



**Great Marlow School**

A Specialist Academy

# The VOICE

**JULY 2025**

**ISSUE 59**

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

## HEADTEACHER'S SPEECH FROM CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS

**"Good evening, and a very warm welcome to our invited guests including parents/carers, members of staff and, very importantly, our prize winners of 2025. Tonight, is a chance to celebrate the success of our prize winners, but also to reflect briefly on the progress made by the school, over the past year – a year that has seen since the 1st of June, Great Marlow School become part of the Marlow Education Trust.**

Throughout the year, we have continued to operate the school with our core values of Excellence, Compassion, and Integrity. We are extremely fortunate at this school that staff here, work with great endeavour and creativity to ensure, that the school lives up to its stated ambitions: to be a place where opportunities are created, potential is realised, and excellence is achieved. We are always striving to work, with increasing effectiveness, in partnership with our students, parents/carers, and the local and wider community. This is to achieve our vision of having the highest quality learning environment which inspires our students to be compassionate, successful, and resilient contributors to a better society.

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

required to apply this knowledge to variety of situations and circumstances.

On the subject of skills, My Personal Best is still a fundamental part of our curriculum within the school focusing on the 6 Rs, of Respect; Readiness; Reflection; Responsibility; Resourcefulness and Resilience. These skills are explicitly developed in students in all individual subjects and lessons as well as in our extensive extra-curricular programme. The 7th R of Reading continues to positively impact on all children's vocabulary and use of language both verbally and written, which will only enhance their performance in all subjects and activities across the school.

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

Our broad and rich curriculum, during the main part of the school day is enhanced

## IMPORTANT DATES

School closes for the Summer holidays on Friday 18th July at 1pm.

Year 7, 10 and 12 return to school on Thursday 4th September. All other students return to school on Friday 5th September.

A-level results are published on 14th August 2025 and GCSE results are published on 21st August 2025.

## KEY EVENTS at GMS

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

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



considerably by the extra-curricular programme we offer before and after the main school day and during the weekends and school holidays.

## EDUCATIONAL VISITS AND SCHOOL EVENTS

Over the course of the year, opportunities have been made available to every student in the school, to further develop their ambition and aspiration with a vast number of educational activities, visits, and trips. Students and staff this academic year have visited, even more, areas of outstanding natural beauty, towns, cities, and explored galleries, theatres, exhibitions, and universities. In school we continue to organise, develop, and host a plethora of academic and cultural activities that enriches the work of this school and strengthens our position at the heart of the Marlow community. Almost, all of these activities take place due to the discretionary effort of staff in school, both teachers and associate staff. They are not paid for their time in the evenings, weekends, and school holidays when many of these activities take place.

It would be impossible to list all of the educational visits and activities but to mention a few:

### In terms of visits we have ....

- **Art Trip to borough Market**
- **Yr 11 Drama trip to see Dear Evan Hansen**
- **Yr 12/ 13 Dentistry Careers Event for the Sixth Form**
- **Year 9 Model United Trips**
- **Year 8 Zoo Trip**
- **Ski Trip to Austria**
- **Joint Year 7 Geography and History trip to Windsor**
- **Sixth form students along with Mrs Bullock visited Aushwitz**
- **Year 11 Poetry Live trip**
- **Year 12 Psychology Brain Day**

### And a selection of the events that we have held in school:

- **RAF Music Ensemble**
- **Careers Fair organised by Mrs Brunt**
- **Gym and Dance Show**
- **Business Studies -KS3 Enterprise event**
- **FOGMS disco – Year 7 and 8**
- **Chess Club and Chess Challenges**

Chees club run by Mrs Simon – becoming ever more popular and ever more successful, so popular that the Chess Club have outgrown their current classroom location and will be moving to the Sixth Form Centre in the next academic year

## DRAMA

### Performing arts continues to grow at the school ....

In December, we saw the fantastic stage production of Aladdin, led by Mrs Chenery, Mr Ross, Mrs Brazier and ably supported by Mrs Sharp, with significant support from several other members of staff. The performances will live long in the memories of the many people who saw it. The shows year on year continue to astound the audience and it is amazing to see how assured and confident our students are on stage. Sell outs again, the performances were truly outstanding.

On the subject of the Drama and school productions, this week on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings we have seen the KS3 Pick N Mix production take place. An evening of entertainment showcasing the talents of actors in small sketches, plays, music and movement. Again, as with Aladdin – fantastic performances from students, outstanding acting, that showed maturity way beyond the ages of the performers.

## MUSIC

Last Wednesday, our Summer Music Concert took place, orchestrated by Mr Kidd and Mr Williams and supported by Mrs Lamming and some of our peripatetic teachers. Students from across all years, with a wide range of musical experience, took part. The Y7 Brass Band did amazingly after only 5 hours to learn how to play their instruments! The eclectic mix of performances ranged through choirs, rock and pop groups, and orchestral pieces. It truly was a showcase for all.

In terms of musical performances this year we have put on a Year 11-13 musical recital at Marlow Church, performed at Marlow Late Night Shopping and also had in December the first Great Marlow School Carol Concert. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Kidd and his team and wish Mr Kidd all the best as he takes up a promotion in Derbyshire in September.

## SPORT

Physical Education, Sport and Physical Activity at GMS is an integral part of the school, the quality of the curricular provision, breadth of sports played, quality of performances continues to grow year on year. As Mr Ford has done in the past, I will make no apology for continuing to talk about the importance of physical activity for physical health and mental wellbeing. As has been mentioned before, in simple terms, physical activity can make you healthier, happier, and brainier!

The sports awards' evening will be held at school tomorrow evening and the rowing awards dinner on Wednesday of next week. The projected combined attendance, again, for both events is in excess of 500 people, this is a true testament to the strength of physical activity and sport at this school.

In the academic year 24/ 25 the PE department have had



501 practice sessions, competed in 358 fixtures. In terms of individual and team successes:

- **3 students representing school in National Athletics Finals**
- **U18 boys and girls indoor county hockey champions at U18**
- **U16 girl's county hockey champions**
- **U12 boys county rugby champions**
- **U18 girls netball league champions**
- **District Athletics Champions year 10 girls**
- **District Athletics runners up - year 10/9/8/7 boys**
- **District Athletics runners up - year 8/9 girls**
- **County Handball Champions year 10 girls!**

We have welcomed and competed against schools in the local area but in addition we have also this year welcomed global competition, hosting St Beads Grammar School from Argentina for tour fixtures in both Hockey and Rugby (Great Marlow won them both!).

## ROWING

Rowing continues to captivate a growing audience at Great Marlow School. The main highlights are that our boys' 1st Eight won The Schools' Head back in March which is a first for GMS and a major land mark event.

Our Year 10 and year 11 boys' fours both won Gold Medals at the Inter Regional Championships in April and went on to win Silver Medals at the National Schools Regatta at the end of May.

Our two eights beat Sir William Borlase in the Marlow Schools Challenge for the fourth year running and our top girls eight qualified for Henley Royal Regatta for the first time ever, while a very young - year 11 and year 10 - boys eight also qualified.

Lower down the school our year 9 girls octo came fourth at the Scullery (National Long Distance time trial) and won the B final at National schools in a dominant style.

The year 8s trained well despite a very wet winter and we have the largest squad to date and also encouraging is the over 90 year 7s who enjoyed the Learn to Row session that have run this term.

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH

The Duke of Edinburgh Award continues to be an important feature of life at GMS, 100 students, 83 bronze and 17 silver from Years 9-13 have successfully completed their awards this year. When you talk about personal development including character development and resilience, this is one fine example. This year, we are particularly grateful to Mr Goodright and members of the PE team for taking this on.

## BUSINESS STUDIES

Business Studies is an incredibly popular subject at GMS at both GCSE and A level, this year the extra-curricular activities have gone from strength to strength with activities throughout the year groups. In particular the Year 10 Young Enterprise teams did Great Marlow School Proud at the regional Young Enterprise event in April achieving a host of second and third prizes in the manufacturing award, Corporate Image, Financial Management, Marketing and an Environmental Award. In addition to this Young Enterprise have been involved in selling products in the local area – both in Marlow and Wycombe. In January Miss Broadbent even got our Year 7's involved with an enterprise event – with the school hall being transformed into a shop for a week! I was even persuaded to buy a plastic red rose... !

## VALUES AT GMS

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

### Thanks to...

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

I want to say a strong public thank you to all of the teachers and associate staff for their work, going above and beyond what is expected to make Great Marlow the place that it is.

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

Talking of partnerships, we continue to work closely with Marlow FM who have moved into their new accommodation at GMS. A number of staff make regular contributions to the station and students are also getting their opportunity to contribute to the stations content and maybe prepare themselves for a career in the media.

At the end of an academic year, it is the traditional time of



the year when we say goodbye to colleagues who are leaving the school. So, I would like to recognise this evening, as many of them are here.

I would like to thank Mr Vincent who retired after 41 years of service in April. In addition to that I would like to thank Miss Timon as Head of Department, Mrs Sadd and Miss Gronmark for their contributions to the English Department and school as a whole. In addition, from English, Mrs Legerton is leaving, not to retire but to travel, to read and relax and I know her desire is to at some time return to teaching.

As I have previously mentioned Mr Kidd our Head of Music has secured a promotion to a school in Derbyshire, he has raised the profile of music at the school and the quality of performances have been taken to the next level under his leadership.

In addition, we will also be saying goodbye to Mr Merreywether, one of our Assistant Headteachers who will be taking up a promotion as a Deputy Headteacher in a school in Cornwall. His contributions to the leadership of the school, quality of teaching and learning across the school, and to the results and curriculum delivery in Business Studies department have been invaluable.

In addition, we are also saying goodbye to Luca Noviello one of our LSAs and a former student who is leaving to take up the opportunity of a university place in September, and also to Ann Duguid who has supported our Armed Forces students for a number of years.

GMS wish them all the absolute best for the future."

**For my final comments, I would like to thank you all, parents, carers, students, staff and guests for attending on this very warm evening. 2024/ 25 has been another fantastic year at Great Marlow School, and I would like to wish all the students a very well-deserved summer break when it arrives on Friday 18th July.**

**I hope our entire school community has a very enjoyable summer holiday.**

Best Wishes

Mr Guy Pendlebury, Headteacher





# The 2025 Award Winners

SCIENCE KS3	DANNY WILLIAMS	8K2
COMBINED SCIENCE KS4	ETHAN POOLE	10E3
SEPARATE SCIENCE KS4	ELISABETTA KERR	10E3
BIOLOGY KS5	OLIVIA HAWKSWORTH	12H1
CHEMISTRY KS5	OLIVIA HAWKSWORTH	12H1
PHYSICS KS5	JOSH BEDFORD	12E1
PSYCHOLOGY KS5	IRIS DUNCAN	12E2
MATHS KS3	ALEXANDRA McGUINNESS	9H2
MATHS KS4	GEORGIA MORRIS	10E3
MATHS KS5	CHLOE SHEPARD	12K1
STATISTICS KS4	ELISABETTA KERR	10E3
STATISTICS KS5	IRIS DUNCAN	12E2
ENGLISH KS3	BRADEN STARK	9H1
ENGLISH KS4	LENI O'BRIEN	10E2
ENGLISH LIT KS5	JENNI EVANS	12K1
ENGLISH LIT/LANG KS5	TEGAN SPANG-KNECHTEL	12K1
ART KS3	ISABELLE NICHOLSON	8E2
ART KS4	GEORGIA MORRIS	10E3
ART KS5	GEORGIA TATE	12H2
DRAMA KS3	NOAH CODRON	9E2
DRAMA KS4	MAISIE GILES	10K3
DRAMA KS5	IRIS DUNCAN	12E2
MEDIA KS4	ERIN BOWERS	10K3
MEDIA KS5	GRACE APPLETON	12E1
CREATIVE & MEDIA KS5	CHARLOTTE SHAW	12H2
COMPUTING KS3	SOPHIE EASTER	7H1
COMPUTER SCIENCE KS4	EWAN WILLIAMS	
MUSIC KS3	JUDE COLLIN	9E1
MUSIC KS4	GRACE HULL	10H1
MUSIC KS5	JAMES SUTTON	12E1
PE BOYS KS3	AIDEN ALLEN	9H3
PE GIRLS KS3	ALEXANDRA McGUINNESS	9H2
PE BOYS KS4	THOMAS HAWKSWORTH	10H1
PE GIRLS KS4	LILY NICKLESS	10E1
BTEC SPORT	FLORENCE OWEN	12H2
A-LEVEL PE KS5	ALFIE BUNT	12E1
FOOD TECH KS3	DARCY LANGLEY	8E2
FOOD TECH KS4	MACK MORRISON	10E1
HOSPITALITY & CATERING KS4	SOPHIE WESTFIELD	10H3
RESISTANT MATERIALS KS3	HOLLY KNOTT	8K1
RESISTANT MATERIALS KS4	EDWARD DOWNING	10E3
GRAPHIC DESIGN KS3	EMMA HODSON	8E3
GRAPHIC DESIGN KS4	LYLA ROSE JACOBS	10E1
PRODUCT DESIGN KS5	GEORGIA TATE	12H2
TEXTILES KS3	NICOLE KLUCZYNSKA	8E2
TEXTILES KS4	LUCY HUNTER	10E1
FASHION & TEXTILES KS5	NEVE BUCKLEY	12K2
FRENCH KS3	FLYNN HATFIELD	7H1
FRENCH KS4	GIOIA DI MONDA	10H2
FRENCH KS5	LAIA GARCIA CALERO	12E1
SPANISH KS3	TEDDY JOHNSON	8E3
SPANISH KS4	ROSANNA DI DONNA	10K2
SPANISH KS5	RUDI CHAPMAN	12H1
HISTORY KS3	ALIASGER DEAN	8K2
HISTORY KS4	WILLIAM DE LA FORCE	10E2
HISTORY KS5	CHLOE SHEPARD	12K1

CLASSICS (ANCIENT HISTORY) KS5	ISABELLE BERGER	12E1
POLITICS KS5	RUDI CHAPMAN	12H1
LAW KS5	SOPHIE HARRIS	12H1
GEOGRAPHY KS3	IZABELLE PARTRIDGE	8H3
GEOGRAPHY KS4	ZACH DANIELS	10E2
GEOGRAPHY KS5	ISABELLE BERGER	12E1
RS KS3	TOMMY PASINI	9E2
RS KS4	DANIEL DA ROCHA	11K3
RSHE KS3	EVIE BEASLEY	9H3
RSHE KS4	EVIE CROWTHER-BIRCH	10H3
CHILD DEVELOPMENT KS4	CHARLOTTE PEARSON	10K1
BUSINESS KS4	ALICE FARROW	10H3
BUSINESS KS5	HARRY PRICE	12K2
TRAVEL & TOURISM	ADAM SINDEN	12H1
PROTECTIVE SERVICES	CHLOE WILSON	12K1
CITIZENSHIP KS3	JOHN BRADLEY-SESSIONS	7K1
CITIZENSHIP KS4	GIOIA DI MONDA	10H2
DEVELOPMENT IN LEARNING KS3	GEORGE LE COUTEUR	7H1
DEVELOPMENT IN LEARNING KS4	CHARLEY WEST	10H2
STUDENT SUPPORT	BRADEN STARK	9H1
YR 7 YEAR GROUP AWARD	APRIL BROWN	7K3
YR 8 YEAR GROUP AWARD	RILEY YOST	8K1
YR 9 YEAR GROUP AWARD	FRANKIE-MAE JAMES	9E1
YR 10 YEAR GROUP AWARD	TYLA BENNETT	10K1
YR 11 YEAR GROUP AWARD	SIENNA MORGAN	11H2
YR12 YEAR GROUP AWARD	ZACH DE BEER	12E1
YR 13 YEAR GROUP AWARD	CHARLOTTE HADDOCK	13K1

<i>Special Awards 2025</i>		
ATTENDANCE	AMELIA HORAN	13E1
ATTENDANCE	REBECCA TINNELLY	13E2
INTERACT	ARRAN BLIGH	13K1
ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR	CHARLOTTE PEARSON	10K1
WESTFOLD AWARD	PAUL HAWKINS	10K3
The Westfold Award was donated to GMS by Karen Westfold, a former LSA, whose children both studied music. Karen is a passionate musician and wanted to celebrate both the music provision at GMS and recognise the discretionary effort provided for her children.		
ECO-GARDENING CERTIFICATE	RAPHAEL TSOLAKI	10K1
ECO-CHAMPION TROPHY	JAMIE WATSON	10H2
CLAIRE COXWELL CUP	RALPH HILL	10K2
The Claire Coxwell award is given in recognition of Claire, a former student at GMS who sadly did not finish her education due to a terminal illness. Claire made the most of every day and every opportunity and always approached school life with a smile on her face. The recipient of this award is a student who embodies all of these traits on a regular basis.		
THE JOHN SPINK MEMORIAL PRIZE	EWAN WILLIAMS	10E3
The late Dr John Spink was a well-known doctor in Marlow. An active Rotarian, who organised the "Young Chef of the Year" competition which was held between the local schools. Always championing young people, promoting & celebrating their success, the John Spink Memorial prize is awarded to a student who has striven to develop their creative skills in Food & Nutrition.		
CHRIS HOWELLS TROPHY	SOFIA MILLS-MIGUEL	10H3
Chris Howells was a former teacher of Technology at GMS who was loved by everyone. He had time for everybody and made a point of going out of his way to make sure that others were happy and enjoyed what they did.		
LANCE SLATER MEMORIAL BEST POTENTIAL CITIZEN	LAIA GARCIA CALERO	12E1
The Lance Slater Award is in memory of Lance Slater, a prominent member of the Rotary Club of Marlow, who dedicated his life to community work. The Best Potential Citizen award has been renamed in his legacy.		
JIM CAMPBELL AWARD	PAUL VINCENT SHARON SHEPPARD	
Jim Campbell was a former GMS Governor who gave many hours of service and was a big advocate for the school in the local and wider community.		



# Art & Design

## GROWING SKILLS AND IDENTITY: YEAR 7 GET CREATIVE WITH NATURE AND CULTURE

**Our Year 7 students have made a fantastic start to the year, building on their core art skills and diving into new creative challenges. This term, they've been developing their observational drawing abilities through detailed studies of cacti, learning to measure proportions accurately and apply intricate detail using graphite and watercolour. The results so far have been stunning!**

As part of this journey, students have also been exploring mark-making techniques across a variety of media. These techniques not only help bring energy and texture to their artwork but also encourage each student to begin developing their own unique artistic style.

