



Great Marlow School
Excellence • Compassion • Integrity

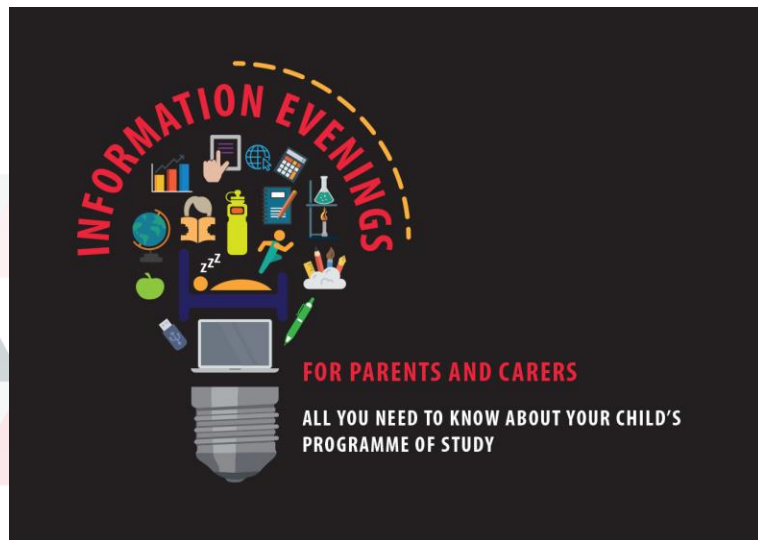
Welcome to the Year 11
Parents' and Carers'
Information Evening

Tuesday 9th September 2025

Opportunities are Created • Potential is Realised • Excellence is Achieved



Our Aims



- To give you an insight into changes at GCSE level and the expectations we have of students.
- To point you in the right direction of help and support that is available to you as a parent/carer
- To inform you of the support on offer within school and opportunities for communication

This PowerPoint will be available to view on the website under Parent & Carers >> Information Evenings

Year 11 Vision



Year 11 Vision & Values



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Ultimate aim: Get the Grade

This vision is aiming that all students know their goals and are reaching on them with a plan A, B and C for post-16 life.

- Year 11s are identified as **compassionate, respectful** and **resilient** members of the school community
- All students feel confident in taking **responsibility** for their GCSE studies
- Good communication between all **three** stakeholders - PARENTS/CARERS, STUDENTS and SCHOOL
- Sixth-form area after school



respect

readiness

resourcefulness

resilience

reflection

responsibility



KS4 Curriculum



Grading System

- **GCSE students work towards Grades 9-1**

9

8

7

High Achievement

6

5

Strong Pass

4

Standard Pass

3

2

1

U

Ungraded

- Allows for greater identification of exceptional performance at the top end.
- Allows differentiation across passed grades.
- Employers can identify if students have taken new more challenging GCSE, or an old reformed GCSE.

Curriculum information



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Core PE for all students in their form groups.

PELSA (Physical Education Life-skills Award) is a nationally recognised qualification from the Youth Sports Trust, but officially recognised by the Leadership Skills Foundation, who are regulated by OFQual.

Our students, providing they show evidence of the 24 main employability/life skill words across the year, will receive the accredited award at the end of year 11.

RSHE (Relationships, Sex and Health Education)

One lesson per week (with form tutor and one other teacher).

Covers important topics such as; Mental wellbeing and health, sex and relationships, managing money, careers and other life skills.

There is NO GCSE for this course.

How to help your child



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- ✓ Perspective on future options – a plan and a back-up plan.
- ✓ Open communication with the school.
- ✓ A space for working and revising.
- ✓ Time to relax and exercise/hobbies.

For information about the different GCSE exam boards and courses there is an information booklet available on the website to access.

