



Great Marlow School

Excellence • Compassion • Integrity

The VOICE

JULY 2026

ISSUE 62

www.gms.bucks.sch.uk

For my article in this summer edition of The Voice I would like to share with you the speech that I delivered at our Celebration of Success event on Thursday 9th July.

IMPORTANT DATES

School closes for the Summer Holidays on Friday 17th July at 1pm.

Years 7, 10 and 12 return to school on Thursday September 3rd.

All other students return to school on Friday September 4th.

A-level results are published on 13th August and GCSE results are published on 20th August.

KEY EVENTS at GMS

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

Good evening, and a very warm welcome to our invited guests including parents/carers, members of staff and, most importantly, our prize winners of 2026. Tonight, is a chance to celebrate the success of those students who are prize winners, but also to reflect briefly on the progress made by the school, over the past year.

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

Our curriculum offer is fundamental to achieving that vision and we are very proud of the broad and rich curriculum that we offer at Key Stage 3 and the excellent range of subjects we continue to offer to students in Key Stage 4 and 5. As parents, carers and students you will be aware of the curriculum changes that have been implemented for the next academic year – these changes have not been taken lightly but have been done so to ensure that the school remains on a sustainable financial footing. It has not affected the richness of our curriculum and will not affect the delivery of this curriculum through high quality teaching and learning, lesson after lesson, each and every day. In lessons at Great Marlow School, students develop not only their knowledge and understanding, but also the essential skills they need to be successful at school and those required as we prepare them to make a positive contribution to the local, regional and global community in future years.

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

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

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

Educational visits and school events

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

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

effort of staff in school, both teachers and associate staff. They are not paid for their time in the evenings, weekends, and school holidays when many of these activities take place.

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

In terms of visits we have

- [Ski Trip to Austria](#)
- [Joint Year 7 Geography and History trip to Windsor](#)
- [GCSE Geography trips to Oxford, Amersham](#)
- [A level Geography residential to North Yorkshire](#)
- [Sixth form students visited Auschwitz](#)
- [Art trip to the Tate Modern and Borough Market](#)
- [Year 9 cycling trip](#)
- [Yr 12 trip to Silverstone for a careers showcase](#)
- [Sixth Form History trip to the Imperial War Museum](#)
- [Yr 11 Statistics trip to the Bank of England Museum](#)
- [Sixth Form Drama Trip to the Apollo Theatre](#)
- [Yr 10 History trip](#)
- [Year 10 Careers visit to Bucks New University](#)
- [Year 10 Trip to Warner Brothers](#)
- [Year 12 trip to Pinewood Studios](#)
- [Year 9 Model United Nations Trip](#)
- [Year 11 and Year 13 Drama trip to see The Woman in Black, Year 10 and 12 Drama to see Blood Brothers](#)
- [Team Building for year 8 at Longridge](#)

Drama

In Drama, The Wizard of Oz production in December was the highlight of the school year. The Drama Department led by Mrs Chenery prepared the students impeccably to put on a show that will live long in the memories of the audience that were lucky enough to see it. A special mention here to Mrs Rooney and Mrs Joseph-Stewart who spent a whole day laying a vinyl version of the yellow brick road. The shows that are put on year after year continue to astound the audience and it is amazing to see how assured and confident our students are on stage. Sell outs again, the performances were truly outstanding.

Music

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

The music department led by Mrs Green have led and supported a number of events throughout the year, including Late Night Shopping, Lantern Church carols, Carol Service at All Saints, Christmas Concert, 6th form recital evening, House Music, Bucks Orchestra for All and the Spring and Summer Concerts

Sport

Physical Education, Sport and Physical Activity at GMS is an integral part of the school, the quality of the curricular provision is outstanding, the breadth of sports played, and quality of performances continues to grow year on year. I will make no apology for talking about the importance of physical activity for both physical health and mental wellbeing. In simple terms, physical activity can make you healthier, happier, and brainier – that said supporting West Ham has and never will be good for my mental health!

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

There have again been a number of significant successes in PE this year....

In Rugby – our Year 8 team are County League Champions and District 7s champions.

In Hockey our girls and boys U18 both won county indoor finals with the boys also adding the outdoor final as well. Our girls U14 were also outdoor county champions.

Netball has seen the first year of the school entering the National Sisters in Sport Competitions.

Our U14's made it to the Quarter Finals (Trophy Comp) and 1st Team Last 16 (Trophy Comp)

Turning now to Athletics where the Year 8 Boys English Schools Midlands Region Athletics A Finalists achieved - 4th place - makes them top 20 in England. All respective age groups teams finished in the top 3 in the District Championship with Year 9 girls in 1st place. This means we are the number 1 co ed school in the district across 4 out of 4-year groups and all by a significant margin.

Our SEND and Pupil Premium provision for students in PE and Sport remains outstanding - 81% of the GMS SEND cohort have either represented the school in a festival or competition or completed 6 weeks of sustained extra-curricular activity. 50% of GMS PP cohort have either represented the school in a festival or competition, or completed 6 weeks of sustained extra-curricular activity

In terms of developing high quality Leadership skills in PE - Over 200 students in Year 11 passed their Physical Education Life Skills Award - achieved through leadership in COR PE

38 Year 12 students have successfully completed their Level 3 Sports Leaders Course - 16 UCAS points / Insured to deliver sessions to groups independently once 18

Rowing

Rowing continues to captivate a growing audience at Great Marlow School - Winning two Pennants at the Schools Head of the River= Mixed eights (sixth form mixed crew) and J16 1st Eights (Year 11 boys)

In addition, the school had 3 crews, Year 10 girls four, year 11 girls double and year 11 boys four representing the Thames Up-River region at the inter-regional championships. All 6 of our top crews- (Year 10 boys and girls, Year 11 boys and girls and 6th form boys and girls) making the A finals/top 8 at National Schools Regatta (a first for GMSBC)

The number of students rowing this year topped 200 for the first time. Our top boys four are trialling for the England team on Saturday 11th July

Duke of Edinburgh

The Duke of Edinburgh Award continues to be an important feature of life at GMS, DofE

76 year 9 students successfully completed the Bronze DoE expedition 1st time - and are all on track to complete their award in September

When you talk about personal development including character development and resilience, this is one fine example. This year, we are particularly grateful to Mr Goodright and members of the PE team for taking this on.

Business Studies

Business Studies remains a very popular subject at the school and this year the extra-curricular activities have gone from strength to strength with activities throughout the year groups. In particular the Young Enterprise teams have been involved in organising and supporting a whole host of events including school discos for younger year groups, late night shopping events in Marlow, a Valentines event in the hall and the school production. They have also sold items in the Eden Shopping Centre and been involved in a Meet the Dragons event at another school. Last Friday at Sports Day they sold refreshments and they are running a football tournament for Year 7 in the final week of term.

Values at GMS

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

Thanks to...

It is at this point I would like to thank every member of school staff for their continued hard work, commitment, and enthusiasm. I would particularly like to thank the members of staff that through their discretionary effort really do go the extra-mile for this school and its students. Society and schools face numerous challenges; there has been no change in this academic year. Schools and those who work in them are still taking on the work and responsibilities which once belonged to other organisations such as Social Care, the NHS, the Police or Buckinghamshire Council in our area. This is still with only limited funding and in fact in real terms funding continues to be reduced.

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

I also want to publicly thank the governors who give so willingly of their time, supporting the leadership team but also challenging us to improve the school even further; to the members of Friends of Great Marlow who raise

much needed funds to support the school; and to you the parents/ carers who week in week out support us and your children.

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

Mrs Cristinziano and Mrs Woodbridge are leaving the English Department, and I would like to thank them for their contributions to the department as well as wishing them all the best in the future.

Mrs Maqsood is leaving the Maths department and Mr Yasin, a former student of the school leaves to take up a position teaching Religious Studies at Cressex School, again we wish him all the best!

Mrs Huddleston is leaving the Science department – an outstanding A level biology teacher I would like to wish her all the best as she pursues interests away from the school where she has worked for over 25 years. In addition, Science is also saying goodbye to Mr Day and Mrs Brassington – their contributions to the department and school are again very much appreciated.

The wonderful Mrs Cadogan has made a significant contribution to education across almost 50 years, is never short of a KIND word, the students at school and in the local primaries quite simply love their learning in her classroom.

In terms of associate staff – Mrs Merry, very much a lynch pin in the organisation of Celebration of Success over the years left the school at the end of June and we are also saying goodbye to Mr Carr from our Estates team and 3 learning support assistants, Mrs Edwards, Miss Marlow and Miss Tinnelly.

For my final comments, I would like to thank you all, parents, carers, students, staff and guests for attending on this very warm evening. 2025/26 has been another fantastic year at Great Marlow School, and I would like to wish all the students and staff a very well-deserved summer break when it arrives on Friday 17th July.

Best Wishes

Mr Guy Pendlebury, Headteacher



YEAR 7 HAVE PRODUCED SOME IMPRESSIVE ARTWORK IN THEIR GREEN & SPIKY PROJECT

This summer term, our Year 7 students have been exploring the fascinating world of plants through their Green & Spiky project. Inspired by the unique forms, textures and colours of cacti and succulents, the term began with observational graphite drawings. Students carefully studied the intricate shapes, patterns and textures of cacti, learning how to create depth, tone and realistic detail through thoughtful shading and expressive mark-making.

Students were then inspired by Frida Kahlo's bold use of colour to inform their own cactus studies, as we focused on developing watercolour and coloured pencil techniques. Through careful observation, colour mixing and building up delicate layers, students created rich surface textures and vibrant outcomes. Leonie Wells' striking piece is a fantastic example of how patience, perseverance and attention to detail can produce truly eye-catching artwork. Well done, Leonie!

More recently, students have created vibrant mixed media collages inspired by the energetic work of contemporary artist Peter Caffaro. This was undoubtedly one of the most playful parts of the project! Students experimented with bright Analink paints, splashing, scraping, printing and layering media to create a collection of beautifully textured and patterned papers. Once dry, they became artists and designers all over again - cutting, tearing, overlapping and carefully arranging their painted papers to build imaginative cactus compositions full of bold shapes, unexpected patterns and pops of colour. The finished collages have a wonderfully quirky, slightly surreal feel and perfectly capture the fun and freedom of working with mixed media.

It has been a joy to see the confidence and creativity of Year 7 grow throughout the project. Their final pieces showcase not only the artistic skills they have developed this term, but also their willingness to experiment, take creative risks and celebrate their own unique ideas. We couldn't be prouder of everything they have achieved!!

By Miss Moyse



YEAR 8 SCULPTURES - BRILLIANT CREATIVITY AND WIT!



This term, Year 8 students have been bringing language to life by sculpting popular idioms, puns, and compound words out of cardboard and papier-mâché. This innovative project forms an integral link with their English studies, challenging students to translate abstract linguistic concepts and wordplay into tangible, three-dimensional forms.

