



Great Marlow School

Excellence • Compassion • Integrity

The VOICE

DECEMBER 2024

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www.gms.bucks.sch.uk

IMPORTANT REMINDER ABOUT DATES IN THE WINTER TERM

Term will end with final assemblies on Friday 20th December; buses have been booked for 1.00pm.

The new term starts, for all pupils, on Monday 6th January 2025.

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



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

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER

This festive edition of The Voice showcases the richness of our curriculum and the breadth of our extra-curricular activities. Please do look out for the incredible work produced by the Art and Design students; the academic successes of the students studying the Classics and Political Sciences; and the pictures and accounts from staff and students on the areas of outstanding natural beauty, towns, cities, galleries, theatres, exhibitions that been explored and visited this term.

Due to the timing of events, it is a possibility that this edition of The Voice does not capture all of the Music department related events that it might of and Music at GMS has grown enormously under the leadership of Mr Kidd ably supported by Mr Williams and Mrs Lamming, so I would like to begin my article by highlighting Music. This year saw our very first Christmas Carol Concert at All Saints Church, with singers, readers and musicians coming together under the direction of Mr Williams to produce a fantastic evening. Mr Kidd and I had the pleasure of accompanying a group of brass instrument playing students to the Lantern Church in Marlow Bottom on Sunday (15th Dec.) to support the local community with their outdoor Carol Concert. This Wednesday evening saw the Christmas Music Concert led by Mr Kidd in the main school hall with students of all ages, singing, playing musical instruments in a wide variety of groups and across a range of musical genres which should have satisfied even the broadest of tastes. Another incredible evening of music very well supported by parents/ carers and the wider community who attended in large numbers.

It is probably not widely known but I am big fan of pantomimes and a pantomime most years is an annual event in my Christmas calendar.

I have probably seen 30+ pantomimes in my lifetime. The GMS production of Aladdin this December rates as one of the very best led by Mrs Chenery and Mr Ross but ably supported by Mrs Sharp, Mrs Black and numerous other staff. It was a production full of quality performances, first class acting, singing and dancing with some comedic moments that will never be forgotten, many of which were provided by the fantastic Widow Twanky!

PE and Sport continues to thrive at GMS and the reports in this addition of the Voice show the huge scale of the activities and fixtures undertaken this term with great success but arguably more importantly with huge numbers of students participating. The rowing programme is currently the largest in the history of the school with more children training regularly and in the case of senior students completing more than 10 training sessions per week. Time on the water, boating from our new site, has been limited but their enthusiasm and commitment has not been dimmed, and this bodes well for the regattas later this academic year. I really do hope that we have dry end to the winter and dry spring/summer so that we can make the most of the new site at Gossmore.



I am sure by now that you will have seen the new Great Marlow School website – here you will find information about the school from the curriculum that we have implemented to the wide array of activities that our students have participated in and upcoming events to look forward to. I would like to thank all of the website team for their hard work in the designing of the new website, it really does showcase the school and hopefully gives you as parents and carers a flavour of the experience's students have.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents/ carers that have sent positive emails, letters, and cards into Great Marlow School thanking the staff of the school for their work and support for our students and your children over the course of this term. These communications really do make a difference.

Also, I would like to say a public thank you, once again, to all the members of Friends of Great Marlow (FoGMS) who not only organise events to raise money for the school but also events that bring different members of our school community together. The Christmas Wreath making sessions are now a firm favourite in the FoGMS school calendar, two evenings this year, to enable over 50 parents or members of our wider community to make spectacular Christmas wreaths in the school canteen, whilst sipping mulled wine. Our very recent FoGMS Christmas raffle, saw 31 fabulous hampers distributed to our prize winners and over £3000 raised for the benefit of the school, so thank you to all of you who bought tickets.

I highlighted attendance in my Christmas message in The Voice last year and the message remains the same this year. It is and will always be true that for students to achieve their full potential excellent attendance to school is vital. We will continue to work hard with parents/ carers and students to maximise attendance to GMS. There is a very strong correlation between attendance and strong progress and academic attainment. That fact leads me nicely into although the Christmas holidays are a time

for celebration, as well as relaxation and spending time with family and friends, our senior students in Year 11 and Year 13 should have a revision programme in place over this period. The programme needs to balance their need for a break with consolidating the learning and understanding across their different subject areas, ready for the 'mock' exams which start on Tuesday 14th January. Good quality revision and preparation does not guarantee great results, but it does significantly increase the likelihood!

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

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

Kind Regards

Mr Kevin Ford

Executive Headteacher



YEAR 10 TRIP TO THE TATE MODERN & BOROUGH MARKET

At the start of the Year 10 GCSE journey in September, an inspirational trip was enjoyed that delivered a combination of the world of contemporary art with the flavors and visuals of one of London's most iconic food markets. Students were given the opportunity to experience two must-visit destinations in the city: Tate Modern and Borough Market. From groundbreaking art to irresistible culinary treats and displays, the day provided the perfect blend of creativity, inspiration, and indulgence.

Tate Modern, housed in a former power station along the River Thames, stands as one of the world's most renowned museums of modern art. The vast, industrial space creates an inspiring experience for many students who are visiting an art gallery for the first time. Upon entering, visitors are immediately struck by the soaring ceilings and the



imposing Turbine Hall, a space that has hosted some of the most daring and experimental art installations in the world.

The students were given the freedom to explore the permanent collections in small groups, allowing them to discover iconic works by artists like Pablo Picasso, Mark Rothko, and Georgia O'Keeffe more cutting-edge pieces by Damien Hirst and Yayoi Kusama. Throughout their visit, students were encouraged to find artworks that inspired

them and reflect on why these pieces spoke to them. In addition to exploring the galleries, students were asked to sketch their favourite pieces and capture images to spark their creativity back in the classroom.

After being immersed in the world of contemporary art, the next stop was the stunning Borough Market. Just a short walk from Tate Modern, this vibrant food market has been a cherished part of London's culture since the 13th century. Borough Market is not just about food—it's about the experience of being surrounded by the sights, smells, and sounds of a bustling food scene. The market's array of gourmet treats, street food, and artisan products provided the perfect environment for students to gather ideas for their GCSE Food and Drink project.

Students were encouraged to explore the market's displays, try different foods, and immerse themselves in the atmosphere. The variety of smells—freshly baked bread, sizzling meats, and aromatic spices—created an unforgettable sensory experience. They were tasked to take as many photos as possible of the colourful stalls and artistic food displays, as well as sketch any items that inspired them.

At Borough Market, students could interact with local stallholders and discover weird and wonderful foods that spark their creativity. The combination of food, design, and atmosphere at the market becomes a direct inspiration for their GCSE projects.

For Year 10 students, the visit to Tate Modern and Borough Market was not just a day out—it was an opportunity to engage with the world of art and culture in a way that would enrich their studies and encourage them to think beyond the classroom. By blending both the visual and sensory elements of art and food, the trip provided a deeper understanding of creativity in all its forms, helping to shape their journey through the GCSE course.

By Mrs A Reilly

ART CONTINUES TO INSPIRE STUDENTS ACROSS ALL AGE GROUPS!

Year 7

Year 7 have been studying Islamic Patterns & Culture in art, while embedding the formal elements of pattern, colour theory and mastering a range of media. As part of this scheme of work, they have produced beautiful geometric patterns using circles and shaded them with a sensitive blend of harmonious colours. They are looking forward to creating their relief prints in the new year, before moving on to observational drawing.

Year 8

Year 8 have been exploring illustration this term. They have produced a personalised illuminated initial, and have produced a range of illustrated nouns, verbs, and adjectives in coloured pencil. Their creativity has really shone through in this task! They are looking forward to creating mythical creatures next year through collage, which they will illustrate, write a story about and ultimately sculpt in clay!

Year 9

Year 9 have been working hard on their portrait project, understanding how to accurately draw a self-portrait. Having drawn detailed studies of each feature, they are now well on their way to producing a highly accurate and realistic tonal graphite drawing. Next year they will explore contemporary portrait artists that explore tone in many ways and in various media.

Steam Day at Wycombe High School

In November Mrs Hayward took a group of female students to Wycombe High School to join 3 other schools as part of a Design & Technology Enrichment Day. Students from Great Marlow, Borlase, Wycombe High and Aylesbury Grammar were tasked with working in groups to research, design and construct an actual size ejector seat, out of cardboard! This was such a challenging and rewarding experience – the students collaborated beautifully with their new peers and produced outstanding designs. All the teachers involved were



impressed with the student's ingenuity and enthusiasm.

"The trip today was really fun and super educating, and I learnt lots about how to make things I loved making it" (Zara)

"I really enjoyed the trip; I loved meeting the other students from all the different schools! The competition was really fun!" (Mattea)

"I really appreciate what we did today at the steam trip, I really enjoyed it." (Ava)

"It was very fun, and I had an amazing time. It was nice getting to know people from the other schools and the competition was great." (Bo)

"I had a lot of fun and I now know more about planes, thank you for bringing me along " (Summer)

"The trip to Wycombe High was a very fun and educational experience. I enjoyed it thoroughly." (Darcey)

"I had a great day at Wycombe High at the steam trip. We made a seat out of cardboard. I even saw some of my friends from primary school." (Piper)

"I think that going to Wycombe high school was a great opportunity to make new friends and have fun. Which I did, I made a new friend called Safiyyah. During the day we got to make a life size ejection seat, it was a small competition, and my group came 2nd place. It was so much fun, and I would like to do it again"(Clara)

By Mrs J Hayward

YEAR 10 MAKE AN IMPRESSIVE START TO THEIR GCSE STUDIES

Year 10 have made a fantastic start to their GCSE Art course! Their diligence, enthusiasm, and talent are the key strengths they demonstrate, that will no doubt help them succeed throughout the next two years. Starting with a project that is focused on food and drink, they have a great introduction to a wide range of ideas and creativity, and the trip to Borough Market and Tate Modern is a wonderful way to gather firsthand inspiration.

Through a combination of traditional and contemporary techniques—ranging from graphite drawing, photography, and oil pastels to acrylic paint, watercolours, and digital photo editing—students have the chance to explore a huge variety of media and outcomes. This approach will help them develop technical skills while also encouraging them to push the boundaries of their creativity. The mix of hands-on techniques and conceptual experimentation leads to a diverse range of results, showcasing their growing talents and individual artistic voices.

Overall, this is an exciting and well-rounded project that will allow Year 10 to explore a broad spectrum of ideas and techniques. The combination of observation, inspiration from the world around them, and technical exploration will set them on a path for continued artistic success. Keep up the fantastic work!

Our Year 11 students have been putting in a tremendous effort with their GCSE coursework! Their dedication and creativity are clearly shining through in the outstanding projects they've submitted. It's amazing to see students going above and beyond, producing work with innovative ideas and unique outcomes. This level of commitment is a true testament to their hard work and passion for learning. It is incredibly rewarding to see their growth and achievements as they prepare for the final stages of their GCSE art journey.

By Mrs A Perman

Acting Head of Art and Design



Some creative Matchbox Challenge results



A-LEVEL ART STUDENTS RISE TO THE CHALLENGE...

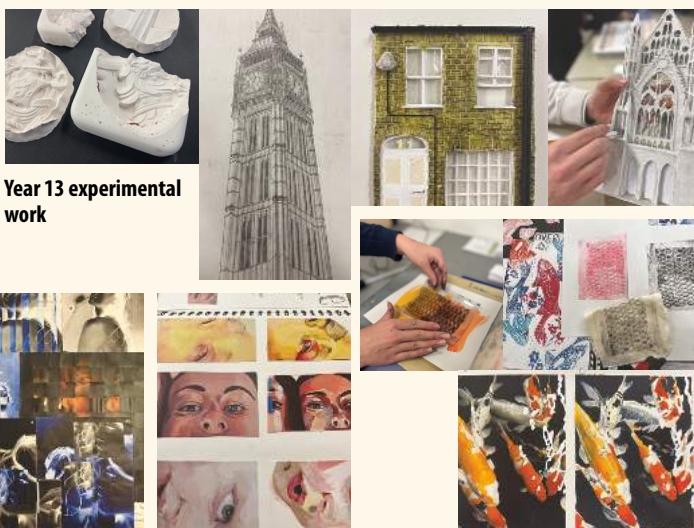
This Autumn Term the Art department welcomed a dynamic new cohort of Year 12 students, who have already blown us away. From experimental springboarding to sustained graphite drawing, print and textile workshops, and a series of two-week challenges, the students have embraced every opportunity with energy and enthusiasm. The department has been abuzz with incredible outcomes and the emergence of exciting new personal projects, showcasing the students' boundless creativity and passion for their work.

The recent Matchbox Challenge asked students to transform a humble matchbox into a compelling piece of art, using any materials or techniques they desired. Inspired by renowned artists such as Joseph Cornell and Cas Holmes, students were encouraged to think outside the box - literally and figuratively - while exploring their own personal project themes. The brief emphasized unrestricted creativity, prompting participants to stitch, paint, print, sculpt, and illustrate their pieces.

The outcomes showcased remarkable creativity and diversity. Themes ranged from water scarcity to love, with one student incorporating poetry into their design. Highlights included an ode to Blur in the form of a meticulously crafted music cassette, a baby memory box capturing the essence of adolescence, the celebration of a war hero & a Tim Burton inspired abandoned sweetshop. Each piece reflected thoughtful exploration and artistic depth, with students articulating their ideas and processes during a final crit lesson. Meanwhile, our year 13's have been casting, etching, weaving and painting their way towards final outcome ideas for their component 1 projects. Projects include focuses on architecture, Japanese culture & printing,

Watch this space!

