



The VOICE

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For my article in this summer edition of The Voice I would like to share with you the speech that I delivered at our Celebration of Success event on Thursday 17th July.

IMPORTANT DATES

School closes for the Summer Holidays on Friday 19th July at 1pm.

Years 7, 10 and 12 return to school on September 4th.

All other students return to school on September 5th.

A-level results are published on 15th August and GCSE results are published on 22nd August.

KEY EVENTS at GMS

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

Good evening, and a very warm welcome to our invited guests including parents/carers, members of staff and, very importantly, our prize winners of 2024. Tonight, is a wonderful chance to celebrate the success of our prize winners, but also to reflect briefly on the progress made by the school, over the past year.

Throughout the year, we have operated the school with our values of Excellence, Compassion, and Integrity as the core pillars. We are extremely fortunate at this school that 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.

Our curriculum is fundamental to achieving our vision and we are very proud of the broad and rich curriculum that we offer at Key Stage 3 and the excellent range of subjects' students can choose to study a Key Stage 4 and 5. The richness of our curriculum is delivered through, high quality teaching and learning, lesson after lesson, each and every day. In these lessons, students develop their depth of knowledge and understanding, and the essential skills required to apply this knowledge to variety of situations and circumstances.

On the subject of skills, My Personal Best is still a fundamental part of our curriculum within the school focusing on the 6 Rs, of Respect; Readiness; Reflection; Responsibility; Resourcefulness and Resilience. These skills are explicitly developed in students in all individual subjects and lessons as well as in our extensive extra-curricular programme. The 7th R of Reading 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.

All of the Rs are essential skills if our students are going to be compassionate, successful and resilient contributors to creating the better society that we strive for. As I have said before, there is far more to life than examinations, but their importance should not be underestimated.

Our broad and rich curriculum, during the main part of the school day is enhanced considerably by the extra-curricular programme we offer before and after the main school day and during the weekends and school holidays.

Over the course of the year, opportunities have been made available to every student in the school, to further develop their ambition and aspiration with a vast number of educational activities, visits, and trips. Students and staff this academic year have visited, even more, areas of outstanding natural beauty, towns, cities, and explored galleries, theatres, exhibitions, and universities. In school we have continued to organise, develop, and host a plethora of academic and cultural activities that enriches the work of this school and strengthens our position at the heart of the Marlow community. Almost, all of these activities 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, weekends, and school holidays when many of these activities take place.

One of the highlights of the first term this academic year was the incredible Poppy display produced by the Art and Design students and staff under the creative direction of Mrs Joseph-Stewart using recycled materials to produce a stunning display which received national media coverage. We had the honour of inviting and taking photographs with many of our parents/ carers who are members of the armed forces in front of this display

Later that term,

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

December, we saw the fantastic stage production of Matilda, led by Mrs Chenery, ably supported by Mr Ross, with significant support from several other members of staff. The singing and comedic performances will live long in the memories of the many people who saw it. At the time described, as arguably the best GMS stage production ever!

On the subject of the Drama and school productions, this week over the first three days we have, again, marvelled at the talent of our performers in the Willy Russell play 'Our Day Out' which included a stage design that showed immense ingenuity, matched by the outstanding acting, that showed maturity way beyond the ages of the performers. As we mentioned Mr Ross and Mrs Chenery earlier, I would like to draw particular attention to the support of Mrs Sharp with all our recent stage productions, an invaluable member of the team.

Last Wednesday, our Summer Music Concert took place, orchestrated by Mr Kidd, supported by Mr Williams. Students with a wide range of musical experience, performed different genres, as individuals and in groups of varying sizes. The eclectic mix of performances are shown in the diversity from 21st century pop, 1980s soft rock and a choral performance that had its origins in the 15th Century. It truly was a showcase for all.

Over the past five years, we as a school have led on the Marlow Schools' collective approach, to increasing our school communities' awareness of environmental issues and challenges. The culmination of this work resulted in the first ever Marlow Schools' Eco Conference, in March, hosted at GMS attended by numerous community groups and all the Marlow primary and secondary schools. For another year, Miss Addy, has surpassed herself this year with the quantity and quality of her Eco activities ably supported by her Eco warriors who have continued to grow in number as well as in their passion and commitment to the cause! This year has also seen two significant projects come to life, the reinstatement of the GMS pond and the building of our adjacent outdoor classrooms. A huge thank you to Miss Addy, but also Mrs Lamming and Miss Ashby who have always given her great support.

Physical Education, Sport and Physical Activity at GMS is an integral part of the school, the quality of the curricular provision, breadth of sports played, quality of performances continues to grow year on year. I will make no apology for continuing to talk about the importance of physical activity for physical health and mental wellbeing, many people say there is not a magic solution for obesity and depression, well physical activity and exercise may not be magic but the impact of both on physical health and wellbeing is nothing sort of remarkable. As I have written and said before, in simple terms, physical activity can make you healthier, happier, and brainier!

The sports awards' evening will be held at school tomorrow evening and the rowing awards dinner on Wednesday evening, at the Crowne Plaza. The projected combined attendance, again, for both events is over 600 people, this is a true testament to the strength of physical activity and sport at this school. Combined the PE department and the rowing coaches have been involved in over 1500 practices for students and well over 350 competitive fixtures this academic year.

Other than the Olympics, arguably, the most notable date on the rowing calendar is Henley Royal Regatta, this year saw two Great Marlow School crews qualify, a boys' 8 and boys' quad. The boys 8 were beaten in their first race by a much more experienced and seeded crew, but our boys quad (consisting of Raphael Quin, Sal Dunn, Ethan Hunt and George Spencer) created history and became the first crew from GMS to win a race in the Fawley Challenge Cup, taking them into a second race in the round of 16, against a crew from Los Angeles who were the US national champions. In an immense race the GMS quad were beaten by inches by their American counterparts which was only decided by a photo finish.

Over the next three days, two of the quad Sal Dunn and Ethan Hunt are at the final trials for GB selection for either the World Championships in Canada or the Europeans in the Czech Republic. Other incredibly significant

rowing successes were the achievements of the Yr10 girl's quad who became national champions and were undefeated all year. In addition, the Yr10 boys 4+ were also the national champions. Probably GMS rowing's most successful year ever.

There are several other sporting achievements that really do deserve a separate mention this evening. Year 7 boys football team won the County Cup and were semi-finalists in the English Schools National Cup, a phenomenal achievement.

In the area of Athletics every year group 7-10, boys, and girls, were the first placed Co-Ed School in the district competitions. In Hockey, the U18 boys came 4th in the National Finals, and the U18 girls were narrowly beaten in the National cup semi-final.

In April we had our second sporting challenge event with this year's event, creatively called the 2024 Sporting Challenge, in contrast to last year's 2023 Sporting Challenge. This year the fundraising efforts were focussed on raising money towards the Marlow and District Schools Boathouse, the event raised over £30,000. A particular thank you must go to one of our parents Roger Berry, who I am sure many of will have read about it, he cycled for the entire 20 hours and 24 minutes (starting at 4.00pm on a Thursday, cycling through the night and finishing at 12.24pm on the Friday) he did this on a WattBike in the Redgrave Sports Centre, covering an incredible 450km during that time. A herculean effort!

The Duke of Edinburgh Award continues to be an important feature of life at GMS, students from Years 9-13 have successfully completed their Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards this year. When you talk about personal development including character development and resilience, this is one fine example. This year, I am particularly grateful to Mr Goodright and the PE team for taking this on, which meant I did not have to sleep in a tent this year, unlike last year.

Business Studies is incredibly popular subject at GMS at both GCSE and A level, this year the extra-curricular activities have gone from strength to strength with activities for the Year 7 and the Sixth Form. The Young Enterprise group supported and nurtured by Ms Broadbent with their business 'Mugs and More' came second in the County competition and were overall winners for Best Presentation and Marketing. Next stop Dragons Den!

The compassion of our students, once again, has been clear to see through the charity work that students in all year groups have been involved in this year. We continue to support several local, national, and international organisations including: the One Can Trust who we will be collecting for again, as is tradition, on our final day of term next Friday.

It is at this point I would like to thank every member of school staff for their continued hard work, commitment, and enthusiasm. I would particularly like to thank the members of staff that through their discretionary effort really do go the extra-mile for this school and its students. I talked last year about the increasing number of challenges facing society and then in turn schools, there has been no change this year, schools are still taking on the work and responsibilities which once belonged to Social Care, the NHS, the Police or Buckinghamshire Council in our area. This is still without any extra funding and in fact in real terms funding has reduced.

I want to say a strong public thank you to the leadership team for their continued work ethic, professionalism, and their agility to keep the increasing number of plates spinning.

I also want to publicly thank the Trustees who give so willingly of their time, support the leadership team but also challenge us to improve the school even further; to the members of Friends of Great Marlow who raise much needed funds to support the school; and to you the parents/ carers who week in week out support us and your children, many of you with unwavering commitment.

Talking of partnerships, we are delighted that this summer that Marlow FM will be moving into their new accommodation at GMS, and we are very

much looking forward to a long fruitful relationship and to the opportunities this will present for all parties but not least for our students.

At the end of an academic year, it is the traditional time of the year when we say goodbye to colleagues who are leaving the school. So, I would like to recognise this evening, as many of them are here, the members of staff who are leaving GMS this summer.

I will begin with a huge thank you to three members of associate staff who between have given 65 years of service, mostly in the SEND department, Mrs Pyle, Mrs Galbraith, and Mrs Laker. You will be missed.

A thank you to Mrs Milne-Page and Mrs Sanchez who have been working this year in the English and MFL departments, respectively. To Mrs Tilling and Miss Addy for their work in Design Technology over the last 4 years and to Miss Addy for her immense Eco work I mentioned earlier. Also, leaving the Design Technology department this summer is Mrs Saunders after 15 years as a technician.

Mr Warner retires this year after 35 years in education with the last 12 years as Head of Geography at GMS. Also, reluctantly leaving the geography department after 15 years, to move to Scotland, and the reluctance from Mrs Wheeler has nothing to do with the Scots, she just does not want to leave GMS.

And finally, to Mrs Lee after 18 years at GMS and Mrs Pugsley, after 22 years, both moving into well-earned retirement.

Please join with me to offer those members of staff a round of applause to wish them all the absolute best for the future.

I will finish with a quote I recently read from Winston Churchill that really resonated with me...

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

I firmly believe that this is a school and a community that gives more than it takes!

For my final comments, I will again go back to the start of this academic year and our INSET days in September. At the end of the INSET days I read a list of things I wanted to encourage the staff of the school to do more of over the coming school year, for their health and wellbeing. I will read the list again so that the staff here can reflect on whether they heeded my advice or ignored it and to encourage the students and you our guests to consider incorporating these suggestions into your lives for your own benefit, your families and your friends.

- **Number 1 Get more sleep – for its positive impact on the brain**
- **Make time to exercise**
- **Drink more water**
- **Eat less sugar**
- **Do not respond to negativity**
- **Do less complaining**
- **Remove clutter**
- **Perform more random acts of kindness**
- **Spend quality time with family**
- **Laugh loud**
- **And forgive first**

Doing some or even all these things will not guarantee you a happy, healthy and successful time/life but it will certainly increase the likelihood!

Best Wishes

Mr Kevin Ford, Headteacher

Celebration of Success awards 2024



A YEAR OF CREATIVITY, FROM STUDENTS AND STAFF, IN THE ART DEPARTMENT

As we near the end of the academic year, the Art and Design department are reflecting on a jam-packed and hugely successful 12 months.

From our incredible news-worthy poppy Remembrance installation in November, to 'Matilda Jr' production set mania in December, followed by some beautiful work from our GCSE and A level cohorts during the exam period, once again we're able to feel especially proud of the triumphs our staff and students have achieved using their high levels of inspiration, determination, and resilience.

As well as our practical outcomes, our digital resources have continued to thrive this year, with our Instagram and Youtube accounts gathering more and more traction and showcasing the incredible work of our talented learners.

We also welcome a new staff member to our Team! Tara-Lee joins us as our new Art and Design Technician and has slotted into the department brilliantly. A freelance Graphic Designer by trade, Tara-Lee is currently in the process of studying towards her degree in Fine Art at Bucks New University while she undertakes the technician role at GMS. Her enthusiasm for the department and our students has been evident since she joined the ranks, and we hope she'll enjoy many happy years working with us.

To all of our students, social media followers and hugely supportive parents and guardians – we wish you a safe and restful summer. We can't wait to welcome our cohorts back in September for another year of creativity!

By Mrs K Joseph-Stewart

HIGH PRAISE FOR EXAM PROJECTS

Year 11 and 13 artists have had an incredibly busy term completing their respective GCSE and A-level courses. With it being the first year that the externally set task (exam project) has returned in Art and Design, the students sat their 10-hour GCSE and 15-hour A-level sessions of controlled time without a hitch.



YEAR 11'S HARD WORK PAYS OFF!

Mrs Hayward and Miss Moyse are super proud of the efforts made by Y11 in submitting their final coursework and exam work this past term. Students spent their Easter holiday finalising plans for their 2-day art exam, and produced a range of impressive work based on their chosen themes. A sample of the work is shown below.

Georgia Tate and Sophie Napthine both chose the initial theme of 'Places and Spaces' but took their projects in very different directions. Georgia explored the contrasting work of Monica Popham (who uses composition and viewpoints in dynamic ways) and Andy Ashdown (whose use of watercolour and fine liner adds colour and expression to landmark imagery). Georgia explored a variety of printed mediums and mixed media before deciding on her final outcome, a beautiful watercolour and fine liner painting of The Colosseum.

Sophie began with the same theme and explored inner city spaces, through the work of Mandy Payne (who studies the transitory nature of urban environments in muted, almost brutalist lines and colours) and Ferdinanda Florence (who paints mysterious and uneasy liminal spaces). Sophie explored collage and digital outcomes during her experimentation and produced a semi-abstract painting from her own photograph of a busy city intersection from above.

It is a joy to see how students develop their projects in such individual ways and produce personal and meaningful resolutions to the exam themes in such a short space of time.

By Mrs J Hayward

A-LEVEL ART STUDENTS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THEIR STUDIES WITH SOME FANTASTIC OUTCOMES

Our A-level art students have had another very successful year. We have said goodbye to our 10 year 13s, who have worked incredibly hard to achieve really strong outcomes. They should all be incredibly proud of themselves, and we wish them all luck for results day! We will share some of their hard work as soon as the exam boards allow.

In A-level Art and design our students are taught to analyze and interpret artwork, as well as to evaluate their own work and the work of others. This ability to think critically is essential in many professions, including law, medicine, and education. This year we have students hoping to pursue careers both in the creative industries or are using the A-level to complement other subjects such as politics and law.

They students experience working across a wide range of media mastering many different skills, from fine art painting, printmaking, sculpture, and mixed media, to start developing practical expertise in areas that inspire and excite them.

We can now show the amazing work produced by some of last year's students Ari Burns who went on to study prosthetics and Richard Walker architecture.

By Mrs A Perman



By Georgia Tate Yr 11



By Sophie Naphine Yr 11

Left: By Richard Walker Yr 13 in 2023

A-level art



Above: By Ari Burns Yr 13 in 2023

EMPOWERING FUTURE INNOVATORS: WYCOMBE HIGH HOSTS INSPIRING STEAM DAY FOR YEAR 7 GIRLS

On Monday, 24th June, selected Year 7 girls participated in an innovative STEAM day at Wycombe High School, engaging in activities across Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics. The event included practical science experiments with a Van de Graaff generator, computer science through game-play activities to develop computational thinking, and technology projects like building and testing catapults. Mathematics sessions involved constructing a huge tetrahedron structure, while art activities featured Gelli painting and visual communication tasks.

