



Great Marlow School

Excellence • Compassion • Integrity

# The VOICE

DECEMBER 2023

ISSUE 54

[www.gms.bucks.sch.uk](http://www.gms.bucks.sch.uk)

## IMPORTANT REMINDER ABOUT DATES IN THE WINTER TERM

Term will end with final assemblies on Tuesday 19th December; buses have been booked for 1.00pm.

The new term starts, for all students, on Thursday 4th January 2024.

Please note all our important dates and events, including Parents' Evenings and Examination Timetables, plus all letters sent out, are available on the website and are regularly updated.



Don't forget to view the online gallery for photographs relating to many of the articles in this newsletter.

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

At the end of the first term of this academic year and as we approach the Christmas holidays, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents/ carers that have sent positive emails, letters, and cards into Great Marlow School thanking the staff of the school for their work and support for our students and your children over the course of this term.

Education and particularly the recruitment of teachers and learning support staff has never been more challenging. At Great Marlow we are very fortunate that as a very good school with a strong reputation, recruitment for us is less challenging than for other schools but there is no doubt in our region and across the country there is a very real shortage of people wanting to work in schools. Therefore, I reiterate my thanks in my opening paragraph to the overwhelming majority of parents/carers who show their appreciation but most importantly communicate with the school in a respectful and appropriate way.

On this theme, I would like to say a public thank you to all of the members of Friends of Great Marlow (FoGMS) who not only organise events to raise money for the school but also events that bring different members of our school community together. An example of this most recently being the Christmas Wreath making session which led to over 40 parents making spectacular Christmas wreaths in the school canteen, whilst sipping mulled wine. Two members of FoGMS that deserve a particular mention are Jane Trainer and Suzy McGeachen who have been the leading lights for past few years, and I am very grateful to them for their efforts.

We are extremely fortunate at this school that the staff here, work with great endeavour and creativity to ensure that the school lives up to its stated ambitions to be a place where opportunities are created, potential is realised, and excellence is achieved. We are always striving to work, with increasing effectiveness, in partnership with our students, parents/carers, and the local and wider community. This is to achieve our vision of being the highest quality learning environment which inspires our students to be compassionate, successful, and resilient contributors to a better society. On the subject of community, we are very much looking forward to Marlow FM, after Christmas, establishing themselves in their new home at GMS.

'My Personal Best' is still a fundamental part of our

curriculum within the school focusing on the now 7 Rs, of Respect; Readiness; Reflection; Responsibility; Resourcefulness Resilience and now Reading. These skills are explicitly developed in students in all individual subjects and lessons as well as in our extensive extra-curricular programme. Last year the 7th R of Reading has been introduced very successfully and is positively impacting on all children's vocabulary and use of language both verbally and written, which will only enhance their performance in all subjects and activities across the school.

I am sure that you will have read the coverage in the media on children's attendance to school since the pandemic. Whilst the attendance of students to GMS has always been very good, as a percentage (%) our whole school attendance figure is better than the national figure. Unfortunately, like the national attendance % figure, GMS's % attendance is down on the pre-pandemic level. It is and will always be true that for students to achieve their full potential attendance to school is vital. We will continue to work hard with parents/ carers and students to maximise attendance to GMS. Last years, GCSE results are a very strong reminder about the impact of attendance on achievement, students with 98% or above attendance to school in Year 11, achieved results that were one and a quarter grade better on average across all their subjects than students with less than 90% attendance. This analysis took into account each individual student's starting points in Year 7 and therefore is about progress not attainment, although the attainment of these students was significantly better as well.

That fact leads me nicely into although the Christmas holidays are a time for celebration, as well as relaxation and spending time with family and friends, our senior students in Year 11 and Year 13 should have a revision programme in place over this period. The programme needs



balance their need for a break with consolidating the learning and understanding across their different subject areas, ready for the 'mock' exams which start on Monday 16th January. Good quality revision and preparation does not guarantee great results, but it does significantly increase the likelihood!

In my Celebration of Success speech at the end of the last academic year I said, that in the 2022/2023 school year GMS had run more educational trips, visits and activities than ever before. This first term of 2023/2024 has put us on course for more even more this year. Students and staff, already this academic year have visited areas of outstanding natural beauty, towns, cities, explored galleries, theatres, exhibitions and taken part in outdoor adventurous activities. Many of these activities, that take place over the course of the year take place due to the discretionary effort of staff in school, both teachers and associate staff. They are not paid for their time in the evenings and weekends.

This festive edition of The Voice showcases the richness of our curriculum and the breadth of our extra-curricular activities. There is a celebration of the incredible work produced by the Art and Design students including the combination of art, recycling and the inspiration from Mrs Joseph-Stewart which culminated in our widely covered Poppy display. The Eco group goes from strength to strength under Miss Addy's leadership with the support of students Arran Bligh, Lewis Balbani and Jamie Watson. Arran is also key part of our Young Enterprise team with their very successful business 'Mugs and More', the students involved are all very grateful for the time, support and guidance of Ms Broadbent.

Music at GMS has grown enormously under the leadership of Mr Kidd and I had the pleasure of accompanying him and group of brass

instrument playing students to the Lantern Church in Marlow Bottom on Sunday (17th Dec.) evening for a fabulous evening of Christmas carols.

PE and Sport has been a great strength of the school for a number of years now and the reports in this addition of the Voice show the huge scale of the activities and fixtures undertaken. Please take the time to read all of the features but one aspect I do want to highlight is that our Year 7 football team has reached the last 32 in the national cup competition and a trip to the Hackney Marshes of London awaits them after Christmas, where hopefully they can progress to the last 16!

There have been many highlights this term but none more special than the very recent production of Matilda led by Mrs Chenery and Mr Ross but ably supported by Mrs Sharp and Miss Hyde. For, those lucky enough to see the production the professionalism of the acting, singing and dancing will live long in the memory of all. It was simply first class!

This edition of The Voice celebrates the readiness, resilience and responsibility of our students to make the most of every opportunity. I am extremely proud to lead this school where the staff facilitate, encourage and nurture opportunities that offer every student the chance to achieve their personal best.

**Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.**

Kevin Ford  
Executive Headteacher

Art & Design

## **The Art and Design department are incredibly proud to boast an outstanding set of results from the 2023 cohort of GCSE and A-level students.**

Our Year 13 class ended their course with a fantastic set of results, all achieving grades above a C including 4 A\*s and 2 As. Our students are renowned for producing original and ambitious projects, and so often these outcomes manifest into works we showcase as excellent exemplars to future cohorts. Portfolios from this cohort were no different, and we had outcomes which showcased exquisite 3D explorations into European architecture, visually sensational sculpted clay busts, and sensitive drawn responses to themes of feminism to name a few.

Many of our students celebrated entry onto their chosen higher education paths following results day, and we are very proud of all of our alumni, especially those who have used their skills to progress onto further creative pathways.

More examples of our students' excellent work can be found on our Instagram account: GMSartcraftdesign.

**Well done to all the students for their hard work and excellent artistic outcomes this year.**

**Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Creative 2024!**

By Mrs K Joseph-Stewart  
Head of Art & Design

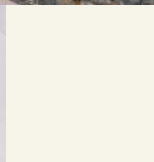
A-level artwork







I am very proud of how the artist copy had turned out due to the high quality detail and bright colours which brighten their piece.



## NEW WORKSHOPS FOR GCSE COHORT PROVING A BIG SUCCESS!

This year we have decided to slightly change our GCSE art scheme of work to focus on some of the fundamental core skills earlier on in the course. We have delivered workshops on photography, colour pencil, ink and digital manipulation. These workshops are helping to develop our students understanding of composition, observation and understanding of tone and colour along side encouraging experimentation. Having the ability to succeed with these core elements will underpin all the other skills that we will introduce through out the two year course. Having such successful workshops earlier in the course has concreted in the skills and is going to give our students brilliant foundations for developing and building their own GCSE projects.

We are really excited to be running our annual trip to Borough Market and The Tate early in the new year, students always really enjoy getting to breath in the market and having it later in the academic Calander will mean everyone will be able to utilise the experience to its highest potential.

These changes have been incredibly successful and the outcomes our students are producing already have hugely surpassed our expectations.

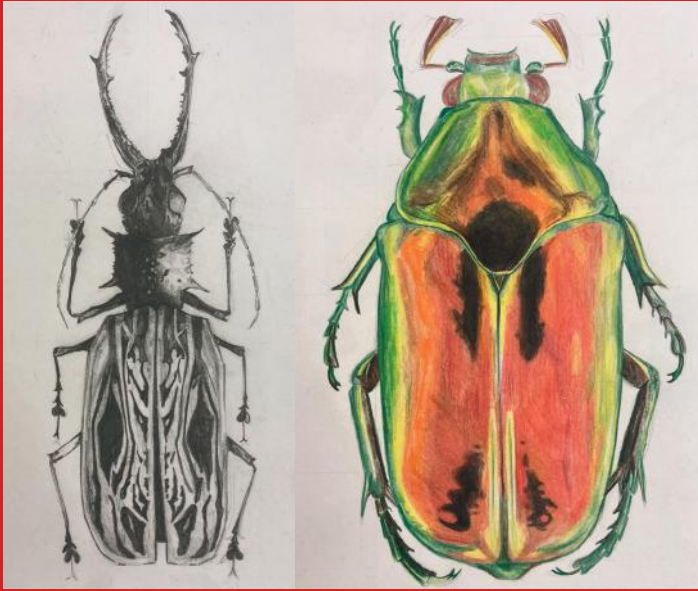
By Mrs Abby Perman  
Teacher of Art & Design

## GCSE artwork

Top left: Mina Wolgers-Gray  
Top right & bottom left: Vanessa Kluczynskae







Top left & right: Phoebe Coombs



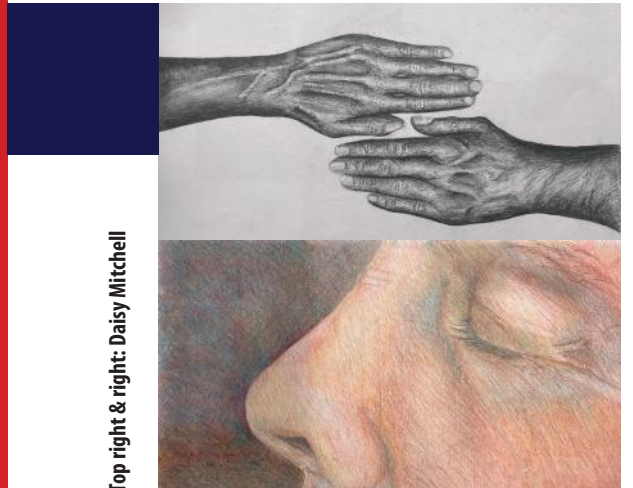
Top left & right: Libby Lawton  
Bottom left: Libby Lawton



Right: Klea Matthews  
Bottom left & right: Jay Gough



Top left: Jackson Walker  
Top right & bottom left: Emily Yelloly



Top right & right: Daisy Mitchell



Top left: Alistair Wright  
Top Right: Bonnie Hopkins

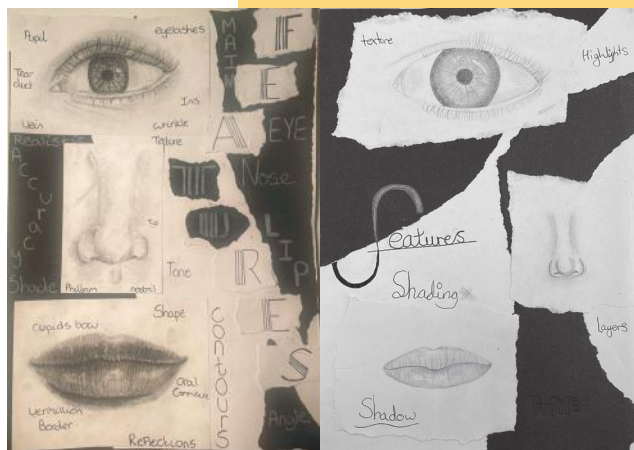
# Wow!



Our year 9s have been given a massive challenge of learning to create a graphite self-portrait. This is a tricky skill that has a lot of challenges, but they have really engaged with lessons and are surprising themselves at just what wonderful, mature work they can achieve.

Currently they are in the middle of creating their assessed self-portrait and we will share these in the next issue, but we wanted to show off some of the wonderful drawings of the individual features that were produced in the lead up. Our students have learnt the anatomy of the face, explored their own eyes, noses and mouths using mirrors to observe tone and detail. They have worked a lot on pencil technique for shading and measuring for proportion. An investigation into artist Chuck Close has been great for inspiration. All this learning was then applied to these final presentation sheets. We think you'll agree that they are doing really well with this challenge!

**By Mrs Abby Perman**  
**Teacher of Art & Design**



## Amy White

## Arthur Booth



## Sofia Mills

**Seb Riley**

**Kashifa Abdul**

## Florence Carey

**Poppy Installation created much local interest including a BBC Local radio slot!**

Over the course of 6 weeks in the Autumn term, our students collected over 1600 plastic bottles as part of a recycling drive to repurpose single-use plastic. We worked with the school community to subsequently cut, heat, spray and glue these bottles to transform them into beautiful poppies - 1 to represent each and every student and staff member in the school.





Here is a link to the behind the scenes video, for a better idea of the full impact of the project.  
<https://youtu.be/EFTmzCeb2NE?feature=shared>

## PROPS FOR MATILDA

*Following the success of our poppy project, the department swiftly moved onto designing and creating the props for our much-anticipated Christmas production, Matilda Jr. the Musical.*

*Once again utilising repurposed materials including cardboard, wallpaper and vinyl, giant reading books and painted nursery blocks came to fruition, contributed by many early mornings and late nights glue-gunning in the art studios!*

*We think the finished products looked fantastic as part of the production set, and are incredibly proud of all of the students who performed, making the show a huge success.*

By Mrs K Joseph-Stewart  
 Head of Art & Design



A considerable amount of time was spent 'weaving' these creations together to form a poppy 'wave', with the excess flowers mounted onto gardening skewers and planted at its base in the entrance to our school, which look spectacular alongside our 'unknown soldier' and commemorative plaque, which have both been made at GMS as part of the project.

This undertaking was been a real labour of love, and has caught the attention of the many visitors we have to the site each day, along with the wider community who have seen it shared on social media.

The exhibit was further celebrated just before Armistice Day with a visit from our parents and carers in the armed forces, who were photographed with their children in front of the display. It has provided an excellent talking point for the students, and serves as a poignant and pertinent place of remembrance to honour the contributions and sacrifices of our servicemen and women.

We are spectacularly proud of our students who have worked incredibly hard on this intensive and worthwhile project.