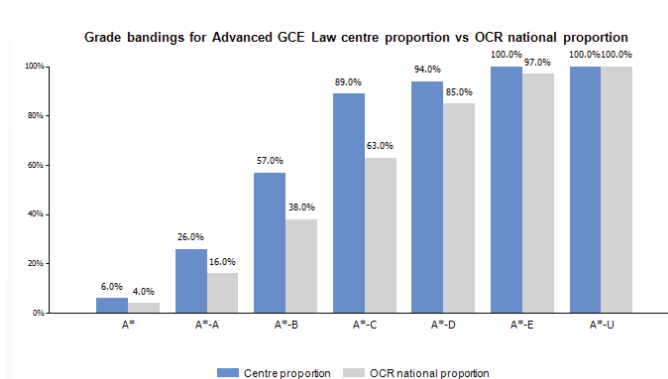
By Miss J Moyes



This department offers A-Levels in three subjects: Ancient History, Politics and Law. 2024 represented one of our most successful years ever: according to the Headteacher's report to the Board of Trustees, Law was the best performing of the school's 28 sixth form subjects, Ancient History was the third-best performing, and Politics was the fifth-best performing.

Ancient History now has a 100% record for its students achieving Grade C or higher in the six years since the current syllabus was introduced.

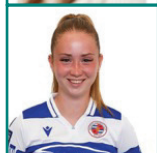
The Law results were truly spectacular with our centre's grades exceeding national average for all grades as shown in the diagram right:



Other successes were:



Our top-performing Law student was Rebecca Stevens who achieved an incredible score of 98% on her final paper on Human Rights Law. As a result, she was awarded Grade A* and she is now studying Law at Nottingham University.



Millie Elwood also achieved Grade A* despite the huge demands on her time that resulted from her being a full-time member of Reading FC's first team squad in the Championship League. She is now playing in the USA having been awarded a Sports Scholarship by Texas Tech University.

In addition to these, Niroop Adapa, Marcus Barratt, Joseph Cogan, Harry Critchlow, Mohammad Latif, Benny Maddern, Matthew McCall, Lucy Miskell, Mea Thomson, Joseph Trigwell, Zoe Weiss and William Worster all achieved Grade A or Grade A* in one or more modules in one or more of the department's three subjects.

Top grades were also achieved by the following:

Sienna Harding – Grade A in Law
Joseph Legerton – Grade A in Politics
Emma Marshall – Grade A in Law
Emma Merry – Grade A in Law
Dan Petrov – Grade A in Politics
Grace Radnedge – Grade A in Law
Isaac Rincon – Grade A in Law
Lily Sabha – Grade A in Law
Abbie Stewart – Grade A in Law

congratulations

**By Mr S Pugsley -
Head of Department**





INSPIRING VISITORS IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT

We welcomed Kirsty from Bright Horizons Nurseries who spoke to our Year 12 s and Year 11s about opportunities in nurseries or as a nanny in the 6 different countries that Bright Horizon have nurseries in. She spoke to us about possible careers and progression within a nursery and gave us lots of ideas of how to get involved at placement and build a portfolio showcasing what we do.

Kirsty is second from the right and holding a toy that each Bright Horizon Nursery uses to teach about Health and Safety alongside Destiny Hughes, Ruby Underwood and Ami-Mia Tilbury.

Ruby said, *"It was a great talk. Kirsty was very informative and we picked up some good tips and advice such as CV writing and how to get additional training to work with SEN children."*

By Mrs N Pendlebury



Exploring the World of 3D Modelling and 3D Printing in Design and Technology

This term, Year 10 and Year 12 students have been delving into the fascinating world of 3D modelling and 3D printing as part of their Design and Technology curriculum.

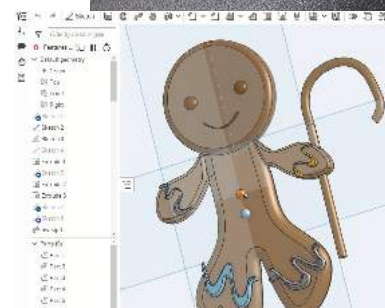
These innovative technologies are reshaping the way products are designed and manufactured, and our students are gaining hands-on experience in this cutting-edge field.

The focus has been on learning the basics of 3D modelling software, OnShape, where students have been introduced to everything from simple geometric shapes to more intricate, functional models. The aim has been to understand how digital designs can be translated into real-world objects, which they will see firsthand when their creations are printed using the school's 3D printers. Christmas decorations was the theme adopted by most students as they produced a keepsake to put on display year on year.

This exploration of 3D modelling and 3D printing not only enhances technical skills but also encourages problem-solving, creativity, and teamwork. By mastering these tools, students are gaining valuable skills that are increasingly relevant in the modern world of design, engineering, and technology.

By Mr N Taylor

Head of Design & Technology



Gingerbread man decoration by Natalie Quinn Yr12 Product Design

Textiles students embraced their studies looking into Fashion through the 20th Century

Year 12 have had a very busy start to their A-level Fashion & Textiles course. We have studied fashion through the twentieth century, focusing on specific design movements and linking them with iconic fashion designers from each era. Students experimented with more than twenty different decorative techniques to showcase the visuals from each decade, and considered how these patterns, textures and colours could be implemented onto fashion products that would be seen today. Focus then shifted to technological

By Mrs C Clark

Head of Textiles





Above: Some examples of Year 12s work looking at Fashion through the ages

YEAR 11 STUDENTS ENJOY A TRIP TO THE THEATRE

On Wednesday 27th November the Drama Department took Year 11 Drama students to watch Dear Evan Hansen at the New Theatre Oxford. The musical follows Evan Hansen a high school student, who becomes entangled in a web of lies after the death of a classmate. Evan finds himself at the centre of a wave of sympathy and attention, when letters Evan writes to himself are mistaken as the final letter of a deceased classmate.

The Grammy award winning show grabbed the attention of Year 11 as soon as the curtain lifted. The use of multimedia and technology wowed them, allowing them to appreciate how media and live theatre can complement each other - which is going to support them as they prepare for their written exam in the summer.

It was a pleasure running this theatre visit - the students were so well behaved with members of the public commenting on their outstanding behaviour. The show entertained us with the famous musical numbers 'Waving Through the Window' and Mr Ross's favourite 'You Will be Found.'

Our journey home topped the visit off perfectly, with the students singing all the classic Christmas hits under the decorated coach's fairy lights.

By Mrs D Chener -Head of Drama



A LIVE CHAT ON MARLOW FM

It was great to be asked to go to Marlow FM to talk about the Hidden Gem awards but more importantly to promote the Christmas School Production.

I took two students with me, Leo Brown who played Aladdin and Ralph Hill who played Widow Twanky. Both students looked forward to going to the Wednesday Breakfast show with Jonny Ratner. They both talked very fluently and were very passionate about the production and the Drama Department. Jonny commented on how well they spoke. We also managed to get a couple of fun comments about Mrs Chener in, which always cheers me up.

Marlow FM continued to mention the pantomime and helped tremendously with the promotion of it. What impressed me the most was the way the students were treated with respect and Jonny made them feel part of the show.

Not soon after the show we completely sold out of tickets. I also know a lot of the cast were listening to the broadcast which shows how keen they all are about the production.

By Mr S Ross

WOW - ALADDIN THE PANTOMIME EXCEEDS ALL EXPECTATIONS!

The Christmas production always starts with sourcing a script in June / July. Then in the summer holidays editing and checking that we as a team are happy with the script and then plan auditions, rehearsal dates and show week rehearsals.

Then in early September we hold open auditions. This year over 100 students auditioned. Eventually we had a cast of 81 who agreed to be in the show.

The hard work for the students then begins. The hours of line, learning the after-school rehearsals, half term rehearsal and a Saturday all day rehearsals.

Whilst the staff alongside other departments start on the costumes, props scenery. Alongside this the expert promotion begins (as good as anything I have seen). As well as adapting the script and the break times when we ask some student to attend. It is always a pleasure when they come and put in extra work without us asking. We also need to appreciate the sacrifices the parent/ carers make to ensure the children can attend the rehearsals.

We then started selling tickets for the show. We were blown away SOLD OUT in two weeks (a record). I am especially thrilled that the wider school community is coming to watch the productions, and this means the student playing to a varied audience.

The show itself was played to 270 very noisy and wonderful primary school students who booed and cheered and joined in the singing. It is always lovely to see this performance. Then to the evening performances.

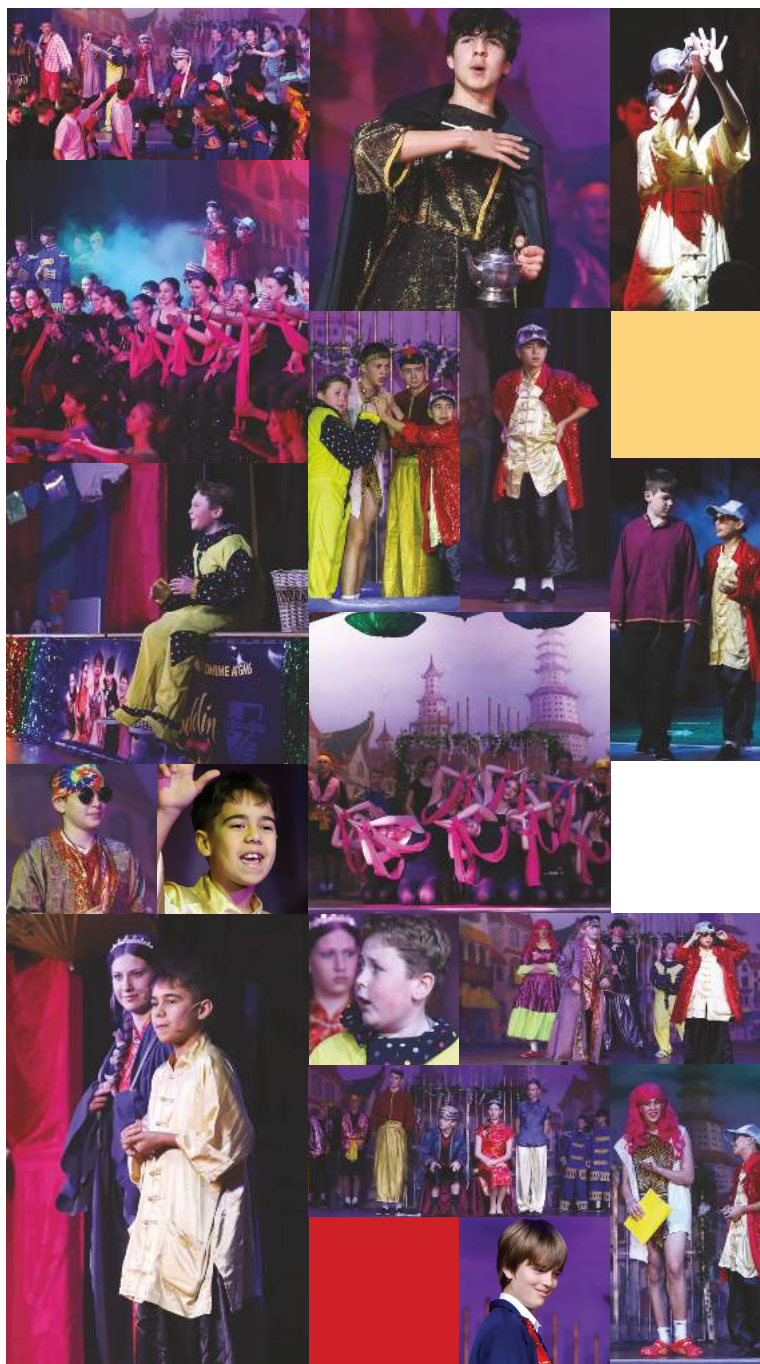
The cast were amazing and the many, many positive comments from the audience were lovely to hear and as I have said this is not just from parent and carers of the cast but from varied sources.

I hope every student and staff member involved in some way will treasure the memories of a wonderful production.

Have a Great Christmas

Mr Ross, on behalf of all the Drama Production Team.

Photos of Aladdin are available to view on the website



The Voices of the GMS Cast

Isabella Grafham

I have really enjoyed the show, and it has been a great experience. I have met so many lovely people and it was an amazing performance!

Leo Brown

Without a doubt, this has been the best show I have performed, and I am definitely going to come back. The vibes and the feeling are just the best!!!

Flynn Hatfield

Playing Wishee Washee has been one of the best experiences of my life. I've made so many friends in so many different year groups, and the directors have taught me so much.

Lily Powell

I am so happy I was able to play the role of the princess not only was the show amazing but to have the opportunity work with

great teachers and students from all age groups is something I will never forget!!

Tilly Milner

This was my first pantomime at Great Marlow, but I don't think I'll ever do one as good as Aladdin it was so enjoyable and so funny, I love being a part of it and my family loved watching. It was such a fun and great experience can't wait to see what they do next year!!

Oscar Johnson

Playing the genie was so much fun and one of the best theatre experiences of my life. No other show at Great Marlow will ever be better than Aladdin and that is thanks to Mr Ross, the cast, tech, and everyone else involved.

Piper Holliday

I loved doing Aladdin it was really fun. This was my first school play at Great Marlow School I'm definitely going to do more shows in the future. It was really great working with the cast, Mr Ross and tech.

Noah Codron

Being part of a pantomime was by far the most rewarding experience as all the boos from the audience built to it and it just suited me so well.

Kayla Dow

This show was definitely one of the best shows to perform in everyone was so nice and the energy that the cast created was just an amazing feeling I will never forget it!

Jude Collin

I loved, loved loved! This pantomime as I've never had a show I've done quite as good as this one and it is so fun to make people cheer, boo and laugh. I always felt a great blast of happiness after coming off stage from a scene and it was thanks to all the teachers there helping us along the way. A huge thank you to the Great Marlow School drama department and I am really looking forward to doing more of your shows in the future!

Diya Thapar

This show was one of my favourite ones so far and it was a wonderful experience! I will never forget!