Constructing 3D art from presents unique structural hurdles; navigating these challenges has allowed students to build vital problem-solving skills and academic resilience as they test, adapt, and refine their ideas using nets and armatures in addition to free hand sculpting. Ultimately, managing their designs from initial concept to final sculpture has been a fantastic

way for students to take total ownership of their art and develop strong independent working skills.

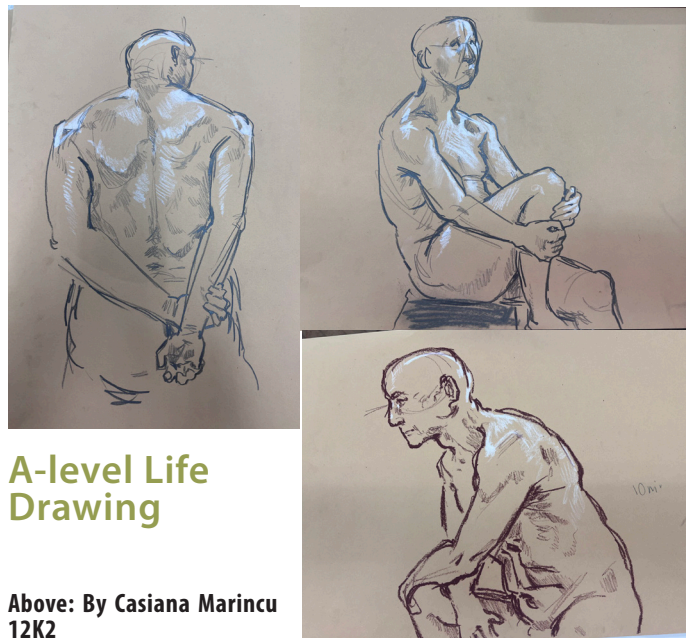
By Mrs J Hayward



Yr 8 'Pun' sculptures



GCSE 3d Food & Drink



A-level Life Drawing

Above: By Casiana Marincu 12K2

GCSE ART STUDENTS CONTINUE TO EXCEL!

We have now said goodbye to our Year 11 students, marking the end of an important chapter in their school journey. This year group has achieved some truly brilliant outcomes, all thanks to their hard work, creativity, and dedication throughout the year.

A special congratulations goes to Alana Princeville, who set a new school record for the highest number of coursework submissions. This is an incredible accomplishment and a testament to her commitment and determination.

We are extremely proud of everything our Year 11 students have achieved and wish them the very best of luck in their future endeavours. We are also excited to welcome some of them back next year as they continue their studies on our A-level courses.



Meanwhile, our Year 10 students are continuing to work hard on their food and drink-themed coursework project. They have already completed all of the teacher-led workshops, including papercut, 3D work, watercolour,

acrylic, lino print, oil pastel, and mixed media, to name just a few.

We have already seen some fantastic and inspiring work produced, and expectations are high for this talented group. Students are currently in the development stage of their projects. This is where their creativity really begins to shine as they explore different ideas, experiment with techniques, and develop their own unique artistic styles. By studying and drawing inspiration from other artists and contextual sources, they are growing in confidence and becoming increasingly independent as young artists.

By the end of this academic year, the cohort will have created their first fully developed artwork, showcasing who they have become as artists and the exciting potential they have for the future of their artist journey.

By Mrs A Perman

YEAR 12 PRODUCE SOME AMAZING PHOTOSHOOTS

Throughout the summer term, Year 12 students have made excellent progress on their Component 1 coursework. They are currently exploring diverse personal themes that will culminate in large-scale painted canvases. Having already conducted some superb initial photoshoots, we eagerly anticipate seeing their finished paintings after the summer break.

Alongside their coursework, Year 12 have regularly attended termly life drawing classes. This foundational practice is immensely beneficial for developing artists, as it sharpens observational skills and improves spatial awareness. Drawing the human form teaches students to accurately translate complex three-dimensional shapes onto a two-dimensional surface. It also refines their understanding of anatomy, proportion, and shading, providing a vital technical toolkit that elevates the quality of their personal projects.



By Mrs J Hayward



Images Above: By Alastair Wright

Images Left: By Jaden Gough

Year 7 drawstring bags

Students have learnt how to use a sewing machine as well as some fabric decoration methods to produce a drawstring bag. The inspiration for the design was taken from an historical design movement.



Year 9 learn to work from 2d to 3d

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

By Mrs C Clark



Year 9 get creative with fashion!

Year 9 got creative with fabrics, designing eye-catching red carpet and space-age outfits worthy of the spotlight! They also worked together to create outfits representing each of our school Houses. Can you spot them all, including our newest House, Falcons?



Designs: By 9H - Max, Andrew, Beaudie, Ryan, Ollie, Mikhail, Ella, Diya, Jake

World Cup burgers take centre stage!

Our Year 10 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition students recently put their creativity, culinary skills and knowledge to the test with an exciting World Cup-inspired burger challenge.

The task was simple: design and make a gourmet burger inspired by a nation competing in the World Cup. The results were anything but ordinary! Students researched the flavours and food traditions of their chosen countries before creating some truly imaginative and delicious burgers.

The variety of ideas was incredible. Brazil was represented by a mouth-watering gammon and coleslaw burger, while Australia featured the classic combination of pineapple and egg. The USA delivered a crowd-pleasing cheeseburger loaded with crispy bacon, and England celebrated the iconic Full English breakfast with bacon, egg and hash browns packed into a burger.

France impressed with a crispy chicken escalope burger, while Turkey showcased bold, aromatic spices served in a homemade flatbread. Belgium added a continental twist with Belgian-style mayonnaise and caramelised onions, and Norway stood out with a venison burger accompanied by a homemade berry sauce, inspired by traditional Nordic flavours.

Throughout the project, students demonstrated excellent practical skills, from preparing homemade breads and sauces to cooking meat safely and presenting their finished dishes professionally. More importantly, they showed creativity, independence and a willingness to experiment with new ingredients and flavour combinations encompassing all of the 6R's.

The photographs capture just a selection of the fantastic burgers produced. Every student rose to the challenge, and the standard of work was outstanding. We are incredibly proud of their effort, enthusiasm and culinary talent.

Well done, Year 10!

By Mrs H Dale



Creative Thinking Sticks! KS3 Ice Lolly Design Challenge

When the hot weather arrived this term, our KS3 Design and Technology students swapped the classroom for some creative home learning with the Ice Lolly Design Challenge.

The challenge encouraged students to enjoy an ice lolly, save the stick and then transform it into something useful, decorative or completely original using recycled and household materials. Alongside their finished product, students also produced a labelled design sketch and a short evaluation, just like real designers.

The results were fantastic, with students showing incredible imagination and resourcefulness. From miniature furniture and photo frames to desk organisers, toys, plant labels and ingenious original creations, every project demonstrated thoughtful design and excellent making skills. Many students

also challenged themselves further by creating strong structures capable of supporting the weight of everyday objects.

As well as developing practical skills, the challenge encouraged learners to think sustainably by reusing materials that might otherwise have been thrown away. It was wonderful to see so many students embracing the opportunity to design, make and problem-solve independently at home.

The photographs on these pages showcase just a selection of the outstanding work submitted. The creativity, effort and pride shown by our KS3 students were truly impressive, proving that great design ideas can start with something as simple as an ice lolly stick.

Well done to everyone who took part—you certainly rose to the challenge!

By Mrs H Dale



GCSE AND A-LEVEL STUDENTS VISIT WYCOMBE SWAN

On 21st April the Drama Department took Year 10 and 12 Drama students to watch *Blood Brothers* at the Wycombe Swan. *Blood Brothers* is a powerful musical by Willy Russell that tells the story of twin brothers, Mickey and Edward, who are separated at birth and raised in very different families. Despite their contrasting backgrounds, they form a close friendship as they grow up, unaware that they are brothers. The musical explores themes of class, fate, superstition, and family, building towards a tragic and emotional conclusion.



We were fortunate to have seats close to the stage, giving students an excellent view of the set design, special effects, sound and lighting. This valuable experience will help support their understanding of live theatre as they prepare for their Component 2 examination next year.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the performance and were already asking when the Drama Department would be organising the next theatre visit.

Throughout the trip, the students were a credit to the school. Their excellent behaviour and enthusiasm made the department incredibly proud.

YEAR 9 – TECHNICAL THEATRE

This term Year 9 Drama students have been introduced to the technical theatre elements of the Performing Arts. Concentrating on Set design and construction, Costume design and Stage Make up application, students were set to task on designing their own interpretations of storylines and characters through practical workshops.

The concentration, creativity and fantastic focus from the students was truly impressive, resulting in some outstanding outcomes. The set design model boxes created have been on display in the drama studios and have received high praise from staff and pupils around the school. The attention to detail and storytelling through the design work was a true reflection on the students understanding of a brief and getting 'stuck in' with their new skill set.

The Make-up workshops on stage bruising, wounds and scars were an innovative way to use colour and new materials on our hands, arms, and faces to create characters with a story to tell! The students thoroughly enjoyed the gory blood application and making up their partners with bruises and scars. The classroom was buzzing with excitement and energy which was great to see.

YEAR 12 A-LEVEL DRAMA COMPONENT 1 EXAMINATION

Our Year 12 Drama students were examined on their first A Level component this term. Taking Sophocles' Greek Tragedy, Antigone and creating their own adaptation of a modern-day tale, they creatively combined 1930's Hitler's Germany with the leadership and rule of Creon over Thebes, Ancient Greece, to conjure up a masterpiece of their own.

The students worked tirelessly on bringing to life the story of Antigone and her sister Ismene, by using the technique and skill of Drama Practitioner, Katie Mitchell. Their use of technology, camera's, live film, sound and video clips added drama and tension to the Grecian Tale and gave the students the greatest platform to push boundaries and test themselves as A -Level drama students.

A thoroughly enjoyable process to oversee and we wish the students' the best of luck with the outcomes of their hard work.

YEAR 10 DRAMA STUDENTS SHOWCASE THEIR CREATIVITY

During the Spring Term, our Year 10 Drama students were busy preparing for their Component 1 devised performances.

The standard of work was extremely impressive and reflected the dedication, creativity and hard work that students committed to throughout the process.

As part of the assessment, students were required to create and perform an original piece of theatre based on a given stimulus and inspired by either a theatre practitioner or a dramatic genre. This year, both Brecht and Theatre in Education proved particularly popular choices.

Producing work of a high standard requires students to use lesson time effectively and commit to additional rehearsals, with many giving up at least an hour of their own time after school each week.

All of this hard work certainly paid off, and it was a real pleasure to watch and assess the final performances.

Students have also nearly completed the coursework element of the course. In the new academic year, they will move on to preparing and performing scripted work as they continue their GCSE Drama journey.