By Mrs K Joseph-Stewart  
 Head of Art & Design



## Marlow shoppers support Young Enterprise Mugs & More



Congratulations to the Great Marlow School Young Enterprise team "Mugs & More" who had a very rewarding evening trading at the Marlow Late Night Shopping on Thursday 7th December selling

their personalised Mugs and Bottles, Coasters, Fridge Magnets and much more. Even the wet weather couldn't dampen their spirits as they engaged with customers; their charisma and enthusiasm ensured the evening was a great success for them.

The Team have worked hard in the past two months to build this business from scratch, raising



awareness both within the school and in the local community.

Mugs & More will be representing Great Marlow School in each selling event including having a pitch at the Eden Centre in March, as well as competing with other local schools in the district events such as Dragons Den and the YE showcase in May.

We would like to thank everyone who have supported and continue to support the team.

By Ms Broadbent

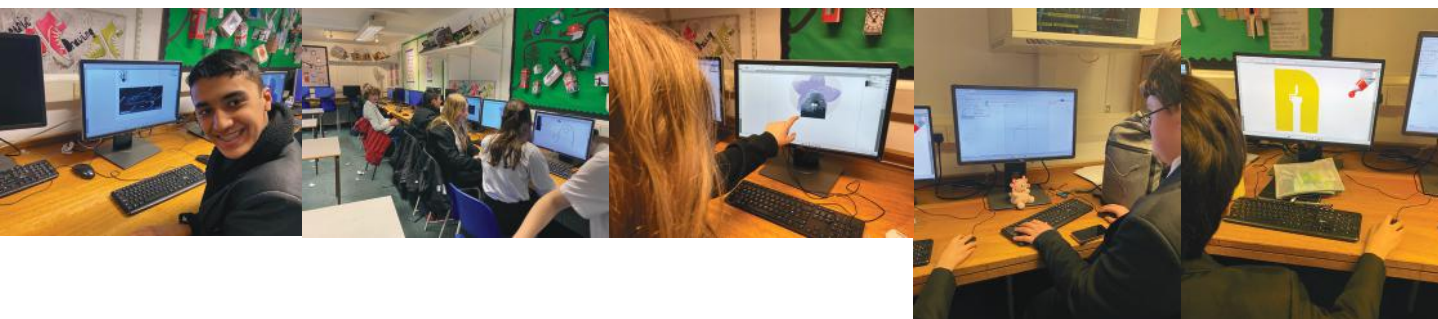


## CAD CLUB

This year KS4 & 5 have been spending their Tuesday's after schools developing Adobe CAD skills. The students have explored the idea of self-branding, and how to embed values into a company brand, from which they are creating their own personal logos that are representations of their skills or values. The students have learnt the importance of simplistic and effective design through investigating existing brands.



GMS CAD club



## SEWING BEE STUDENTS ENJOY A NEW CHALLENGE

The students have been exploring their Art Textiles side this term with a "stitch camp". The student developed surface decorated fabrics through the use of mark making. After which the pieces were cut out and assembled at random and then stitched together using hand embroidery and free machine embroidery. It is a difficult task that involved "avoiding fixation" and trying to develop a creative pattern with no intended direction.





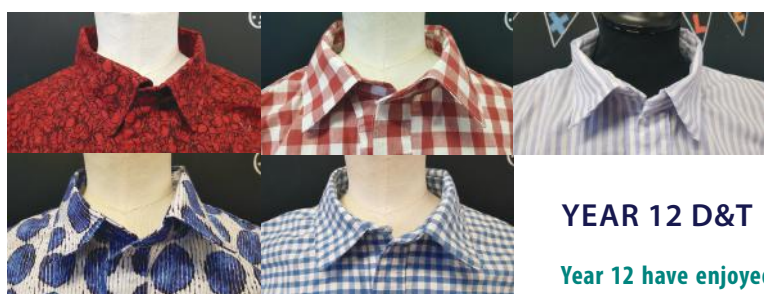
## GMS Sewing Bee

# TEXTILES

## YEAR 7 D&T

Year 7 have begun their Design and Technology carousels. Those starting with Textiles have worked with resilience and readiness to understand how to use the sewing machine and other (smaller) Textiles equipment. They designed and manufactured a drawstring bag based on a Design Movement from the past.

By Mrs C Clark



## YEAR 12 D&T

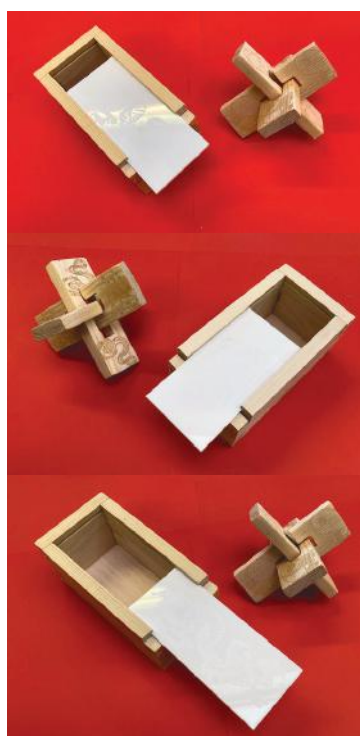
Year 12 have enjoyed a strong start to their A Level studies in Fashion and Textiles. After investigating 20th Century fashion and experimenting with a wide range of decorative techniques, students have shifted their focus to learning complex construction techniques. These samples show collars with a yoke, stand and button placket. Also placket cuffs with pleats.



# RM & PRODUCT DESIGN

## WOODWORKING SKILLS DEVELOPED FURTHER IN YEAR 10...

Year 10 RM have been making Chinese puzzles and boxes this term. They have learnt a range of different woodworking skills from marking out to cutting and shaping. They have also been developing their CAD CAM skills using the laser cutting to embellish their designs.

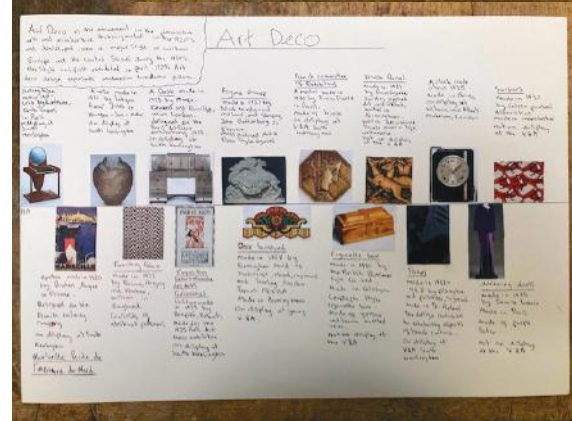
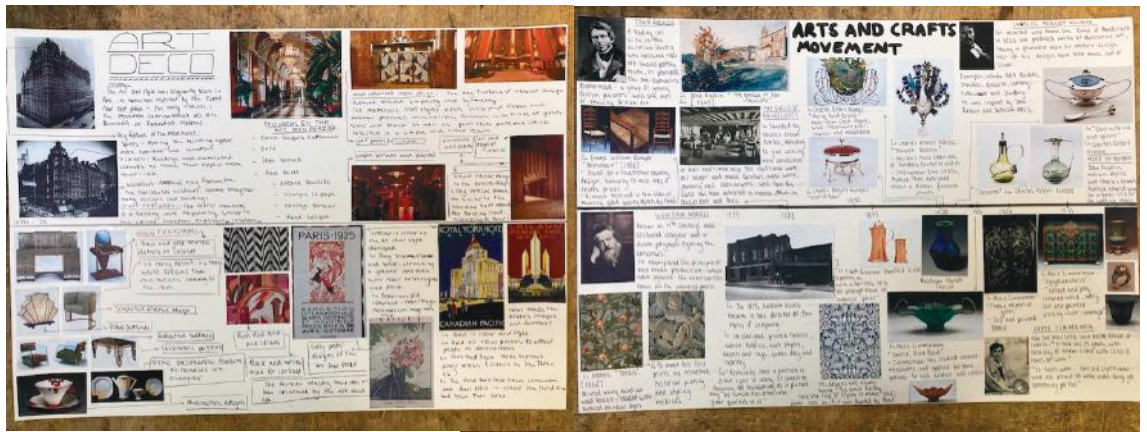


## ...AND METALWORKING SKILLS ADVANCED IN YEAR 12

Year 12 have enjoyed a strong start to their A-level studies in Product Design. After investigating the Arts and Crafts Movement and Art Deco, students have shifted their focus to learning new metalworking skills. They have made G-cramps where they got to learn how to sandcast, braze, cut internal and external threads.

By Mr N Taylor  
Head of D&T





## G-clamps

### GCSE FOOD TECH.

It has become a bit of a Christmas tradition at GMS that Year 10 food students tackle a very challenging yet fun practical of making a Chocolate Yule log. This entails creating a chocolate Swiss roll, letting it cool, adding fresh whipped cream to it, and then smothering their masterpieces with a generous amount of rich and delicious chocolate ganache.

These are a handful of the works produced this year. We're hopeful that this year's aspiring chefs will be able to create another masterpiece at home that will steal the show at the Christmas table.

By Mrs H Dale

Head of Food Tech

xmas yule logs



## MRS CADOGAN SHARES HER CHRISTMAS CAKE EXPERTISE WITH YEAR 7'S

Mrs Cadogan has been working with our year 7's in an afterschool food club which has proven to be immensely popular. In the last few weeks, they have been working hard to make, bake and decorate mini Christmas cakes which are now ready to go home and be shared with friends and family. Here are some pictures of the results. I am sure that you will agree, they look extremely festive and are beautifully made!

By Mrs H Dale  
Head of Food Tech



Mrs Cadogan also had Burford primary school in on Thursday the 14th to decorate their Christmas cakes, the students iced their cakes and make decorative designs using coloured icing and cookie cutters. The students then wrapped their cakes in cellophane and a bow to gift to a loved one. The students behaved beautifully and showed great enthusiasm towards Food & Nutrition. A big thank you to Mrs Cadogan for all her help and expertise in this area.

## DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCES EXAMINATION RESULTS 2023

This department offers A-Levels in three subjects: Ancient History, Politics and Law.

**Top grades were achieved by the following:**

**Emilyne Essalah – Grade A in Law**

**Reuben Metcalfe – Grade A in Ancient History**

**Junaid Rana – Grade A in Law**

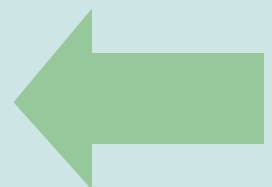
**Billy Ricketts – Grade A in Law**

**James Tipler – Grade A in Law**

In addition to these, Noah Grottrup achieved an A\* in one of the Politics modules, as did Ryan Karam in one of the Law modules, and Nabeel Ahmed, Martin Bignall, Leah Bigsby, Chlois Blois, Mackenzie Price, Sophie Wakefield and Evie Webster all achieved Grade A in one or more modules in one or more of the department's three subjects.

By Mr S Pugsley

Head of Political Sciences & Classics





## MATILDA PRODUCTION WAS SIMPLY OUTSTANDING!!

Great Marlow School's production of Matilda finally opened its curtains to the public on 13th and 14th December. After many long hours after school, during lunch breaks and weekends, the cast got the opportunity to display the amount of hard work they have put in since September. The musical based around a young girl with special powers, entertained a sold-out audience both nights. The cast of over 70 students from Year 7 to 11 wowed their audience with a variety of songs, dances and lots of comedy.

The show featured the well-loved songs of 'Naughty' to 'When I Grow Up', ending with the show stopping song 'Revolting Children'. The students worked hard learning all of the songs and dances, with many parents sharing that they too now know all the words of all the Matilda songs. A thank you to parents and carers who have put up with these songs for the last few months.

Students of Great Marlow School ran the lighting and sound desk, front of house and backstage. The responsibility of the whole show was put in the hands of our students. Their dedication and focus has been a pleasure to watch and they should be extremely proud of themselves.

Matilda (played by Kayla Dow Yr8) has astonishing wit, intelligence... and special powers! She's unloved by her cruel parents, Mr and Mrs Wormwood (Noah Codron Yr8 and Nancy Griffith Yr9) and Matilda's TV obsessed brother Michael (Callum Wolstencroft Yr10) but impresses her schoolteacher, the highly loveable Miss Honey (Daisy Mitchell Yr10). Matilda's school life isn't completely smooth sailing, however – the school's mean headmistress, Miss Trunchbull (Ralph Hill Yr9), hates children and just loves thinking up new punishments for those who don't abide by her rules. But Matilda has courage and cleverness in equal amounts, and could be the school pupils' saving grace!

It has been a pleasure working with such talented students. The department is looking forward to working with the students again, as we start preparation for our summer performance of Willy Russell's, 'Our Day Out'.

By Mrs D Chenery



## Reviews from the audiences of the show

**"Just a short note to congratulate you, your team and, of course, the cast for a wonderful production of Matilda, which I enjoyed this evening. To enable a group of really quite young kids to work as a team to achieve something amazing like that is just wonderful. My daughter feels empowered, confident and full of happiness. Magnify that by a whole cast and you should be very proud."**

**Thank you for what you have done."**

**WOW that was simply brilliant**

**I've been in tears all night; it was amazing.**

**Utterly Brilliant**

**It was just like being at the West End**

*"We came to watch the Matilda production on Wednesday evening and were blown away! Everything was amazing - the singing, acting, dancing - the whole production."*

*"My daughter has absolutely loved being involved and has also said how kind her fellow cast members are, which is lovely to hear. Thank you so much for your hard work - it really was an amazing show."*

"Huge congratulations!

It was fantastic. The students are so lucky to be able to take part in something so professional."

*"It was funny touching, extremely enjoyable and heart lifting."*

*You should all feel immensely proud of yourselves for such an incredible performance last night."*

**Would you kindly convey my thanks and best wishes to the pupils and staff who took part in the above performance.**

**The show was an outstanding success and showed the hours of hard work and dedication that must have been spent by all involved.**

**My husband and I enjoyed ourselves immensely and thought the whole performance worthy of the West End. Well done!**

***This is the best school show I have ever seen.***

***It was worth the two-hour drive to get here.***

***I was so impressed not just with the show but the way the students greeted us at the door.***

## Some comments from the Students

**Thank you for the amazing experience I had performing!**

***"Thanks so much, this and the other shows I have been in have been amazing opportunities, thanks to all the teachers for making it extra special!"***

**"Thank you so much I will definitely remember this show and the people who helped to put it all together thank you!"**

***"Thank you it was so much fun!!***

*"The Matilda show will definitely be one of the greatest things I have done this year. It took a lot of effort and time but all the hard work was worth it. I made sure before the show not to worry too much and just have fun with it myself. I also made sure that closer to show day that I went through my whole script to refresh my memory. I enjoyed rehearsals so much and making memories with my cast mates and teachers, I really enjoyed the full day rehearsals with the amount of laughs they brought, but most of all I enjoyed show day especially the feeling after you had just performed. I Made so many more friends that I probably wouldn't have even talked to before if it wasn't for the show. A lot of who were in different years. It meant the world to me to be able to play Matilda and I am so proud of everyone who made it happen. Thank you so much for the opportunity"*

*from Kayla Dow*



## Actor Paul Kaye inspires Matilda cast

The Cast of Matilda were fortunate enough to be visited by Paul Kaye, who as well as roles in Game of Thrones, Doctor Who and Vera, played Mr Wormwood in the original stage production of Matilda. He spent an hour sharing his experiences and advice from over 25 years in the industry. The students took the opportunity to ask questions and even got chance to get photos and autographs, for themselves and their parents.