Looking ahead, we're excited to shift the focus to a celebration of personal identity and heritage, inspired by the vibrant and symbolic self-portraits of Frida Kahlo. Known for her depictions of the flora and fauna of her native Mexico, Kahlo's work will guide our students as they create portraits that reflect their own backgrounds. We're inviting them to include plants from their local surroundings or countries of heritage, and they can even include pets that are part of their lives!

To make this even more special, we'll be launching a summer competition to encourage students to go above and beyond with these portraits, there will be exciting prizes for the winners and house points up for grabs for everyone who takes part. It's a fantastic opportunity for students to express who they are through art, and we can't wait to see the creativity and application of all their learning .

Watch this space for updates on the winners – we're expecting something truly inspiring from our talented Year 7s!



Grace Everitt 7h2

Cece Heatherington 7k1



Grace Galloway 7h2

Haylee James 7E2

## PUNBELIEVABLE ART! YEAR 8 GET CREATIVE WITH POP AND WORDPLAY

**Our Year 8 students have been busy bringing a burst of colour and creativity to the classroom with a vibrant Pop Art project – and the results are nothing short of spectacular! The journey began with refined sweet-themed drawings that explore the core principles of Pop Art while teaching students how to create depth and realism using coloured pencils.**

Building on these foundations, students then took inspiration from the bold and playful style of Claes Oldenburg to design and create imaginative sculptures based on idioms and puns. Think clever visual wordplay brought to life in 3D

This project has become a real favourite in the department – not just for the vibrant outcomes, but for the valuable learning it supports. Students are developing essential skills such as 3d design planning, problem solving, and classroom self-management in a high-energy, creative environment. It's a great way to channel their enthusiasm into something productive and meaningful.

What we especially love is how this project brings out the best in so many of our students. It's fantastic to see them having fun with language and visual ideas – and sometimes surprising us with how witty and clever their concepts can be. Whether it's a sculpture of a "hot dog" or a literal "butter fly," these works really make you look (and think) twice.

We're so proud of how our Year 8s are stepping up, stretching their creativity, and bringing humour and intelligence into their art. Watch this space – we might just have the next pop art sensation in our midst!

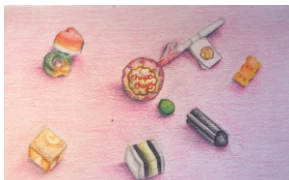
**By Mrs A Perman - Acting Head of Art & Design**



By Delia Surdaru Yr 8



By Ellie Gardiner Yr 8





## EXPLORING IDENTITY THROUGH PORTRAITURE: YEAR 9 DIVE INTO TONE, STYLE, AND SELF-EXPRESSION

Our Year 9 students have been continuing their journey into the world of portraiture, building on their understanding of tone and how it can be expressed through different styles and techniques. Their latest project has taken a bold and exciting turn as they explored the contemporary graphic work of artist Luke Dixon.



By Amara Gillman 9h3 By Jasper Lai 9h1 By Kitty Bernard 9k1

Students began by creating impressive artist research pages and producing their own self-portraits inspired by Dixon's distinctive, line-based style. His bold, modern approach provided a striking contrast to the fine art graphite portraits they completed earlier in the year, offering a fresh challenge and a chance to step outside their comfort zones. Some of our students have also had the opportunity to study Florian Nicolle this term, using collage and watercolour to create a more expressive fine art outcome.

The energy and enthusiasm in the classroom have been fantastic as students embraced this new way of working. Now, they're pushing their creativity even further by experimenting with typography portraits – artworks that combine self-portraiture with carefully selected text. Each piece becomes a celebration of identity, capturing the essence of who they are through both visual design and meaningful words.

For those continuing with GCSE Art next year, this has been a great opportunity to expand their portfolio and explore another stylistic direction. For others, it's a chance to stay engaged and express themselves right through to the end of the school year.

We're incredibly proud of how Year 9 have embraced this project – it's been inspiring to see their confidence grow and their personalities shine through their work. These final pieces are not just portraits, they're powerful personal statements.

By Mrs A Perman - Acting Head of Art & Design



By Lori Bowles 9h3 By Ralph Weaver-Poole 9h1 By Owen Barnes 9h3.



By Natalia Keary 9h1

By Bethany Kentell 9h2

By Isla Jackson-Lewis 9h3

## YEAR 10 ON TARGET FOR SOME EXCELLENT GCSE RESULTS IN YEAR 11!

Our Y10 students have been developing their individual responses to the theme of 'Food and Drink', building on the media experimentation and contextual research they have explored through the teacher led workshops earlier in the year. Students are encouraged to realise their intentions through independent experiments and purposeful artist research, demonstrating a creative journey from initial idea through to final outcome. We are proud of the work ethic and quality of outcomes we are seeing emerging and cannot wait to see their final artworks submitted in September!

## YEAR 11 COMPLETE THEIR GCSE'S

Our Year 11 students dedicated considerable effort during the Easter holidays to finalise their plans for the 10-hour controlled assessment scheduled for the beginning of the summer term. The students created an impressive array of final outcomes across various media and styles, including large-scale canvases, watercolours, and 3D creations. Each year, AQA releases the exam themes in January, allowing students to select a starting point to develop their projects. This year's themes encompassed 'Flora & Fauna', 'Narrative', 'Angles', 'Landmarks', 'Remnants', 'Rough & Smooth', and 'Human Being'. We were truly impressed by how each student directed their project in a personal and meaningful way. A sample of the work is displayed below.

By Mrs J Hayward







More amazing artwork from the Year 10 and Year 11 cohort

## The Path of Positivity: A Mural Project with a Message

Our students at GMS have been delighted to be part of this really exciting project to bring positivity to the people of Marlow. What began as a simple idea to support young people's mental health has grown into a vibrant community art project — transforming a once-forgotten 150-metre footpath into a colourful space filled with creativity, encouragement, and pride.

The Path of Positivity runs alongside Marlow Football Club, linking Oak Tree Road with Trinity Court. It's a well-used walkway for local residents and students from five of our seven local schools — making it an ideal space to share uplifting artwork and affirmations.

Students from across the community have helped bring this project to life. Other participating schools include Borlase, Holy Trinity, Sandygate, St. Peter's, and Spinfield. Their collective efforts are turning this grey footpath into a source of inspiration for everyone who passes through.

Some of the messages featured on the murals include:

- "Don't let yesterday take up too much of today"
- "Be unique"
- "Believe in yourself"
- "Neurodiverse universe"

These short phrases pack a powerful punch — offering moments of positivity during the daily walk to and from school.

There's more to this project than just paint on a wall. Murals have been shown to boost mental wellbeing, create a stronger sense of place, and even release dopamine in the brain thanks to the use of bold colours (mintandmabel.com). They offer a unique way to connect creativity with emotional health.

The first mural — designed by Charlotte Pearson and Clara Burges — is already complete and ready to view. It's a beautiful example of how young people can shape the spaces around them in meaningful ways. Upcoming murals by Sophia Mills-Miguels and Alana Princivalle are in progress and will be added soon.

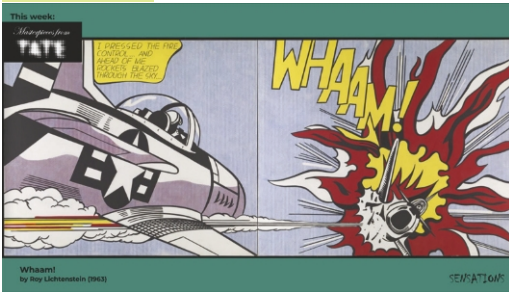
Whether you're heading to school, walking the dog, or just taking a stroll — we hope the Path of Positivity brings a smile to your face and a lift to your day.

By Mrs A Perman - Acting Head of Art & Design





# Art in Schools at GMS: Making Art Part of Everyday School Life



**At GMS, we're proud to be part of an exciting new partnership with Art In Schools, an art education charity with a bold and inspiring mission:**

**To bring the museum to the kids.**

Art In Schools is reimagining how young people experience art by removing traditional barriers like limited funding and inaccessible museum spaces. Their innovative solution? Special TV ArtScreens — set to be installed in school halls and canteens across the UK — that display a curated stream of iconic artworks, all day, every day.

## How It's Taking Shape at GMS

While we await our own ArtScreen installation, we've already begun integrating the programme into daily school life through weekly art presentations. Each week, form tutors receive a themed PowerPoint or video to share during tutor time. These presentations are also shown on the school's big screens and uploaded to the intranet — ensuring art becomes a regular, visible part of our students' environment.

This initiative is already sparking curiosity and inspiring thoughtful conversations across the school. So far, themed presentations have included:

- The Louvre
- The Art of Skateboarding
- Identity in Art
- Inspiration and Imagination
- Animals in Art
- ...and many more.

It's an engaging and accessible way to bring world-class art into the classroom — and we're just getting started.

## Highlights from Recent Presentations



### A Journey Through The Louvre

One of our most popular sessions took students on a virtual tour of The Louvre — showcasing the museum's rich history, iconic architecture, and a world-class collection of masterpieces. It offered a captivating glimpse into the heart of European art and culture.

### The Art of Skateboarding

This dynamic presentation featured Japanese artist Haroshi, who creates striking sculptures from recycled skateboard decks. Students also explored the Southbank Skatepark, often referred to as the birthplace of British skating, and looked at how designers and artists are transforming skate culture into street art.

Some weekly resources come as video reels set to classical music with expert narration — perfect for passive viewing during tutor time activities like uniform checks. Others come as PowerPoints designed to encourage discussion, reflection, and creative thinking.

Whatever the format, these sessions are helping make high-quality art engagement a regular and enriching part of school life.



## Looking Ahead

A big thank you to all staff and students who have embraced the Art in Schools programme so far. Your enthusiasm is helping us create a more creative, thoughtful, and inspired learning community.

With more themes on the way — and our ArtScreens arriving soon — the best is yet to come.

By Mrs A Perman





Studies By Ainhoa Ulloa Suarez & Natalie Quinn



## KS4 AND KS5 STUDENTS PROVE THAT HARD WORK PAYS OFF!

**Huge congratulations to our Year 11 and 13 artists, who have had an incredibly busy term completing their respective GCSE and A-level coursework & exams. Enjoy your well-earned long summer holidays & good luck for results day. We are very proud of all your hard work and look forward to showing off your beautiful outcomes once the exam board allows!!**

Our dynamic Year 12 students have had a fantastic Summer term, delving into painting studies for the continuation of the My Physical Self Portrait project. Students have worked to master their acrylic painting skills through studies of skin tones, underpainting, tonal mark making, texture & colour – Some independently exploring oil painting to take their work further. Works by Joshua Miels, Christina Troufa & Jenny Saville have been student favourites again this year and students have also visited the National Portrait Gallery exhibitions, 'The Legends' & 'Zoe Law' to further inspire their work.

Photography is an important part of the development process – ensuring captivating subjects and meaningful development of concepts. The students have been embarking on documentary style gig photography, incorporating special effects make up & themed, prop led shoots to drive their projects forwards. We are very excited to see projects develop into Moc outcomes before they refine their work over the summer break, to create large scale final outcomes. We are so very proud of your passion, resilience & innovation throughout the academic year & cannot wait to see the finished projects! You have been a joy to teach!

By Miss J Moyse

## Y12 ASSESSMENT RESULTS - JUNE 2025

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

### Ancient History

Isabelle Berger came top of the class, missing a Grade A by a single mark. Louis Gilmore and Alex Jury came second and third.

### Politics

Sophie Terrett scored Grade A in both papers and was top of the class. Rudi Chapman came second while Sophie Harris and Abigail Yahahlom were joint third.

### Law

Sophie Terrett achieved Grade A\* in both papers and was top of her class with a score of 94%. Sophie Harris was the top of the other class, also achieving Grade A\* with a score of 91%. Abigail Yahahlom achieved the third best score in the two classes, just missing out on Grade A\* by two marks, while Amelia Giles and Henry Coombs also achieved Grade A scores. In addition, the following achieved a Grade A or A\* score in one of the two papers: Keira Bird, Mia Brown, Louis Gilmore, Bilal Hussain, Alex Jury, Jessica Munro, Bradford Nye, Isabelle Samaras, Daniel Sloan, Barnaby Smith and Isabelle Toppin.

By Mr S Pugsley- Head of Department



## YR 7 DESIGN A TROPHY BRIEF

The Year 7's have been making their trophy's this term. During the process, students make a detailed activity mind-map, draw a trophy design to scale with accurate measurements and analyse a trophy in detail. During the practicals, the students use a hacksaw to cut the steel, a hammer to bend the steel and file to make chamfered domes. The pieces are brazed together then dip dyed red. This is a great example of a student's trophy where she did a great job sanding her base with the belt sander and using the stamps to make a metal name plate.

Well done to Grace Galloway whose trophy is shown, right.



## YEAR 9 GRAPHICS - DESIGNING THE FUTURE: A JOURNEY INTO 3D DRAWING AND CARD ROBOTICS

Year 9 students have been embarking on an exciting creative journey that blended technical drawing with hands-on model making. Through a dedicated course in 3D drawing and isometric design, students developed a strong foundation in visualising and representing objects from different angles—a key skill in both engineering and design.

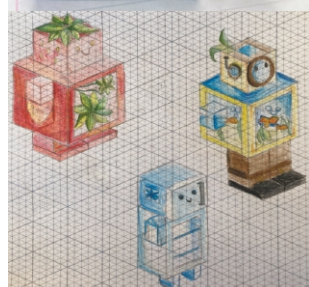
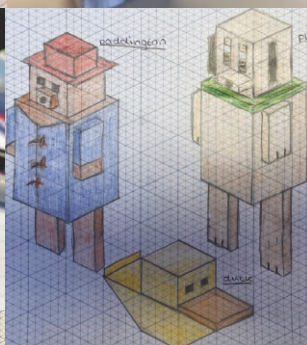
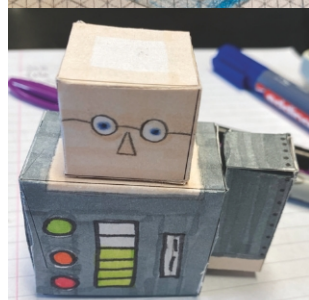
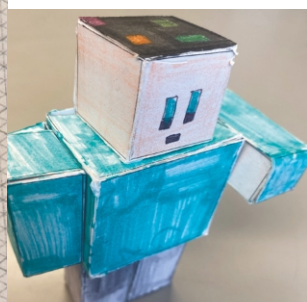
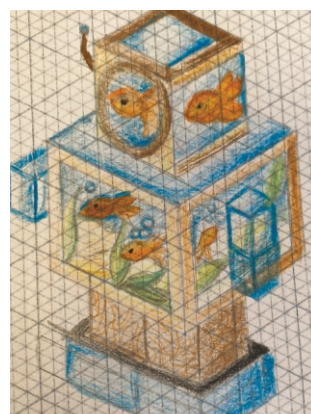
The project culminated in a challenge: to design, plan, and construct their own card robots. Armed with their new understanding of isometric drawing, students sketched detailed concepts, refined their ideas through planning, and brought them to life using craft knives, card, rulers, creativity, and plenty of problem-solving.

Not only did this project showcase students' creative design abilities, but it also encouraged critical thinking, perseverance, and innovation. Each robot reflected a unique personality—some were futuristic and sleek, others bold and mechanical—all demonstrating the impressive growth in the students' technical drawing and model-making skills.

The end results will emerge in the last week of the year, and will reflect the challenges they overcame along the way. It's a fantastic celebration of effort, imagination, and hands-on learning.

We're very proud of our Year 9s for their creativity and dedication, and are very excited for the creative development of those students who have opted to move into Design & Technology for one of their GCSEs.

**By Mr N Taylor - Head of Department**



## TEXTILES IN THE D&T DEPARTMENT

Year 8 have been working hard this term to complete their hanging storage systems. We have worked to the theme of 'All Things British', learnt applied applique techniques and how to attach a patch pocket. Combined with learning from Year 7, students created their own personal version of Smarter Living.



Year 9 have been learning to manufacture 3D products in Textiles, to solve the problem of being comfortable when working from home. They translated the 2D pattern template into these eye catching results. The print along the bottom has been inspired by another culture.





Year 10 have been building their understanding of design movements and iconic designers both past and present. They have combined this inspiration with an understanding of wide-ranging manufacturing techniques to design and make an accessory product. Students worked with autonomy and drafted the templates themselves, time-planned independently and had to include at least 2 new skills as well as 2 previously learnt techniques.

**Mrs C Clark - Head of Textiles**

## A THOROUGHLY WELL DESERVED FIRST PLACE!

On Wednesday 11th June the Drama Department took Year 10 and 12 Drama students to watch *Ghost Stories* at the Wycombe Swan. Written and directed by The League of Gentlemen's Jeremy Dyson. The students watched 90 minutes of thrilling twists and epic turns. This clever production kept the students on the edge of their

seats, as the five actors took the audience on a fully sensory and electrifying encounter. The play really got the students thinking about how the cast and the stage crew can create a live atmospheric piece that had many of them questioning the existence of ghosts.

We were lucky enough to have seats at the front of the stage, so the students were able to appreciate the set/special effects, sound and lighting - all of this will really support the students next year, as they prepare for their Component 2 exam.

The students really enjoyed themselves, asking for the department to organise another theatre visit soon - which has been done for February. Tickets have been booked for the students to watch *A Woman in Black*.

The students were a credit to the school and made the department extremely proud.

**By Mrs D Chenery - Head of Drama**



## Pic N Mix: Another Summer Success at Great Marlow School

This year's summer production, *Pic N Mix*, was yet another resounding success for the Drama Department at Great Marlow School. What made this achievement even more remarkable was the limited rehearsal time, due to circumstances beyond the department's control. Despite this challenge, the students rose to the occasion with incredible dedication and professionalism.

The production showcased not only the talent we've come to expect but also unearthed some exciting new performers who we hope to see in many future shows.

Behind the scenes, the lighting and sound were—as always—of a very high standard. It was particularly pleasing to see younger students stepping up to learn these essential technical roles, ensuring that this vital part of our productions continues to thrive.

Equally important was our fantastic Front of House team. It was heartening to see brand-new students enthusiastically taking on this responsibility and contributing to the smooth running of the evening.