Celtie Bater

I always have so much fun when doing shows at Great Marlow School. They are so much fun with an amazing cast and all the teachers involved are so fun and kind. It is such an amazing opportunity for us at Great Marlow.

Thomas Farrow

Absolutely loved doing the show definitely won't be my last.

Willow Andrews

It was such a buzz at the end of the show. I'm doing it again 100% I love the shows the school put on every year it's just so fun to be a part of

Paul Hawkins

Even being involved in the tech for this show has been amazing, and from a third person perspective, I think this show has been the best that I've been involved in. A big thank you to everyone involved for making it as good as it was!

Grace O'Sullivan

This show has been an incredible experience and won't be my last! It's an experience I will always remember!

BEHIND THE SCENES FOR ALADDIN



Designing the set, making or sourcing props and organising costumes is no easy task but one that is a crucial part of bringing the show to life. Mr Ross had a vision, and I believe (hope!) we helped bring the vision to the audience.

"I absolutely love being backstage with the cast. Seeing new friendships form, watching them cheer each other on and congratulate one another as they exit the stage, is just so special. In the last 6 years, I have never watched one of our productions as I'm always in the wings, but there is something so heart-warming about watching from the sidelines. This year we have had some lovely memories of singing and dancing along in the wings and water fights (mostly Aladdin squirting everyone else!!) I will miss this lovely bunch of young talented students, enjoy your Christmas break and no more Mrs Sharp reminders about looking after your own props, not touching each others' props, putting props in the correct place for the next scene and being quiet when waiting in the wings! You are all amazing!" - Mrs Sharp

Some more comments from the backstage team...

"The energy and excitement from the cast backstage was as fulfilling as the performance on stage. To see new friendships formed, the confidence in every student blossom and the support and care they showed towards each other, demonstrated the coming together of a very special cast. A real team spirit and buzz backstage!" - Mrs L Brazier

"Working backstage during the school production is one of the highlights of the whole project. It is where you get to see all the hard work and dedication pay off. I just love watching the students show you everything they have accomplished over the last few months. Thank you Aladdin cast for the fun memories! Now enjoy your well deserved break." - Mrs D Chenery

"I love being backstage with the children, they always make me so proud. The funniest thing is when we had a water fight backstage with the water pistols, you never know where the water would come from.

I am absolutely shattered by the end of the night, but my goodness my heart is so full of pride. Watching the children all encourage and support each other, even when they may not have known each other before the show. The shows always bring us together as one" - Mrs Black

Drama ...AND THE AUDIENCE WERE PRETTY HAPPY TOO!

Hi Stuart,

Thank you so much for inviting us to watch Aladdin!

It was an amazing performance and all of the children from Years 5 and 6 really enjoyed watching it!

Well done to you and your team for putting on such a great show. There's always so much work that goes into productions like this so a big thank you to you all.

Wishing you a very merry Christmas!

Burford Year 5 and 6 teachers

Hi Mr Ross

Just a note to say congratulations on a fantastic production of Aladdin! So many talented performers and so much love in the room. I am a GMS parent and although none of my kids were in it, a number of their friends were so we loved seeing them. It's such an amazing showcase for the school, my daughter will be joining in September and she feels even more excited about coming having been at the show last night.

Dear Mr. Ross

I was absolutely delighted by the "Aladdin" performance at school. Such a fantastic production! The humour brought a refreshing twist to the classic story, and the students' incredible performances paired with the high level of professionalism from you and your team truly made it special. My girls, though a bit tired by the end, were captivated throughout – singing and even dancing along with great enthusiasm.

Thank you so much for the tickets, the unforgettable experience and the example for my daughter and her friend!

Have a nice Friday and wonderful weekend.

Hi Mr Ross

We came to see Aladdin last night and cannot believe how amazing both the production and the students were, it was as good as any of the professional panto's we've been to, and we go to Windsor every year.

Huge credit to you and the drama team for all your work and to the students for being absolutely brilliant!! I know my daughter loved every moment.

Nearly the end of term and work (yay!), wishing you and your team all the best for Christmas and enjoy your well deserved time off.

Dear Stuart,

Thank you so much for inviting my youngest daughter's school - Burford, the children and the adults had a total blast, you give the Swan people a run for their money!!!. I have feed back to the FoGMS committee the amazing job you all did and how great the backdrop and the smoke and lights machines are, but they will soon see this for themselves.

What a great play you have put together, congratulations to everyone involved!. Being Spanish I love the panto concept and cleverness, the humour and puns, and this one is one of the best ones I have seen! it was an absolute pleasure to be there, so much fun and a great memory so thank you very much! Best of luck for the remaining performances and afterwards hope you all celebrate the outstanding success.

English Year 11 English trip to see An Inspector Calls

Last Thursday 28th November, we took over 80 Year 11 students to see a fantastic production of An Inspector Calls. This is one of the GCSE set texts that they are studying for English Literature and was an excellent chance to see the iconic award-winning production of the 1945 play.

The students had some interesting insights following the performance and there were some animated debates on best performances by actors and best bits from the play. For anyone familiar with the play, you may be aware of the Inspector's cutting line to Mr Birling when he states 'I don't play golf'. The dry delivery of this line elicited an impromptu applause from the audience and was a great example of how engaging the performance was.

As ever, our students conducted themselves exceptionally well and impressed the teachers present with their maturity and engagement with the play. For some, this was the first time that they'd seen a 'proper' play performed in a reputed theatre and I hope that they really enjoyed the experience!

Finally, I'd like to say a big thank you to the members of staff that accompanied us on the trip: Mrs Sadd, Mrs Legerton, Mrs Houston, Mrs Burge and Mrs Ben Haj Ali - thank you!

By Mr S Taylor

English Library Lessons

Year 7 and 8 have enjoyed their first term of lessons in the library with Mrs Ben Haj Ali where they have all been learning all about which different genres we offer in the library and widening their reading choices. They especially loved the 'Genre Treasure Hunt' lesson getting to know where all the different genres of books we have are to be found.

Next term, Year 8 will be learning how to construct short stories whilst Year 7 will be looking at story settings and structure.

If you haven't already followed our Instagram page to keep up to date with all the goings on at Great Marlow School Library, please do so on #greatmarlowschoollibrary

Wishing all of our students a Happy Christmas (and happy reading!)

By Mrs Ben Haj Ali



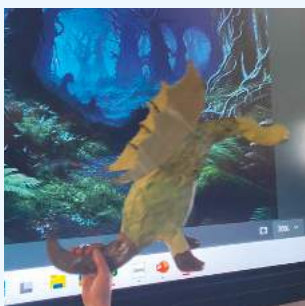
Amelie Shah



The overall winners



Sophie Easter and Jaxon Jones



Alessandra Gonzales



Emilia Rule and Gladys Sanchez

TALENT SHINES THROUGH IN YEAR 7

Year 7H1 took part in a competition to bake a cake or make a model/stop motion that expresses a theme based on either 'The Lord Neptune' or 'Jabberwocky' poems.

The results exceeded our expectations and 7H1 deserve special recognition for all their hard work and efforts.

By Mrs K Houston

Lead Practitioner - English

KEY STAGE 3 BOOK CLUB

Mrs Ben Haj Ali and Mrs Legerton have been delighted see some familiar faces returning from the club last year and also welcome many new members to our 'Key Stage 3 Book Club' this term. This takes place every Wednesday during break 2 in classroom E2 and is open to Years 7 and 8.

We have had so much fun with all the different activities including book recommendations, making bookmarks, making up our own stories, mindful colouring and lots of different styles of quizzes including Kahoot, anagrams and wordsearches.

We wish all of our club members a very Happy Christmas, and we look forward to see you again in the New Year to hear all about your holiday reading !

Mrs L Ben Haj Ali & Mrs C Legerton



Parents' and Carers Book Club

If you love reading or want some inspiration and lively book discussion, then the GMS Book Club is for you!

All parents and carers are invited to come along – we meet once a month at 7pm.

Since September the club has read The House of the Spirits by Isabel Allende and A Thousand Boy Kisses by Tillie Cole. These

very different novels were suggested by members of the group and give an idea of how diverse our reading choices are. It is a fantastic way to connect with the school and meet new people.

You would be very welcome to get involved in January 2025 – there are two books which we are currently reading: Fool me Once by Harlan Coben and Go as a River by Shelley Read.

By Mrs C Legerton and Mrs L Ben Haj Ali

YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

On Friday the 4th of October, the geography department, and the year 11 GCSE geography students travelled to Swanage. Here we studied fieldwork skills for our paper 3 exam.

We arrived early at Great Marlow and caught two coaches- headed south to our destination. After a long 3-hour journey- we had arrived. Once off the coach we split into class groups and tested different techniques and fieldwork skills. My group- with Miss Ashby- started on Swanage Beach and tested longshore drift, pebble classification and the landscape gradient. Longshore drift was tested by throwing an apple far into the sea- we then set a timer for 5 minutes and watched how far the apples travelled. After finishing all 3 fieldwork techniques we investigated on the beach- we walked the lovely journey



up the cliff; this was a two hour walk up and along the beautiful coastline of Swanage Bay. At the top of the cliff, we were able to overlook Swanage town and draw a landmark sketch of the towns building, groynes on the beach and the pier stretching out to the sea. We also saw Old Harry's Rock (an example of a crack, cave, arch, stack, stump) that we used for evidence of coastal processes for our Swanage Bay case study.

We continued to walk down the cliff and around the headland and continued to the next bay, where we found our coaches and left Swanage after an amazing trip. Overall, it was a great day- that was very informative to all the GCSE students preparing for the paper 3 fieldwork exam- yet was

exciting and interactive. Swanage was beautiful, and all of year 11 learnt a lot from the trip.

By Bea Radnedge, Orla Guinness, Natasha Pendlebury and Lucy Platt

Year 13 Yorkshire trip- Crandale centre

After 6 hours on a coach, accompanied by 3 geography teachers (Miss Miles, Miss Coates and Miss Ashby) and Mr Bradley (an English teacher who tried his best to fit in with the GMS Geog Squad Seniors) we made it to the Crandale centre. When we arrived and had a guided tour of the facilities we would be staying in. After our tour we piled into the minibuses and went off to the coast! We had the chance to walk through caves and arches and next to stacks and stumps, developing our knowledge of coastal landforms and erosional processes. With a special appearance from the infamous flambasaurus-rex, we were off to a great start on our four-day trip!



time to explore the town, including the arcades and the tourist shops. All the knowledge from Scarborough was assisted by our learning of the changing spaces, making places content from Year 12.

On Sunday we compared an area of forest to an area of fields, measuring soil moisture, plant density, ground temperatures and carbon in the tree which is linked to the water and carbon cycle unit. We also measured the stream flow and the width of the river at three different locations at the river. We enjoyed our lunch between some Bridestones. We saw many animals, including a lizard!

On Monday we were given a mystery bucket which contained 4 different pieces of geographical equipment and tasked to create our own mini-NEA. We applied all the techniques we had learnt over the course of our stay to complete this. We explored the local village Kirby-Grindalythe, and gathered our own data, and then we headed back to the centre to analyse this using statistical tests.

Before loading back onto the coach and beginning our very long journey



On Saturday after a well needed sleep, and a full range of breakfast choices, we headed into Scarborough to assess deprivation, coastal tourism, and rebranding. We trekked through the town taking notes on the cuisine, taking readings on a place wheel, and we created a word picture for several different locations of what we could see, smell and how the atmosphere felt towards us. We all had plenty of independent



home a very serious conservation needed to happen with the #geogsquadsenior members. This was to decide if Mr Bradley could become a GMS Geog Squad member. After a very intense questioning and a panel of Geog squad members, it was decided Mr Bradley could become a Geog squad member and he would receive a certificate for all his outstanding knowledge (2 months later and Mr Bradley still hasn't received it). One has to question, does he really have what it takes to be a fully-fledged Geog Squad member?!

By Scarlett Lee and Lucy Pease



Want to hear more news from the Geography department? Follow us on Instagram @gmsgeogsquad. This year already we have seen group work, new workbook deliveries, 2 field trips and lots of impressive work from across the year groups. Use the QR code below to follow us and catch up on all the latest news.

YEAR 13 HAD A GREAT DAY EXPLORING HAMPTON COURT PALACE AND GROUNDS

The Year 13 A-level History students visited Hampton Court Palace as part of their early modern studies. We spent the day exploring the palace grounds and how it became the seat of power during Henry VIII’s reign. In the morning, we had an expert led session on the mid-Tudor Crisis using the palace as a historical source. The students got fully involved in the session and they used the architecture and sources to greatly contribute to the group discussion.

Whilst at the palace we observed Wolsey’s desire to show off his classical knowledge and cultural sophistication with the palace exterior which is adorned with Roman emperors. We saw how the palace is really divided into two halves, Tudor and Georgian. The latter being built in the image of the Palace of Versailles. We learnt the origin of the word eavesdropper through some rather creepy faces hidden in the ceiling of the Great Hall and how the court functioned whilst at the palace. We also found out that despite Jayne Seymour dying at Hampton Court Palace after the birth of Edward VI and her body being buried at Windsor, her heart remains in the chapel at Hampton Court.

Aside from our examination of the palace as a historical source, the students were also interested to learn what parts of the palace had been used in recent films and TV programmes. Unfortunately, there was not time to tackle Hampton Court’s historic maze, but we enjoyed the unexpected sunshine and had a lovely day, walking in the footsteps of some of England’s most famous monarchs. The day served as a reminder that all that separates us from the past is time and not space.