Paul shared some great stories from his time with the Royal Shakespeare Company, from funny moments, to injuries occurring during the song 'Telly', to working with some of the biggest names in the entertainment industry.

Paul's relatable approach allowed for the students to feel comfortable to ask questions, ranging from his favourite characters he has played (Mr Wormwood was his favourite stage character) to the best location he has ever worked (Iceland during the filming of Game of Thrones).

Overall, it was an extremely entertaining and engaging hour for both students and staff, and one which we were very fortunate to experience. All our thanks go to Paul for being so generous with his time and we look forward to seeing him in his next role, whether it be on stage or screen.



## Matilda cast go to the Panto

Recently students who were involved with GMS's Christmas Matilda the Musical production were treated to a Pantomime Trip to Aylesbury Waterside to see Snow White and the Seven Dwarves.

*"All those fortunate to secure a place on the trip were in the mood for fun: students and staff alike. Even on the coach journey much voice was given to Christmas songs, some were even in tune. In truth, once the singing became very loud, I wondered if encouraging this sing-song had been a good idea!"*

*Of course, once in the theatre, treats for the performance were purchased in readiness for the fun about to unfold in the auditorium.*

*A pantomime is only a pantomime if people join in, and our students certainly did! Singing along when required and responding very loudly with the usual catch-phrases when expected. The biggest cheer, however, was when Muddles (an actor) mentioned our school and wished us luck for our upcoming production of Matilda.*

*A quieter coach trip home completed a very successful trip. I want to thank Mrs Bird, Mrs Black Mrs Sharp and Mrs Samaras for accompanying the students on this trip, especially as it was on a Friday Night."*

By Mr S Ross



## MUSIC EVENTS GALORE FOR GMS

It has been a very busy and exciting Autumn term in the Music Department!

The first event of the year was the Sixth Form Recital Evening. Students from Year 12 performed one piece of music in their first solo recital evening, whilst students from Year 13 performed their full recital programme, in preparation of their final performance exam. Performing in the wonderful acoustic of All Saints Church, the students performed brilliantly well.

To round off the Autumn term and an exciting festive period, the Music Department are delighted to be performing in the Carol Service at the Lantern Church, Marlow Bottom on Sunday 17 December. The Brass and Saxophone ensemble will be performing in the outdoor service.

A huge congratulations to all musicians for their hard work and commitment this term. Merry Christmas!



### OUR EXTRA-CURRICULAR TIMETABLE:

#### Monday:

Break 2 - Wind Quintet (invite)

After school - Piano Duets (all years)

#### Tuesday:

Tutor time - Chamber Choir (all years)

Break 2 - Wind Band (Y7-10)

After school - Rock and Pop bands (all years)

#### Wednesday:

Tutor time - Chamber Choir (all years)

After school - GCSE Composition Club (Y10-11)

#### Thursday:

Break 1 - Show Choir (all years)

After school - Jazz Band (Y10-13)

By Mr O Kidd  
Head of Music



*"Last Thursday evening students from Great Marlow School Music department performed a Christmas concert in the Sixth Form Centre. The evening featured everything from a chamber choir and a wind band, to a piano trio and a wind quintet (that is made up of neither wind instruments or 5 people). I play the piano and I'm part of the Jazz Band, Wind Quintet, Chamber Choir and Piano Trio. I only joined Jazz Band and Chamber Choir this year, but I really enjoy doing all of the clubs. The concert had a great atmosphere and was really exciting to perform in, especially with friends and family in the audience. It was a fun and festive event - with different refreshments available, and Young Enterprises had a stand there too. It took a lot of time rehearsing in the lead up, but it was worth it, and I really enjoyed watching other groups perform. I am looking forward to us hopefully doing another concert in the New Year."*

**The Christmas Concert by Ivy Burge**





## XMAS HARRY POTTER QUIZ ENJOYED BY STAFF AND STUDENTS ALIKE

On entering the library, you are welcomed into a magical Harry Potter World full of cloaks, wands and a host of Potter paraphernalia. This all added to the fun of The



Harry Potter Quiz, hosted by Mrs Fisher. A total of 90 students, supported by enthusiastic staff, were suitably challenged by the questions, presented by Mr Ross who wore a Harry Potter robe

and hat and kept everyone amused by calling himself Dumbledore.

The fifteen questions required an in-depth knowledge of the wizarding world. Mrs Joyce, who set the questions, made sure that all teams were suitably challenged. Can you answer this question? : .....

The Harry Potter Quiz was tremendous fun with a total of 90 students supported by enthusiastic staff. The questions were suitably challenging giving rise to discussion and guesswork.

Many thanks to Mrs Legerton, Abby Sawney, Rachel Addy, Mr Pightling, Mr Ross and the teaching assistants who came along to take part.



Mrs Fisher made delicious treats – handmade chocolate frogs for all participants as well as giving each team Harry Potter glasses and lightening scar tattoos.

Teams were invited to create Potteresque Teams names



such as: 'You're a Quizzard Harry!'; 'Hagrid's Dragons'; 'Voldemort's Nose' and 'The Half-Blood Princes'

The overall winner with a staggering 15/15 was Leo Bray; he shared his mega prize, a huge box of sweets, with his brother's team.

Thank you to Mrs Fisher for her superb organisation and for all staff and KS4 students who supported this event.

By Mrs A Fisher

## A PLETHORA OF CHRISTMAS JUMPERS AT GMS

Many thanks to everyone who donated and wore a Christmas jumper on Thursday 7th December. We raised a fantastic £319 for Save The Children.

This renowned charity makes a difference to children worldwide, nationally and internationally, which is why we were so pleased to be able to offer our support.

By Mrs N Pendlebury





## ECO WARRIORS MAKING THEIR PRESENCE AROUND GMS

**The Eco Group has been working diligently to implement initiatives throughout the school, such as designing the mural, installing solar panels, developing the pond, and maintaining the garden areas. The Eco group received assistance from the Art Department in creating the mural's design, which local artist Dan Wilson will subsequently paint.**

Further more, on Friday 24th of November, Miss Addy, Arran Bligh, Lewis Balbini and Jamie Watson met the with Deputy Mayor of Marlow. In the half hour meeting, many eco ideas were swapped. The Deputy Mayor is been working on expanding no cut zones and wild flower areas. Similarly the GMS eco team also wanted to have some no cut zones on the field. The Deputy Mayor also wanted to create a mural along a busy public footpath. She intended for it to be painted by local Primary schools and GMS student. This would be a great opportunity for Primary and Secondary school students to express their creativity. Finally, we would like to thank the Deputy Mayor for giving up some of her time to meet with us.

We began attempting to get funding for projects like the new school pond and outdoor classroom only a few months ago, after success with gaining £700 from the local computer company Softcat. We began by applying to the Marlow round table and getting £1500 for

our group, I was then assigned the task of contacting groups such as the Shanley foundation, Veolia sustainability fund as well as the ltl nature Grant and have so far gained over £5000 as well as £500 in equipment. We are all tremendously pleased and look forward to getting the new outdoor classroom with this.

We sincerely appreciate Mrs. Hearn's assistance with the gardening team throughout the past two weeks, as they have worked incredibly hard to keep the gardens clear of litter and weeds.

Thanks to Mr Shea for making the Eco team a "voting box" to support with prioritising tasks and ensuring every form has a say on the next big drive.

As the paper master, Mr. Horler has assumed responsibility for the role. He and his team have provided paper recycling systems to every tutor group, and he has his Eco monitors gather and inspect the recycling system to make sure there is no contamination.

As the Senior Leadership representative, Mrs. Wheeler has worked with Miss Addy and the Eco prefects to assist us with the ever-growing task list for the Eco group. We are very fortunate to have her on the Eco team. We're thrilled to have you join the group!

Lastly, we would like to express our gratitude to Mr. Ford for allowing us to use his office for meetings and for not scuttling off when Miss Addy approached him.

By Miss R Addy

Teacher of Design & Technology/Eco Lead





**I have thoroughly enjoyed my first term as Director of Learning of our brilliant Year 7 cohort, as we welcomed them to our school: they have settled in well to the daily routines of school life.**

The cohort have taken things in their stride. We are proud of the readiness demonstrated by such an overwhelming majority of the year group, to participate in wider school life and to give things a go. We encourage the students to continue to seize the wealth of opportunities available to them in the New Year, as signposted by the weekly enrichment and sports bulletins. Rowing was launched to the Year 7s this term and it has proved very popular! Each house has a dedicated break time to get involved, Tuesdays to Thursdays. Well done to everyone who has tried it out. New faces are always welcome to attend any of the extracurricular activities we have on offer to our students. More recently, several of our year 7s were involved in the school production of 'Matilda' which was a huge success. Well done to everyone involved!

A special mention to the Art department, led by Mrs Joseph-Stewart and the whole-school bottle collection competition they hosted, in order to create the wonderful Poppy Installation for Remembrance out on the quad. The competition promoted great teamwork, reflection and sustainability among the year group. Well done to Faith Bedford in 7H3, who collected the most amount of bottles for the project in the whole school (77 in total!)

The cohort's first set of Autumn Term progress reports were extremely impressive. The majority of the cohort achievement all 'Good' or 'Excellent' for their ATL, which is a reflection of our 6 Rs ethos here at Great Marlow.

***Overall, it has been an extremely successfully (and exceptionally busy!) first term for Year 7. There continues to be consistent and supportive communication between all three stakeholders in this partnership; the school, home and the student. I would like to thank both parents and staff members for their continued support of the cohort.***

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Miss Blanco-Rand and the whole Student Support team for the pastoral support they provide to the Year 7 cohort, alongside their form tutors. Students in Y7 know where to find support and utilise these routes successfully.

***Wishing you and your families a restful Christmas break and a very Happy New Year!***

**By Miss A Miles**

**Director of Learning Year 7**



<b>Elijah Fraser</b>	<b>7 E2</b>
<b>Maddie Jesky</b>	<b>7H1</b>
<b>Isabella Rawlings</b>	<b>7H1</b>
<b>Hannah Hunt</b>	<b>7K1</b>
<b>Miles Berry</b>	<b>7K1</b>
<b>Holly Knott</b>	<b>7K1</b>
<b>Florence Hawkins</b>	<b>7K2</b>
<b>Celtie Bater</b>	<b>7 E3</b>
<b>Lexi Flint</b>	<b>7 E3</b>
<b>Holly Peach</b>	<b>7 E3</b>
<b>Eliza Evans</b>	<b>7H1</b>
<b>Isabella Hale</b>	<b>7H1</b>
<b>Seb Jones</b>	<b>7H1</b>
<b>Beth Puddephatt</b>	<b>7H1</b>
<b>Max Goodchild</b>	<b>7H2</b>
<b>Luke Hoad</b>	<b>7H3</b>
<b>Freya Johnston-Evans</b>	<b>7H3</b>
<b>Erin Shale</b>	<b>7H3</b>
<b>Caiden Knock</b>	<b>7K1</b>
<b>Orla O'Connor</b>	<b>7K1</b>
<b>Ayrton Randall</b>	<b>7K1</b>
<b>Kaitlyn Simmonds</b>	<b>7K1</b>
<b>Thea Young</b>	<b>7K2</b>
<b>Florence James</b>	<b>7K3</b>
<b>Zach Stevens</b>	<b>7K3</b>
<b>Scout Willcocks</b>	<b>7K3</b>

**I was delighted to welcome Year 8 back this term and with the support of Mrs Flannery and the form tutors have worked hard to support the students in their learning journey at Great Marlow School.**

I am very proud of the achievements of Year 8 this term but It's not just school work we celebrate, we love to hear about the fantastic things happening out of school too. A special mention goes to the following Year 8 students:

## OLLIE GARNETT HAS AFTERNOON TEA WITH DAVID WALLIAMS

David Walliams launched a competition to support his new book called The Blunders. Competitors were challenged to be resourceful when building one of The Blunders characters.

The competition challenged competitors to submit creations as a drawing, model, diagram or mock prototype. These could be made from anything available: pens, paper, cardboard, arts and crafts materials, or old household items, no longer in use. Everyone was encouraged to be resourceful, creative and, importantly, think outside the box.

Ollie Garnett, in 8H2, decided to enter and portray Old Lady Blunder. In all, there were just five winners and Ollie was one of the five. The prize was posh afternoon tea at Fortnum and Masons with David Walliams, who was charming and funny with every winner of his competition. His parents reported that, "It was a magical experience." and "Ollie had the best time."

When there, Ollie received two signed books and a copy of the secret chapter of the Blunders, not yet published. So, he has very special keepsakes of the experience.



## BRONZE MEDAL FOR GYMNAST

Congratulations goes to one of our Year 8 students, Eliza Barbosa de Melo, who has shown her gymnastic expertise and performance quality in the National Finals: she was central in helping her team, Team London, win the prestigious Bronze medal at the competition.

Eliza is in 8H3, and her commitment to a sport she enjoys and excels in is a credit to her. Very often, after a day at school, she undertakes more gymnastic practise for gymnastic displays.

We wish her all the best as she prepares for the next gymnastic performance.

## SILVER MEDAL FOR JUDO

A talented Year 8 judo enthusiast, Ralphy Weaver Poole, attended the European Hainaut Cup Competition in Belgium, recently, with his core judo team.

He had prepared thoroughly for the championship. So, over two days, Ralphy took part in an epic eight fights, in both the U15s and U13s categories.

The reward for all his hard work was winning Silver: a great result.