We also bid a fond farewell to our Year 10 actors, many of whom have been performing with us since Year 7. They have been a consistent highlight of our productions and will be greatly missed. As always, our policy is that Year 11 is focused on GCSEs, and we do not want the commitment of a production to get in the way of that important academic year.

A huge thank you must go to our audiences—once again, we played to an excellent Audience—and to the parents and carers of our cast, whose support and commitment



make productions like Pic N Mix possible. We hope that, in addition to performance skills, our students have gained valuable life experience and forged lasting friendships.

We'll soon be announcing our Christmas production, which promises to be another exciting chapter in the school's rich tradition of drama.

By Mr S Ross



## Year 9 Drama Students Explore the Art of Set Design and Stage Makeup

**In the ever-evolving world of theatre, the ability to transform oneself into a character goes beyond acting—it extends to the art of technical theatre and the skills needed to bring together a vision on stage, using light, set, costume and make up.**

This year we have introduced some new additions to the topics studied in Year 9 Drama. Due to our ever-popular GCSE Drama course providing curriculum opportunities in sound and lighting design, costume and stage makeup, we have created a curriculum that introduces our students to some of the technical elements available to them on our GCSE courses.

We have looked at set and stage design by using a brief and creating small scale cut out set boxes that tell a story using set. We also looked at designing costumes for our favourite character's that reinvented the role into a contemporary design, discussing the use of fabric, tailoring, colours, practicalities and personality.

Our most popular area of design was stage makeup. For our Year 9 drama students, delving into stage makeup offered a unique opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of theatrical design and allowed all students to develop new skills that are valuable both on and off the stage.

To solidify their understanding, students participated in practical sessions where they learnt stage makeup techniques. Activities included applying makeup to create different characters and to tell a story, understanding how makeup interacts with stage lighting, and learning the importance of hygiene and safety when using makeup products.

The students underwent stage by stage training in how to apply the makeup, what tools to use and how to create specific effects using a variety of professional products.

The students worked incredibly hard together in their working groups in creating their outcomes and the drama department were so pleased by their approach and confidence with this new skill.

Well done to you all and we look forward to continuing with this with the next cohort.





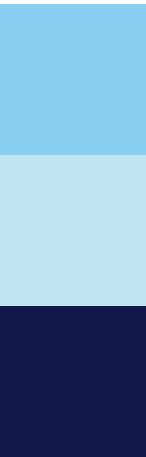
## INTER-SCHOOL DEBATE COMPETITION

On the 15th July, three students from Y12 will be competing in the Inter-Schools Debate competition. Holmer Green School are hosting this annual event and are known to have a thriving debate society. Great Marlow School are delighted to be taking part and hope to earn back the winning trophy which we previously won in 2023. This year's debate topics are:

- The UK should lower the voting age to 16
- Social media is more harmful than helpful to society
- Surveillance technology is a necessary trade-off for public safety?
- Is university education still worth the cost?
- The UK should make all public transport free

This is likely to be a heated and engaging competition with our GMS team proposing and opposing. We wish Izzy, Kris and Rory the very best of luck!

By Mrs C Legerton



All of the Year 6 students have been asked to read the first twelve chapters during the summer holidays. The remainder of the story will be read during form time on our return to school in September.

By Mrs C Legerton

## STAFF PARENTS' AND CARERS' BOOK CLUB

Mrs Legerton and Mrs Ben Haj Ali would like to extend their thanks and 'happy summer reading' to the wonderful group of parents and carers who have made the commitment to read widely this year. Meeting once a month, this group have read and suggested a range of books across the genres. We look forward to meeting up again in September and encourage any new members to keep a look out for the school calendar which will signpost the first date of meeting in the new academic year.

By Mrs C Legerton and Mrs L Ben Haj Ali

## YEAR 7 AND 8 LIBRARY LESSONS GET CREATIVE!

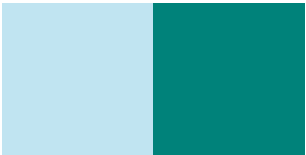
Years 7 & 8 have continued to enjoy their library lessons this term. They have been very busy designing new covers for their favourite books, working on author research and looking at reading strategies and newspaper articles. They have ended the term with a big summer quiz and book and film charades.

We have had lots of positive feedback following the implementation of our new Beanstack reading app tracker back in February, with over 90% of the students now signed up. Prizes and Headteachers Awards have been given out for book reviews, our genre challenge and to students who are top of the year group Leaderboard each week.

We would like to say a special well done to the following students for their excellent efforts in reading this year.

We wish everyone a wonderful summer break with plenty of 'readaxation' time and look forward to welcome all of our students back again in September.

By Mrs A Fisher and Mrs L Ben Haj Ali



## TRANSITION READING BOOK

As part of the Year 6 Transition day, Great Marlow School were able to provide all of our new student cohort with a reading book to keep!

Now in it's third year, the GMS 7th R (Reading) commits itself to providing ample opportunities to promote reading for pleasure.

Generously funded by FoGMS, the chosen book is Relic Hamilton: Genie Hunter by Joseph Coelho. This novel seeks to stop evil genies who wreak havoc. There is a reason why they are imprisoned in lamps!

Year 7	Year 8
Sebastian Pearce	Freya Thompson
Francesca Gamberota	Alima Hussain
Aiden Eustace	Matilda Iorio
Tilly Milner	Nadia Mattu
Genevieve Smith	Bethany Watson
Leni Horner	Noah Leavy
Lailah Hyde-McKay	Daisty Burkitt
Sebastian Reilly	Hannah Hunt
Mattea White	Ellie Gardner
Niyya Shah	Charlie Watson





## Goodbye Year 11 & 13

The geography department would like to say well done to the year 11 and 13 students who have now finished all of their GCSE exams. We were very impressed with the work ethic of the students, especially the students who regularly attended the 7.30 am masterclass sessions. We have really enjoyed teaching you all and wish you the very best of luck in whatever you choose to do next, year 11 we hope to see lots of you in sixth form, year 13 keep in touch and let us know how you are getting on.



## YEAR 10s work ethic shines through

This year we have been so impressed with year 10s work ethic, we have seen it since the beginning of the year and the mock season really showed the commitment our students have to Geography. Students have been attending revision sessions, making use of the revision resource station, checking in with teachers and working hard in lesson. Students should have their mocks back by now and should use it to see the areas they need to look over again and create a plan for how to tackle these areas. We look forward to working with them in year 11!

## Year 7 Windsor trip.



On Thursday 3rd April all year 7 students were invited to Windsor for a joint History and Geography trip. It was a beautifully sunny, warm day and students were able to enjoy all the sites and shops of Windsor. Students completed many different pieces of fieldwork including field sketches, environmental quality surveys and non-participant observations. Here is what some students in 7H2 had to say about the trip.



Geography

*As we write this article, we are now in the process of preparing for year 10s trip to Oxford where students will be looking at how regeneration has had a positive impact on the city centre. They will explore many areas of Oxford looking at the different types and ages of buildings, completing a treasure hunt to see as many places and features as possible, assessing the quality of multiple areas and creating field sketches. The students are practicing their fieldwork techniques in lesson and doing some background research into how the area has changed over the years, all of which they will see in real life on 11th July.*

By Max Arnold

*"I did a lot of things at Windsor, it was a magnificent place and I really enjoyed it, we saw a waterfall and we saw guards, it was fantastic.*

*Windsor was very fascinating, we went through many sites and finished off by strolling in Alexandra Park- Annabella L.*

*My favourite part of Windsor was Alexandra Park as we explored with our friends. – Gladys*

*It was a very exciting and exceptional trip. We learnt a lot of new fascinating facts and had lots of fun with our friends. Grace E*

*It was an amazing trip! The sights were beautiful, especially the castle- Albert.*

*Windsor was such a fascinating place to go to and there were many interesting buildings. It was nice to see the changing of the guards. Emilia R*



Windsor was a very exciting and interesting place to go to with so many different sites. I especially enjoyed going round Alexandra Gardens with my friends and having fun- Amelie S

Windsor was a very good school trip and as a year we saw lots of fun things. Personally, my favourite place we went to was the bridge as it had a great view of wildlife. Charlie S

I loved how the teachers took us around outside the castle because we got to see the shopping centre and we went to a big bridge and the historic train station. Maryam E

I loved the trip because of all the field sketches and the tests we did in stations and around Windsor. We had a lot of fun saying what we thought of the environment and the surroundings. Aiden E.

I enjoyed travelling to different locations for the geography part of the trip. Theo M



Next year in Geography club we will be launching a race across the world competition so keep your eyes out for news on when this will be starting.

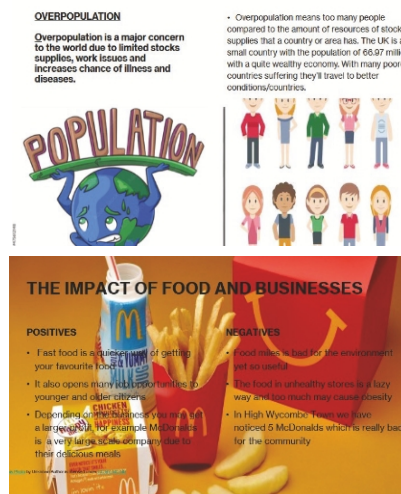
## The Geography Club news



This year students were given a chance to create a presentation on any geography topic of their choice. They researched their topic and created PowerPoints to show us about how their chosen topic is influencing our world and the value of protecting it. The first project by Lottie and Maddy was on The Great Barrier Reef, which is visible from space and helps to clean out our oceans but is one of the most threatened species due to pollution. (left)

The next presentation by Lailah and Willow was about whether the world will be extinct in 50 years' time. The issues of overpopulation, pollution and obesity being the key areas the students looked out gave an interesting

perspective on the different threats to our society. Although there is not one definitive answer to their question, what is clear is that if we carry on living the way we are, the world is at serious risk of potentially life-threatening consequences. (right)



It has been a very busy and successful year in the geography department, and we look forward to doing it all over again next year. We hope everyone has a restful summer holiday; we will see you in September!

By the Geography Departmrnt

@gmsgeogsquad

This year we launched our Instagram account and have seen much engagement throughout the year, we are planning to expand this next year and increase student participation. We are already at 338 followers, with 11.2K views in the last 30 days! Here are the top 3 posts from this academic year.



## Year 7 Castle Competition – July 2025

Year 7 students the whole year, have recently designed and built castles using household items. This year was a bumper year, with around 70 entries and we had to expand over two separate classrooms. The students worked individually or in pairs to produce some amazing castles; some had explanatory booklets and other castles had pictures to show how hard they worked on their project. The castles ranged from classic English, Welsh and Scottish castles to Japanese inspired castles. The History Department, Miss Roberts and Mr Pendlebury spent much of the day judging many different castles and we managed to create a shortlist of finalists:

Tilly Rees and Jess Scott (7K1), Alessandra Gonzalez (7H1), Mason Stevens (7E1) and Theo Moore (7H2), Florence Etches (7K1), George Vidler (7H3), Grace Galloway (7H2), Ryan Hyseni (7K3), Aneira Mason and Jessica Jacobs (7H1), Harry Taylor (7H3), Seb Reilly (7H3), Harry Williams (7E1) and Harrison Chambers (7H3).

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

**1st Place and overall competition winner – Alessandra Gonzalez (7H1)**

**2nd Place – Harry Taylor (7H3) AND Ryan Hyseni (7K3)**

**3rd Place – George Vidler (7K3)**

**Director of Learning's Award – Tilly Rees and Jess Scott (7K1)**

**Head Teacher's Award – Seb Reilly (7H3)**

The winners received a certificate and prize.

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

By Mr D Taylor



## HISTORY TRIP TO HAMPTON COURT PALACE

Our Year 12 A-level History students recently visited Hampton Court Palace as part of their early modern studies. Throughout the day, students explored the palace grounds and discovered how it became a centre of power during Henry VIII's reign and beyond.

In the morning, a Hampton Court Palace expert led an engaging session on the mid-Tudor Crisis, using the palace itself as a valuable historical source. Students enthusiastically participated, drawing on the architecture and original sources around them to enrich group discussions and deepen their understanding of this pivotal period in history.

During our visit, we discovered that Hampton Court Palace is distinctly divided into two sections: the original Tudor buildings and the later Georgian additions, the latter inspired by the grandeur of the Palace of Versailles. We also learned many fascinating historical details about the palace such as it was under Wolsey and how it has changed today. For example, many of the 241 chimneys are merely decorative and added later to 're-Tudor' the palace.

We also were able to visit Wolsey's apartments and view some significant painting that are part of the Royal Palaces collection such as the Field of Cloth of Gold and the Battle of Spurs. We also viewed some artefacts from Wolsey's apartments, tried on some Tudor headwear and learnt how the astronomical clock works that dominates clock court.

A highlight of the day for the students was Hampton Court's historic maze which they completed in record time, despite the heat. (Although the final standings on finishers have been disputed by some participants).

By Mrs S Bullock - Head of History



YEAR	STUDENTS NAME	CERTIFICATE	
7	Max Attia	Bronze	
7	Sebastian Bullock	Bronze	
7	Grace Everitt	Bronze	
7	Grace Galloway	Bronze	
7	Alessandra Gonzalez	Bronze	
7	Amelie Prowse	Bronze	
7	Jake Seabrook	Bronze	
7	Nikolas Tomasik	Silver	Highest Score in Year 7
8	Mya Bhudia	Gold	Highest Score in School
8	Jacob Buller	Bronze	
8	Daisy Burkitt	Bronze	
8	Jack Caseberry	Bronze	
8	Alexis Collier	Bronze	
8	German Del Corral Gamero	Bronze	
8	Caleb Flood	Bronze	
8	Sophie Hale	Silver	
8	Florence Hawkins	Bronze	
8	Seb Jones	Bronze	
8	Dean Malik	Silver	
8	Zoraiz Maqsood	Bronze	

## JUNIOR MATHS CHALLENGE RESULTS

This term over 50 students had taken part in the Junior Maths Challenge from Year 7 and Year 8. The Challenge is designed to stretch students and think outside the box.

The challenge is recognised all around the world. Over 300,000 students participate each year and the highest scoring received either a Gold (Top 7%), Silver (Next 13%) or Bronze (Next 20%) Certificate.

Congratulations to all the students who had chosen to take part. The following were the top scoring students in the UK for this year's JMC.

By Mrs A Bansal



## Y10 Pinewood Studios - Media Careers Trip

On Wednesday 4th June, we took a small group of our Year 10 GCSE Media students to visit Pinewood Studios. This was a great opportunity to see this historic film and television studio in action and find out more about potential careers in the media industries. As part of the visit, we had a presentation from the Creative Media Skills Institute, which is an organisation that runs year-long foundation courses in various media careers (e.g. screenwriting, directing and costume design). This would be a fantastic opportunity for students once they reach 18 years of age, if they are interested in a media-based career; it's free if they are 18 and you can find out more details on the Creative Media Skills Institute website - <https://www.cmsinstitute.co.uk/>.

By Mr D Sacre - Head of Department





## A BUSY TERM FOR OUR MUSICIANS

**The Summer Term has been nothing short of spectacular for the Music Department at Great Marlow School, packed with performances, examinations, and unforgettable moments.**

Our annual Summer Concert was the largest in school history, with more students performing than ever before. Highlights included the 'Class Brass' debut, with Year 7 students confidently delivering a vibrant version of I Feel Good by James Brown – the result of our exciting new classroom initiative.

The concert opened with stunning contributions from the Chamber Choir and Show Choir, the latter dazzling the audience with a show-stopping medley from Wicked. The Year 7 Choir charmed with their beautiful rendition of Stargazing by Miles Smith, while the newly formed Folk Group made their debut, bringing traditional melodies to life.

There were standout solos too: Misty was delivered with poise and grace by Grace H and Grace P. The Wind Band energised the audience with a lively set including Hey Soul Sister, before the Jazz Band rounded off the first half with a punchy performance of The Peanut Vendor.

The second half was led by the fantastic Rock and Pop Groups. High Flies, The Four Horsemen and Surf City made their debuts and performed brilliantly, whilst Table for Four, The Vixens, The Stoops and Shotgun Approach returned to the stage, demonstrating outstanding skill and professionalism.



## Exam Success

We're incredibly proud of the students who sat music exams this term – their hard work paid off with excellent results:

### Trumpet:

Austin Begley – Grade 4 (Merit)  
Seb Pearce – Grade 1 (Distinction)

### Flute:

Ivy Burge – Grade 3 (Merit)  
Voice (Rock and Pop):  
Miles Berry – Grade 6 (Merit)  
Diya Thapar – Grade 3 (Pass)  
Hannah Hunt – Grade 4 (Merit)

### Guitar:

Ollie Stone – Grade 3 Rock (Merit)  
Ruby Roper – Grade 1 Acoustic (Merit)  
Thomas Whitely – Grade 3 Electric (Merit)

### Drums:

Seb Riley – Grade 3 (Distinction)  
Mason Leek – Grade 2 (Distinction)  
Ryan Smith – Debut Grade (Distinction)  
Rowan Messenger (Y8) – Grade 1 (Distinction)

### Piano:

Alexandra McGuinness – Grade 2 (Merit)  
Sophie Squire – Grade 2 (Distinction)  
Genevieve Smith – Grade 2 (Distinction)  
Theo Collin – Grade 2 (Distinction)

The music department would like to thank all the peripatetic music teachers in helping our students gain such amazing grades.

**By Mr O Kidd - Head of Music**



## Class Brass Project



In the Summer Term, the Music Department launched the inaugural class brass project, providing students in Year 7 with the opportunity to perform an orchestral instrument. After just five lessons, the students then performed with gusto at the Summer Concert, wowing everyone with two brilliant performances on the trumpet.



## Celebrating Student Excellence

At the Celebration of Success Evening, we were delighted to see Alexandra McGuinness (Y9), Rosanna Di Donna (Y10), Grace Hull (Y10), and Jamie Sutton (Y12) deliver exceptional musical performances.

The Sports Awards Evening was another collaborative highlight. Teaming up with the P.E. Department to celebrate the sporting successes of 2024-25, the student house-band featuring Grace Hull, Grace Puddephat, Ollie Stone, Hugo Bester, Paul Hawkins and Elia Frankish brought a celebratory soundtrack to the night.