By Mrs S Bullock



congratulations

Name	Award
Arran Bligh	Gold Highest score in Y13 Highest score in school
Chloe Shepard	Silver Best score in Year 12
Sadie Huddleston	Bronze
Kris Jinobi	Bronze
Bryn Crampsie	Bronze

Name	Award
Alistair Wright	Bronze Best score in Y11
Matilda Johnson	Bronze
Brodie Kennedy	Bronze
Charlotte Miles-Griffiths	Bronze
Daisy Mitchell	Bronze
Grayson Nye	Bronze

SMC Grade Boundaries 2024 (Max score: 125)49
Bronze; 66 Silver; 83 Gold

This terms Senior Maths Challenge had 30 students involved. Students work independently and opt in to the challenge.

Although the challenge is designed for Yr 12 and Year 13 students studying Maths at A-level we also make this available to students who had achieved a high score earlier in the year from the Intermediate Maths Challenge.

Awards are given to the top scoring 66%

Gold: Top 11% of UK entries

Silver: 22% of UK entries

Bronze: 33% of UK entries

Special recognition goes to Aaran Bligh Y13 and Chloe Shepard who also challenged themselves with the next round (Andrew Jobbings Kangaroo) receiving a Merit and Certificate of qualification respectively.

The Merit award is only received by the top 25% of entries in the UK. An amazing achievement by Aaran and the first student to achieve this at Great Marlow.

Well done to all the entrants for their hard work and resilience.

By Mrs A Bansal

OUR MUSIC DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN MAKING A NOISE AT GMS

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

We have had a full calendar of events in the build-up to Christmas including performing at 'Late Night Shopping' in Marlow, a carol concert at All Saints Church and our own GMS Xmas concert among many other events.

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

LATE NIGHT SHOPPING

On Thursday 5 December, two of the Rock and Pop bands kicked off Late Night Shopping in Marlow with two fantastic playlists. Opening the performances were Grace H, Grace P, Amelie, Rosanna, Ollie and Paul. The band performed superbly, with a large crowd singing and cheering for each song. Following the first band were Hugo, Elia and Paul, who refused to let the awful weather dampen the shoppers' Christmas spirits. Following another fantastic performance, the band eagerly reflected on their "best set yet!". For many of the students, this was their first community event and performance, and they really excelled.

Congratulations to all students involved.

AN OARSOME CAROL CONCERT

The Love Rowing Christmas concert fundraiser, held at All Saints church on Saturday 30th November was an oarsome success. It was great fun, I enjoyed every single second of it, and it was a privilege to be part of such an event. There were Christmas carols, interviews, reading and performances. It was an honour to perform in front of Olympians. It was very nice to hear Olympians speak openly about the Love Rowing charity and just generally about their pasts, overall, a brilliant concert put together by Mr Williams, a music teacher at Great Marlow School.

By Miles Berry

DO YOU WANT TO JOIN US?

The year 7 choir club is great for all young singers, the club is on a Wednesday and starts at 8:30 during tutor time. Mr Williams runs the club in E5, the songs we sing are amazing and if you sing it nicely all your worries go away. We do many concerts and carol services and we recommend the club to everyone who loves music. We'd love it if you join us in our magical music adventure.

By Lailah Hyde -McKay Yr 7



A NIGHT OF FESTIVE HARMONIES AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH IN MARLOW

The historic walls of All Saints Church resonated with festive cheer as our music department held its inaugural Carol Service. The event, a heartwarming display of talent and tradition, featured performances by our Choirs and Brass Band, delighting an audience of family, friends, and community members.

The concert opened with timeless carols, including the soul-stirring "Joy to the World" and the medieval charm of "Gaudete". Our Year 7 Choir, Chamber Choir, and Show Choirs each brought a unique touch to these beloved pieces, weaving together a tapestry of harmonious voices and heartfelt melodies and stunning solos from Miles Berry, Leo Brown, and Grace Puddephatt.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, readings from staff and students provided reflective moments that beautifully complemented the musical performances.



These readings offered a reminder of the season's spirit, fostering a sense of community and togetherness.

Thanks go to All Saints church for letting us hold this event in their lovely atmospheric church.

By Mr O Kidd

Head of Music



THE CAROL SERVICE AT THE LANTERN CHURCH

"On Sunday 15th December, the GMS brass band teamed up with the Lantern Church, Marlow Bottom, to lead the Carol Service. The band performed a series of carols accompanied by the voices of the congregation between stories from three brilliant volunteers playing Mary, The innkeeper's wife and many other characters sharing the narrative of Christmas. Attended by many residents of Marlow Bottom and Marlow, it was a greatly enjoyed evening. I personally enjoyed the joyful atmosphere."

by Hugo Bester



THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

"I'm Paul Hawkins, a drummer in the Christmas Concert, and I would like to start by saying that the Christmas Concert was amazing. I think it was by far the best one we've done, and the one I enjoyed most. Firstly, we moved from the Sixth Form Centre to the Hall, to cater for our largest audience yet. As a drummer, this was also a relief, as there was a lot more stage space! The use of sound and lights throughout the concert was perfect, as it made the concert feel more professional and interactive with the audience. My favourite part was when everyone was singing 'Stand by Me' with our band because it really felt like the audience was there with us."

What a show!

By Paul Hawkins

DO YOU WANT TO JOIN OUR KS3 SCIENCE CLUB?

Science club continues to run every Monday 3-3.45pm in S13 with KS3 students answering life's VERY important questions such as; How do hot air balloons work if they don't have an engine? How do fireworks produce such amazing colours? Why is it so hard to get ketchup out of the bottle on to your chips?



The Science department has enjoyed the first term of this academic year, welcoming our budding new scientists in Year 7 and challenging our existing ones through the GCSE course and beyond.

We continue to deliver practical and theory lessons with all years and enjoy exploring the students' curiosity for the subject and seeing them grow in confidence each day.

This term has seen many practical opportunities.

- Heart dissection,
- Properties of electrical circuits,
- Properties of waves travelling in a medium,
- Burning Magnesium
- Combustion
- Density
- Distillation
- Food tests
- Endothermic/exothermic reactions,
- Van der Graaff (static charge!)
- Hooke's law
- Reaction time
- Making parachutes
- Daphnia heart rate & temperature (A-level Biology),
- Making Esters (A-level Chemistry)
- Internal resistance and EMF (A-level Physics)
- And many, many more!

We truly appreciate the generosity of financial support shown by the parent and carer community recently that will aid us in continuing to offer a plethora of investigations with all year groups – Thank you all!

Science Competitions

The beginning of the year saw the students participating in the Jeans 4 Genes scavenger hunt launched and implemented by the Science Department.

The first-place winners were;

- Niyya (7H3)
- Hugo (10K3)
- Bryn (13K2)

Our current competitions are;

Year 7 Cell Models competition – A chance to get creative!

All year 7 students are tasked with designing and building a model to represent all the parts of a plant or animal cell that they are learning about this term.

They must submit to their science teacher by Monday 16th December to be in with the chance to win – All details shared in assembly, science lessons and via email home.

HOUSE COMPETITION CELL MODELS

Who? All Year 7 students

How? Build a model of your own design and submit to your Science teacher

Deadline? Monday 16th December

Prizes?
1st place: 15 Achievement Points
2nd place: 10 Achievement Points
3rd place: 5 Achievement Points




REMEMBER: END OF YEAR AWARD FOR HOUSE WITH THE MOST POINTS!

Your model must:

- Show creativity and resourcefulness
- Have labels for each part of the cell
- Include all correct parts for your type of cell (animal OR plant cell)

Cell membrane
Cell wall
Chloroplast
Cytoplasm
Mitochondria
Nucleus
Permanent Vacuole

IDEAS:

Year 9 STEM Poster competition – A chance to win a place on a Science Museum trip!

An opportunity for all; Research a STEM career, create a poster in any way they prefer, submit to their science teacher by 19th December.

All entrants' names will go into a random draw for the limited spaces on a trip to the Science Museum in March 2025.

See email and poster sent to Parents and Carers of Year 9 for more information.

Keep an eye out for future competitions and opportunities!

By The Science Department



The first term of school is officially coming to an end and members of Eagles, Hawks and Kites have been battling it out to gain that all-important early advantage. We're proud to see so many students representing their houses in an abundance of competitions and in day-to-day school life.

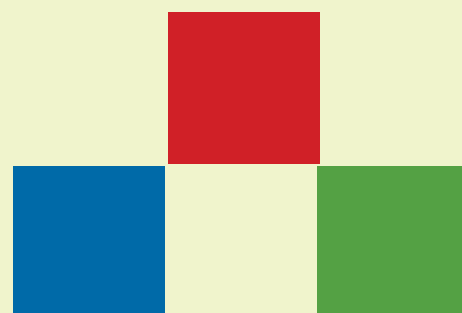
ART WORD OF THE WEEK COMPETITION

One key competition at the start of this year was the Art-inspired Word of the Week competition: where students had to create a piece of art inspired by the 'Words of the Week' they had been engaging with during form time this term. This contest saw a huge number of entries from all year groups, which made judging the top 3 unimaginably difficult. However, there must always be a winner in a competition and this competition saw Chloe Bowles from 9E1 claiming victory after a phenomenal piece based on empathy. Our runners up were Libby Wolstoncroft from 7K2 and Yuliana Yurychko from 11E2.

This competition saw a huge win for Eagles, who entered in great numbers and took two of the three top spots. Excellent work, Eagles.

By Mr A Bradbury

The vital early advantage is in the hands of Kites at the moment and, historically, they usually come out ahead at the early stages of the year and hold onto it with a tight grip. They certainly have the passion to win this year after last year: being pipped at the post on the last week by Eagles. However, could this be the year of Hawks? Can make their claim for victory this year? It's all to play for at the early stages with little separation between each house!



OVERALL RESULTS SO FAR

So far we have had achievement points earned through hard-work, excellent effort and strong determination to show the 7Rs in day-to-day school life, as well as through our competitions. Here are the standings so far:

1st: Kites 64683 points

2nd: Hawks 64425 points

3rd: Eagles 64282 points

LIBRARY CHRISTMAS QUIZ WILLY WONKA AND THE CHOLATE FACTORY

Our annual Christmas Library Quiz this year consisted of 15 questions based on the book 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. Our very own Mr Ross did his best impersonation of Mr Wonka complete with top hat and purple cloak, although he says he prefers the darker characters, it will be Scrooge perhaps next year!. There were bubbles, music and Wonka masks for all participants culminating in a Yr 7 team guessing fourteen correct answers. The importance of reading cannot be overstated but so often these days it is falling to the bottom of the list. It is when you go to a drama production or similar that stories can really come alive which is I hope something children never stop doing.

The Willy Wonka quiz had over 95 entries. The winning team was a Yr 7 Group - Jessica Jacobs, Sophia Richardson, Issy Leisk and Bo Harbour.

Many thanks to all who helped, Andrea for sweetie wrapping, Mrs Cadogan for the cloak, Mrs BHA for window decoration, Jenni for organization!

We have big plans next year with the introduction of an application called Beanstack which I hope will encourage students to read more, there will be further information about this in the new year.

We continue to try and create diversity and choice in the library with the expectation that students try to read two books a month, or one if it's very long!

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and find time to read if you can!

The GMS Library Team



"If you are missing a good read or not sure what to do over the Xmas period, the Marlow library in Institute Road is open and has lots of information and activities for you to get involved in."

MARLOW FM

Back at the end of July, Marlow FM were delighted to open our new studios here in the grounds of Great Marlow School with local celebrity Lorraine Kelly CBE 'cutting the ribbon' during the day and a VIP gathering offering tours of the new studios in the evening.

During August we started to broadcast all of our shows live from the new studios.

On the station's Wednesday morning breakfast show there is now a new 'Teacher Feature' with teachers and students from Great Marlow making regular appearances with Jonny Ratner and our very own Lisa BHA, who is also a presenter for Marlow FM. So far we have had Mr Ross along with Leo and Ralph talking about the Aladdin production, Mr Kidd telling us all about the GMS Festive Musical events this year, Miss Broadbent with Jamie, Charlotte and Charlie telling the listeners about the Young Enterprise stalls at the

Marlow Christmas Shopping event, and Mr Pightling giving us the low-down on the R.S. Department.

We are looking forward to welcoming more staff and students onto the show in the New Year as well as developing our relationship further with the school in particular with the music, media and drama departments.

By Mrs Ben Haj Ali

(Library Teacher / Marlow FM Revival! Show presenter)



I would like to congratulate the following students on an impressive set of progress grades:

Amy Apletree
Joseph Bryan
Esme Caldwell
Lily Charlesworth
Elliott Christiansen
Zach Cicchirillo
Amelia Cooper
Sophie Easter
Aiden Eustace
Lottie Fitzjohn
Lola Flint
Flynn Hatfield
Elise Hockney
Lailah Hyde-McKay
Ryan Hyseni
Jaxon Jones
George Le Couteur
Anabella Lyddon
Tilly Milner
Abigail Moggridge
Sameer Riaz
Olivia Ronan
Jess Rooney
Emilia Rule
Amelie Shah
Freddie Stanners
Brooke Thorn
Ruby Turner
Giulia Viarnaud
Willow Watt
Libby Wolstencroft
Charles Young

"Don't forget to look at our gallery on the website for more photos of GMS events"

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first term as Director of Learning of our brilliant Year 7 cohort, as we welcomed them to our school: they have settled in well to the daily routines of school life with enthusiasm and resilience. I have lost count of times staff have stopped me to praise certain classes or individuals over the last few months.

We are proud of the readiness demonstrated by such an overwhelming majority of the year group, to participate in wider school life and to give things a go. We have had over 200 students take part in an extracurricular club over the first term. We encourage the students to continue to seize the wealth of opportunities available to them in the New Year, as signposted by the weekly enrichment and sports bulletins. New faces are always welcome to attend any of the extracurricular activities we have on offer to our students. More recently, several of our Year 7s were involved in the school production of 'Aladdin' which involved hours of rehearsals, performing to local Primary Schools, their year group and finally families over two nights in early December. Well done to everyone involved!