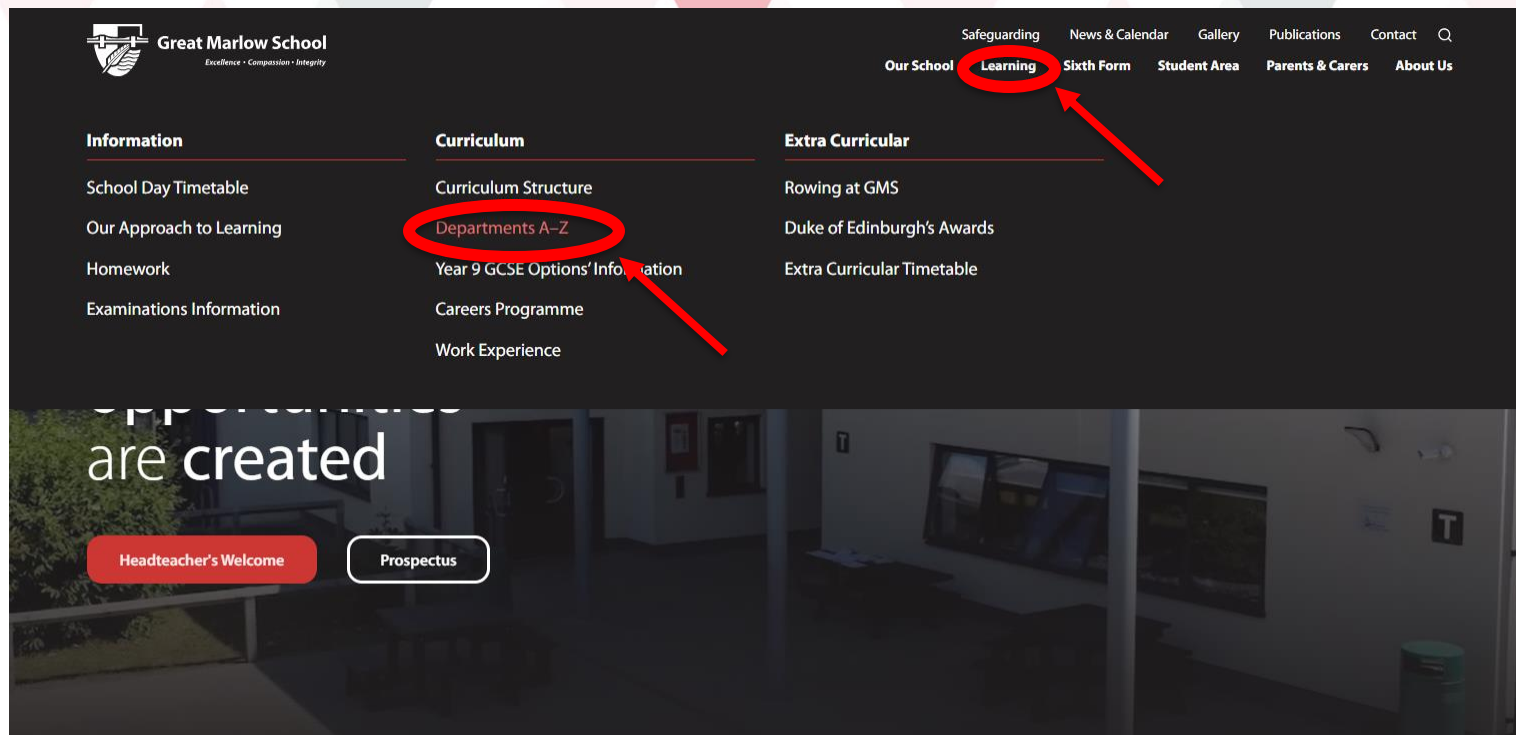
GMS homepage – About us – GCSE Options Information

Get the Grade

Learning Ladders

For information on the learning journey of your child(ren) please see our new Learning Ladders on the school website.

These are available under the "curriculum" tab



Religious Studies drop-down sessions



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- Students will participate in 2 two-hour 'drop-down' sessions
- Utilise discussion, debate and problem-solving
- Aims to support the wider vision and values of the school
- Meets our statutory obligations by;
 - ✓ Inspiring students to be compassionate contributors to a better society
 - ✓ Demonstrating 'My Personal Best' with particular focus on: reflection, resilience and respect

Friday 5th December

Thursday 5th March

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Planners

Students to note ALL homework and deadlines in their planners when set.