## Live on the Airwaves

Our very own "Radio 1 Live Lounge" came to life on Marlow FM 97.5, with live acoustic sets from Hugo, Paul and Elia, followed by brilliant performances from Grace P, Grace H, Amelie, and Dan. Do head to the Marlow FM website to listen to the outstanding performances again on catch-up!

## Looking Ahead

As the 2024-25 school year draws to a close, excitement is building for our trip to see Hamilton in the West End – a special treat for Year 10 students and our Show Choir. We also look forward to closing the year with musical performances throughout the week during the end of year assemblies.

**What a term! What a year!!! Congratulations and thank you to all students for your commitment, hard work and dedication throughout the year. Thank you also to the staff and parents for your continued support of our flourishing Music Department. Have a fantastic summer.**

By Mr O Kidd - Head of Music

## Summer Term in the Science Department

The Summer term has had students covering a range of topics in science:

- **Year 7: Sound, Variation and Plants**
- **Year 8: Digestion, Microbes and Space**
- **Year 9 (Dependent on class): Organisation, Electricity, Quantitative Chemistry**
- **Year 10 (Dependent on class): Space, Ecology, Energy Changes in Reactions**





## Year 7

Year 7 have been learning about sampling techniques in their variation topic. They have searched for bugs and insects within our wildflower green using pooters and sweep nets.

## Year 8

Well done to the year 8 cohort for their great engagement with the Space topic.

We have had some incredible questions from them. They have shown their curiosity and grown in confidence throughout this topic

They have also been analysing the bacteria growth from various objects and areas of the classroom with some rather shocking results – safe to say that many of them will be cleaning their phones more frequently!

## Year 8 Whipsnade Zoo Trip

Our Year 8 students are looking forward to the trip to Whipsnade Zoo on Thursday 10th July.

The aims of the trip are to encourage our students to develop a sense of excitement and curiosity about the world around them. In addition to this, the zoo provides an alternative learning environment giving the students an opportunity to develop real life links to their curriculum.

Whipsnade Zoo offers all students a chance to study a wide variety of animals, see conservation in action and take part in a Whipsnade Zoo education session. Upon returning to school, students will be well informed and empowered to evaluate the role of the Zoo in conservation and prevention of wild animals becoming extinct.



## Year 9

Year 9 have been engaging in their learning of electricity through both theoretical and practical means. They have recently investigated the relationship between total resistance and the length of a wire.

## Year 10



Our Year 10 Scientists are busy preparing for their summer mock exams and we wish them all the best of luck. Your dedication to revision will be rewarded! Some have revisited the practical of microscopy during their revision.

Students in Year 10 this term has been out on the field practicing their Sampling Techniques using quadrats. They have mastered the process of random sampling and systematic to gather data on the distribution of organisms growing in an ecosystem.

By Mrs J Webster - Head of Department



Mrs. Webster's "Science Fix" is available to all KS4 students in S5 on Thursdays and Fridays after school.

**GET YOUR SCIENCE FIX!**

STRUGGLING WITH A TRICKY TOPIC?  
FOUND AN EXAM QUESTION YOU ARE STUCK ON?

**KS4 STUDENTS!!**

WANT TO BOOST YOUR EXAM TECHNIQUE?

JOIN MRS WEBSTER  
S5  
THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS  
3.00PM - 4.00PM



## SPIRITED ARTS COMPETITION



The Spirited Arts project is now in its fourth year at Great Marlow School and is an integral part of the Key Stage 3 Religious Education curriculum, delivered as the final topic in Summer Term of Year 8. It is an international project run by the National Association of RE Teachers (NATRE), attracting thousands of entries from students of all ages and locations. At GMS, it gives all students the opportunity to apply their learning from years 7 and 8 to three different themes provided. This year the themes were 'Living in a Diverse World,' 'Thinking about God' and 'Making Sense of Life'.



Students have worked in small groups since returning from Easter plan and implement their own learning, conducting research into relevant religious beliefs and scriptural evidence. They have a largely free choice over what kind of creative, artistic work we want to produce. In 2025, we have had short films, poems, paintings, photography and even cakes (see below). Each group then needs to produce a piece of reflective writing to analyse and evaluate their project, considering questions such as 'My inspiration came from...' and 'I have discovered...'.

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

It is clear the students value this project. Loca Bogue (8H3) said "Spirited Arts helps your creativity when thinking about Religious Education." Ollie Cook 8H1 also remarked that "Spirited Arts has helped me explore my own religion."



By Mr G Pightling - Head of Department

## UNDERSTANDING FESTIVALS: STUDENT-LED RE WORKSHOP INSPIRES COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In a remarkable display of leadership and creativity, some of our Year 10 GCSE RS students ran an RE workshop for the Year 6 students at Foxes Piece. The workshop held was aimed to not only educate but also foster understanding of different festivals celebrated around the world.

One of the highlights of the workshop was the interactions between our GMS students with those from Foxes Piece and encouraging them to share their thoughts leading to meaningful conversations.

Feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive. Foxes Piece students and staff expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to learn from their GMS peers and to gain insights into beliefs of different religions and even developing their own belief.

Even feedback from our Year 10 students was insightful and reflective of their own learning. "It was really fun to interact with the Year 6 students and run the workshop, it was a successful trip", said one of our Year 10 students.

The success of the workshop has inspired plans for future collaboration with Foxes Piece, with students eager to continue to support the success of these workshops. You can see the success of the workshop from these pictures.

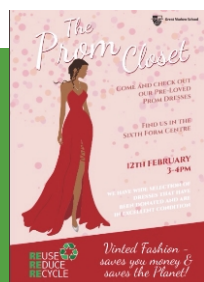


The event took place on Friday the 4th of July 2025 and allowed our Year 10 students to take lead in sharing their learning experiences in lessons with the students at Foxes Piece. They crafted an engaging program that included interactive discussions and group activities from different faith's traditions.



## Eco Group Update

This academic year students have been given numerous opportunities to get involved in eco-focused competitions and initiatives, helping to raise awareness and promote sustainable practices within our school community. The Eco Warrior group has participated in several competitions throughout this academic year, including the 'Importance of Water' competition and the Marlow Energy Group Essay Competition.



On 12th February, Year 11 girls were invited to attend the Prom Dress Pop-Up Shop, where they had the opportunity to browse through over 80 donated prom dresses collected over the past few years. Staff were delighted with the success of the event, which was well attended by students and their parents. Many dresses found new homes, giving them a fresh lease of life, and helping to promote sustainability through reuse. Some students even planned to upcycle their chosen dresses into unique creations for the Year 11 Prom. We were all excited to see these students looking fantastic in their preloved outfits on prom night.



## A Thriving Pocket of Nature on Our School Grounds



Our school pond has truly come to life this year, becoming a vibrant and thriving pocket of wilding on our site. Following a recent visit from Wild Marlow, we were thrilled to learn that the pond is functioning exactly as it should — providing a rich and diverse habitat for local wildlife.

While the meeting point between land and water may appear a little "overgrown" or "untidy" to some, it is, in fact, one of the most valuable and biodiverse habitats we can support. The presence of flying insects, butterflies, and the cheerful chorus of birdsong are all encouraging signs that this ecosystem is flourishing.

Perhaps most exciting of all, we've found evidence of tadpoles — a new and welcome addition to the pond that reflects the growing health and balance of the environment.



To ensure the pond continues to thrive, Wild Marlow will be working in partnership with our Eco Lead, Miss Ashby, to maintain and care for this special space. This collaboration will help preserve the pond as a wonderful resource for learning, exploration, and connection to nature for the entire school community.

## IMPORTANCE OF WATER COMPETITION

During the week of March 17th, the Geography Department led an assembly focused on World Water Day, which helped relaunch the Eco Club. As part of the initiative, students were invited to design or create something—such as a poster, model, or PowerPoint presentation—to raise awareness about water scarcity and how people can help conserve water. We received many creative entries, and three Year 7 students were awarded first, second, and third place.



Aoife Smith 7E1



Oana Surdaru 7H3



Alessandra Gonzalez 7H1



## Eco-Warriors A NEW WATERING INITIATIVE

In the last half term, a fantastic new watering initiative has been launched across the school site, inspired by a visit from representatives of Wild Marlow and Pocket Wilding. This project supports our wider Eco goals and focuses on sustainability, especially in response to the increasingly hot weather conditions.

A group of innovative Year 7 students have designed and implemented a system to help water the trees around the school. Their solution not only makes it easier to care for these important green spaces, but also cleverly incorporates our commitment to reuse and recycling.

This initiative is particularly important for the younger trees on site, many of which have been struggling during recent dry spells. Thanks to the students' efforts, these trees now have a much better chance of thriving.

We're incredibly proud of our students for taking the lead on such a meaningful project, and we look forward to seeing the long-term impact of their work on our school environment.



## Digging In: Gardening Club's Growing Success!



The Gardening Club has had a busy and exciting year — and our green-fingered team has plenty to be proud of!

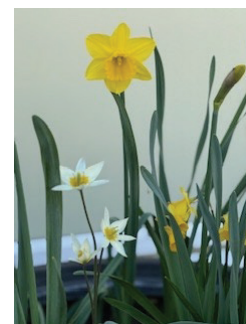
Earlier in the year, we took the first steps in creating a brand-new allotment area on the school grounds. After lots of hard work preparing the beds, the planting has begun in earnest. As well as strawberries, which we're hoping will produce a sweet harvest later this year, we've also planted potatoes, leeks, rhubarb, and onions. Each week, students from across the school have been rolling up their sleeves to water, weed, and care for our crops, learning valuable skills about growing food and working as a team.

But the allotment isn't our only project. Back in the autumn, Gardening Club members planted hundreds of bulbs in our flower garden. As spring arrived, we were rewarded with a colourful and cheerful display of flowers, brightening up the school grounds and bringing a real sense of achievement to everyone involved.

Looking ahead, we're excited to start work on our next project — the creation of a sensory garden beside the garden room. This space will be designed to stimulate the senses with fragrant herbs, textured plants, offering a calm and relaxing spot for students and staff to enjoy.

The Gardening Club continues to grow, and we're always keen to welcome new members. Whether you're an experienced gardener or just want to give it a go, there's something for everyone — and you might even get to taste some of our home-grown produce! We meet every Thursday Break 2 behind the hall.

Watch this space for more updates as our gardens continue to flourish.



## Final thoughts

We are still looking to grow our Eco Warrior team and are planning a major recruitment push in September with the arrival of the new Year 7 students. However, we'd love to see more of you getting involved now—join us in A11 on Mondays during Break 1!

By Miss Ashby, Mrs Lamming, Miss Sparks and Ms Hearne





## GRANDMASTER CHESS

The Great Marlow Chess Club is a growing club in the school's extra curricular timetable.

Just recently, chess enthusiasts took part in a simultaneous exhibition match with Grandmaster Matthew Wadsworth; he challenged 15 of our students and 15 students from Sir William Borlase.

Mr. Wadsworth became a Grandmaster in Bad Wörishofen, Germany earlier this year: his score took him into the elite 2500 points threshold and secured him the title of Grandmaster.

It is very rare that any school student would be able to play a grandmaster, and we are very grateful to Mr. Wadsworth for giving of his time and the chance for our students to play against him. Everyone involved took the opportunity very seriously; they studied Mr. Wadsworth's previous games for weeks before the event.

GMS participants thoroughly enjoyed the event and were very pleased to have been invited to share in the experience with students from Borlase, certainly, it's become a lasting memory for everyone involved.

By Mrs D Simon

## MARLOW FM NEWS

We have been overjoyed here at Marlow FM HQ to have had so many wonderful members of staff from GMS appearing on our breakfast show 'Teacher Feature' this past Summer term.

Mrs Hayward (Art), Mrs King (Psychology), Mrs Messenger (Geography) and Mr Weller (DT) have all been live on air talking to presenter Jonny Ratner about their favourite aspects of the job and how they got into teaching.

In addition to the teachers, we have also welcomed Paul, Hugo and Eli from Year 10 playing songs from their band live from the studio and Lailah, Elliot and Flynn from Year 7 who were talking about all the exciting things they have done during their first year of secondary school.

Marlow FM have also been super busy supporting local community events with our live broadcasting trailer at the Marlow May

Fayre, Pub in the Park and Marlow Regatta.

We must also mention our new superstar DJ, none other than GMS's own Stuart Ross, who after coming on air on the Teacher Feature last year has now completed his presenter training and has his own show 'Stuart on a Sunday' every week at 2pm on Sundays – please do listen in, it's a great fun show!

Wishing all the staff, students and their families an enjoyable and restful summer break.



By Mrs Lisa Ben Haj Ali  
(Library Teacher  
Marlow FM Revival! Presenter)



## MARLOW FM NEWS

## ANNOUNCING "STUART ON SUNDAY – MADE IN MARLOW, FOR MARLOW"

Presented by our very own Mr Ross, every Sunday from 2pm to 4pm Stuart on Sunday brings a unique mix of music, laughter and community spirit to Marlow FM – and right at the heart of it all are the students and families of Great Marlow School.

Broadcast live from the Marlow FM studio built right here on the school site, the show was created to give students more opportunities to get involved in radio – and it's already proving a huge success. Incredibly, after only eight shows, Stuart on Sunday has been nominated for a Community Radio Award – and this is just the beginning.

The show has featured pupils, parents, teachers, quizzes, games and loads of fun – all led with energy, humour and creativity from the school community. It's been a brilliant platform to celebrate the voices of GMS.

Looking ahead to the new academic year, there are even more exciting plans. Tutor groups will be invited to take part in the show, helping to create songs, jingles, and other fun and imaginative content. We're also actively looking for new students and families to get involved – whether that's behind the mic, playing a game, or joining in a challenge.

A huge thank you to all the students and parent/carers who have taken part so far – and if you haven't yet, now's the time! Stuart on Sunday is open to everyone in the school community, and the more voices we have, the better the show becomes.

If you're interested in getting involved – either as a family or as a student – don't wait to be asked. Just drop an email to [stuart.ross@marlowfm.co.uk](mailto:stuart.ross@marlowfm.co.uk). And if you'd like to hear what the show's like before jumping in, head to the Marlow FM website, click on Listen Again, and choose Stuart on Sunday from the list.

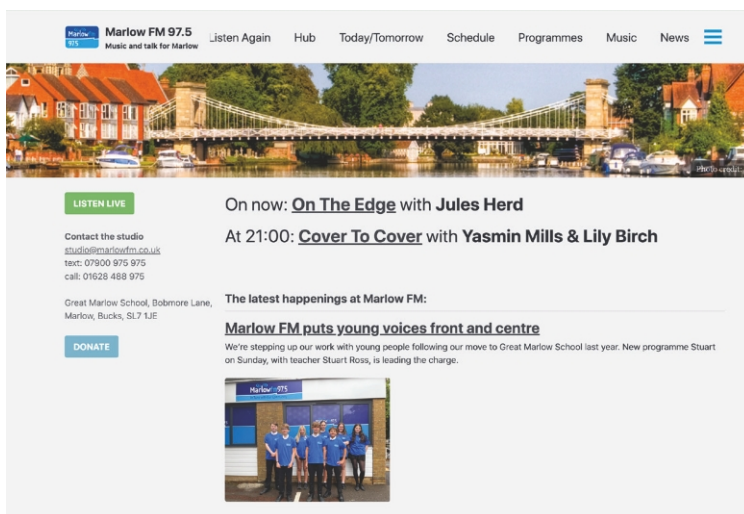
The show is all about having fun, and it will be a new experience for many. On behalf of the show, Mr Ross would like to personally thank all the students and parent/carers who have already been involved in making Stuart on Sunday such a brilliant part of the school community.

By Mr S Ross

"The ultimate pick 'n' mix of fun! Packed with quirky competitions, playful quizzes, and plenty of surprises, this is a show for all ages and all of Marlow. Whether you're young, old, or somewhere in between, there's something here for you.

And don't just listen – come on and join in. Not even joking."

catch up on: <https://www.marlowfm.co.uk/>





## House Leads

As the Summer term comes to a close, Mr Yasin, Mr Pightling and Mr Bradley have been reflecting on their houses various achievements throughout the academic year. Just in this term, the houses have engaged in furious competition: bottle collecting, castle crafting, the Spelling Bee, creating essays for the Marlow Energy Group and, of course, the prestigious event of Sports Day.

The students threw themselves into these competitions, but only few managed to claim victory: here are the results:

**Eco Bottle Collecting Competition:** Students were tasked to clean up the school environment by recycling appropriate plastic bottles: the fullest house bin took the victory:

**1st Hawks**

**2nd Kites**

**3rd Eagles**

**Marlow Energy Group Essays:** Students engaged in essay writing for the Marlow Energy Group, the Eco club have worked closely with them this year.

**1st Eagles**

**2nd Hawks**

**3rd Kites**

**Creating a castle:** The history department engaged Year 7 students in their annual castle creation contest, where a plethora of incredible designs emerged. Here are the results:

**1st Hawks**

**2nd Eagles**

**3rd Kites**

**Spelling Bee:** The illustrious Spelling Bee was back this year, with plenty of students battling it out to become the Spelling Bee champions.

**1st Eagles**

**2nd Hawks**

**3rd Kites**

## Sports Day

A prestigious event which saw students pushing themselves to the limit, working in teams, competing, and winning a variety of track and field events. The day culminated in the whole school being outside in the afternoon with various students racing for gold, whilst their houses cheered relentlessly for them.

**1st Eagles**

**2nd Hawks**

**3rd Kites**

For the first time in over 4 years, Hawks have been knocked off the Sports Day top spot as Eagles soared to victory with a champions' mindset. No doubt Mr Pightling will be strategizing for next year already, as Mr Bradley revels in his success.

However, Mr Bradley's success was not quite enough to win the back-to-back House Shield as he had hoped. It was, in fact, Mr Yasin's Kites who stormed into victory in 1st place. It is clear that the students in Kites have persevered all year in the every day values of the school and, as such, have been awarded various achievement points, headteacher's awards and termly awards: all of which convert into well-earned house points.

The final standings are:

**1st Kites**

**2nd Eagles**

**3rd Hawks**



Now the attention of the House Leads turns to the next year ahead. Can Mr Pightling's Hawks become the underdog and claw their way to victory? Can Mr Bradley's Eagles rise from the ashes and snatch another victory? Can Mr Yasin's Kites keep a firm grip on the House Shield? Find out... next year!