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

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

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Miss Aylett-Livesley and the form tutors for their daily support of students in the first term and through the transition into Secondary School. I would also like to thank the whole Student Support team for the pastoral support they provide to the Year 7 cohort.

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

By Miss C Roberts

Director of Learning Year 7

Congratulations to 7H1 who were the only form to ALL wear Christmas jumpers on our Xmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children UK.



As we reach the Christmas period and the end of another calendar year, I would like to share how impressed I have been with the readiness and resilience demonstrated by the Year 8 cohort over the course of the Autumn term.

We have a strong tutor team who monitor uniform, achievement points and behaviour points and are the first point of contact with home alongside our excellent Student Support Officer, Miss Blanco-Rand. I am so grateful for the hard work and discretionary efforts of the year 8 pastoral team, in ensuring that the cohort's transition into Year 8 has been a positive and smooth process. The team continues to work closely with the SEN team, our Pupil Premium Coordinator Mrs Gifford and Heads of Department.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the important work of the Nurture Group, led by the wonderful Mrs Black and Mrs Samaras. This pilot scheme aims to provide a safe and supportive environment for students to develop positive relationships and self-esteem. The group runs three mornings a week and aims to set up select students for the day and week ahead. Feedback from students and parents from the first rotation has been overwhelmingly positive. A big thank you to Mrs Black and Mrs Samaras; your time, patience and care is so appreciated by the year 8 cohort. In addition, I would like to thank the wonderful Year 12 Sixth form mentors. The mentoring scheme launched in mid-November 2024 and feedback from students and parents has been overwhelmingly positive so far. I am excited to see the positive and sustained impact that the scheme will have on a number of Y8 students over the course of the academic year.

Parents and carers received the Year 8 progress reports on Friday 29th November. I hope that the progress reports have helped to facilitate useful discussions at home regarding student progress and possible areas for improvement. Year 8 tutors have set aside time in tutor time for reflection and in-depth progress report analysis considering individual student successes, areas for development and to identify common trends and patterns on their progress reports. 45 students in the year group will receive positive postcards from their tutor or Director of Learning, on account of an excellent first progress report of the academic year!

We wish all of our Year 8 students, their parents and carers and families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year! See you in 2025!

**By Miss A Miles
Director of Learning Year 8**

Well done to the following Year 8 students for a truly fabulous set of Autumn term progress reports; keep up the fantastic work!

Alima Hussain 8K1

Amira Ahmed 8E3

Ellie Gardner 8K2

Emma Hodson 8E3

Florence Hawkins 8K3

Isabella Rawlings 8H1

Levi Marcinkute 8K3

Maddie Jesky 8H1

Matilda Lorio 8E2

Max Goodchild 8H2

Mya Bhudia 8E2

Nicole Kluczynska 8E2

Rowan Messenger 8K3



Year 9 have had a very busy term. We went to Westfield shopping centre after school just before half term and the students were extremely well behaved and enjoyed spending their money, buying food and showing us their purchases.

Year 9 progress grades were issued and once again, we have seen some incredible progress especially with ATL. Many of our Year 9s received a postcard home commending them for their excellent report.

SPREADING SOME YEAR 9 FESTIVE CHEER

A special mention to Miss Miles' Geography class who shared this news about 9K2:

"Well done on another fabulous term in Geography! I am impressed with your sustained commitment to your learning"

In addition, other form tutors who have been impressed with their forms this Autumn Term;

Miss Moyes said her Year 9 classes have "embraced our portraiture project really well and shown resilience and effort continually! - well done to 9K3 and 9E2

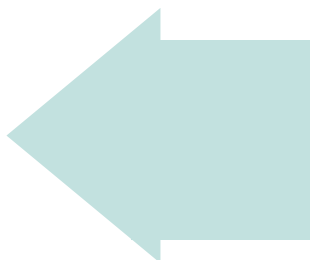
Mr Pightling said that 9E2 are a pleasure to teach and he would love them ALL to take GCSE RS!

Mr Ouedrago praised 9K2 and 9K1 for their great improvement in punctuality and behaviour.

Year 9, we are so proud of you and love the contribution you make to our school community: Aladdin, the sports teams and fixtures, your musical achievements, being kind to each other!

The last assembly of the term means giving out a tub of chocolates to the form with the most achievement points and a form with the highest attendance. At the moment, the scoreboard for achievement points look like this, but it could all change in the last week of term!

- **1st place- 9H1 (2199)**
- **2nd place- 9H2 (1597)**
- **3rd place- 9E2 (1571)**



Mrs Pendlebury and Mrs Flannery would like to wish all of our Year 9s and their families a happy and restful Christmas holidays and we look forward to welcoming you back in 2025!

**By Mrs N Pendlebury
Director of Learning Year 9**

The first Term of year 10 is always a challenging one for our students. They are expected to simultaneously manage the increased intensity of GCSE level study with the challenge of working in new classes, with students and teachers they may not have met before and in subjects that are new to them.

I have been overwhelmingly impressed with the readiness and resilience demonstrated by the Year 10 students in their first two Terms of Year 10. The conversations students are having about their studies and approach to school life in general reflect a level of maturity that I have not yet seen in them. There are, of course, challenges with beginning new GCSE courses and I have been pleased to hear feedback from class teachers on the steps your children have taken to overcome these.

You will have received your child's progress report on Friday 15th November. I hope that these helped facilitate fruitful discussions at home regarding their progress and possible areas for improvement. The Year 10 students are well used to setting and working towards targets following progress reports and it is vital for communication between you and your child's teachers to be open and regular. Please take the opportunity to request further feedback on your child if you have any concerns regarding their progress of focus in school.

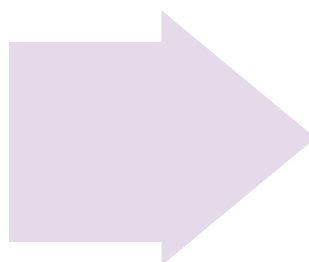
I want to mention the exceptional efforts of our Year 10 Young Enterprise teams. Miss Broadbent has launched Young Enterprise with a Year 10 cohort at GMS for the first time in several years. We have had sixth form teams over the past few years and this year, our Year 10s were afforded the opportunity. 26 of our students are currently engaged in the programme and have been extremely impressive in their dedicated approach to their new businesses. From pitching to Dragons, selling at Christmas markets and late-night shopping in Marlow, the students are really putting in the time to gain some excellent outcomes. Well done!



I'd also like to mention those students partaking in the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award. I had the pleasure to award over 60 bronze awards in September after the work last Summer Term. The students are now preparing for the more gruelling (and more rewarding!) silver award. I look forward to hearing about their progress from the DoFE team and wish the students every success throughout the year.

**I wish you all a relaxing break and a Merry Christmas to all that will be celebrating!
See you in the New Year**

**Mr S Taylor
Director of Learning for Y10**



My first term so far as Acting Director for Learning for Year 11 has been an overwhelmingly positive experience. I feel incredibly lucky to have taken over such a wonderful year group! The students have been proactive and resilient, taking responsibility for their Learning.

The first assembly of the year outlined the vision for the year which is for Year 11 students to 'Get the grade'. Many Year 11 students were surprised by the average grade to get onto their sixth form courses at GMS, a grade 7. Year 11 students have been encouraged to attend Sixth Form Open Evenings and College Open Days to ascertain where they would like to go and what to study in their future.

During the second week in September, Year 11 students have had access to the Sixth Form Centre for study after school every day. This has been an incredible success. Regularly, we have seen upwards of 30 students taking responsibility for their learning in using the Sixth Form Centre each day after school. I am reliably informed by Mr Pendlebury, that this is the biggest take-up by Year 11 students over the years it has been available. I am incredibly proud of our Year 11s for this!

Each fortnight, Year 11 students have been nominated by their tutors for student of the fortnight. This has been for a variety of reasons: sporting activities, achievement points, progress grades, responsibility in learning to name but a few. Students are rewarded with five Director of Learning achievement points, a postcard, and a sweet treat!

Year 11 careers interviews are in full swing, with Mrs Brunt advising students on their career aspirations and how best to achieve this. Mrs Brunt also delivered a careers assembly to year 11 students which focused on paths students could take after year 11 and where to source careers information.

On Thursday 14th November, Year 11 students took part in a mock interview day. The feedback from the students, staff, and interviewers involved was incredibly positive. The year 11 students reported that this was a valuable learning experience and that they enjoyed the day. Credit must be given to Mrs Brunt, our careers lead, who organised the event, and thanks to the parents/companies who were involved in making this event a huge success.

On Tuesday 26th November, an external company, Elevate, came in to run a revision and motivational workshop for our Year 11 students. The students engaged with this well and hopefully feel motivated to start revising for their mock/terminal exams if they have not begun already!

RSHE this term so far has covered careers and many aspects of revision. Students have been building their CVs and developed their understanding of how to revise. To compliment this, Mr Hollyman delivered an assembly on revision which focused on how to get started, and how to create the right environment for revision.

I very much look forward to continuing to lead Year 11 towards their terminal GCSE examinations and wish them every success in their upcoming mock exams taking place from 14th January – 3rd February 2025.

I wish all Year 11 Parents/Carers, Students, and Teachers a restful Christmas break

By Mrs V Bennett

Acting Director of Learning Year 11



The Sixth Form team are delighted to report on another successful (and busy!) Autumn term. We started back in September, welcoming our new Year 12 cohort of 117 students. They have settled quickly into GMS, aided by our Senior Prefect team and Year 13 cohort, which numbers 126. The Year 12s have settled extremely well into their studies, benefitting from supervised study periods and having a dedicated library and silent study space, the students are achieving excellent results. In the first set of progress grades issues, Miss Jones was delighted in sending home 28 praise postcards, celebrating students who had an excellent attitude to learning in every one of their subjects. Congratulatory posters can also be seen around our Sixth Form Centre, but we also wanted to congratulate the students below:

Zach De Beer	Olivia Zazzara
Khadijah Dean	Bonnie Francis-Kelly
Louis Gilmore	Amelia Giles
Laia Garcia Calero	Hugo Hunter
Sophie Terrett	Chloe Lee
Elise Whyte	Lottie Shaw
Angel Brooks	Izzie Bevins
Ellen Browne	Chloe Shepard
Sophie Harris	Ollie Webb
Olivia Hawksworth	Chloe Wilson
Poppy Hudson	Bilal Hussain
Destiny Hughes	Iris Duncan
Peter Rycroft	Ruby Underwood
Adam Sinden	Ami-Mia Tilbury

Conrad Bains	Nicole Borkowska
Arran Bligh	Joe Burke
Charlotte Greening	Charlottle Haddock
Amelia Horan	Emily Hughes
Aminah Ibrah	Emma Lumley
Ella Martin	Anouk Oldham Wood
Theo Papaioannou	Shelley Paternoster
Manal Qadeer	Kristin Rasmussen
Aparna Sharma	George Spencer
Rebecca Tinnelly	Talia Williams
Ellie Weedon	

Above: For excellent ATL in every subject

Sammy Hardy	E1	Finley Connolly	K1
Cassidy Dunn		Charlotte Haddock	
Nellie Mason		Kristin Rasmussen	
Jessica Rhodes		Ansty Van Romburgh	
Callum Booth	E2	Sophie Apletree	K2
Isaac Burgess		Aislin Fitzjohn	
Ethan Hunt		Tia Horner	
Lucas Gray	H1	Isabella Jedras	
Talia Williams		Oliver Pitt	
Oliver Bassett	H2	Aparna Sharma	
Harmony Black			
Finley Jackson-Lewis			
Zahab Jahagir			
George Spencer			

Above: For being above/on target in every subject

YOUNG ENTERPRISE

A fantastic start can also be seen in the creation of the Year 12 Young Enterprise group. Back in September, the whole of Year 12 were given a talk by Jackie Keeley, from Young Enterprise Organisation detailing the benefits of being a part of this group. Year 12 were also given a talk by Barry Russell on preparing themselves for driving. This informative talk focused on up-to-date information and top tips in navigating this next phase of their lives.

SPORTS LEADERS

A fabulous 38 students are currently undertaking the Sports Leaders award, seeing them support and run PE sessions with the younger years. This qualification not only leads to supplementary UCAS points, but also offers them the opportunity, once passed, to coach small groups of young children in a sporting club.

GREAT START TO YEAR 13

The Year 13s have equally made an excellent start to this important year. On the 21st October, the cohort received their first set of progress grades for year 13. It was pleasing to be able to send home praise postcards to 21 students who had achieved excellent ATL in every subject and 24 students who were on or above their aspirational target in every subject. Headteacher's awards were also presented to the 5 students who achieved both excellent ATL and above/on target - a fantastic achievement. We would also like to recognise their achievements here:

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

On the 7th November the school held its Sixth Form Open evening. The senior prefect team organised attendance for the night by creating their own WhatsApp group and assigning roles. Arran and Ansty, our Head prefects, spoke of the pride they have for our school and also their next steps. Many parents commented positively and it was pleasing to see students from over 17 local schools. Thank you to our Senior Prefect Team for all their help and dedication on this successful night. Our SPT has also chaired our Year Group Council meetings to further develop student voice and have continued to work in partnership with Marlow Rotary Club in order to develop our charity work youth group, Interact.

CAREERS DAY IN ORAL HEALTH



On 12th November a group of Year 13 students interested in careers in oral health were fortunate enough to attend a careers day at a specialist facility at Wexham Park Hospital. The students were able to take part in

a practical experience which involved administering fillings into the teeth of practice dummies, as a taste of the training available to real dental practitioners. The visit was a great success with the students confirmed in their career choices and lots of information about making successful applications for these careers.

UCAS DEADLINES & MORE!