Alongside the fantastic Wycombe High staff who led workshops and mentored students, female role models from GIFF GAFF were present to inspire the Year 7s. They highlighted the vast potential of opportunities available to women in these disciplines while sharing their own journeys to forging careers in STEAM. As the event concluded, the Year 7 girls left with a newfound excitement for STEAM and a clearer understanding of future opportunities.

Wycombe High School's commitment to fostering an inclusive and inspiring environment was evident, paving the way for the next generation of female innovators, engineers, scientists, artists, and mathematicians. We look forward to supporting Wycombe High School in the further development of the STEAM programme during the new academic year!

By Miss J Moyes



Year 9 design Loungewear

In Year 9 students develop garment construction techniques in the development of loungewear shorts. The students designed their own matching motif that was inspired by a culture of their choice. The project links to sustainability in teaching the students the importance of "well-made" products; how they last longer than fast fashion products & therefore do not end up in landfill.



Year 10 design Travel bags

Year 10 have investigated a design movement to use as inspiration when designing and manufacturing a product based on the context of 'travel security'.

By Mrs C Clark



Finlay Lewis-Bell Yr 12, did work experience at Chelton as part of the Lego STEM partnership.

"Work experience at Chelton was very interesting. Their focus is military antenna and they make equipment such as anti jamming devices for gps receivers, static dischargers for planes and search and rescue equipment.

Whilst I was there I simulated a resonance test on an antenna in Solidworks which would then be repeated in the real world later that week. I also was tasked with designing a patch antenna using CST to test the performance of the antenna. The antenna was then manufactured and we tested it in an anechoic chamber. A room filled with RAM (radiation absorbent material) to see how well my antenna worked in reality.

I also made a working radio from a kit in the soldering department. It was interesting to learn about how PCBs work. On top of this I learnt to use a robot arm which the robotics department use to automate some manufacturing processes. They also had 3d scanning equipment and software which could be used to make 3d models of objects.

Overall it was a very interesting experience and very worthwhile."

By Finlay Lewis Bell

Lego Stem Club - Educational and Memorable

The club was ran as part of Technology, Computing & Science.

"Getting to go to the Lego STEM club was wonderful, it took us through the steps of coding and building slowly, to build up our confidence and help us learn what does something and why it does that specific thing. The main premise of it was to learn coding and programming to use a robot to complete different actions or sections on a board like pushing this in or turning that the right way, each one giving us points and the group with the most wins. The way they did this was by teaching us different parts step by step, one at a time. For example, the first lesson was how to build your robot and what each part and accessory does. The second lesson taught us how to use some of these parts, like using a colour sensor to detect when something was in front of it and an arm to grab and drag different objects. Then the third lesson expanded on the colour sensor and using it to follow black lines which would be useful for the final competition to get from a particular section to another easily.

Not only did it help me develop my building and engineering skills but it helped me learn how to code and the problems that come with it. I would encounter a problem and have to figure out how to fix it all on my own, I would try and find where in the code the problem occurred and then how it could be changed to make it do what I initially wanted it to do. It would also allow me to experiment and see if things would work better, and if instead of going forward, stopping,

turning right and going forward again, I could have it stay moving forward while one wheel moves faster, having it turn at the same time. It really embodies the phrase "work smarter not harder".

In the end, me and two others only came third out of 5 groups in the final competition, but that's okay because making mistakes is a part of life and it just means you learn something and you know what to do to improve for next time.

I'm sad that it's over but if I could do it all over again I totally would because the experience that I had was both memorable and educational. I would highly recommend it to anyone else who was not sure on doing it because when I was there, it was some of the most fun I've ever had in my life.

By Louie East



OUR SUMMER PRODUCTION OF "OUR DAY OUT" COULD NOT HAVE BEEN BETTER!

This project started as Matilda was finishing, which is pretty much what we must do to have productions ready in time.

We always want to experiment and challenge our students in different ways; introduce new genres of plays and new ways to produce them. As we have so many students now willing to audition, we actively searched for a play that had a fair size cast, and where we could adapt it by adding in some ideas of our own. After discussion, we decided on Our Day Out by Willy Russell, which is a very mature play, challenging for young actors to perform. Auditions started in January; the production work began immediately.

The number and complexity of the lines that so many of the actors had to learn was staggering, but at every rehearsal all the young actors had learnt their allocated lines for the particular scene we were working on.

While I worked with the actors, Mrs Sharp and Mrs Chenery began to tackle how to stage the performance and plan the costumes. Mrs Black joined the team to fashion some incredible props.

During rehearsals we realised that traditional staging was going to be difficult. Mrs Sharp had the brilliant idea of locating a coach in the middle of the hall, changing the seating to make it into a Thrust Stage. The amazing coach was built by Mr Shea. Next, the design and painting of the coach, up stepped Miss Pearce and Miss Busescu. They worked incredible hours to ready this coach for the dress rehearsal and opening night. A huge thanks to them and Mr A Pendlebury who assisted with the painting most ably. (A couple of shirts were unwearable afterwards. His mother, Mrs Pendlebury pretended to be annoyed but wasn't at all.)

After much hard work, the students were ready. They performed four shows, and they nailed every single one of them.

The comments from the audience were incredibly enthusiastic; everyone marvelled at how well these young students performed with such aplomb.

The euphoria has not gone, and on a wave of success we are already thinking about the Christmas production. The success of the Drama Department grows with each staged production and we are delighted.

I conclude this report repeating something that was written in the programme, 'Without the support of all the parents and carers, these shows would simply not happen, and we thank you.'

The BIGGEST THANK YOU goes to

Parents and carers of the cast - for their endless commitment to this project over months, including after school rehearsals: their support for their children has been wonderful. I know many of you will know this play inside out, just because you have spent so much time with your child helping them learn their lines.

Our great cast, who became better and better with each rehearsal. Their line learning was unbelievable and their commitment to the success of the play unwavering. It's been marvellous to witness how every entertainer has blossomed and cultivated the role assigned to them.

Great Marlow School is aptly named for we have great students, great staff, and great parents and carers.

Congratulations to every one of you. Thank you for being a joy to work with. You are a credit to yourselves and our school.

By Mr S Ross



YEAR 10 DRAMA STUDENTS WOWED BY 'LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS'

On Wednesday 19th June the drama department took Year 10 Drama students to watch Little Shop of Horrors at the Theatre Royal Windsor. The musical follows a flower shop assistant Seymour who at the start of the story is down on his luck until he stumbles across a mysterious new plant (Audrey 2) with killer potential. The Show was brilliant and kept the students engaged throughout, as they watched Audrey 2 grow into a human eating plant. The show was filled with amazing rock and roll music- with the classic songs Suddenly Seymour, Skid

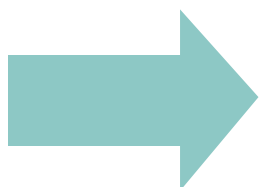
Row and Mean Green Monster from Outer Space.

We were lucky enough to grab a selfie with one of the cast members Matthew Ganley who played Orin and many other characters. The students were mesmerized with Granley's acting ability as he demonstrated many multi-rolling skills which have inspired the students and will support them hugely when the prepare for their component 2 exam.

The students really enjoyed themselves asking for the department to organise another theatre visit soon. The students were a credit to the school and made the department extremely proud.

By Mrs D Chenery





Calling all
aspiring sound
and lighting
engineers.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN HOW TO BE A SOUND AND LIGHT ENGINEER?

Students in Year 7,8,9 and 10, we are looking for anyone who is interested in doing some training for our new lights system and/or sound system. This will be in preparation for the school productions and other events.

No experience is necessary. But you will need to be committed and use your skills at school events. If you are interested, please can you email Mr Ross in the first instance sross@gms.bucks.sch.uk Then during September, we will get back to you with the training dates.

Year 6 Transition Day Reading

Wonderscape by Jennifer Bell

Following on from last year's hugely successful initiative – to provide all new students starting Great Marlow School in year 7 with a reading book - Friends of Great Marlow School have done it again by very generously granting the funding needed for such a project.

This year, all the year 6 transition students were given their gift from FoGMS during time spent with their new tutors. They read the first chapter and discussed what they thought the story would be about.

This year's choice is a novel called Wonderscape by Jennifer Bell. The story centres on three characters, Arthur, Ren and Cecily. It is an ordinary morning, and they are on their way to school until a mysterious explosion occurs. As part of their investigation, they find themselves trapped aboard The Principia – a scientific research ship sailing through hazardous waters, captained by one Isaac Newton. The trio must call on the help of some unlikely historical heroes, to play their way home before time runs out.

Lost in the year 2473 in the Wonderscape, this novel is described as an epic in-reality adventure game.

All the students are encouraged to continue reading the story during the summer break. There will be activities based on the book during Summer School. In addition, the book will be discussed and read in tutor time and English lessons from September.

Huge thanks to Friends of Great Marlow School for making this initiative happen and to all parents and carers that have contributed to any FoGMS events – you have made reading for pleasure possible at our school.

By Mrs C Legerton



ENGLISH AND MUSIC JOIN FORCES AT THE SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL

Mrs Legerton and Mrs Ben Haj Ali were delighted to be able to enjoy two of their favourite pastimes in one evening as they were invited back to the GMS Summer Music Festival for the 2nd year running to run their Book Stall.

We were raising funds for FOGMS with the sale of the books for both adults and children, and we were very happy to see so many children and their parents and carers choosing books to kick start their Summer reading.

As a little extra treat this year, all of the students performing plus the adults and children in the audience were given a raffle ticket on arrival and during the interval we gave out 10 free books as prizes to the lucky winners.

Many thanks to Mr Kidd for allowing us to take part in the evening again, and of course to all of our wonderful student performers who put on such a fantastic show.

By Mrs Lisa Ben Haj Ali

Assistant Librarian /Reprographics Technician



Would you like to join our new Book Club

Starting Monday 23rd September

We know that many parents and carers are keen readers.

If this is you, then please make time to come along to our new book club for parents, carers and staff.

The aim will be to read a wide selection of fiction and non-fiction books then meet up once a month to discuss our reading. This is also a great opportunity to meet other parents and carers from the school community.

More information to follow in September.

By Mrs C Legerton

Year 13s visit Hampton Court Palace

The Year 13 History class visited the Holbein at the Tudor Court exhibition at Buckingham Palace at the end of March. The students braved the torrential rain on our scenic walk to the palace which included two royal carriages from the working stables at the Royal Mews that stopped traffic and tourists on The Mall (we are still unsure of who waved from them). After a rather lengthy queue to visit the exhibition we finally made it inside the Queen's Gallery. We were met with beautiful Holbein paintings and over forty preparatory drawings of a range of members of the Tudor court but also regular members of Tudor society far beneath royalty.

Holbein was a renowned painter of the sixteenth century, he came to London in 1526 and spent much of his working life here. From his time in England we get a real insight into the members of Henry VIII's court and looking upon the paintings that hung in the royal residences five hundred years ago we were struck by the fact that time is all that separates us from those that we are studying as part of our A Level course.

Highlights of the exhibition for the students were the portraits of Henry VIII, Edward VI and the only known contemporary image of Anne Boleyn; which was a preparatory sketch where the back of the paper was reused. Presumably the painting of Anne was never finished as she was executed in 1536 and students could not believe that the images we have of Anne Boleyn are later paintings. There were portraits and tapestries that hung in Henry VII and Henry

VIII's court. Other highlights were the Field of Cloth of Gold and Battle of Spurs paintings which depicted Henry VIII's desire "for glory and immortality." This was further exemplified by the display of innovative weaponry he invested in. One student was struck by the pointlessness of the positioning of the sight and gunshield from

1544, which in this form did not catch-on. There was also the book written by Henry VIII's Defence of the Seven Sacraments on display for which he was rewarded with the title of defender of the faith by the Pope. The exhibition also shows Holbein's work depicting other European leaders of the time and Henry VIII's great rivals, the Holy Roman Emperor and King of Spain Charles V and Francis I, King of France.

It is a shame that there was no likeness of Holbein himself in the gallery and equally there were only the Holbein paintings owned by the Royal Collection Trust exhibited here as the Queen's Gallery does not borrow paintings. However, the collection of other paintings from the period made up for this and really helped the students get a sense of the period. We of course exited through the gift shop and then back out into a slightly drier London but it was not long before the skies opened again.

By Mrs S Bullock
Head of Department



Year 7 Castle Competition



Year 7 students the whole year, have recently designed and built castles using household items. The students worked individually or in pairs to produce some amazing castles; some had explanatory booklets and other castles had pictures to show how hard they worked on their project. The castles ranged from classic English, Welsh and Scottish castles to Japanese inspired castles. The History Department, Miss Miles and Mr Pendlebury spent much of the day judging many different castles and we managed to create a shortlist of finalists:



Scoutie Willcocks and Florence James (7K3), Isabella Hale (7H1), Andrew Somers and Jack Klepping (7H2), Isabelle Nicholson (7E2), Emilia Degan (7K2), Alex Long (7H2), Bethany Watson and Nicole Kluczynska (7E2), Ethan Rudge (7K1), Leo Brown (7H2), and Nadia Mattu (7K2).

From this shortlist and after much deliberation, (owing to the fact that the castles were so fantastic), the following prizes were awarded:

1st Place and overall competition winner – Isabelle Nicholson (7E2)

2nd Place – Andrew Somers and Jack Klepping (7H2)

3rd Place – Ethan Rudge (7K1)

Director of Learning's Award – Alex Long (7H2)

Head Teacher's Award - Leo Brown (7H2)

Shortlisted finalists all received Headteachers Awards for their castles. The winners also received a certificate and prize.

Well done to all of Year 7 for their amazing castles!

By Mr D Taylor



Above: 1st Place Isabelle Nicholson (7E2)



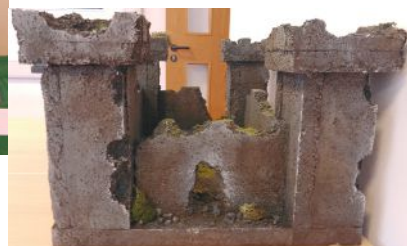
Above: 2nd Place Andrew Somers and Jack Klepping (7H2)



Above: 3rd Place Ethan Rudge (7K1)



Above: Director of Learning Award Alex Long (7H2)



Above: Head Teacher's Award Leo Brown (7H2)

MUSIC STUDENTS HAVE PERFORMED AT A PLETHORA OF EVENTS

It has been a very busy Summer Term in the Music Department. The term kicked off with the Jazz Evening. Hosted by Zac and Jemima, the Jazz Band performed a variety of jazz arrangements in the Great Marlow School Jazz Club. Supported brilliantly by the Chamber Choir and soloists, Grace, Zac, and Jemima, the concert started the final term in excellent style.

On Sunday 16th June, Great Marlow School Chamber Choir was the visiting choir for morning service at All Saints Church, Marlow. The choir sung beautifully and led the singing throughout the service with great confidence, much to the delight of the gathered congregation and clergy. For a choir which is less than a year old, this was quite an achievement. The following extract is typical of the many emails received after the service:

"What an absolute joy it was to hear the Great Marlow Chamber Choir yesterday morning. Their singing really lifted my soul and spirit and was such a blessing. Many thanks to them and you for the hard work put in to achieve such a high standard and for their willingness to sing in church, which must have been quite daunting, especially during Communion. I hope the choir will come again."

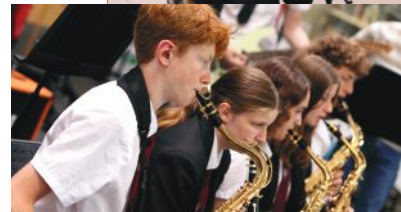
On Sunday 30th June, Great Marlow School Chamber Choir visited the 'chocolate box' village of Dorchester in Oxfordshire. The visit begun with a splendid picnic in the beautiful grounds of Dorchester Abbey, followed by two short informal performances inside the Abbey to parents of the choir and abbey tourists. Again, the choir sung with great confidence, their dulcet tones ringing in the lofty and generous spaces of the imposing church.