**Well done and Merry Christmas**

**By Mrs N Pendlebury  
Director of Learning Year 8**

**Congratulations to the following students achieved a huge 13 or more EXCELLENTS for their attitude to learning on their progress report! Well done:**

Maria Hidalgo Minarro	8K1
Matilda Martin	8K1
Olivia Egginton	8K1
Grace Suder	8K2
Elle De Beer	8K3
Bethany Kentell	8K3
Josie Bevins	8H1
Eva Jameson	8H1
Annabelle Jones	8H1
Natalia Kearey	8H1
Jasper Lai	8H1
Eleanor Laithwaite	8H1
Grace Murado	8H1
Scarlett Speare	8H1
Braden Stark	8H1
Ahmed Contractor	8H2
Isla Lewis-Bell	8H2
Alexandra McGuinness	8H2
Delilah Nicol	8H2
Sophie Squire	8H2
Thomas Whiteley	8H2
Ava Harbinson	8H3
Courtney Westfield	8H3
Elizabeth Green	8E1
Jude Collin	8E1
Darcey McNeil	8E1
Sofia Pritchard	8E1
Riley Stevens	8E1
Erin Arnold	8E3

**I would like to wish you all a restful break and I look forward to seeing Year 8 in the New Year with smart uniform and on time for school!**



**Year 9 have returned to GMS this academic year with a lot of energy and motivation.**

**There continues to be consistent supportive communication between all three stakeholders in each student's education: the school, home and the student and I would like to thank both parents and staff members for this continual support of the cohort.**

Thank you to Miss Hyde and the whole Student Support Team for the pastoral support they provide to the Year 9 cohort alongside the Form Tutors. Students know where to find support and utilise these routes successfully.

Similarly to last year, every half term has a different focus on one of the six Rs that make up the 'My Personal Best' values of Great Marlow School. The whole school focus this half term has been Responsibility. All the materials during Assemblies and Thought for The Week activities have made reference to the importance of responsibility and have emphasised the importance of all members of the school community to take responsibility for themselves within the wider community. Our Autumn Term progress reports were extremely impressive this term and it was clear that the Year 8 students have taken the message of responsibility on

board. The marks for Attitude Towards Learning was excellent with only a handful of students with 3 or more 'Inconsistent' marks for ATL. The majority of students in the Year group have achieved all 'Good' or 'Excellent' marks for their ATL which is a reflection of the culture of aspiration and respect that our Year 8 students have helped to establish.

As we draw towards the end of the Autumn term, the temptation is to look forward to the Spring term after Christmas and the opportunities that this will bring. Many of our Year 9 students have been actively questioning their teachers and form tutors about the GCSE Options process and it has been gratifying to see the students taking such an active interest in their academic futures. As already advertised, our GCSE Options evening will take place on Wednesday 21st February. I will be sending out more information for this in the new year and I look forward to seeing many of you there for the evening. In the meantime, your child's form tutor is the best person to contact with any questions that you may have.

Overall, this has been an extremely successful start to what is a critical school year for our Year 9 students!

**I would like to wish you all a Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

**By Mr S Taylor - Director of Learning Year 9**

**Congratulations to our students that have shown great readiness for their learning with 100% attendance:**

**Baker, Thomas**  
**Blissett, Theodore**  
**Chapman, Rudi**  
**Davies, Rose**  
**Dean, Khadijah**  
**Duncan, Herbie**  
**Egleton, Emily**  
**Ellwood, William**  
**Fish, Miles**  
**Forbes, Charlotte**  
**Giles, Amelia**  
**Gilmore, Louis**  
**Hickman, Angel**  
**Hudson, Poppy**  
**Jahangir, Fatima**

**Kaczmarek, Jakub**  
**Lee, Hugo**  
**Lewis, Robert**  
**Llewellyn-Probets, Leah**  
**McDermott, Rosie**  
**McGeachan, Jessica**  
**McGivern, Leon**  
**Mitchell, Joshua**  
**Morgan, Ella**  
**Munro, Holly**  
**Musoke, Isaac**  
**Owen, Poppy**  
**Parks, Matthew**  
**Pierce, Riley**  
**Quann, Connor**

**Quinn, Natalie**  
**Ras, Sophie**  
**Reynolds, Luke**  
**Rogers, Isabel**  
**Rycroft, Peter**  
**Sharp, Imogen**  
**Sinden, Adam**  
**Smith, Barnaby**  
**Smith, Paige**  
**Spann, Tom**  
**Tate, Georgia**  
**Trice, Chloe**  
**Wills, Ethan**

**Year 10 have quickly settled in to their GCSE courses. It is always a leap in terms of expectations moving from Year 9 into Year 10, but our students have embraced the challenge and demonstrated their resilience, respect and responsibility for their KS4 study.**

### YEAR 10 TEAM

A big thank you to our excellent team of form tutors and to our Student Support Officer Mrs Spencer who works with Miss Tuddenham (Director of Learning). The consistent monitoring of attendance, lateness, achievement points and behaviour points means that students are well supported, and we can focus appropriate interventions where necessary. We also work with the SEND/Mental Health teams to support our more vulnerable students who benefit from additional support such as MHST work or counselling.

### RSHE

The new RSHE format has been rolled out this year with year 10 benefitting from weekly RSHE lessons and a follow up form time morning. The response to this has been positive, the topics covered are not always easy to deliver but they are important for the students spiritual, moral social and cultural development (SMSC).

### YEAR 10 INFORMATION EVENING

The Information Evening was held on the 7th February for parents and carers. The presentation provided all the relevant and up to date information to support their child through the first year of their GCSE courses and provided an opportunity to ask any questions. The evening proved valuable and informative.

### PROGRESS REPORTS

The first set of Year 10 progress reports were published on the 10th November giving students and parents/carers a clear idea of how the student is performing. This first report offered an attitude to learning grade only as we are early on in the GCSE course. Our students have gone through these in their form time and looked at key strengths and areas for development giving them key reflection time over their studies. Teachers and form tutors are always on hand to support students improve their attitude to learning or achievement. The reports were outstanding with well over half the year group, 132 students, receiving all Good or Excellent Attitude to Learning grades. This is a reflection of GMS' culture of excellence and respect for education.

We are very proud of our students for their excellent start to Year 10 and their GCSE courses. We look forward to the new year and the exciting events to come; parents evening and prefect applications to name but two!

**Wishing you a restful and relaxing Christmas holiday**

**By Miss F Tuddenham**

**Director of Learning Y10 & KS4**

**Congratulations to the Year 10 students that received Attitude to Learning grades of all Good and Excellent on their recent progress report:**

ALLEN Charlie	10E3
ANDERSON Willow	10E1
AOUN Marc	10E1
ARZBERGER Sam	10K2
BALBINI Lewis	10E3

BARBER Arthur	10K2
BARNES Liam	10H2
BARTOSZ Alexandra	10H3
BASON Ava	10H3
BAYLISS Xanthe	10H3

BENNETT Daisy	10H2
BEWLEY Jessica	10H3
BROMHAM-KING Sadie	10H2
BUNTING Max	10E2
BUTCHER Isabelle	10H2



CARTER Harry	10E3
CHANA Ronak	10K3
CHAPPLE Ivy	10E3
CHERRINGTON Pixie	10H3
COLLIER Grace	10H3
COLLINS Albie	10K3
CONNOR Jemima	10H1
COOMBS Luke	10H1
COOMBS Phoebe	10E1
CRAM Fraser	10H2
DA SILVA Erin	10H1
DE CASTILHO ALVES GOMES Beatriz	10E3
DJILLALI Daniel	10H1
DONOHUE Freya	10K3
DOVE Sienna	10K3
EHRLE Alexander	10H1
ETCHES Poppy	10K3
FARRELL Joseph	10E2
FLEMING Nathaniel	10E2
FOLLEY Sophie	10K1
FOYLE Mary-Ellen	10E3
GALE Samuel	10K3
GALE Thomas	10E1
GENTRY Archie	10E1
GIRT Tiaanii	10K3
GLADWELL Elizabeth	10K3
GLADWELL Isobel	10K3
GORDON Harvey	10E1
GOUGH Jayden	10H1
GRANGE Mason	10K3
GRAY Mina	10H1
GREEN Libby	10K1
GROOM Annabelle	10H2
HABOR Roksolana	10H1
HALL Charlotte	10K1
HARDING Scott	10E3
HARPER Tommy	10E2
HOARE Edward	10E1
HOBDELL-WILLIAMS Freya	10E1

HUNT Ollie	10H2
JAMESON Mikayla	10E2
JARVIS Abi	10K1
JONES Lucas	10H2
JOSEPH Ashton	10H1
KANE Callum	10E3
KENNEDY Brodie	10E3
KLUCZYNSKA Vanessa	10E2
KNOX Moa	10K3
KOPLIN Leon	10K3
LOUGHLIN Tommy	10H2
LUNN Elise	10E3
MARCINKUS Markas	10H3
MARINCU Cassy	10K1
MARQUES Ava	10E2
MARSH Noah	10K3
MATTHEWS Evie	10H2
MCDONALD Lily	10E2
MCKAY Max	10H1
MCKIE Tameka	10K2
MERRICK Noah	10E3
MONKS Eleanor	10E1
MORGAN Sienna	10H2
NICHOLLS Zoe	10H1
NORRISH Isabel	10K1
NYE Grayson	10H1
O'CONCHUIR Saoirse	10H3
O'DELL Eva	10E2
PANTING Scarlett	10K1
PEARCE Logan	10E1
PEARCE Sebastian	10H2
PEEK Lois	10H3
PENDLEBURY Natasha	10K1
PHILLIPS Katie	10E1
PLATT Lucy	10K2
QUESTER Hannah	10K3
RADNEDGE Bea	10E1
RALSTON Amelie	10H1
RANDALL Freya	10H2

RASMUSSEN Erin	10E3
REDMOND Aedan	10K2
REEVE Tabitha	10H2
RICHARDSON Verity	10H3
ROWLAND Olivia	10K1
SALINAS Ava	10H3
SAUNDERS Elin	10H3
SCHAFER Hilton	10K3
SHARP Rosemary	10E2
SHERWIN Zak	10H3
SHILLITO Kayla	10E1
SINGH Apoorva	10H2
SMITH Matthew	10H3
SOMERS Christopher	10H2
SPEARE Euan	10E3
SPENCE Beatrix	10K3
SPENCER Zahra	10K1
SURDARIU Leonardo	10H3
SUTHERLAND Callum	10H2
SYLVESTER Megan	10K3
SYLVESTER Oliver	10K1
TAYLOR Luca	10E3
THEN Olivia	10K2
THORBJORNSEN Anna	10E1
TRIBE Emilia	10K2
URIE Olivia	10H3
VU Thuan	10H1
WALKER Jackson	10E2
WELLS Lyra	10K1
WHARFE Tom	10K2
WHITING Nicole	10H2
WHITTINGTON Jake	10E1
WILSON Amelia	10E2
WOOSTER Alfie	10H2
WRIGHT Alistair	10H2
YELLOLY Emily	10E2
YURYCHKO Yuliana	10E2
ZAYACHUK Yuliia	10E1
ZHENG Emily	10K2

**Let me begin by wishing you all a wonderful festive period this coming break.**

**Year 11 began September with a renewed motivation and positive attitude towards their final year of KS4.**

**This continues to show across the year group with many comments from staff regarding how impressed they are with their behaviour and how much they are enjoying teaching them – Well done to them!**

## MOCK EXAMS

A huge thank you to all that work with Year 11 In particular...

The form tutors for supporting their tutees with Post-16 education options, applications to courses and preparation for exams. For promoting positive attitudes towards their study and encouraging improved punctuality.

Miss Aylett-Livesley for continuing to be a fantastic support of the students in Year 11. The positive relationships she has developed allow her to motivate them and create an atmosphere in which they feel safe to share.

All parents and carers for their continued support of the school and students. For communicating openly with the school and allowing us to work together in determining approaches and educational opportunities for your children.

## ELEVATE

Students participated in another Elevate session with the Elevate Education team focussing on exam preparation and revision techniques.

The feedback from this session was positive. Of 198 students that completed feedback forms;

**195 said they would recommend the programme.**

**184 said it was time well spent.**

We continue with our vision of "Get the Grade" and thank the parents and carers that attended the GCSE Exam Evening in which how this can be achieved was discussed.

This vision is being used to promote students taking ownership of their studies and outcomes this year and their future steps. All students are being advised to have an option A and B (and possibly C) to ensure that they are confident in August that they understand their next steps based on the outcome of their exams.

A lot of positive feedback has been received from the information evenings and all resources shared online and via email for parents/carers that could not attend.

## PROGRESS REPORTS

The first set of Year 11 progress reports were published at the end of October, and I am incredibly proud of the cohort's achievements on these.

I am pleased to say that 57% of all Y11 achieved "good" and "excellent" in all subjects. Well done to these students for maintaining a great attitude towards learning across all subjects, teachers and environments.

Thank you to the Parents and Carers of the year group and their support.

**By Mrs J Bawden**

**Director of Learning Year 11**

**Eight Students have been recognised by their teachers as having a consistently "excellent" attitude towards learning in ALL subjects and lessons. These students have gone above and beyond in their approach to learning and awarded as such – Well done and thank you!**

**Kaitlyn B**

**Amatullah C**

**Emily E**

**Louis G**

**Hannah K**

**Shannon R**

**Sara R**

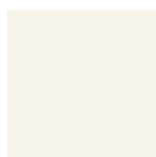
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The Sixth Form team are delighted to report on a successful Autumn team. We started back in September welcoming our new Year 12 cohort of 134 students. They have settled quickly into GMS aided by our Senior Prefect team who organised form quiz sessions in registrations to support not only the new Year 12 students joining us from other schools but also to develop friendships with the Year 13 cohort too.

The Year 12 cohort have settled extremely well into their studies, benefitting from supervised study periods and having a dedicated library and silent study space, the students are achieving excellent results. In the first set or progress grades issues, Miss Jones was delighted in sending home 35 praise postcards celebrating students who had an excellent attitude to learning in every one of their subjects. Congratulatory posters can also be seen around our Sixth Form centre but we also wanted to congratulate the students here.

Millie Horan	Aparna Sharma
Scarlett Lee	Evie Jenkins
Poppy Price	Ella Martin
Jess Rhodes	Anouk Oldham
Sam Terrett	Melisa Kinay
Swaira Babur	Finlay Lewis-Bell
Kayla Bradfield	Eleanor Robertson
Emma Lumley	Matilda Smith
Shelley Paternoster	Sophie Wharfe
Phoebe Rhodes	Sophie Apletree
Rebecca Tinnelly	Bryn Crampsie
Ellie Weedon	Madihah Hussain
Brooke West	Holly Rockell
Arran Bligh	Kristin Rasmussen
Nicole Borkowska	Ansty van Romburgh
Charlotte Haddock	



special night. Students are currently juggling coursework, lesson demands on UCAS deadlines. We are delighted to celebrate that 101 students have registered via UCAS to apply to university and many are already receiving offers from their chosen institutions. Both Joseph Legerton and Isaac Grottup were successful in gaining interviews for Oxbridge and we wish them every success with this journey. The cohort has received support through assemblies, dedicated form time and through their Unifrog program to ensure each student is fully prepared for their next steps. To support this, when the students return from their Christmas break, they will undertake their Mock exams. Each student has already received their mock exam timetable through their form tutor.