Microsoft Teams

Staff to post homework assignment details on MS Teams – calendar

Parents

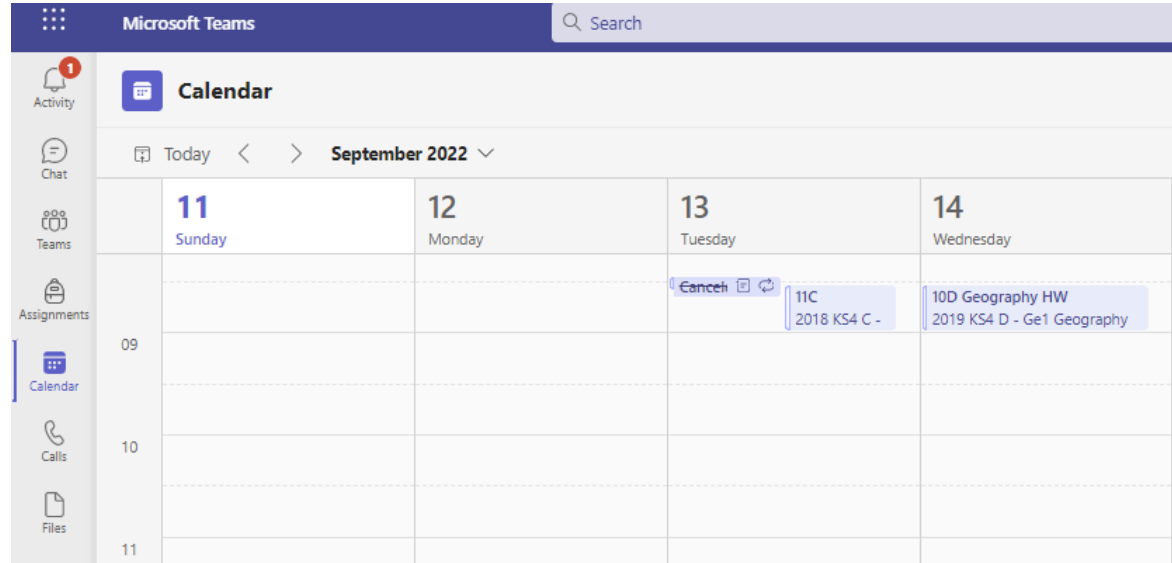
Encourage completion of homework to the best of the student's ability

Microsoft Teams



What is Microsoft Teams?

- It is used for the setting of assignments and the marking of work.
- Calendar function provides useful overview of when homework is due in.



Support for students



Form Tutors

11K1 – Mr Taylor

ntaylor@gms.bucks.sch.uk

11H1 – Mr Jones

djones@gms.bucks.sch.uk

11E1 – Mrs Dale

hdale@gms.bucks.sch.uk

11K2 – Mr Horler

phorler@gms.bucks.sch.uk

11H2 – Miss Porter

lporter@gms.bucks.sch.uk

11E2 – Mrs Clark / Mrs Harvey

cclark@gms.bucks.sch.uk
[dharvey@gms.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:dh Harvey@gms.bucks.sch.uk)

**11K3 – Mrs Messenger/
Mrs Coates**

nmessenger@gms.bucks.sch.uk
smerreywether@gms.bucks.sch.uk

**11H3 – Miss
Goodenough**

cgoodeneough@gms.bucks.sch.uk

**11E3 – Mrs Singh/Mr
Ross**

psingh@gms.bucks.sch.uk

First point of contact

Key Staff Members



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Neil Maguire

Deputy Headteacher
Designated Safeguarding
Lead (DSL)



Karen Craig

Assistant Headteacher
Deputy DSL



Anna Gifford

Safeguarding Officer
(Designated Looked After)



Kevin Ford

Headteacher
Safeguarding



Sheryl Paul

Safeguarding Officer
(Mental Health Lead)



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Student Support



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Assistant Headteacher & SENCO: Mrs V Todd

Attendance Officer: Mrs S Radnedge

Pupil Premium Coordinator: Mrs A Gifford

Careers Officer: Mrs Brunt

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Safeguarding and Wellbeing



Sleep is Key

- The developing brain of a teenager needs between **8 and 10 hours of sleep every night**. The effects of chronic (ongoing) sleep deprivation may include:
 - concentration difficulties
 - mentally 'drifting off' in class
 - irritability
 - impact on mental health and physical health
- Routines and habits – crucial for term time
- Reduce screen time before bed – at least a 30 minute gap

Safeguarding and Wellbeing



- Online Safety – nationalonlinesafety.co.uk – free resource for parents/carers
- As parents be curious – Content, Contact, Conduct and Commerce
- Age limits are in place for a reason
- Less is more – less time online is healthier
- Screen time should be reduced before sleep routine

Safeguarding and Wellbeing



From ASH (Action on smoking and Health)

- **In 2023 20.5% of children had tried vaping, up from 15.8% in 2022 and 13.9% in 2020. 2024 figures will be even higher.**
- **Vaping – can contain harmful and potentially harmful substances, including:**
 - **Nicotine**
 - **Flavourings such as diacetyl, a chemical linked to a serious lung disease**
 - **Volatile compounds**
 - **Cancer-causing chemicals**
 - **Heavy metals such as nickel, tin, and lead**
 - **SPICE – 1 in 5 illegal vapes contain other substances other than advertised**

Tutor Time



Y11 Form Time



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Monday – Uniform and Equipment check.

