

MARLING SCHOOL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

May 1 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Marling has enjoyed a welcome spell of sunshine this week, lifting spirits across the school and contributing to a positive and productive atmosphere. On Thursday, Year 9 students with a keen interest in STEM took part in an Engineering Explorers Workshop in the Music Hall, tackling a range of engaging and problem-solving challenges.

GCSE and A Level language speaking exams have been taking place over the past fortnight, with assessments in French, Spanish, German, Russian, Polish, Cantonese, Tamil and Mandarin. We wish all our linguists the very best and commend them for the commitment and resilience shown through additional self-study. More GCSE speaking exams continue next week. PE moderation will also be taking place during the week.

This weekend promises to be a busy one for our students beyond the classroom. The Marling Jazz Band will be performing at the Cheltenham Jazz Festival at Montpellier Gardens on Saturday, and we wish them every success. On Bank Holiday Monday students taking part in the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition begin their outdoor adventure where they will be travelling 50-60km over three days to Northleach, let's hope the weather holds.

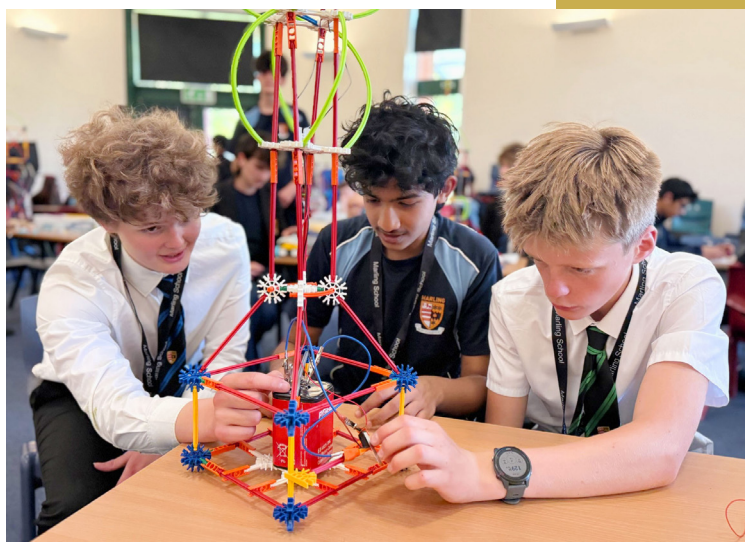
Next week marks the final week in school for our Year 13 students. To celebrate, they will be taking part in Old School Uniform Day on Thursday, followed on Friday by a final tutor period, breakfast and their leavers' assembly. We are also really looking forward to our Spring Concert next Thursday; tickets are available to purchase on [ParentPay](#) for anyone who has not yet booked.

Please note that school will be closed on Monday for the bank holiday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday.

Key Dates for the fortnight commencing 4 May:

Mon 4	Bank Holiday Silver D of E Practice Expedition Departs
Tue 5	GCSE Speaking Exams
Wed 6	GCSE Speaking Exams Silver D of E Practice Expedition Returns Spring Concert 6pm
Thu 7	GCSE Speaking Exams GCSE Written Exams Begin Spring Concert 6pm
Fri 8	GCSE Speaking Exams Y13 Leavers Day
Mon 11	Y13 PE Moderation A Level Written Exams Begin
Tue 12	Y10 RE GCSE
Wed 13	Open Morning
Thu 14	INSET

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



Parking

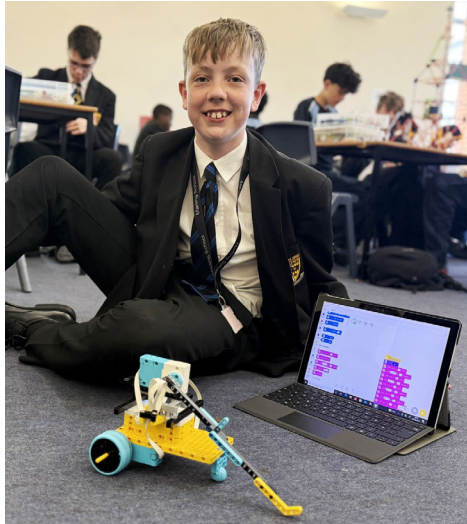
Could we remind parents and carers, when dropping off and collecting students, to be considerate of our neighbours. We have received complaints from residents at Alpine Lodge on Beards Lane; the parking there is privately owned and should not be used for student drop-off or pick-up.