## A FUN REWARD DAY FOR WINNING HOUSE - KITES

The House Winner for 2025 is Kites. In total the students in Kites House have accrued a fantastic total of 198,613 points. This is an accumulation of SIMs achievement points and participation in House competitions throughout the year.

We congratulate them all and wish them an enjoyable House Reward Day, taking place on Monday 14th July.





**I cannot believe we are nearing the end of Year 7's first year at Great Marlow School. Having supported with the Year 6 Transition visits and their Induction Day this year, it doesn't seem that long ago that the current Year 7's were waiting eagerly at the front of school in their primary school uniform.**

## YEAR 7'S ADVICE TO YEAR 6 COMING TO GMS

The students were asked to write a letter to a Year 6 student at their previous school, these have been shared in our transition visits and have been welcomed by the new cohort. The letters are testament to how well the year group have settled, it is lovely to read so many positive comments about their lessons, the staff and school. A recurring theme is how nervous they were but how much they have enjoyed their first year and how much the staff at the school have helped, alongside attending extracurricular and enrichment clubs which have allowed them to find students with similar interests to them.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER TERM

Highlights this term have been the History and Geography trip to Windsor, the year group represented the school brilliantly and it was nice to see the students in a different environment, there was some excellent acting in some of the workshops and some excellent questions posed about Windsor and its landmarks.

The students then excelled themselves later in the year with the Castle Competition, I was so impressed by the level of detail that the students had used in their work. It was clear it must have taken them hours of planning and creating. It was lovely to share this in a prize giving assembly where the shortlisted castles were on display for the year group to see with winning students given their certificates and prizes.

## STUDENTS SHINE IN DRAMA PRODUCTIONS AND SUMMER MUSIC CONCERT

We are looking forward to watching the Summer Drama Production and I know several students are preparing for their roles and performing to local Primary Schools and the year group before the end of term.

There are also several students involved in the Summer Music Concert which I know takes up a large amount of their spare time, but it is great to see so many talented musicians who I hope will perform in next year's assemblies.

## CHATTING ON MARLOW FM

It has been great to hear Year 7 students speak with such confidence on Marlow FM about their first year at GMS, again, I hope more students will want to be involved next year. If you are interested please let Mr Ross know as he has a regular show on a Sunday afternoon!

## A BIG THANK YOU

I would like to thank parents for the support and lovely emails over the last year, it has been great to hear so many success stories or positive experiences. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Miss Aylett-Livesley and the form tutors for their daily support of students which has continued all year, they have made such a positive impact on the students transition to secondary school.

The year group have surpassed my expectations for their first year, the readiness and resilience they have shown in their first year is amazing and I am excited to see what Year 8 brings.

**Wishing you and your families a restful summer break.**

## YEAR 7 GET ACTIVE

We have had a record number of students sign up to the Learn to Row sessions, the students have been spoilt with the weather whilst on the river and have enjoyed learning a new skill. We look forward to seeing who continues rowing into Year 8.

Students have excelled in the Athletics, Cricket, Rounders and as I write this are preparing to compete in their first Sports Day. There is a real buzz around the year group which is lovely to see at the end of a very busy term.

**By Miss C Roberts**

**Director of Learning Y7**





Another busy term for Year 8! It's been great to see Year 8's continued readiness to get involved in the wider school community and to seize new opportunities such as rowing, athletics and the Drama Production. I want to thank the teachers, form tutors, associate staff and everyone that has helped support this amazing year group this year. Our high expectations for the cohort can only be achieved through this extensive network of support in the GMS community. Equally importantly, parents and carers have ensured consistent and supportive communication between home and school; thank you for the important role you play in this partnership.

## Now for some very special mentions in Year 8...

### CORE SUBJECTS CORNER

**Y8 Maths with Mrs Babes:** "8K3 and 8H1 are the best Maths classes! Both classes are always respectful, work hard, contribute well and are very polite. I have loved teaching them this year!"

**8K2 English with Mr Taylor:** "8K2 English have been a pleasure to teach this year. The class have tackled some hard-hitting real-life issues with maturity, intelligence, and sensitivity. I have been continually impressed by their support of each other in lessons and their willingness to complete extension work. Occasionally, they can be a bit chatty, but I have been able to rely on Noah's command of the room to help settle the rest down when needed".

**8E1 Science with Mrs Singh:** "I would like to praise Ashton North, Yahseen Malik, Leo Cheng, Maksym Oleksa, Abhi Singh, Lottie Turner and Lyra Parr for their positive and enthusiastic approach towards Science learning this year."

**8H2 Science with Mrs Beswick:** "8H2 have been an incredible science class and an absolute delight to teach. They are extremely hardworking, quick to focus for prolonged periods of study and ask excellent questions, all of which has contributed to their outstanding progress this year. The topic of space was a firm favourite, so perhaps there will be astrophysicists in their future careers...following in the footsteps of a former GMS student currently working as an astrophysicist!"



### CLASS SHOUT OUTS!

#### Science with Miss Woods:

• **8K3 Science: Tommy Seeley** has been amazing the second half of the year, he has been super reflective and engaged in lessons, surpassing all my expectations. **Flo Hawkins** is always kind and caring in science; she will always offer to help her peers out during practical's or talk them through answers. **Fox Drake, Rowan Messenger** and **Freddie Rogers**- for keeping me on my toes, asking me the most challenging scientific questions above and beyond the syllabus!

• **8E3 Science: Malachi Brown** has been trying super hard in my lessons. I have seen a big improvement in his work ethic in science and as a result Malachi has been getting more answers correct and has become more confident! **Reuben Poole** has been brilliant all year with amazing assessment grades and a greater in-depth analysis of science questions.

#### "Wow Work" in Art

A special shout out from Mrs Perman (Acting Head of Art) to the following students: **Delia Surdariu, Nadia Mattu, Ellie Gardener, Diya Clayton.**



#### Extracurricular Shoutouts from Mr Ross!

"Year 8s have been heavily involved in both the Aladdin and Pic n Mix productions, with **Leo Brown 8H2 and Oscar Johnson 8H2** taking lead roles. A special shout out to **Barney Smith 8E2, Oscar Johnson 8H2, Leo Brown 8H2 and Harley Bray 8E2** who are heavily involved in my Marlow FM show on a Sunday. They have been part of the group which created the jingles, promos and also came to an outside broadcast to help. We have big plans for their future on the show!"

#### Delightful Drama groups with Mrs Chenery:

"**8K1** - Well done for a successful year! You are the best class to have period 5 on a Friday - I was very lucky to see the weekend in with you all. Well done for achieving so much this year. Watching you develop into confident Drama students has been a delight."

"**8K2** - My first year teaching you Drama, and I wouldn't want it any other way. You have been so willing to learn and improve your drama skills this year. It has been great seeing how much you have grown in confidence. Thank you for being a great class!!!!"

"**8K3** - Your energy and creative ideas have been a joy to be around this year. You always manage to come up with some fun and entertaining performances - which always takes me by surprise. It has been a pleasure teaching you Drama this year."

#### Perseverance in PE... with Mr Goodright and Miss Muttitt

"Some notable highlights include..."

**"Year 8 boys rugby beat SWBGS 55-15 and were finalists in the super 6 league!"**





**In Athletics they were 2nd place in the South Bucks English Schools Athletics Round 1 and placed 3rd in the county only by 1 point.**

**Year 8 qualified for a regional round in the A final – 1st time ever for GMS!"**

The following girls represented the school at the U13 girls football county finals and were a credit to the school. They showed respect towards each other and the opposing teams/ officials and resilience in a very highly contested competition. It was a very enjoyable day.

- **Darcey Langley 8E2**
- **Bella Thompson-Olea 8K2**
- **Holly Knott 8K1**
- **Erin Shale 8H3**
- **Issy Rawlings 8H1**
- **Lucy Hellewell 8E3**
- **Orla O'Connor 8K1**

**Lucy Hellewell** has also recently got selected for Reading FC and will be playing in the Junior Premier League next year. **Darcey Langley** will also be competing in the JPL again with Oxford City!"

## Geographical Geniuses...8E1 with Mrs Messenger

**"8E1.** What a group! They know the Geography routines and they always try really hard in every lesson. Special mentions to...

- **Isabella Fonticiella-West** always tries hard and completes work to a high standard.
- **Yahseen Malik is keen** to answer questions and put forward his knowledge and idea
- **Joe Hardie and Jack Hughes** have a good level of focus and it answers questions well – two good geographers!"

## Spotlight on....8H3!

**For RS:** Mrs Todd has been really impressed with the following students for their ATL in her lessons. "They are engaged, thoughtful and conscientious!" A big well done to...

- **Luca Bogue**
- **Daisy Burkitt**
- **Pablo Del Corral Gamero**
- **Sophie Hale**
- **Luke Hoad**
- **Freya Johnston Evans**
- **Sidney Morrison**
- **Izabelle Partridge**
- **Erin Shale**
- **Charlie Watson**

**For Geography with Miss Ashby:** "8H3 have been an absolute pleasure to teach this year. They have grown in themselves since year 7 and have really started to take control of their own learning in Geography and I look forward to teaching them every time. Their creativity and imagination have really shone

*this year, especially with their creative solutions to climate change which were very entertaining when they presented them to each other."*

## Beanstack Progress in Library Lessons... with Mrs Ben Haj Ali

In the Spring Term, Mrs Ben Haj Ali launched the use of Beanstack with Year 8s to support with promoting a love of reading and to reward and recognise students.

*"A fabulous 90% of the year group have signed up and using Beanstack."*

The top readers in Year 8 for each month were:

- o **March: Alima Hussain 8K1**
- o **April: Amira Ahmed 8E3**
- o **May: Freya Thompson 8E2**

Some honourable mentions to the following students who are in the top 10 readers on the Beanstack scheme to date include:

- o **Matilda Iorio 8E2**
- o **Nadia Mattu 8E2**
- o **Bethany Watson 8E2**
- o **Noah Leavy 8K3**
- o **Ellie Gardner 8K2**
- o **Hannah Hunt 8K1**
- o **Daisy Burkitt 8H3**

Finally, thank you and well done to the following students for their great book reviews:

- o **Zaynab Hussain 8K2**
- o **Matilda Iorio 8E2**

## Y8 Nurture Group: a message from Mrs Black and Mrs Samaras

*"Since starting the new Nurture Group with the year 8's, we have seen a significant growth in both confidence and engagement with our members. At first, many are quiet and shy and hesitant to participate, but over time relationships have formed and a strong sense of trust and teamwork has developed. It has been a rewarding to watch the group slowly open up to one and another.*

*We just want to take this time to sincerely thank you all being kind to each other, for bringing so much laughter and energy to the group. We are really proud of all of you and how well you have supported each other. Keep being amazing... you have made our time very special."*

**Lastly, thank you Year 8 for an amazing year! I Look forward to seeing you all in Year 9 in September. Have a wonderful summer.**

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



One of the biggest challenges for Year 9 was having to choose their GCSE options. The Options process has now concluded with most students receiving the first-choice options that they requested. Our students can now look forward to studying their chosen subjects. We look forward to helping them start their CGSE careers at Great Marlow in September.

## A ROUND UP OF WHAT YEAR 9 HAVE BEEN UP TO THIS YEAR



Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh in the rain and still smiling.

### DOF E

83 students in Year 9 have successfully completed their Bronze D of E!

Well done to the **Year 9 Athletics Team** placed 3rd overall in the District Championship, despite 3x injury and or illness on the day, leaving a depleted team

A special mention to **Jack**

**Morgan** javelin - current PB of 45.8 it takes a significant talent to do this.

Well done to the Year 9 rounders team who Miss Muttit said were BRILLIANT

The **Year 9 Rounders Team** came 2nd at the district U15 competition behind our Year 10 team! They were brilliant.

**Ruby Nind**  
**Ava Harbinson**  
**Alexandra McGuinness**  
**Courtney Westfield**  
**Darcey McNeil**  
**Josie Bevins**  
**Gracie Shaw**  
**Emily Bristow**  
**Hana Turner**  
**Sophia Hicks**  
**Issie Monaghan**

**Mrs Messenger** teaches 9E1 for Geography and said they are FAB!!!

*"The whole group has great discussions and take pride in their work and books."*

**Mrs Ross** has said, *"The students who were in Aladdin were brilliant. Also some Year 9 students are taking lead roles in the summer production."*

I have also started a new show on Marlow FM and the following students are helping me with the show. Kayla Dow, Noah Codron, Lilly Powell and Jude Collin. They are creating jingles and the promos and some have helped me on an Outside Broadcast. They are also appearing on my show. Marlow FM are very pleased with this volunteer help."

**Mr Taylor** has said of his English class, "Teaching **9K3** English this year has been a pleasure. They are a relatively small group but extremely enthusiastic and lively in lessons! We have covered a great range of subjects including Dystopian fiction, discrimination and tolerance and discussed some challenging real-life issues. The class have been mature and considered in their approach to lessons and have made my job so much easier. Well done on a fantastic year of English lessons!"

**Mrs Chennery**, Head of Drama, has said, "**9H1**- Well done for a successful year! you have achieved so much. You always try hard in Drama, even when I can tell some of you are unsure about the task. You have all grown into confident Drama students.

Mrs Chennery also spoke highly of **9K1 AND 9E1**:

**9K1**- It has been a pleasure being your Drama teacher over the last three years. I am going to miss your energy when you enter the drama room. The performances you created over the last three years have been entertaining, interesting and full of humour.

**9E1**- It has been a joy teaching your tutor group over the last 3 years. The amount of memories I have from your first year at Great Marlow and the wonderful performances you all created. Your tutor group really know how to make me laugh and I will miss teaching you all next year.

Another compliment for **9E1**, from **Mrs Todd** who said, *"I have been really impressed with 9E1 this year compared with last year. They have been engaged, thoughtful and even good fun at times! They have been a group I have looked forward to. Long may it continue!"*

**Miss Miles** would like to say a big "well done" to her Year 9 Geography classes, "**9K2**- Well done for another successful year in Geography! You are the best class to have on a #Friyay!! Well done for all you have achieved over the past three years together. Watching you develop into confident and able Geography students has been a delight. You are GCSE ready!

She also mentioned her other Year 9 class, **9E3**- "My first year teaching you Geography and I wouldn't want it any other way! You have been so willing to learn and it has been great seeing how much you have grown in confidence. Your group work presentations on Impossible Places was a particular highlight. Thank you for being a great class! You are so ready for your next steps in your Geography journey!"

**Mrs Brunt**, our Careers Lead organised a trip to Bucks New University for Year 9 to encourage them to see what



courses are on offer at a local university. We were really impressed by the facilities for media, drama, health and sports. 165 students attended and were a credit to our school showing impeccable manners and behaviour. One student stopped Mrs Brunt in school after the trip and told her it was "well good" and she would be applying to "that uni" now!

**Mrs Flannery** who accompanied 2 of the groups on the trip said, "the students were all so lovely, respectful and polite" and **Mrs Burge** said, *"how polite the Y9s were getting off the bus today after we returned from the trip – many of them thanked the driver really nicely as they got off."*

**Mr Williams** in the Music department has said, "Year 9s are doing brilliantly in current Music and media project. Special shout out to Jude and the Year 9 football team."

He also said that **Lucas, Reece and Noah** formed a band last year as part of their 'Gig' unit. "In order to assess their work, and so that they had access to a drum kit, the whole of **9E2** had to fit into a tiny practice room. The band performed at full pelt and the class danced to the rhythm of the tune. It was one of the most OUTSTANDING experiences of my time at the school and that of 9E2 who make frequent reference to it. I can only imagine that the atmosphere they created was akin to The Beatles in the very early days in The Cavern."

**Mrs Singh** in Science, "I started teaching 9H1 recently and I am hugely impressed by the work ethic and commitment of this class."

## YEAR 9 WESTFIELD TRIP

### A Journey Through Westfield by Elle De Beer

*"Westfield is a massive shopping centre where thousands of people go every day. To give you a scale of how large it is, there are more than 400 shops for you to explore and four food courts for you to choose from."*

*On the 5th June at 3pm, a group of year 9 students visited Westfield as part of a school trip. One of the many students that went on this exceptional opportunity gave their view on their experience."*

*Maisie reported that overall, she 'enjoyed it very much'. Throughout the week prior to going, she couldn't stop talking about her excitement. This must mean that she had a successful trip, right? This is true because Maisie said that she would 'love to go again' because she was 'over the moon' with excitement at all her new items that she could add to her wardrobe."*

*Maisie expressed that the reason she went on this trip was to 'have fun with my friends'. Whilst at Westfield, Maisie purchased 'two tops, a pair of Crocs...oh, and some skincare'. Her favourite shopping bag contained the brand-new Crocs which were 'light pink'."*

*But her most beloved part was when she had 'spent all (of her) money'! Fortunately, Maisie would love for another Westfield adventure. On the trip home, everyone was reportedly content with their purchases while they gave hauls to each of their friends on the ride home."*

*The trip was set up to teach students how to be responsible with their time and money. I think this trip was successful in doing this because all students had to choose what they wanted to spend their money on and in the given time limit."*

*Thank you to all the teachers that contributed their time to taking the students of Great Marlow on a journey through Westfield."*

Miss Woods in Science said her Year 9 class are, *"a very special group - amazing class and they should be SO proud of the progress they have made this year. First time facing exam style GCSE questions and they have tackled them head on with lots of resilience. I have also seen some really great work from 9H2 science class, First impressions from a number of students in that class have been positive"*

**Many thanks to our fabulous tutor team who are support our Year 9s so efficiently.**

Mrs Flannery and Mrs Pendlebury would like to pass on this message to our Year 9s:

**You are about to enter a new stage  
in your school career and embark on  
your GCSE courses. We are very proud  
of the progress you have made in the  
last 3 years at GMS and are excited  
to watch you flourish in Year 10!**

**Be kind and safe this summer and remember**

*"You have brains in your head. You have  
feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself  
any direction you choose". – Dr. Seuss*

By Mrs N Pendlebury - Director of Learning Year 9



**Year 10 has had a busy term of new experiences, and many continue to show resilience in the face of challenges. Throughout the term their tutors and teachers have been preparing them for the GCSE Mock Examinations and their Workplace Experience Day.**

*One more school year has passed, and our year group finds itself on the precipice of starting Year 11 and experiencing everything that comes with it. The past year has been a very busy one for Year 10 and a short list of the events of the year include:*

Beginning GCSE courses

Researching, applying for and completing work experience placements

Prefect applications and commencement of responsibilities

Summer mock examinations

DofE silver award

Many sporting achievements

I am extremely proud of the students and their endeavours this year. For many, this has been the most challenging year of their academic careers and the pressures have certainly increased with the approaching GCSE exam next year. You may have read my email sent in June praising the conduct of most students throughout the mock exam process. For context, each year the exams team prepare themselves for the challenges that Year 10 mocks bring; students are not used to the rules and expectations of the exam process and Year 10s will often make mistakes or push the boundaries in these mock exams. This year, the feedback from the exams team was overwhelmingly positive. They praised the maturity and responsibility demonstrated by our students – one invigilator said to me that she had ‘never seen a Year 10 group like it’. This feedback was enormously gratifying and

I have had some questions from parents regarding mock exam results and where they should expect their children's grades to be at this point in Year 10. The key thing to remember here is that your child is now just passed the halfway point of their GCSE studies. They still have 8-9 months of lessons, assessments, feedback, revision and exam practice to prepare for their ‘real’ GCSE exams. If your child is at all disappointed in their mock exam results, they should concentrate on the feedback more than the grade itself. There is time to improve grades if the work is put in!