Well done to all of our Year 10 Drama students for their enthusiasm, commitment and excellent achievements so far.

Drama articles by Mrs Chenery, Mr Ross and Mrs Turner

WELL DONE, YEAR 11!

Year 11 students completed their final Drama examination this term, with the final 40% of the course assessed on Friday 8 May. The Drama Department is incredibly proud of the dedication, commitment, and hard work they have demonstrated throughout the course.

We will miss the laughter, enthusiasm, and creativity that you brought to every lesson. We wish you every success in whatever path you choose to follow next and look forward to celebrating your achievements when you receive your GCSE results this summer.

GOOD LUCK, YEAR 13!

Year 13 students completed their two year Drama course on Thursday 21 May with a challenging two-and-a-half-hour examination. The students left the exam hall feeling positive and proud of the effort they had put into their final assessment.

It has been a pleasure to watch them develop into confident, talented, and inspiring Drama students over the past two years. We wish them every success as they take their next steps into university, and we look forward to hearing about their future achievements.

Good Luck, Year 13 – we know you will do great things!



Shoebox set designs

Midsummer Magic!

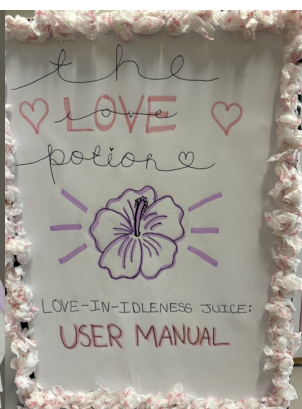
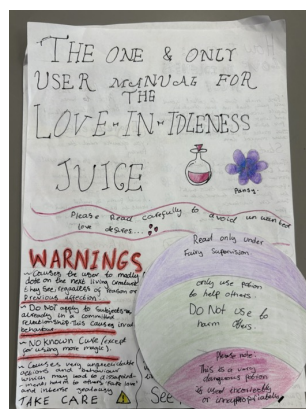
Shakespeare's classic comedy, A Midsummer Night's Dream, was a joy to explore with year 8 in English lessons this term. A play about romantic tangles, mischievous fairies and a magical forest, there was a lot to unpick in terms of who was who, and who thought who was who! For as we know, "the course of true love never did run smooth!" So, for homework students had the freedom to create their own interpretations of key moments in the play.

Tasked with selecting a project from a menu of ideas, students really exceeded expectations on deadline day - teachers were seen skipping through corridors delighted by the efforts students had employed in creating their own midsummer magic.

From newspaper front pages documenting the scandalous behaviour of the Athenian lovers, to shoebox sets complete with (fully operational!) lights and music to stage a miniature version of the play, to test tubes and jars of 'Love-in-Idleness' potions designed to meddle with dreams, the homework collected was truly enchanting.

Well done year 8 and enormous thanks to any parents and carers who supported with materials or extra hands!

By Ms N Simpson



Newspaper Front Splash Love-in-Idleness user manuals

Out and About in the Geography department

As we normally do in Geography, we start our summer edition with some trips. This term saw us go on 3 trips across 2 year groups.

Windsor

On Thursday 26th March, year 7 went on a joint History and Geography trip to Windsor. It was a beautiful day, perfect for exploring the sites and having a nice lunch outside the castle! Each group went to 4 different sites, starting at Alexandra Gardens before venturing to Windsor Castle, Eton Bridge and Windsor Royal Shopping centre. The students created field sketches, carried out foot counts, completed non-participant observations and evaluated the environmental quality. This trip fits in with our 'Fantastic Places' topic which sees us look at many unique areas around the world, the trip helps us to answer the question of whether Windsor is a fantastic place, this is what the year 7's had to say:

'It was fun'

'It was a great experience to see the castle'

'The Royal Guards impressed me with how forceful they were'

'It was nice to do something different to sitting in the classroom.'



'The bull statue was impressive'

I liked the trip as we got to look at both History and Geography'

'I enjoyed eating on the long benches around the castle because we could watch everyone walking past'

I enjoyed the experience because we saw the changing of the guards.



Amersham

On Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st April we took our year 10s on the very first rivers trip to the river Chess in Chesham and Rickmansworth. This was done in collaboration with the Field studies centre in Amersham, who were able to provide expert advice on the fieldwork techniques, collection and analysis they would need for their Paper 3 when they will need to discuss the fieldwork carried out. At the centre, students thought about what we are likely to see at the river and how the river would change as we went further downstream, we created our hypothesis and then put our wellies on ready to head to the river. When we got to the river, students were told how to use specialist equipment they had not seen (or heard of) before. The students all got into the river and measured the width, depth and velocity, we then created a field sketch of the area. This was completed at both sites, ready for us to compare the areas when we got back to school. Once back in school, we created graphs, developed a conclusion and evaluated our techniques. This was the first time we have worked with the field studies centre or gone to a river site, and we all agreed it was a great trip that the students learned a lot from, definitely a trip they will remember for their exam.

Here are some of the students' views:

'I enjoyed getting into the river and we found some pottery'

'We enjoyed learning outside the classroom'

'It was a good day but we got very soggy feet'

'An educationally fun day out'

'Really interesting'

'It was amazing'

'Splish Splash'



Oxford



On Thursday 9th July, all the year 10 Geographers had their final Geography trip, heading to Oxford to answer the question 'What evidence is there that Oxford has been re-developed successfully?' The students started their day with a treasure hunt to find different features around Oxford that show character, land use, environmental quality and demographics. Each group then headed to another site to carry out an environmental quality survey,

pedestrian count and a word picture. Students were then able to go and explore 3 more sites and get some lunch before each class joined back together to evaluate our methods and answer our overall question. It was a great day for our last fieldtrip with year 10 and we were very impressed with how well the students conducted themselves.



David Day

In the Geography department we love to use the teachings of Sir David Attenborough to bring our lessons to life and so we took the opportunity to celebrate his 100th birthday on May 8th. The department was kitted out in balloons and banners to celebrate, and all lessons had a Sir David Attenborough aspect to it. For KS3, we looked at the work that Sir David has carried out and what the importance of this is, there were quizzes, fact files and colouring which the students loved to get involved in. It was a really nice day that the students loved getting involved in.



Left: Some of the ingenious ideas that students came up with to mark Sir David Attenboroughs 100th Birthday

Well done year11 and 13



As a geography department we have been so impressed with how year 11 and year 13 have approached their exams. They have put in the extra work, attended revision sessions and accessed the help available to them. They have worked so hard to ensure they are fully prepared for their exams, and we all wish them the best of luck with their exams and all your future plans. We hope to see lots of year 11s in the sixth form and would love to hear how you all get on in the future.

and finally...

There are some very exciting times ahead as Miss Miles becomes Mrs Turner when she gets married in the summer. We are sure the day will be amazing as they celebrate with all their friends and families, and the geography department wishes them endless love and happiness as they start their new journey together. Congratulations.

Articles by the Geography department

GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY COMBINED TRIP REVIEW

In March, our Year 7 students enjoyed a fantastic visit to Windsor, combining history and geography and hands-on learning in a truly engaging way.

The day began with a visit to the magnificent Windsor Castle, where students took part in an informative talk that brought the castle's rich history to life. They also had the exciting opportunity to dress in historical costume and experience using a longbow, giving them a real taste of medieval life.

Students then explored the castle on a guided tour, discovering its fascinating architecture and learning about its importance through the centuries. Some were even lucky enough to witness the Changing of the Guard, which was a real highlight of the day.

In the afternoon, students turned their attention to geography, completing fieldwork activities and applying their classroom learning in a real-world setting. Throughout the visit, they demonstrated excellent enthusiasm, curiosity and behaviour, and were a credit to the school.

The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all and provided a wonderful opportunity to bring learning to life beyond the classroom. Well done, Year 7!

By Mrs C Griffiths

Year 7 Castle Competition



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

Ruby Shaw and Ruby Hopps (7K2), Monty Wilson (7E3), Ivy Pearce-Vogan and Isla Hicks (7E1), Sophia Wessels (7E1), Annabel Hunter (7K2), Beatrice Hindley and Immy Gill (7H1), Georgie Long (7K3), Marley Harbour (7H2), and Jax Jacobs (7H1). Castle Competition Assembly 2026

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

1st Place and overall competition winner – Georgie Long (7K3)

2nd Place – Jax Jacobs (7H1)

3rd Place – Annabel Hunter (7K2)

Director of Learning's Award – Ivy Pearce-Vogan and Isla Hicks (7E1)

Head Teacher's Award – Monty Wilson (7E3)
Castle Competition Assembly 2026

Shortlisted finalists all received Headteachers Awards for their castles. The winners also received a certificate and prize. Well done to all of Year 7 for their amazing castles!

By Mr D Taylor



Above: 1st Place Georgie Long 7K3



Above: 2nd Place Jax Jacobs (7H1)



Above: Director of Learning Award
Ivy Pearce-Vogan and Isla Hicks (7E1)



Above: 3rd Place Annabelle Hunter 7K2



Above: Head Teacher's Award
Monty Wilson 7E3

congratulations
Year 7 for your
amazing efforts!

Year 9 History

At the very end of last term, Year 9 had been given the opportunity to create an artefact. The students had spent the half-term studying the Holocaust. The students have shown responsibility in their lessons when studying such a harrowing subject. This was a creative opportunity that allowed students to produce a homework that they felt best symbolised the Holocaust. Below are some examples of the fantastic artefacts produced. It was a pleasure to mark their thoughtful and creative work.

By Mrs L Evans



Year 12s visit Hampton Court Palace

Our Year 12 A-level History students recently visited Hampton Court Palace to support their study of Tudor Foreign Policy. During the visit, they explored the palace and discovered how it became a centre of power during the reign of Henry VIII and beyond.



A highlight of the day was an engaging workshop led by a Hampton Court Palace expert, Michael, on the Mid-Tudor Crisis. Using the palace as a historical source, students examined its architecture and original features to deepen their understanding of this pivotal period.

Students also explored Wolsey's apartments, viewed paintings from the Royal Collection, including The Field of Cloth of Gold and The Battle of the Spurs, examined Tudor artefacts, and learned about the famous astronomical clock in Clock Court.

The day ended with a visit to Hampton Court's historic kitchens, where thankfully the fireplaces that are usually lit were being restored. Although, on such a hot day we would have truly understood at the very least the unbearable temperature that the scullions and turnbroaches worked in.

By Mrs S Bullock
Head of Department



Junior Maths Challenge

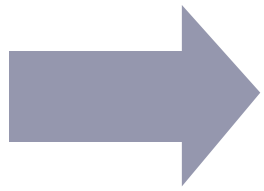
This year the Junior Maths Challenge took place on Wednesday 29th April.

We had over 80 students voluntarily participate in the event.