Students are currently juggling coursework, lesson demands and UCAS deadlines. We are delighted to celebrate that 101 students have registered via UCAS to apply to university. Many are already receiving offers from their chosen institutions. Both Arran Bligh and Bryn Campsie were successful in gaining interviews for Oxbridge and we wish them every success with this journey. Similarly, many other students are currently attending interviews with prestigious universities. We wish them the best of luck, too! The cohort has received support through assemblies, dedicated form time and through their Unifrog program to ensure each student is fully prepared for their next steps. To support this, when the students return from their Christmas break, they will undertake their Mock exams. Each student has already received their mock exam timetable through their form tutor. We wish all of them the best of luck! Revision will be well-underway, but Year 13s should be allowed a brief pause to assist with Christmas veg prep and to open some Christmas presents, not forgetting the washing up.

ABOVE & BEYOND IN THE SIXTH FORM

We are incredibly proud of all our students at Great Marlow School. Many students not only undertake their studies with us, but also dedicate their time to sport and music to a high level. Congratulations to the following students. We are so incredibly proud of your achievements, as well as your time management skills:

Tom Hubscher 13H2 - Gold DofE Award. A phenomenal achievement!



"I did my expedition in the Peak District where I spent 7 nights, 3 of which were for my practice and the other 4 were my assessed expedition.

For my residential, I spent 5 days at a scout camp where my job was to help with various activities to make the camp

as enjoyable as possible for the beavers, cubs, and scouts.

For my other 3 sections, I undertook Football, Piano, and football coaching, which I did for volunteering. It took lots of hard work, but it has also taught me so many new skills and has given me new friends for life. It's something I will never forget."



Tom Hubscher 13H2 - British Airways Student Ambassador

"This means that I go to various schools around the South of the UK to give presentations and also to represent British Airways at career fairs. My job is to inspire people to join the aviation industry, which I find so rewarding. The experience also assures me a job at British Airways, since my dream is to one day become a pilot."



Felix Bowers 13E2 – Trumpet Grade 7 with Merit

Felix also assisted in the delivery of the playing of the Last Post during our Remembrance Day whole school assemblies. A moving and memorable experience, thank you Felix.

Bonnie Francis-Kelly 12H2

Bonnie has been selected for Team England Dance, representing Team England in the group dances, and reserve for the solo. 1st competition in July in Burgos, Spain. Good luck, Bonnie!

Samuel Caldwell 12H2

Who passed his Level 1 Rugby Referee Course. Well done Sam! We're sure the PE department will put this to good use.

Evie Jenkins 13H1

Who does competitive showjumping. A-mare-zing.

Matthew Parks 12E1

Who played the Last Post in the Marlow Remembrance Parade - we are super proud of his support for this important event in the community

Alex Eldridge 12H2

Who set a new 60m Hurdles PB of 8.73 secs, running for his club, Windsor Slough Eton & Hounslow. Alex now progresses into the Indoor Nationals. Best of luck, Alex!

Talia Williams 13H1

Who competed at Gymnastics World Championships in Orlando, US, in July. Talia was placed 5th in the world for her Silver category, competing in bar, beam, vault and floor events.

Please do continue to share your successes with us, they are such an important part of who you are.

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

Finally, we would like to wish all of our 6th form students and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The 6th Form Team



The year 7 rugby team were a huge hit of the GMS rugby season.

The commitment and enthusiasm of the players has been outstanding. 46 different students have attended a training session. On average, 34 players were attending the weekly training sessions. The highly anticipated first game was against Burnham Grammar, in the Bucks Super 6 league. With many parents in attendance, GMS

put on a great show, winning 15-35. MVP was Harry Shillito. Ethan Booth scored the first try of the season, with Carter James and Reid Brown amongst the scorers too.

A long away trip to Sir Henry

Floyd Grammar awaited the team. After taking the lead, GMS were struggling to put the game out of sight from the resilient SHF outfit. It was towards the middle of the second half that GMS took the handbrake off. Mason Stevens scored a wonderful try. Carter continued his 'battering ram' role in the pack. Joseph Bryan demonstrated some fantastic core skills, passing to players in space who would go on to score a try. The standout performer went to Toby Styche. Toby showcased his exceptional footwork skills, scoring two brilliant tries where he was able to beat many defenders. Score 15-45 GMS.

The first home game was against Furze Platt. It was a great opportunity to give debuts to the many players who had been attending training. Despite a brilliant first half for GMS, Furze Platt showed great resilience to come back from three tries down and win the game. A first loss for the side, but an opportunity to reflect and identify areas of the game the team needed to work on in training.

The next game in the 'super 6' was against top-of-the-table John Hampden. This was the first A and B fixture, meaning more debuts for the ever-rising attendees at training. 32 players played. The B team, with many debutants, had to ride the storm of the JH attack, who had already had games under their belts. Despite being 5 tries down at half time, the team fought back brilliantly, managing to finish the game only a try behind. Albert Gaunt was a thorn in the JH side with ball in hand, whilst Sunny Mathews battled brilliantly to keep GMS recycling the ball at the rucks. MVP went to Charlie Sargent.

The A team played out a classic. Both teams traded tries throughout the game. Kane Costello was magnificent, showing-off his exceptional athleticism by making many runs through the JH defence. Reid Brown continued to demonstrate his excellent physicality, making tackle

after tackle. Eventually, JH held onto the win - being a score behind with a 5m scrum from the line, GMS lost control of the ball in the final play. Nevertheless, the team could be proud of how they played against the best team in the league. MVP went to Flynn Taylor, for his bulldozing counter-rucking.

The big event of the season was the invite to the well renowned tournament at Reading Blue Coat school. With over 34 schools in attendance, GMS had a great start in the morning pool stage round. They finished joint-top, after wins against Burnham Grammar and Forest, and a draw against the hosts, Blue Coat. Fareed Asani and



Bradley Elliot were superb in defence, but the stand-out performer was the debutant rocket, Duncan Williams. His speed was lightning. If he was given any sort of space, he was almost impossible to stop.

The successful results in the morning meant GMS went placed in an afternoon group of schools with successfully established rugby programmes. After drawing against Haileybury, the team managed a great win against Desborough. Kane Costello was able to utilise his passing skills to compliment his dangerous running with ball in hand, to put other players in clear space to score. Charlie Young was the beneficiary of this on the wing, scoring two tries. There were two games left. Unfortunately, the long day was catching up on the players – injuries were happening more frequently, with the team going down to the bare bones. Despite putting up a great fight against Claires Court and Piggott, GMS ran out of steam, and lost narrowly in both games. The boys absolutely loved the day, and it gave them perspective of how good a team they had become.

The season was rounded off with a local derby against Borlase at Marlow RFC, as part of a packed week of games between the two schools. An A and B fixture meant another 34 players were able to take part on the day. The B team got off to a tough start against Borlase, but fought back well again, with tries from Sam Farrell and Joe Harris. Joe was given the captaincy, after not missing a training session all year. Borlase eventually won the game, 15-35. The A team had another tough match, with both teams trading tries in the first half. Duncan Williams was flying again on the wing, scoring two tries. Joseph Bryan, Toby Styche and Flynn Taylor took the pressure off with tries in the 2nd half. The MVP was Fareed Asani, whose composure with the ball was outstanding, considering the frantic nature of a fiercely competitive local derby. The game finished 35-25 to GMS.

The future is very bright for GMS Rugby with this fantastic year group, with so many enthusiastic young lads turning out all year to training and matches.

By Mr D Jones

YEAR 8 BOYS

Progress in spades!! This team has demonstrated hard work, commitment and a strong will to improve. These key characteristics have been rewarded as the team have improved hugely over this term of rugby.



Each game has been an opportunity to reflect, and, in turn, each training session has been an opportunity to improve. Over the

course of the term the team has significantly developed in some of the core principles of the game, positional awareness, structure, support and defensive skills. The boys have become increasingly more consistent in their performances and proven a difficult and competitive opposition in the prestigious Super 6 League. They only narrowly lost to JHGS and Burnham Grammar but produced convincing wins against all other opposition.

The jewel in the crown was in the last week of fixtures against Borlase. The GMS team were due to play first in the 5-fixture series. The pressure was on them to set the tone for the week... they delivered in emphatic style. If GMS were to have an eighth 'R' of relentlessness, this was delivered by the truck load. Borlase simply had no answer for the character and tenacious attitude demonstrated by every single squad member. It was the performance of the season, which saw GMS victorious by a 40-point margin.

The team have made it to the Super 6 play-offs...could they be the champions? Watch this space.

By Mr S Goodright

YEAR 9 RUGBY

The year 9 boys rugby side have made excellent progress this term. Faced with some extreme weather conditions the boys started strongly with three victories from the first three games. Strong carrying from forwards Alfie and Josh as well as the direction from half backs Aiden and Henry were vital in securing these victories.

The boys trained really well, with consistent attendance allowing them to work on an attacking structure. There was a focus on playing with more width – stretching the defenders and attacking with speed.

A good performance against Claires Court demonstrated the work done in training - despite missing a number of regular

players was a highlight of the latter part of the season. Tough games against JHGS and SWBGS finished the season off.

The boys turn their attention to the fast paced game of 7s next term where they will be keen to continue to develop the attacking play they have worked on this term.

By Mr Pulsford

YEAR 10/11 BOYS RUGBY

The Year 10 Boys Rugby Team have had an outstanding term of rugby. After a defeat in the first game of the season against a very strong Claires Court side the team went on to be unbeaten, winning 5 and drawing one game.

The performance of the season came against JHGS, relentless physicality in defence and an expansive attacking game saw GMS win 45-20. Will B scored 4 tries, causing havoc with his carrying from No 8.

The team have been ably led by Toby S – who has brought great organisation to the team from scrum half. In the forwards Jack W and Felipe F have been excellent at turning over the ball and retaining possession – allowing the dynamic backs the space to score

The final game of the season saw the boys face SWBGS for the second time. GMS took an early lead and committed defence kept the opponents at bay. Joey T was a threat throughout and late scores secured the victory.

Next term will see the team turn their hand to 7s – the shortened format and extra space should suit the U15s.

By Mr S Goodright

U18'S RUGBY

The U18s had a mixed bag of a season. The team consists of a combination of sixth formers and Year 11s. Many of the Year 11 players from last year had decided to go elsewhere for their education, meaning there was a gap of experience in the squad. The team consisted of a core group of year 13s, a few Year 12s, and many Year 11s who had to step up and play far more rugby than Year 11s usually do at this level.



The Year 11s who played throughout the year were truly inspirational, fronting up against schools with older and more physical players. Tommy Loughlin was outstanding in every

P game he played in. He became a very popular figure with the older players in the squad, due to his stand-out performances, as well as his enthusiastic nature. Tom Wharfe undoubtedly improved his rugby ability hugely by playing for the school team. His commitment to chopping down any player that moved near to him, however big, was outstanding.

Connor Quann, the sole surviving year 11 from the previous season, was a shining example of how to be the ultimate team man. Never missed a game, never gave up, would train with the rugby team and then catch up with his rowing on his own straight after, volunteered to fill up water bottles and wash the kit, and was always happy to go round the form rooms and deliver messages to the team. He is the model rugby student for all younger students at GMS to follow.



On the pitch, the team were drawn in the National Vase against John Hampden. With a good team out, the team went 12-0 up early on. Joe Lucas with two brilliantly finished tries on the wing. John Hampden's more experienced pack started to dominate and scored a try before half time. In the 2nd

half, JH continued to exert their physicality up front, carrying hard and not giving the GMS defence an opportunity to rest. They got in front, then pulled away for a 31-12 victory. This meant GMS had now dropped into the National Bowl competition.

After a loss to Aylesbury and a late win against Burnham Grammar, the team went on to play their National Bowl fixture at home to King Alfred Academy. It was an intense and incredibly physical affair on the GMS narrow pitch. Fraser Cram scored the first try, with Panashe Chikwanda adding another. KAA answered back with two unconverted tries of their own. Sam Caldwell gave GMS some breathing space with a penalty. The 2nd half became a war of attrition, with both teams not allowing either attack to make an ground. The GMS game management was superb, pegging KAA back with some kicks deep into their half. The pressure began to get too much on KAA, and a poor clearance kick allowed Logan Pearce to go over for a try.

KAA scored a late try to get within a score. Despite one last attack at the GMS defensive line, there was no way through with the likes of Connor Quann and Leo McCarthy tackling everything they through at them. GMS took the win but made no further progress after losing in the next game against King Edward VI school.

The season finished with a huge occasion – a match against

Borlase on a Friday night under lights at Marlow RFC. Their commitment to giving themselves the best possible preparing for the game was excellent, turning up in big numbers to training. On the night, GMS just could not get a foot on the game. Despite Borlase only pulling away in the last quarter of the game, GMS struggled to gain continuity in their attack, against a very powerful Borlase pack. The game finished 20-7 to Borlase. A frustrating result, but an occasion the players loved being a part of it.

It brings an end to GMS Rugby for Kyle Karam, Toby Giles, Joe Lucas, Leo McCarthy, Panashe Chikwanda, Alex Bickford, James Mason, Conrad Bains and Cass Jones. All players who made their mark in the red and black shirt, and can be congratulated for their commitment to always putting the team before themselves.



By Mr S Goodright

U16'S GIRLS RUGBY

This year the county rugby organisers have facilitated increased opportunity for girls' rugby to be played at a competitive level. This opportunity has come in the form of 'festival' style events which have taken place at Aylesbury Rugby Football Club.

Not one to miss any sporting opportunities for our students, naturally, GMS have been involved. 14 keen beans from years 9,10 and 11 turned up to the training sessions, where we worked on all the S's – structure, support, speed, systems and shouting (comms).



The girls had an excellent starting point to build from as rugby is a firm favourite on the girl's PE curriculum. This enabled us to work on the afore mentioned S's and prepare for competitive game play, as the students already knew and had mastered the fundamentals, including rucking, passing, tackling, scrummage and line out. All we needed to do was piece it all together ahead of our festivals.

