



The VOICE

MARCH 2026

ISSUE 61

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It feels like only yesterday that I was writing my article for 'The Voice' in December. At that time, I spoke about the contribution that our new students and staff had made to the school in such a short space of time. Our Year 7 students are no longer new and students that joined in Year 12 for Post-16 courses are almost halfway through their time at the school.

IMPORTANT REMINDER ABOUT DATES IN THE SUMMER TERM

School reopens on Monday 13th April. We break up for Half Term at 3pm on Friday 22nd May. School reopens on Monday 1st June.

GCE and GCSE exams start week commencing 11th May

Year 11 and 13 leave on Friday 1st May

Year 11 Prom is on Friday 26th June

Year 13 prom is on Friday 19th June

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



As I am writing this article, I have the pleasure of having my office door open and listening to the Spring Music Concert in the hall organised by Mrs Green and the Music Department. A quick check of the calendar just for this week sees the following taking place, Year 9 to 13 rowers at the Oarsport Sculling Head event, House Captain interviews, a University of Cambridge Bucks Schools talk, Year 9 students at the Cultivate 2026 Final event in Bourne End, a Year 10 Prefect Assembly, a Year 7 History and Geography trip to Windsor and a Year 12 Young Enterprise Regional Showcase event at Bucks New Uni. As school closes on Friday the events continue, with an Under 14 National State School Hockey Event in Nottingham, an Easter Rowing Training residential to Saltford/ Bath and a Year 9 Ski Trip to Salzburger in Austria.

Great Marlow remains a busy place, a school focused on providing our students with an education that will allow them to make a significant contribution, as young people initially and then as adults, in the local and wider community. As you will have read in my opening paragraph there remains a large number of visits, in addition to the clubs and activities that run on a daily and weekly basis at the school and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff involved in the organisation, planning and administration of these – without their efforts, many of which are discretionary we would not be able to provide the students with these experiences.

We continue to welcome a lot of visitors to the school, their feedback remains overwhelmingly positive, and I am always keen to showcase the learning environments that our staff have created for our students. Our students are polite, personable and full of character. These features are always commented on by visitors, parents/ carers, prospective teachers to the school and our school improvement partners.

At this time of the academic year, students in Years 11 and 13 are preparing for their final examinations. Many are on site early in the morning taking advantage of revision sessions put on by staff and we are pleased that so many of our Year 11 students are taking advantage of the three days of revision sessions that we are running on Monday 30th March, Tuesday 31st March and Wednesday 1st April. My message to them is simple: work hard and revise and get the balance right between this hard work and revision, well-earned rest and socialising with your

friends and family over the Easter Holiday. The students have put themselves in a very strong position for success in these exams and I look forward to August when these students will see the fruits of their labour – GCSE and A level/ BTEC results days remain very special ones in the school calendar with many staff planning their holidays around then to witness the results and successes of our students.

Along with hard and revision, attendance remains a key feature of student success. 90% achievement in most things sounds great but with attendance it means that students lose over a whole school year Reception to Year 11. Again, we ask you as parents and carers to support us with this and encourage students to attend school and take advantage of everything that is offered before, during and after the school day.

I would like to thank publicly our Librarian, Annette Fisher who after just under 10 years at Great Marlow School will be retiring at the end of this term. As a school community we wish her all the best in her retirement. I would also like to thank you as parents and carers for your continued support and the numerous amounts of letters, cards and emails we get throughout the year thanking staff for their hard work – they are always passed on to the staff! Just as I wish all the students and staff at the school a well-deserved break, I would also like to remind our students and you as parents and carers that we return to school on Monday 13th April at 8:30am.

Friends of Great Marlow and our wider community continue to work extremely hard to raise money for the school and we have recently seen the money raised fund cameras for Media Department, headphones for Modern Foreign Languages, books for the English Department and repairs to musical equipment.

I would not like to finish without mentioning how impressed we have been as a school with our students and their adherence to the new mobile phone policy that we implemented at the start of this half-term. We will continue with this into the Summer Term and would once again ask for your continued support on this.

Best Wishes

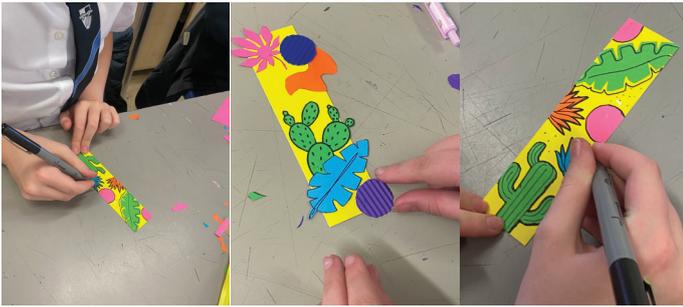
Mr Guy Pendlebury
Headteacher

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



Spring has come around very quickly this year... with another term passing in a flash!

Year 7 Get Creative with Bookmarks for Literary Week



To celebrate Literary Week, Year 7 students took part in a fun and creative art project: designing and making their own bookmarks. The

task combined creativity with important practical skills, giving students the chance to develop their cutting techniques, explore composition, and practise careful refinement using fineliner pens.

Students began by planning which colours they wanted to include, they worked on precise cutting skills to shape their designs, showing impressive focus and control and then thinking carefully about how to arrange shapes, patterns, and images within the narrow bookmark format.

The final stage involved refining their artwork using fineliners. This allowed students to add detail, strengthen outlines, and enhance the overall composition of their pieces. The results were a collection of vibrant, expressive, and very funky bookmarks that really reflected each student's personality and creativity.

Year 7 absolutely loved the task and were incredibly proud of their finished pieces. Best of all, they get to keep their unique bookmarks and use them with their favourite books — a perfect reminder of Literary Week and their creative achievements in the art room.

The finished bookmarks!



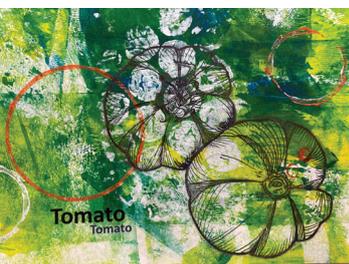
Year 10 Art Gcse - progressing nicely!

There's a real buzz in the Art department at the moment as our Year 10 students begin to truly find their creative flair! With the introduction of some more expressive pieces that showcase both creativity, colour theory and growing technical confidence.



This term, students have been diving headfirst into the exciting world of mark making and mixed media, experimenting with a wide range of techniques to create dynamic, layered backgrounds. From expressive layering of paint to using any tool they can find to make patterns and marks to create textured surfaces, no two pieces are the same. The freedom to explore has encouraged risk-taking, individuality and a wonderful sense of artistic bravery.

Their overarching theme — Food and Drink — has opened the door to a feast of creative possibilities. Students have been honing and narrowing the themes they are exploring. We've seen close-up studies of fruits bursting with colour, shellfish and crustations, comforting treats and product branding.



We are blown away with our current Year12s Portraiture project

Year 12 have been visually exploring their component one theme through a range of portraiture workshops for their 'Physical Self' project this past term. They have demonstrated outstanding recording in both foreshortening and portrait drawing. They have conducted primary photoshoots and are exploring painting techniques such as underpainting and impasto. They will continue working on their individual projects for the rest of the term, culminating in a large scale painted canvas outcome.

By Mrs J Hayward

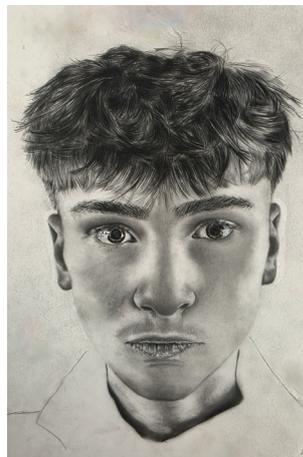


The use of collage and image transfer techniques has added depth and individuality to their work. Layering typography and photographic elements using image transfer, fused seamlessly with painting and ink to create striking contrasts between realism and abstraction. Students are learning how to manipulate materials, embrace happy accidents and refine their compositions with increasing independence.

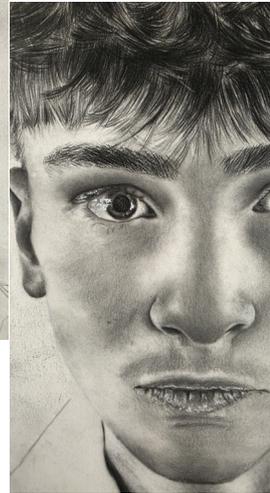
Perhaps most exciting is the confidence that is beginning to shine through. Sketchbooks are no longer just a place for practice — they are becoming spaces of innovation and experimentation. Students are pushing boundaries, testing new combinations of materials and discovering unexpected outcomes. There's a growing sense that anything is possible when creativity is given room to breathe.

As these dynamic backgrounds continue to develop into fully realised artworks, it's clear that this cohort is building not only technical skill but also a strong artistic identity. The energy, ambition and originality on display promise an inspiring exhibition ahead.

By Mrs A Perman



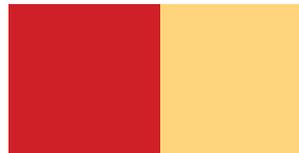
Top and Right:
Oscar Harris 7K2



Right: Oscar
Harris 7K2



Right: Oscar Harris 7K2



FOLLOW GMS ART, CRAFT & DESIGN ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Our social media channels continue to go from strength to strength, and we are incredibly proud to showcase the work of our talented students on multiple platforms accessible to students, parents and other stakeholders of the school.

Our Youtube channel has proven to be a fantastic resource for supporting students with practical demonstrations both within lessons, and for homework. The Art and Design department are very quickly building up a large database of visual exemplars and how-tos which serve as excellent teaching aids and are viewed regularly by our students.

Our Instagram channel has also garnered much attention from other art practitioners, local schools and parents, and celebrates many complimentary accolades from its audience.

You can view and subscribe to our social media channels by visiting the links below:

Youtube: GMS Art, Craft & Design

Instagram: @GMSartcraftdesign

Year 13 Mock Results

This department offers A-Levels in three subjects: Ancient History, Politics and Law. All y13 students following these subjects have just sat mock exams. The Ancient History class sat two papers, each lasting 2½ hours, while the Politics and Law classes all sat three papers, each lasting 3 hours.

Ancient History

Isabelle Berger came top of the class, scoring Grade A in both the Greek paper and the Roman paper

Politics

Sophie Terrett came top of the class in all three papers, achieving a strong Grade A overall.

Sophie Harris and Leon McGivern both scored Grade A in one of their three papers.

Law

Sophie Terrett scored A* in all three of her three papers, achieving an incredible final score of 95%!

Jessica Munro achieved a score of 90% - Grade A* - in one of her papers.

Sophie Harris came top of the other class. She scored Grade A in one of the three papers, as did Amelia Giles and Isabelle Toppin.

Congratulations to them all.

By Mr S Pugsley
Head of Department

YEAR 9 D&T TEXTILES

Year 9 completed their first rotation in Design and Technology at the end of February. The Textiles classes built on their existing knowledge from Years 7 and 8 to create a motif based on their research of another culture. This motif was printed onto the bottom of a pair of shorts. Manufacturing clothing is an advanced skill; significantly more challenging than the products these students made lower down the school. Congratulations to every student – the products were highly successfully and of exceptional quality!

YEAR 10 D&T TEXTILES

Year 10 Textiles students learnt a huge amount in their first half of the year: fabric manipulation techniques (pleats, gathering, pin tucks) as well as standard manufacturing techniques (zips, facings, topstitching, seams and hems). They were asked to design a product for a specific primary user, taking into account their specific needs and wants.

Congratulations to the entire class for creating high quality products that are fit for purpose.

By Mrs C Clark - Head of Department



Top: Year 9 Outcomes
Right: Year 10 Outcomes



GCSE and A-level Drama students trip to Oxford Playhouse

On Thursday 12th February the Drama Department took Year 11 and 13 Drama students to watch *The Woman in Black* at the Oxford Playhouse. *The Woman in Black*, is one of the most successful and longest running theatre shows in the history of London's West End. The show is written by Susan Hill and was brought alive in Stephen Mallatratt's ingenious stage adaptation. The students watched in awe (some on the edge of their seats) 120 minutes of this chilling ghost story.

The production captured the students' imagination through its creative lighting and sound design. The cast of three kept the students gripped throughout the whole performance as they were told the thrilling story of Mrs. Alice Drablow and her haunting of a small English town. This clever production engaged the students with its ingenious twist and turns.

We were lucky enough to have some of our seats at the front of the stage (some students chose to sit further back in the dress circle), so the students were able to really immerse themselves within the production. It's not all fun and games though, the students will be expected to write about this live production in their live theatre exam on 8th May.