## ACADEMIC PROGRESS AND MOCK EXAMS

This year, our Year 10 students rose to the challenge of their first set of mock exams. Their focus, determination, and willingness to act on feedback has been commendable. Many students have shown outstanding progress across subjects, and their positive attitude towards revision and exam preparation bodes well for the year ahead. Staff have praised the group for their engagement in lessons and their developing independence as learners.

## WORKPLACE EXPERIENCE

One of the standout highlights this year was the successful completion of work experience placements. Students impressed a wide range of employers with their professionalism, work ethic, and ability to adapt to new environments. Whether shadowing medical professionals, supporting local businesses, or contributing to creative industries, our Year 10 students represented the school with pride and maturity.

Many received glowing feedback, and a number have even been invited back for further opportunities.

## PREFECT APPLICATIONS

The calibre of this year's prefect applications was exceptionally high. Applicants demonstrated a genuine commitment to leadership, community values, and responsibility. The selection process was incredibly competitive, and those appointed as prefects have already begun to make a positive impact around the school. Their ideas, energy, and collaborative spirit have set a great example for younger peers.



## ACHIEVEMENTS

There have been some fantastic achievements in extracurricular activities in the year group. Henry H is County high jump champion, Alex E selected to represent bucks in the 400m hurdles, several students selected to compete in the District Athletics Championships, Tayla B entered and won a Marlow Literacy Festival competition with an environmental inspired poem and Sophie R winning the Bio Art competition with a wonderful drawing of a horse with skeleton on show.

## SUPPORTING YOUNGER STUDENTS

Year 10 students have played a vital role in supporting younger members of the school community. Whether through mentoring, peer reading schemes, or simply offering a listening ear, they have shown empathy and patience in abundance. Their contributions have helped foster a positive, inclusive atmosphere within the school and have not gone unnoticed by staff and students alike.

## SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

On the sports field, Year 10 students have excelled across a wide range of disciplines. From athletics and football to netball and rounders, their dedication and team spirit have led to numerous victories and personal bests. Several students have represented the school at district and county level, and their commitment to training and competition has been truly admirable. Beyond competitions, many students have contributed to the success of extracurricular clubs, encouraging wider participation and helping to build a strong sense of community.

## LOOKING AHEAD

As Year 10 comes to a close, we are incredibly proud of what this year group has achieved. They have approached each opportunity with enthusiasm and integrity, and we are confident they will continue to thrive in Year 11. With GCSEs on the horizon, we look forward to supporting them as they build on this year's successes and strive for even greater accomplishments.

**Well done, Year 10 – your hard work, kindness, and determination have made this a year to remember.**

**By Mr S Taylor- Director of Learning Year 10**

**This term, Year 11 Prefects handed over their duties and responsibilities to the new Year 10 prefects. The Year 11 prefects have been excellent role models and have shown the responsibility and resilience we would expect from all students in this role. Mrs Spencer and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Year 11 prefects for their service and wish them well in their next endeavours.**

## GCSE EXAMS - COMPLETED!

The Year 11 focus this term has of course been sitting their GCSE exams. The Year 11s carried this out with the utmost maturity, positivity, and responsibility. One invigilator stopped me in the corridor to tell me that in all her years of invigilating, she has never experienced a better year group sitting their exams and was super impressed with the responsibility students took towards their exams. Mrs Spencer, Miss Tuddenham and I are incredibly proud of the Year 11 students. They thoroughly deserve a well-earned break, and we wish them the very best with their results, when they receive them in August. We hope as many of them choose to stay on at Great Marlow Sixth Form so we may see their smiling faces and positive attitude around the school next academic year.





On Wednesday 25th June, Year 11 students attended their Prom at Monkton Barn. They all looked so smart and beautiful in their suits and dresses. All students behaved impeccably and were an absolute delight to celebrate the end of, for most of them, 5-years at GMS. This was a perfect way to celebrate this, and we wish all of Year 11 the very best in their next endeavours.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Tuddenham and Mrs Spencer for all their hard work and efforts in supporting our Year 11 students from when they joined us in Year 7. I think we can all agree they have turned out superbly! Year 11 are truly the most wonderful year group, and it has been a pleasure being their acting Director of Learning this year.

From all the Year 11 Team, it has been an absolute pleasure, and we are looking forward to seeing as many of the Year 11 students in August on results day. Have a fabulous summer Year 11 and enjoy this time off! Be safe, make good decisions, and we will hopefully see as many of you as possible at GMS Sixth Form in September.

**Enjoy your summer, Year 11 and stay safe!**

**By Mrs V Bennett - Director of Learning Year 11**



**Photos from Year 11 Prom and Leavers's Breakfas. More available on the website flickr gallery**





The Sixth Form team are delighted to report on a successful summer team. It has involved not only the focus and diligence of exams but also the much-needed fun and relaxation of the prom. GMS Sixth Form students, who total 243, have conducted themselves admirably on all occasions this summer term and we congratulate all of them.

## YEAR 12

On the 18th of June, Year 12 went on a UCAS Discovery Day trip to Oxford Brooks University to look at various universities and post-18 options. Some universities that were there included, University of Nottingham, University of Southampton, Brunel university and University of Reading. It was a great opportunity to attend a seminar on Higher and Degree Apprenticeships, as well as UCAS Personal Statements, to have a walk around a campus university and to get a feel for what this might be like for the students in the future.

Year 12 have had an opportunity this term to sit mock exams. This has been invaluable in gaining experience of what the expectations are for their A Level and BTEC exams next year. The cohort delivered and have understood the importance of these experiences in supporting their learning journey at GMS.

Work experience feedback: (what you did, what you gained)

- Understanding in how the NHS works
- The importance of communication in a busy work environment
- Made me aware whether I wanted to work in a clinical environment
- Shadowed nursing and medicine rounds
- spoke to and met patients.

Work experience feedback: (what you did, what you gained)

- I gained experience and knowledge
- I managed to get what work is like after education
- I did engineering experience with aircrafts

Work experience feedback: (what you did, what you gained)

I went to softcat. I went around / talked to different teams e.g (sales, marketing, finance, logistics, credit assessment and the legal team). I gained knowledge of how softcat operates, and a day to day schedule.

Work experience feedback: (what you did, what you gained)

- I loved my work experience & it clarified what I want to go on to do.
- I went to a media agency in London
- worked in PR for companies such as Aveeno
- I ~~was~~ now know I want to work in an agency.

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

The students can then use this experience to develop new skills in and out of school. To support this further, Year 12 upon their return to school completed a Next Steps Day on Monday 7th July. This event was organised by Mr Hollyman, Miss Jones and our Careers Lead, Mrs Brunt to enable our students to access information about universities, apprenticeships, and the world of work. The day gave students up-to-date information about UCAS and opportunities for our cohort to continue to utilise Unifrog, and the students were really encouraged to spend the summer break investigating and reviewing their possible next steps. Please do review the next steps booklet here for further help.

<https://gms.bucks.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/UCASNEXT-STEPS-GUIDE-2025-26-1.pdf>

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW SENIOR PREFECTS AND HEAD PREFECTS

Year 12 have also had the opportunity to put themselves forward for to be a part of the Head Prefect team. We welcomed applications from the students to help with the development and running of the Sixth Form. We would like to congratulate everyone who put themselves forward. The Sixth Form Team





were blown away by all professionalism of all the applicants and very much look forward to working with the senior prefect team next year. We are pleased to announce that our senior prefect team will be headed by Rudi Chapman and Elise Whyte. Who will be supported by their deputies, Lottie Shaw, Coco Killington, Matthew Van Romburgh and Louis Cade.

The Sixth Form Team were blown away by the professionalism of all of the applicants and very much look forward to working with the senior prefect team next year.

## YEAR 13

**On Friday 2nd May, the Year 13 students joined the Sixth Form Team for a leavers breakfast. This was an opportunity for us to congratulate the students on their preparation for exams and to celebrate their achievements over the last two years in Sixth Form. They were treated to a breakfast whilst Mr Hollyman gave a final goodbye speech. It was a fitting goodbye to the cohort.**

The students then completed their A Level and BTEC exams. The Year 13 cohort of 132 students have been a credit to the school. This has been highlighted through their conduct in their A Level and BTEC examinations from May to June but also through their resilience with their education. To formally end the year, on Friday 20th June, at Hazlemere Golf Club, over 100 Year 13 students attended their prom. The cohort again were a credit to the school and had a fantastic evening with many teaching staff present. This was a hugely successful night, and we would like to congratulate the committed Sixth Form Prefect Prom Committee team including Tilly Hanson and Charlotte Haddock, and all who worked tirelessly to ensure that this final night would be special.

We are also delighted to announce our Lance Slater award, formerly the Best Potential Citizen award. Each year, member so the Marlow Rotary Club kindly come into school to interview students. This award recognises students who have gone that extra mile and who clearly have a very bright future. Congratulations to Laia Garcia Calero for achieving this accolade of the Lance Slater Award for 2025.

Thursday August 14th marks results day. The Sixth Form Team will be available in person on that day to congratulate and offer advice and support. We are incredibly proud of this cohort and do look forward to seeing them again on that day and wishing all the best in their future careers – do keep in touch.

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

**By Mr Hollyman, Miss Jones, Mrs Evans and Mrs Paul - GMS 6th Form Team**



**Photos from Year 13 Prom and Leavers's Breakfast**





## PE Athletics 2025

The 2025 athletics season has seen a huge number of athletes take to the track and field, fuelled by motivation to continue their domination of athletics in the district.

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

### ESAA Track and Field Cup

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

#### Junior girls - 342 points

The Junior girls surpassed expectations this year by claiming the 3rd highest points total in Buckinghamshire behind Wycombe Abbey and Dr Challoners, which qualified them for the Regional 'B' Final, where they finished in 3rd place. A Junior Girls team at GMS has never placed in a regional final before, and in the process of doing so, the girls scored the highest GMS Junior Girls total ever.

#### Inter girls - 288 points

The Inter Girls had a disappointing outing, as they were not able to hit their 300-points target. The team were hampered by injuries, which meant some last-minute tweaks to the team were required and they were just unable to produce the brilliant performances we are so used to seeing from them. The girls finished 5th in Buckinghamshire, however, were still highest finishing non-grammar/private school in the competition, which is something to be proud of.

#### Junior boys - 442 points

The Junior Boys finished with the 2nd highest total points in Buckinghamshire, once again pipped to top spot by local rivals John Hampden Grammar School. The Junior Boys became the first ever GMS team to qualify for a Regional 'A' Final, where they finished in 3rd place. The highest placing of a GMS team in the school's history. On their way to finishing 3rd in the Midlands, they boys also claimed the highest GMS Junior Boys total ever.

#### Inter boys - 450 points

The Inter Boys, much like the Junior Boys, finished with the 2nd highest total points in Buckinghamshire,

qualifying for the Regional 'B' Final in the process. At the final, the team put in some outstanding individual performances, which enabled them to achieve the 6th highest score in the country out of all 'B' finalists, and attain the highest points total ever, of any GMS team. As if all these accolades weren't enough, the boys also went on to win the Midlands 'B' Final. Again, a first for a GMS team.

### District Athletics Championships

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

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

Congratulations to our Year 10 girls' team, who won their District Championships. Unwilling to experience the disappointment they'd felt at the Track and Field Cup, the girls really stepped up to blow all other competition out of the water.

Overall, our combined girls' points total finished them as District Champions for the fourth year running, once again beating schools such as Wycombe Abbey, Pipers Corner, Borlase and Wycombe High in the process. Their final total was 552 points, beating 2nd placed Pipers Corner by a whopping 154 points. It is likely that even Pipers had entered an extra team, this still wouldn't have been enough to catch the GMS total.

The boys' team finished in 2nd place, behind John Hampden, with a total of 566 points, but going one better than last year by beating RGS's combined total by 53 points.

Accumulatively, with all boys' and girls' results combined, GMS finished as the 1st placed co-ed school in the district with 1118 points, smashing last year's total by exactly 100 points. It turns out, that our only real co-ed competitors are ourselves, with no local mixed boys' and girls' schools offering any real competition in recent years. The second placed co-ed school, High Crest, were 620 points behind the Great Marlow teams, and third placed Borlase, a crushing 704 points to the deficit.

### Championship results

**Year 7 Boys – 144 points (2nd place)**

**Year 7 Girls – 104 points (3rd place)**

**Year 8 Boys – 148 points (2nd place)**

**Year 8 Girls – 119 points (2nd place)**

**Year 9 Boys – 115 points (3rd place)**

**Year 9 Girls - 148 points (2nd place)**

**Year 10 Boys – 159 points (2nd place)**

**Year 10 Girls – 195 points (1st place)**



## District Athletics League

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

**Year 7 Boys – 98 points (2nd place)**

**Year 7 Girls – 144 points (1st place)**

**Year 8 Boys – 116 points (joint 1st place)**

**Year 8 Girls – 131 points (1st place)**

**Year 9/10 Boys – 137 points (3rd place)**

**Year 9/10 Girls – 140 points (1st place)**

### Notable performances:

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

**J Frazer-Hogg – 100m, 200m, 400m**

**J Morgan – Javelin**

**M Wakley – Shot Putt & Discus**

**E Leslie – Javelin**

**R Yost – Long Jump, 100m, 200m**

**H Knott – 800m**

**B Thompson-Olea – 200m**

**S Black – Javelin**

**F Asani – Javelin**

**O Radzikowska – Long Jump**

**A Apletree – 800m & 1500m**

**Year 10 Girls – 4x100m relay**

**Year 10 Boys – 4x100m relay**

**Year 8 Girls – 4x100m relay**

**Year 8 Boys – 4x100m relay**

## School records

A further 15 school records, to last year's 12 records, were broken at various events across the 2025 athletics season. Congratulations to the following students, who all broke records:

**Holly Knott – Year 8**

**800m – 2:31mins (stood since 2017)**

**75m Hurdles – 13.60s (stood since 2016)**

**High Jump – 1.44m (stood since 2023)**

**Riley Yost – Year 8**

**100m – 11.70s (stood since 2015)**

**200m – 24.20s (stood since 2023)**

**Long Jump – 5.54m (stood since 2015)**

**Triple Jump – 11.56m (stood since 1997)**

**Ella Leslie – Year 8**

**Javelin – 25.52m (stood since 2018)**

**Jack Morgan – Year 9**

**Javelin – 48.38 (stood since 1974)**

**Leo Bray – Year 10**

**1500m – 4:22.2mins (stood since 1987)**

**K Costello, O Epstein, F Asani, D Williams – Year 7**

**4x100m Relay – 52.88s (stood since 2024)**

**J Hughes, W Bowett, C O'Connor,**

**J Frazer-Hogg – Year 10**

**4x100m Relay – 47.12s (stood since 2022)**

## Summary

**Overall, it has been a fantastic year for GMS athletics, in terms of individual excellence, team successes and mass participation. The PE department are very excited to see what the students can achieve in 2026.**

By Miss L Porter



A selection of photos from the Windsor, Slough and Eton Athletics track



## PE U13 CRICKET

The U13 cricket side enjoyed a successful season. Numbers at the first few nets sessions were good, with many Year 7s who were new to the game joining some of the Year 8s who were regular features in the side last year.

Pranshu Kakade led the side well in his first experience of captaincy and was also a standout performer with both bat and ball.

The first game of the season saw the inexperienced GMS side come up against a vastly more experienced SWBGS side. Many of the GMS boys were playing their first game of hardball cricket, and in the end, the gulf in experience showed, with Borlase winning by 8 wickets.

Determined to learn from this early defeat, the U13s trained hard and continued to develop their batting, bowling, and fielding skills. They were rewarded with consecutive wins against St Michael's and Highcrest. Yahseen put in a Man of the Match performance on debut, keeping the batsmen guessing with his mystery spin.

The final game of the season saw the team take on Borlase again, with the opportunity to show how much they had improved. Batting first, GMS struggled early on and lost three quick wickets. A determined partnership from Barney and Albert helped post a total of 53. GMS bowled economically and chipped away with regular wickets. With one ball left, Borlase required four runs to win with one wicket in hand. A thrilling finale saw them scramble three but lose their last wicket attempting the fourth and final run. The match was tied, and GMS had pulled off a dramatic escape, demonstrating the progress made by the whole team.

With so many of the side being in Year 7, there is real promise for next year and a strong foundation to build on a top-three finish in the district league. Well done to all involved this season.

By Mr R Poulsford

## U15 CRICKET

The u15s had a very enjoyable cricket season, playing a number of games in the glorious summer sun.



The team kicked off the season away to Cressex in the county cup. GMS lost the toss and Cressex decided to bat. Cressex had a superb opening partnership, which GMS struggled to break. Some economical bowling from Ivo Chamberlain and Tom

Hawksworth, helped limit the runs. Cressex finished on 150-1. GMS fought valiantly, with strong resistance showed through the batting of Jake Smith and George Penlington. Unfortunately, the team finished 40 runs short of their target and went out the cup.

In the District league, GMS opened their campaign away to Highcrest. After losing the toss and bowling first, GMS struggled to keep the early barrage of runs down, with Highcrest scoring freely. Jake Smith led the fightback, with two key wickets. Jack Wratten fielded brilliantly, despite only being called up to the team as the bus was pulling away at GMS. GMS were set a mammoth score of 149 to chase off 15 overs. What followed was a remarkable opening partnership from Jake Smith and Joe Reeson. Both players scored a fifty, putting on a 136-run partnership.