The festivals were a great opportunity to show what they girls had learned and try their skillset and strategy in a competitive environment. The results could not have been better! First and foremost, the girls thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were hugely appreciative of the opportunity to play proper rugby

fixtures. Secondly, they were clearly of the appropriate standard to compete against seasoned teams, who play both inside and outside of school. The girls played some excellent rugby with superb continuity between phases, which reflected excellent awareness of the structure and outstanding support play.

Across the 2 festivals we attended we played 10 fixtures, 5 wins, 2 draws and 3 losses. The opportunity has ignited an increased following of the sport, which continues to grow for both boys and girls at GMS.

By Mr S Goodright

BOYS FOOTBALL

Year 7

The Year 7 football team has had an outstanding start to the season, with impressive performances both on and off the field. The players have shown excellent attendance at training, displaying a strong commitment to improving their skills and teamwork.



Year 7 Football Team

Their efforts have been evident in the National Cup and County Cup, where the team has delivered strong performances, competing at a high level. Key victories against St. Michaels School and Reading School have highlighted the team's determination and ability to rise to the challenge.

Several players have stood out this season. Mason Stevens, the talented midfielder, has been a driving force in the centre of the park, creating opportunities and controlling the tempo of the game. Teddy Bayliss, in goal, has been instrumental in the team's defensive stability, making crucial saves to keep their opponents at bay. Toby Styche has been a standout in defence, showing excellent positioning and tackling to thwart any attacking threats.

Looking ahead, the team is set to continue their District League campaign into the new year, with a solid start to their games against Highcrest. With a strong foundation and key players stepping up, the Year 7 football team is well-placed for continued success throughout the season.

Year 8

The Year 8 football team aimed to build on the success of last year while transitioning from 9-a-side to 11-a-side football. Despite the adjustment, the team played some excellent football throughout the season. They faced a tough loss in the national cup to Dr Challoner's. They did show lots of resilience to battle back from 2-0 down at half time but narrowly losing 3-2 after conceding in the final minute.

However, they remain strong contenders in the county cup, currently in the quarter finals after brilliant performances against Denbigh winning 6-0 and beating Ousedale 5-1.

The aim for next term is retain their county cup title which they won last year.

Year 11

The Year 11 football team has shown great dedication and resilience this season, with excellent attendance at training and a determined approach to every match. Despite facing strong opposition in both the National Cup and County Cup, the team has delivered competitive performances and demonstrated their ability to compete at a high level.

Notable victories against JHGS and St. Clements Dane have highlighted the team's strength, teamwork, and tactical awareness. These games were crucial in showcasing the players' skills and commitment under pressure, with standout performances across the board.

Several players have been particularly impressive this season. Lewis Dover has been a driving force in midfield, dictating play and providing key passes to create attacking opportunities. Olly Hunt, in attack, has been a constant threat, scoring goals and challenging opposition defences with his pace and skill. Meanwhile, Callum Wolstencroft has been exceptional in goal, pulling off crucial saves to keep the team in the game during high-stakes moments.



Year 8 Football Team

Looking ahead, the team has exciting challenges to look forward to in the new year, with the District League and a 6-a-side tournament on the horizon. The Year 11 team's strong performances so far suggest they will continue to be a formidable force, and with their excellent work ethic and team spirit, they are sure to achieve further success in the coming months.

U18 Football Team

The U18 football team has faced a challenging start to the year in the County League, but their resilience and hard work have been key to their improvement. While the early games tested the team's mettle, the players have shown significant progress in terms of organization and taking responsibility on the pitch.

In the National Cup, the year 9s continued to show improvements in their ability to maintain possession. With a more solid structure in place, the team has bounced back with impressive wins against SHFGS and Walton High. These victories highlight the team's growing cohesion and ability to rise to the occasion, demonstrating their potential to compete at a higher level.

Several players have stood out for their performances this season. Alfie Russel has been a rock in defence, consistently providing solid tackles and crucial clearances to maintain the team's defensive stability. Freddie Pritchard in midfield has been a driving force, linking defence to attack with intelligent passes and strong leadership. Perhaps the most notable development has been Harry Sheffield, who has stepped up to play as a striker, making significant contributions with key goals and displays of creativity in the final third.

Looking to the future, the U18 team has the exciting prospect of potential County Cup rounds next year, where their hard work and improving form could lead to further success. With a more organized and disciplined approach, the team is well-positioned to build on their recent performances and achieve great things in the upcoming season.

By H Magnay



U18 Football Team

KS3 Football Tournament

The KS3 6-a-side football tournament was a fantastic display of inclusive football, with every player given the opportunity to contribute to the team's success. The tournament not only highlighted the players' footballing abilities but also demonstrated a high level of responsibility and respect among the team, both on and off the pitch.

The competition was fierce, but the A team triumphed, emerging as the overall winners of the tournament. Their teamwork, skill, and determination were key to their success, with each match showcasing their growing chemistry and tactical awareness.

Archie Messenger and Mekhai Matthews were standout players throughout the tournament. Archie showed excellent leadership and composure, making crucial passes and defending with confidence. Mekhai was dynamic in attack, creating chances and scoring important goals that helped lead the team to become the overall winners.

This tournament was not only a testament to the players' footballing talent but also to their commitment to teamwork and respect for the game.



KS3 6-a-side Football Team

GIRLS FOOTBALL

The U13 Girls Football Team has had a remarkable season, entering the County Cup with great enthusiasm. They secured five wins against BEA, SWB, PRS, SWR and HCA and drew against WHS, showcasing their teamwork and talent.

Under the leadership of captain Lucy Hellewell, the squad has thrived, with impressive goals from Isabella Rawlings and Darcey Langley, and exceptional saves from goalkeeper Ava Cruise.



Their hard work culminated in a runner-up finish at the EFL County 7-a-side tournament. Looking ahead, the team has qualified for the quarter-finals of the County Cup after Christmas.

The friendly squad also enjoyed two fixtures against Cressex, putting into practice what they have been working on in training. Standout performances were seen by Olivia Ronan, Beth Brzecki, Ruby Turner and Thea Smith.

U13 Girls Football Team Congratulations to the team on their incredible achievements this season!

U15 Girls

This year the u15 girls football team has proven to be one of our strongest footballing sides to date. The side possesses every ingredient necessary for success – pace, power, football knowledge and skill, but above all else a very positive attitude towards training and matches.



The girls have worked hard in training focussing on possession and ball retention, as well as breaking up play when not in possession. This has proven to be of value when we have played our County League Cup fixtures. The team have dominated oppositions reflecting competence and confidence in their performances. They are currently level on points but residing in 2nd place due to goal difference.

If the team maintain their positive approach and hard work, they have every chance of making it to the county finals. It is important to note, that the girls have gelled incredibly well and in the limited amount of coaching they have received as a team,

U15 Football Team

they have made exponential progress. This will hopefully pave the way for further progress and even stronger performances.

By Miss Muttitt & Mr S Goodright

Girls' Football Project



**WOMEN'S
HIGH-PERFORMANCE
FOOTBALL CENTRES**

Great Marlow School is continuing to work alongside the FA to grow and expand girls' football. The project, funded by Barclays, is developing more and more equal opportunities for girls and boys alike to play football with friends, for fun, and competitively. Through this infrastructure, we aim to develop innovative ways to deliver football for girls- improving participation from their very first experience. The aim of the programme is to create an active and confident generation of inspired female footballers. The programme has contributed to providing equal access for girls playing football in both the curriculum and as an extra-curricular club. Within the school curriculum, 80% of partnership schools have provided equal access through football lessons, and 93% of schools have provided opportunities through extra-curricular sport. This has increased our overall area success in achieving equal gender opportunity.

By Miss Fyfe

OUTDOOR HOCKEY

GU14

With many of the Year 8s and 9s not having much hockey playing experience before attending GMS, the girls have had to work incredibly hard to catch up with their local rivals in the county. And catch up, they have! Despite the challenges presented to them in year 7, with several tough fixtures, the girls' commitment to training and constant enthusiasm for the sport has enabled them to, this year, compete and win some games in the county championships.

The team started the tournament strongly with a well-deserved win over Wycombe High, where they spent most of the game camped in their opponent's D. Buoyed by their success, a 3-0 win over Akley Wood, and a draw with Beaconsfield High followed, meaning that with 3 games to go, the team had already finished higher than they'd ever done before.



Unfortunately, despite making a huge amount of progress, the girls fell short of qualification with 1-0 losses Pipers

Corner and Stowe. Nevertheless, the team and coaching staff were incredibly proud of the team's performances in these games. Having lost heavily in their county tournaments as Year 7s, there is no doubt that the GMS team have made the most progress out of all the teams in Buckinghamshire.

GU16 – Regional Finalists

The U16 team have had a fantastic first half of a season and have shown demonstrated how much progress they have made since they joined GMS in Year 7. During the first round of the County Championships the team, once again the only state secondary upper entering, saw off opposition from Stowe School, Pipers Corner, Royal Latin and Aylesbury High school. The team finally seemed to have rid their U14 curse of not being able to score, by netting a total 13 goals throughout the tournament, with goal keepers Isla and Jess, playing their part too, by keeping clean sheets in all four games. Naturally this meant that the team didn't drop a single point all day, thus qualifying for the South-Central Finals in first place.

In a very competitive U14 Regional Finals, the GMS squad

played well throughout their three group matches. The first was tight game, played against The Oratory, where the GMS team dominated the both halves, really testing the opposition's defence, but struggled to find the back of the net. Unfortunately, despite GMS's late but deserved breakthrough to go 1-0 up, the Oratory equalised against the run of play, with the last touch of the game.

Next up was a game against Farnborough Hill, Hampshire's champions, who were a well organised team. GMS found it much easier to play against a team, who was well disciplined and tactically much more conventional. Their pressing and outletting, which they'd been working hard on in training, now seemed to be coming into its own, enabling GMS to dominate the possession and chances. Unfortunately, despite their best-efforts GMS couldn't find the goal their performance deserved, which meant the team came away with another draw, this time 0-0.



Next up was a match against St Mary's Ascot, where they were determined to win their last game and prove their worth at regional level. A win by more than 2 goals, would guarantee them semi-final qualification, regardless of the scoreline in the other group game. The girls dominated the game entirely, showing their class to score three unanswered goals, which involved some fantastic build up play, some clinical finishing and a defensive masterclass.

Onto the semi-final where the team faced Cranford House. Unfortunately, a couple of serious injuries in the previous game had put two of the GMS players out of action for the rest of the tournament. The consequence if this was the team had no substitutes for their semi-final, meaning that when Ella, GMS's defensive stalwart, took a knock the team were a player down until she was able to go back on. The team battled hard, and created enough opportunities to win the game, despite the other team including an England U16 player, and GMS competing with a player less. Sadly, the girls couldn't quite get over the line; a Cranford counter-attack led to a penalty corner right at the death which they scored to take the game 1-0, leaving GMS to contend the bronze medal match and miss out agonisingly on the opportunity to play for National Final qualification.

One of the best things about this group is their positivity and resilience, which is a large part of how they have come to compete at such a high level in the first place. The team were determined to end on a high and come away with a podium finish. To do so they would need to beat Churchers, who narrowly beat them at the U14 South-Central Finals last year. Time for redemption! The team played out of their skin, demonstrating their ability to employ more advanced tactics, yet still get the basics right. Churchers hardly saw the ball. The team came away with a dominant victory, with the GMS captain, Evie, scoring in her final competitive U16 fixture for GMS.

The whole day was extremely rewarding, with the students showcasing the progress they had made since beginning their hockey journeys at GMS. From winning one game in their county tournament in Year 7, to finishing in 3rd place at the Regional Finals three years later, this group has come such a long way. They showed what a delight they are to work with; hardworking and focused when it matters, yet witty and fun during their downtime. I can't wait to continue to work with this team over the coming years.

By Miss L Porter

What's next?

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

Lots of fixtures have already taken place for the girls' teams, which have seen some truly positive results. The students are progressing all the time, with many of the students having started their hockey journeys at GMS, but already proving that they can compete against those with years of experience. Our Year 7 teams have already beaten several local schools, thanks to their commitment and coachability, so we are looking forward to seeing how they fair at their County competition in February. They are undoubtedly an exciting group of hockey players, embarking on what is sure to be another fulfilling and exciting GMS hockey journey.

The boys' fixtures will commence after Christmas. The teams are blessed with some players with very high potential, so we are looking to seeing what our KS3 & KS4 boys' teams can achieve when their hockey programme kicks off in January.

With much more to follow in the spring term, there will be a more detailed article for these teams in the Easter edition of The Voice!

INDOOR HOCKEY

Since our indoor hockey programme began in 2018, GMS have become a well-recognised contender in the South-Central area. Arguably one of the most consistent schools with regards to results and performances, this year was no different as GMS made it three qualifications out of three, for the 2024 Indoor Hockey Regional Finals.

Both U18 girls' and boys' teams won their respective county tournaments, the girls for the 4th year running and the boys for the first time. The U16 girls had a tougher route through to qualification, however with 5 of the squad one-year young, another member two-years young, and two players three-years young, this season was all about preparing for the future.

At the Regional Finals then, the U18 girls cruised through their qualification group without dropping a



BU18 Indoor Hockey Squad 2024

single point, with wins over Hampshire champions Peter Symmonds College, as well as Pangbourne, who boasted an England U21 and Premier League Hockey player, and Oxfordshire qualifier Bloxham. Sadly, with GMS's squad very depleted in numbers, the girls couldn't quite find the same energy they'd had throughout the group stage to get over the line in their semi-final. The team were knocked out by the eventual competition winners but did lament the fact that had they played this team at the beginning of the competition, when they were fresh, the outcome might have been different. There is no doubt the GMS team were the best tactically and technically, which was commented on by several players and coaches from other schools, but one substitute just isn't enough for a game of such high intensity. The team did themselves proud, and certainly maintained GMS's great indoor reputation.