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



A visit from ex-pupil Ishbel Cumming

After watching the production of *The Woman in Black*, the Drama department were lucky to have Ishbel Cumming pay a visit and share her experience of playing the Woman in Black in the touring production.

Ishbel is a past student and attended Great Marlow School from 2010-2016. It was so wonderful to hear about her experience working in such an iconic production, sharing all the secrets of this great show.

Ishbel was great with the students answering all their questions regarding the special effects and how she prepared and approached her delivery of this frightening character. She shared pictures of her costume and make up design, which reminded the students of the importance these small elements have and their contribution when delivering such an important role. Ishbel was also able to give advice to those who are interested in working in the industry.

It was a pleasure watching a past student inspiring the next generation of Great Marlow students and those who are thinking of entering the Performing Arts world. Ishbel is a great illustration of determination and resilience and is an example of the type of students we have at GMS.

By Mrs D Chenery - Head of Department



Our Year 11 students have been amazing!

A huge congratulations to the Year 11 Drama class who took their Component 2 exam on 10th March. The students represented the department as either an Actor, Set Designer or Costume, Hair and Make Up Artist. The students creative vision came alive in an intense 15-minute presentation, where the students delivered their work to a visiting examiner.

Well done Year 11, you should be extremely proud of yourselves, you have worked so hard during lessons and after school and the hard work has paid off! That's 60% bagged!!!! Roll on 8th May, when you get the last 40% of your GCSE in your written exam. It has been a pleasure working with you over the last two years.

Congratulations to our Year 13 Drama students

Well done to Year 13 Drama students for completing your practical performance. Year 13 performed their drama pieces to a visiting examiner on 13th March. You absolutely rose to the challenge and created two fantastic pieces of art! You have shown great resilience over the last few months and all the hard work has paid off. Enjoy your well-deserved Easter holiday.

By Mrs D Chenery - Head of Department



Drama Oscars off to a fantastic start

We are delighted with the success of our new Drama Oscars Award Scheme, which launched in September. The display board is already filling up nicely and celebrating the achievements of many of our talented students.

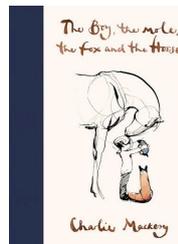
Each half term, every Drama teacher nominates one student from a year group who has demonstrated outstanding effort, creativity, or commitment in their Drama lessons.

Students who receive a Drama Oscar are recognised in several ways. They receive a reward postcard home, a Headteacher's Award, and have their photograph taken with the Oscar Trophy. Their photo is then proudly displayed on our Drama Oscars Board for everyone to see.

It's been wonderful to recognise so many hardworking students across the year groups, and we look forward to many more nominations as the year continues.

Well done to all of our successful students so far!

By Mrs S Ross



SUMMER PERFORMANCE

The summer production at GMS has officially launched, with an exciting pre-audition meeting attended by 87 Year 7 and 8 students.

The play this year will be an adaptation of Charlie Mackay's *The boy, the mole, the fox and the horse*. It tells the story of a journey between new friends and offers a sensitive style of storytelling for the students to immerse themselves in. Although the cast will be smaller than our Autumn production, this summer's production promises to be filled with energy, excitement, bundles of talent and theatre magic.

Come along and support our lower school drama students.

We look forward to seeing you in July

STRENGTHENING OUR 7TH 'R' - READING AT GMS

We have kicked off 'National Year of Reading 2026' in style here at Great Marlow, with lots of events and new initiatives linked to reading.



Our LitFestWeek was a great success with every department taking part to ensure there was something for all students to get involved with and enjoy. Students were designing bookmarks in Art lessons, creating book-covers in ICT, and taking part in challenges in Geography and Science with lots of house-points and prizes won. Mr Philpott's 'News and Biscuits' event was very well attended.

Our Year 7's dressed up as characters from their favourite book for World Book Day and it was delightful to see so many students in their costumes. We had a hard job choosing the winners, who were awarded chocolates and house-points.



We have recently started up our new 6th Form Reading Ambassador Scheme, where selected KS3 students team up with their 6th Form 'book-bud' once a week in the library to read books together. We are excited to see this continue into next term and it has been lovely to see the younger and older students working together and getting to know each other.

Marlow Bookshop kindly featured another fantastic window display this month, linked to the most popular books taken out from our school library. Over the Easter Holidays our annual 6th form reading recommendations will also be on display in Marlow Library.

The Library was were delighted to have received an award from Beanstack for our Trailblazer status meaning over 75% of our Year 7 & 8 students are regularly tracking their reading on our app. We thank parents and carers for their continued support of the app at home.

Mrs BHA has recently attended a conference on 'Removing Teenage Reading Roadblocks' in Milton Keynes Open University and has come away with lots more new ideas to put in place to further encourage reading for pleasure in our GMS Community.

Our Staff, Parents & Carers Book Club continues to meet every half term, we always welcome new members and the next date is Tuesday 21st April, 7pm at The Britannia Pub.

Next term we are looking forward to introduce our 'Summer Genre Reading Challenge' and a new 'Charity Readathon'.

Wishing you all a relaxing Easter Break and happy reading !

By Mrs L Ben Haj Ali
Reading Lead



TRIPS, TRIPS, TRIPS



In Geography, we have a few exciting trips coming up over the next few months. Starting with the Year 7 Windsor trip, a joint trip with History where we will take the students to different sites around Windsor to see if Windsor could be considered a fantastic place. We will visit 4 different sites before heading to the castle to hand over to History for the remainder of the day. We had a great time last year and hopefully we will have similar weather conditions to give this year's group the best experience possible.

Then in April, we will be taking year 10s on a brand new physical Geography trip. This year we are heading to the River Chess in Amersham. We will be working with the field studies centre who are experts on all things rivers! They will be teaching us how to assess the changes in the river as we go from the upper to lower course before we head into the river to test the velocity. So, year 10s need to make sure they have their wellies at the ready if they don't want wet feet!



Jump forward to June and we will be taking the year 10s on their Human geography fieldtrip to Oxford. A chance to see how the City has changed over the years, areas of wealth and deprivation and what it has to offer to tourists. A very successful trip in the past where students have enjoyed the chance to fully explore the city they have studied in the classroom. Students will be working in groups to gather information before having a chance to grab some lunch and then finishing up the day by looking at the ages of the buildings.



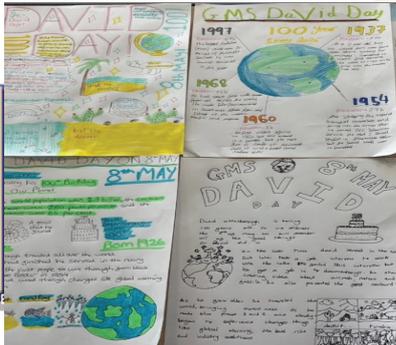
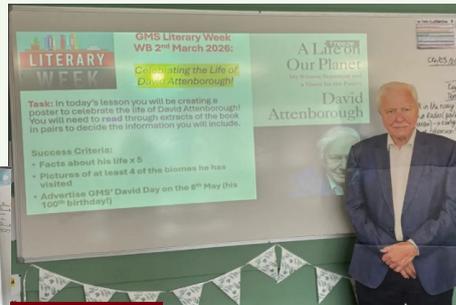
By Miss Sparks

David Attenborough Day

On the 8th May, the legend that is David Attenborough will be turning 100 and the Geography department will be celebrating! We have already started preparation for this with year 7s reading through his 'A Life on Our Planet'

book as part of their biomes topic. We then combined the literary festival with a chance to make some posters, bookmarks, invites and much more again based on his book. We

had a winner from each year group, which you can see below. The students read through a few chapters and then choose an area of the book they wish to look at and created a piece of work based on this.



During the week of David's birthday we will be putting on lots of different activities to celebrate the life of David Attenborough and learn more about his teachings. Look out for the activities and speak to your Geography Teacher if you have an idea on what we can do to celebrate such an extraordinary life.

Mock congratulations

Earlier in the year, the 11s and 13s sat their mocks and we were very impressed with their hard work in the lead up to the mocks and it led to some impressive results. Well done to everyone who showed responsibility and resilience throughout the mock period.

We would like to give a special mention to the following:

GCSE Top 5:

- Micheal Coldwell
- Zach Daniels
- William De La Force
- Jessica Royds
- Dimitri Johnson

A-level Top 3:

- Yanni Johson
- Isabelle Berger
- Isabelle Spicer

Exam season!

Exams are approaching fast and the geography department are working hard to make sure we make the most of the limited weeks before exams start. We have lots of revision opportunities available for Year 11 and 13, so please make sure you are attending when you can.

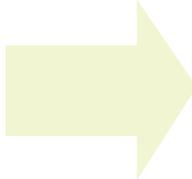
Year 11

Tuesday 3-4 – A10- Revision with Mrs Messenger

Thursday 7.30-8.15 – A12 – Revision masterclass with Mr Pendlebury

Easter holidays- Monday – 8.45- 10am- A13 – Case study overview with Miss Sparks

There will also be revision available on the Saturday before each exam (see timetable)



Year 13

Monday-Thursday 3-4 – A space in the geography department to do some revision, a teacher will be available each day to go through any topics you bring.

Easter Holidays – Monday 10.15-11.30- A13- Paper 1 case study overview.

GEOGRAPHY	
Exam Timetable May-June 2026	
A-Level Paper 1 Physical Systems	Tuesday 12 th May (am) 1 hour 30
GCSE Paper 1 REVISION	Saturday May 9 th 9am-12pm
GCSE Paper 1 Living in the UK Today	Weds 13 th May (am) 1 hour
A-Level Paper 2 Human Interactions	Thursday 21 st May (pm) 1 hour 30
HALF TERM 23 rd – 31 st May	
GCSE Paper 2 REVISION	Saturday 30 th May 9am-12pm
GCSE Paper 2 The World Around Us	Friday 5 th June (pm) 1 hour
A-Level Paper 3 Geographical Debates	Monday 8 th June (pm) 2 hours 30
GCSE Paper 3 REVISION	Saturday 7 th June 9am-12pm
GCSE Paper 3 Geographical Skills	Thursday 11 th June (am) 1 hour 30



@GMSGeogsquad

Instagram is still going strong, so if you aren't following us, please make sure you do to keep on top of all the latest news, revision, trip details and activities that are happening in our lessons.

Since January our top likes have been:



SIXTH FORM STUDENTS VISIT AUSCHWITZ

Before Christmas the History Department invited students to apply for one of two spaces available for the lessons from Auschwitz project.

Since 1999, over 41,000 students have been given the opportunity to take part in a four-part course organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust due to the premise, 'hearing is not like seeing'. The course looks at the universal lessons of the Holocaust and its relevance today. The department spent time reviewing the applications and were delighted to allow both Isobel G and Emily Z to take part in this invaluable experience. In February both students attended an orientation seminar

in London where they got to hear from Holocaust survivors and to prepare them for their visit to Auschwitz. At 2am on Wednesday 25th March, both students left to get to London Luton for their 4.30am check in to fly to Poland. The students then spent the day visiting the different camps in Auschwitz and had time to reflect in the museum exhibitions. To end the day the students attended a memorial at the crematoria. To follow up their experience, both students attended an online seminar to reflect on the visit and to understand the relevance of the lessons of the Holocaust. To complete the project, both Isobel and Emily have come into Year 9 classes to share their experience of the visit to the students. They gave a presentation and answered questions so that the students could comprehend and be fully aware of the Holocaust and the lessons from it.



'During the experience we met a Holocaust survivor (Mala Tribich) and hearing from her was an impactful experience which provided context for our 1-day trip to Auschwitz. These two experiences will stay with me and I hope to share what I have learnt which should not be forgotten in our next steps project.' Isobel

'This Image is a moment which stood out for us due to us being able to leave the cold outside knowing that millions weren't in our situation years ago.' Emily

By Mrs L Evans

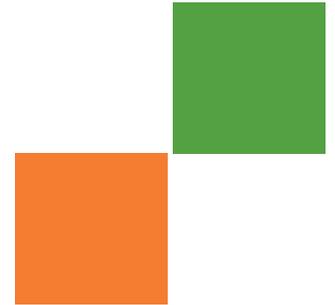
Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students show outstanding promise

We are delighted to share that students on this exam course have been working consistently and making excellent progress in their understanding of the subject. Their commitment and positive attitude towards learning have been wonderful to see.

Their developing practical skills are reflected in the impressive range and high standard of dishes they have created—many worthy of restaurant service. Their creativity, care, and growing confidence in the kitchen are a real credit to them.