On Wednesday 3rd July, the Music Department gave its final concert of the year in the Sixth Form Centre. The concert featured all ensembles, as well as outstanding soloists, including Chamber Choir, Jazz Band, Rock and Pop Bands, Show Choir, String Ensemble, Wind Band, Wind Quintet and Soloists Miles, Hannah, Lily and Matthew. With such a variety of ensembles, the programme on offer was very diverse in terms of technical skill and style and ranged from 21st Century pop song right back to 13th Century polyphony. The students performed to a sell-out audience and ended the academic year superbly.

The bands and soloists of Great Marlow School have been very busy in the final weeks of the Summer Term. Hugo, Elia, Paul, performed brilliantly at the Celebration of Success evening, with a special mention to Isobel and Grace for their outstanding solos. And finally, the Music Department were delighted to team up with the P.E. Department for the Sports Awards evening. A special mention to the following bands, who performed superbly all evening: Hugo, Elia, and Paul, and Grace H, Grace P, Amelie, and Paul.

A huge congratulations to all GMS musicians for their dedication and commitment throughout the year. The Music Department are looking forward to an exciting calendar of events in 2024-25. Thank you to all parents and carers that have supported the Music Department with rehearsals and concerts throughout the year. Have a brilliant summer!

By Mr O Kidd - Head of Music



GMS French students help out at Holy Trinity School

On Wednesday 12th June, Year 6 at Holy Trinity had a brilliantly immersive French Day!

The children began their journey with a traditional French breakfast of croissants and 'chocolat chaud', which was then followed by an exciting journey via the Eurostar, and then through passport control. Throughout the day, the children explored the streets of Paris, from purchasing souvenirs from the Marche, to visiting the Mona Lisa and constructing the Eiffel Tower. Year 6 then also enjoyed a delicious lunch of baguettes, accompanied by cheese tasting, and finishing off with a visit to a French theatre! Some of our Year 6 tourists finished the day of sightseeing with some outdoor games and a Pizza picnic.

Some of Great Marlow's 6th Form students went along to help out.

This is what one of them, Lucy Scott, said:

"It was a great opportunity for me to brush over the basics of French and for the students to see what it's like to go through a French border. All throughout the day, the students were very interested in learning about France's culture and passionate when speaking the language. Being able to speak more than one language is an extremely important skill to be a well-rounded individual. As another student stated, "French is a vital language spoken in many countries across the globe. Speaking other languages can help others to see things from a completely new perspective".

It was great for Holy Trinity School to host such a wonderful event for the year 6s as it helps students to learn and grow in a practical and fun way but of course educational too. At such an early age learning a new language so young can inspire passion and enjoyment towards this subject.

By Mrs T King- Head of MFL



OUR REDUCED ELECTRICITY DAY PROVIDED AN INNOVATIVE WAY OF LEARNING SPANISH

During the reduced electricity day, KS3 students created their own bedroom with playdough, labelled all the furniture, and had speaking exchanges describing their bedrooms as well as writing a description of them and all in Spanish!!

Students, teachers and LSA alike really enjoyed this creative activity, and we managed through the day without any electricity devices.

By Mrs T King- Head of MFL



Year 12 Assessment Results, June 2024

This department offers A-Levels in three subjects: Ancient History, Politics and Law. All y12 students following these subjects sat formal assessments in June.

Ancient History

Ethan Hunt came top of the class, scoring Grade A in both the Greek and the Roman papers.

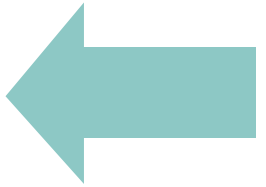
Politics

Zack Myerson scored best in the UK Politics paper and Aminah Ibraz in the UK Government paper. Once the scores from the two papers were combined, they were joint top of the class.

Law

Oliver Pitt was top of one class with an incredible A* score of 98%, closely followed by Scarlett Lee who also scored Grade A* with 90%. In the other class, Ethan Hunt was top with an A* score of 95%. In addition to these, Conrad Bains, Alice Cogram and Leo Hazlem all scored Grade A.

By Mr S Pugsley - Head of Department



On June 18th the Year 12 A-level Psychology and their teacher Mrs King embarked on an enlightening field trip held at the RGS with Dr Guy Sutton, a leading neuroscientist.

"The day was thoroughly planned and involved multiple activities including a sheep's brain dissection, fascinating talks about neurodevelopmental disorders and the interface between brain and computers. took us deeper into several areas of psychology. The highlight of our trip was the captivating lecture given on the violent mind. This included learning how chemical poisoning and brain tumours can cause an individual to commit violent crime. During his lecture he delved into the recent advancement in neuropsychology and the latest in brain scanning to enhance our understanding of the brain and its functions. Dr Sutton took us deeper into several areas of psychology and drew upon real life examples and case studies about how neuropsychology is changing our world so quickly.

Following the lecture we participated in the brain dissection, which was an unforgettable experience and intriguing, we gathered round to watch Dr Sutton perform the dissection, as he gave detailed explanations of what he was doing, and the different parts of the brain seen by the students. We were given various parts of the brain to pass around and take a closer look for ourselves. This was a great addition to help our learning.

After the dissection of the brain, we were able to participate in another interactive activity where we were asked to create a model out of sweets on the effect recreational drugs have on our synapses. When constructing our models, we were in groups with students from different schools which gave us the opportunity to socialise and gave us new perspectives and facts about psychology. The day ended with a fascinating talk on the future of brain research, where we learned about how human brain tissue is being grown in labs and discussed what the ethical implications of this may be. This was an incredible day and Mrs King has secured 20 places for Great Marlow students at next year's event."

By Oliver Braid (12K1) and Ruby Keyes (12K1)

KS3 STUDENTS ENTHUSED ABOUT THE SPIRITED ARTS PROJECT

The Spirited Arts project is now in its third year at Great Marlow School and is an integral part of the Key Stage 3 Religious Education curriculum, delivered as the final topic in Summer Term of Year 8. It is an international project run by the National Association of RE Teachers (NATRE), attracting thousands of entries from students of all ages and locations. At GMS, it gives all students the opportunity to apply their learning from years 7 and 8 to three different

themes provided. This year the themes were 'Faith in Humanity: no to racism, yes to respect', 'How do we envisage God?' and 'Why do animals' matter?'

Students have worked in small groups since returning from Easter plan and implement their own learning, conducting research into relevant religious beliefs and scriptural evidence. They have a largely free choice over what kind of creative, artistic work we want to produce. In 2024, we have had short films, poems, painting, 3D books and even cakes

(see below). Each group then needs to produce a piece of reflective writing to analyse and evaluate their project, considering questions such as 'My inspiration came from...' and 'I have discovered...'

In each of the nine year 8 classes, a gold, silver and bronze certificate(s) will be awarded for the best entries, looking at both their artwork and subsequent write-up. From these 27 winning entries, the year 8 teaching team (Mr Pightling, Mrs Todd and Ms Broadbent) will choose the ten overall best entries that we can send off to the national competition.

It is clear the students value this project.

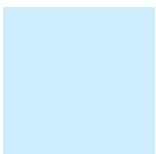
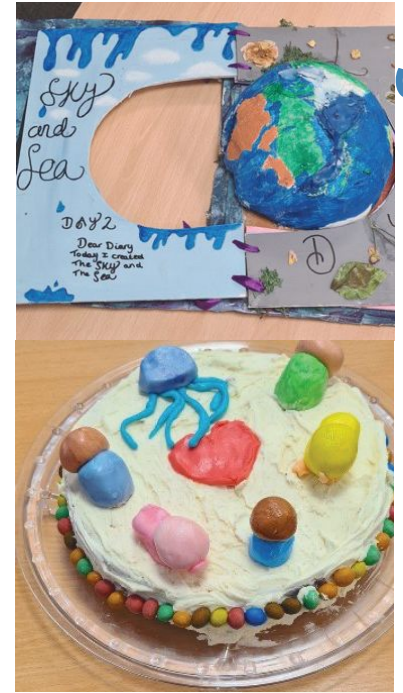
By Mr G Pightling - Head of Department

Ella Guy in 8K1 said

"We have really enjoyed designing and creating our own projects."

Lillie Ambler, also in 8K1 said

"We have learned more about the importance of animals within religion and applied this to our work"



Softcat joins forces with our Eco-Warriors

Softcat is an IT company based in Marlow and over the years has supported the school in its Eco-Vision. Members of Softcat visited school to see the new pond site, with its fabulous mural painted by GMS students.

Also, the new classroom area, ready for staff and students to use. Arran Bligh is congratulated on his very successful bid to Viola for funding for this project; his pitch to them was compelling, thank you Arran and well done.

The journey towards making this happen has been adventurous and its success belies the phenomenal hard work and drive behind the scenes – led by Miss Addy and a huge supportive network. Everyone in GMS has benefited and we all thank the Eco-Team for believing and making it happen.

The Softcat day was part of the company's corporate social responsibility (CRS). Softcat deploys over 60 members of their company to support various projects across primary and secondary schools in Marlow. The guests who came to GMS were incredibly hands on, proactive and welcomed the students into the project developments. They supported the building of an allotment bed, in strimming back the trees around the pond, and for a walkway through the wildflower meadow. They also assisted in the building of a compost bin and an accessible planter for wheelchair users. To make the task easier, they brought in their own equipment to support with these projects.

By Miss R Addy



Goodbye
and
Thank You

Unfortunately, GMS are saying goodbye to Miss Addy this summer who is moving on to become Head of Department at her new school.

Miss Addy has been at the forefront of gaining our Eco-Schools Awards and organising our very first Eco-Schools conference.

Her tenacious and enthusiastic attitude evident in everything she has done at GMS, but moreover in her work with the Eco-Warriors, will be greatly missed and we wish her well in her new job.

There are big shoes to fill for her replacement!

I can't even remember when I said that I would help Rachel with the new Eco school project, but I don't regret it. It has been a wonderful experience working with a friend and colleague on something that was so close to both our hearts, and her enthusiasm and dedication to this project cannot be beat. I do remember when we first started it was a handful of students but with Rachel's enthusiasm and I'm sure she won't mind me saying forcefully, it has now grown to a large group of dedicated students, who will miss her dreadfully.

There have been several trips that have allowed Rachel to show her true self, most memorable the several trips to the garden centre where Rachel was in her element.

She is truly appreciated by the students in the Eco-group, as well as the staff she works alongside. She will be massively missed, and which ever school she ends up at is going to be gaining an enthusiastic and determined colleague.

By Miss Ashby

Waste and Recycling Eco lead



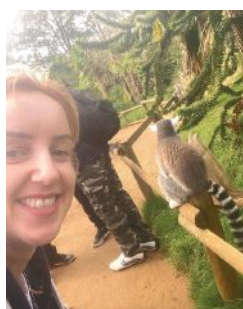
"It's not often you meet someone you would describe as completely unique, but I think Miss Addy has succeeded in fitting that description perfectly. She is undoubtedly the most driven individual I have ever met and I believe it will be a long time until I meet someone else who can create ponds, classrooms, clubs, wildflower areas, multi-school conferences and dedicated litter Picking groups (comprised entirely of willing teenagers!) purely to benefit the children and environment of Great Marlow School. Considering all the plates she spins I realise how impressive it is that she has managed to quadruple book herself only once!

However, it is not just her dedication that is unparalleled but also her ability to unlock the potential of the students she works with. If you had informed me two years ago that students from Great Marlow (myself included) would be successfully gaining funds totalling to thousands of pounds on her instruction I would be disbelieving to say the least. Putting it simply, Great Marlow will be a far less interesting place without her and she will be sorely missed by all students who had the pleasure of meeting her.

Thank you for everything you've done for us"

By Arran Bligh (6th form eco prefect)

R Resourceful
A A force of nature
C Campaigner
H Helpful
E Energetic
L Lively
A Admired
D Determined
D Driven
Y Youthful



Eco Warriors was born 3 years ago and the driving force behind the group was Miss Rachel Addy. She has been on a mission to make GMS an Eco - School. Miss Addy has inspired and enabled students to be creative and independent when taking on environmental projects. With her support and guidance students have presented ideas to companies and organisations, making funding applications to create new learning spaces around the school.

This has meant that we now have a pond area, wildflower area, an orchard and now an outdoor classroom with allotment area.

Eco Warriors and the gardening club will miss her support and energy. We know her new school has gained a very determined teacher who will inspire them as she has us.

By Mrs C Lamming - Eco Warrior and Gardening Lead

THE LIBRARY IS SO MUCH MORE THAN A SPACE FOR BOOKS!

We have had a busy summer term here at the GMS library with a fresh emphasis on diversity of choice. We aim to cater for all levels of interest and have been concentrating on series of books from Manga and Graphics , through to books with a much higher word count. New sections such as Empathy, Netflix and ' TickTok Made Me Read It' have been added to the shelves.

We have started to think ahead to our annual Christmas Quiz in which we will be turning the library into our version of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. The quiz has proved to be hugely popular, with last year's Harry Potter contestants munching their way through ninety-two chocolate frogs, one for every person that took part ! Author visits are planned as well as a Scholastic Book Fair and possibly a visit from a professional storyteller. We have also set up a new Instagram page for students, parents and staff to keep up to date with Library news, so please follow us on #greatmarlowschoollibrary – thank you !

There is a new full time Assistant Librarian, Mrs Ben Haj Ali who is thrilled to have the opportunity of trying to convey her love of reading to the students. Mrs Ben Haj Ali will be working on raising the profile of the library both within the school and in the wider community.

We look forward to welcoming our students back to the library in September after a 'readaxing summer holiday !

By Mrs A Fisher and Mrs Ben Haj Ali

EVENTS FOR GMS STUDENTS AT MARLOW LIBRARY

The Tween Readers Club (for ages 10-15 years) meets on the first Saturday of each month at Marlow Library. There is no entry fee and you don't have to pre-book - just turn up at 11:30 and join in the fun chatting about books, films and playing word games and quizzes.

Any older students who would like to help out, or lead and run future sessions are welcome to get involved and this could be a great idea for those who are keen to do the 'Service' part of their DofE award with the library.

E-mail: lib-mar@buckinghamshire.gov.uk for any further information.

The 2024 Summer Reading Challenge 'Marvellous Makers' is about to start on the 6th July, and there is a lot going on in Libraries all around Buckinghamshire for students to get involved with.

The idea is to promote reading for fun during the holiday. Participants (ages 6-11) sign up at their local library, collect the participant pack and then set themselves a challenge to read as many books, magazines, audiobooks etc as they feel they are able to during the Summer School Holidays. This is a great challenge for our new Year 7's or a nice idea for older students to buddy up and help encourage younger siblings. As participants reach each step on the way to their goal, they can collect stickers in their participant pack and once they achieve their goal they get a certificate of achievement. There are also lots of events and craft activities related to the challenge taking place at Marlow Library during Summer for them to join in with. If they can't make it to the library, then they can also join in online.

Full details can be found here: <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>



GOING TO EDINBURGH FRINGE?

Mrs Hayward has been part of local performing arts school Jam Theatre for over 10 years. A number of GMS students past and present have also participated in many of Jam's shows. This summer, Mrs Hayward and 'That 70s Choir' are performing at Edinburgh Fringe Festival on 17th and 18th August. Tickets are free but limited, so if you are visiting the Fringe and fancy grooving to seventies classics from Barry Manilow, Joni Mitchell and Fleetwood Mac, go to <https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/that-70s-choir-1> and reserve a seat!

We will ask Mrs Hayward for an update in the Autumn newsletter.