The U18 boys were another team, who were very depleted in numbers after a few injury setbacks. Luckily, GMS had not entered the BU16 competition, so the team were able to legally call upon two Year 10 students to help bolster their numbers. Qualification from the group stage was tight, with 3 out of the 4 teams finishing the group stage on the same points. Sadly, the boys missed out on semi-final qualification by a single goal difference, however as with the GU18 squad, maintained GMS's strong indoor reputation.

The U16 girls narrowly lost their first game against a full age St Helen's and St Katherine's side, having dominated the game in terms of possession, penalty corners and shots on target. Unfortunately, the squad inexperience, showed as SHSK caught them on the counter twice to take the game 2-1. The team next faced Wellington A team, whose B team had also qualified through the Berkshire round. The girls held their own admirably and their resilience certainly frustrated



GU18 Indoor Hockey Squad 2024



GU168 Indoor Hockey Squad 2024

the eventual competition winners, who resorted to poor decisions and descent towards the umpires which resulted in some of the Wellington players being sin-binned for a couple of minutes. The team went into their final group game, again against a full-age side, with nothing to lose. Their performance was nothing short of outstanding. The team's defensive intensity, coupled with their brilliant decision making in attacking situations, led to 3 unanswered goals. A demolition of a full age U16 side bodes exceptionally well for next year, and the years beyond.

By Miss L Porter

St Bedes School in Argentina revisits GMS

Another marvellous international forum at GMS, courtesy of the PE Department.

St Bedes School from Buenos Aires, Argentina, revisited GMS just this week. It's been 18 months since their last successful visit.

This trip, the 82 Argentinian students and their 8 teachers toured the UK for 12 days, starting in Scotland before travelling south to London, Windsor and Marlow.



Our visitors, guided by our Sixth Form students, were impressed with the school. They spent break time socialising in the Sixth Form Canteen; attended a variety of lessons in period 4, including English, Geography, PE, Music, Maths, French and Media – they really enjoyed this experience.

Next on the agenda, were games of rugby and football with boys in Sixth Form and Year 11. Hockey and softball were played with the Year 10/11/12/13 students.

GMS won the rugby, football, hockey but narrowly lost at softball

After the games came the fish

and chips, thoroughly enjoyed by all. A cultural offering of songs from the play Matilda and lessons in the tango was particularly entertaining.

A sad parting at 7pm, because all the students and staff had enjoyed a brilliant day: mixing with peers in a 'sporting fest' is a highlight, when much time has been spent sightseeing.

Both schools have agreed another visit is to be arranged.

Thank you to everyone involved in organising this and giving their time so generously.

By Miss G Muttitt



NETBALL

YEAR 7

The Year 7 netball team have been working hard at training this term, we started the year off with torrential downpours and over 60 girls attending training. The girls have shown fantastic commitment and excellent teamwork, turning up rain or shine. The progress made by the groups has been excellent, considering some girls had done very little netball before joining GMS. The sessions have focused on developing fundamental skills, and the students' knowledge and understanding of the rules. It has been fantastic to be able to put 3 teams out against other schools in fixtures, as well as the A, B and C team qualifying for the Wycombe District League.



The girls have had several matches this term, against Wycombe Abbey, with the chocolate brownies after the game being a particular highlight for the girls! We have also played Highcrest, St Michaels and Pipers Corner, with further matches to be completed after the Christmas break. Outstanding performances across the three teams go to Ria Joseph, Amy Apletree, Josephine Constable who have also represented the school for the Year 8 team. Zara Killington, Olivia Ronan and Esme Caldwell have shown excellent work rate in matches with some brilliant interceptions and passes down the court. The girls have shown natural talent and work exceptionally hard, alongside supporting their teammates. All students should be congratulated on their effort and commitment over the last term.

A big thank you to the Sports Leaders who have come

along to support the coaching and umpiring of the games, the girls have really appreciated you being there and helping them.

By Miss C Roberts

YEAR 8 & 9

It has been an incredibly positive start to the season for the Year 8 and 9 Netball teams. The students have worked hard to improve their court play, as well as their attacking and defensive set plays to develop the tactical side of their game.



The Year 8A team had a successful start to the season with some impressive performances. There have been some fantastic performance from all the players. Erin Shale, Isabella Rawling and Jessie Stone have shown great resilience in their attacking positions. The Year 8B team are going from strength to strength this season currently in 2nd position in the District League. The girls turn up each week with a positive team attitude and are determined to improve from game to game. Beth Puddephatt, Isabella Hale and Maddie Jesky have stepped on showing tremendous improvement on the court.

The Year 9 netball A and B teams have gone from strength to strength this term. The girls have shown true resilience against some hard opposition and have approached each game with a positive attitude. The A team have a small group with some outstanding performances seen by Issie Monaghan and Rugile Baniulaityte in defence, Josie Bevins and Ella Laithwaite shooting. Alexandra McGuinness has show commitment to the team and has developed her skills within GK, working hard to intercept the ball in the circle.

The B team are sitting in 3rd Place. Gracie Shaw, Sophia Hicks and Issy Adami have produced consistent performances. Darcy McNeil has shown true commitment

PE to the team, being a very versatile player on the court. They finished the year with a win against Ramsey school, showing the improvement and developments they have made as a team across the term so far.



A massive thank you goes out to Lucy Pease for helping out with every training session and umpiring of all the games.

By Miss E Boddy

YEAR 10/11

The attendance at Year 10 and 11 netball on a Wednesday evening has been very good with students showing dedication, commitment and a desire to achieve at a higher level, as they complete their GCSE PE courses.



The Year 10 squad have worked hard this term on developing their awareness on court and working as units on court, as opposed to individuals. The A team have shown fantastic resilience and currently 3rd in the league.

This league position is a little disappointing, however students have had some extremely close games against the teams above them losing by very small margins. Special mentions must go to Ella Seeley and India Rhodes who have been resilient in defence, Erin Ford and Bella Street who have formed a strong bond in the shooting circle and Maisie Marshall and Grace Hull who work tirelessly to feed the circle.

The B team have also had several close games so far this year and are currently in 2nd place in the league. Alice Farrow and Jess Royds have worked hard in the shooting circle, Evie Weston and Issy Matthews have worked hard in the attack end and Isla McDonald, Claudia Payne, Lizzie Horan and Lexi Togwell have made game changing interceptions in defence.



The Year 11 squad have also worked hard on keeping possession against more physical competition, and success from centre pass to goal. The A team have had a fantastic start to the season and currently are in 2nd in the league. Erin Ford and Sienna Morgan have been an unstoppable force in attack, and Lucy Apletree and Tilda Johnson have been relentless in defence. The B team currently sit in 2nd place, most recently taking a convincing win over SWR. Captain Xanthe Bayless has demonstrated brilliant leadership skills.

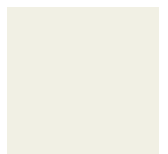
By Miss G Muttitt



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 7 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.

New for September 2024, all year 11 students have been completing a PE Life-Skills Award (PELSA) 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 7 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. This year we have 39 students completing the



**Year 12 Level 3 Sports Leaders –
KS1 Primary Rugby Festival**

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 Mrs S Goodright



**Year 10 Sports Leaders – KS2
Dodgeball Festival**



Opportunity For All-Inclusive Events

Netball

YEAR 8 NETBALL TEAM SHINES AT KINGSBROOK TOURNAMENT

The Year 8 netball team had an exciting opportunity to participate in a tournament held at Kingsbrook School. Under the guidance of Year 9 leaders Darcy and Courtney, the team showed incredible teamwork and determination.

Darcy and Courtney were fantastic managing the team, ensuring they were well-prepared with effective warm-up and providing valuable feedback throughout the morning. They even stepped in during matches to give players much-needed rest, showcasing their leadership and teamwork skills.

There were several standout performances during the tournament. Ellie impressed with her interceptions on the court playing GK. Jessie's movement and positioning allowed the team to transition smoothly into the attacking third. Meanwhile, Bethany excelled in both defence and attack, demonstrating versatility by playing in a range of positions.



The team's hard work and collaboration paid off as they secured a well-deserved runners-up position in the tournament. They should be proud of their fantastic performance and team spirit. Well done to everyone involved!

sportsman. Taking this into the fixtures, the KS3 team have played some outstanding matches and have come away with some good results.

The work and training this year has no doubt provided a strong foundation for the competitive club after the fixtures after Christmas.

Orienteering

Orienteering was something new for our year 7 students to have a go at. This was hosted at Alfriston School. Students had to navigate themselves around the wooded area and playing fields to find the check points. At each check point students had to complete a different problem solving activity, including English and Maths tasks. Once the students had mastered orientating the map, they were off! Eleanor Monks, Emily Watson, George Le Couteur and William Boulger showed determination by solving lots of problems. Lucas Porter and Zach Cicchirillo did not shy away from this challenge, sprinting between check points.



Girls and Boys Fitness

Fitness club has given students of all years a chance to use the fitness suite and develop their skills and knowledge of how to correctly train their bodies specifically for their sports. This is a club that has run throughout all the winter months and allows student to enjoy the fantastic facilities on offer. Students work independently on fitness progress but also many enjoy the social aspect of coming along to fitness club with friends. We hope to continue this throughout next term.

Multi Sports Club

The multisport club has been an extremely popular extra-curricular club. Regularly, 20+ students have attended each Wednesday after school and enjoyed a wide variety of activities. The purpose of this club is for students to train and participate in these 'alternative sports' in preparation for our bi-termly district competitions, organized by the local SGO (School Games Organizer). There has been outstanding commitment to training from the students who have routinely shown eagerness to learn and compete in these sports including dodgeball, Danish long, korfbal, badminton and basketball. Whilst training and competing, students have developed teamwork, responsibility, leadership, communication and empathy.

Outdoor Adventurous Activities

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

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

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

By Miss E Boddy

Sports Colours

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded sports colours for 2024/25. Well done!

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

By Miss G Muttitt

YEAR 8 JUNIOR COLOURS	SPORT
Alexandra McGuinness	Netball
Josie Bevins	Netball
Issie Monaghan	Netball
Ava Harbinson	Netball/ Rugby/ Football
Olivia Eggington	Football
Isla Sutherland	Hockey
Ella Laithwaite	Hockey
Gracie Shaw	Hockey
Aiden Allen	Rugby
Joshua Urie	Rugby
Zack Gibson	Football
Lucas Barnett	Football



YEAR 10 INTER COLOURS	SPORT
Sienna Morgan	Netball
Lucy Apletree	Netball/Hockey
Matilda Johnson	Netball
Evie Matthews	Hockey
Daisy Bennett	Hockey
Ollie Hunt	Football
Ashton Joesph	Football/Rugby
Lewis Dover	Football
Arthur Barber	Hockey/Rugby
Tom Wharfe	Rugby
Fraser Cram	Rugby
Eddie Hoare	Rugby/Cricket



YEAR 12 SENIOR COLOURS	SPORT
Tamiya Phillips	Netball/ Leadership
Sophie Apletree	Netball/Hockey/ Leadership
Rachel Clarke	Netball/Hockey
Abbie Corrick	Netball/ Leadership
Olivia Letchford	Hockey
Milly Horan	Hockey
Freddie Pritchard	Football
Lucy Pease	Leadership
Kyle Karam	Rugby
Rebecca Tinnelly	Football



Congratulations to all our fantastic athletes - we are so proud of you!

Xmas Wreath Making event

Many thanks to local florist and GMS parent, Joanne Caldwell who ran an Xmas wreath making workshop at GMS recently and donated a brilliant £536.00 to FoGMS from ticket sales.

45 people attended across two workshops. They began making a moss base for their wreath which was then covered with lots of fresh foliage such as Pine and Eucalyptus. The wreath was then decorated from a wide selection of fresh and dried seasonal ingredients and finished off with a ribbon of choice.

Step by step tuition was provided by Joanne Caldwell, along with all the tools and equipment required to create the wreaths. With a glass of Fizz included in the price, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evenings. FoGMS thanks Joanne for enabling this.



**FOGMS committee -
Fancy joining us - we'd
love to see you!**

For more information about FOGMS on forthcoming events or becoming a member please look at our website under Parents/Carers.



AND FINALLY....

**ALL THE STAFF
AT GMS WISH ALL
STUDENTS, PARENTS'
AND CARERS' A
HAPPY NEW YEAR
AND CONTINUED
SUCCESS FOR EACH
AND EVERYONE
OF OUR STUDENTS
THROUGHOUT 2025.**



**Great Marlow School
Bobmore Lane
Marlow Bucks
SL7 1JE**

WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOUR REAL TREE AFTER XMAS?

**Why don't you recycle it and help Save
the Planet!**

Riverside Tree Care are running a Christmas tree collection and recycling service to help you with the festive season clear-up in aid of Thames Hospice.

Trees will be chipped and donated in the local area.

A donation of £10 to the Hospice is suggested, although there is no minimum amount. Your real Christmas tree can be collected from the roadside in the following areas over the dates below:

Maidenhead, Bray, Fifeild, Holyport, Marlow, Windsor, Cookham, Bourne End and Taplow

Friday 3 - Tuesday 7 January 2025

Check out the website <https://www.thameshospice.org.uk/upcoming-events/riverside-tree-care-christmas-tree-collection/> for more information.

**Book your Christmas Tree
Collection TODAY in Aid of**

Thames hospice

For the Church, Christmas isn't just
birth, it's a time to share the joy of
the Christmas story with everyone
who has their origins in the church community

Scan the QR code to
donate AND email
nicholas@riversidetreecare.co.uk
to arrange your
collection TODAY

SCAN ME

Collections will be available at the following:
Maidenhead, Bray, Fifeild, Holyport, Marlow,
Windsor, Cookham, Bourne End and Taplow

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