Students work very well as a team, supporting and encouraging one another throughout each task—an essential skill in a professional catering environment. Alongside this, they bring a cheerful attitude to lessons while demonstrating independence and professional attention to detail in their final presentations. We are very proud of their hard work and positive approach.

By Mrs M Cadogan



Intermediate Maths Challenge 2024

This term the Intermediate Maths Challenge had taken place, which is designed to help stretch students in Years 9, 10, and 11. However a number of selected year 8 students had also taken part.

With over 40 students taking on the challenge this year the following had received an award.

By Mrs A Bansal

**Gold: Top 7% of scores
in the UK**

Silver: Top 13%

Bronze: Top 20%

YEAR	NAME		AWARD
8	Jake	Seabrook	Bronze
9	Daisy	Burkitt	Bronze
9	Seb	Jones	Silver
9	Caiden	Knock	Silver
9	Dean	Malik	Bronze
9	Ayrton	Randall	Bronze
10	Poppy	Butler	Silver
10	Ahmed	Contractor	Bronze
10	Maria	Hidalgo	Bronze
10	Ella	Laithwaite	Bronze
10	Alexandra	McGuinness	Bronze
10	Sophie	Squire	Bronze
10	Braden	Stark	Bronze
10	Ethan	Taylor	Bronze
11	Theo	Harper	Silver
11	Raphael	Tsolaki	Bronze
11	Jamie	Watson	Silver

SIXTH FORM RECITAL EVENING AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH, MARLOW

Great Marlow School's Sixth Form musicians recently took to the beautiful surroundings of All Saints Church for an inspiring and varied recital evening. Performing in such an impressive and acoustically rich venue provided students with a valuable opportunity to refine their repertoire ahead of the Year 13 assessed recital later this year, when a visiting examiner will be in attendance.

The evening featured an engaging and diverse set list, demonstrating the breadth of musical talent within year 11 and the Sixth Form. There were performances on trumpet, clarinet, piano, voice, electric guitar, bass and drum kit. The standard was very high.

We look forward to seeing these performances develop even further in the months ahead and congratulate all involved on a thoroughly enjoyable evening!

By Mrs A Green

HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION

On Wednesday 11th February, Great Marlow School came alive with the sound of music as students took to the stage for this year's much-anticipated House Music Competition. The event showcased an incredible range of musical talent from across all year groups, with students performing to a packed hall of peers, staff and proud supporters.

The standard of performance was exceptionally high, reflecting the dedication, rehearsal time and teamwork demonstrated by all involved. Judges Mr Williams, Miss Russell, Mrs Green, Mr Pightling, Mrs Ben Haj Ali, Mrs Bennett, Mr Hollyman and Mr Yasin were so impressed by the quality of the performances!

A huge congratulations to all of our winners and performers. Every student who took part should be incredibly proud of their contribution to such a fantastic event.

By Mrs A Green

COMPETITION RESULTS

Year 8 & 9 Ensemble

Jack Higham, Ollie Stone and Will Shaw
Grace O'Sullivan and Diya Thapar

Year 7 Ensemble

Megan Shaw, Lily-Mae Hill-Cooper,
Alexandra Rayner, Mio Musella

Year 10 & 11 Ensemble

Hugo Bester, Elia Frankish,
Ollie Stone, Paul Hawkins

KS3 & KS4 Piano

Alexandra McGuinness

KS3 Voice

Isabella Holloway, Miles Berry

Years 10–13 Solo

Paul Hawkins

Class House Music

Teddy, Mason, Luke,
Emma, Celtie, Amira

Class Composition

Caius Butt

Each student demonstrated tremendous courage and professionalism in performing in front of their peers and judges. The competition highlighted not only individual musical excellence but also the power of teamwork and creativity within our House system.

HOUSE RESULTS

Following careful deliberation by our panel of judges, the results were announced as follows:

1st Place – Hawks

2nd Place – Kites

3rd Place – Eagles



Year 7 continue to thrive at GMS. They are a focused, friendly and increasingly independent cohort who are now well embedded in our expectations for behaviour and attitudes to learning.

This term, our pastoral focus has centred on kindness and respect—core values that underpin our school culture and prepare students well for life both within and beyond the classroom.

Congratulations to our year 7 students who have achieved over 150 achievement points!

FORENAME	SURNAME	FORM
Ali	Awais	7 E1
Imogen	Gill	7 E1
Chloe	Whiting	7 E2
Evie	Nichols	7 E2
Linus	Merchant	7E2
Amy Lee	Chandler	7E2
Harry	Syfield-Sumeli	7E3
Alfie	Weston	7E3
Aliya	Hussain	7E3
Logan	Seed	7E3
Monty	Wilson	7E3
Emily	Corley	7E3
Elsie	Morrison	7E3
Layla	Kent	7E3
Kyle	Evans	7E3
Eliza	Miles-Griffiths	7H1
Isa	Ali	7H1
Pippa	Brazier	7H2
Olivia	Tsolaki	7H2
Willow	Morton	7H2
Imogen	Bater	7H2
Mia	Musella	7H3
Ava	Bisgrove	7H3
Emily	Cleere	7K1
Archie	Edwards	7K1
Thea	Adams	7K2
Layla	McNeil	7K2
Gianni	Vella Valletta	7K3
Dougie	James	7K3

Year 7 Parents' Evening took place in late November and provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen the home-school partnership. More recently, this has been followed by the second set of Year 7 progress reports, which included both an attitude to learning grade and a progress band (Foundation, Emerging, Secure, Advanced, Exceptional). We were once again delighted that over 200 students achieved a Good or Excellent attitude to learning across all subjects. This reflects both the strong transition from primary school and the consistent reinforcement of high expectations by staff. Student success continues to be recognised through achievement points and positive contact home, ensuring that effort and progress are regularly celebrated.

The form time programme remains broad and purposeful, promoting a responsible, respectful and resourceful approach to school life. Weekly activities include uniform and equipment checks, Word of the Week, assemblies linked to the SMSC curriculum, the reading project, and a structured news session to develop cultural awareness and oracy. The vast majority of students demonstrate good or excellent attitudes to learning; where standards fall below expectations, early intervention ensures timely support and redirection.

Pastoral support remains strong. Form tutors, the Student Support Officer and I facilitate targeted 1:1 conversations addressing behaviour, attitudes to learning and wider pastoral needs. These sit alongside academic interventions delivered by classroom teachers and the Director of Learning, ensuring a coordinated approach to student development.

We are particularly grateful for the work of the SEN department, including the Nurture provision, which supports students with communication and social interaction needs. The team provides high-quality guidance and structured reset opportunities during the school day, enabling students with SEND to access learning positively and successfully.

Beyond the classroom, Year 7 have engaged enthusiastically in extra-curricular opportunities, including sports and House competitions such as reading, rowing and enterprise. Their participation reflects a growing sense of belonging and pride in the school community.

Overall, Year 7 have settled exceptionally well and continue to demonstrate strong foundations for future success at GMS.

I wish you all a wonderful Easter and I look forward to seeing you next term.

By Miss F Tuddenham

Director of Learning Year 7

It has been another exceptionally busy and productive term for our Year 8 students. Many have continued to impress both myself and their teachers through their commitment to the 6 R's. In particular, we have placed a strong focus on Readiness for learning—ensuring students arrive punctually, in correct uniform, and fully equipped—and Responsibility in lessons, with an emphasis on independent work and challenging themselves to achieve their very best.

Progress Reviews

The latest set of Reviews is a testament to the hard work and progress students have made this term. They should be very proud of their achievements.

Young Enterprise Event

In February, a number of Year 8 students took part in the Young Enterprise Event. It was fantastic to see them planning their stalls, preparing products, and confidently applying their entrepreneurial skills while selling to students, staff, parents, and members



of the public. Thank you for your support at home—I hope some of their success was shared with you!



Ms Broadbent also shared the following message with form tutors:

“Please pass on our congratulations to the students—not only for showing great school spirit, but for behaving in such a well-mannered, positive, and mature way throughout the day. They were an absolute credit to the school and demonstrated all of the R's.”

Well done to everyone involved—we look forward to seeing what next year brings.

Year 8 Extra-Curricular

Year 8 students have also continued to represent the school across a wide range of extracurricular and enrichment activities. Congratulations to all those involved in sports teams, rowing, Eco Club, and the musical events this term. Balancing these commitments alongside schoolwork and homework is no small achievement—keep up the excellent effort.

Longridge Trip

We are very much looking forward to the upcoming trip to



Longridge after half term. A reminder of the schedule is below:

- Monday 13th April, 8:30–14:15 – Kites**
- Tuesday 14th April, 8:30–14:15 – Hawks**
- Wednesday 15th April, 8:30–15:15 – Eagles**

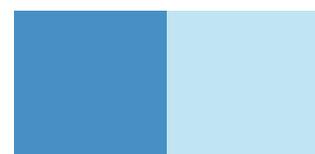
Please note the later finish time for the Eagles pathway. If your child usually travels home by school bus, alternative arrangements will need to be made.

Students should come dressed appropriately for outdoor adventurous activities, which may include climbing, ab-seiling, laser tag, archery, and (river conditions permitting) dragon boating. They will also need to bring a packed lunch and drinks, as there will be no opportunity to purchase food on the day.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support with uniform, equipment, punctuality, and the recently introduced phone policy—it is greatly appreciated.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish students, parents and carers an enjoyable Spring break away from school. It is certainly well-earned and I hope that you are able to enjoy the time away from school. I'm looking forward to welcoming you back to GMS for the beginning of the Summer term

By Mrs C Roberts
Director of Learning Year 8



The Spring Term has been a particularly significant and busy period for our Year 9 cohort as they have completed an important stage in their educational journey: choosing their GCSE Options! Alongside this milestone, students have engaged in an extensive programme of guidance, assemblies and curriculum support designed to help them make informed decisions about their futures.

Throughout this process, Year 9 students have demonstrated commitment, maturity and reflection. I would like to recognise the thoughtful effort and positive attitude shown by the cohort during this exciting stage. I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Year 9 tutor team and Miss Blanco-Rand for their endless support of our Year 9 students throughout the term.

We are excited to hear all about the Year 9 ski trip, which takes place at the start of the Easter holidays. Wishing all of Year 9 a restful Easter break!

Now for some special Year 9 mentions!

ENTHUSIASTIC IN ENGLISH

Mr Taylor remarks "9K1 English are a pleasure to teach. We have recently finished studying Shakespeare's Macbeth and the engagement and enthusiasm from the students have made it a thoroughly enjoyable term of teaching. Their efforts in the classroom are translating to outcomes in assessments with an increasing number of them achieving 'Advanced' or 'Exceptional' levels in the end of term assessment. Well done 9K1!"

Miss Simpson would like to shout out to the following students and their wonderful contributions to her lessons:

- Charlie Pearce Vogan 9H3: for taking ownership of his learning and for excellent contributions to discussion
- Charlotte Gunn 9H2, Megan Tilbury 9H2, Charlie Spencer 9H1, Poppy Teasdill 9H2 and Diya Thapar 9H2: for their readiness to learn! They are always on time and ready to roll!
- Bea Begley and Masha Radishevskva 9E3: for taking responsibility for their learning and always respectful, polite and personable.
- Mason Borrey 9E3: for making significant progress in English. I am so proud of his exercise book!

SUPERB IN SCIENCE

Mrs Beswick would like to shoutout to 9H3 Science Class. She remarks that they "have been a pleasure to teach!" Well-deserved mentions to the following Y9s for their "outstanding and continuous hard work, for 100% focus & participation in all lessons and making excellent progress as a result..."

- Luca Bogue 9H3
- Quinton Campbell 9H1
- Austin Dam 9H2
- Milo Daniels 9H3
- Sam Feeney 9H3
- Keira Herbert 9H1

Miss Woods would like to praise 9K2 Science. She says that they are "fabulous to teach! They are really engaged and always meet my classroom expectations. I have seen some lovely progress from them all!"

MARVELLOUS IN MATHS

Mr James comments that the following students have really stood out to him:

- "It's been great to see James Russell 9H1 work so hard in Maths this year and to move sets because of all his hard work!"
- "Charlie Pearce-Vogan 9H3 is a positive influence on his peers!"

Miss White has lots of praise for Joseph H 9E1: "He contributes well to lessons, engages in brilliant mathematical discussions and completes all the required work. He has made significant progress".

READINESS IN RS

Mrs Todd comments that 9K1 are a "dream" to teach!" Special mentions to the following students for their great ATL:

- Miles Berry
- Jessica Bowers
- Emilia Degan
- Lily Fyrth
- Hannah Hunt
- Alima Hussain
- Caiden Knock
- Lucas Monks
- Ayrton Randall
- Stanley Stevens
- Mya Wakley
- Riley Yost

TREMENDOUS ON TRIPS!