The top scoring 50% of students receive a Bronze, Silver or Gold certificate.

The results are below, the maximum score is 135.

- 75+ Gold Top 7% of participants
- 59+ Silver
- 47+ Bronze



Name	Award
Toby Kerr	Gold
Hazel Nava	Silver
Leo Saary	Silver
Logan Seed	Silver
Iago Wilcocks	Silver
Joseph Bryan	Silver
Aiden Eustace	Silver
Alessandra Gonzalez	Silver
Tilly Milner	Silver
Mariia Poluianko	Silver

Name	Award
Aaminah Alhagri	Bronze
Elisa Claparede Ramos	Bronze
William Clasby	Bronze
Emily Cleere	Bronze
Marley Harbour	Bronze
Florence Lee	Bronze
Kian Liggins	Bronze
Mio Musella	Bronze
Grace Everitt	Bronze
Jaxon Jones	Bronze
Sameer Riaz	Bronze

Congratulations to all the students mentioned here.

GREAT MARLOW SCHOOL SUMMER CONCERT

On Wednesday 1 July, the Sixth Form Centre played host to Great Marlow School's annual Summer Concert, showcasing the outstanding musical talent of students across the school.

The audience enjoyed a varied programme featuring the Junior Choir, Show Choir, Folk Group, Classical Group, Jazz Band and Wind Band, alongside a range of soloists and small ensembles performing everything from classical works and musical theatre to contemporary pop, rock and original compositions. Highlights included music by Adele, Oasis, Elton John, Radiohead, ABBA and a rousing Les Misérables medley, demonstrating the breadth and quality of music-making at GMS.

The evening was a wonderful celebration of creativity, collaboration and performance, with students performing confidently both individually and as part of ensembles. Thank you to everyone who took part, as well as to Seb Bullock and Cameron Hankey for their support with sound, Tara Chapman for her work with the Show Choir, and Andrew Wright for supporting the Rock and Pop Bands. We are also grateful to all the families and friends who attended and helped make the concert such a memorable occasion.

By Mrs A Green - Head of Music





BMT SUMMER FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE

On Sunday 5 July, our talented GMS musicians took to the stage at the Buckinghamshire Music Trust (BMT) Summer Festival, held at the beautiful Chiltern Open Air Museum.

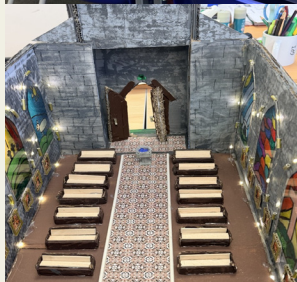
Performing to an appreciative audience, our students showcased their musical skills with confidence and enthusiasm, representing the school with pride. Despite the heat, they rose to the occasion and delivered an enjoyable performance that reflected their hard work and commitment throughout the year.

The festival provided a wonderful opportunity for students to perform in an orchestra alongside other young musicians from across Buckinghamshire, celebrating a shared love of music in a fantastic community atmosphere.

A huge thank you goes to the staff, families and supporters who helped make the day such a success, and congratulations to all of our performers for their excellent contribution to this memorable event.

KS3 STUDENTS ENTHUSE ABOUT THEIR SPIRITED ARTS PROJECT

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

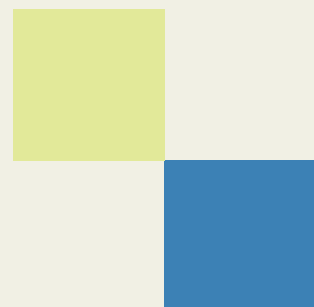


Students have worked in small groups since returning from Easter to plan and implement their own learning, conducting research into relevant religious beliefs and scriptural evidence. They have a largely free choice over what kind of creative, artistic work we want to produce. In 2026, we have had short films, poems, paintings, photography and sculptures (see below). Each group then needs to produce a piece of reflective writing to analyse and evaluate their project, considering questions such as 'My inspiration came from...' and 'I have discovered...'. In each of the nine year 8 classes, a gold, silver and bronze certificate will be awarded for the best entries, looking at both their artwork and subsequent write-up. From these 27 winning entries, the year 8 teaching team (Mr Pightling, Mrs Todd and Mr Yasin) will choose the ten overall best entries that we can send off to the national competition.

It is clear the students value this project. John in (8H3) said "Spirited Arts is a fun way to learn." Tilly in 8E2, also remarked that "There are a lot of ways to interpret a topic, people had different views on a certain theme which makes it fun and interesting to see everyone's perspective".

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By Mr G Pightling - Head of Department





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

Following Mrs Fisher's retirement at Easter we have had a very busy term in the library !

Firstly, we introduced our new '6th Form Reading Ambassador' initiative with 12 of our Year 12 students meeting up with their 'buddy' Key Stage 3 students to read once a week in form time. We then ran an Empathy Storyboard competition with lots of fantastic entries, huge well done to Bea Baxter, Year 7 and Amelia Carrick, Year 8 – our overall winners.

We ran a Sponsored Readathon raising over £300 for the Read for Good charity and hosted a free community book swap event in Marlow at the end of June.

In their library lessons Year 7 have been working on some fabulous Slam Poetry and Year 8 have been learning all about Comprehension in texts culminating in them writing their own short extract and quizzing their classmates about it !

We have now said goodbye to our Year 8 classes and wish them all the best for Year 9 !

Our new Year 7's have kindly been gifted their Summer Reading book 'The Secret of the Snakestone' from FOGMS to start reading during their transition day and over the Summer holidays – we look forward to meeting you all for your library lessons in September.

During our whole school 'Drop Everything and Read' sessions this term, we have had a 'First Chapter Friday' and book readings from Empathy stories.

In our Staff, Parents & Carers Book Club we have read some fantastic novels including Yesteryear and The Wedding People and have also tried out the European trend of 'Silent Book Club'. Do keep an eye on the school calendar for dates – all are welcome.

Many thanks to all of our School Librarians who have worked very hard in their break times supporting Mrs BHA to keep the library shelves stocked up and the library nice and clean and tidy.

Would like to kindly ask that any overdue library books still at home with students are returned before the end of the term please.

Wishing everyone a relaxing Summer break !

By Mrs Ben Haj Ali
Library Manager / Teacher & School Reading Lead

CHECKMATE AT PARLIAMENT!

Year 8 Student Shines at the Houses of Parliament. Everyone at Great Marlow School is incredibly proud of Haylee Jones in Year 8, who recently had the unique opportunity to play competitive chess at the Houses of Parliament.

Haylee was selected to take part in a friendly

match held inside the Palace of Westminster, where she competed against Baroness Miller from the House of Lords. Displaying excellent skill, concentration and determination, Haylee won both of her games, achieving an outstanding 2-0 result.

Following the match, the players enjoyed a private tour of Parliament, giving Haylee the chance to experience one of Britain's most

important historic buildings and to watch part of a live parliamentary debate. It was an unforgettable educational experience as well as a sporting achievement.

Reflecting on the day, Haylee was particularly excited to have the opportunity to play chess in such an iconic setting. She also hopes her success encourages more girls to get involved in chess, helping to challenge the idea that it is mainly a game for boys.

Haylee's achievement is a wonderful example of the talent, commitment and ambition shown by our students. Representing her team in such a prestigious venue and performing so successfully is something she should be extremely proud of.

Congratulations, Haylee, on this fantastic achievement. We look forward to celebrating many more of your successes in the future.

ANOTHER OUTSTANDING YEAR FOR GREAT MARLOW CHESS CLUB



Great Marlow School Chess Club has enjoyed another fantastic year, with students taking part in exciting competitions, representing the school with pride and making the most of some incredible opportunities.

A real highlight of the year was a simultaneous exhibition against Grandmaster Matthew Wadsworth. Fifteen Great Marlow students joined students from Sir William Borlase's Grammar School to take on the Grandmaster, who played all 30 boards at once.

Playing a Grandmaster is an opportunity that very few young chess players ever experience. The event was a fantastic experience and one that our students will remember for many years.

Our Years 7 and 8 students also took part in the Junior Chess Challenge, organised by the UK Chess Challenge. For many, this was their first competitive tournament, giving them the chance to experience tournament chess and play against students from a variety of schools. They represented Great Marlow brilliantly, gained valuable experience and, most importantly, had a great deal of fun. It was wonderful to see so many students embracing the challenge and growing in confidence throughout the day.



Meanwhile, our Years 9 to 11 team made history by competing in the National Schools Chess Challenge for the first time. Facing strong opposition from across the South East, the team produced some excellent performances, recording victories over Wycombe Abbey, St Michael's and Holyport. It was an impressive debut and a sign of the continued progress of chess at Great Marlow.

Throughout the year, we have also continued our friendly fixtures with Sir William Borlase's Grammar School. These matches have brought together students from a range of year groups, helping players develop their skills while building friendships through a shared love of chess.

Chess Club continues to go from strength to strength, with more students joining each year. We are always delighted to welcome new members, whether they are experienced players or complete beginners, and we are excited to see what next year brings.

From September Chess Club will meet every Tuesday from 3.00–4.00pm in T1. New members from all year groups are always welcome.

By Mrs D Simon



Year 7 House Dance Competition



Our fantastic Hawks House Captains (Grace Everitt, Diya Thapar and Ben Richter) have worked fantastically together to plan and deliver our first Year 7 Dance Competition in the Redgrave Dance Studio on Thursday 9th July. We had five brilliant entries,

with solo and group performances, modern dance and even tap!

The event would not have been so successful without the commitment and organisation of Miss Whelan, as well as Hana Turner (10H2) who will herself be representing England in Dance soon, leading the judging panel.

The winners were: The Originals (1st), Uliana (2nd) and Immy Bater (3rd). Many congratulations! There was a very supportive crowd assembled who supported all the entrants. It was a wonderful, new event in our House Competition calendar.

By Mr G Pightling



A FINAL PUSH FROM ALL THREE HOUSES TO WIN THE REWARDS DAY

As the Summer term comes to a close, Mr Bradley, Mr Pightling and Mr Yasin have been reflecting on their House achievements throughout the academic year.

The House system has delivered over 14 fantastic competitions throughout the year from rowing to reading and from the Christmas quiz to castles. Student participation and competitive spirit have been high all year culminating with the ever-successful sports day ending the House events this year.

And the winners are:

Hawks	178,338	1
Kites	178,255	2
Eagles	177,287	3

A huge, thank you to our Head of Houses and their House Captains for all their tireless efforts running competitions and engaging students and staff alike.

The House Winner for 2026 is Hawks. In total the students in Hawks House have accrued a fantastic total of 178,338 points. This is an accumulation of SIMs achievement points and participation in House competitions throughout the year. We congratulate them all and wish them an enjoyable House Reward Day, taking place on Monday 13th July.