Can also be used for individual Readiness time
(homework, revision, research, reading etc.)

Tuesday – Reading Project

Wednesday – Wellbeing Wednesday.

Thursday – Thought For The Week

Friday – Assembly

GMS Reading Project



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- The reading project is all about exposure to a range of authors, genres and language
- A growing number of academic studies show that promoting reading can have a major impact on children and adults and their future
- A reminder that these are not the GCSE exam texts



Uniform & Equipment Reminders



Uniform & Equipment



- **Hair** – No extreme styles or unnatural looking colours
- **Nails** – Nude colours only, no false/acrylic nails
- **Jewellery** – One simple ring, a single stud in each ear (each removed for PE)
- **Skirts** – Not rolled at the waistband, logo clearly displayed
- **Shoes** – Smart and black, not trainers or trainer-style
- **Sports equipment** – in a bag, only used in designated areas at specified times.
- **Trousers** – not jeans
- **Jumpers** – Black V neck jumper, no branded sweatshirts or hoodies. Jumper is an additional layer – blazer must be worn
- **Blazers** – To be worn every day, COATS must be worn over the top if required
- **Tie** – worn every day



Essentials

- ☐ Planner
- ☐ Pencil
- ☐ Pen x2
- ☐ Ruler & Protractor
- ☐ Whiteboard pen
- ☐ Glue stick
- ☐ Calculator

A note from home is needed for any reason that you are unable to wear the appropriate uniform – this will then be considered by tutor/DoL

Attendance and Legislation

- Any holiday-related absence taken that includes 10 sessions in 10 weeks, may result in a Penalty Notice. In this instance, a 'Notice to Improve' notification will not be issued beforehand.
- We recognise that these Penalty Notices may be unpopular with families, but it is important to inform you of these changes promptly.
- Nationally, Headteachers are:
 - not permitted to approve term-time holidays except in genuinely exceptional circumstances, and
 - are to consider each application for a leave of absence individually before making our decision.
- The law clearly expects Headteachers to enforce these penalties strictly.
- GMS are currently reviewing our Attendance Policy – will be shared

Attendance

In the first week of September, pupils in Year 7 had the lowest rates of absence, missing an average of 2.9% of sessions.

Pupils in Year 11 had the highest, missing an average of 7.2% of sessions.

Pupils in Years 1-11 were between five and six times more likely to miss at least 20% of sessions if they were absent at the start of the year than if they weren't.

*For Year 7–11 pupils, those absent in the first days are **2–3 times more likely** to miss 10%+ of sessions across the year, and up to **17 times more likely** to miss half of all sessions.*

Important Dates



Important Dates



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Event Category

Day

Time

< >

This Month

Sep 2025

▼

| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | SUN |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
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[School calendar](#)

Opportunities are Created • Potential is Realised • Excellence is Achieved

Some Key Dates

- **Key Dates for Year 11**
- Tuesday 9th September – *Y11 Information Evening*
- Thursday 25th September – *School Photos*
- Wednesday 22nd October – *Y11 Progress Reviews Issued*
- Tuesday 11th November – *Y11 Parents/Carers Evening*
- Friday 5th December – *Y11 RS Drop Down Day*
- Monday 12th – Friday 30th January – *Y11 Mock Exams*
- Monday 25th February – *Y11 Progress Reviews Issued*
- Tuesday 26th February – *Y11 Parents/Carers Evening*
- Thursday 5th March – *Y11 RS Drop Down Day*
- Friday 1st May – *Y11 Leavers Morning (241 days until then – **138 school days**)*
- Monday 4th May – *GCSE exams begin*
- Monday 11th May – *Y11 Study Leave starts*
- **Y11 Prom (tbc)**

Y11 exam Information evening:

Tuesday 11th November



Great Marlow School

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The aim:

- To inform of exam dates and expectations.
- Receive key information from Core Subject Heads
- Provide revision resource information and techniques

Progress Reports



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Target grades – aspirational

Predicted grades - If the student continues to work at the level they are working now, this is the grade we believe they will get in their exams in 2025

The mock exams scores are used internally to guide predicted grades alongside professional judgement of the teacher and planned interventions.