Mr Philpott recently took a group of Y9s students on a Model UN trip. Well done to all those that took part:

- Ethan Rudge 9K1
- Zaynab Hussain 9K2
- Guy Ibbotson 9K2
- Lyra Parr 9E1
- Isabella FonticIELha-West 9E1
- Aida Cala 9E1
- Max Goodchild 9H2
- Tom Penlington 9H2

A special mention to Ethan Rudge 9K1 who won the individual debater award for the event. Congratulations!

A special mention to Max Goodchild 9H2 who won an award for representing a media house (the BBC). Congratulations!

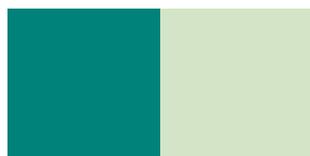
Mrs Brunt, our school Carers Lead, took 4 students on a trip to Oxford Brookes on Friday 6th March. She was incredibly impressed with their efforts and conduct while representing our school! Well done to...

- Jack Caseberry 9H3
- Sebastian Jones 9H1
- Lucas Monks 9K1
- Charlie Watson 9H3

In addition to this, Zaynab Hussain and Delia Surdariu (both 9K2) are in the final of the Zebra Cultivate competition and will be competing with 6 other schools. Best of luck to you both!

MAGNIFICENT IN MUSIC

Well done to William Shaw 9K2 who recently won the Hannah Boddy Award for Endeavour 2025-2026, presented by the Chiltern Music Academy. This award celebrates the quiet unassuming effort that turns potential into progress. We are so proud William- well done!



Congratulations for another positive term. I am excited to see our Year 9 students continue to develop as they prepare for the start of GCSEs in September.

**By Miss A Miles
Director of Learning for Year 9**

Year 10 are now over halfway through their first year of their 2 year GCSE course. They are a fantastic year group who are known for their excellent attitude to learning and their resilience and readiness for their GCSE education.

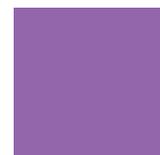
YEAR 10 PREFECTS

We are thrilled and proud to announce the newest Great Marlow School Prefects! We were so impressed by the quality of the applications and had some very difficult decisions to make. We would like to thank all of our applicants and appreciate the time they spent in applying. We took many factors into account such as: such as the quality of your application, number of staff votes, meeting uniform rules, conduct in and around school, punctuality to lessons and school, achievement and behaviour points. After the Easter Holidays, we will be allocating job roles to our new prefects and supporting them to take over from the wonderful Year 11 prefects who will be focussing on their GCSE exams.

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

As part of National Careers Week is on 2nd March 2026, Year 10 students arranged work experience for 3 days from Wednesday 4th March to Friday 6th March.

This gave them the opportunity to learn about what type of job they might enjoy, and develop their CV. We know it can be one of the most transformational experiences young people have during their education. I was immensely proud of our Year 10 cohort and the feedback which I received from placements about our students.



A big thank you to Mrs Brunt, our careers advisor, who supported with getting the placements organised. A huge well done to our Year 10 students for their amazing work experience feedback. It has been tremendous and there is a selection below:

“The team has been really impressed with his professionalism and positive attitude to work. He is just the kind of young person we would love to have working with us in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to host him and we look forward to more students in the future. “

“She’s got on with everything we’ve asked her to do and she’s very thorough.”

“He has been a pleasure to have around. He is naturally a little shy, but he has shown a real willingness to help and to learn new skills. He has been polite, punctual, and has engaged well with the tasks given to him. We’re really pleased with how he is settling into the placement. There have been no concerns regarding attendance, behaviour, or participation.”

“She has had a lovely few days here at the nursery. The children have enjoyed having her very much. We have seen lots of lovely conversations going on with the children and she has supervised activities very well. It has been a pleasure having Yasmina. I wish her all the best of luck for the future.”



“He learnt how to filet a lamb joint (very sharp knife!), How to filet several dover sole fishes (hard at first but got hang of it), made his own mini bread rolls, served warm to customers each day . He assisted in all the veg preparation. Trying lots of the foods, to ensure seasoned well. He has a great palate and think enjoyed this part a lot. Plating up all cold starters - see attached photo of the malt loaf topped with Goats cheese & two different types of beetroot, and drizzling the dressing and finishing with herbs.

Popping to Sainsburys when they needed more washing up liquid!
Drying up items that had been washed.”

It is an absolute pleasure and she was great to have on site. Please could you pass on my gratitude to her. The Foundation team in school spoke very highly of her and I was very impressed too.



They had a fabulous work experience that included the following:

- Meeting Olympic Gold medalists Matt Weston & Sir Ben Ainsle
- Visiting Brunel University Sport Science department incl. a tour of the laboratories
- A visit to the gym to run through rehabilitation exercises
- Filming sport science social media content which they self-edited (they can share the video)
- Sport science script writing and filming
- Discussion of sport nutrition incl. making protein balls

Left: Mitch and Jack

“Sophie has been observing and helping in theatre each morning from 8.30am and spent the afternoons in consults with the vets and other nurses until 4.30pm.”

“He is done great! Very attentive and quick to learn and he has definitely made a strong contribution. We have enjoyed having him.”

“He has done so well in the gym during his time with us. Polite, attentive, enthusiastic, and keen to learn.”

“He has been an absolute pleasure to have work with my agency team and internal influence team. I gained feedback from those he worked with, and all agreed he was great, hard working and is welcome back anytime.”

“All three did really well, they all gave everything a go. They represented themselves well and worked respectfully with the team during their placement.”

“He has done really well over the last few days. He has been fantastic with the children, who are now very big fans! Without any prompting, he offered advice and help to the children during the lessons, and he also had the chance to lead part of a sports session today. He spoke very clearly and calmly to the children, and they understood exactly what to do. He has been a pleasure to have with us this week and is definitely a credit to you and the school.”

“Jake did great, he was very enthusiastic and the burger they both came up with was great and could very easily go on our menu”. It was a pleasure to have him in the kitchen! He co-created the burger and named ‘The Ringmaster’.

Jake put this together, and head chef Jamie May helped cook it to perfection. Jake then got to eat it for lunch on the Friday.”

“She is an absolute joy. She was a little shy at first but has settled in nicely. She has been arriving on time and is doing so well. She interacts very well with the other children and is extremely polite. I feel she would be a great fit for nursery care in the future.”



“He had a cracking few days taking part in a wide range of operations in the business, including milking, butchery, pie production and TB testing cattle.” Aiden is pictured left.

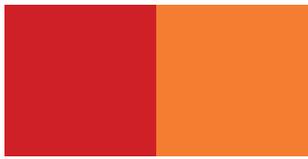
“He is doing great. Very attentive and quick to learn and he has definitely made a strong contribution. We have enjoyed having him.”

“She has been experiencing a unique moment in aviation history and how we as an Airline cope and plan around difficulties. The operation is returning to a level of normality since the weekend, and she has had the opportunity to view the parked aircraft and observe an operational turn round with the current repatriation flights. She has been a very polite and courteous visitor....”

“He’s been very helpful and turned up on time (we start early!!). Hopefully tomorrow we will have a little more for him to do - just hope the weather holds out as we are still working outside. At the very least he’ll learn how frustrating the English weather can be and how it can affect a day’s work!”

“We have had a lovely 3 days. We have been to costume houses and prop land. We have done projects and she has been offered work experience and a tour at one of the UK biggest costume house.”

I hope you all have a restful Happy Easter break and look forward to a productive Summer Term.



Year 11 have approached the Spring Term with impressive focus and determination, particularly during the three-week mock examination period in January. The conduct of students throughout was largely exceptional; they demonstrated maturity,

MOCK EXAMS

Mock Results Day on Friday 13th February was an important moment for the year group. Students now have a clear and realistic picture of their current progress, enabling them to refine their revision strategies and sharpen their focus for the final stretch. With fewer than 40 school days remaining before the Leavers' Breakfast, there is a strong sense of purpose across the cohort. The months ahead will centre on targeted support, careful prioritisation of wellbeing, and ensuring that every student is equipped to reach their full potential.

EXTRA CURRICULAR

Beyond examinations, Year 11 students have continued to contribute positively to the wider life of the school. A number of students have represented the school in first team sport, competing alongside and against Sixth Form students with confidence, commitment, and excellent sportsmanship. House Music was also a tremendous success, with Year 11 students taking on leading roles and setting a wonderful example through their enthusiasm, organisation, and performance.

GCSE SUMMER EXAMINATIONS

As we move into the final phase of the academic year, I am continually impressed by the growing sense of maturity and unity within the year group. Their ability to balance academic challenge with wider involvement in school

life speaks volumes about their character. I am confident that, with sustained effort and the continued support of staff and families, they will approach the summer examinations ready and prepared.

AND FINALLY..

A message to say thank you to the Year 11 Parents and Carers.

As we near the end of their time in secondary school, we are all working tirelessly to offer the support needed.

Your own support is greatly appreciated and allows us guide the young people we work with to become mature and responsible adults in the near future.

Students can look forward to their Leaver's Assembly, Study Period, Leaver's Hoodies and finally **Prom**.

We look forward to celebrating the achievements of the cohort and, of course, seeing them in their glitz and glam!

By Mr S Taylor
Year 11 Director of Learning



The Sixth Form team are delighted to report on a successful Spring term. 93 students submitted their UCAS application process in January 2026. Students have been completing interviews and have been eagerly accepting offers from a variety of institutions.

For those not applying and looking for apprenticeships, Mrs Brunt has organised a number of initiatives to support students in their next steps including having key speakers in school for talks on from Royal Holloway, Water Bear Music College and Cambridge University. She continues to also see students individually including giving support with apprenticeship applications. Year 13 have also been supported this term through mock examinations in January and the Parents/Carers Evening in March. Both allowed students to identify areas to target to ensure progress in their A Level and BTEC examinations which commence in May. Year 13

progress grades were completed and given out at the beginning of March. To celebrate their achievements praise postcards were sent to 32 students to congratulate them on achieving excellent ATL in all of their subjects or to congratulate them for achieving on or above their aspirational targets in every subject. Congratulatory posters can also be seen around our Sixth Form centre but we also wanted to congratulate the students here. The students who achieved both above/on target and excellent ATL received head teacher's awards to celebrate their amazing achievement

Congratulations on achieving**Above and/or on target in every subject!**

Adeeba Ali	Grace Appleton
Isabelle Berger	Ainhua De Loudres Suarez
Louis Gilmore	Sophie Harris
Poppy Hudson	Destiny Hughes
Hugo Hunter	Alizah Khan
Rosie McDermott	Peter Rycroft
Sophie Terrett	Ruby Underwood
Abigail Yahahlom	

Congratulations on achieving**Excellent ATL in every subject and form time!!**

Grace Appleton	Isabelle Berger
Khadijah Dean	Iris Duncan
Laia Garcia Calero	Olivia Hawksworth
Poppy Hudson	Chloe Lee
Rosie McDermott	Peter Rycroft
Lottie Shaw	Adam Sinden
Isabelle Spicer	Sophie Terrett
Elise Whyte	Chloe Wilson
Olivia Zazzara	

YEAR 13 SENIOR PREFECTS

Year 13 senior prefect team have also had a busy term. They have continued to support the school through completing interviews and school tours. The Senior Prefect Team and Interact, our charity group are also organising for a charity Race night on Thursday 16th April and we know it will be a huge success and worthy causes. Revision sessions, final day, examination and result arrangements have already been circulated via letters from Mr Hollyman but we just wanted to mention that we are looking forward to celebrating with the students at their prom on Friday 19th June. It is always a fantastic night and important to mark what the students have achieved at GMS.

YEAR 12 PROGRESS GRADES

Year 12 have received their first set of progress reports with their A-level/BTEC target grade included. Miss Jones was delighted to send praise postcards home to celebrate their achievements but we would also like to celebrate them here.