By Miss F Tuddenham



A FUN REWARD DAY FOR WINNING HOUSE

GMS are delighted to announce the winners of the House Reward: Hawks

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

On Monday 13th July, Hawks from all year groups, will enjoy a free funtime period on the field and an ice cream. Staff congratulate GMS students in all three Houses on their hard work and efforts this academic year.

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

Thanks also go to the dedicated House Leaders and Miss Tuddenham

Year 7 are fast approaching the end of their first year at GMS, and it is clear to see that they have thrived in the secondary school environment. We continue to be incredibly proud of our students' resilience and adaptability as they develop into respectful, resourceful learners with excellent behaviour and positive attitudes to learning.

Y7 PROGRESS REPORTS

The third set of progress reports was published in June and included both an Attitude to Learning grade and a Progress Band. We were once again delighted that over 200 students achieved a Good or Excellent Attitude to Learning across all subjects. This reflects not only the successful transition from primary school but also the consistent reinforcement of our high expectations by staff. Student success continues to be recognised through achievement points and positive contact home, ensuring that effort, progress and success are regularly celebrated. We are extremely proud of everything our Year 7 students have achieved this year.

CURRICULUM CHANGES

Much of this term's work has focused on the curriculum changes to our form groups. The Directors of Learning and Student Support Officers have worked closely together to design the new eight-form structure, ensuring that the new form groups are broad and balanced, taking into account academic ability, SEND, friendships, behaviour, attitudes to learning and wellbeing. Considerable time and care have gone into planning these changes, with students' wellbeing at the heart of every decision. We are all excited to welcome our new Falcons House and the opportunities it will bring.

PASTORAL SUPPORT

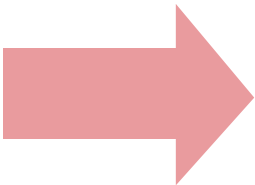
Throughout the year, the Year 7 team of form tutors, Student Support Officer and Director of Learning have worked closely together to monitor and support students' achievement, behaviour and wellbeing. Regular analysis of progress reports, achievement points and behaviour records has enabled us to celebrate success through praise and rewards while also providing timely support and, where appropriate, sanctions and intervention plans to help students continue to develop. GMS is proud to have such a respectful, resilient and hardworking Year 7 cohort.

Our Year 7 students have flourished during their first year at GMS, and it has been a pleasure to lead the Year 7 team. I look forward to welcoming them back in September as Year 8 students. Have a wonderful and well-deserved summer break.

By Miss F Tuddenham - Director of Learning Year 7



Well done and congratulations to our Year 7s with the most achievement points!



E1	H3
AWAIS ALI 254	AVA BISGROVE 326
IMI GILL 216	AMIO MUSELLA 464
E2	K1
AMY LEE CHANDLER 317	EMILY CLEERE 302
EVIE NICHOLS 328	ZOYA AFZAAL 284
E3	K2
HARRY A-SURMELI 529	THEA ADAMS 344
ALFIE WESTON 457	LEYLA McNEIL 347
H1	K3
EMILY ASPLAND 318	GIANNI VALLETTA 374
ELIZA MILES-GRIFFITHS 315	GEORGIE LONG 329
H2	
PIPPA BRAZIER 491	
OLIVIA TSOLAKI 350	

I cannot quite believe that we have reached the end of another academic year. The next time I write a Voice article, we will already be looking ahead to GCSE options!

Our Year 8 cohort has excelled this year, building confidently on the strong foundations established in Year 7. The increase in homework and the greater challenge within lessons may have come as a surprise to some, but students have embraced every opportunity to develop a wide range of skills and continue making excellent progress.

This final term has particularly tested their resilience, and I am incredibly grateful for the positive, "can do" attitude shown during the transition to their new form groups. Change is not always easy, but the maturity and adaptability demonstrated by the cohort have been outstanding. Every decision has been made with students' best interests at heart, and I am excited to see them continue to flourish as they move into Year 9.

PROGRESS REPORTS

The latest set of Reviews is a testament to the hard work and progress students have made this term. They should be extremely proud of their achievements. I know that many productive and supportive conversations took place during our recent Parents' Evening, made even more memorable by the challenge of hosting it during a Red Heat Warning!

LONGRIDGE TRIP

Our visit to Longridge in April, spread across three days, was undoubtedly one of the highlights of my year. Students worked alongside others within their House groups and embraced a range of exciting activities, including archery, axe throwing, climbing, crate stacking, and dragon boating. It was wonderful to see the cohort in a different environment, where their exceptional behaviour, teamwork, encouragement, and willingness to challenge themselves were evident throughout.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Year 8 students have continued to represent the school with pride across a wide range of extracurricular and enrichment activities. Congratulations to everyone involved in sports teams, rowing, Eco Club, and the many musical events this term. A particular congratulations goes to those who represented the school at the District Athletics Championships. Special recognition goes to Olivia R, Esme C, Fareed A, Duncan W, Oscar E, Ria J, Ava C, and Sky B, all of whom achieved a top-three finish in their events. You should all be immensely proud of your accomplishments.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support with uniform, equipment, punctuality, and your child's academic progress. Your support throughout the recent form group changes has also been greatly appreciated.

I hope you all enjoy a well-earned and restful summer break, with perhaps some slightly cooler temperatures! I look forward to welcoming everyone back in September as they begin the exciting journey of Year 9.

By Mrs C Roberts - Director of Learning Year 8



The Summer Term has been a highly productive one for our Year 9 cohort as students have continued to prepare themselves for the transition into Key Stage 4 in September. Throughout the term, pupils have demonstrated increasing maturity, resilience and independence, while developing the transferable skills that will support them in their GCSE studies and beyond.

YEAR 9 EXTRA-CURRICULAR

A particular strength of the year group has been their ongoing commitment to the rich extracurricular opportunities on offer. Students have represented the school with distinction in sport, musical performances and other extracurricular opportunities. Notably, 76 students have successfully completed the expedition section of the Bronze DofE. The entire cohort are on course for a projected September finish, where they will be awarded in a special DofE assembly. Thank you to Mr Goodright and the DofE team for facilitating this fantastic opportunity.

PROGRESS REPORTS

The most recent Summer Term progress reports made for very positive reading!

- 66 students achieved 10 or more excellent Attitude to Learning grades.
- An outstanding 33 students achieved 13 or more excellent Attitude to Learning grades.
- These achievements reflect the hard work, commitment and positive approach shown by so many members of Year 9.

As Director of Learning, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our dedicated tutor team and to our exceptional Student Support Officer, Miss Blanco-Rand, for their unwavering care, guidance and discretionary efforts in supporting our students throughout the year, especially during the GCSE Options process. Their contribution has been invaluable.

Now for some special Year 9 mentions!

Awesome in Athletics

The Year 9 teams competed in their District Championship competitions earlier in the year and achieved the following places:

- Y9 girls – 1st
- Y9 boys - 2nd

Well done to the following students in Year 9 for their fantastic achievements in the following events:

- Riley Yost 9K1 (1st in 100m and 200m!)
- Bella Thompson-Olea 9K2 (1st in 100m, 1st in 200m and 1st in long jump!)
- Elijah Fraser 9E2 (1st in 300m and 1st in triple jump!)
- Holly Peach 9E3 (2nd in 300m)
- Violet Brazier 9K1 (3rd in 300m and 2nd in high jump!)
- Miles Berry 9K1 (3rd in 800m)
- Holly Knott 9K1 (1st in 800m and 1st in high jump!)
- Isabella Rawlings 9E1 (3rd in 1500m)
- Freddie Plummer 9K3 (1st in long jump and 3rd in triple jump!)
- Mya Wakley 9K1 (1st in discus)
- Finn Andrews 9E2 (3rd in javelin)

Thank you to the PE Department for your fantastic provision and unwavering support of our Year 9 students. Your enthusiasm and commitment have made a lasting, positive difference. Roll on KS4!

Terrific in Tutor Time

A note from Mrs Green and Miss Moyse, tutors to 9K1. Shout out to...

"The wonderful 9K1, many of whom did their DofE expedition weekends but still came in with sore feet and tired faces but on time and ready for the day! We are proud of their consistently positive and kind behaviour towards one another.

A special mention to Lucas Monks, for his resilience over the course of the Summer Term. We are so proud of you!"

Enthusiastic in English

Miss Simpson would like to share the following about her two English teaching groups, 9E2 English and 9H3 English.

"I am exceptionally proud of my students, many of whom were terrified of delivering their Dream Destination speeches but stood up and did it anyway. Despite the nerves, everybody demonstrated responsibility and resilience. I have high hopes for the Year 11 spoken NEAs!

Shout out to Miss Blanco-Rand for her support with this and congratulations on her new-found expertise on travel destinations around the globe, thanks to year 9 testing their speeches with her!"

Superb in Science

Mrs Beswick would like to shout out to the following students in Hawks. She has been really impressed with their *"focus, motivation and progress in Science"*. Well done to...

- 9H1: Emmie Turner, Isabella Hale, Jade Cooper, James Russell, Keira Herbert, Noemka Balogova, Ollie Barker, Quinton Campbell-Karn, Ryan Smith, Zoraiz Maqsood, Isabella Hale, Ethan Witney.
- 9H2: Andrew Somers, Austen Dam, D'andre Rodgers, Jacob Buller, Laura Guillou, Poppy Teasdill, Diya Thapar.
- 9H3: Charlie Watson, Charlie Pearce-Vogan, Akshay Kishore, Erin Shale, Grace Edkins, Freya Evans, Harley Young, Izabelle Partridge, Jack Caseberry, Luca Bogue, Madison Moore, Mikhail Yasin, Milo Daniels, Richie Morris, Sam Feeney, Suzie Clinkaberry

Delightful in DT:

Mrs Lewis would like to shout out to the following students and their amazing achievements in Resistant Materials:

- For excellent assessment work in their design matrix and designer research: Oran O'Connor 9K3, Luisa Dvorani 9K2, Bea Martin 9K3 and Levi Marcinkute 9K3:
- For excellent assessment design work: Rosie Smith 9K3
- For excellent designer research: Nicol Surdariu 9K3
- Excellent assessment work in their design matrix and designer research: Maddie Monaghan 9E3, Bethany Watson 9E2, Darren McDonagh 9E2 and Matilda Iorio 9E2
- For excellent assessment work in their design matrix: Ebin Feldman 9E3, Tyler Rodbourne 9E2, Jacob Clasby 9E1 and Matthew Cooper 9E3

Marvellous in Maths

A shout out to 9E3 Maths from Head of Maths, Mrs Guy for *"their excellent efforts in the follow up work to maths assessment 3. Well done!"*

Readiness in RS

Mrs Todd remarks: *"9K1 are a delight. They have achieved some amazing assessment results for their last assessment and have great contributions as always."*

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

This year has gone SO quickly and we feel very proud of how far Year 10 have come (and can't believe how much they have grown and matured). It seems a very short time ago, that they were choosing their options.