Leo Rolfe came in to knock off the remaining runs and GMS got their first victory of the season.

One of the highlights of the season was a friendly away to the world-renowned school, Stowe. GMS put on a great show with the bat, setting a score of 115, with big scores from Jake Smith and Tom Hawksworth. GMS bowled superbly in the first half of Stowe's innings, with Joe Reeson taking two wickets with his Leg Spin. Despite taking wickets, Stowe's batting line-up had a lot of depth, and they were able to keep chipping away on the scoreboard. Despite their best efforts, GMS were not able to hold them back, with Stowe getting to the target with 4 balls remaining. Despite the loss, it was a memorable experience playing at Stowe for all the students.

Next up in the district league was Cressex, the school that GMS had suffered a heavy loss against in the cup earlier in the season. This time, it was the turn of GMS to set a big score. Jake Smith and Joe Reeson continued their impressive batting form, scoring another fifty each. 132 was the target for Cressex. Cressex were always in the chase but struggled in the final stages to score off the accurate bowling of Year 8 students, Pranshu Kakade and Miles Berry. Cressex finished 12 runs from their target – an incredible turnaround in the space of just a month from the cup fixture

Special mentions go to Joe Reeson, Jake Smith, Ivo Chamberlain, Tom Hawksworth, Leo Rolfe, Logan Carter and Owen Caldwell who played their final season for GMS cricket. They have been great servants to cricket at the school and were the core of the team that won the district league when they were in Year 8.



By Mr D Jones



## HOUSE CRICKET COMPETITION

The recent house cricket competition between the Kites, Eagles, and Hawks delivered a fantastic session of sport, with a solid turnout of enthusiastic players. Spirits were high as each house battled it out on the pitch, showcasing skill, teamwork, and determination.

Bowling took centre stage early on, with Albert, Ollie, and Pranshu putting in strong performances that kept the batsmen on their toes. Their accuracy and pace made for thrilling viewing and were key in containing some powerful batting line-ups. Speaking of batting, there were some standout performances from Miles, Joseph, and Yahseen, who kept the scoreboard ticking with smart shot selection and solid partnerships. Their efforts were instrumental in keeping the competition tightly contested.



In the field, Barney and Charlie were exceptional, bringing energy and sharp reflexes that turned the tide in crucial moments. Their outstanding fielding set the standard and lifted the teams' overall performance.

After an afternoon of exciting cricket, it was the Kites who came out on top, earning valuable points in the overall house competition. Congratulations to them on a well-deserved victory!

A big thank you goes to Henry for stepping in to help umpire.

## U15 ROUNDERS SQUADS SHINE AT DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

I was overwhelmed by the number of students willing to give rounders a go with over 40 students present for the first session of the season. The Rounders teams have worked incredibly hard during this summer term to improve on their batting and fielding skills and their ability to tactically beat their opponents.

The Year 9 and 10 rounders squads from Great Marlow School recently competed in the U15 District Rounders Tournament, showcasing their skills and teamwork in a fantastic afternoon of sport.

Both squads put into practice everything they've been learning in lessons, delivering outstanding performances throughout the tournament. Unbeaten in the group stages, the two teams faced off in a nail-biting final, with the Year 10 squad narrowly defeating the Year 9 team by just 2 rounders.



The match was packed with brilliant batting and sharp fielding, and it was a fitting send-off for the Year 10 squad, who were playing in their final rounders competition for GMS. The entire team was named MVP for their effort, dedication, and sportsmanship.

For the Year 9 team, Courtney Westfield and Ruby Nind were awarded MVP after standout performances and a term of impressive progress.

A huge well done to both teams for representing GMS so positively!

By Miss G Muttitt



DISTRICT ROUNDERS

Year 7 and 8 student represented Great Marlow School at the District Rounders Competition against Wycombe High, Highcrest and St Michaels. The students showed some excellent batting and fielding skills throughout all their games. With impressive batting from Fox and Amy and some great fielding from Ella and Mya. The team worked excellently together showing great teamwork and communication which resulted in them winning all their games.

By Miss C Roberts



Tennis

There has been an excellent turn out to Tennis club this term with a range of abilities attending. The club players have been improving their range of shots and game play tactics and strategies, the intermediate players have been working on their shot selection and doubles play and the beginners have been looking at their forehand and backhand and their rallies in small groups. Well done to all of the students who have attended this year.

Year 7, 8 and 9 students attended a tournament hosted by Pipers Corner school and had an excellent afternoon playing doubles. Each team improved throughout the tournament. The students showed excellent support of one another with some great determination and teamwork throughout all their games.

Well done to all the students involved in the matches throughout the year there has been some fantastic game play and tactics.

By Miss C Roberts

Tennis Festival’s a Smash Hit at Great Marlow School

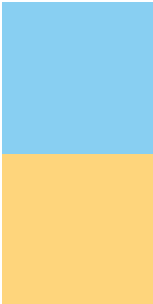
This term, Great Marlow School proudly hosted two exciting Tennis Festivals for local primary school students in Years 3–4 and Years 5–6. The events brought together young players from nearby schools to enjoy a day full of energy, learning, and fun on the tennis courts.

The festivals were made even more special thanks to the incredible support of our Year 9 Sports Leaders. Acting as station leaders, they guided the primary school pupils through a range of tennis-based activities designed to develop skills and teamwork. Their approachable and enthusiastic attitudes shone throughout the day, earning praise from staff and participants alike.

The Year 9 students were brilliant role models, showing great leadership, encouragement, and a passion for sport. Their efforts helped make the event a memorable and positive experience for all involved.

Great Marlow School is proud to continue building strong links with local primary schools and providing opportunities for students of all ages to get active and inspired through sport.

By Miss G Muttitt





## U13 Girls Shine at Team Triathlon Event

On Thursday 22nd May, a group of students from Great Marlow School took part in the annual Team Triathlon at Stoke Mandeville Stadium — a highly anticipated event that is always a highlight of the sporting year.

Although smaller in stature compared to many of the competing schools, Great Marlow students showed their strength, spirit, and determination throughout the day.

The event began in the pool, where students completed a series of swimming lengths. A standout performance came from Gladys Sanchez, who was exceptional in the water and set the pace for the rest of the team.



Following the swim, students moved on to the static bike stage — a test of endurance and grit. Isla Sutherland and Jack Morgan gave it everything, powering through their sessions and setting a high standard for the rest of the team.

The action then moved to the track, where Mr Jones and Miss Fyfe were on hand to offer enthusiastic support. Josie Bevins and Oscar Mallet were among those who impressed, delivering powerful performances and 'tearing it up' on the track.

The Year 7/8 Girls put in an outstanding effort, finishing 2nd out of 13 schools — an incredible achievement. The U13 Boys finished a respectable 7th, with the U15 Girls and U15 Boys finishing 10th and 12th respectively.

Well done to all participants for their effort, teamwork, and positive attitude. The school is incredibly proud of your achievements!

By Miss G Muttitt

## Freith Sports Day



On Tuesday 20th June, 17 enthusiastic students from Great Marlow School brought their energy, leadership, and sportsmanship to Frieth CofE Primary

School, helping run an unforgettable Sports Day.

Bathed in glorious sunshine, the day buzzed with excitement and a strong competitive spirit. Our Year 11 and 12 students stepped up to the challenge, taking on key roles as they ran their own activity stations in a lively sports carousel. From archery and shuttle runs to discus—by far the wildest event, with flying discs

keeping even the parents on their toes—each station offered fun, fitness, and a few laughs along the way.

In the afternoon, the students shifted gears seamlessly to set up and manage the races, keeping the day running smoothly from start to finish. Their organisation, enthusiasm, and teamwork did not go unnoticed—Frieth staff were full of praise for their efforts, commenting on how impressed they were by the students' maturity and dedication.

By Ofy





## Opportunity for All Events

Throughout this term we have been lucky enough to attend a number of sporting festivals to get more students involved in sport and physical activities. The events have all involved several schools in the area to promote inclusivity for all.

### Cycling Club



Cycling Club has taken place every Wednesday throughout this half term, with students showing great commitment and enthusiasm. They've been building their skills, confidence, and endurance in preparation for an exciting cycling trip planned for September. The progress

so far has been fantastic, and we're looking forward to seeing everyone continue their journey towards this upcoming adventure!

### Cricket festival

A group of Year 7 girls recently attended a cricket festival where they had the opportunity to develop their cricket skills. The morning was spent rotating through a variety of skill-based activities, helping improve their batting and fielding technique. In the afternoon, the girls put their skills into action during a tournament against three other schools.



Throughout the day, the team showed great progress—not only in their cricket ability but also in their confidence and teamwork. They overcame early nerves, supported one another, and finished the day stronger, prouder, and more connected as a team.

### Athletics



We had the fantastic opportunity to take three teams to the Little Marlow Athletics Track for an athletics festival. The aim of the event was to give more students the chance to represent the school in athletics—many of whom had never competed in a formal setting before.

The festival was a brilliant experience for building confidence, as students took part in a variety of athletic

disciplines and got the rare opportunity to compete on a professional 400m track with multiple events running simultaneously. Our students conducted themselves exceptionally well—showing great organisation and responsibility by ensuring they were at their events on time and ready to compete.

The excitement peaked during the relay races, with so much interest that the organisers kindly allowed us to enter two teams per race. The enthusiasm and teamwork on display were truly impressive.

We are proud to share that we won the junior girls event by filling every activity with determined and committed competitors. A huge well done to all the students involved!



### Varsity Rounders

The final varsity event of the year saw our students take to the field for rounders—and they did not disappoint! With outstanding teamwork, determination, and skill, the team won all of their matches, finishing the tournament undefeated.

This incredible performance in rounders was the final push needed to secure overall victory in the varsity events for the year. A huge congratulations to all the students involved for their hard work and commitment throughout the year—it's been a fantastic journey, and this win is thoroughly deserved!



Within PE and across the department, we have seen many of these students becoming more involved in our extra-curricular programme and significantly developing their interpersonal skills. Thank you to all the staff who have supported the students in attending these various events and festivals.

By Miss E Boddy





## GMS PE CONTINUE BEING A CENTRE OF LEADING PRACTICE

PE

As a department we have been working with Year 11 Embrace Leadership in the PE Life Skills Award

This year, GMS PE introduced the Physical Education Life Skills Award to our Year 11 core PE curriculum — and it has already proven to be a resounding success.

The award is designed to help students develop key life competencies such as communication, teamwork, resilience, and organisation. These skills are demonstrated through the planning and delivery of PE lessons to their own form group. In small teams, students are assigned a teaching space — often one they've selected themselves — and are responsible for designing and running a full session.

Following each lesson, both the class and the teacher provide structured feedback, focusing on the specific Life Skill keywords the group set out to demonstrate. Over the course of the year, students typically deliver around six lessons, with their final award level — Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum — determined by the range and consistency of competencies shown.

We're incredibly proud to report a 98% pass rate in this inaugural year, with students showing exceptional creativity and innovation in the activities they delivered. The programme has been well received by both staff and students alike, and many participants have expressed a keen interest in progressing to the Level 3 Sports Leaders Course in Sixth Form next year.

The Life Skills Award not only enhances leadership and confidence but also lays a strong foundation for continued development in sport, education, and beyond.

By Mr S Goodright



## LEVEL 3 SPORTS LEADERS SHINE AT GMS –

GMS PE continues to proudly deliver the Sports Leaders Level 3 Qualification, a nationally recognised course that awards students 16 UCAS points and qualifies them to independently lead groups of young people from the age of 18.

This year, our Sports Leaders have been outstanding in their commitment and contribution. As part of the course, students supported PE lessons across the school and worked in small teams to plan and deliver sporting events and festivals for both primary and Key Stage 3 pupils. The feedback from visiting primary schools has been overwhelmingly positive, praising the professionalism, enthusiasm, and leadership shown by our students.

A key component of the course is the Learner Evidence Record, which encourages students to reflect on their leadership journey, set personal development goals, and build a portfolio of experiences that can be used to support UCAS applications or job opportunities.

We are also delighted to share that Rudi Chapman was named Sports Leader of the Year at this year's GMS Sports Awards, in recognition of his exceptional dedication, leadership, and impact throughout the programme.

Our pass rate continues to be well above the national average, as confirmed by our external verifier, and we're excited to announce that the course will run again next academic year. We look forward to welcoming a new cohort of leaders and building on this year's fantastic success.

By Mr S Goodright  
Head of PE

## SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE: THE GMS PE GYM & DANCE SHOW 2025

Early June saw the much-anticipated GMS PE Gym and Dance Show light up the stage with two hours of stunning performances that left the audience spellbound. This annual event is a highlight of the school calendar, and this year's show certainly did not disappoint.

The students have been working tirelessly over several weeks, choreographing and rehearsing their routines with remarkable dedication and creativity. What made this year's show particularly special was the blend of generations — younger dancers and gymnasts were guided and supported by our older KS4 leaders, fostering a strong sense

of teamwork and mentorship across year groups.

A special mention goes to Lottie Shaw, a Sixth Form student who has taken the reins of running the dance club as part of her Level 3 Sports Leaders Award. Her leadership helped shape a programme that balanced artistic expression with technical skill, culminating in performances that were both polished and passionate. The show was also supported ably by Year 12 students Florence Owen and Coco Killington who used it for their event as part of the Level 3 Sports Leaders Qualification.

The theme of the evening, "Songs about People's Names or Place Names," provided an eclectic musical backdrop that inspired a diverse range of routines, from dynamic gymnastic sequences to expressive contemporary dances. The quality of performance was outstanding throughout,

earning high praise from both staff and guests alike.

The show not only highlighted the students' hard work and talent but also showcased the vibrant PE community within GMS — a place where creativity, leadership, and teamwork come together in spectacular fashion.

Congratulations to all the performers, choreographers, and leaders who made this event a memorable success!

Photos of the Dance Show rehearsals can be viewed here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/151502938@N06/albums/72177720326781432>

By Miss G Muttitt



## SPORTS AWARDS EVENING 2025

On Friday 11th July the PE department hosted their annual sports award evening. With over 200 awards to give out, it was set to be a fantastic evening celebrating many sporting successes throughout the last year.

The evening began with a fantastic montage of the 'best bits' from the past year, and Level 3 Sports Leaders Coco Killington and Rudi Chapman opened the show. Mr Bradley was back for the second year running as compare, providing many laughs for the audience. Lots of awards were then given out for our winter and summer sports, including most improved player, managers player and club person of the year. The second half included the bigger awards sports awards celebrating the successes of many of our students. Well done to the following students who received the following awards:

**KS3 Achiever: Isla Sutherland and Josh Urie**

**KS4 Sports Leader: Grace Puddephatt**

**KS5 Sports Leader: Sophie Apletree**

**KS5 Level 3 Sports Leader Qualification Award: Rudi Chapman**

**Outstanding Commitment to GMS Sport: Isabella Rawlings and Joseph Bryan**

**Year 11 Sport Education Most Employable: Tonisha Talwar and Daniel Da Rocha**

**KS3 Team of the Year: Year 7 Rugby Team**

**KS4 Team of the Year: Inter Boys Athletics Team**

**KS5 Team of the Year: Junior Women's Eight**

**Sports Personality of the Year Nominees: Alice Farrow, Maisie Marshall, Lily Nickless, Conlan O'Connor, Jack Wratten, Toby Smith**

**Sports Personality of the Year Winner: Isla McDonald and Felipe Ferriera**

**Service to Sport: Connor Quann**

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

By Miss G Muttitt



Alice Farrow



Isla McDonald



Lily Nickless



Maisie Marshall



Conlan O'Connor



Filipe Ferreira



Jack Wratten



Toby Smith

**SPORTS PERSONALITY  
OF THE YEAR  
2024-25 NOMINEES**



## GMS Sports Day 2025: A Day to Remember

The much-anticipated GMS Sports Day 2025 took place on a warm and pleasant day at the start of July. The school community came together for an action-packed event, as the three houses—Hawks, Kites, and Eagles—competed across a wide range of events, from traditional athletics to Tug of War, Cyclo-Cross, and Rowing.

Thanks to the meticulous planning by the PE Department, and the invaluable support from staff and volunteers, the day ran seamlessly. The department would like to extend heartfelt thanks to everyone involved—especially the students, whose dedication, determination, and sportsmanship made the day such a success.

As always, the atmosphere was buzzing with energy. The addition of music and live commentary from the House

Leads in the afternoon added a vibrant and entertaining twist, making the occasion even more special. School spirit was on full display, with many records being broken as students pushed themselves to earn vital house points (full results available in the Athletics Summer Report).

While many had predicted Hawks House to take a fourth consecutive win, it was Kites House who rose to the occasion and clinched the overall title—an incredible achievement and a proud moment for all involved. Special recognition goes to Mr Bradley, whose inspiring leadership and unwavering belief in his team helped secure this memorable victory.

**A huge congratulations to Kites House —champions of Sports Day 2025!**

## Sports Day Results

	Year 7 Girls	Year 7 Boys	Year 8 Girls	Year 8 Boys	Year 9 Girls	Year 9 Boys	Year 10 Girls	Year 10 Boys
E	211	221	198	193	171	193	210	205
H	163	139	132	186	245	201	222	180
K	184	148	219	181	112	156	155	195

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	6th Form	TOTAL
E	432	391	364	415	0	1602
H	302	318	446	402	0	1468
K	332	400	268	350	0	1350









# Great Weekend for GMSBC at Junior Inter-Regional Regatta

## This weekend we took three fours/quads up to Nottingham for the Junior Inter-Regional Regatta on Saturday.

Our J16 (year 11 boys) coxed four was one of the first races of the day which meant an early 5 am departure for them.

As with many major regattas the event started with a time trial to seed the finals. The Time trial was over 1000m which was shorter than the side by side finals and made for tight time differences at the top of each event.

The boys put down the fastest time in their time trial, just under 2 seconds ahead of second place. Having said this, they came off the water feeling comfortable and not over stretched so looking in a good position for later in the day.

We then had quiet a wait for the rest of the squad to arrive, so I went off to track down the Master in Charge of rowing at Westminster School, who organise the Schools Head of the River.