Excellent ATL in every subject

Zayaan Ahmed
Daniel Da Rocha
Alexandra Bartosz
Katie Phillips
Bea Radnage
Abbie Weedon
Elisa Weise
Alistair Wright
Ilia Bolotov
Ronak Chana
Sienna Morgan
Saoirse O'Conchuir
Laiba Shah
Emily Yelloly
Orla Guinness
Ava Marques
Eva-May O'Dell
Benjamin Richter



Zahra Spencer
Lewis Balbini
Ivy Burge
Isobel Gladwell
Phoebe Day-Stevens
Rosemary Sharp
Olivia Urie
Fraser Cram
Mary-Ellen Foyle
Tommy Harper
Scarlett Panting

**YEAR 12 MENTORING SCHEME**

Year 12 have been effective in supporting the lower years recently by undertaking mentoring of key stage 3 students. Over 30 Sixth Form students have volunteered to provide support and communication for a variety of students and we are proud of the way these students have risen to this challenge, the lower year students are delighted. This term also saw the introduction of new reading ambassadors with our Sixth Form reading with lower year students. It is lovely to hear this in action around the school in a morning. Year 12 are busy arranging their work experience placements for the first week of July. This exciting opportunity which allows students to explore a setting, or more, of their choice during the week, but ultimately offers them the chance to gain some real workplace skills in an environment which may have links to their future career. All students have attended an assembly and tutor discussions to inform them of the process. Mrs Brunt, our careers lead has organised for Year 12 Physics Students to go on a workshop at The Royal Grammar School and Year 12 Media students attended the Pinewood Futures Festival which gave the students. This follows on from the fantastic Careers fair that gave all of our students an opportunity to speak with future employers and institutions about their organisations. We are incredibly proud of all of our students at Great Marlow. Many students not only undertake their studies with us, but also dedicate their time to sport and music to a high level. We would like to acknowledge and congratulate them for their time-management skills!

YEAR 12 WORK EXPERIENCE

Year 12 are busy arranging their work experience placements for the first week of July. This exciting opportunity which allows students to explore a setting, or more, of their choice during the week, but ultimately offers them the chance to gain some real workplace skills in an environment which may have links to their future career. All students have attended an assembly and tutor discussions to inform them of the process.

REVISION SUPPORT

This Easter break will inevitably involve revision for Year 13 and reflection for Year 12. The school website has a huge variety of supportive information, go in via the student area and click on revision to help support you reach your potential. However, should you require further support, please remember that the 6th form team are available via the usual email addresses

Mr Hollyman, Miss Jones, Mrs Evans and Mrs Paul

The Sixth Form Team



CHESS COMPETITION REPORT

This term our chess players took part in two championships and represented the school with great enthusiasm and determination.

In the British Team Junior Challenge, eight students from Year 7 and Year 8 competed and worked extremely hard throughout the event. The team performed very well and won several matches, showing great focus, teamwork, and resilience.



We entered two teams in the competition. GMS A had a strong performance and won six matches. Although they did not progress further in the competition, they demonstrated excellent effort and commitment throughout.

GMS B, which included several new players, also performed well and won four matches. This was a fantastic achievement

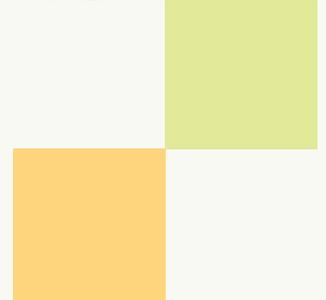
for students who are new to competitive chess and a great learning experience for everyone involved.

In March, we also attended the British Team Chess Challenge with 12 students from Year 7 to Year 12. For three members of the team, this was their first tournament, and they rose to the challenge brilliantly. Across the event the team won 12 matches in total, which was a very encouraging result and something the team should be proud of.

It is fantastic to see Chess Club continuing to grow, with students of all ages developing their skills and enjoying the game.

Everyone is welcome to join Chess Club every Thursday from 3–4pm in T1 with Mrs Simon.

By Mrs D Simon



Sadly Mrs Fisher is retiring at Easter.

GMS would like to thank her for all the hard work and dedication she has made to make the library a fantastic Learning Resource Centre and a happy and calm place to work and relax in.

Her Xmas quizzes have been a huge success for Year 8s, and she has been instrumental in providing some fantastic talks by renowned authors.

We wish you a very happy retirement and lots of adventures,

...and no more photocopying!!

I HAVE 8 WORKING DAYS TO GO ...

The library is coming to the end of a busy chapter in its life. The new Yr 7s have been with us for a while now and seen a few events from the library playbook. The scholastic book fair is always popular as the contact with picking up a new book cannot be replicated by picking up an e-reader or I pad for the same purpose. It is of course a matter of personal choice but there is a good deal of evidence to suggest that physical contact with a book is more beneficial than other ways of reading. We have had a very special author visit from the renowned writer Chris Bradford who enacted scenes from his very successful book 'The Way of the Warrior' complete with Samurai sword and attire. I did ask if it was too late for me to become a Samurai, apparently that ship has sailed but I could train as a ninja...

We endeavour in the library to promote the ethos of looking for good stories rather than labelling yourself a 'good' or 'bad' reader. Reading should be for pleasure but it can be a long and winding road to get to the point of enjoying books. There are many new initiatives in the pipeline and your new school librarian Mrs Ben Haj Ali is full of enthusiasm for the task ahead.

I will be retiring shortly but it has been a privilege to be the catalyst for many changes to the library in the last 9 yrs. I hope you continue to encourage your child to read and don't forget to find time for yourself!

By Mrs Annette Fisher
Librarian

STUDENTS HAVE THEIR SAY!

Each term, the students at Great Marlow School have the opportunity to have their voices and opinions heard via the School Council system.

The council system works in three stages, with the intention to capture as much information as possible from each student in the school and providing the platform for viewpoints to be aired and shared.

During the week commencing March 2nd, form tutors from year 7 to 13 hosted Form Council meetings. Tutors captured information on What Went Well (WWW) and Even Better If (EBI) during the Spring Term.

The Form Council information was then passed onto the Directors of Learning and Heads of Year who chaired a Year Group Council during the week commencing Monday 9th March. Two members of each form in the year group were nominated to take part in the meeting and convey the thought and opinions of their form group.

In the final week of term, the Whole School Council will meet for an hour to discuss the most frequently raised and important topics that students in the school have wanted to discuss.

The hour- long meeting will be chaired by Matthew van Romburgh and Alfie Bunt from Year 13 and will celebrate the many positive comments that have been made about the school and students’ experiences and also a number agenda items such as: the new rules about mobile phones, issues raised about the school site, the use of the astro surfaces for students.

Once the Whole School Council have concluded their meeting, the information will be discussed by the Senior Leadership Team and they will look to implement any possible changes or improvements that have been identified. Feedback will then go back to the students via their form tutors.

By Mr O Hollyman

The student representatives at the Whole School Council for each year group are as follows:

Year 7: Layla Kent and Leo Biggs

Year 8: Henry Game and Piper Holiday

Year 9: Aliasger Dean and Holly Cade

Year 10: Dexter Lamkin and Jack Meechan

Year 11: Lily Nickless and Lucy Hunter

Year 12: Raida Ali and Jacob Whittington

Year 13: Alfie Bunt and Matthew van Romburgh



WHO WILL COME OUT ON TOP?

Since the last Voice, House competitions have been in full swing, with strong levels of engagement across all year groups.

Events have included the Beanstack Reading Competition, the House Christmas Quiz, the House Music Competition, and the much awaited launch of rowing for year 7 with the Ergo Rowing Competition.

We are proud to offer such a diverse range of House competitions, ensuring that students with different interests and strengths, academic, creative and sporting, are all able to contribute meaningfully to their House. This breadth of opportunity continues to strengthen participation, inclusivity and House identity across the school.

We have recently enjoyed another round of House assemblies and the launch of the annual House Captain

application process has begun! The House Captain role provides students with a valuable opportunity to develop leadership, communication and organisational skills, while contributing positively to the wider school community. The selection process continues to promote student voice, responsibility and aspiration. We are all excited to see who our new House Captains will be after Easter!

We now look forwards to the summer term, when the House competition really heats up. The promise of the House rewards day is within our sight!

Who will soar above the rest—will the Eagles wing it, the Hawks swoop in for victory, or the Kites rise to the top?



SWITCH ON TO STUART ON SUNDAY



Stuart on Sunday, which airs on Marlow FM every Sunday, has become a very successful show. We now have over 40 young presenters from Great Marlow School taking part. Some of them have become regular contributors and are growing extremely confident on the airwaves.

I am also pleased that we continue to welcome newcomers who want to experience radio for the first time. In fact, when I open bookings for the show, the slots are often filled very quickly, which shows just how popular the programme has become with students.

The students take part in quizzes, chat about life (in a fun and relaxed way), and read out requests and dedications from listeners.

Radio also helps students develop a wide range of skills including communication, confidence, teamwork, listening, quick thinking, creativity, and presenting skills. They also gain experience in interviewing, organising ideas, and speaking clearly to an audience.

Our biggest feature, The School Report Quiz, even has a final where the winners can walk away with a £50 cinema gift voucher and a lovely trophy.

I am also very pleased that Marlow FM is working in partnership with Great Marlow School, and that we are now using the radio studio much more frequently with students.

From September, I hope to give even more students the opportunity to appear on the show, while also giving our regular presenters more responsibility behind the microphone.

The show airs every Sunday from 2pm to 4pm, and some students are also on the list to appear on the Thursday Breakfast Club, which I present as well — so there are plenty of opportunities to get involved.

Mrs BHA from our school library also continues to host her Retro Chart Show monthly on Saturdays and is looking forward to seeing lots of our school community at local events such as May Fayre, Marlow Regatta and Pub In The Park next term when she will be presenting live from the Marlow FM outside broadcasting trailer.



By Mr Ross & Mrs Ben Haj Ali

Year 7 Football

The Year 7 boys' football teams have enjoyed an exciting and highly successful year, showcasing determination, teamwork, and plenty of attacking flair throughout the season.

One of the standout moments came in a recent 6-a-side tournament, where the squad performed brilliantly to secure an impressive second-place finish. Playing with energy and confidence, the team worked cohesively, demonstrating strong passing and a real fighting spirit against tough opposition.

In full-sided fixtures against local rivals SWBGS, both the A and B teams delivered memorable performances. The A team produced a dominant display, running out convincing 8–2 winners. Their attacking play was sharp and well-organised, with Lewis Carvell particularly influential, contributing with skill, movement, and a strong presence going forward.

The B team's match was equally exciting, if not even more dramatic. After falling 4–0 behind, the team showed incredible resilience to fight their way back into the game, eventually earning a 4–4 draw. It was a superb comeback built on determination and belief, with Keegan earning MVP honours for his outstanding performance and key contributions during the turnaround.

Overall, it has been an excellent year for Year 7 football. The progress, commitment, and team spirit shown by all players have laid a strong foundation as they look ahead to moving into Year 8, with plenty of promise for continued success.

Year 8 Football

The Year 8 boys' football team have enjoyed a season of real progress, with performances improving consistently as the year has gone on. Their development has been clear to see, with greater confidence on the ball, improved teamwork, and a strong understanding of the game.

A particular highlight was their excellent performance in a recent tournament, where the team achieved a strong finishing position against competitive opposition. Their organisation and determination were evident throughout, with players working hard for one another and showing a real sense of unity.

This progress was also reflected in a fantastic 4–1 victory in one of their final fixtures. The team played with purpose and control, creating chances and defending solidly to secure a well-deserved win. It was a performance that summed up how far they have come over the course of the year.

Special recognition must go to Charlie Young, whose leadership as captain has been outstanding. His organisation, communication, and commitment to the team have played a key role in their success, helping to bring the best out of those around him.

Overall, it has been a very positive year for Year 8 football, with clear progress made and a strong platform built for the future.

Unless specified all articles are from Staff in the PE Department

Yr 9 Football

The Year 9 football team delivered an impressive performance in the recent 6-a-side tournament, finishing a well-deserved second place after a series of challenging matches. Despite the tough competition, the team was dominant throughout, showcasing their exceptional skill, teamwork, and determination.

However, it was a frustrating yet ultimately valuable term for the Year 9 football team, where fine margins and costly mistakes often proved to be the difference between victory and defeat. Despite showing clear potential throughout the season, the team frequently found themselves punished for lapses in concentration and decision-making at key moments.

One of the standout fixtures of the term came in the County Cup quarter-final against a strong Dr Challoner's side. Entering the match with several key players sidelined through injury, the team faced a significant challenge. However, the boys demonstrated impressive resilience, determination, and team spirit, pushing their opponents all the way. Despite their efforts, they eventually fell to a 3–1 defeat, a result that did not fully reflect their commitment and fight on the day.

In a friendly against local rivals SWBGS, the team experienced a game that perfectly encapsulated their season. A dominant first-half performance saw them control possession effectively and take their chances well, earning a deserved 2–0 lead. However, the second half told a different story. A drop in intensity, combined with poor decision-making and a loss of control in midfield, allowed their opponents back into the game, which ultimately finished 3–3.

Amid the challenges, there were clear positives to take forward. Several players stepped up admirably in the absence of key teammates, taking on important roles and showing promising development. This resilience and willingness to adapt will be crucial moving forward.