Prefects



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Responsibilities:

- Two duties per week
- Transition day support
- Open evenings support
- School events
- Demonstrate My Personal Best Values

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Prom – tbc 25/6/26



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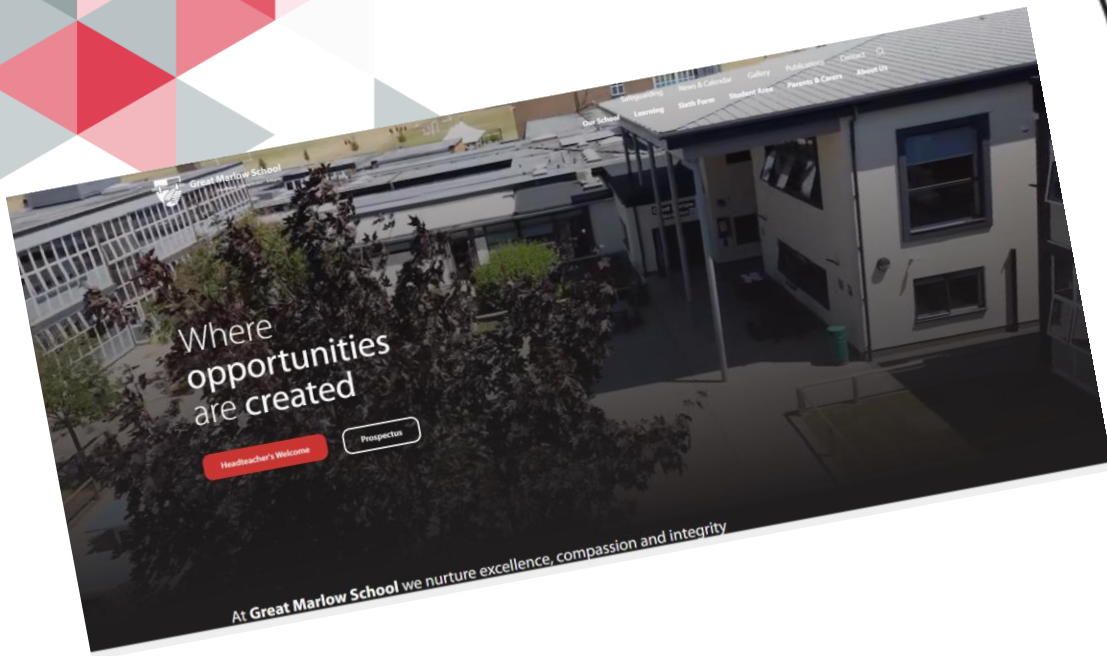
Prom is a privilege

Students to uphold the values of GMS.

The opportunity to attend could be removed with misbehaviour.

Information





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Website

Keep up to date with GMS achievements and events on the Great Marlow School website.

Please note latest communication about dropping off/picking up children to/from school

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Friends of Great Marlow School

We are very lucky to have the support of FoGMS as they raise funds to support the wider school community.

FoGMS AGM is on Tuesday 16th September at 6.30pm.
Information will be communicated with opportunity to sign up and attend.

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Our Roles





Our Roles



Great Marlow School

Excellence • Compassion • Integrity

I Will...

- Reward students
- Support students
- Educate students
- Monitor progress
- Communicate openly
- Respond as soon as able

Form Tutors will...

- Be your first point of contact
- Utilise form time
- Celebrate successes
- Support progress
- Communicate effectively
- Work closely with DoL and SSO

You can...

- Monitor Progress
- Have open and honest conversations
- Monitor and support with homework
- Encourage good habits
- Discuss student experiences



Opportunities are Created • Potential is Realised • Excellence is Achieved

My commitment to you...



Great Marlow School

Excellence • Compassion • Integrity

- ✓ ***You are never bothering me.***
- ✓ *I will usually respond to communication within 24 hours*
- ✓ *You might not get the outcome you intended, but I will always provide one with the interests of the students at the forefront of my mind*

vbennett@gms.bucks.sch.uk