CHESS CLUB

Simultaneous Exhibition Match with International Chess Master Matthew Wadsworth

The Great Marlow Chess Club took part in a simultaneous exhibition match with International Master Matthew Wadsworth earlier this month. This involved 22 of our students and 20 Sir William Borlase students playing chess with the International Master at the same time. This was a unique event, and it is very rare that any school pupil would be able to play against an International Master. Our students took the opportunity very seriously and students studied Matthew's previous games for weeks before the event. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were very pleased to have been invited to share in the experience with students from Borlase, and it's sure to be a lasting memory for everyone involved.

We have had several matches against Borlase this year, involving students from all year groups. These matches have been a great opportunity for students to form lasting cross-school friendships through their shared enjoyment of chess.

We would like to thank Mr. Ford, Mr. Pendlebury, and Great Marlow's Trustees for fully supporting the chess club and offer a special thanks to Head of PE Mr. Goodright for his invaluable advice and support.

By Mrs D Simon



Year 12 Inter-School Debate Competition

4th July Holmer Green Senior School

Earlier this year, Wycombe High School launched a local inter-school debate competition with a number of schools from High Wycombe and Marlow entering their debate teams. You will have seen in a previous edition of The Voice, that Great Marlow School were the overall winners with Danil Petrov taking the coveted best individual speaker award.

Holmer Green Senior School hosted a summer event of the inter-school debate with teams from The Royal Grammar School, Wycombe High School, Dr Challengers and, of course, Great Marlow School – this time with a team from our Y12 cohort. Gabe Lunn, Scarlett Wakefield and Dylan Hunter spent many hours preparing for some tough debate topics: All schools should be made private (proposing) and social media has improved human communication (opposing). The points awarded by the judges were based on a range of categories from Strength of Argument to Strategic Use of Rebuttals. Each debate lasted 30 minutes with time given for uninterrupted opening and closing statements.

Despite their best efforts, our team did not qualify for the final, but they offered well-thought out and perceptive arguments along with resilience in their team spirit. Many thanks to all the staff at Holmer Green Senior School for hosting such an excellent event and to our students who took part – they were diligent in their efforts. We look forward to the next round!

By Mrs C Legerton



House News

A FUN REWARD DAY FOR WINNING HOUSE

GMS are delighted to announce the winners of the House Reward: Eagles.

Congratulations to every member of Eagle House for gaining the award.

On Monday, Eagles from all year groups, enjoyed a 100ft inflatable obstacle assault course which was arranged for the winning house. Ice lolly and confectionary refreshments were also provided plus some garden games for students to play. They all had a great time!



Staff congratulate GMS students in all three Houses on their hard work and efforts this academic year. Eagles won by a narrow margin, which can be overturned in the next academic year.

Our students, in all three Houses, have earned a massive number of achievement points: well done everyone.





GMS WELCOMES OUR NEW YEAR 7'S

On Tuesday 2nd July we welcomed our September 2024 year 7 students to Great Marlow School. There was a high level of excitement in the quad, where they all met and interacted with each other.

After making our initial visits to the local primary schools to visit our future Years 7s, we welcomed all 246 of them to Great Marlow School on Tuesday 2nd July. The buzz and excitement in the quad was clear and we knew it was set to be a fantastic day for all involved! Mr Ford and Miss Roberts, The new Director of learning for Year 7, spoke to the whole year group before they were split into their forms to enjoy a day of activities with their new form tutor/s.

After the students were put into their form groups, the introductions and activities begun. First thoughts, a shield and birthday bingo were played by the students, and they also had an opportunity to get to know a bit about their form tutor (who they will see each morning from 8.30am - 9am from September). The days activities also included a trip to the canteen, where students were given the option to enjoy the 'canteen experience' and purchase a meal deal. In addition to this they had a tour of the school form selected year 10 prefects and enjoyed a dance show performance put on by the Great Marlow School PE department. Thank you to everyone involved in these activities!

A special thanks must go to all the year 7 forms tutors for making sure our future year 7s had an enjoyable day.

Miss Sparkes, Miss Woods, Mr Kidd, Miss Coates & Mr Collett , Mrs Seeley & Miss Gronmark , Miss White , Miss Haq , Mr Osborne and Miss Johnson.

The future Year 7s were lucky enough to have extra support in their forms from our team of LSAs, two Year 7 students and two Year 10 prefects - thank you!

Miss Roberts, Miss Aylett-Livesley and all of the Great Marlow School staff wish our future year 7s a restful summer and a brilliant start to your Great Marlow School journey on Wednesday 4th September.

Have a restful summer.

By Mrs N Messenger - Head of Geography



Our new Year 7's



Our new Year 7s were asked to sum up their day in 5 words.

Right: here is what they had to say....

Eagles E1- Good, friends(new), Big, Nervous, Worried

E2 - Fun, change, big (intimidated), exciting, surprising

Kites K1 - Fun, interesting, exciting, delightful, welcoming

K3- Amazing, enjoyable, fun, scared (scary), exciting

Hawks H2 - Exciting, nervous, settling (comforting), welcoming, friendships (new)

The Summer Term for Year 7 has certainly been a busy one! It's been great to see how many of our students have engaged with new opportunities like rowing, athletics, the music concert and the KS3 Drama Production.

I want to thank the teachers, form tutors, associate staff and everyone that has helped support this amazing year group this year. Our high expectations for the cohort can only be achieved through this extensive network of support in the GMS community. Equally importantly, parents and carers have ensured consistent and supportive communication between home and school; thank you for the important role you play in this partnership.

Y7 RSHE

Students and tutors have engaged extremely positively with the Keeping Safe unit of work in their RSHE lessons in the summer term. Their relevance to contemporary British society has been noted by teachers and students alike. A recent lesson on the General Election as preparation for the school's "Our Generation, Our Vote" Mock election was a particular highlight among students and tutors. Thank you to Mr Philpott for organising this event for the student body.

Y7 PROGRESS REPORTS

Our Summer Term progress reports were extremely impressive. The vast majority of Year 7 students received all 'Good' or 'Excellent' scores for their ATL. Here, a special mention to our strong team of form tutors and their continued hard work in providing stability and care to our students. Tutors spent considerable time with their tutees to encourage students to approach their next steps with readiness and responsibility and suitable strategies to support. This will enable a smooth and positive transition into Year 8.

PASTORAL SUPPORT

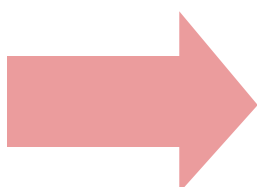
A big thank you to our wonderful Student Support Officer Miss Blanco-Rand; we are so grateful to you for the work you do to ensure that students develop resilience and coping techniques to allow them to progress at school, while always providing a safe place for students to talk to someone. Thank you to the entire Student Support team for the pastoral support they provide to the Year 7 cohort; you are a valued asset to our school.

On this note, a big thank you to parents and carers for the important role you play in this partnership and ensuring consistent and supportive communication between home and school.

Congratulations to Elijah Fraser who has been awarded the Year 7 award for celebration of success. Eliza's excellent work ethic and commitment to his studies is why he has been chosen for this amazing award. Well done.



As the busy academic year draws to a close, a direct message to our wonderful Year 7 students



Over the next 6 weeks, take the time to reflect on everything you have achieved at GMS over the past 11 months. Consider the things you got right, the relationships you built and the mistakes that you learned from.

We have been so impressed with the contributions that you've made to wider school life; from sports teams to creative outlets like music and drama as well as your daily contributions to school. Our year group has a strong reputation and is held in wide regard for a positive "can-do" attitude. Let's take this forward with us as we move into Year 8, with an equal willingness to give new opportunities a go.

Wishing you all a lovely summer break. We look forward to welcoming you back to school on Thursday 5th September.

By Miss A Miles - Director of Learning Year 7

We have had a busy term! The mentoring programme with Year 8 and Year 12s has continued successfully. It is lovely to see pairs of students having discussions in our canteen areas during form time. In RSHE, we have covered topics such as: happiness/well-being, celebrating what we are good at, healthy foods and personal hygiene.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Year 8 reports were issued we had parents' evening too. There has been some amazing progress in attitude. Indeed, 26 students have been personally congratulated by Mrs Pendlebury (DOL) and had postcards home for demonstrating progress in their ATL since the Spring term.

A particular "well done" to the following students who have consistently achieved excellent reports all year.

Jude Collin - 8E1

Erin Arnold - 8E1

Darcey McNeil - 8E2

Rasheeda Dean - 8E2

Scarlett Speare - 8H1

Jasper Lai - 8H1

Sophie Squire - 8H2

Alexandra McGuiness - 8H2

Isla Lewis-Bell - 8H2

Beth Kentell - 8H2

Ava Harbinson - 8H3

Sophia Hall - 8K3

Ahmed Contractor - 8H2

Delilah Nicol - 8H2

Grace Suder - 8K2

We look forward to the whole year group Whipsnade Zoo trip and sports Day in the last week of term and our enrichment trip to Westfield Shopping Centre after school in Year 9 just before half term!

By Mrs N Pendlebury - Director of Learning Year 8

VELOBUILD PROJECT - A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

A group of our Year 8 students were chosen to take part in a project call "VeloBuild" from All Things Active. The VeloBuild Project is a completely practical, 'hands on' course that has proven very helpful for those students who have experienced all types of difficulties in school life. Student feedback suggests it has given participants a very real sense of achievement and pride in the ultimate 'finished article' together with the associated skills that are developed in the process.



Benefits for Students:

- Gives students vocational and transferrable knowledge and skills.
- Promotes 'Active Learning' and encourages physical activity.
- The student gets to build - and keep his/her own bicycle. A major incentive!

For our School:

- Promotes the 3 A's - 'Attendance, Attainment & Achievement'
- Increased concentration levels
- Encourages teamwork

Photographs (*in the gallery on our website*) show how the bikes grew each day for 4 days. We kept the groups small (3 groups of 4 students) and had a great time watching the progress, enthusiasm and excitement of the students increase as the week drew to a close and the bikes were finished.

By Mrs Anna Gifford
Student Service Co-ordinator



This year has been a seminal one in the academic careers of Year 9 students. With the GCSE Options process punctuating the middle of the academic year, our students have had to consider their future more than ever before. I am immensely proud of the way that the vast majority of students in Year 9 have conducted themselves throughout this time; the maturity and responsibility demonstrated by them has given me, Miss Hyde and the Year 9 tutor team much confidence and optimism about what the next two years may hold.

Most of all, I would like to commend all Year 9 students on their Resilience throughout this academic year. As well as the options process, many of them have contended with getting used to new and unfamiliar teaching groups, different teachers, a more advanced curriculum and higher demands on their time outside of school.

YEAR 9 EXTRA-CURRICULAR

The contributions of Year 9 students outside of the classroom cannot go unnoticed. The backbone of the Eco Warriors at GMS is formed of Year 9 students; through rain and shine, these students have been out and around the school collecting litter, gardening, recycling waste, promoting a cleaner and healthier environment for the whole school. As ever, the sporting achievements of the cohort continue to build. Participation levels are exceptionally high and it's not unusual to see team captains rallying their peers for upcoming fixtures. Year 9 students have also impressed in the individual pursuits: one Year 9 boy smashed the shot-put record earlier this term, a well-earned reward for the amount of work that went into this feat. And finally with sport, I would like to congratulate the Year 9 rowers for their refusal to stop training. As they move into Year 10, they will progress from training 3 mornings a week to training at 7am every weekday. These students are a fantastic reflection of what application and resilience can achieve.

PROGRESS REPORTS

I would like to refer to the Summer Term Progress Reports that were issued to students last week. A key focus when looking at Progress Reports is the Attitude Towards Learning (ATL) of the students. I would just like to share some headline figures:

- **This term, 61 students received at least 10 'Excellent' scores for their ATL**
- **118 students received all 'Excellent' or 'Good'**
- **226 students received no scores of 'Poor'**

These figures demonstrate that, regardless of academic ability, the attitude towards learning from our Year 9 students is consistently high. The small number of students who are not consistently meeting expectations are well supported and challenged by teachers and associate staff. I stated in my article for The Voice during the Spring term that the 'Leadership Team [had] emphasised with teaching staff the importance of holding student to account for their ATL in lesson.' This was again true in this round of reports. I had several conversations with staff about how to grade the ATL of a student and actively encouraged staff to opt for the 'Inconsistent' section if the word best described the ATL of a student. In this way, we have a much clearer picture of where students can improve and be supported to do so.

In any report that I write, I always like to include the fact that we are the largest year group that Great Marlow School has ever had. Whilst I can still claim this fact with confidence (I'm nervously awaiting confirmed numbers for next year's Year 7 cohort), I want to thank the teachers, form tutors, associate staff and everyone else that has helped support this amazing year group this year. Miss Hyde and I have high expectations for them and this can only be achieved with the support that they get from the entire GMS community.

Mr S Taylor - Director of Learning for Year 9

I would like to wish all Year 9 students, parents and carers a very enjoyable summer holiday. The break is well earned and I look forward to seeing our year group in September as they embark on their GCSEs.

Year 10 have continued to embrace the challenge of the first year of GCSE study demonstrating resilience, respect and responsibility for their KS4 study. We have been continuously proud of their excellent attitude to learning and commitment to both their academic progress and to their wellbeing.

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

Following recent governor visits and monitoring of the RSHE curriculum, evidence demonstrates that the resources and timeline are appropriate to all Year 10 learners and educate on valuable content. The curriculum is enriched with topics relevant to the cohort at specific points of the year. Resources are accessible to all learners with consistent signposting of tasks and task type. A reduction in printed sheets and written tasks has allowed verbal learners to engage in the curriculum positively.

Positive feedback has been given by Year 10 students on the RSHE survey showing that learners feel comfortable to share in the classroom and that the lessons are well resourced and relevant to the cohort.

The timeline has been rearranged in line with student experiences to encourage relevant lessons to be learned at pivotal times in their lives. Revision resources are on the website to show all parents the resources used in recent RSHE lessons and for students to access at a later date to revisit the learning.

- **Since September 2023, I have enjoyed RSHE education lessons - 82% agreed or strongly agreed.**
- **Since September 2023, I have learned a lot in RSHE lessons - 57% agreed or strongly agreed**
- **The resources used in RSHE have been of good quality - 65% agreed or strongly agreed**
- **I have found RSHE lessons to be useful and relevant to my age group - 70% agreed or strongly agreed**

YEAR 10 PARENTS EVENING

The Year 10 parent/carers evening was held on the 16th April 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 mid way through the first year of GCSE study.

PROGRESS REPORTS

The second set of Year 10 progress reports were published on the 27th March giving students and parents/carers a clear idea of how the student is performing ahead of their parent/carer evening. The second report offered both an attitude to learning grade and a progress grade. Our students have gone through these progress reports 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, 143 students, receiving all Good or Excellent Attitude to Learning grades. This is a reflection of GMS' culture of excellence and respect for education.



Huge congratulations to Yuliia Zayachuk who has been awarded the Year 10 award for celebration of success. Yuliia's continuous hard work, excellent work ethic and highest levels of respect she shows around school are why she has been chosen for this amazing award. Well done.

PREFECTS

Year 10 went through a rigorous selection procedure to become GMS Prefects. Our prefects are students that show respectfulness to the school and its community, show readiness and punctuality for their lessons, reflect on their progress and are resourceful in their approach to tasks. They will be resilient in the face of challenges and take responsibility for always representing the school's vision and values.



Congratulations to our top achievement point winners!