YEAR 10 TEAM

Year 10 began with new teachers, new subjects for many and students were mixed with students they did not know for their option subjects. Back in September, they had never had a double lesson, were not sure how to revise and GCSE exams felt very distant.

This year, they have completed 3 days of work experience. The feedback was so positive, I was able to devote an entire assembly to it.



We have allocated Prefects, many of whom have started their roles: supporting in younger form groups, helping with displays, helping in PE clubs and the Retreat, supporting with Open Morning and tours, helping Year 8s during Transition Day. I have lots more plans to use them in September! We were slowed down a little by the mocks.

The mocks were long and of course we had some unscheduled school closures...However, the behaviour and conduct during the mock exam period was exemplary. I know Year 10 are all tired and ready for a break now.

40 of our Year 10s were able to take part in a healthy pizza making activity this week, run by Innovate (our school canteen) as a treat for their hard work.



Mrs Flannery and I are looking at Prom venues next week; we know that Year 11 will FLY by!

Remember: it is not complicated to do well at GCSE, success is as simple as **WHAR**

Work Hard

Attend

Revise

Be safe and we will see you in September when the countdown begins!

Wishing you a restful and relaxing summer break

By Mrs Pendelbury and Mrs Flannery - Director of Learning Y10

Goodbye and Good luck to our Year 11 Leavers



Year 11 have now completed all GCSE and external examinations, bringing to a close an intense and demanding period in their school journey. Their Leavers' Day on Friday 1st May was a fitting and memorable occasion, marking the end of formal lessons before students moved onto study leave from 8th May. Since then, they have spent May and June navigating the challenges of the exam season with resilience, maturity and determination.

Year 11 News

Throughout this final term, the year group have continued to demonstrate the qualities that have defined them during their time at GMS. Their resilience has been particularly impressive, but the lasting impression they leave is one of togetherness. They have supported one another, encouraged each other and shown a real sense of unity during what can be a stressful and emotional time. This spirit has been evident not only in the way they approached their examinations, but also in the way they have celebrated and reflected on their five-year journey together.

This sense of community culminated in a wonderful Year 11 Prom, which provided students and staff with the opportunity to celebrate the end of this important chapter. It was a warm, positive and memorable evening, and it was especially touching that every Year 11 tutor attended. This reflected the strength of the relationships built across the year group and gave staff the chance to say a proper farewell to students who have contributed so much to the life of the school.

Our focus now turns to supporting students with their next steps. Many will return to GMS Sixth Form, while others have been supported in pursuing places at other sixth forms, colleges, apprenticeships or alternative training routes. Whatever pathway they choose, we are proud of the young people they have become and grateful for the contribution they have made to the school community.

As they leave Year 11, they do so with our very best wishes. They have shown compassion, resilience and ambition, and I am confident that they will carry these qualities with them into the next stage of their education and beyond.

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

By Mr S Taylor - Director of Learning Year 11



The Sixth Form team are delighted to report on a successful summer team. It has involved not only the focus and diligence of exams but also the much-needed fun and relaxation of the prom. GMS Sixth Form students, who total 233, have conducted themselves admirably on all occasions this summer term and we congratulate all of them.

YEAR 13 LEAVERS' ASSEMBLY

On Friday 1st May, the Year 13 students joined the Sixth Form Team for a leavers breakfast. This was an opportunity for us to congratulate the students on their preparation for exams and to celebrate their achievements over the last two years in Sixth Form. They were treated to a breakfast whilst Mr Hollyman gave a final goodbye speech. It was a fitting goodbye to the cohort. The students then completed their A Level and BTEC exams. The Year 13 cohort of 108 students have been a credit to the school. This has been highlighted through their conduct in their A Level and BTEC examinations from May to June but also through their resilience with their education. To formally end the year, on Friday 19th June, at Hazlemere Golf Club, over 80 Year 13 students attended their prom. The cohort again were a credit to the school and had a fantastic evening with many teaching staff present. This was a hugely successful night, and we would like to congratulate the committed Sixth Form Prefect Prom Committee team including Elise Whyte, Rudi Chapman, Lottie Shaw, William Clayton, Louis Cade, Isabelle Beger, Chloe Shepard Coco Killington and Matthew Van Romburgh, and all who worked tirelessly to ensure that this final night would be special.

CELEBRATIONS OF SUCCESS AWARDS

We are also delighted to announce our Lance Slater award, formerly the Best Potential Citizen award. Each year, member so the Marlow Rotary Club kindly come into school to interview students. This award recognises students who have gone that extra mile and who clearly have a very bright future. Congratulations to Lewis Balbini and Zoe Nicholls for achieving this accolade of the Lance Slater Award for 2026.

YEAR 12

On the 22nd April, Year 12 went on a University Fair trip at Brunel University to look at various universities and post-18 options, as part of their higher education enrichment program. Some universities that were there included, University of Nottingham, University of Southampton, Oxford Brookes University and University of Reading. There were also stands from apprenticeships and the armed forces. It was a great opportunity for the cohort to focus on their next steps post GMS as it allowed them to experience first-hand, the feeling of a university campus and to have seminars in lecture theatres on subjects such as personal statements and higher and degree apprenticeships.

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

YEAR 12 WORK EXPERIENCE

In preparation for Next Steps after GMS, year 12 have just spent a week completing work experience. Students have been able to delve into completely different working environments including working in banking in Central London, Leicestershire Police, Saatchi Gallery, Wycombe Air Park, David Lloyd Gym, Wexham Park hospital, Thomas International in Marlow, Kidd Rapinet in High Wycombe,





Sky Sports in Greater London and Solicitor's Firm in London. We have been delighted by the employers' positive feedback on our GMS students as evidenced by just some of the many comments we have had.

"Joel approached every day with an excellent attitude and a genuine willingness to listen, learn and ask questions. He was punctual, well presented, and consistently eager to get involved with the staff, students and tasks he encountered throughout the placement. He applied himself to every task with enthusiasm, worked efficiently, and produced work of a consistently high standard. Outside of the office environment, he also made a real effort to meet and socialise with colleagues, demonstrating confidence, professionalism and a natural ability to build relationships."

"It's been great having Cassy here and helping to give her insight into how a marketing role can operate in the working world. It's lovely to see someone so confident in their skillset and knowledge yet not be afraid to ask questions if they don't know of something and want to know more. She has arrived on time each day thus far, and her attitude has been fantastic. She is very positive, very inquisitive, and has a lot of enthusiasm which is great to see. I have introduced her to the whole team here at Decorect and she has gotten on very well with everyone. She also has an excellent eye for detail which is so important in this type of role. She makes a great first impression, is very friendly yet professional, and has been a great team player"

"It has been an absolute pleasure to have Jake working with us at West Leicester. He arrived with an excellent attitude and has fully embraced the experience. During the first half of the week he has worked with the Response Team as well as two different West Leicester Beat Teams. All teams have provided very positive feedback highlighting his fantastic attitude and eagerness to learn. He has observed policing situations with maturity and respect throughout."

'Olivia not only completed every task to a high standard but consistently went above and beyond what was asked of her. It was clear that she took pride in producing work of a good quality rather than simply finishing the task. She demonstrated maturity beyond her years and quickly gained my confidence, to the point where I was happy for her to take ownership of parts of the project. I have no hesitation in recommending Olivia for future work experience or employment opportunities. She has been an excellent ambassador for her school, and I am confident she has a very bright future ahead of her.'

The students can then use this experience to develop new skills in and out of school. To support this further,

Year 12 upon their return to school completed a Next Steps Day on Monday 6th July. This event was organised by Mr Hollyman, Miss Jones and our Careers Lead, Mrs Brunt to enable our students to access information about universities, apprenticeships, and the world of work. The day gave students up-to-date information about UCAS and opportunities for our cohort to continue to utilise Unifrog, and the students were really encouraged to spend the summer break investigating and reviewing their possible next steps. Please do review the next steps booklet here for further help.

Year 12 have also had the opportunity to put themselves forward for to be a part of the Head Prefect team. We welcomed applications from the students to help with the development and running of the Sixth Form. We would like to congratulate everyone who put themselves forward. The Sixth Form Team were blown away by all professionalism of all the applicants and very much look forward to working with the senior prefect team next year. We are pleased to announce ...

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

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

Mr Hollyman, Miss Jones, Mrs Evans and Mrs Paul

The Sixth Form Team



On Friday 10th July the PE department hosted their annual sports award evening. With over 200 awards to give out, it was set to be a fantastic evening celebrating many sporting successes throughout the last year.

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

Year 7 Outstanding Commitment to GMS Sport:
Summer Parrett & Ollie Goodacre

Year 8 Outstanding Commitment to GMS Sport:
Amy Apletree & Fareed Asani

KS3 Achiever: Isabella Rawlings & Miles Berry

KS3 Sports Leader: Lexi Flint

KS4 Sports Leader: Grace Puddephatt

Year 11 Sport Education Most Employable: Alice Farrow & Thomas Hawksworth

Team of the Year: Year 8 Boys Athletics Team Sports Personality of the Year Nominees: Josie Bevins, Ella Laithwaite, Ava Harbinson, Isla Sutherland, Josh Urie, Mitch Whyte & Jack Morgan

Sports Personality of the Year Winner: Alexandra McGuinness & Aiden Allen

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

By Miss G Muttitt



Aiden Allen



Alexandra McGuinness



Ava Harbinson



Ella Laithwaite



Isla Sutherland



Josie Bevins



Jack Morgan



Josh Urie



Mitch Whyte

Congratulations to all our nominees for Sports personality of the Year 2026. It was a difficult decision with so many talented sports people to choose from, but this year it went to Alexandra McGuinness & Aiden Allen.

Senior Sports awards Evening

On Saturday, 9th May, we proudly hosted our first-ever Sixth Form Sports Awards Evening, celebrating a fantastic year of sporting success in netball, hockey and rugby.

Held at Marlow Rugby Club, the evening provided a wonderful opportunity for students, staff and guests to come together to reflect on the achievements of our Sixth Form sports teams. The PE Department succeeded in transforming and decorating the venue superbly, creating a welcoming atmosphere for the celebration.

Guests were greeted with a display of Year 7 school photographs, sparking plenty of conversation and giving students the chance to reminisce and socialise on a lovely summer evening. The food was also a highlight, with delicious pizzas freshly prepared in the pizza oven. In fact, the pizzas proved to be much larger than Mr Goodright had anticipated, meaning there were plenty left over for students to take home!

Before the award presentations began, guests enjoyed a fantastic video montage showcasing highlights from the year. The video captured memorable moments from across the netball, hockey and rugby seasons and provided a fitting reminder of the dedication, teamwork and success demonstrated by our Sixth Form athletes throughout the year.

