to view it please click [here](#).

Help Build our Multilingual Library

We would like to expand our offering of literature in other languages. The library would love to receive recommendations of books you may own or have read, which you think other students may enjoy, in any language other than English, suitable for KS3 students. Please email ideas to czh@marling.school.

Information Evening at Sir Thomas Rich's School

Sir Thomas Rich's School is hosting an information evening on applying to US universities and has kindly invited our parents. This event is most relevant for students in Years 11 and 12. Rachel Nelson from the Harvard Club of the UK will give a talk at 5pm on Tuesday 28 April, covering the US higher education system, the application process, assessment methods, university research and available financial aid. The talk will take place in the Hall at Sir Thomas Rich's School. Please confirm attendance with Ms Morris at clm@strs.org.uk.

Geography Fieldtrip to Sicily

Our recent Geography fieldtrip to Sicily offered Year 9 - Year 12 students an unforgettable opportunity to explore dramatic physical landscapes and human-environment interaction. Students investigated Mount Etna, Europe's most active volcano, examining volcanic processes, hazards and land use. At the Taormina Amphitheatre, students explored how physical geography has influenced settlement and tourism over time. The visit to the Alcantara Gorges allowed students to study river erosion and basalt formations first-hand. The trip brought classroom learning to life while developing teamwork and curiosity, making it a memorable and valuable learning experience for all involved.



Isola 2000 Ski Trip

Our recent ski trip to Isola 2000 was a great success. Students spent five days on the slopes with professional instructors and made impressive progress, with many beginners confidently skiing in parallel after just a couple of days. Off the slopes, students enjoyed a range of evening activities including a disco, quiz, football, pizza night and cinema night, which helped to build strong friendships. Behaviour from both students and staff was exemplary, making the trip a memorable and rewarding experience for everyone involved.



Flying Start Challenge

Three teams of Year 8 students attended the Flying Start Regional Finals this week after spending the past few months learning about aerospace engineering from SAFRAN Graduate Engineers and designing and building a hand-launch glider. During the competition, students presented their designs to engineers from companies including Dowty's, MBDA and SAFRAN, and took part in a range of engineering challenges. The day ended with a "fly-off", where the "Wright Brothers" team from Marling (pictured right: George, Benjie, Charlie and Arthur) achieved an impressive 17.5m flight, securing 1st place overall. They will now go on to compete in the Grand Final at Aerospace Bristol, where they will launch their glider under the wings of Concorde against schools from across the South West.



English Department Theatre Trip

The English Department took Year 9 and Year 10-13 Drama students to see To Kill a Mockingbird. The play was fantastic and all students enjoyed the performance. Members of the public, and theatre staff praised the exemplary behaviour of our students.

Marling Music Achievements

Well done to the following students who have recently achieved success in music exams:
Owen Year 11 - Grade 5 Trombone Pass
Rafferty Year 8 - Grade 2 Acoustic Guitar Merit
Matthew Year 11 - Grade 6 Trumpet Merit

Archie Plays Lead Role

Last term, Archie in Year 10 played the lead role of Caractacus Potts in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang at his drama school 'Stagecoach'. Well done Archie!

Spring Concert

The Spring Concert is on Thursday 7 May in the Music Hall. The evening will feature performances from our Marling Music ensembles, plus solo and ensemble performances from our Year 11 and Year 13 musicians. All are invited. Tickets are available on ParentPay.



Spring Concert

Thursday 7th May 6pm

Music Hall

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES BY

Marling Y11 and Y13 Leavers

Tickets available on ParentPay @ £4

@marling_music