- WILLOW ANDERSON 10E1
- YULIA ZAYACHUK 10E1
- EMILY YELLOLY 10E2
- EVA O'DELL 10E2
- CAMERON BROOKS 10E3
- BRODIE KENNEDY 10E3
- THUAN VU 10H1
- LUCY APPLETREE 10H1
- CAM FRASER 10H2
- TABITHA REEVE 10H2
- GRACE COLLIER 10H3
- JESS BEWLEY 10H3
- NATASHA PENDLEBURY 10K1
- LIBBY GREEN 10K1
- TOM WHARFE 10K2
- TONISHA TALWAR 10K2
- RONAK CHANA 10K3
- LEON KOPLIN 10K3

On the 7th May, Mr Ford, Mrs Spencer and I were proud to appoint 72 Year 10 prefects in the Year 10 prefect assembly. Once appointed, our Prefects signed a contract of expectations agreeing to the following:

- I will set an example to our school community by always wearing the correct uniform and being punctual to school and to my lessons
- As part of my role as prefect at Great Marlow School, I agree to assist at school events that are held throughout the school year, some of which may be after school
- I understand that part of my role of prefect may involve supervising allocated areas of the school during break times. These prefect duties are compulsory
- I understand that I am a role model for all students in the way that I conduct myself through my behaviour and general attitude to learning

Our prefects will go through training in the summer term to further develop their position of responsibility and ensure that they demonstrate the readiness to contribute to our school in a student leadership capacity.

We are so proud of our Year 10 students for their commitment and focus throughout the first year of their GCSE courses. We look forward to the new school year and the significant school events to come in Year 11; information evening, exam information evening, mock examinations and beyond!

Wishing you a restful and relaxing summer break

By Miss F Tuddenham - Director of Learning Y10 & KS4

Congratulations to our outstanding Year 10 Prefects!

Archie Gentry	10E1	Erin Rasmussen	10E3	Isabelle Butcher	10H2	Arthur Barber	10K2
Bea Radnedge	10E1	Joseph Clarke	10E3	Lucas Jones	10H2	Emilia Tribe	10K2
Eleanor Monks	10E1	Lewis Balbini	10E3	Sadie Bromham-King	10H2	Emily Zheng	10K2
Freya Hobdell-Williams	10E1	Millie Doolan	10E3	Sienna Morgan	10H2	Laiba Shah	10K2
Kayla Shillito	10E1	Orla Guinness	10E3	Charlotte Miles Griffiths	10H3	Lucy Millward	10K2
Yuliia Zayachuk	10E1	Elisa Weise	10H1	Elin Saunders	10H3	Lucy Platt	10K2
Emily Yelloly	10E2	Grayson Nye	10H1	Grace Collier	10H3	Olivia Then	10K2
Finlay Todd	10E2	Ivy Burge	10H1	Lois Peek	10H3	Tameka McKie	10K2
Jackson Walker	10E2	Jayden Gough	10H1	Benjamin Richter	10K1	Tom Wharfe	10K2
Lily McDonald	10E2	Jemima Connor	10H1	Charlotte Hall	10K1	Beatrix Spence	10K3
Mikayla Jameson	10E2	Lucy Apletree	10H1	Isabel Norrish	10K1	Bella Barber	10K3
Rosemary Sharp	10E2	Matilda Johnson	10H1	Libby Green	10K1	Elizabeth Gladwell	10K3
Tommy Harper	10E2	Sebastian Pearce	10H1	Lyra Wells	10K1	Freya Donohue	10K3
Vanessa Kluczynska	10E2	Apoorva Singh	10H2	Natasha Pendlebury	10K1	Henry Froome	10K3
Yuliana Yurychko	10E2	Bruno Noviello	10H2	Rebecca Millward	10K1	Isobel Gladwell	10K3
Brodie Kennedy	10E3	Daisy Bennett	10H2	Rhiannon McCahon	10K1	Megan Sylvester	10K3
Callum Kane	10E3	Evie Matthews	10H2	Zahra Spencer	10K1	Poppy Etches	10K3
Eleanor Cummings	10E3	Fraser Cram	10H2			Shyla Preston	10K3
		Freya Randall	10H2				

Goodbye and Good luck to our Year 11 Leavers

We find ourselves at the conclusion of Year 11's time at GMS and we are incredibly proud of the entire cohort for their efforts and commitment to their exams and the past 5 years of education.

The resilience and positive attitude shown by the students made this very busy year of logistics and emotion worth it!

I would like to say a HUGE thank you to all Y11 Parents and Carers for your support and engagement with the school throughout your child(ren)'s secondary education - I have loved working with you all in supporting our young people to succeed as they have!

I will truly miss the students (and parents!) of this cohort and hope that many of you stay in touch and keep me up to date on their next steps and future successes - I do not doubt we have some future famous architects, sports stars, artists, engineers, chefs and many more!

YEAR 11 PROM - THURSDAY JUNE 27TH PROM 2024

This was a fantastic event with the highest number of attendees in years - our cohort steps up again!

All students looked wonderful, and I am grateful for the effort they put in. The record longest time getting ready was about 6 hours and every second was worthwhile.

Students arrived at Monkton Barns in style with sports cars and vintage cars alike.

The gowns were gorgeous, and the suits were sleek.

The atmosphere on the dance floor was fab with students from across the cohort dancing together and cheering each other on and concluding with an emotional dance circle to "Don't look back in anger".

I will cherish my experiences with this cohort and wish all students and their families the best for the future.

By Mrs J Webster - Director of Learning Year 11



The Sixth Form team are delighted to report on a successful summer team. It has involved not only the focus and diligence of exams but also the much-needed fun and relaxation of the prom. GMS Sixth Form students, who total 249, have conducted themselves admirably on all occasions this summer term and we congratulate all of them.

YEAR 13 LEAVERS' ASSEMBLY

On Friday 3rd May, the year 13 students gathered in the 6th Form Centre to enjoy a final assembly together.

At 9 o'clock, the students were treated to breakfast prepared by the canteen staff and the opportunity to have a chat with their peers before the main event began. Many of the students chose to attend in fancy dress ranging from James Bond, gangster rappers and world leaders to a one-piece masking tape suit. After some time to relax and enjoy each other's company, the students were given a goodie bag to keep them going through the entertainment section of the morning.

Mr Hollyman delivered a speech that was full of jokes and references to the activities and achievements of the students in year 12 and 13. Accompanied by pictures and a great deal of creative license, Mr Hollyman managed to keep the challenging crowd happy for a while. It was clear from the reception that some staff found it a lot more amusing than the students!

Finally, Miss Jones and Mrs Evans produced slide show containing a fantastic collation of old school pictures and memories from the students' time at Great Marlow School.

Students' achievements were celebrated and thanks were given to all of the teaching and support staff who had made the Year 13's experience through their 6th Form a supportive and enjoyable one.

The students were smiling and happy throughout the morning which is reflective of their positive and enthusiastic approach to their time at GMS throughout Key Stage 5.

YEAR 13 PROM

On Friday 21st June, nearly one-hundred members of the Year 13 cohort at Great Marlow School gathered at Haslemere Golf Club to celebrate the end of the A level examinations and to say farewell to staff and friends.

The members of the Prom Committee have to take all the credit for organising such a fantastic event. Malakhi Allick, Abbie Stewart, Joe Legerton, Grace Radnedge, Emma Merry, Mabel Daw and Harry Critchlow were instrumental in booking the venue, organising the D.J, security, food, entertainment and decorations for the whole night.

As the students arrived they were treated to a red-carpet style welcome by members of the 6th Form Team and invited staff guests complete with photos by Mrs Rooney.

The students then spent the rest of the evening dancing, singing, laughing and spending time with their friends in, what is likely to be, the last time they would be in the same space together. The students were not morose or sad, but rightly full of excitement and happiness that their exams were over and looking forward to the extended summer break that they will be enjoying. The staff members present commented on how delightful the students were throughout the evening and how great it was to have chats to them about their future plans.

The 6th Form Team would like to say a huge thank-you to the year 13 cohort for their positivity, diligence, focus and kindness throughout their KS5 journey.



YEAR 12

On the 17th of June, Year 12 went on a UCAS Discovery Day trip to Bedford University to look at various universities and post-18 options. Some universities that were there included, University of Nottingham, University of Southampton, Brunel university and University of Reading. It was a great opportunity for the cohort to focus on their next steps post GMS.

"While we were there, we were able to explore the grounds and interact with many different people. I took the opportunity to collect prospectus' and learn about the unique aspects that suit my needs. We gained valuable information and support with our university applications and choices. There were also a range of seminars available on different subjects, such as how to choose your course and university, which many students attended.

Outside, they had marquees and live music. This created a great student-like atmosphere, where my friends and I were able to sit down and eat our lunch. We were provided with maps and information which helped us to plan out the day. I am very grateful for this opportunity as I was able gain knowledge on different options, and it helped us to think more about the future."

Emily Hughes & Ella Martin

Have had an opportunity this term to sit mock exams. This has been invaluable in gaining experience of what the expectations are for their A-level and BTEC exams next year. The cohort delivered and have understood the importance of these experiences in supporting their learning journey at GMS.

YEAR 12 WORK EXPERIENCE

In preparation for Next Steps after GMS, year 12 have just spent a week completing work experience. Students have been able to delve into completely different working environments including working in retail, hospitality, Business, Law and education. We have been delighted by the employers' positive feedback on our GMS students as evidenced by just some of the many comments we have had.

"Melissa was a pleasure to have in surgery! She arrived promptly each day and returned on time after lunch as well. She was dressed smartly and looked presentable. She was engaged and was keen to learn from the dentist about what the job entailed. We would gladly welcome her back in future if she needs more experience."

"Imogen has been in our office daily and she is spending time in Marketing and Research and Development so far.

She is polite, professional, ask questions and is punctual. She is getting on well with our staff and integrated well our office environment. I would say she is a delight!"

"Amani has been doing well. Her attendance and punctuality have been great. No problems here. In the classroom Amani has been interacting with the staff well and asking appropriate questions when needed. Also has been given tasks to carryout to support the Teacher and these have been done well. Such as cutting up worksheets, working with particular children who need adult support and supporting children during the assemblies."

NEXT STEPS DAY

The students can then use this experience to develop new skills in and out of school. To support this further, Year 12 upon their return to school completed a Next Steps Day on Monday 8th July. This event was organised by Mr Hollyman and Miss Jones to enable our students to access information about universities, apprenticeships,

and the world of work. The day gave students up-to-date information about UCAS and opportunities for our cohort to continue to utilise Unifrog, and the students were really encouraged to spend the summer break investigating and reviewing their possible next steps. Please do review the next steps booklet here for further help.

https://www.gms.bucks.sch.uk/?page_id=1369

Year 12 have also had the opportunity to put themselves forward for to be a part of the Head Prefect team. We welcomed applications from the students to help with the development and running of the Sixth Form. Interviews are happening as we go to press, and we look forward to announcing who has been successful in the last week of term. We would like to congratulate everyone who put themselves forward. The Sixth Form Team were blown away by all professionalism of all the applicants and very much look forward to working with the senior prefect team next year.

YEAR 13

The Sixth Form Team were delighted to join Year 13's for their leavers breakfast. This was an opportunity for us to congratulate the students on their preparation for exams and to celebrate their achievements over the last two years in Sixth Form.

The Year 13 cohort of 129 students have been a credit to the school. This has been highlighted through their conduct in their A-level and BTEC examinations from May to June but also through their resilience with their education.

To formally end the year, on Friday 21st June, at Hazlemere Golf Club, 90 Year 13 students attended their prom. The cohort again were a credit to the school and had a fantastic evening with many teaching staff present. This was a hugely successful night, and we would like to congratulate the committed Sixth Form Prefect Prom Committee team including Malakhi Allick, Abbie Stewart, Joe Legerton, Grace Radnedge, Emma Merry, Mabel Daw and Harry Critchlow all who worked tirelessly to ensure that this final night would be special.

We are also delighted to announce our Lance Slater award, formerly the Best Potential Citizen award. Each year, member so the Marlow Rotary Club kindly come into school to interview students. This award recognises students who have gone that extra mile and who clearly have a very bright future. Congratulations to Arran Bligh for achieving this accolade of the Lance Slater Award for 2024.

Thursday August 15th marks results day. The Sixth Form Team will be available in person on that day to congratulate and offer advice and support. We are incredibly proud of this cohort and do look forward to seeing them again on that day and wishing all the best in their future careers – do keep in touch.

For Year 12, we wish you a well-deserved summer break and we look forward to celebrating your achievements upon the return in September.

Mr Hollyman, Miss Jones, Mrs Evans and Mrs Paul

The Sixth Form Team

PE Sports awards Evening 2024

On Friday 12th July the PE department hosted their annual sports award evening. With over 200 awards to give out, it was set to be a fantastic evening celebrating many sporting successes throughout the last year.

The evening began with a fantastic montage of the 'best bits' from the past year, and Level 3 Sports Leaders Abbie Corrick and Lucy Pease opened the show. Mr Bradley then stepped in as compere, providing many laughs for the audience. Many awards were then given out for our winter and summer sports, including most improved player, managers player and club person of the year. The second half included the bigger awards sports awards celebrating the successes of many of our students. Well done to the following students who received the following awards:

KS3 Achiever: Alice Farrow & Conlan O'Connor

KS3 Spors Leader: Ella Seeley

KS4 Sports Leader: Jemima Suddaby

KS5 Level 3 Sports Leader Qualification Award: Lucy Pease

Outstanding Commitment to GMS Sport: Isla Sutherland

Year 11 Sport Education Most Employable: Hugo Hunter & Charlotte Tedder

KS3 Team of the Year: Year 7 Football Team

KS4 Team of the Year: Year 10 Coxed Four (Rowing)

KS5 Team of the Year: U18 Boys Hockey Team

Sports Personality of the Year Nominees: Daisy Bennett, Evie Matthews, Lucy Apletree, Ollie Hunt, Ashton Joseph, Albie Collins

Sports Personality of the Year Winner: Sienna Morgan & Arthur Barber

Thank you to the rest of the PE department for their support running the event. Thank you to Mr Bradley for comparing the event, Mrs Rooney for the programme/ literature and photography/ displays, Mr Kidd and the House Band for their musical addition, and the extra-curricular support we have received from others throughout the year. We couldn't have done it without you.

By Miss G Muttitt





Congratulations to all our nominees for Sports personality of the Year 2024. It was a difficult decision with so many talented sports people to choose from, but this year it went to Sienna Morgan & Arthur Barber Year 10.



Daisy Bennett



Evie Matthews



Lucy Apletree



Sienna Morgan



Ollie Hunt



Ashton Joseph



Albie Collins



Arthur Barber

The 2024 athletics season has seen a huge number of athletes take to the track and field, filled with enthusiasm for the return of the GMS athletics programme and some more district domination.

Athletics 2024 Round -Up

This season provided students with the opportunity to compete against other schools in three separate team competitions; the District Athletics Championships, the District Athletics League and the ESAA Track and Field Cup.

ESAA TRACK AND FIELD CUP

"A nationally run, team competition, where students must compete in one track and one field event. Competitors earn points for their team dependant on their time, distance or height achieved. The team with the highest total points, wins."

Congratulations to all of our teams who competed in the first round of this competition, which took place earlier in the first half of the summer term.

Unfortunately, despite the Inter Girls improving their score from last year by 36 points, and the Inter Boys by 7 points, this still wasn't enough to gain them qualification to the regional round.

Round 1 Results:

Inter Boys – 355 points (4th place)

Inter Girls – 297 points (5th place)

DISTRICT ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

"A local, team competition, for schools in the Wycombe District. Schools may enter two athletes per event, per team. Individuals may compete in a maximum of 2 track, 1 field and a relay, or 2 field, one track and a relay. Athletes earn points for their team based on their final placing."

The GMS teams took to their respective District Championships, in high confidence and determined to continue their reputation as one of the most dominant schools in the district. The teams did just that, by placing in the top 3 for every single team except two.

Congratulations to our Year 7 girls' team, who won their District Championships. In addition to this, overall, our combined girls' team finished as District Champions for the third year running, once again beating schools such as Wycombe Abbey, Pipers Corner and Wycombe High in the process. The boys' team finished in 3rd place, behind John Hampden and RGS, so still finishing as the highest placed co-ed school in the district.