Book Donations for the Library

Thanks to the Howarth family we now have a great selection of French novels for the library. We would welcome donations in other languages, or recommendations of novels to buy.

Sponsor for Prizes

We would be delighted to hear from anyone able to offer sponsorship for forthcoming school prizes. Your support helps us recognise and celebrate students' efforts and achievements across the school. Please email reception@marling.school if you are interested.



LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art)

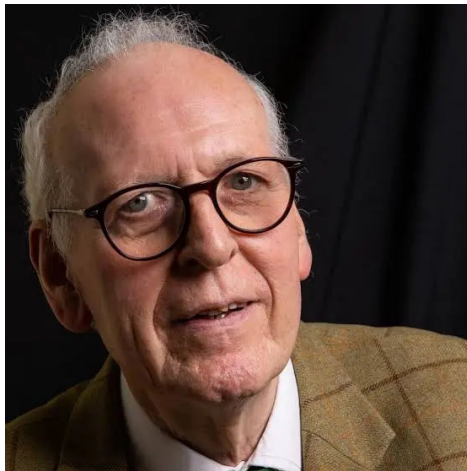
A huge well done to our LAMDA students for an incredible set of results in their exams - the first set of LAMDA results at Marling! 22 students achieved Distinction and 3 students achieved Merit. Students sat exams in a range of areas: Public Speaking, Acting, Devising, and Musical Theatre. Students will receive their certificates in assemblies next week. If any student is interested in information on LAMDA or joining the LAMDA waiting list, please email our LAMDA provider: publicspeechservices@gmail.com

Engineering Explorers Workshop

A group of Year 9 students with a keen interest in STEM recently took part in an Engineering Explorers Workshop, inspired by the Mars landings. The event was delivered by STEMWorks in partnership with Stellantis and provided an exciting, hands-on engineering challenge.

Working in small teams, students designed and programmed an autonomous robot capable of following a set route, collecting "rock samples" and finally activating an LED light on top of a tower they had built themselves. Along the way, students developed valuable skills such as teamwork, problem-solving and presenting their ideas, while applying key STEM concepts including structural engineering, electronics and programming.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and most teams successfully completed all stages of the challenge. Congratulations to the winning team: Callum, Jack, Fred, Frederick, Jasper and Thomas.



Marlingtonian Lord Peter Hennessy Appointed Knight of the Garter

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that old Marlingtonian Lord Peter Hennessy has been appointed a Knight of the Garter. This rare and exceptional honour, particularly for an academic and journalist, recognises Lord Hennessy's outstanding contribution to public life. Widely respected as a leading constitutional historian, he has been less in the public eye in recent years due to declining health, which makes this recognition all the more poignant.

Lord Hennessy was a student at Marling during the 1960s and has spoken throughout his life with great gratitude for the education he received here. He frequently acknowledged the profound influence of the school, and in particular of Eric Pankhurst, who taught history at Marling for some thirty years, crediting that grounding as formative in his life and career. This signal honour is not only a personal achievement for Lord Hennessy, but also a source of considerable pride for the school, serving as a powerful reminder of the lasting impact of a Marling education.

Remembering Mr John Pycroft

The School was saddened to learn of the recent death of Mr John Pycroft, a loyal friend and supporter who played a vital role during a challenging period in its history. A committed local councillor representing the West Ward on Rodborough Parish Council, John gave generously of his time in service to both his community and the School. He was one of a small group of determined individuals who fought to save the Downfield schools in the 1970s as a member of the Friends of Downfield Schools (FODS). His commitment and perseverance helped to secure the School's future at a time when its survival was far from certain.

Among John's fellow members of FODS was Nora Regan, whose contribution is commemorated through the room named in her honour. John's support for the School continued in later years through his generosity, including the donation of a cup for prize day presentations, along with other contributions over time.

John Pycroft will be fondly remembered for his dedication, generosity, and the pivotal role he played in safeguarding the School's future. His passing is marked with deep gratitude for all that he did for the School community, and he will be greatly missed.



Spring Concert

Thursday 7th May 6pm

Music Hall

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES BY

Marling Y11 and Y13 Leavers

Tickets available on ParentPay @ £4

[@marling_music](#)