While the term may not have delivered the results the team had hoped for, it has provided valuable lessons. If the players can learn from their mistakes and build on the positives, there is every reason to believe they can return stronger and more consistent in Year 10.

PE GIRLS' FOOTBALL

Girls' Football Partnership. The initiative was designed to celebrate participation in sport and, in recognition of International Women's Day (8th March), aimed to get as many girls as possible actively involved in football across the week.

The event was a resounding success, with every girl in Years 7–10 taking part in some capacity. Students were not only involved as players, but also embraced a range of important roles including coaching, officiating and match analysis as statisticians. This inclusive approach ensured that the day was fully accessible, allowing all students to contribute meaningfully while also developing a deeper understanding and appreciation of the game.

Throughout the day, the school's new astro facility provided an excellent setting for the event, with matches taking place in a high-quality environment that enhanced the overall experience. The space was filled with energy, enthusiasm and a strong sense of community. Students demonstrated excellent teamwork, resilience and respect, with a consistently positive sporting attitude evident across all year groups. The event provided a valuable opportunity for many to engage with football in a new way and to appreciate the sport beyond their regular lessons.

All students contributed points towards their respective Houses, making every match and role significant in determining the final standings. After a full day of competition, the overall results were as follows:

- **1st Place: Hawks – 47 points**
- **2nd Place: Kites – 41 points**
- **3rd Place: Eagles – 38 points**

These results reflect the enthusiasm, determination and competitive spirit demonstrated by students across all year groups. Each House showed great pride in representing their teams, and it was clear to see the sense of unity and encouragement shared between students both on and off the pitch.

The PE department would like to extend sincere thanks to all staff who supported the event, whose organisation and commitment ensured the smooth running of the day. Their efforts helped to create a positive, inclusive and memorable experience for all students involved.

Overall, the 'Biggest Ever Girls' Football Day' was a fantastic celebration of girls' sport and a memorable occasion for everyone involved. The success of the event reflects the strength of the Girls' Football Partnership and sets a strong foundation for future opportunities to engage even more students in football.

Well done to all students who took part and contributed to such an inspiring and enjoyable day.

By Miss Wheelan

Girls FA Strategic Lead



SPRING TERM RUGBY ROUND-UP

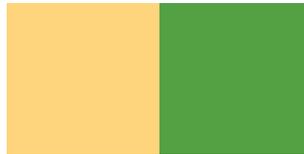
YEAR 7 RUGBY

Rugby resumed for the year 7 boys following the Christmas Break. Two teams travelled to Burnham Grammar for the Bucks Super 6 7-a-side tournament. During the first few games both sides were still trying to play 15-a-side rugby, a very different challenge to 7s. However the next round of games saw the support play improve and the boys came away with 3 victories each from 5 games.

YEAR 8 RUGBY

The U15s travelled the short distance to Marlow RFC for the Bucks Super 6 & s tournament. The boys had to quickly adapt to the fast, flowing style of rugby that 7s requires. In the latter pool stage the team left the best till last – beating SHFGS comfortably to secure 5th place in the tournament.

By Mr Pulsford



Year 7 Girls' Rugby

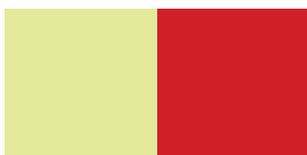
The GMS Girls' Rugby Team has made an impressive start to their journey in the sport, showing determination, resilience, and rapid development in a very short space of time.

Having had just a single training session together, the team travelled to Aylesbury RFC for their first-ever tournament. Despite their limited preparation, they rose to the challenge with remarkable confidence and teamwork. Facing strong opposition from Northampton Academy, Champion, King Henry VII, and Shenley Brook End, the GMS squad delivered an outstanding set of performances.

Across their matches, the team secured three wins, earned one draw, and suffered just a single defeat—an excellent record for a group so new to the game. Their ability to quickly grasp the fundamentals of rugby, adapt during matches, and support one another on the pitch was clear to see. Each game demonstrated growing confidence, improved communication, and a real sense of team spirit.

What makes this achievement even more impressive is the speed at which the players have developed. Taking on a completely new sport can be daunting, but the GMS girls have embraced the challenge wholeheartedly. Their commitment to learning, willingness to step outside their comfort zones, and positive attitude have driven their success so far.

Looking ahead, the team now prepares to represent GMS at the upcoming 7s tournament hosted by Sibford School next week. With the experience of their first tournament behind them and continued progress in training, they will undoubtedly approach this next challenge with even greater confidence.



HOCKEY ROUND-UP

U12 Hockey

The Under 12 girls' hockey teams have continued to build on their strong start to the season, carrying their momentum through the winter term with impressive teamwork, communication, determination, and resilience. Their consistently positive attitude, both on and off the pitch, has supported their development as individuals and strengthened them as a cohesive squad. Notably, the students have improved significantly since the start of the season, with clear progress visible in both their individual skills and overall team play.

This term has been particularly busy, with the girls taking part in numerous fixtures against a range of competitive opponents, including Borlase and Beaconsfield High School. Each match has offered valuable experience, allowing the teams to further develop their skills and confidence week by week.

One of the standout achievements this season was the B team's excellent performance at the district tournament last week, where they secured an impressive 2nd place finish. There was also a tough moment in January, with an unfortunate loss to Headington Rye School, but the girls showed great resilience in bouncing back and continuing to improve. They are now looking forward to their final tournament of the season, which will take place in the last week of term at Headington Rye School as part of a hockey festival.

Throughout the term, both teams have worked incredibly hard in training, showing real commitment and applying what they have learned effectively in matches. There have been several notable individual performances from Fleur Dooley, Raffa Alves-Baggio, Charlotte Hazard, and Ava Bisgrove, all of whom have demonstrated excellent skill, energy, and sportsmanship.

Well done to all players for an excellent term—your dedication and enthusiasm have been fantastic to see.

Year 8 Girls' Hockey

Great Marlow School's Year 8 Girls' Hockey teams have enjoyed a season of growth, resilience, and clear promise, with both the A and B squads demonstrating qualities that bode well for the future of hockey at the school.

The A team competed in a highly competitive Buckinghamshire County Tournament, finishing in a respectable fourth place. While this was a solid achievement, there is a sense that the group may have been capable of even more. With a few key moments and results going their way, qualification for the regional finals was well within reach.

Despite this, the girls showed exactly what they are capable of at their best. In a standout performance, they held Sir William Borlase's Grammar School—the eventual tournament winners—to a draw and arguably created the better chances throughout the game. It was a performance full of grit and attacking intent, underlining the team's ability to compete with the very strongest sides.

There is no doubt that this is a talented group. With commitment, focus, and resilience, they have all the attributes needed to build on this season and achieve even greater success in the years ahead.

The B team also had a valuable experience this season, taking part in the District Tournament. While results are only one part of the story, the girls' attitude throughout the day stood out above all else. They demonstrated tremendous resilience, never giving up regardless of the challenges they faced.

Equally impressive was their approach to learning and teamwork. The players were polite, hardworking, and eager to improve in every match. Their enthusiasm and willingness to listen and develop made them a pleasure to coach, and their commitment to the sport has been evident all season.

Together, both squads have contributed to a positive and encouraging year for Year 8 girls' hockey at Great Marlow School. With talent, determination, and the right mindset already in place, the future looks very bright indeed.

Year 7&8 Boys' hockey

Great Marlow School's Year 7 and 8 Boys' Hockey team have enjoyed a season full of promise, development, and strong performances, highlighting an exciting future for the group.

Competing in the Buckinghamshire County Tournament, the A team secured a commendable fourth-place finish. Throughout the competition, the boys performed well against strong opposition, demonstrating both skill and determination. While qualification for the regional finals just eluded them, it was clear that they were not far off the level required to progress.

Encouragingly, this is a team with significant potential. With a few more years of coaching, experience, and continued development, reaching the regional finals is a realistic goal they can confidently set their sights on. Their performances this season have laid a strong foundation to build upon.

The group's talent is evident, but what stands out just as much is their attitude. The boys have been consistently polite, hardworking, and eager to learn, both in training and in competition. Their willingness to listen, improve, and support one another has been a key strength throughout the season.

Their commitment to hockey has been clear from the outset, and they have proven to be a thoroughly enjoyable group to coach. If they continue to show the same resilience and dedication moving forward, there is no doubt that this team has a bright and successful future ahead.

1st XI Boys' Hockey

Great Marlow School's Boys' 1st XI hockey team delivered an impressive and spirited campaign this season, showcasing both their quality on the pitch and their character throughout.

The journey began in the Buckinghamshire qualifier, where the team produced a commanding performance to defeat John Hampden Grammar School 4–0. It was a result that reflected their attacking intent and defensive discipline, securing their place in the England Hockey Tier 3 Regional Finals.

At the Regional Finals, the boys faced a high standard of opposition across six matches. They rose to the challenge admirably, recording three wins, two draws, and just one defeat. Across the tournament, the team demonstrated consistency, resilience, and a clear ability to compete with some of the strongest sides at this level.

The one defeat proved particularly frustrating, as it came against the team that would go on to win the entire competition. In that match, Great Marlow started strongly and took the lead, controlling large periods of the game and arguably being the better side overall. However, despite their dominance, they were unable to convert their advantage into a win, eventually falling short in what was a closely contested encounter.

While the result was disappointing, it also highlighted the team's potential and ability to compete with the very best. Importantly, throughout the entire tournament, the boys represented their school with distinction. Their attitude was consistently positive—they were competitive in every match, yet remained good-natured and sporting, embodying the true spirit of school sport.

Overall, it was a campaign full of promise and pride for Great Marlow School's 1st XI. Their performances not only delivered strong results but also set a standard for teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship that reflects the very best of the school.



Badminton

Badminton has been a thriving and popular activity within the school, with clubs running both after school and during break times for a range of year groups. These sessions have provided students with regular opportunities to practise, compete, and develop their skills in a supportive and enjoyable environment. Attendance has been consistently high, showing the growing enthusiasm for the sport across the school.

Throughout the term, students have made clear progress in their gameplay, with noticeable improvements in both technique and confidence. A key focus has been on developing a wider range of shots, including net shots, drop shots on both the forehand and backhand, and controlled rallies. This has allowed students to become more tactically aware and effective during matches.

The school has also competed in fixtures against Cressex and St Michael's, providing valuable competitive experience. While results have varied, the emphasis has been on development, and there has been plenty of progress to celebrate. Students have demonstrated resilience, teamwork, and a positive attitude in all matches.

Particularly encouraging has been the strong turnout from Year 7, with large numbers regularly attending sessions. Their enthusiasm and commitment are very promising for the future of badminton at the school, and it is exciting to see such a solid foundation being built for the years ahead.



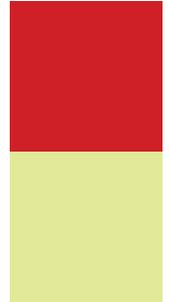
PE U16s Badminton

The school's Under-16 badminton teams produced an excellent set of results this week, recording impressive victories over Cressex and St Michael's in a series of competitive fixtures.

The U16 boys delivered a strong all-round performance, combining sharp movement, tactical awareness, and consistent shot-making. Miles Berry stood out with his attacking play and ability to control rallies, while Dan Parry provided calmness under pressure, helping to secure crucial points in tightly contested matches. The team's success is no coincidence—excellent attendance at training, particularly from the Year 10 boys, has led to clear improvements in fitness, coordination, and match confidence. Their effort and commitment in practice are now paying off on court.

The U16 girls were equally impressive, demonstrating resilience and teamwork throughout their matches. Jess Hennessey made a big impact with her speed and intelligent positioning, while Issie Monaghan showed great composure, contributing both in singles and doubles play. Their performances helped the team to well-earned wins against both schools, highlighting their steady progress this season.

Overall, these victories over Cressex and St Michael's reflect the dedication of all players involved. With strong attendance at training and a positive team spirit across both squads, the future looks very promising for school badminton.



NETBALL

YEAR 7

The Year 7 squads have continued their strong form this season, showing enthusiasm, teamwork, and a real passion for the sport. Their progress over the term has been impressive, with many players demonstrating noticeable improvements in confidence and skill.

A key part of their development has come from their commitment to training. They have been attending additional practice sessions during lunchtimes as well as regular after-hours training, where they have worked hard to refine their passing, movement, and accuracy. Their dedication has resulted in consistently strong attendance at practice and a positive atmosphere within the squads.

The A team has focused on developing set plays and improving their ability to read one another in attacking situations. This has contributed to a series of strong performances, including wins over Shiplake and Wycombe Abbey, as well as a joint second-place finish at the end-of-season tournament, an excellent achievement. Standout performances have come from Isla Hicks, Tilly McCormack, Ivy Pearce-Vogan and Immy Gill. Eliza Mannering has also made excellent progress and has been playing with the squad during the second half of the season.