Accumulatively, with all results combined, GMS finished as the 1st placed co-ed school in the district with 1018 points. Our nearest co-ed school (by points and by geography) were a huge 310 points behind us.

Championship results:

Year 7 Boys – 135 points (2nd place)

Year 7 Girls – 130 points (1st place)

Year 8 Boys – 107 points (4th place)

Year 8 Girls – 111 points (4th place)

Year 9 Boys – 152 points (3rd place)

Year 9 Girls - 105 points (2nd place)

Year 10 Boys – 134 points (3rd place)

Year 10 Girls – 144 points (3rd place)

DISTRICT ATHLETICS LEAGUE

"A local, team competition, organised and run by GMS. The two highest scoring competitors for each team earn points based on their final placing."

Year 7 Boys – 36 points (4th place with one week to go)

Year 7 Girls – 63 points (1st place with one week to go)

Year 8 Boys – 103 points (3rd place)

Year 8 Girls – 94 points (2nd place)

Year 9/10 Boys – 132 points (1st place)

Year 9/10 Girls - 122 points (1st place)

Notable performances:

Congratulations to the following students, who also gained first place finishes in the District League:

L Apletree – Javelin

L Bray – 1500m

E Bryan – 300m

Year 10 Girls – 4x100m relay

J Morgan – Javelin

A McGuinness – Discus

Z Gibson – 800m and 300m

L Hellewell – Discus

E Shale – 100m

M Borrey – 100m

School records

A further 12 school records, to last year's 8 records, were broken at various events across the 2023 athletics season. Congratulations to the following students, who all broke records:

Holly Knott – Year 7

800m – 2:30mins (stood since 2016)

1500m – 5:41mins (stood since 2017)

High Jump – 1.30m (shared with O Fyfe 2018)

Mason Borrey – Year 7

100m – 12.84s (stood since 1999)

200m – 26.16s (stood since 2022)

300m – 44.49s (stood since 2014)

Alexandra McGuinness – Year 8

Discus - 18.80m (stood since 2023)

Conlan O'Connor – Year 9

200m – 24.70s (stood since 2021)

Leo Bray – Year 9



1500m – 4:32mins (stood since 2014)

Tom McDermott – Year 9

800m – 2:17mins (stood since 2019)

M Borrey, F Rogers, J Williams, S Morrison – Year 7

4x100m Relay – 56.60s (stood since 2022)

W Bowett, C O'Connor, J Frazer-Hogg, F Ferreira – Year 9

4x100m Relay - 49.05s (stood since 2023)



Summary

Overall, it has been a fantastic year for GMS athletics, in terms of individual excellence, team successes and mass participation. The PE department are very excited to see what the students can achieve in 2025.

By Mr S Goodright- Head of Department

Great Marlow School Sports Day 2024

The summer term for the PE Department is always particularly busy, one of the largest events to coordinate is the annual school Sports Day.

The format is relatively simple, 3 houses, traditional athletics events, alternative inclusive events, hundreds of children and some healthy competition. This year, as has become the norm, was another fun day which the staff and students thoroughly enjoyed.

The event officially started on Tuesday 9th July when for the first time the year 7 students competed in our inclusive and traditional athletics field events. This was followed by years 8,9 and 10 doing the same on Thursday 11th – then, all 4 respective years competed in the track sprint events in the afternoon.

The quality of performances has continued to go up and once again many school records were broken. Not only were the students incredibly pleased by this, but the PE department too, as we pride ourselves on the quality and quantity of athletics provision at GMS (please see school athletics records featured in The Voice).

The competitive spirit was extremely high, and we can proudly boast that all students contributed to their house scores during the event, through the variety of activities which are facilitated on the day. Tug-of-war, once again proved to be a student favourite, along with the cycling course and the rowing relay.

For the first time in over 10 years, we saw the return of the staff relay. This eagerly awaited event created great hype as the rules stipulated it was to be a house event. Ella Bryant (year 9), ably assisted by Eagles House Leader, Mr Bradley organised the teams and the event was set to be the final 'sprint' race of the day. Sprint is a term which could be loosely applied to some of the staff performances...no names

mentioned, but you know who you are! It is interesting to note, that the main teacher organiser, Mr Bradley, was the 4th leg runner in the winning team. Despite having competed in no less than 15 sports at county level and beyond, Mr Higgins could not find his alleged, former speed to beat him...newly named Mr Bradley-Bolt has been and will be dining out on this emphatic win for a good while longer.



By Mr S Goodright

Head of PE

Congratulations to Hawks House who took the overall win – the year 12 Sports Day will be added after Wednesday.

House	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	6th Form	TOTAL
Eagles	406	368	465	329	0	1568
Hawks	385	464	423	423	0	1695
Kites	360	323	281	367	0	1331



Photos of Sports Day can be viewed on the School website

YOUNG CRICKETERS SHINE IN UNDER-13 WYCOMBE DISTRICT CRICKET LEAGUE

The under-13 cricket team had an impressive season, showcasing their skills and determination on the field. With over 20 students attending and participating, the team demonstrated a strong commitment to the sport and to each other.



Throughout the season, the team played a total of six matches, winning three of them and securing a respectable third place in the league standings. This remarkable achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of both the students.

One of the standout performers this season was George, who consistently batted well in each game. His ability to score runs and stay at the crease provided the team with stability and confidence. George's performances with the bat were crucial in the team's victories and overall success.

On the bowling front, Pranshu, Zach, and Owen were instrumental in the team's achievements. Their disciplined and effective bowling spells often put the opposition under pressure, leading to key wickets and restricting the opponents' scores. Each of these young bowlers brought something unique to the team, making them a formidable force on the field.

The season was not just about winning matches, but also about learning and growing as cricketers. The students' enthusiasm and passion for the game were evident in every match they played. With such a promising group of young talents, the future of cricket at GMS looks bright.

As they look ahead to the next season, the team will aim to build on their successes, work on their weaknesses, and continue to enjoy the game of cricket.

UNDER 15 CRICKET

The u15s have enjoyed a very successful Wycombe District league campaign, finishing top of the league. The team are now into the final against Cressex school.

The team kicked off the season with a tense victory against St Michaels. GMS won the toss and decided to bat first. St Michaels had a strong opening bowler partnership, which made runs hard to come by for the GMS openers. After seeing the opening bowlers off, Tom McDermott started to release the shackles and take the attack to the St Michael bowlers. Tom was supported well by Hashim Mahmood at the other end, and both managed to take GMS to a score of 96. Tom finished the innings not out with 52 runs. St Michaels started their innings off strong, racing to 40 off their first 5 overs. Slowly, GMS battled back. Joe Reeson and Tom Hawksworth accurate bowling kept the run flow down, and eventually the pressure on the batters led to wickets tumbling. St Michaels strong opening batter continued to edge his team closer to their target, but the constant flow of wickets meant they came short of the total and GMS came over with the win.

Next up was Highcrest. GMS won the toss and put the opposition into bat. It turned out to be a great decision, with early wickets coming from Tom McDermott and Leo Bray. Jake Smith came on to bowl with his wizardly left-

arm off spin, and picked up two wickets. A late flurry off runs took Highcrest to a total of 82. GMS started well but lost their key batsman, Tom McDermott, early on. It was an opportunity for the rest of the batting team to show they take responsibility and guide the team victory. Jake Smith certainly stepped up to the challenge, playing a mature innings of the highest order. With 3 overs to spare, Jake's 24 runs took GMS to another victory.

Borlase were next up in a local derby held at Marlow Cricket club. Borlase had a very strong batting line up and made a fast start to their innings. Tom Hawksworth kept the run rate down with a spell of accurate and economical bowling. Along with the good bowling was the excellent fielding from the Harding brothers, Scott and Danny. A gettable total of 94 was set. GMS opening were up against another superb opening bowling attack, yet battled through to keep up with the required run-rate. Tom McDermott again scored a 50 and was well supported by Joe Reeson. It went down to the wire, with GMS requiring 2 off the final ball. Borlase had bowled brilliant in the last two overs and bowled yet another dot ball, meaning they took the victory. A hard pill for GMS to swallow, but after a big team reflection, a lot of learning could be taken away from the experience.

GMS took on Sir William Ramsey next, setting up a strong total of 94. Due to some unavailability's, students with little cricket experience answered the call to play. Leevi Ashby and Sean Stevens were excellent in their debut games, showing high levels of enthusiasm and a positive

attitude to doing their bit for the team. Leevi bowled a great over and was unlucky not to take a wicket. Jake Smith again bowled superbly, with Scott Harding taking an excellent catch off Jake's bowling. Eddie Hoare had the reactions of a cat keeping wicket behind the stumps, with very little byes going past him. SWR fell way short of the total and this meant GMS ended up top of the table.

Special mentions go to Scott Harding, Hashim Mahmood, Eddie Hoare and Callum Wolstencroft who played their final season for GMS cricket. They have been great servants to cricket at the school, showing excellent commitment in every year they played at the school. Despite only being a Year 9, this was also the last season for Tom McDermott, who is moving school as part of his association with the Chelsea FC Academy. Tom is a truly outstanding cricketer. He has scored stacks of runs, as well as taking several wickets. What stands out the most with Tom is his tactical knowledge, maturity, and humbleness. He will be sorely missed by GMS cricket and we wish him all the best with his next ventures.

By Mr A Higgins



GMS TENNIS



The 2024 school tennis season has been an exciting journey marked by exceptional talent, intense competition, and memorable achievements. This year, schools from across the region showcased their best athletes, setting new benchmarks and creating lasting memories. Here's a detailed look at the highlights of this thrilling season.

The U13 boys had a stellar season with standout performances against notable schools such as Sir William Borlase (SWB) and Chesham Grammar School. Miles Berry and Ollie Cook were the stars of the season, securing impressive wins and demonstrating their growing prowess on the court in their singles and doubles matches. Beginners Rowan Messenger and Fox Drake showed remarkable resilience and potential in their matches, delivering close games

and gaining invaluable experience. Their determination and progress suggest a bright future in school tennis.

One of the most thrilling matches of the season was the U13 boys' encounter with Sir William Borlase, where Miles Berry and Ollie Cook secured crucial wins, setting the tone for an exciting series of games. The close contests by Rowan Messenger and Fox Drake added to the excitement, highlighting the depth of talent in the team. The U13 girls faced tough competition this season, playing against Wycombe Abbey and SWB. Despite the challenges, the team showed great spirit and enjoyed every match. Lucy Hellewell, Nicole K, Rugile, and Gabby delivered commendable performances, showcasing their skills and sportsmanship.

New players Scoutie and Hannah made significant improvements throughout the season. Their dedication and enthusiasm for the sport were evident, and they are poised for

continued growth in the coming years, and Ella and Isla developed their skill further. The U15 boys had a strong league presence this year, with excellent performances from Dan Parry, Can Surmeli, and Sam MacRae. Their exceptional skills and strategic play were crucial in securing victories and setting high standards for the team. Charlie Fitch, along with club members Lewis Dover and Tommy Loughton, also delivered solid performances in their matches against SWB, John Hampden Grammar School (JHGS), and Chesham Grammar School. Their contributions were instrumental in the team's overall success.

The U15 girls also had a noteworthy season with good matches against SWB, Wycombe Abbey School and Pipers Corner. Emilia Tribe and Vanessa K stood out with their excellent play and determination, earning praise for their efforts. Izzy Matthews, Amy White, and Olivia showed significant improvement over the season. Their hard work and commitment were reflected in their performance.

By Mr H Magnay



U13 ROUNDERS

This year, we've had incredible participation from our Year 7 and Year 8 students in rounders, with both girls' and boys' teams showing tremendous dedication and improvement. Their hard work in batting and fielding has paid off, with large turnouts week after week demonstrating true responsibility and team spirit.



Our first major competition was the district league, where we fielded two teams; Team A- Year 7 and Year 8 Girls and Team B- Year 7 Boys.

Both teams faced tough opposition, putting their fielding skills to the test. The league concluded with an exciting 3rd and 4th place playoff between our own teams.

Following the district league, we faced Pipers Corner in two challenging matches:

Year 7 Girls: A draw

Year 8 Girls: A close loss

Despite the results, both teams gained valuable experience and had great fun.

Individual Recognitions:

• **Year 7 Boys MVP: Heath Messenger for fantastic and consistent bowling.**

• **Year 7 Girls MVPs: Isabelle Rawling and Orla O'Connor for their outstanding catching across all the matches.**

• **Year 8 Girls MVP: Ava Harbinson for demonstrating a wide range of skills and consistent play every match.**



A huge well done to every student who has taken part in the rounders club this term. With such strong teams, we are excited to see what they can accomplish next year!



UNDER 15 ROUNDERS

The U15 rounders teams had two close friendlies against Pipers Corner in preparation for their district

tournament. The Year 9 squad lost by a narrow margin, with MVP going to Lily Nickless and the Year 10 squad drew with MVP awarded to Evie Matthews.

In the district tournament, the team faced various challenges and showcased their resilience and determination. The A team won 2 of their 3 teams, beating HCA and WHS and the B team beat CCS. The A team's progress to the final meant squads had to change slightly due to some availability issues caused by mock exams.



As underdogs, the A team displayed exceptional skill and teamwork. They faced Pipers Corner in a closely contested match and emerged victorious, winning by 1 rounder. This unexpected win highlighted their ability to perform under pressure and their strong team dynamics. In the final against WHS, the A team demonstrated their dominance on the field. They outperformed their opponents and secured a convincing victory, winning by 3 and a half rounders. This success can be attributed to their excellent decision-making skills and the collective effort of the entire team.

Overall, the U15 girls rounders team's performance in the tournament was commendable. They exhibited determination, skill, and teamwork throughout their matches, ultimately emerging as champions.



Individual highlights included Jess Hennessey's brilliant skills on second base with her impressive hand-eye coordination, and consistent batting. Lucy Apletree's ability to hit the ball miles and score numerous rounders showcased her strength and skill as a batter. And Sophia Rule's consistent bowling must have created challenges for the opposing team. In the group stages Sienna Morgan, Phoebe-Day Stevens, Daisy Bennett and Evie Weston made positive contributions to the team.

By Miss E Boddy

FIH HOCKEY PRO LEAGUE – BALL PATROL TRIP

On 4th June 2024, Great Marlow School were invited to be the ball patrol team for two FIH Pro League Hockey Matches at Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre; the home of British Hockey. They patrolled two games: GB Women vs China and GB Men vs Spain.

The students learned/practiced a number of important life skills, which perhaps wouldn't be as easy to do in a classroom. They learned to use their intuition and judgement to make quick decisions independently about whether they needed to intervene with a new ball or not. They had to work in small groups across various year groups (8-12) and cooperate with people they wouldn't necessarily have to liaise with ordinarily. They had to be extremely responsible for themselves and the equipment they were in charge of (flags/balls/kit).

The students also had to be extremely respectful of the players'/coaches' private space they were allowed to share behind the scenes, and respect the heightened emotions they might see from players during game play. It was extremely exciting and eye opening for the students to see these 'behind the scenes' aspects of international sport. They received their own accreditation, giving them unprecedented access to different parts of the venue. They were able to see and experience the build up to international events and the processes each team goes through to prepare for their fixture. A particular interest was seeing the players not selected for the fixture having to take part in a training session before the fixture, highlighting the importance of hard work and dedication, regardless of the disappointment of not being selected.

This is the first time GMS have been involved in this event, so a new opportunity for our students. The England Hockey staff were impressed with the GMS students' behaviour, desire to listen and learn, and their enthusiasm for hockey. The National Governing Body said they would be more than happy for GMS to repeat the trip again in the future. The school were also mentioned on the TNT Sport's coverage of the fixture as a successful state school for hockey when they were highlighting the students' involvement in ball patrol.