Much to my joy, not only was he attending the regatta but also had our winners Pennant and medals from the Boys First Eight winning this year's Schools Head – School First Eights trophy. This a significant first in GMSBC history and only the fourth time we have won any event at Schools Head. (Photos of winning crew with Medals to Follow)

Back to the regatta and our J15 boys coxed four were next up. They had a solid row but a couple of wobbles and a crab meant they felt there was room for improvement. When results came out, they were second in the time trial 3.5 seconds off first. Which while significant was by no means ruling out a much-wanted Gold.

The WJ16 girls quad was our last crew to race and looking to improve on their scullery result from last term. The short distance in fast conditions made times very tight at the top of their event with under 2 seconds between 4th, where they came and 2nd. So a tight and exciting final ahead.

The finals followed the same order and our J16 boys lined up as favourites on the start line. Regular readers may remember that this crew, won a nail-biting Gold at National Schools last year, coming from last place after 250m to winning Gold in the last 5 strokes of the race. Coach had given a race plan that hopefully saved his heart rate a bit and meant a more aggressive first half. Out of the blocks, GMS were up with the fastest three boats, but a Kingston Grammar School four in lane 2 made an early push to try to establish a lead. However, by 500m their push was fading and GMS took the lead shortly afterwards. To be honest, from there on in there was a neck and neck race for the other medals but Gold was never in doubt and the GMS boys opened a several length lead to win in fine style.

The year 10s, while not quite as confident, starting in lane 4 as the second fastest crew, still had high ambitions.

Through to 500m there was not much between the first three or four, but with 600m gone GMS put down a strong push to open a  $\frac{3}{4}$  length lead on the field and then with confidence of seeing the field behind them, settled into a powerful rhythm and maintained this lead through to the last 250m.

Strong finishes from both trailing medal contenders definitely challenged the GMS boys but their lead was too great to be overcome. So, two events two golds.

Our very successful WJ16 girl's quad was one of the last races of the day and from the tt we knew it would be tight. The Scottish crew, who were clearly faster in the tt, lead the field pretty much from the off, but the next four boats were neck and neck with half a length across the four. Leads and margins were changing all the way through the second half of the race and on this occasion they finished just outside the medals. I am sure we will see more from them in the weeks ahead.

A great day, with some super results. Sunday saw two GMS boys, Ethan Hunt and Connor Quann, competing at the GB small boats regatta, which is the penultimate stage of the GB selection process. Both boys competed well, making the top 30 athletes in the UK, but at this stage are unlikely to progress to final crew formation.



## Bedford Regatta-lots of wins and two cups!

**One of the highlights of the early summer regatta season is this charming regatta. It is an old-fashioned knock out competition with many events having four rounds to reach the final. We took seven crews to Bedford Amateur Regatta and virtually every rower won at least one race.**

There is so much more fun in a side-by-side duel and all the major schools are generally represented here making the competition excellent.

Our year 10 girls were off first, having arrived at 0745, and luck of the draw meant our A crew drew a very strong Headington Crew and the eventual winners in their first round so had a quick exit, but the B quad had an excellent race against locals Bedford Modern to win by 3 lengths and had a good race in the quarter finals to narrowly lose to St Mary's School.

Then came the year 10 boys. The B four had an excellent race against Abingdon School and although they were out matched, rowed well through out the race and kept the pressure on their opponents. The A boat were lucky enough to have a Bye,

Fortunately, those rowers who had lost their first race were mainly entered into a second event. In the year 10 girls case it was a coxed four (sweep) as opposed to a quad(sculling) , In their first race they met Lady Eleanor Holles and had a nail-biting race. As the course is around a long bend, the start is staggered, so the inside crew is behind for most of the race even if they are going faster. In our WJ15 4+'s case they were ½ a length down with 300m to go and then they met a wall of cheering from the GMS parents and with cries from cox Isabel Berger to " go faster" they found inner resolve to push through the opposition to win by 1/3 length. In their next round against Brentford RC, they were on the outside of the bend and had a poor start, giving the opponents a lot of the stagger back. By halfway Brentford had still more advantage to come and had a length advantage. The result looked cast, but the GMS girls dug in deep and fought back hard. Despite being on the outside lane around the bend the margin was decreasing and with 200m left ½ a length was all that was in it. That was the eventual result but an excellent race from these competitive girls.

The two boys' fours combined to race as a eight and had a comfortable victory over Bedford Modern in their first race, The second round against Radley, who had beaten Eton in the first round, was always going to be tough but the boys hung in well and raced well to still be in touch by the end.

Now just a very quick summary of our two winning crews. The J18 4x (boys 6th form Quad) had the easiest day, not having to arrive till 4:00 pm and racing their final at 18:41



they had two races which they dominated and GMS picked up the J18 4x trophy for the second year running. In Contrast the J15 4+, who arrived at 0800 and had to race 6 races despite a bye in their first round, lined up for their final at 1917 against Bedford School.

In getting to this point , two Eton crews, two Abingdon Crews, A crew from St Georges College and others had all been beaten.

Being the final, the boys expected a tough race and starting a length down on the inside of the bend , they were not sure whether they would ever see their opponents ( rowers look backwards!). They need not have worried, by halfway they had drawn level and with plenty of advantage still to come they pushed on through and while it seemed the crews were well matched, the GMS boys had a better run on the boat and kept moving through to win the final by 2 lengths.

A really fun day out on the river, with something for all the rowers, but always a thrill to take on the big independent schools and win.



## National Schools Regatta

The weekend of half term 29th-30th May, saw some fifty plus GMSBC rowers competing at the National Schools Regatta up at the National Water Sports Centre in Nottingham.

The event is meant to be divide into three separate days racing with year 9s and 10s on the Friday then older crews on the weekend, with the top J18( sixth form/ championship) crews racing over both days.

Sadly due to very high winds forecast for Sunday, the third day was cancelled making for a somewhat curtailed regatta.

### Friday

We arrived around 0830 at Nottingham to find a perfect day with next to no wind and bright sunshine. The time trials all went off well and results were pretty much a fair reflection of each crew performance. The crews are seeded into A,B, C and D finals based on their time trial results with anyone outside the top 24 no longer involved in the regatta. All our crews made it through to the side by side stage and it was now a question of how well they could go in the finals.

The year 9 boys , who just missed out on a final at Junior Sculling Regatta were very pleased to have made it through this time. They were supposedly second fastest from the TT in their final and went out with a strategy to go one better. They had a strong start and made a determined push going into the 500m mark( half way for year 9s). They were in first position with a quarter length lead over second place. Unfortunately, they caught a crab which stopped the boat briefly and by the time they were up and running they had lost most of a length. Nothing daunted, they set to overhaul Peterborough in first place and over the next 250m closed significantly. The trend was definitely going in the right direction but sadly they ran out of track and had to settle for second, but a great race from these boys.

The year 9 girls octo were part of a deep field of 25 crews entered into this event. For year 9s this is the blue riband event. With the lake being so busy, they weren't able to get in a proper warm up for their time trial, which resulted in them finishing a slightly disappointing 9th, putting them in the B final. Their day improved dramatically in their side by side race; they got off to a great start, and led the field by 3 seconds at the 500m mark. Eton Excelsior in second place mounted a strong challenge as they approached the finish, but the girls kept their composure, and rowed away with a strong cohesive rhythm to win their race by just under a length. This boat is full of talented, dedicated athletes, who have made great strides together, both in and out of the boat

The year 10 girls were in the A and B quad sculls events, with the A crew in their D final and the Bs in the B final. Like the year 9s the A crew were a little disappointed in their ranking but went out to enjoy their final. It was a nail biter from the word go. Northwich went out fast and

took an early lead of half to a length up by 500m. With a strong second 500m from GMS and Trentham, the lead had changed and GMS was now in second place. These two crews continued to move on in the third quarter and with 500m to go they both had clear water on third place and the crews were level. Momentum though was with the GMS girls and a really tough last 500m saw them cross the line a length up on Trentham in second place.

The B crew had done really well to make the B final but this meant a tough race in the side by side and they improved their ranking from 12th to 11th in their side by side.

The year 10 boys were both in coxed fours ( sweep as opposed to sculling) but there was no "B" event so it was a tough ask for the second four to make the side by side finals. As it was they were second fastest qualifier for the D final and lined up looking forward to challenging for the top place in their race.

The boys attacked from the start and with 500m gone had half a length on second placed St Georges College. There was no looking back for the crew after this and with a big push at 750m they opened up a clear water lead and continued to move away from the rest of the field, winning their race by over 12 seconds from second place. Their time would have won the B final. A really exciting row from these boys and made them proud of their achievement.

The A crew had heavy expectations on their shoulders. GMS has won gold in this event for the last two years but this year a very strong Westminster Eight ( 4th in Championship eights at the Schools Head) had decided to race as two fours. In the time trial the GMS boat came in first place with Brentford in Second and Westminster in 3rd and 6th position( some 9 seconds behind GMS) so all looked favourable but by no means certain.

By this stage in the regatta there was a steady cross head which while not ruining the lanes , gave a definite advantage to lane 6 in a more sheltered position.

The boys had a good start and looked to moving nicely but the slower Westminster crew from the TT in lane 6 had an even better start and at 500m lead by a third of a length over GMS in second Place. Again a strong second 500 from GMS saw them briefly draw level, but Westminster held on to regain their marginal advantage. With 500m left the Westminster crew in lane 6 had a half length lead over GMS and the stronger Westminster crew in lane 3 had closed to within half a length in third place.

While all crews were upping the rate and pushing hard for the finish line the distances were creeping narrower but the race track was running out. A really great race and a very well deserved Silver Medal in what was a top class field.

### Saturday

As mentioned , an early decision not to race on Sunday meant a rescheduling of Saturdays racing with all



events proceeding from time trial to finals. With A finals first then Bs etc.

The first of our crews to race was the top girls quad. Fortunately we had decided to not race the year 11s in their age group as this event ended up being cancelled due to scheduling. This meant we could field a stronger top boat with two year 11s in the crew.

They had a solid row and were a little disappointed to slip into the D final, but luckily a faster crew scratched, elevating them to C. In their side by side, the conditions were by now very tough and the lanes distinctly not even so they did well to improve their ranking by one slot coming 5th in their race.

They were shortly followed by the top boys. The protracted time trial taking over 20 minutes to complete the whole list meant that very varying conditions saw some very unusual candidates in higher finals. Having had a good run into this regatta, we knew it would be tough to make the A final as there are about half a dozen crews of very comparable standard. It is a sign of the increasing standard of competition that there was only 3.6 seconds between racing in the A final and being in the C final.

A disappointing outcome for this crew.

We then had a boys B J18 quad and two girls B quads, with the boys coming 10th in their tt, the girls coming 3rd and 7th respectively.

A good race in the boys quad saw them climb to 9th overall in the ranking, while the girls came 5th and the second boat had to scratch due to injury.

Last but not least was our J16 boys coxed four. They were defending their Gold medal from last year and came in second place in the TT behind a very strong Kew House crew 4.5 seconds a head of them. They started well and followed the race plan, leading by a few feet a 500m. A tough second 500m saw Kew House take the lead. While this crew famously came back from over a length down to win gold last year, this was not going to happen as Kew House proved too strong. The GMS pacing could not be faulted though as they managed to negative split every 500 (got faster through the race) with 1:55.42, 1:53.60, 1:51.64 and 1:51.38. Following on the heels of last year's Gold, Silver was well earned and something to be very proud of.

A slightly frustrating regatta due to weather and some not quite optimal results but another year coming home with Major Medals is continuing our upward trend.

## Maidenhead Regatta

Another sunny, exciting day of racing on the Thames over this past weekend. Three crews journeyed to Maidenhead Regatta: two Year 9 Quads and a Year 10 Boys' Quad.

The format of the regatta tries to ensure most crews row in two races at least. Our Year 9 girls met Windsor Girls School in the first round and had a fairly comfortable win, they looked strong and well-coordinated. In the second round they met a powerful squad, Eton Excelsior, who were a little over zealous at the start but made ground their early "go". While this meant our girls were down at the start, they rowed well and kept their form for the most part and, indeed, in the middle of the race started to pull towards the Excelsior crew. A good race ensued but Excelsior held on to win. The girls were pleased to have won the earlier race and knew that they had performed well in the later one.

The Year 9 boys, sadly, were granted a bye through to the semi-finals meaning they went straight up against a strong crew and while they held together well and kept to the better form they have been working on recently, they were not able to win this time.

The Year 10 boys had the longest day with an early first race in the morning, but by virtue of winning this they progressed to the semi final at 3:10. Here they met Borlase and a reasonably close race ensued, but the GMS boys had winning in mind and pushed ahead over the course to move into the final.

It meant they went straight back to the start for the final. They began aggressively to leave competition behind and maintained a strong pace over the course to take the overall title.

A really good win for these Year 10 boys.

The Winning Crew:

Austin Begley, Harry Proctor, Jacob Abadeer, Theo Harper, and cox Jack O'Reilly



## Marlow Town Regatta

As always, a busy day for GMSBC with 90 students racing in over 40 races. The day was beautiful weather, but the strong wind made the conditions challenging, even for our top crews, with fairly lumpy water.

Year 8s had their first regatta and performed well. The boys quad lead their race to half way but sadly caught a bad crab at the church which allowed the two Marlow RC crews to overtake them. Nothing daunted they reset themselves and set off in pursuit. It was a big gap to close, but they managed it in part by overhauling one of the Marlow crews to come second. I think we will see a lot more from these boys in the future.

The boys octo were again racing Marlow Rowing club, and rowing up to the start looked the stronger crew. Sadly, the Marlow crew had a breakage before the race meaning our octo had no opposition but rowed over to take their first win and Medals.

The girls also did a quad and an octo and here there was a little more depth in the competition, with Headington School also competing. The Octo had a great race in the heat to win and make it through to the final beating one Headington crew in the process.

In the final they were not quite as cohesive in the choppy water as a very well drilled Headington top boat but came second.

Year 9 boys did a combination of Doubles and quads and had a number of close races in the doubles, but their main success was in the quad, where having made it to the final, were leading coming into the enclosures but a big wash caught a blade and this led to a break in their rhythm allowing the Borlase crew to take a small lead. Although they challenged hard over the last 50m they were unable to get their bows in front.

The main race for the girls was in their octo which has had some great racing this year, winning the B final at National Schools in a convincing row. They were up against a very strong Headington crew who had beaten them before. The girls put in a spirited race, but the Headington crew which will have had considerably more time on the water this season coped better with the rough conditions.

Year 10 Girls were in our earlier races with Lily Nickless and Georgina Greening both making the final in singles (WJ15 1x) and in a repeat of Marlow Spring Lily took the win in an impressive victory over a field including so strong Headington girls.

Year 10 boys raced well in double, two quads and an eight. The smaller boats all had good races, with one of the quads making it through to the final. We had put out to reasonably matched quads, rather than a 1st and 2nd boat, so in the final the GMS boat came second but were no match for the Marlow top quad.

In the eight, the boys had a straight final against Abingdon School first and second J15 eights. The boys had not been in the eight for quite a while and this showed off the start where Abingdon 1st boat took a quick 3/4 length lead but over the rest of the race, the GMS crew started to eat away at this lead. As the race rounded the bend into the enclosures GMS were losing by a few feet but were moving faster. The spectators had to wait for some minutes to hear the result but sadly the verdict went to Abingdon, however a great race for our eight against top class opposition.

The year 11 boys four had a scrappy row and came off the water feeling they could have done so much better, but they had still won convincingly over the Abingdon Opposition.

The main events of the regatta are obviously the Marlow Schools Challenge Races.

These all went to form with the boys' quads being the first race- GMS took a short lead off the start but the Borlase crew were determined to make a race of it and as they came into the enclosures GMS only had a half-length on SWB. A close race and a good showing from our opposition.

The girl's quad was next and Borlase have been stronger all year at the various National events. A 3-length victory was a solid performance by them and hopefully keeps them coming back for more next year.

In the eights races, the two that really get the crowd shouting in the enclosures the girls came down first, with GMS leading by a length of clear water and looking very dominant.

In the boys' race was a similar story with the verdict never in doubt and GMS won both eight races yet again.

A very fun day by the river.





## THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER GREAT FUNDRAISING YEAR!

Friends of Great Marlow School (FoGMS) has had a really busy year with lots of fun events across our school community and as the term comes to an end we just wanted to let you know where your generosity has been used to support the students this year and moving into the next academic year.

Every single penny that FoGMS raises goes directly back to resources for the students at GMS.

Total raised by FoGMS so far in this school year 24- 25 is **£22,519.21**

Additional resources funded this year by FoGMS are:

- Gifted reading book for all the incoming year 7's – annual donation from FOGMS
- New smoke machines & rental of PANTO backdrop
- Additional Music Stands for the Music Department to be used by whole school
- Final instalment of the £30,000 for the all weather sheltered area for more students to be able to be outside at breaks.

FoGMS has been raising funds this year for the Science Department & we are delighted to announce we have reached our target of £4200. Moving forwards, FoGMS will be raising funds for an exciting new Outdoor Space for the students to use at the Redgrave Sports Centre together with New Blinds for the hall and 6th Form Centre for the students during examination time and hot weather.

FoGMS Committee

AND FINALLY....

THE GMS staff wish everyone a restful Summer break.

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

Stay safe and healthy.

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

## FOGMS FUNDRAISING EVENTS FOR DIARIES

- 2nd hand uniform sale – Friday August 22nd 2- 3 pm at main Bobmore entrance of school.
- Year 7 New Parents coffee morning Friday 12th September – school canteen.
- FoGMS AGM Tuesday 16th September 6.30pm Room T4 Open to All
- Happy School Bags Old clothing donation collection – 21-23rd September drop your old clothing donation bags at the collection points outside at the Redgrave centre doors
- Year 7 & 8 Disco – Thursday 16th October (year 8) & 23rd (year 7) October 7-9pm – a chance for the Year 7's & 8's to celebrate their move up to secondary school
- Junior First Aid course with Child Matters – October (dates to be confirmed) 3:30 – 6pm Redgrave Centre – booking form will follow via Expressions
- Christmas Door Wreath Making with Joanne Caldwell – Tuesday 2nd & Tuesday 9th December no experience required, a fun evening with friends creating your own stunning floral wreath for your front door under the guidance of the amazing Joanne.

Ticket prices with the booking link will come out after the October half term.

Wishing you all a very happy and restful Summer break

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