Both the B and C teams have focused on developing their core skills and understanding positional roles to utilise space effectively. They have maintained a series of impressive results this term, including victories against Highcrest and Sir William Ramsey. Standout performances have come from Olivia Bristow, Olivia Tsolaki, Florence Lee, and Tara Phillips. This hard work has translated into success on the court, with both teams securing several excellent wins across a busy fixture schedule. A particular highlight was one of the teams winning a development tournament last week, competing successfully against a range of strong opposition.

The squads have finished off the season strongly, building on their successes and demonstrating resilience, commitment, and determination throughout. We look forward to seeing them back next season in Year 8!

By Miss Muttitt & Miss Whelan

U14 NETBALL TEAM- SISTERS IN SPORT

The impressive U14 Netball Team have succeeded in securing a prized place in Round 4 of the Sisters in Sport Vase Competition: they are one of only 32 teams to qualify.

On Friday 16 January, the team faced Bedford School in Round 3, in what was also the first netball match played on the new GMS sports hall floor.

The team has trained exceptionally hard, refining both attacking and defensive principles, with the support of Lisa from Elite Netball. Their commitment was rightly rewarded during this match.

A confident beginning saw Ria Joseph accurately passing to shooter Holly Peach, which built up an early momentum. This strong attacking connection helped the team take a 9 – 4 lead at the end of the first quarter. Bedford made tactical changes in the second quarter, challenging GMS to adapt quickly, which they did with great success. Defenders Ella Leslie, Rosie Smith and Amy Appletree worked effectively as a cohesive unit, applying pressure and creating turnovers, which masterfully counteracted Bedford's strong defence that made conversion challenging at times.

The third quarter was a standout for GMS. Isabella Rawlings worked tirelessly at centre, linking attack and defence with great energy, while Evie Robertson used intelligent preliminary movements at wing attack to create space and attacking opportunities. GMS dominated this quarter 11-4, setting up the potential for a strong finish.

Maintaining their focus and intensity in the final quarter, the team went on to secure an impressive 37–14 victory. Their fabulous performance reflected the squad's teamwork, resilience and continued development.

The U14 netball team progressed into the next round where they faced Pipers Corner School in what proved to be a competitive and well-contested match. The team showed great determination and continued to build on their understanding of positional play, movement, and communication across the court.

Defensively, Rosie Smith delivered a particularly strong performance at Goal Keeper (GK), demonstrating excellent positioning, timing, and composure under pressure. Her ability to read the game and make crucial interceptions played a key role in limiting the opposition's scoring opportunities. Throughout the match, the defensive unit worked cohesively, supporting each other and maintaining high levels of intensity.

In attack, Holly Peach's shooting skills showed clear development in her role as Goal Shooter (GS), with increased confidence and accuracy in the shooting circle. Her positioning and composure under the post continued to improve, allowing the team to convert more scoring opportunities. Overall, the match highlighted the team's progress and potential, with many positive performances to build on for future.

Congratulations to every team member.

Also, thanks go to Mrs Rooney, who took photographs of the match. More images can be found on the Great Marlow School Gallery.

By Miss Muttitt & Miss Whelan



DISTRICT NETBALL TOURNAMENTS

The Year 8 A, B, and C teams, along with the 9B and 10A and B netball teams, recently took part in netball tournaments held at Wycombe High School and Wycombe Abbey School. Each team attended on a different evening, giving them the chance to focus fully on their own matches and strategies while experiencing the excitement of competitive tournament play.

Playing multiple matches in one evening required a great deal of resilience from all students. Each team had to manage their energy, maintain concentration, and adapt quickly to different opponents. Despite the challenges, most teams settled into their respective tournaments very well, demonstrating strong teamwork, communication, and tactical awareness.

Across all evenings, players showed noticeable improvements in passing, movement, and shooting under pressure. The tournaments provided excellent match practice and a valuable opportunity for each team to develop both individually and collectively. Overall, the events highlighted the students' commitment, effort, and positive sporting spirit.

Josie Bevins has shown outstanding play this season, demonstrating excellent teamwork, communication, and attacking skills in her role as Centre. Alexandra McGuinness worked tirelessly in defence, supporting the team with determination and consistency. Haylee Jone has made fantastic improvement throughout the year in her defensive play, while Darcey Brown and Josie Constable have been consistently strong in their shooting, contributing reliably to the team's attacking efforts.

Thank you to all our sports leaders who attended these evenings to help umpire and coach the different teams.

SUCCESS FOR THE YEAR 11 NETBALL TEAM DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

Before half term, the Year 11 netball team competed in their district tournament, marking their final time playing together as a squad. They have been a fantastic year group, who have shown complete commitment to netball throughout their time at school.

Drawn in a challenging pool, the team rose to the occasion with some outstanding performances. They made an excellent start by defeating WAS A, a team who previously qualified for regionals. The girls combined a strong opening with intelligent, composed play to manage the game effectively and take the win. This was followed by a convincing win over SWR and a well-executed victory against PCS, where both attacking and defensive play stood out. Communication across the court was particularly impressive, reflecting strategies many of the players have been developing at U18 level.



In the semi-final, the team faced WAS B. With only eight players in the squad, fatigue began to show, but their determination and accurate shooting saw them secure an 11–7 win and a place in the final.

The final brought a rematch against WAS A. Despite a strong effort, the opposition's larger squad of 12 players proved decisive, and WAS took the win. Nevertheless, GMS should be incredibly proud of finishing as runners-up in such a competitive tournament.

It has been a pleasure to coach this group. They have been a dedicated and hardworking team, and while it is hoped that many will return next year, those who move on will be greatly missed.

Squad- Bella Street, Erin Ford ©, Grace Hull, Maisie Marshall, India Rhodes, Ella Seeley (vc), Evie Crowther-Birch, Evie Weston

By Miss G Muttitt

U18 Netball Team SIS run comes to an end

The U18 netball team travelled to St Albans to face Samuel Ryder Academy in the Last 32 of the SIS Vase. In the lead-up to the match, the squad showed great commitment in training, focusing on refining both attacking and defensive strategies.

With a young team of nine players, including five Year 11 students, the squad embraced the challenge with determination. There were many strong passages of play throughout the match; however, the team struggled to build sustained momentum and fell behind as Samuel Ryder took the lead.

In the second half, a tactical switch to a zonal defensive setup proved effective in countering the opposition's centre-pass-to-goal plays. Ella Seeley and Lucy Appletree made a significant impact in defence, securing some excellent interceptions at goal keeper. At the other end of the court, Sienna Morgan worked tirelessly at goal attack, delivering a consistently strong shooting performance and earning the MVP award.

Despite a final score of 45–36, the team demonstrated resilience, skill and great potential for the future. With such a talented and developing squad, there is plenty to look forward to in the seasons ahead.

Sports Leaders

GMS Level 3 Sports Leaders demonstrate outstanding leadership qualities in PE lessons and primary school games events.



Primary headteachers have praised the students' confidence and competence as exceptional.

The programme will be completed in May, leading to a nationally recognised qualification worth 16 UCAS points (equivalent to one A-level). Leadership continues to be a cornerstone of PE at GMS.



Careers in Sport Trip Inspires Year 12 Students

On Thursday 19th March, 15 Year 12 students had the exciting opportunity to visit Brentford Football Club's G-Tech Stadium to attend a "Careers in Sport" event.



The day was hosted by Harvey Grout, an experienced professional within the sports careers industry, who guided students through a series of insightful and engaging sessions. A range of expert speakers shared their knowledge, covering diverse career pathways including sports media,

working within a Premier League football club, becoming a football agent, and sport science.

One of the highlights of the sports science at university session was a practical tuck jump activity. During this, students analysed movement technique and identified errors that could potentially lead to an ACL injury in the future. This hands-on experience gave students a deeper understanding of injury prevention and the importance of biomechanics in sport.

Another key feature of the day was a question-and-answer panel, where students were able to put their own questions to industry professionals and gain valuable, real-world advice about pursuing a career in sport.

In addition to the talks, students also explored a busy careers fair featuring over 27 stalls. This provided a fantastic opportunity to network, speak directly with professionals, and learn more about the wide range of roles available within the sports industry.

The trip proved to be both informative and inspiring, giving students a deeper understanding of the many career opportunities in sport. It was an enjoyable and worthwhile experience for everyone involved.

Girls' Fitness

Spring term has brought a fresh wave of focus and determination to Girls Fitness 2026! After an incredible winter launch, the girls have returned with even more confidence. Weekly sessions are now in full swing for all year groups, and the progress has been fantastic to see. From refining techniques to pushing personal bests, the dedication across all sessions has been inspiring.

Our Year 7 girls have continued building their skills and independence, growing more confident with the equipment and new exercises each week. Meanwhile, the older year groups have been setting new challenges, supporting one another, and really stepping up as role models for the younger years.

By Miss O Fyfe



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 included a number of schools in the area, and have promoted inclusivity for all.

Swimming



On 21st January, a group of our students attended a competitive swimming gala held at Wycombe Abbey. It was a fantastic opportunity for everyone involved and a truly memorable experience.

All our swimmers demonstrated excellent commitment and enthusiasm throughout the event. Impressively, they ensured every race was filled, with several students stepping up to compete in multiple events, showcasing both their resilience and team spirit.

Malachi Munyua was a standout, approaching each race with a positive attitude and a smile on his face—something that did not go unnoticed by the event

organisers. Niyya Shah has made remarkable progress since competing in this gala last year, reflecting her hard work and determination. Alex Reynolds also played a key role within the team, willingly taking part in events where others felt less confident, demonstrating great support for his teammates.

The relay races were a particular highlight of the morning, showcasing outstanding teamwork from all swimmers involved. Each team demonstrated strong communication and trust, ensuring smooth and well-coordinated transitions between each leg of the race. It was clear that everyone worked together effectively, supporting one another to deliver confident and determined performances.

Overall, the GMS swimmers performed with determination and unity throughout the gala. Every participant should feel proud of their efforts—well done to all involved.

Badminton



Our school recently hosted an exciting badminton tournament held in the sports hall, where we entered two teams to compete against seven other schools. The competition featured both singles and doubles matches, giving students the opportunity to demonstrate their skills across a variety of formats.

The doubles matches proved particularly challenging, requiring strong partnerships, clear communication, and an understanding of each player's role within each rally. Players worked closely together to make quick decisions and support one another throughout their games, while also staying organised off the court to ensure they were prepared for each fixture.

Several students stood out for their individual performances. Harry Taylor demonstrated clear improvement, reflecting his commitment to regularly attending the after-school badminton club. Leo Chang impressed with his quick reactions, confidently handling a number of fast-paced rallies. Reuben Poole also showed great progress, building confidence as the tournament went on and becoming more assured in his play.

Throughout the event, all students displayed excellent sportsmanship, focus, and determination. Their efforts helped create a positive and competitive atmosphere across the tournament.

Well done to everyone who represented the school—your teamwork, effort, and attitude made the event a success.



Indoor Rowing Festival

On 17th March, students from Miss Boddy's Year 8 PE class took part in an engaging indoor rowing festival. The session provided a great introduction to rowing, allowing students to learn correct technique while taking part in a variety of fun and competitive activities. It was an excellent opportunity to develop fitness, resilience, and teamwork in a new sporting environment.

Across the morning, students completed a range of challenges designed to test different elements of rowing. Activities such as the Fish Game, alongside speed and power-based

tasks, encouraged students to apply their skills while working both individually and as part of a team. The variety of events kept energy levels high and ensured that everyone remained fully involved.

A standout moment of the festival was the team relay challenge. In groups of three, students aimed to row the greatest possible distance within a 15-minute time limit. This required not only physical endurance but also strong communication and organisation, as smooth changeovers were essential to maintaining momentum. A special mention goes to William Boulger, Jamal Durrent, and Callum Gorle, who demonstrated an excellent relay changeover technique in front of the group, setting a high standard for others to follow.

Students also took part in individual challenges, including a speed test focusing on strokes per minute and a power event measuring the force applied during rowing. These activities allowed participants to push themselves, improve their technique, and build confidence in their own abilities.

The event was brilliantly led by Hilton Schafer, whose organisation and enthusiasm ensured the festival ran smoothly from start to finish. Overall, the morning was a great success, with students showing determination, teamwork, and a willingness to try something new. It was a valuable and enjoyable experience that left everyone feeling proud of their efforts and motivated for future PE activities.



Basketball

On 2nd February, our year 7 students took part in an exciting and highly rewarding basketball festival. The event offered a fantastic range of activity

stations designed to develop key skills such as dribbling, shooting, and passing. Each station provided players with the opportunity to focus on improving their technique in a fun and supportive environment.