Students thoroughly enjoyed the day. The games were incredibly entertaining, and students enjoyed being a part of the GB success. They had time afterwards to meet some of the international players and ask for autographs. They loved it!

By Miss L Porter



PE Leadership Development at GMS

The development of life-skills facilitated through PE has been a core strand of our ethos with the GMS PE Department for the past 6 years. Where possible we use leadership as a vehicle to develop these much-needed life-skills to prepare our students for life beyond GMS.

During lesson time all students are given the opportunity to be a captain and lead small groups of their peers. This invaluable experience is the beginning of this development. Organisation, people management, communication, delegation, empathy are just some of the skills which the students begin to grasp during this opportunity. The next stage/phase is leading at a School Games event. Primary school sporting events are held at GMS throughout the year. Our students are trained and then lead on the day, ensuring all of the primary students know what they are doing in any event, which ensure that the event runs as smoothly as possible.



Above: Year 9 Leaders – Primary Badminton 2023

New for September 2024, all year 11 students will be completing a PE Life-Skills Award through their core PE lessons. This award, which is accredited by the Leadership Skills Foundation in partnership with The Youth Sports Trust, fits perfectly with the Sport Education programme which we have been running successfully at GMS for 6 years. The format of these core

PE lessons facilitates the development of leadership through the students (group of 4) planning, organising and then delivering a sports session of their choice. This is then appraised by the class and teacher against 6 key life-skills as a criteria.

The final opportunity which we offer is the Level 3 Sports Leaders Course. This is also accredited by the Leadership Skills Foundation in partnership with The Youth Sports Trust. The award enables the students to become independent leaders of sports activities, and further develops their understanding of leadership skills. Additionally, the specification includes specific modules on safety, SEN, disability sport and inclusivity through adapted activities. The course is worth 16 UCAS points and can be used as a qualification for sports leadership in a paid role.



Above: Year 11 and 12 Leaders supporting Frieth Sports DAY June 2024

All these leadership opportunities are tailored to support the whole school MY Pb initiative, which is underpinned with the 6R's. This core strand within our PE delivery is a highly valuable opportunity which is helping shape and develop our students into positive contributors to society, as well as prepare them for the working world.

By Mr S Goodright

GYM AND DANCE

This year Gym and dance club saw exceptional numbers of attendees throughout the year, the girls have been attending Gym and Dance club every Friday after school from mid-November until March. The show in March was outstanding, showing off the choreography and talent the girls have worked on throughout the year. The year 9&10 girls were given another opportunity to perform their dances in front of over 200 Year 6 students joining GMS in September. The students were amazed by the lifts, tricks, and flips and we hope this inspired them to join next year. Bring on the GMS Gym and Dance show 2025!

Inclusivity Events

CYCLING CLUB

Students have been testing out the new bikes. We were very fortunate to be donated a tricycle for the students at cycling club to use. The tricycle, in particular, has been a hit, with students competing to see who can hit top speed and navigate the slaloms most accurately. These skill were put to the test when the sixth form

leaders organized a multi-sports event featuring a cycling obstacle course, which was a hit with over 30 Year 7 and 8 students. Jamie Trillow has done a fantastic job ensuring the bikes stay clean and in good working condition. Cycling club students will be cycling the Phoenix Trail in Thame next week. The trip will include a stop to cook on trangias a skill they have recently learned in lessons.



BMX AND SKATEBOARDING TRIP

Our Year 7 students recently enjoyed an exciting trip to a BMX and skateboard display. They were thrilled to watch the impressive demonstrations and then participated in a 45-minute session where they learned to ride BMX bikes and skateboards. The students showed remarkable enthusiasm, standing up on the BMX bikes and confidently navigating the ramps on their skateboards. Despite finding skateboarding more challenging, they displayed great resilience and determination to continue practicing.

To cap off the day, everyone enjoyed a delicious ice cream from the shop. Throughout the trip, the students were a credit to the school, engaging enthusiastically in all activities and asking the display experts some fantastic questions.

We look forward to the possibility of being invited back next year for another incredible experience.

CRICKET FESTIVAL

In June, 12 boys actively participate in an inclusive cricket event at Eggerton Rothesay School, which saw them learn a diverse set of cricket skills. The event was marked not just by the technical prowess demonstrated on the field, but also by the profound respect and empathy shown

towards other participants of the event. Through this initiative, the boys not only enhanced their cricket abilities but also cultivated essential values of sportsmanship and inclusivity.

ROUNDERS



This term we had the pleasure of attending two rounders events, each providing unique experiences and showcasing the talent and growth of our students.

The first event was a tournament where we competed against a range of schools. This tournament was a fantastic opportunity for our students to gain confidence. Their growing assurance on the field enabled them to display advanced fielding skills, resulting in numerous outs and impressive teamwork.

The second event marked the last of the varsity events at Borlase. For this event, we took the Year 7 boys, who faced strong competition. Despite the tough opponents, our boys showcased remarkable skill and determination, ultimately finishing in 1st place.

Both events were significant in highlighting the development and achievements of our students in rounders, demonstrating their commitment and talent.



By Miss E Boddy

GOLDEN WEEKEND FOR GMSBC

JIRR and Small Boats Trials

On Saturday April 20th we took Connor Quann as our year 11 single sculler and Kayla Shilito, Natasha Pendlebury, Bea Spence, Lucy Platt and Isabel Berger as our Year 10 girls coxed quad to the Junior Inter- Regional Regatta. This is the first of the three National events that happen over the regatta season and where we have picked up a number of medals over recent years.

First up was Connor in his single scull and while he has not had much time to train in a single his power and stamina showed through and a very impressive Silver medal was a great achievement. The Girls quad, who had dominated in both the long-distance scullery back in March as well as the selection trials for this event had high expectations and while slightly disappointed with their time trial still came top by 3 seconds.

In the final over a longer course of 1500m they dominated throughout and came home some 8 seconds ahead of their nearest rival. A very dominant performance and well-deserved Gold Medal.

On Sunday 21st, Ethan Hunt went to take part in the GB small boats trials and while he had been selected for the Spring Assessments a few weeks ago, he had felt disappointed in his performance there. Determined to improve his ranking, he had an aggressive time trial placing him 8th and in the A/B semi final group. Poor conditions and unfair lanes meant a rough ride in the semis placing him in the B final, but by 5:15 pm the wind had become a light steady straight tail and fair to all. By halfway at 1000m, Ethan was in 4th place about four seconds off 1st but a truly impressive display of hard sculling moved him through the field over the second half gradually hauling the leaders in and a final push saw him win his final, 1 second ahead of second with the remaining four scullers less than 3 seconds behind.

A really great result and certainly pushes him up the rankings and in a good position to go for GB selection later this summer.

By Mr F Murison

GREAT START TO REGATTA SEASON MAY 5TH AND 6TH

Wallingford/JSR/Munich

Following the very successful sporting challenge on Thursday and Friday (<https://www.gms.bucks.sch.uk/?p=44523>) GMSBC raced at Dorney on both Sunday and Monday of the Bank Holiday Weekend, While Sal Dunn was away in Munich competing for GB.

Sunday – Wallingford Regatta

In the Morning division we only had our top 6th form girls racing in women's school quads. There semi- final was in glorious sunshine with a light straight head wind. They got off the blocks fast and took a very early lead but Pangbourne on the far side of the lake pushed on harder to take a half length lead by 500m. Both crews pulled away from the rest of the pack but the margin remained the same through the 1000m mark. The GMS girls looked to have a smoother flow and as they pushed on in the third 500m, Pangbourne's lead was gradually eroded and by 1500m there was a few feet in it but it was also clear which crew was moving faster. An amazing finish from the GMS crew saw them win their semi and straight into the final. The Final was a tough race where they competed well but were a bit off the pace of the top crews.

In the afternoon we raced two junior schools quads and our year 10 girls quad, who were entered in the WJ16 4x (year 11 quads), The boys A crew had a disappointing race while the B crew were on good form and came in only 2 seconds behind the top crew.

The year 10 girls continued their dominant streak, racing in a straight final which included the Borlase year 11 quad that had won Gold at the inter- regional regatta. The girls powered off the start line and took a clear water lead by 500m. From there, it was no looking back and they rowed a dominant race, never challenged to win at this major early season regatta.

Monday – Junior Sculling Regatta

The format of this regatta is a time trial followed by A B and possibly C finals based on the TT result.

The two boys quads had much better races and the A boat was comfortably in A final while the B boat just missed the B final and raced in the C final, but still the fastest second crew.

In the A final the GMS crew had a strong start and at 500m they were in second place behind Molesey, with Leander in third. This order was maintained through the halfway point, but then both Leander and GMS put in a strong third quarter, overhauling Molesey. Leander had a little more to give in the last 500 just overhauling the GMS quad. Silver medal in a great high quality race was very exciting for this young crew who are all back next year.

The year 10 boys, who have not been out in a quad for a long time due to river conditions and mainly rowing in a four when they can train, had a good time trial. They started behind RGS Wycombe and overtook them just after halfway. They came 10th in the TT putting them in middle of the B final.

In their final their target was to move up at least one place and to pick a crew that they were out to race and beat. By 500m it was fairly clear that the front two boats were going at a faster pace, but Wallingford alongside us had a half length lead and the two crews looked very comparable.

The GMS boys had been beaten quite comprehensively

in the head season by Wallingford, so to be up alongside them was encouraging progress. The boys pushed at 750m to try and eat up some of the deficit and hauled back to $\frac{1}{4}$ length, which gave them huge encouragement and they held this for the next 500m when they put in another push to move into the lead and the opposition really did not respond from then on and GMS came home third- objective achieved.

The Senior Girls quad had another good time trial but due to a couple of their crew feeling under the weather, they did not race their final.

The year 9 octos both raced well, and the girls qualified for the B final which was great. In the final they were held onto the crew beside them for the first 750m, but lack of water time took its toll. They did beat the Headington crew on their nearside convincingly though.

We had three doubles racing. The year 11 boys Will Allen and Alexander Eldridge put in a very strong race but again without any water time to train together, they missed out on the final by one place. The WJ17 double of Jess Rhodes and Sophie Wharf came 8th in the TT and had an exciting final but could not quite match their time trial ranking.

Saving the best for last. The Year 10 girls, tired from racing on Sunday and a hard weeks training running into this weekend, still came in at the top of the TT. In the final they were a bit messy off the start and local rivals Marlow Rowing Club took an early lead. These two crews moved away from the field and by halfway it was clearly a race just between GMS and MRC. The GMS crew despite being down for the first time this year held their rhythm and looked very solid in the water. Over the third 500m the pace started to tell on the MRC girls and GMS moved relentlessly level then into the lead with no seeming extra effort. When did eventually up the rating and go for the line they moved fairly rapidly away to take gold- Again!.

Munich

Sal Dunn had a successful weekend as part of the GB sculling squad being in the fastest GB double in the Saturday Finals. In the quad on Sunday in a very impressive final, they came 4th, just out of the medal by less than 1s.

The result of the boys quad in his absence is hugely encouraging both for this summer but also the years ahead.

MAIDENHEAD 19TH MAY

We had a lovely sunny day by the river at Maidenhead on Sunday May 19th, where 7 of our younger crews raced at this charming local regatta. All crews had at least two races and performed well.

The star performances were the year 9 girls top boat who won three rounds to meet Guildford in the final. A close race with Guildford taking an early lead of half a length, but the girls showed true grit and determination and stayed in the race the whole way and even came back at their opposition in the closing metres.

The two better year 9 boys crews had a straight final in A quads, and a very close race, with somewhat aggressive if not erratic coxing had a verdict of just over 1 length. The boys were probably more fired up to race their team mates than for usual races.



Our year 10 boys had a fairly trouble free run through the early rounds and in their fourth and final race met Guildford. This was not a repeat of the year 9 girls race. The boys moved out in front from the off and kept moving away to win by a comfortable margin. Photo of winning crew attached minus their cox Chiara.

MARLOW TOWN REGATTA

Marlow Schools Challenge Races

Saturday saw a much-reduced Marlow Town Regatta. With the trailer park still waterlogged there was no space for visiting crews. The regatta consisted of some adaptive races for which Marlow rowing club is renowned, and the four Marlow School Challenge Races.

The quads event only introduced last year on insistence of Sir William Borlase as a way to possibly balance the scales was the first set.

The two girls' quads had different crews from previous clashes between the two schools, both put out their top Henley crews. While we were unsure of the outcome, it promised to be a close race. In the end however, the GMS girls sadly hit a buoy early in the race and after some confusion between the crew and the umpire they restarted already some lengths down. Frustrating as it was for the girls, it allowed Borlase to claim the first victory.

The boys' quads saw the GMS Henley quad competing for the first time and although on paper we expected a comfortable victory, after the upset in the girls quads spectators were not as calm. As the rounded the bend coming into sight of the enclosures perspective made it very difficult to see which crew was in front, but soon afterwards it became clear that indeed the GMS boys had a commanding lead and were not to be challenged. One all on the score card.

At 3:15 came the last two races of the day, the main events, The Marlow Schools Challenge Eights. Great Marlow were defending their three in a row for both races. With Girls off first again, our crew had a point to prove after the frustration of the mornings race. Channelling their anger into a powerful start. The GMS eight took an early lead and there was no looking back. Moving away with every stroke the Great Marlow girls stormed home to make it four in a row- 2-1. The final race had the enclosure towpath packed with spectators and the GMS eight had looked strong and very sharp in practice.

A repeat of the girls performance was inevitable and they also stormed home some lengths ahead of Borlase. 3-1 , not perfect but very satisfactory.

All looks good for the next few weekends racing

HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA

Last weekend, July 6th, we were fortunate to have teams competing at Henley Royal Regatta . This year saw the regatta return to its pre covid glory with a wealth of international crews from across Europe, Canada and US, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

Great Marlow had two crews racing, a boys quad in the Fawley Challenge Cup and an eight in the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup. Our eight having qualified on the previous Friday were drawn against a seeded crew in the first round, Kings College School Wimbledon. While the crew had a good row and looked well drilled and hardworking, they knew they had a 20 second deficit from Marlow Regatta to overcome which clearly was not going to happen.

The quad had the American School on the first day and while favourites had only been 4 seconds ahead at the Marlow timetrial so expected a good race. We led from the start but American School were pushing hard to stay with us and there was little in it at the barrier. We managed to move slightly further away by halfway at Fawley but by then the opponents had spent their energy and we opened up to a 5 length win. The GMS time for this race was the fastest of the day for the Fawley Challenge cup and in fact was only beaten by one other crew during the whole regatta.

This took us into Thursdays race against the US National Champions, Los Gatos from California. By way of background, Los Gatos is a rapidly growing community and is home to Netflix amongst other tech businesses. In previous years we may well have looked on this as similar to our eights chances in their first round, but the quad is a top class crew and we expected a very tough race but were optimistic of our chances.

From the start Los Gatos were very high on rate and took

an early slight lead and by the Barrier were up by half a length. Over the next minute and a half they extended this to one length. From Fawley, half way, to the ¾ mile nothing much changed. The GMS crew have always been strong in the last section of the race and with Los Gatos consistently over rating us we were hopeful that we could pull them back. Sure enough as they came into the enclosures the GMS boat was gaining half a length down , quarter of a length down. Passing the progress board there was nothing in it and by the end, sitting in the umpires launch, no one knew.

The photo finish shows GMS ahead a metre before the line but as rowing boats do Los Gatos bows lifted with their catch and passed ours by a very small margin. A fantastic race of which the crew should be very proud and will undoubtedly remember for the rest of their lives. It was however devastating for this talented and determined bunch of boys. This is what Henley should be about – great racing against top international crews.