The awards' ceremony recognised both individual and team achievements. Captains from each sports team delivered speeches reflecting on the season, before Player of the Year and Players' Player awards were presented for each sport.

Special recognition was also given through the Sports Leaders Awards, celebrating students who have excelled on the Level 3 Sports Leaders Course and demonstrated outstanding commitment to the school's extra-curricular programme.

The prestigious Team of the Year Award was presented to the netball team in recognition of their exceptional run in the Sisters in Sport Cup competition and the dedication they showed throughout the season.

The evening was a tremendous success and a fitting celebration of the hard work, commitment and achievements of our student athletes. All those who attended were a credit to themselves and the school, making the event a memorable occasion that we hope will become a valued annual tradition.

Hockey:

- **Players of the Year: Chloe Lee & Josh Bedford**
- **Players' Player: Evie Matthews & Matt Van Romburgh**

Netball:

- **Player of the Year: Sienna Morgan**
- **Players' Player: Erin Anstiss**

Rugby:

- **Player of the Year: Theo Seymour**
- **Players' Player: Leo Shale**

Sports Leaders of the Year: Lucy Apletree & Ben Ritcher

Senior Sports Personality of the Year: Will Clayton

Team of the Year: Netball



The 2026 athletics season has seen a huge number of athletes take to the track and field, fuelled by motivation to continue their domination of athletics in the district.

Athletics 2024 Round -Up

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

ESAA TRACK AND FIELD CUP

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

Junior girls - 261 points

The Junior girls surpassed expectations this year by achieving the seventh-highest points total in Buckinghamshire, finishing ahead of schools such as Stowe, Wycombe High, Aylesbury High, and Sir Henry Floyd. The winners of each Round 1 competition automatically qualify for the regional final. Unfortunately, despite achieving a points total that would have seen them finish first in the North Buckinghamshire competition, the girls did not qualify for the regional finals because they competed in the South Buckinghamshire competition. Perhaps a tactical adjustment to our entry next year could improve our chances!

Inter girls - 309 points

The Inter Girls also enjoyed a successful outing, achieving their target of 300 points. The team finished sixth in Buckinghamshire out of 20 schools. As with the Junior Girls, the Inter Girls achieved a points total that would have seen them crowned North Buckinghamshire champions and, in turn, qualify for

the Regional Finals. The future is bright for this group, with many of the team's strongest athletes still eligible to compete in this age group next year. We are hopeful that they could become the first GMS Inter Girls team to qualify for the Regional Final.

Junior boys - 422 points

The Junior Boys finished with the second-highest points total in Buckinghamshire, once again being pipped to top spot by local rivals John Hampden Grammar School. For the first time, a GMS team qualified for a Regional 'A' Final in consecutive years, where they finished in fourth place. On their way to finishing fourth in the Midlands, the boys were just 20 points shy of the highest-ever points total achieved by a GMS Junior Boys team. Having researched the results from other Regional 'A' Finals, it is also worth recognising that this performance ranked our Junior Boys team 28th nationally, in a competition where approximately 450 schools enter.

DISTRICT ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

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

The GMS teams took to their respective District Championships, confident and determined to continue their reputation as one of the most dominant schools in the district. The teams did just that, by placing in the top two for every single team except two, who both finished their respective competitions in 3rd place. Congratulations to our Year 9 girls' team, who won their District Championships.

Overall, our combined girls' points



total saw them crowned District Champions for the fifth consecutive year, once again finishing ahead of schools such as Wycombe Abbey, Pipers Corner, Borlase, and Wycombe High. Their final total of 508 points put them a remarkable 68 points clear of second-placed Wycombe High. The girls also outscored Borlase by an incredible 346 points. In fact, the Year 9 girls alone achieved a higher points total than all of the Borlase girls' teams combined.

The boys' team finished in third place, behind John Hampden and RGS, with a total of 535 points. Just as the girls did, our boys' teams comfortably outscored Borlase, finishing 378 points ahead. What's more, both the Year 8 and Year 9 teams individually surpassed Borlase's overall points total.

Accumulatively, with all boys' and girls' results combined, GMS finished as the 1st placed co-ed school in the district with 1043 points. It turns out, that our only real co-ed competitors are ourselves, with no local mixed boys' and girls' schools offering any real competition in recent years. The second placed co-ed school, High Crest, were 701 points behind the Great Marlow teams, and third placed Borlase, a crushing 724 points to the deficit.

Championship results:

Year 7 Boys – 100 points (2nd place)

Year 7 Girls – 101 points (2nd place)

Year 8 Boys – 161 points (2nd place)

Year 8 Girls – 112 points (2nd place)

Year 9 Boys – 160 points (2nd place)

Year 9 Girls - 165 points (1st place)

Year 10 Boys – 114 points (3rd place)

Year 10 Girls – 130 points (3rd place)

The following students achieved top 3 finishes in the District Championships:

75m Hurdles:

Olivia Radzakowska (1st)

100m:

Duncan Williams (1st)

Fareed Asani (3rd)

Riley Yost (1st)

Olive Hyde (2nd)

Bella Thompson-Olea (1st)

200m:

Will Clasby (2nd)

Duncan Williams (1st)

Faree Asani (3rd)

Riley Yost (1st)

Bella Roberts (3rd)

Bella Thompson-Olea (1st)

300m:

Elijah Frazer (1st)

Esme Caldwell (2nd)

Holly Peach (2nd)

Violet Brazier (3rd)

800m:

Miles Berry (3rd)

Holly Knott (1st)

Isla Sutherland (1st)

1500m:

Will Clasby (1st)

Isabella Rawlings (3rd)

Liv Egginton (2nd)

High Jump:

Linus Merchant (3rd)

George Penlington (1st)

Holly Knott (1st)

Violet Brazier (2nd)

Long Jump:

Duncan Williams (1st)

Freddie Plummer (1st)

Olive Hyde (3rd)

Olivia Radzakowska (3rd)

Bella Thompson-Olea (1st)

Triple Jump:

Teddy Bayliss (1st)

Oscar Epstein (2nd)

Elijah Fraser (1st)

Freddie Plummer (3rd)

Alexandra McGuinness (2nd)

Shot Putt:

Will Clarke (3rd)

Ria Joseph (3rd)

Liv Egginton (3rd)

Discuss:

Luke Clarke (1st)

Harry Hazard (3rd)

Mitch Whyte (3rd)

Summer Parrett (2nd)

Esme Caldwell (2nd)

Ava Cruise (3rd)

Mya Wakley (1st)

Javelin:

Fareed Asani (2nd)

Fin Andrews (3rd)

Jack Morgan (1st)

Sky Black (2nd)

DISTRICT ATHLETICS LEAGUE

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

Year 7 Boys (4th place)

Year 7 Girls (1st place)

Year 8 Boys (1st place)

Year 8 Girls (1st place)

Year 9/10 Boys (2nd place)

Year 9/10 Girls (1st place)

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

A Cruise - Shot Putt

F Asani – Javelin

O Radzikowska – Long Jump and 100m

D Williams – Triple Jump and 100m

G Laithwaite – Long Jump

C Hazard – Long Jump

B Roberts – 100m and 200m

P Bowett – 1500m

W Clasby – 1500m

SCHOOL RECORDS

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

O Radzikowska – Year 8

65m Hurdles - 12.70s (stood since 2025)

Holly Knott – Year 9



800m – 2:27.7mins (stood since 2016)

High Jump – 1.40m (stood since 2022)

Will Clasby – Year 7

1500m – 4:50.8mins (stood since 2019)

800m – 2:23.4mins (stood since 2016)

Duncan Williams – Year 8

100m – 11.10s (stood since 2025)

Long Jump – 7.06m (stood since 2025)

Triple Jump – 12.12m (stood since 2025)

High Jump – 1.65m (stood since 2013)

Riley Yost – Year 9

100m – 11.31s (stood since 2021)

200m – 23.56s (stood since 2024)

Elijah Fraser – Year 9

300m – 40.88s (stood since 2014)

Jack Morgan – Year 10

Javelin – 52.20m (stood since 1981)

By Mr S Goodright- Head of Department

COUNTY TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

4 students also represented Great Marlow at the County Athletics Championships, which took place on Saturday 13th June.

William Clasby placed 2nd in the 800m (2.23.4 - new SR)

Duncan Williams placed 1st in the 100m (11.10 - new SR) and the Long Jump (6.48)

Jack Morgan placed 2nd in the Javelin (48.38)

Leo Bray placed 1st in the 1500m (4.07.6)

ENGLISH SCHOOLS TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Following their success at the County Championships in June, Leo and Duncan were selected to represent Buckinghamshire at the English Schools Track and Field Championships, which took place on the 10th and 11th of July, having both achieved the qualifying standard. To provide some context, this is where all the GB Olympic athletes start their athletics journeys.

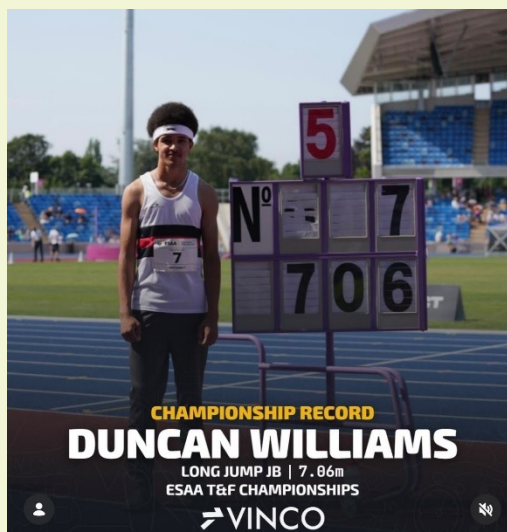
Leo finished 7th in his heat in the Intermediate Boys 1500m. He was, unfortunately, unable to beat the time he achieved in the County Championships, however, ran a very commendable time of 4.10.94 for the hot weather conditions we have experienced this summer. Running in the first heat did put Leo at a disadvantage, with the first 4 competitors automatically qualifying for the final the following day. Leo's time would have placed him first in the second heat and thus qualify him for the final.

Duncan, quite simply, had an extraordinary championship. Competing in his first ever English Schools Championships, it is safe to say that he took the championships by storm and fully announced himself on the national stage. As a Year 8, Duncan is a year young for the age group he was competing in, which makes his achievements all the more remarkable.

Duncan, competing in the Long Jump, obliterated the previous National Record for a 13-year-old, jumping an enormous 7.06m. Not only did he beat the previous record by 30cm, but this is also the first time a Junior Boy has broken the 7m barrier in the United Kingdom. It has also been confirmed that Duncan's jump is also an age-group World Record, as he eclipsed the previous record for a 13-year-old of 7.02m, which was set by Romanian jumper Gabriel Bitan in 2012, who has since gone on to compete at both World and European Athletics Championships.

The future is certainly bright for Duncan, and we can't wait to continue to follow his progress.