## PROGRESS GRADES

The Year 13 cohort have made an excellent start to the year. On the 30th October, the cohort received their first set of progress grades for year 13. It was pleasing to be able to send home praise postcards to 25 students who had achieved excellent ATL in every subject and 11 students who were on or above their aspirational target in every subject. Head teachers awards were also presented to the 6 students who achieved both excellent ATL and above/on target - a fantastic achievement. We would also like to recognise their achievements here.

## YOUNG ENTERPRISE

A fantastic start can also be seen in the creation of the Year 12 Young Enterprise group. This dedicated team have set up a company called Mugs and More. The business offers personalised mugs, magnets, posters, etc. They became trading in November and have also had successful sells in the late night shopping event in Marlow. We wish them every success with their business adventures.

Milli Guinness	James Hadjikyriacos
Charlie-Jai Bristow	Finley Gomm
Lucy Miskell	Luca Noviello
Helena Sykora	Daniil Petrov
Ethan Prior	Alicia Ray
Faye Simpson	Lauren Hudson
Edwin Chamberlain	Molly McNally
Charlotte Pretty	Grace Radnedge
Rebecca Stevens	Maya Whyte
Joseph Cogan	Millie Elwood
Gabe Hunter	Joseph Legerton
Benny Maddern	Isaac Rincon
Abbie Stewart	

ON/ABOVE TARGET IN EVERY SUBJECT	Form
Holly Eyles	E2
Matthew Taylor	
Ethan Prior	H1
Mea Thomson	
Lola Newcombe	H2
Edwin Chamberlain	K1
Rebecca Stevens	
Joseph Cogan	K2
Millie Elwood	
Benny Maddern	
Abbie Stewart	

## SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

On the 7th November the school held its Sixth Form Open evening. The senior prefect team organised attendance for the night by creating their own Whats App group and assigning roles. Mabel and Harry, our Head prefects, spoke of the pride they have for our school and also their next steps. Many parents commented positively and it was pleasing to see students from 17 local schools. Thank you to our senior prefect team for all their help and dedication on this successful night. Our senior prefect team has also chaired our Year Group Council meetings to further develop student voice and have continued to work in partnership with Marlow Rotary Club in order to develop our charity work, Interact. Prom committee has also convened and we are already delighted with the maturity and attitude of our students in organising such a

We are incredibly proud of all of our students at Great Marlow. Many students not only undertake their studies with us, but also dedicate their time to sport and music to a high level. We would like to acknowledge and congratulate the following students on their successes this term. Millie Elwood, Charlotte Greening, Caitlyn Urie, Leo Hazlem, Liam Bruno, Ash Barber, Matthew McCall and Malakhi Allick

Enjoy yourselves this festive period, take the time to relax with your families. However, should you require support, please remember that the 6th form team are available via the usual email addresses

Mr Hollyman, Miss Jones, Mrs Evans and Mrs Paul

The Sixth Form Team



**Congratulations to Amelia Elwood Yr 13, who has been awarded a Sports Scholarship to take a four-year degree course at Texas Tech. next year.**

**Amelia, who is taking A-levels in Law, Biology and Psychology plays for Reading FC in the Women's Championship League.**

**Here she is scoring her first ever Championship goal in a match against Durham in October**



## House position changes several times over past term

As we draw to a close on the Christmas term, the House Leaders would like to thank and congratulate all students of their houses for an undeniably stellar effort in the recent weeks. Students have been earning hundreds of house points for demonstrating the 7Rs, for entering and placing in House competitions and for going above and beyond in and out of lessons. Overall, it's been a phenomenal effort, but who is on top going into 2024? Let's look at the top achieving forms for each house...

### TOP FORMS:

**Eagles:** 8E2 are smashing it with a huge 1862 points!

**Hawks:** 9H3 are in the lead for Hawks with 1800 points!

**Kites:** Storming ahead with a whopping 2205 points is 9K3!

### TOTALS:

With a surprise upset, Eagles also won every part of the bottle collecting competition - which saw them shoot from 3rd to 1st this term! Can they hold the lead, or will they be caught by Hawks in 2nd or Kites in 3rd ?

So the total points so far are:

Eagles	Hawks	Kites
Total = 58,612	Total = 58,239	Total = 58,335

## HOUSE CAPTAIN SELECTION

After a well-deserved break, we will be coming back in January to appoint the next House Captains for 2024-2025. More information will come out in January about what House Captains do, and how to apply to become a House Captain. If you're interested, keep an ear out!

By Mr A Bradley

## PE School Games

School Games provides opportunities for Primary and Secondary schools to be active and have positive experiences of physical activity. This is done primarily through sports festivals and competitions. This term GMS hosted Year 3&4 Rugby in November. This was a fun event to introduce Rugby to pupils from local primary Schools. 55 pupils from 4 schools attended and enjoyed a carousel of skills and drills, getting them used to the sport of tag Rugby. 6 students from Year 10 helped to lead the different stations, showing great leadership and adaptability, tweaking their station to suit the ability of each group of primary pupils.

GMS hosted the last Primary event this half term, Year 5&6 Christmas Dodgeball. This was a fun one that was a bit of a reward and an opportunity for less experienced sporting stars to shine. The event started with a carousel of games and practices before match play. This once again was made possible with the help of 9 Year 10 students. The Year 10's got into the Christmas spirit, giving the primary pupils encouragement, giving out stickers for the School Games value of 'Honesty' and making the event enjoyable for all 60 pupils that attended.





## BOYS FOOTBALL

As always, football at GMS is a popular choice for students starting in Year 7. The first few training sessions saw over 40 boys attend, which was going to make it challenging to select teams for the upcoming fixtures.

### YEAR 7

This term, the main focus has been the national and county cup. After the first couple of training sessions, it was clear that the Year 7 team was going to be a strong cohort for football. This was justified when they produced an outstanding display in the first round of the county cup winning 10-2. Throughout the term, the Year 7 team has progressed to the semi-finals of the county cup with victories over St Michaels, Chesham Grammar, and Thorpe House.

Their impressive performances have continued in the national cup where they have progressed to the last 64, of which is the furthest a Great Marlow School Year 7 football team has achieved in the National cup. On route to this stage, they have beaten John Hampden Grammar School and Dr Challoner's Grammar School. In both competitions, there has been an array of outstanding performances from the whole squad. Notable mentions, should go to Mason Barroy for his commanding presence at the back, and Freddie Rowley for his tenacious and dynamic energy in midfield.

Hopefully the success continues into the new term and they can progress in to the latter rounds of the national cup and triumph in the county cup.

As well as the national and county cup continuing after Christmas there will be opportunities for other students to demonstrate their abilities when the district league starts in February.

By Mr A Higgins



### YEAR 8 FOOTBALL

The Year 8 footballers have made good progress from last year. They have been focusing on improving their structure from last year, and this has really showed in their games. In particular, this was seen in the fixture against John Hampden Grammar School. The team matched them for much of the game, leading for a large portion. This showed the capabilities of the students and what they can achieve. Moving on from this was a tough game against Cox Green School in the National Cup. The Cox Green defence were fast and strong, and Zack Gibson and Jamie Barnes worked hard to create opportunities up the pitch.

In the final fixture of the year, a combined Year 8 and Year 9 team played against Chiltern Hill Academy. The team played incredibly well, especially taking into account this was the first fixture they had played together in. Elliot Sylvester had a fine game, being calm and collected on the ball, and Callum Wolstencroft making some outstanding saves.

We will be on the lookout for more fixtures in the new year to get as many players representing the school as possible!

By Mr H Magnay



Year 8 squad



Year 9 squad

### YEAR 9 FOOTBALL

Building on from last year, the Year 9 football team has continued to produce outstanding team and individual displays. An excellent turnout and commitment in training has helped push the competitive edge of the team even higher, with the team having high expectations this year to be even better. So far there has been County Cup and National Cup fixtures. The first round of the National Cup was against Charters School. It was in torrential rain, but that did not phase the players and GMS put away 5 against Charters. Filipe was a constant threat and managed to get onto the score sheet in the second half. In the next round we played Chesham Grammar School. Again, the conditions were difficult but the pitch held off the rain so we could play. The game was very competitive with Chesham being physical and capitalising from contentious set pieces, but the technical quality of Zack Langley and

Tom McDermott in midfield got us back into the game. Unfortunately, we had 2 goals ruled out for offside, and Chesham were given penalty in the last few minutes to take the game away from us.

In the County Cup, there have been a string of wins against Holmer Green, Chalfont School and Walton High School, and we will be preparing to face Thorpe House in the semi-finals. After Christmas the district league will begin, with plenty more fixtures for the students to play in.



away with a result to match their performance. The progress of the team has been fantastic and we will keep on working to be the best we can for the fixtures in the New Year.

By Mr H Magnay

## YEAR 10 FOOTBALL

**Year 10 football has been extremely popular and participation has been very good throughout the term. They have demonstrated readiness and resilience to improve both individually and as team. It has been good to see newcomer Morgan Platt and the development of Bruno Noviello, Ashton Joseph and Can Surmeli.**

The term started off with a difficult draw in the National cup first round where they were up against a strong John Hampden team. The Year 10's took control of the game in the initial stages which resulted them leading 2-0. However, with mistakes occurring and John Hampden's quality started to come through, the boys sadly couldn't do enough and this resulted in a 6-4 loss after extra time. Even with the defeat, it gave Year 10 confidence and belief that they could repeat a positive performance against the strongest schools in the county. This was evident when they faced Chesham Grammar School in the first round of the county cup, where they produced a dominant display to win and progress onto the next round. Here they came up against John Hampton again, hoping to gain revenge for the national cup defeat. Once again, Great Marlow were motivated to succeed, and demonstrated how much they progressed in a short space of time. It was certainly a tale of two halves. The first half of the game Great Marlow produced their best performance since being at the school, and went into half time with a 1-0 lead. However, the performance didn't continue in the second half, where mistakes were made and John Hampden took advantage of GMS mistakes, which resulted in the year 10 team being knocked out in the quarter-finals. Even though the Year 10 team hasn't progressed as far as they would have liked in the County and National cup, they have made substantial progression as a team.

After Christmas, they will compete in the district league where the students have will have further opportunities to demonstrate how much they have developed.

By Mr A Higgins



## YEAR 11 FOOTBALL



The Year 11 team had a tough start to the season in the county cup, drawn against Thorpe House. The players fought well in the match and showed promise of what the players are capable of. A solid performance from Harry Sheffield culminated with a goal from an outstanding 25-yard volley. They pushed the opposition all the way, taking the match to penalties, however Thorpe House were more clinical, scoring 4 out the 5 which sent them through to the next round. The students have shown dedication in training, and they developed a sound understanding of the shape and structure that they need to use. As a result, they finished the Autumn Term with a draw against Chiltern Academy.

## 6TH FORM FOOTBALL

After the success of last season, it was going to be difficult to replicant another title winning season having been promoted into Division 1.

A realistic target for this year was to avoid being relegated back into Division 2 and with many of the students from last year's Year 11 team continuing on into 6th Form, this certainly gave them the best opportunity to do so. Sadly the season started off with a defeat in the National Cup, with a few mistakes that cost the 6th Form team a victory in a tightly contested game. In the county league they performed well against Chesham Grammar and Waddesdon to secure vital victories, and then produced an outstanding display against one of the strongest teams in league to earn a hard earned point against Aylesbury Grammar. Outstanding performances have been achieved by the brilliance of Henry Drummond at the back, and Freddie Pritchard and George Hennessey in midfield.

The 6th form have two fixtures remaining in the league and require one point to avoid relegation.

By Mr A Higgins



## GIRLS' FOOTBALL

### U13 GIRLS

This term the girls U13 Football team have shown great resilience, determination and a pure enjoyment for sport. With 4 cup games and 1 friendly the girls have improved game after game, giving their all to listen to feedback, develop their tactical play and improve their chemistry and teamwork. Coming up against some very strong opposition meant they had to wait for 3 matches before they won their first cup match (an impressive 6-1 win). Despite this, the girls have shown up to train and play matches in what can only be described as inclement weather conditions, but they have done so with smiles on their faces!

By Mr Sharps



## WOMEN'S HIGH-PERFORMANCE FOOTBALL CENTRES

Great Marlow is continuing to work alongside the FA to grow and develop girls' football. The project is funded by Barclays.

Through this infrastructure, we aim to develop innovative ways to deliver football for girls, improving participation for girls from their very first experience. The aim of the programme is to create an active and confident generation of inspired female footballers. The programme has contributed to providing equal access for girls playing football in both the curriculum and as an extra-curricular club. Within the school curriculum, 80% of partnership schools have provided equal access through football lessons, and 93% of schools have provided opportunities through extra-curricular sport. This has allowed both girls and boys have the same opportunity to play football with friends for fun and competitively.

By Miss Pana



U13 Girls' squad



### YEAR 8 BOYS' RUGBY

**This team has made excellent progress this year. Ably captained by scrum half, Zach Ayland who has been assisted by pack leader Joshua Urie, the team have developed many facets of their game.**

KS3 rugby can often be dominated by big strong students, who have grown early, and complete with full beards dominate the game through pitch length runs resulting in tries. Fortunately, the year 8 team do not possess such players and have therefore had to develop their 'team' ability, ensuring that the 13 players on the pitch all contribute to the cohesive effort to play well and perform. You could argue that this is not fortunate, as we have been, at times dominated by these beard wearing students from other teams. However, in the long run this will serve the team well and facilitates a situation where they must recognise both strengths and weaknesses collectively and develop where appropriate.

Their greatest progress has been with the communication

and organisation of playing strategy and set pieces. The students are being directed by the captain who is discussing what to do with key players and then sharing the plan. Moreover, the boys are beginning to recognise opposition weaknesses and then exploiting them through planned attacks. In respect of rugby skills, many of the players have developed tackle technique, knowledge of defensive play and being able to recognise an opportunity to turn the ball over. Josh is an expert at this and has incredible turnover stats.

Notable performances have been seen from many of the players this year, Oisín Creighton for tremendous tackle count, Oscar Flannery for rampaging runs and outrageous offloads, Luke Holmes Garrad for incredible

progress and strength when running, both Barnes boys (Owen Jamie) for natural playing ability in what is a new game to them and many more. It has been a great season!