Other exciting news is that two Alumni won their events to pick up Henley Medals, Blaise Ivers Dreux stroked the Oxford Brookes

Temple eight in an impressive win, while Toby Lassen was in the 7 seat of the Brookes Grand Eight. Winning the Grand Challenge Cup is something legends are made of and is a truly spectacular achievement.

GMS would like to congratulate Sal Dunn and Ethan Hunt who will be in Nottingham for Final Crew Selection with the GB squad from shortly. Sam Terret and George Spencer will be joining them in Nottingham for England Trials on Saturday.

MEDALS AND MORE AT NATIONAL SCHOOLS REGATTA

We were blessed for two days with calm sunny weather which meant fair racing and a pleasant environment for athletes and spectators alike, Sunday was not so kind but more later.

Friday

We had three crews racing; year 9 girls quad, year 9 boys octo and our year 10 girls' quad.

The year 9 girls were in the first time-trial of the day. The progress other than for certain Championship (J18) events, is a time-trial followed by ranked finals (A, B, C) based on times from the tt. The girls had a solid row but were not quite on top form and the lack of water time this season really took its toll. Frustratingly for them, they missed out on the finals by one place. It was still a good achievement as the fastest non qualifier with half the crews not making it past the time trial.

The boys have also been struggling with lack of water time but had some very promising outings in the last couple of weeks. Rowing down to the start they were looking wellcoordinated and a much stronger crew from a few eeks earlier. They had a great row and looked aggressive and racy the whole way. They were placed 5th in the time trial qualifying them for the A (medal) final, alongside Hampton, St Paul's, Radley, and Westminster.

Three of these major Independent Schools row on the tideway which has had far less lost water time and Radley have a rather smart indoor rowing tank which we have hired a couple of times this winter for the crews to get some water training. There was an 8 second spread between 1st and 6th in the time trial or about 2.5 lengths which promised some tight racing in the final. Our boys took off well and had a tremendous start and by 250m the race looked like Hampton and St Pauls' were going to battle for Gold/Silver and Radley and Great Marlow were going to have a good tussle for Bronze. Sadly, as they approached halfway our 7 man caught a crab and lost his blade. This was a boat stopper and ended their race. While hugely frustrating for this young crew, they

had shown themselves to be right up there with the best and prepared to take them on.

For the year 10 and older events, racing is over 2000m so these races happened later in the day. Our girls' quad had been feeling the pressure throughout the week as friends, teachers and family wished them luck, placing high expectations on them for Gold.

In the time trial they had a poor start and took a while to settle and when the results came out, they were second behind Marlow. The previous time these crews met at JSR, Marlow had flown off the start and opened up a good lead of over a length before the GMS crew pulled them back in and went on to win. From a race plan we did not want to have so much to do in the second half this time.

In the final the girls got out of the blocks well and the two crews were pretty close with Marlow just in front, but Headington School had ambitions of their own and led both by half a length at 500m. Over the next 500m, GMS and Marlow stayed at a similar pace but had eaten into the Headington lead and halfway there the order was Marlow, Headington, GMS.

On the bank the coaches were reasonably happy so far and the GMS girls had always proved very strong over the third quarter of the race so the plan looked good. However, Marlow had clearly learnt from their last brush with the GMS girls and had paced themselves better and rose to the challenge put down by the quad and matched them stroke for stroke throughout the next 500m. Coming into the last 500m, Marlow's lead over GMS was 0.3 seconds, down from 0.8 seconds at halfway. Coaches were still confident, backing the GMS girls to have the stronger finish and they did start to push, but with each push the Marlow crew were responding and while the inches were getting slowly eroded we were running out of track. With 150m of the race left the crews were level. Then Lucy Platt at stroke found what it needed and raising the rate to over 40 strokes a minute, the crew made that final dash and GMS girls quad won the Leslie Langton Cup by 1 second.

This was our first Gold at this Regatta, the first time we had won this highly competitive event.

Saturday

This was our busiest day with year 10 boys four, and two J18 quads for both the boys and girls, and a championship coxed four. The top boys' quad was first off and came 6th in the time trial which put them straight through to the A/B semifinals on Sunday morning. Next came the top girls who had a good row coming in 12th putting them in a good position in the repacharge later in the day.

The year 10 boys four were out to retain the Mariners Cup which we won last year and came 3rd in the time trial some 4 seconds off 1st, so definitely in with a medal chance but perhaps a tall order for gold.

Our "B" quads both had good time trials coming 3rd (boys) and 4th (girls).

The coxed four was our last time trial and they had a good race, coming 8th.

Just outside the A final but given this was effectively our third boat competing in a Championship event and we had only formed the four three weeks ago, this was an impressive result. The eventual winners, Royal Shrewsbury school surprisingly did not have an eight and put their top crew into this event. Shrewsbury School were winners of the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup, the main Schools event at Henley Royal Regatta, not so long ago.

The afternoon side by side races started for us with the Championship Girls Quad in their repacharge where they rowed a superb race, dominating the field and putting themselves a good lane for the semis on Sunday.

Next came the year 10 boys four. The wind had picked up a little as a head wind, so we lightened the gearing on the blades slightly. This potentially gives them less speed out of the blocks but better pace in the second half of the race. So, the boys were prepared for a slightly slower start and are always very strong in the last 500m. With the girls having won Gold the day before and history to be maintained from last year they would have to overcome a four second speed difference.

The boys had a clean start but the lighter gearing or possibly their desire to pace themselves made them a little slower than their main rivals. In fact, with 250m gone they were in last place which they had improved to 5th place by 500m, but already over a length behind surprise leaders Leed Rowing Club.

GMS maintained a slightly faster pace than the crews in front over the next 500m and going into the 1000m mark had a big push. I haven't yet mentioned that the Great Marlow Supporters Tent was placed right on the halfway mark so spurred on by a wave of cheers and screams of encouragement by halfway they had moved into fourth place and reduced the lead of third placed Wallingford from 2.8 seconds to just over 1 second. BUT still a length and a half behind leaders Leeds.

Clearly moving up on the crews ahead many "younger" Great Marlow Supporters pursued the race cheering the boys on. The early pace of Leeds RC began to tell and they started to slow so by 1500m, we were still in 4th place, but the margins had come down considerably.

Less than 0.5 seconds covered Silver to 4th positions, with Leeds now only half a length up. As I mentioned the boys have always been strong finishers and so I still had hopes, but this was going to be a nail-biting last 500m. Backing themselves, the GMS crew raised the rate and went for home and the opposition just couldn't hold them. Just before 250m to go they took the lead and while Norwich School pushed hard to stay with them the GMS boys had a canvass advantage and were not giving anything up.

Our second Gold at this Regatta, and the first time we have retained a trophy from the previous year. Well done the year 10s – Girls and Boys!

Our three remaining races were right at the end of the day, with a chance for two more medals.

First off was the Girls' 2nd Quad. By now the cross wind had made the lanes unfair so fastest qualifiers had the more sheltered lane. The GMS quad, coming 4th in the time trial, had to overcome a 3.5 second deficit and be in a harder lane to get into the medals.

They had a flying start and Stroke Jess Rhodes set a fierce pace and 500m they

had ¾ length on their rivals Yarm and had increased this to over a length at halfway. This aggressive racing cost them in fatigue but they knew they had done what they had to, to have a chance of a medal. The adverse lane conditions and the demanding first half took its toll and Yarm started relentlessly to crawl back at them and by 1500m that open water lead was down to under a second. Digging deeper than they have ever done and determined not to give up the medal they so longed for, the girls found new pace, not only holding the Yarm charge but opening their lead back out to nearly a length to take Bronze.

This was the first time we have won a medal in a "2nd Boat" event at National Schools.

Highlighting the depth we are growing in the club. For this crew it was also the first medal of any kind for most of them. A real highlight of our regatta.

The boys' quad had a 2 second deficit between each of the fastest three then a subsequent 8 seconds to the next qualifier, it seemed unlikely that the orders would change much in the race. The race went very much to form, and the boys did well and looked very smooth as they took bronze medal.

This was the second time we have won a medal in a "2nd Boat" event at National Schools.

Last of all came our Championship coxed four and as per the boys' quad, they rowed well but were unable to change their result from the tt making them 8th overall.

Sunday

Rowing is an outdoor sport, so weather as know only too well this year has its hand to play.

With a strong cross wind all day the lanes become all important and the boys' 6th place in the TT meant they were two lanes across from the best lane. In order to have a chance of a medal in the final, they really needed to beat Hinksey in the lane inside them in the semis.

With this in mind they took the race on from the go and had a flying start. At 500m they were 1 second down on leaders Marlow and 2 seconds ahead of Hinksey. This order was maintained through the 1000m mark, but the adverse lane conditions started to tell

and with 750 to go Hinksey had taken the lead and there was no coming back.

This put us in 4th lane over for the final and these conditions unrealistic for a medal.

The girls' quad sadly had a poor start for their semi leaving them too much to do to catch their main rivals for lanes in the final.

For the finals we still had a strong cross wind, but it had swung around a little to be slightly tail making it not quite so penalizing. Inside lanes still had an advantage but probably only around ½ a length per plane.

Given the lane draws, the GMS boys target was to race Leander and move up from 5th to 4th. They were possibly a little more relaxed than usual given the realistic chance of a medal was gone. Their start was again fast and at 500m gone they were in third place, but Hinksey two lanes over slipped past in the next 500m. So, at halfway, despite their worse lane GMS lead Leander by 0.4 seconds. Leander pushed hard but the boys held and at 1500m the difference was down to 0.3 seconds.

While it was close, on the bank I was feeling confident. No one was coming past this GMS quad that late in the race. Both crews pushed hard for the line, but Leander just could not make further progress and GMS took 4th place 0.2 seconds ahead of Leander.

The last race of the regatta for GMS was the Girls Championship 4x B final with our girls four lanes over from the inside track. They had a much better start and were performing in line with the rankings over the first 500, although Peterborough next to them had really flown in this early part. By halfway, GMS had overhauled Peterborough's early lead and were chasing after Tideway scullers on their inside. They had a really strong second half and having been over a length behind Tideway Scullers at 1000m, and despite the lane disadvantage, they closed this down to a half-length by the finish line.

A really good finish to a great weekend's racing.

By Mr F Murison

DOF E EXPEDITIONS

This year the PE Department have managed and delivered the DofE programme for all 3 levels. Where the gold award looks after itself the bronze and silver do require a significant amount of organisation from the facilitator.

As the manager of the programme I would like to start by extending my thanks to my colleagues in the department who have made this first year run smoothly and successfully. Particular thanks should be afforded to Miss Emma Boddy who, at the 11th hour agreed to take on the role of the D of E Portal monitor and administrator. This is no small task as it involves checking the progress of all registered students against the 4 assessment areas for the award, as they progress towards completion.

BRONZE QUALIFYING EXPEDITION SUCCESS

The bronze award was taken on by a record 103 students this year. Their progress has been excellent and their levels of engagement with all areas of the award has been superb. Where possible, we have facilitated as many opportunities as possible on site at GMS, to support the students in the different aspects of the course. This year Mrs Cadogan kindly offered cooking lessons to the students for the skill section. Her volunteered time has been given every week since Easter and has been invaluable for the students who have participated in the sessions. We cannot thank Mrs Cadogan enough! The expedition section always brings a significant level of excitement and fun. Once the training was completed on site at GMS, the students were then let loose in and around the Oxfordshire countryside. Many stories of epic adventures ensued at the camping grounds, when student regaled chapter and verse about wild cows and sheep trying to attack them as they crossed fields and how they thought they'd lost touch with all human life when they'd been lost for 20 minutes. Nevertheless, all students enjoyed this opportunity and passed this section.

Many have already requested a place on the silver programme next year.

SILVER AWARD

The silver award students have the advantage of experience from their bronze award in the previous year. All 15 of this cohort opted to kayak for their expedition. During the training weekend, students were exposed to the potential dangers of the river and how to handle these. A particular favourite for the students was the person over-board training...apparently, there is an unwritten rule that states all attending teachers must demonstrate this first. Fortunately, the weather was kind, so the being wet for 3-4 hours was not too much of a hardship. One could argue that the students who revelled in this teacher overboard demonstration got their just-deserves with the

weather they experienced on their Qualifying Expedition. Some of the rain during the day was on par with that you would expect in the Amazon Rainforest – it was torrential! However, the resilient and ready year 10s, had packed accordingly for the weather and were certainly not going to be put off by the rain. They remained upbeat and determined as they navigated the Thames from Hurley to Sunbury in London, during this 3 day, 2 night adventure. All 15 students passed with flying colours and the expedition staff were particularly impressed with the energy levels and positivity across the trip.

All students who are registered this year, must now complete their online evidence to ensure they gain their award. Those who have will be receiving their award in the end of year assemblies.

By Mr S Goodright - GMS DofE Award Manager



Year 10 Silver Award at the finish



Year 10 Silver Award at the finish



Below: Year 9 Bronze – Expedition campsite at sunset Silver Award – Monsoon!!!

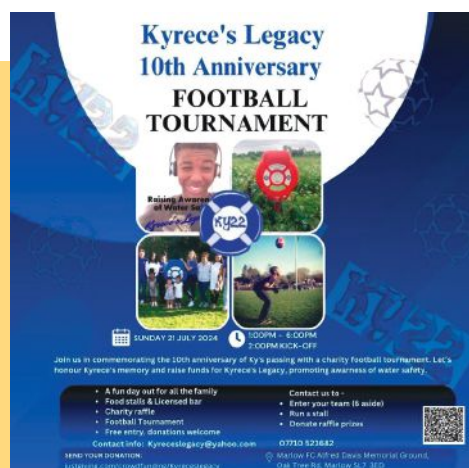


Charity Football Tournament for Kyreece

A very special event, 'The Kyreece's Legacy Charity Football Tournament' is being held at Marlow Football Club on Sunday 21st July from 1 pm for a 2 pm tournament kick off.

This charity tournament is not only a day of football but also a day of remembrance, community, and support. All proceeds from the event will go towards Kyreece's Legacy and the mission to raise awareness of water safety.

Kyreece was a student of Great Marlow School, this event not only aims to honour Kyreece's memory but also to bring together all those who knew and cherished him. The organisers would be thrilled if GMS's staff, classmates and community members could attend. Every person's presence would mean so much to the organisers and to everyone who remembers Kyreece fondly.



AND FINALLY....

THE GMS staff wish everyone a restful Summer break.

Good luck to all our students awaiting their exam results in August.

Stay safe and healthy.

We look forward to seeing everyone back in school in September.

Special Congratulations

One of our Year 9 talented gymnasts, Erin Lipscomb, was fortunate to travel to Orlando for the World Championships, organised by the International Association of Independent Gymnasts (IAI) and United States Association of Independent Gymnastics Clubs (USAIGC).

Erin has been exceptional in her approach to her gymnastics and school commitments, exhibiting the GMS's 6Rs in abundance.

Just recently, she achieved two World Championship Golds, at two levels for her age category, 13.5 yrs to 18.5yrs, a mighty significant achievement: congratulations Erin.

In the event that took place from the 24th June to 5th July:

Erin competed at the Bronze level in the 4-piece event: uneven bars, beam, floor and vault. In her qualifying session, Erin achieved Gold overall in her age category.

Erin qualified for the Bronze final, to be held the next day. This 2-piece event: vault and uneven bars, saw Erin narrowly miss out on qualifying for the final for floor and beam.

In the Bronze final Erin achieved 6th place in vault, and Gold (World Champion) for uneven bars.

The following day there was an upgrade to Diamond Level. In this event, Erin achieved Gold for her performance on the uneven bars, this translated to her winning Gold (World Champion) in her age category.

Erin has chosen PE as one of her GCSE subjects, there is a sense she may shine in this GCSE option.

GMS thanks Mr Lipscomb for this information, which is wonderful news to publish at the end of this academic year.

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