One of the highlights of the day was the inclusion of 1v1 situations, where players were able to challenge themselves, build confidence, and apply their skills in more competitive scenarios. These sessions encouraged determination, quick thinking, and resilience.

The festival concluded with a tournament against six other schools. Our team performed exceptionally well, demonstrating not only strong technical ability but also excellent teamwork and sportsmanship. Every player showed great enthusiasm and engagement throughout the day, making the most of each activity to develop their game.

A particularly positive aspect of our performance was the team's empathy and respect for one another. Players supported each other throughout the matches, and substitutions were managed thoughtfully to ensure everyone had equal opportunity to participate and contribute. Special mention should go to Harrison Cole and Odin Ekornrod, who both demonstrated very good movement on the court, creating space and supporting their teammates effectively.

Overall, it was a fantastic experience that helped all players improve their skills while enjoying the spirit of competition. We are incredibly proud of the team's effort, attitude, and progress, and we look forward to future events.



Varsity Bench Ball

On 11th February, GMS took part in the Bench Ball event as part of the Varsity Series. It was an exciting and competitive occasion, with the team showing great determination and improvement as the tournament progressed.

In the lead-up to the event, the students had been practising every Friday during break 2, demonstrating real commitment and enthusiasm as they prepared for the competition. This consistent effort was evident in their performance on the day.

With superb leadership and coaching insight from sixth former Ben Richter, the GMS team grew in confidence and cohesion throughout the event. His guidance played a key role in helping the players develop their understanding of the game and perform at their best.



There were several standout performances on the day. Libby Wolstencroft was excellent on the bench, demonstrating great awareness and consistency. Freddie Fitch and Eliza Shadbolt also made outstanding contributions, both showing skill, effort, and a positive attitude throughout the tournament.

Overall, it was a fantastic experience for the team, highlighting not only their developing skills but also their teamwork and commitment. GMS can be very proud of their performance and look forward to future events in the Varsity Series.

Multisports Club

Our Multisports club runs every Friday break and provides students with a fantastic opportunity to develop a wide range of sporting skills in preparation for Varsity events. During these sessions, students take part in a variety of activities, allowing them to build confidence, improve fitness, and refine techniques across different sports. The sessions are designed to be inclusive and engaging, ensuring that all participants can progress and enjoy themselves while preparing for competition.

Basketball has quickly become the students' favourite sport, with many showing great enthusiasm and commitment each week. Through regular practice, students are developing key skills such as dribbling, passing, shooting, and teamwork. The positive energy and effort shown during these sessions highlights their dedication, and it is clear that the club is playing an important role in preparing them for upcoming Varsity events.

Thank you to all staff, parents and carers, and the schools who have supported these students in participating in and completing the events. Your encouragement and support have played a vital role in their success and enjoyment.

By Miss E Boddy



Gold & British Champion in Kickboxing

A Year 10 student has excelled in her chosen sport by winning Gold at the National Kickboxing Championships this past weekend.

This is truly an amazing achievement, which means she has qualified for the World Championship in Dubai later this year.

Congratulations Lara and good luck in your next championship run.

Avon Spring Head

Saturday 28th February saw over 40 GMS rowers competing on the Avon, just west of Bath. This was the Avon Spring Head, and it was indeed a glorious Spring day, the sun was shining and river was thankfully rowable. It was just as well for those racing in the first division that conditions were so pleasant, after a 5:50 am departure from the Redgrave Sports Centre for the rowers. Slightly earlier for this trailer driver.

However, they were rewarded with the Year 10 girls quad winning their event, which was particularly good against a City of Bristol crew in second place, who have the benefit of rowing on the water all year round- No Flooding to contend with. The senior boys quad came second just over a second behind Monkton Combe School on their home water. Scarlet Spear and Natalia Kearey competed in the 1100m division and enjoyed their race.

The Midday division, saw the senior boys racing in a four, which has been the boat they have been focusing on this season, along with 4 girls doubles and a year 11 girls four.

The boys four were racing open (adult) event as the J18 fours were in the earlier division. They won their event by a considerable margin, but also beat the Winchester J18 four (winners of J18) by over 30 seconds and most of the eights racing.

The girls double all performed well with a strong performance from Elise Whyte and Kayla Shillito in WJ18 2x coming 3rd and also Rugile Banuilaityte and Edee Somers racing a year up in J16 coming 2nd. The Year 11 four also came third.

In the Afternoon division, sadly the year 11 eight had an incident with a tree so did not perform, but the year 11 girls had a happier race in their quad, coming second.

Our year 9 boys and girls were racing the 1100m course and the lack of time on the water given river conditions at home meant this was as much about getting them more time training as winning races. They had very strong opposition from local crews who have had much better access to the water in the last three months. They all enjoyed the chance to compete in the spring sunshine and came off a lot less wet and bedraggled than their last time out at Wycliffe.

A really good day out for the squad and a big thank you to all the parents transporting their rowers down to Bath.

Winners

WJ15 4x+

Rugile Banuilaityte

Edee Somers

Lily Powell

Anna Brown

Cox Olivia Griffiths

J18 4+

Valere Ivers-Dreux

Euan Speare

Connor Quann

Archie Gentry

Cox Theo Harper

By Mr F Murison

Wycliffe Big Head

Saturday 7th Feb saw GMSBC take to the water in Gloucestershire.

The Wycliffe Big head is an annual favourite as it is not only a long race but as it takes place on the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal it is normally rowable even in times of flood elsewhere.

As a result, there is always a strong field with rowing heavyweights like Radley, Shiplake and Shrewsbury as well as local rivals Marlow RC and Henley RC.

The weather was not kind to the rowers. Each division took over three hours to complete by the time they had rowed 6 Km up to the start Marshalled then raced back, and the rain was coming down heavily for most of that time.

Despite the adverse conditions the GMS crews returned buoyant and pleased to have got out on the water for a change and had a good race. In fact they also did race well.

In Division 1 we had our three Year 11 crews racing. The top boys quad of Dima Polino, Ralph Hill, Luke Quann and Ethan Taylor won their event despite clipping the bushes during the race and very encouraging the "B" quad came 3rd, over 2 minutes ahead of Marlow RC A boat. The girls were not so dominant but still comfortably beat the Marlow A and B boats.

In the afternoon, we had our year 9s , both boys and girls, racing in octos. The girls unfortunately had to race in the boys event so they were up against the odds, but came off the water soaked to the skin and very cold but excited to have raced well and ended up 2nd behind the GMS boys and 5 seconds ahead of third placed Haberdasher's Monmouth.

The year 10 crews both had good rows with the boys quad coming 3rd behind Henley and Wallingford rowing clubs. I result they will be looking to reverse come the nationals in March. The girls won the fours event and beat over half of the year 10 girls quads , a faster boat class.

Finally at the back of the Division came our top boys four which dominated their event wit a comfortable winning margin.

We collected five pennants and came third in two other events so a very wet but successful outing.

The rowers and their parents coped with the conditions with grit and determination and the results are an exciting start to the 2026 season.

Record wins for GMSBC

With this in mind, the remaining four rowers from last year's winners of J18 1st Eight combined with our top four girls to create our entry. Training over half-term at Dorney had been very encouraging with the crew performing well along side our year 11 eight in side-by-side racing.

For Friday's race we set off third in our event behind last year's winners, Canford School and then Pangbourne College, whose new Director of Rowing is one of the principal advocates in the debate around Co-ed rowing. Despite high hopes, the crew were warned not to expect to catch these crews easily as the standard looked high. I was clearly underestimating their hunger, and with the help of some excellent aggressive coxing from Chloe Sheppard, our crew slipped past Pangbourne at Barnes Bridge, barely a quarter of the race gone. Canford were soon to follow and having overtaken the main competition the crew were in high spirits and settled into a powerful rhythm that saw them pull away from the following crews. Their winning time was a record for the event and beat last years' time by over 30 seconds.

Our J16 Boys Eight has had a slightly mixed season leading into this race with poor results at Wallingford and Avon, ahead of a good time trial at the Junior Inter-Regional Trials the previous Friday. Having said this, Reading Blue Coats' crew (who are in a different Thames Up River division) had beaten them by 7 seconds over the 1500m race at Dorney and looked to be one of the crews that were their main competition. The crew knew they had their work cut out to do well over the full championship Boat Race Course of 4 ¼ Miles.

They set off at an aggressive pace and again excellent coxing from Theo Harper saw them closing on the crews ahead in the early stages. The Tideway is a challenging stretch of water which snakes from Chiswick Bridge down to Putney, and finding the best line is not easy as the very fast stream is about 15 metres wide somewhere in a river that is at times over 100 metres wide. The wind, while following for the most part, made conditions choppy. However, their early gains encouraged the crew and they held a relentless pace throughout. Not only did they turn their result against Bluecoats around by over thirty seconds, but won the event outright, GMSBC's first time at J16 level.

While we have won at SHORR on a number of occasions, Fridays double is a first time for winning two Pennants and definitely the start of what looks to be a memorable season.

By Mr F Murison

Junior Sculling Head

Monday 23rd March was the second of the long-distance championships, this time held at Dorney, over two lengths of the course. Having had very little water time this winter, and most of that preparing for our successes at the Schools Head a week ago, we were not expecting any outstanding results but all crews performed well. The year 9 crews had very solid performances looking well together despite their limited water schedule and we were pleased to be able to have two girls crews racing for the first time in a number of years.

The year 10 boys had a pretty strong performance, coming 14th out of 64 and importantly beating local rivals Borlase.

The year 11 crews were our highest performance with the boys coming a very competitive 7th place a few seconds off the medals and considerably higher up the order than last year as J15s and one place ahead of last years J16 crew. The Year 11 girls produced our highest ranking in this category for many years some 9 seconds faster than our year 11s from last year and beating all the local rivals two crews from Marlow and Borlase.

Not the outstanding success of the Schools' head but some very pleasing results.

Year 11 Crews
 Luke Quann
 Jamie Watson
 Ralph Hill
 Dima Polino

Georgina Greening
 Ivy Tomkinson
 Liv Eggington
 Lily Nickless

By Mr F Murison

Wellbeing Roadshow at GMS

During Children's Mental Health Week, on Tuesday 10th February, GMS welcomed local organisations to run a Wellbeing Roadshow during both break times. Local organisations came into school to run activities with students that support positive mental health and informed them about the services they run.



These included the following:

- The Mental Health Support Team, offers support both individually and in groups to students within schools.
- Brighter Futures Together can be found at Marlow Youth Centre
- The Youth Enquiry Service is based in High Wycombe and offers free information, guidance and counselling for young people
- The Community Youth Service is the home of Youth Voice Bucks where young people can access opportunities to have their say and take part in fun activities.
- The Family Hub Service offers free help for young people aged 11–19.
- Students found this a very positive experience and GMS are grateful to the organisations who took part.

AND FINALLY....

We wish all our Year 11s and Year 13s every success in their forthcoming exams. We hope you all get the results you are aiming for.

Keep in touch, we are always interested to hear how you are getting on in your future careers or in Further Education.

Remember results days are:

A-level

**Thursday 13th
August 2026**

GCSE

**Thursday 20th
August 2026**

Great Marlow School
Bobmore Lane
Marlow Bucks
SL7 1JE

Managing Mental Health during your Exams

Managing mental health during exam season requires balancing study with self-care, maintaining healthy routines, and managing anxiety through, for example, regular breaks, exercise, and sleep. Prioritize wellbeing by setting realistic goals, breaking down revision, avoiding comparison, and speaking to friends, family, or teachers if stress feels overwhelming.

Key Tips for Maintaining Mental Health:

Establish a Routine: Break revision into manageable chunks with regular breaks to stay energized, as suggested by [YoungMinds](#).

Prioritize Physical Health: Eat well, stay hydrated, and get enough sleep, as highlighted by [The Charlie Waller Trust](#). Physical activity helps reduce anxiety symptoms, notes [Together for Children](#).

Practice Self-Care: Engage in enjoyable activities to release stress, such as listening to music, walking, or cooking, according to [Together for Children](#).

Avoid Comparison: Focus on your own progress and avoid comparing your revision to others, say [Together for Children](#) and [Mind](#).

Seek Support: Reach out to teachers, friends, or family if you feel overwhelmed. Organisations like [Childline](#) are also available, notes [Mind](#).

Managing Anxiety:

Deep Breathing: Practice, for example, slow breathing or yoga to manage exam-related stress.

Focus on the Present: Don't let anxiety about future exams disrupt your present studies.

Recognize Stress Symptoms: Be aware of signs of stress, such as exhaustion or irritability, as described by [KCLSU](#).