By Mr S Goodright



## YEAR 9 RUGBY

The Year 9 rugby team enjoyed another successful season. Their first game was against local rivals Borlase in torrential rain. The score was 24-0, but without the wet conditions it could likely have been a lot more. This was due to the dominance of the forwards, including powerful carries from Mac Morrison, Leo Shale and Jack Wratten. This forward dominance set the platform to unleash GMS's lightning backs. Centre Will Hoyle dived over in the corner for the first try, followed by flyer McKenzie Grange slicing through the defensive line for a full pitch try. Kai Savage rounded off his man of the match performance with an outstanding solo try, sidestepping two players to score under the posts.

After a frustrating loss to a powerful and big Furze Platt side, GMS played their 2nd game of the Super 6 league against John Hampden Grammar School. JH went 19-0 up in the first half, but a resilient 2nd team effort by GMS brought the score to within a try - Leo Shale and Will Hoyle with the tries. Despite emptying everything out of the tank, the strong JHGS units were just too powerful to break down. Jacob Abadeer debuted with a man of the match performance. JHGS would go on to win the Super 6 league.

Year 9 would go on to enjoy a convincing win against Burnham Grammar in their next Super 6 fixture. McKenzie Grange continued his unstoppable run, with a hat-trick. Jack Fraser-Hogg made his debut after an impressive display in his PE lessons and house rugby. Ralph Hill, Alfie Kippax and Jack Wrattens work-rate up front was tough for BGS to deal with. Toby Smith's and then Ivo Chamberlain's fast delivery from scrum half gave the GMS attack the platform to create space in the outer channels, which Conlan O'Connor

The team's final game was against Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School. Ethan Wright was tasked with the captaincy, to help develop the gap in leadership qualities in the team. Ethan took charge of the warm-up and all key decisions within the game. Will Bowett continued his impressive breakthrough season with an exceptional solo try from his own half. SHFGS showed great resilience and answered any tries GMS scored through their dangerous centre. GMS finally managed to pull away with two tries in succession, scored by McKenzie and the industrious Alfie Kippax. Conlan O'Connor demonstrated the importance of playing different sports, using his football skills to kick a conversion from the touchline.

A team with a superb team spirit, who attend training in big numbers and play the game with a smile on their face, the year 9 rugby team truly are a credit to the school.

## YEAR 10 RUGBY

The Year 10 rugby team had a season to remember. Most memorable seasons would be to do with winning, but this was different. The team were entered into the National Cup – a competition where the majority of schools were well-known for their rugby prowess. And with that in mind, who were they drawn against in the first round? Not just one of the most famous rugby schools in the UK, but the world – Harrow. The school of famous internationals, including current England players in Maro Itoje and Billy Vunipola.



Though it sounded like a daunting fixture, the team only looked at the positives of the fixture, which was to have the experience of playing against Harrow at their ground, and to be able to treasure that memory for the rest of their lives. As expected, Harrow were too strong for GMS. However, the players showed incredible resilience, refusing to give up and battling for each other and their school badge. The part of the fixture the team debatably most looked forward to was being taken up to Harrow's incredible dinner hall for match tea. An amazing experience. Harrow were impressed with the Marlow students polite, respectful and resilient nature, and have kindly offered to organise match fixtures for next season with our other year groups.

Losing in the cup meant Year 10 dropped into the plate competition. They were drawn another big rugby school against New Hall, Essex. Between this game, GMS enjoyed some excellent victories in the Super 6 league. Firstly, against Burnham Grammar. Morghan Platt starred with a double try-scoring debut. Fraser Cram led the forward pack brilliantly, which included a driving-maul try which came straight from the training pitch and PE lessons! A tough John Hampden side were next, and after going





into the break with a one-try lead, the floodgates opened in the second half. GMS played some dazzling, free-flowing rugby, with Tom Wharfe, Fraser Cram and Arthur Barber linking up for arguably the try of the season. Not many times do the team unanimously vote a player as MVP, but Tom Wharfe's phenomenal tackle count received a collective recognition from the team.

Another Super 6 victory against Sir Henry Floyd was followed by the much-awaited national plate fixture away at New Hall. A 90-minute journey around the M25 did not put the team off making a positive start against their well-drilled opposition. New Hall scored two very quick tries halfway through the first half, but after this it was all GMS. The team pounded the defensive line of New Hall for the remainder of the game, but they could not break through. New Hall were simply an incredible defensive outfit. Notable mentions go to firstly, Fraser Cram, who unlocked his enormous potential the team have foreseen all season with a monstrous performance up front. Etienne Brooks received huge praise at 10 from the opposition coach. Tom Wharfe again led well

with his performance and Haji Nurein found his new position after a display full of energy at Openside flanker.

The team finished 2nd in the Super 6 league and can now look forward to stepping up to the 1st team next year. A team with a brilliant team spirit, work ethic and now life-long memories from their amazing cup journey.



By Mr Jones

## 1st team Rugby

**Arguably the highlight of the rugby season was the return of the GMS 1st team. And if it wasn't already a success getting the team back playing fixtures, the team went on to win six out of their seven matches.**

At the start of the year, the team were energized by the arrival of four rugby-playing students into the sixth form. These included three highly skilled backs in Toby Giles, Finley Connolly and Panashe Chikwanda, as well as a strong ball carrying forward in Conrad Bains.



The first game came at home to Furze Platt. It was an incredibly tight contest, with both teams trading the lead. Year 11 full back, Will Allen, made an impressive 1st team debut with his superb counter attacks from kick returns. Finley Connolly scored from his very first touch, beating 3 defenders to score in the corner. Year 11 debutant, Ollie Flannery, scored a debut try from an interception. The winning try came from Kyle Karam, with a full-time score of 24-19.

The next fixture was away to Leighton Park. Leighton Park came out of the blocks fast and raced into a 7-28 lead before half-time. In the last play of the half, Year 11 Harry Cow, bundled his way over the try after bouncing off two

defenders. Quickly, the team realized that with the strong carries of Harry and Conrad, as well as rapid service from the base of the rucks from Toby Giles, space was always opening up in the backs. The players kept to this game plan, which led to another try from Harry, and then the try that completed the comeback came from Kyle Karam. A brilliant comeback, with Toby Giles taking man of the match for his superb passing distribution on his debut.

A resounding win away to Next Phase Academy, 29-59, was followed by a big test at home to John Hampden. The teams were neck and neck for the whole game, with the game being dominated by the battle in the forward packs. GMS took the lead with 10 minutes to go but failed to get out of their own 22 from the kick-off. John Hampden capitalized on this and scored a try from short-range to win the match.

Arguably the biggest game of the season was against Borlase a week later. Another classic local derby, with nothing between both teams throughout the whole contest. Leo Hazlem raced down the wing to put GMS in the lead, but it was answered with two tries from Borlase who took the lead going into half time. The team managed to problem-solve effectively during the game and used Ollie Flannery's big boot to kick over their full back's head who had to return the ball up the hill. The GMS chase complimented the

**PE** kick and Borlase were unable to get out of their own half. Harry Cow shrugged off three tacklers to score and put both team's level. Hal Doyle and Kyle Karam were superb in the centres, tackling everything that went near them slicing through the defences at will. Another big kick from Ollie and pressure applied from the chase led to a turnover, where Toby Giles quickly zipped a pass out wide to Finley Connolly to put GMS in the lead. Niroop Adapa and Isaac Grottrup – both ever-presents and our only props for the whole season – scrummaged brilliantly in the crucial last stages of the game, to help pull off the win of the season.

The season was rounded off with a win against Chesham Grammar, with the flying-fish, Finley, scoring 4 tries and Toby Giles kicking all but one of his conversions for a 39-29 win.

The season was highly successful for a number of reasons. Year 11's Henry Harbinson, Ollie Flannery, Harry Cow, Connor Quann and Wil Allen were ever-presents in the



season which is a brilliant effort when playing against older age groups. All the new sixth-formers who joined the team had a huge impact, with Toby Giles' performances catching the eyes of opposition teachers. And lastly, a special mention to great servants: Hal Doyle, Dan Aram, Niroop Adapa, Isaac Grottrup and Liam Bruno who played their final season for the school.

**By Mr Jones**

## HOUSE RUGBY

### Year 9 House Rugby



Thursday 2nd November saw the first house rugby event of the year. Luke, Ethan and Rupert captained the Hawks, Kites and Eagles respectively, and it was fantastic to see players who hadn't yet been involved in school rugby fixtures representing their houses.

Able led by y12 sports leaders: Kyle, Toby and Leo the Year 9s put on a rugby spectacle, showcasing awesome physicality and athleticism. Kai led the Hawks, demonstrating unrelenting bravery in defence, Conlan was epic in attack for the Eagles, sidestepping his way to a number of tries, ably assisted by Filipe who was near unstoppable running with the ball. While a magnificent display of both attacking and defensive rugby

from Joey of the Kites. However it was the Eagles who ultimately claimed the spoils, winning both their games.

A big thank you must go to Mr Taylor, who refereed all three games and resisted the temptation to take his red card out of his pocket. The games were played in fantastic spirit by all the boys and a really high quality of rugby was on display.

### Y7 House Rugby

The Hawks and Eagles combined to take on the massive Kites squad in the Year 7 House Rugby fixture. 12 players across the houses stepped up to play their first competitive rugby fixture, following on from a successful 4 weeks of learning rugby in PE.



The game was end to end, Stan leading the charge for the Kites, backed up by Miles who was fantastic leading his side. For the Hawks and Eagles, Henry battled hard with every carry and Jack came to the fore in defence, slicing down any Kite that ran his way. Mason showed his speed with some fantastic runs down the flank, prevented from scoring more by some determined tackling by Richie.

The Hawks and Eagles Barbarians ended up the victors by a single try, despite the efforts of Stan who scored 4.

All the boys involved put on a fantastic display of rugby and highlighted the bright future this year group has ahead of the 7s season next term.



## YEAR 7 RUGBY

The year 7 rugby team has made big strides this term. There have been over 30 players representing GMS, many of whom were experiencing competitive contact rugby for the first time. The boys have trained excellently, and this attitude and commitment has been reflected in some excellent performances. The B team put in a fantastic display against JHGS, securing victory in an end-to-end game, Alfie leading the way with 4 tries. The A team saved their best performance for the last game of the season, scoring ten tries on the way to victory of HFGS. Stan scoring 5 tries and leading the way with some textbook tackling. Well done to all the boys involved.

By Mr Jones



## NETBALL

### Year 7

The Year 7 netball team have been working hard at training this term. The girls have shown fantastic commitment and excellent teamwork, turning up rain or shine. The progress made by the groups has been exceptional, considering some girls had done very little netball before joining GMS. The sessions have focused on developing fundamental skills, and the students' knowledge and understanding of the rules. It has been fantastic to be able to put 3 teams out against other schools in fixtures, as well as the A and B team qualifying for the Wycombe District League.



The girls played a friendly match against Sir William Borlase that was played in good spirits, and have started their league fixtures. These matches have allowed for squad rotation, with all the girls who have been involved in training getting time on court in competitive matches. Outstanding performances in the A team go to Isabella Rawlings for her flair in attack and countless interceptions, and Ella Leslie and Evie Somerfield in defence. In the B team, outstanding performances have been seen by Imogen Risbridger and Thea Young. The girls are looking forward to playing the majority of their league games after the Xmas break.

A big thank you must go to our Year 9 netball leaders Erin Ford, Ella Seeley and Maisie Marshall who have showed patience and enthusiasm at training sessions, alongside Mrs Houston for the time she has also given up to support and coach the girls.

By Miss G Muttitt



### Year 8

It has been an incredibly positive start to the season for the Year 8 Netball teams. The students have worked hard to improve their court play, as well as their attacking and defensive set plays to develop the tactical side of their game. The Year 8A team had a successful start to the season with some impressive performances and they currently sit in 3rd position in the District League. There have been some fantastic performance from all the players. Alexandra McGuinness, Ruglile Baniulaityte and Ava Harbinson have shown great resilience in their defensive positions, Isla Sutherland has worked hard developing her knowledge and understanding of the game and combining it with her demon speed, and Josie Bevans has come back from an injury and has slotted back into the team with her consistent shooting. Faith has remained calm when shooting, and Amelia Wright and Issie Monaghan have worked hard to fit in the matches along side the drama production. Well done to all the players involved in the matches.

The Year 8B team are going from strength to strength this season currently in 1st position in the District League. The girls turn up each week with a positive team attitude and are determined to improve from game to game. Outstanding performances go to Florrie Marsh for her fantastic movement around the court, Ella Laithwaite, Freya Thorkildsen and Gabby Loginova for strong defending and Ella Wiggs-



**PE** Steele for her calm and collected shooting.

**A massive thank you goes out to our KS5 leaders Sophie Apletree and Abbie Corrick for helping out with every training session and umpiring of the games.**

By Miss E Boddy

## Year 9



The Year 9 netball A and B teams have gone from strength to strength this term. The girls have shown true resilience against some hard opposition and have approached each game with a positive attitude. The A team are currently 2nd in the league, with outstanding performances seen by captain Erin Ford, defenders India Rhodes, Ella Seeley and Isla McDonald, and C Maisie Marshall. The B team also remain unbeaten in the league winning 4 from 4 sitting in 1st place. Evie Weston, Alice Farrow and Jess Royds have produced consistent performances. Lexi Togwell has been very committed showing a vast improvement in all aspects of the game. The C team have been extremely resilient and have worked hard on their movement and taking their centre pass to goal; special mentions go to Tyla Bennett, Grace Puddephatt and Izzy Matthews.



Year 9 Netball Interhouse

The Year 8 and 9 girls also competed in the National Schools competition in October, against local comprehensive, grammar and private schools in the area. These games were highly competitive and GMS finished 4th on the day out of 10. The girls took a lot from the experience and brought home some hard fought victories.



U14 Netball  
Team @  
National Schools  
Tournament

By Miss G Muttitt

## Year 10/11

The attendance at Year 10 netball on a Monday evening has been very good with students showing dedication, commitment and a desire to achieve at a higher level, as they complete their GCSE PE courses.

The Year 10 squad have worked hard this term on developing their awareness on court and working as units on court, as opposed to individuals. The A team have shown fantastic resilience and currently 4th in the league. This league position is a little disappointing,



however students have had some extremely close games against the teams above them losing by very small margins. Special mentions must go to Lucy Apletree who has been extremely versatile in defence and the centre court, Tilda Johnson for her fantastic defending and super shooters Sienna Morgan and Erin Ford .



The B team have also had several close games so far this year and are currently in joint 1st place in the league. Daisy Bennet, Emilia Tribe, Freya Randall and Phoebe Day-Stevens have demonstrated excellent determination at training and in games. Freya Hobdell-

Williams , Orla Guinness and Jemima Connor have been working hard on their defensive play. Bella Barber and Grace Collier have worked on becoming more consistent when shooting within games.

The Year 11 squad have also worked hard on keeping possession against more physical competition, and success from centre pass to goal. The A team have had a fantastic start to the season and currently are in 2nd in the league. Yasmin Warnes and Erin Anstiss have been an unstoppable force in attack linking up with shooters Emily Phipps and Sienna Morgan. The B team currently sit in 2nd place, most recently taking a convincing win over SWR. Captain Lottie Shaw has demonstrated brilliant leadership skills, and has made good progress resulting in some gameplay for the A team.



Thank you to our KS4 and KS5 sports leaders who have assisted with coaching and umpiring throughout the term, we couldn't do it without you- Sienna Morgan, Lucy Apletree, Matilda Johnson, Sophie Apletree, Tamaya Phillips, Lucy Peace, Ella Goodhram and Abbie Corrick.

By Miss Muttitt & Miss Boddy



## KS3 OUTDOOR HOCKEY

### GU14 – regional finals for the second year running

The U14 team have had a fantastic first half of a season and have shown true resilience during every game. During the first round of the County Championships the girls fought off fierce opposition from Stowe School, Sir William Borlase, Chesham Grammar, Wycombe High, Beaconsfield High and Aylesbury High school. Unbeaten in these games, they qualified for their second consecutive regional final. Losing to Pipers Corner against the run of play, however, meant that the team qualified in second place.

In a very competitive U14 Regional Finals, the GMS squad played well throughout their three matches. The first was an incredible game, played against St Helen and St Katherine School, where the GMS team dominated the first half, really testing the opposition's defence. Unfortunately, the second half proved to be more even, at SHSK, made a breakthrough to win the game 1-0.

Next up was a game against Churchers, who were a high pressing team. GMS battled hard but were unfortunately reduced to a scoreline of 2-0 at half time. After a pep-talk from Miss Porter, the girls went into the second half with nothing to lose and played some exceptional hockey to dominate in terms of possession and attacking chances. Isla Sutherland scored to take the game to 2-1, but unfortunately, despite their best-efforts GMS couldn't find an equaliser to take the game to 2-2. Next up was a match against St Mary's Ascot, where they were determined to win their last game and prove their worth at regional level. The girls dominated the game entirely, showing their class to score two goals, which involved some fantastic build up play from Sophia Rule and Ella Bryan, and clinical finishing from Alice Farrow and Amelie Cox.

The whole day was extremely rewarding, with the students showcasing the progress they had made since beginning their hockey journeys at GMS. They also showed what a delight they are to work with, keen to embrace some dancing warmups with good humour and so much enthusiasm. I can't wait to continue to work with this team over the coming years.

By Miss L Porter



### What's next?

After Christmas, we turn our attention to the 7-side competitions for Years 7 and 8.

Lots of fixtures have already taken place for the girls' teams, which have seen some truly positive results. The students are progressing all the time, with many of the students having started their hockey journeys at GMS, but already proving that they can compete against those with years of experience. The boys' fixtures will commence after Christmas. With high potential and already lots of commitment to training, we are looking forward to seeing what our KS3 boys' teams can achieve.

The county tournaments for Years 7 & 8 take place in February, so there will be a much more detailed article to follow for these age groups after Christmas.

I have no doubt, that if our years 7 & 8 students continue to work as hard as they have been, with the same brilliant level of enthusiasm, they will have just as much future success as the older students before them. Bring on the County Championships in February!

By Miss L Porter

## INDOOR HOCKEY

### U18 Girls – Ground Hog Day

The U18 girls' hockey team experienced heartbreak for the second year running at this year's Regional Indoor Finals.

Since 2019, GMS have become a force to be reckoned with when it comes to indoor hockey and are arguably the most consistent school with regards to results and performances. In the last 3 years, they are the only school to reach the regional final on all three occasions, so have been 'the team to beat' in recent tournaments. This year was no different, where the girls, once again, made it through to the South Central final.

The team started the tournament in style with a comprehensive 5-2 win over Pangbourne, who were determined for revenge after last year's U18 national cup semi-final defeat to GMS. It didn't take long for GMS to snuff out any glimmer of hope Pangbourne might have had when Lena Sykora put GMS ahead in the first 5 minutes after she showed great composure to round the keeper and slot the ball home. Lena followed up with two more to

make her hattrick, and along with Rachel Clarke's brace, Pangbourne's two goals didn't give GMS too much to worry about.

A tougher test was to come in the next game where the team faced Peter Symonds, who the squad had beaten in last year's semi-final. As it turned out, the game didn't turn out to be tougher at all, as the girls eased past PCS with another 5-2 win. Mabel Daw and Colette Fitzpatrick found their way onto the score sheet after two well-worked penalty corners. Lena and Rachel scored the other three goals between them to take both of their tallies for the day up to 4. Peter Symonds did manage to gain two late consolation goals, but the win was never in doubt as GMS dominated possession and saw out the game with a mature and unflustered performance. The final group game against Bloxham, became a formality, with all of the squad playing their part in yet another 5-2 win.

It was semi-final time, and as seemed to be customary at regional indoor finals, a local derby between GMS and SWB was in order. Never a nice fixture for either side, due to having to play against club teammates, this was always going to be a fixture with a huge psychological element to it. With GMS snatching defeat from the jaws of victory last year, losing the final via a penalty shoot-out, they were clearly nervous, yet determined to right the wrongs of last year. There was a glint in the girls' eyes that clearly stated, "we are not losing this". There was never any doubt going into that semi-final game, that the team wanted to win their title back of best team in Marlow.



As expected, the first half was tight, and although GMS had the better of the possession, they did find themselves behind early on. Nevertheless, the girls have come a long way mentally since last year, and they remained unphased and stuck to their processes, to level the score going into half time. The second half was a different story, with GMS finding their form of earlier in the tournament, to score 3 unanswered goals. SWB pulled their keeper off in a last-ditch attempt to win the game, but GMS held firm to, once again, claim a 5-2 victory and march on to the final.

These girls have been in spitting distance of the national final on two occasions before, so are no strangers to disappointment. Last year a penalty shoot-out prevented the girls' qualification, and the year before when this group were U16, a goal difference of two was the difference between qualification and heartbreak. This year, the national final proved to be a step too far once again for this talented group of players. This year's final was to be played against Wellington College, who had clearly put their scholarship money to good use and recruited some useful additions to their squad since they were U16. It would be a tough test, and a half time score of 2-2, proved how close it was. Unfortunately, with 5 minutes to go, Wellington scored, so GMS had no choice to pull the keeper to attempt to push for an equaliser. The girls had a number of chances, but luck just wasn't on their side, with Wellington taking advantage of Marlow's empty net, scoring two counter attacks against the run of play. The game ended with another 5-2 result, but unfortunately this time, GMS were on the wrong side of it.

For the third time in three years, the girls finished as Regional Indoor runners up. Sport is cruel sometimes, and this group know that more than most, but it can teach some important life lessons. Not everything in life comes easy, and you must work incredibly hard to achieve success, and even then, success is not guaranteed. It was amazing to hear that some of last year's U18 squad were checking in with the team's progress throughout the day. It demonstrates that the hockey family we are building, continues even once the students have left GMS. Once a GMS hockey player, always a GMS hockey player.

I am incredibly proud of how the team conducted themselves throughout the day, and indeed every day since. They demonstrated carefree fun between games, but absolute focus during games, and constant sportsmanship. They were gracious in victory and defeat. Since then, as they did last year, the girls have thrown all their frustration and upset into their club indoor hockey, successfully qualifying the club National Finals for the third year running. They have also successfully made it through to the last 16 of the National Tier 3 Cup competition, where they are on track to defend their National Title.

By Miss L Porter



## U16 Girls – growing in confidence and building for the future

**This year's girls U16 squad consisted of two full-age year 11 players, three year 10s, six year 9s and one year 8 student. The majority of teams the girls were going to play against, were made up of 12 full-age players. There aren't many schools offering KS3 students the opportunity to access the indoor version of the game. The girls were incredibly resilient and committed to their training, in the knowledge that they were going to have to work extremely hard to compete with such teams.**

The team did experience some success in the early part of the season, with wins over Godolphin and Latimer and Oxford High, which gave the team confidence moving towards the county indoor finals, that they could once again progress to the regional finals, despite their lack of experience and lack of size!

The county round of the competition took place with only GMS, SWB and Pipers Corner entering teams. GMS beat the full age Pipers Corner side, with a relatively convincing 4-2 victory, and with SWB also beating Pipers, the team knew



they had qualified for the Regional Finals with a game to spare.

The Regional Finals took place at St Helen and St Katherine school in Abingdon. The girls began the tournament with a 3-2 win against the hosts, who had won the Oxfordshire county round, thanks to goals from Hannah King and Evie Matthews. The next group game took place against King Edward's, last year's national finalists. The team knew that this was going to be a tough test, so would need to start hard. Evie Matthews, took the game to King Edwards, running the ball past her opponents by using her newly mastered left-to-right drags, and a smart finish at the

near post to put GMS 1-0 up. Further chances followed but unfortunately the girls couldn't convert them, which unfortunately left them open to an equaliser from KES. GMS continued to dominate the second half, however were unable to convert their open play chances and a number of penalty corners. KES took their one chance of the second half, which meant the game finished 2-1 to KES. GMS lost their final group game to Bradfield who were the eventual winners of the

whole competition. The team competed extremely well, and showed how much potential there is in this young team.

## U18 Boys – the trailblazers of GMS boys' hockey

Having never quite managed to grow boys' hockey at the school in the same way the girls' version of the game has grown, this group of boys have been the trailblazers for boys' hockey for the last 7 years. One of the most committed groups of players I have had the pleasure of working with, this team deserves every success.

Encouraged by their regional finals' qualification when they were an U16 squad, the boys were keen to maintain this level of performance in the U18 competition. An exciting new addition to the squad in goalkeeper Bryn Crampsie, helped the boys to breeze through the County round to successfully qualify for their second indoor Regional Finals.

The team had a tough start to the county tournament against last year's national finalists, Peter Symonds. A resilient performance was not enough to take any points from the game, but the performance showed clear progress had been made since the start of the game to the end. The next fixture against St Edwards, saw the boys play with a relentless determination to win. A solid defensive performance, coupled with a fluid attacking display, gave the team a deserved win, going into the final group game against Wellington. The winner of the final game would qualify for the semi-final stage, with both teams having won one game and lost one game each. With the defensive press now nailed down to a tee, and some clinical finishing, the boys came away with a well-earned 2-1 win.

As with the U18 girls, the semi-final ended up being another all-Marlow affair. GMS went 1-0 down to a goal that should have been disallowed for hitting a Borlase foot in the build-up. Unfortunately, this wasn't spotted by the umpires. The boys battled on but unfortunately, another catastrophic umpiring decision led to Charlie Rhymer receiving a 4-minute yellow card for what can only be described as a goal-saving, utterly brilliant tackle. During this time, GMS had to soak up a lot of pressure as SWB used their additional player to their advantage, however GMS unfortunately conceded a further 3 goals. 4-0 down at half time, any other team would have considered themselves down and out, but not this team. The boys started the second half all guns blazing and took full advantage of being back to full strength by scoring 3 unanswered goals. This took the score to 4-3, which made for a nail-biting finale. With 30 seconds left



on the clock, GMS won a penalty corner, a goal would take the game to a shoot-out. Agonisingly, the SWB keeper saved the initial shot, however played the ball in the air to clear any rebounding opportunity. Playing the ball in the air isn't allowed in indoor hockey, however the umpire was once again unsighted, which meant the game finished 4-3 to SWB.

The team were so close to reaching their first ever final but should be so proud of what they have done for boys' hockey at this school. Several players in this Great Marlow side started their hockey journeys here at GMS, so we are incredibly proud of how far they have come. They have become brilliant role models to the younger students, in particular Harry and Malakhi, both of whom have taken on leadership roles with younger GMS teams. Their commitment to help and inspire others has been invaluable, and I am so grateful for their desire to give back to their hockey community. As the first year-group to participate in boys' hockey, they didn't have any male role models themselves, so their subsequent commitment to become leaders has ensured other boys have the visibility that they didn't have. They have ensured that younger players can have a hugely positive hockey experience at GMS, and for that we are all grateful.

By Miss L Porter

## U18 boys – changing of the guard

Thanks to the standard set for boys' hockey from the Year 13 students, for the first time in GMS history, we were able to field two boys' indoor teams: one U16 and one U18. Where previously, a number of the younger boys had played up in the older age group, this year there were finally enough boys in their year group to field a team of their own.

Thanks to a successful county tournament, where the boys made a huge amount of progress from the first game to the last, the boys made it through to the Regional Finals at the first time of asking. With a lot of inexperience at a tournament like this, the boys succumbed to defeat in their first game against the host Wellington College, largely against the run of play. The boys got the ball in the back of the net twice, but unfortunately were deemed to have shot from outside the D, which prevented the goals from counting. With a little more composure, a first win for the boys would have been on the cards, which would have set them up more strongly to qualify from the group.

The second match would see a much tougher test against local rivals SWB. With much more indoor experience and a much larger squad, the boys would certainly need to step up their game in order to take anything from the match. As is tradition with GMS teams, they play the underdog exceptionally well, always rising to tougher challenges when needed. This team were no different. They showed SWB the respect they deserved, but no more, and took the game to them going 2-0 ahead. Unfortunately, they were pegged back to 2-2, which then, regrettably, became a 3-2 deficit. The boys didn't give up, winning a number of penalty corners, seriously testing the SWB defence. These corners sadly went unconverted, meaning a 3-2 loss was the final score line, however the boys had made their mark in the tournament and certainly given the SWB team a huge scare.



Their final match was against Portsmouth Grammar, who also had no points to their name, but a far inferior goal difference. This gave the team confidence that a first win was coming for them. Disappointingly the team's performance dropped to the level of their opponents, which made for unpretty viewing, however they did manage to get the points they needed to secure a 3rd place finish in their group, which was the least they deserved from the day's play.

It is exciting to know that there will be more BU18 hockey next year when these students enter the GMS sixth form. These students will, next year, be taking on the responsibility of role models to the younger students, as the year 13s who have done this so well for 7 years, leave us for pastures new. These boys have shown that, with a little bit of fine-tuning, they are ready to take on the mantle, as there is a changing of the guard for U18 boys' hockey.

By Miss L Porter



## GMS PE – Teacher Training, Subject Studies facilitator

As a department we have been working with different teacher training providers for 15 years. Within that time, we have formed a significantly strong relationship with The Buckingham Partnership, which incidentally was the training provider for 3 of our current PE staff. Our work with the Buckingham Partnership has developed to the point where we as a department are delivering bespoke subject studies days for their PE trainees. This year, these have included behaviour management and rugby. We will be delivering hockey in the new year, followed by athletics in the summer term. The strength of the expertise in the department has received significant praise from the recipients, who have reviewed the sessions as incredibly helpful in their progress towards becoming a qualified teacher.

A typical session will involve theory-based work where the most appropriate pedagogy is looked at for the specific activity or lesson being taught, Practical sessions to learn skills, techniques, strategies, and tactics and then the opportunity to practice the teaching of the skills with some GMS students.

By Mr S Goodright



## New Extra-Curricular Sports- January 2024

Keep an eye out for the new sports being added to the extra-curricular programme in January 2024! Key Stage 3 will see the introduction of basketball, handball and basketball and Key Stage 4 the introduction of trampolining, handball and table tennis. Anybody is welcome; make the most of the amazing sporting opportunities here on offer at Great Marlow School.

## GYM & DANCE CLUB

PE



Gym and Dance club this year has seen outstanding numbers of over 50 girls every Friday afterschool. The dancers have come in every week willing to try a variety of new techniques including balances, lifts and sports acro.

The group have been extremely lucky to be taught by two of our Year 11 dancers, Jemima and Bonnie, who have competed at a National and International Level. The girls have helped with choreography and delivery and have 'spiced up our lives' and choreographed 2 group pieces for the show.

This year the Dance shows' theme is the 90s, taking the girls back to an era of which most of their modern-day fashion is coming from, and highlighting events that happened over the decade. The group will continue to work towards the show in March and are already looking forward to the final performances.

By Miss Pana



## Opportunity For All - Inclusive Events

### Golf

On Tuesday 1st November Huntswood Golf Club kindly hosted an event for our students to attend. Students completed seven tasks to develop different shots and skills, using a range of clubs. Students developed their putting skills, driving skills and ability to use a wedge. It got very competitive between the students on each hole. Max Goodchild showed some great putting skills having good control over the ball. Quinton Campbell-Kam was very competitive when trying to lift the ball over the water/ sand.

Some students have asked to go back and the golf club kindly offered more weekend sessions which some students have been lucky enough to attend. Reports suggest they are progressing well, keep up the good work.

By Miss E Boddy



### Tennis

On the Wednesday 1st November we had the opportunity to take a selection of year 7/8/9 students to RAF Halton Tennis Centre. The tennis coach delivered a range of progressive activities to develop skills such as ball control, the forehand and the backhand. Students made huge improvements throughout the day becoming more confident, improving their ball control meaning they were able to maintain a longer rally. Students also did some target practice games. This got very tense with scores being so close!

The students showed responsibility ensuring the coaches had help clearing the equipment away at the end of the session. The coaches were very impressed with the students and awarded them all with a certificate for their participation in the session.

By Miss L Porter

### Netball



Some students from the 7E pathway had the opportunity to play a netball fixture against another

school during their lesson time. Students showed determination and resilience during this tough fixture. The experience gave the students the opportunity to develop their knowledge of netball and to put there netball knowledge from lessons and club to practice.

Although the students didn't come away with a win the students played very well and showed huge level of progress and commitment throughout the game.

By Miss Boddy

### Orienteering Turns to Trampolining

Unfortunately, due to heavy rainfall and high winds the orienteering event was cancelled. I was very impressed with our students high levels of organisation, requesting permission to leave lesson, arriving on time, all ready for the trip, that the students had the opportunity to take part in a session of trampolining. All students embraced this opportunity and had a go. Student seemed to thoroughly enjoy the session and learnt to navigate themselves around the trampoline. Student learnt how to make shapes and perform seat drops, trying to ensure they could stay on the cross and maintain as much height as possible.

Well done to all the students involved and hopefully we will have the opportunity to attend the orienteering event next year.





## Varsity Dodgeball

The Year 8 and 9 students had an enjoyable time representing the school at the varsity dodgeball event on the 12th December. The tournament was brilliantly run with the umpire developing player sportsmanship round by round.

All the students can be proud of the way they conducted themselves and the performance they put in for their school, finishing in 1st place.

By Mr Jones



## Judo Taster Session

Nine Great Marlow Students had the fantastic opportunity to attend a judo taster session at Chiltern Way School. This session was run by a Great Britain Judo coach. The students were taught various throws, submissions, and the rules of judo. All students demonstrate excellent responsibility and respect of each other to ensure they all enjoyed the session as well as remain safe throughout. During this session the students had to show some key physical component of fitness some being muscular strength and power.



By Mr A Higgins

## Outdoor Adventurous Activities

The Outdoor Adventurous Activities (OAA) scheme of work for year 9 and 10 developed started again after October half term. The students have engaged in a range of new challenges from shelter building to fire lighting. This has allowed the students to develop a number of life skills, and has highlighted the importance of a wide array of softer skills such as leadership, self-management, and communication. This term we have seen classes come together to complete a range of tasks including putting up a tent, cooking on a Trangia and making a small fire.

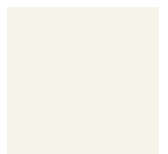
The community spirit of the students has been a highlight; staff have watched the students assist one another to put up their tents as quickly as possible, as well as manage the fire and boil the kettle over a Trangia, in preparation to make a hot chocolate.



## Football 6 Aside tournament

In November, we held an inclusive 6 a side football tournament for our KS4 students. The tournament included schools from Chiltern Way Academy, Pebblebrook as well as Great Marlow. Our KS5 leaders did a fantastic job refereeing each game. Thank you, Joseph Windell, Toby Giles, Toby Reekie and George Hennessey, ensuring game was managed very well. The team was expertly managed by Fin Gomm, who ensured the team put out their best performance for every game. All the leaders demonstrated outstanding responsibility and readiness to officiate the games fairly and ensured the tournament ran smoothly and to time.

Within this highly competitive tournament Great Marlow finished 4th. The GMS students demonstrated outstanding respect and support when playing the fixtures.





Shelter building has seen year 9 students following set instruction to create a range of shelters. This has required independence and resilience from the students, especially for the more challenging shelters. Student have then undertaken a shelters competition, where as a team they create a shelter which is then tested to see how waterproof the shelter is.

By Miss Boddy

## Multi Sports – Girls and Boys

The multisport club has been an extremely popular extra-curricular club, run by our KS5 leaders. Regularly, 20+ students have attended each Wednesday after school and enjoyed a wide variety of activities. The purpose of this club is for students to train and participate in these 'alternative sports' in preparation for our bi-termly district competitions, organized by the local SGO (School Games Organizer). There has

been outstanding commitment to

training from the students who have routinely shown eagerness to learn and compete in these sports including dodgeball, Danish long, korfbal, badminton and basketball. Whilst training and competing, students have developed teamwork, responsibility, leadership, communication and empathy.

The multisport club is run by our KS5 leaders Lucy Scott, Emma Lumley, Oliver Braid and Scarlett Lee. Here are a few words from our leaders about what they enjoy. Thank you to our leaders for providing this opportunity.

*"What we love about leading multisports is planning and joining in the activities. It has been great to see the students thrive throughout their time at multisport." Emma*

*"It gives us a chance to improve our leadership skills but also allow the students to make decisions. We allow students to decide what activity we do the following week. We have a player of the day; this student will be rewarded through a small prize." Lucy*

*"I enjoy the opportunity for teaching and helping others learn. I also enjoy formulating lesson plans and researching for the classes. The best part is when you have a good session where everyone has learnt something" Scarlett*

By Miss E Boddy

**Thank you to all the support from other members of staff, allowing the students out of lessons to have the opportunity to attend these events.**

## Girls Fitness

On a Thursday afternoon girls can use the fitness suite in a session which is run by Mr Goodright. The club has given students of all years a chance to use the fitness suite and develop their skills and knowledge of how to correctly train their bodies specifically for their sports. The students have been developing individualised fitness sessions plan which they have been completing each week. This will be open to all girls in any year and we hope to run this throughout the whole year.

By Mr S Goodright

## Boys Fitness

There has been fantastic turnout at boys' fitness after school club this term. Year 7 boys in particular have been keen to get into the fitness suite and make use of the fantastic array of equipment, focusing on their cardiovascular endurance and muscular endurance. There is a committed core of year 9 and 10 boys who have made the most of the free weights and have been working hard to build their strength. While the boys have been training they have had to consider goal setting, the component of fitness relative to their goal, and their training method.

By Mr Pulsford





This year we have introduced an accredited Sports Leaders Course for KS5 students. The Level 3 Sports Leaders Award involves the students learning and developing leadership related skills in the classroom and then putting their new knowledge into practice in a practical setting. Our 28 strong cohort have made fantastic progress since September, where they have attended mainly KS3 core PE lessons and initially supported the teacher in the delivery of the session, but now are at the point where they are fully leading.

The course systematically and progressively prepares the young leaders to be allowed to lead groups independently, so can achieve paid work as a result. In addition to this the course, when fully completed affords you 16 UCAS points. For a university offer of points as opposed to grades this could be invaluable.

We're incredibly pleased with the start the students have made and the entire department have been impressed with high levels of professionalism and general leading ability. This course is the perfect culmination to the leadership strand that runs through our core PE curriculum from Year 7 - 11. It's a huge opportunity and has clearly released some significant potential.

By Mr S Goodright



## Sports Colours

Sports colours are awarded to students who consistently demonstrate outstanding commitment, organisation, responsibility and resilience towards sport/s awarded, across 2, 4 or 6 years. These students have produced outstanding performances and a respectful manner, when both competing for the school and in PE lessons.

Year 8 Junior Colours	Sport
Erin Ford	Netball/Athletics
Ella Seeley	Netball/Rounders/ Dance
Maisie Marshall	Netball/Hockey
India Rhodes	Netball
Bella Street	Netball
Grace Hull	Netball/ Dance
Jessica Hennessey	Football
Ella Bryan	Hockey/Athletics
Alice Farrow	Hockey
Sophia Rule	Hockey
Amelie Cox	Hockey
Lucy Hunter	Hockey
Isla McDonald	Athletics
Sofia Mills-Miguel	Athletics
Lily Nickless	Rounders
Tom McDermott	Football/Cricket
Conlan O'Connor	Football
Joe Reeson	Football/Cricket
Jack Frazer-Hogg	Football/Athletics
Logan Carter	Football
Jack Hughes	Athletics
Filipe Ferreira	Athletics
Sam McRae	Tennis/ Athletics
Kai Savage	Football/Rugby
Daniel Parry	Badminton/Tennis
Tom Hawksworth	Cricket
Jake Smith	Cricket
Leo Bray	Cricket/ Athletics
Ivo Chamberlain	Cricket
Owen Caldwell	Rugby
Leo Shale	Rugby
Will Hoyle	Rugby
Tommy James	Rugby
Mac Morrison	Rugby
Toby Smith	Rugby
Grace Puddephatt	Dance
Tyla Bennett	Dance

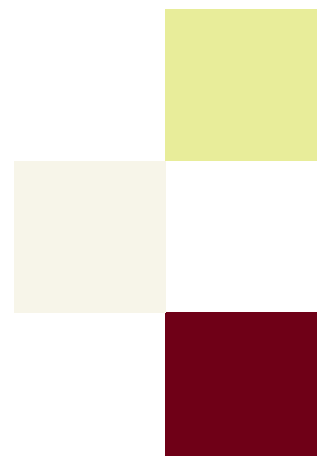
<b>Year 8 Junior Colours</b>	<b>Sport</b>
Elodie Knott	Dance
Maisie Giles	Dance
Zach Langley	Athletics
<b>Year 10 Inter Colours</b>	<b>Sport</b>
Emily Phipps	Netball
Erin Anstiss	Netball
Chloe Lee	Hockey
Hannah King	Hockey
Hayden Wilson	Hockey
Josh Bedford	Hockey
Yasmin Warnes	Athletics
Charlotte Hewson	Athletics
Millie Giles	Athletics
Alexander Eldridge	Athletics
Henry Harbinson	Athletics/ Rugby
Will Allen	Athletics/ Rugby
Ashton Grant	Football
Ellen Browne	Badminton
Rocco Picciano	Athletics
Connor Quann	Rugby
Ethan Wills	Athletics
Harry Price	Cricket
Florence Owen	Football
Millie Catlin	Football
<b>Year 12 Senior Colours</b>	<b>Sport</b>
Mia Dudley-Holt	Netball
Emma Merry	Netball
Ella Goodhram	Netball
Mabel Daw	Hockey
Colette Fitzpatrick	Hockey
Helena Sykora	Hockey
Flo Horan	Hockey
Ash Barber	Hockey
Charlie Rhymer	Hockey
Malakhi Allick	Hockey/Leadership
Isaac Maddern	Hockey
Harry Critchlow	Leadership
Finley Gomm	Football
Emily Bowles	Leadership
Lucy Scott	Leadership
James Hadjikyriacos	Football



**Year 13 students collecting their sports colours awards**

**Congratulations to all the students who have been awarded sports colours for 2022/23.**

**Well done!**





The D of E is now being managed by the PE Department. All 3 awards have been launched and we have seen record numbers for the Bronze Award sign up. Both the staff and students alike are looking forward to getting started with their 4 sections, as they work towards their certification this summer.

The award has been established at GMS since 2009. It is a brilliant opportunity for any student, and perfectly reflects the use of the 6R's (respect, responsibility, readiness, resourcefulness, reflection, resilience). The award is designed to enable students to demonstrate independence as they control their progress with the volunteering, physical and skill which make up 3 of the 4 sections. The 4th is the expedition. This involves route planning, navigation, camp craft skills, physical resilience, and a huge amount of teamwork.

Students who undertook the award last year who have still not received certification need to ensure they have completed all aspects of the award, and that this has been evidenced on the portal. Those who have done this, your evidence has been sent to the Licensed Organisation who will verify the evidence and release the awards in due course.

If you do require any information about the awards, please contact Mr S Goodright via the D of E email address [dofe@gms.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:dofe@gms.bucks.sch.uk)

By Mr S Goodright



AND FINALLY....

ALL THE STAFF  
AT GMS WISH ALL  
STUDENTS, PARENTS'  
AND CARERS' A VERY  
HAPPY CHRISTMAS  
AND CONTINUED  
SUCCESS FOR EACH  
AND EVERYONE  
OF OUR STUDENTS  
THROUGHOUT THE  
FOLLOWING YEAR.



### IT'S GOOD TO TALK

Children's Mental Health is incredibly important, especially during exam times.

Please see below information about courses available from the Family Support Service focusing on Confidence, Positive Relationships and Dealing with Stress.

Parents and students can sign up directly for these online course now (details on the GMS website), which start beginning January 2024.

- Building Confidence and Self-Esteem
- Building Positive relationships
- How to Deal With Stress anxiety and low mood



Additionally, anyone aged between 11-25 years old is able to contact [number22.org](http://number22.org), a support site and phoneline for those who wish to seek counselling: 01628 636661.



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