By Mr S Goodright- Head of Department



U13 CRICKET

The U13 Cricket team enjoyed a successful Summer Term. There were several year 8 boys who had gained experience last year, who combined well with a talented group of year 7s. With over 30 boys regularly training, selection was often tricky with a number of students competing for places.

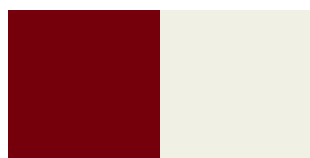
Sam Smiley starred with the bat, setting the tone at the start of the innings and making two scores of 50* in consecutive games and finishing the summer averaging 127, a fantastic achievement. With the ball Toby Styche and Jack Dow took valuable wickets, including Jack taking 4-10 in a tight game against Highcrest.

Throughout the summer the fielding was often the difference between GMS and the opposition, saving runs with committed ground fielding and taking 7 Run Outs across three games.

The side was well led by Joseph Bryan, with Oli Coombs and Barney Cottman providing excellent support.

Well done to all involved.

By Mr R Pulsford



GIRLS FITNESS

The summer term has not only brought sunshine, but also great energy, music, and a vibrant atmosphere to Girls Fitness 2026. This final term has continued to reflect the determination and enthusiasm built throughout the year, with the girls confidently showcasing the skills and foundations they have developed. Sessions continue in full flow, with both regular attendees and new participants welcomed each week, creating a community that is truly inspiring.

Our Year 7 girls have developed strong knowledge and independence, often arriving prepared with their own workout plans and plentiful questions to help them reach their goals. Meanwhile, the older year groups have continued to challenge themselves, using Girls Fitness as an outlet to support their personal ambitions- from physiotherapy goals to Duke of Edinburgh preparation. The positive energy from all the girls radiates throughout each session, creating an inclusive and uplifting environment.

They should all feel extremely proud of the commitment and effort they have shown across the year!

By Miss O Fyfe



GMS TENNIS

The tennis club made an excellent start this term, with over 25 students attending consistently each week. It was fantastic to see such a strong turnout from a wide range of year groups, creating a welcoming and inclusive environment where everyone could enjoy the sport.

The club catered for players of all abilities looking to refine their game. This mix of abilities created a positive atmosphere, with students encouraging and learning from one another throughout each session.

Over the sessions the students made excellent progress developing their fundamental tennis skills. Students worked hard to improve their groundstrokes, serving technique, rallying consistency, footwork, and court positioning through a variety of drills and match-play activities. It was encouraging to see the confidence and ability of all players grow week by week.

A special thank you went to Vanessa and Can for their invaluable support in helping to lead several of the sessions. Their enthusiasm, encouragement, and willingness to demonstrate skills and support younger players made a significant contribution to the success of the club.

The club enjoyed a highly successful term, and the enthusiasm and commitment shown by everyone involved provided an excellent foundation for future fixtures and continued development.

By Mr H Magnay

GYM AND DANCE SHOW APRIL 2026

This year's Gym and Dance Show was a fantastic celebration of talent, teamwork, and creativity across the school. The event brought together students from different year groups to perform a range of dances, creating an evening that everyone involved can be proud of.



A special thank you goes to the four Year 11 leaders who worked incredibly hard to run and organise the entire event. Their dedication, leadership, and enthusiasm helped make the show such a success. From planning rehearsals to supporting performers backstage, they showed excellent commitment throughout.

The Year 11 students also played an important role in helping younger students choreograph their dances. They guided and encouraged the younger year groups, helping them build confidence and develop their performances.



As part of the show, the Year 11 leaders created two impressive group dances — one for Years 7 and 8, and another for Year 10 students. Both routines showcased creativity, teamwork, and plenty of hard work during rehearsals.

To end the evening in style, all performers came together for a whole-group dance in the grand finale. The performance was full of energy and excitement and was a perfect ending to a memorable event.

Well done to everyone who took part, and thank you again to the Year 11 leaders for all their hard work and commitment in making the Gym and Dance Show such an enjoyable and successful occasion.

Below is a write up from the four leaders about the evening:

"The GMS Gym and Dance Show 2026! Where do we start? We, as leaders, can't put into words how impressed and proud of all the girls we are this year. Every number was unique and a representation of their hard work over the past few months. They took responsibility for all their own dances and managed it all with such high levels of independence and creativity. Our wonderful Year 10 girls worked it in their "Vogue" group piece and our year 7's and 8's leaped and twirled through "Let's go fly kite" as they opened our show. We really enjoyed the choreographing process, and we are so grateful that everyone engaged with such enthusiasm and

respect towards us. We are very grateful that we have been given the opportunity to run the club this year as it has given us great learning opportunities and boosted our confidence for wherever we go after our GCSE's. There are so many things that we could say about everyone's individual dances this year but we've only been given a little bit of space so here are a few highlights: a gorgeous ballet solo to a rendition of "Mulan's – Reflection", an enthusiastic and upbeat duet to Taylor Swift in their sparkly skirts and an ABSOLUTE BANGER performed by the year 11 leaders as our final dance in a GMS gym and dance show. To close our brilliant show the whole of the gym and dance club made the school hall "Come Alive" on our finale."



TRIO OF REGATTAS FOR GMSBC MAY BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Always a busy weekend in the rowing calendar with three regattas is three days. While tempting to race crews at multiple events we spread them out so no one raced more than twice.

Marlow Spring regatta was an early start for our year 11 girls, arriving at 7:00 to compete in double sculls. Some great racing and Ivy Tompkins and Georgina Greening got the club to a good start winning the final by a couple of lengths. The year 9 girls were out in force after this in three quads and their first side by side regatta of the year. All the crews raced competitively in some tight races but did not make the finals. The year 10 girls four raced up a year and had a strong performance coming second in their final. Then the year 10 boys quad went one better to wing J15 4x+.

In the last division of the day. We had our 6th form girls racing in an adult fours event and they put up a very strong performance to come second in their final while the WJ15 girls raced in the quads and came second. The year 11 girls however followed their early win in doubles to win the quads as well. At this point the weather broke, and the beautiful sunshine disappeared so the year 9 boys event was held in torrential rain and despite a strong performance from the A crew the finals were cancelled due to the weather.

Sunday, it was the 6th form boys turn for an early start at 7:00 at Dorney Lake. Wallingford Regatta is one of the high-profile regattas, with top class competition in all events.

In the heat, GMSBC had a false start which perhaps made them a little cautious on the next time and let , a very fast Shrewsbury four and Latymer Upper slip away early in the race. However, from 1000m they had broken away from the rest of the pack and started to close on Latymer. Third place was sufficient to see them in the final.

Having learnt a lesson from the semi, the boys went a lot harder over the first 750 and were lying in 5th place but only $\frac{3}{4}$ length back from 2nd. They then attacked and their strong rhythm saw them inching through the field and with 500m to go they were in 2nd and continued to move ahead to earn a fantastic second place in a very strong field.

The year 11 boys raced in the afternoon and took an early lead in their heat and looked to be in a commanding position, sadly one of the crew had been struggling with health issues and the race pushed him a bit too much. So despite qualifying for the final and looking favourites to win, it was decided to withdraw.

Monday morning saw Ethan Taylor at the lake at 7:00 as our first competitor at the Junior Sculling regatta. Ethan was keen to race in his single, following on from racing as part of the Thames Upriver regional team last weekend at Nottingham. We then had the remaining J15 boys in a coxed quad, followed by year 9 girls in a double and a quad.

This regatta, unlike Wallingford follows the more common format of a time trial followed by side-by-side finals ranked from the time trial. This regatta was specifically created to

give more racing opportunity at a national level to smaller sculling boats.

Following the tts the J15 4x+ (year 10 boys quad) the WJ14 2x and our WJ18 2x had all progressed to finals.

The year 10 boys had an excellent race in their B final moving up one ranking from the time trial to finish 9th overall in rankings, the year 9 girls struggled somewhat in their A final but had done well to be there. Our last race of the day was Elise Whyte and Kayla Shillito in WJ182x B final. They had a close race early in the proceedings but with 500m to go they were clearly moving away and led the race home in fine form several seconds ahead of their nearest rival to win the race.

Not too many medals but some great performances on all days

By Mr F Murison

BEDFORD REGATTA

This weekend (11th May) was an annual favourite of Bedford Regatta. This an old style Knock out competition with up to four races to win the final. Side by side over 1100m on the Ouse.

A slightly different structure of AM and PM divisions meant for most a shorter day, but for Georgina Greening and Lily Nickless this was not the case. They were in our Womens four (open to all ages) at 10 o'clock, which was one of our closest races of the day. The opposition took an early length advantage, but this young crew did not lose their confidence but competed fiercely. Over the rest of the course, they were eating away at the lead, despite being on the outside of the bend, and were gaining the whole time. An early Knock out for the girls but a great race. They then went on to race in our WJ16 4+ (year 11 four), but having had little time in the crew to practice, lost in the semi-final 7 hours later.

Sadly , there were no year 9 crews as this conflicted with a Duke of Edinburgh weekend, so we just had year 10s and above present. The year 10 boys were also let down by equipment failure, putting an end to their campaign,

The two star crews were the WJ15 4+ (year 10 girls four) and the J18 4x (Sixth form boys quad). Both crews raced three rounds to reach the final and I received a number of very complementary remarks from opposing coaches on both their performances. Both crews raced very well in their finals but lost to faster crews by about a length in both cases.

An excellent days racing and plenty of crews beaten , even if we did not bring back any silverware.

NATIONAL SCHOOLS REGATTA 2026

As regular readers will know, this is the biggest of the Junior National Regattas. It is only eclipsed for Sixth Formers by Henley Regatta. Our headline performance this year is not as colourful as in recent past, with no medals. However, the two

medal winning crews from last year- Boys J16 4+ (last year's year 10 Silver medallists) and Boys J18 4- (last years year 11 silver medallists) both had great races with the whole field bunched over less than a boat length between them. The level of competition is forever getting tougher with entry levels sky rocketing. There were over 5.400 competitors over the three days.

We came to the regatta with high expectations, looking to compete seriously for 5 medals, and as it turned out, despite the lack of actual silverware, the crews did incredibly well. After a disappointing showing from the girls last year with the top crew coming 17th and the year 10s coming 19th (no year 11crews) , the current squad did an amazing job ranking 5th (yr 12/13), 7th (year 11) and 5th (year 10) respectively. A tremendous improvement over one year.

Of our top crews, boys and girls, year 10 through to sixth form, all six crews finished in the top 7 in their event. Which is a great tribute to the Great Marlow Grit!

Friday

Our year 9 Octos have suffered from lack of water time for two winters and they still have a lot to learn in regard to consistently pushing themselves as well as technical skills. Having said this both progressed from the time trial to a final, which was a step better than the Junior Sculling regatta. Sadly due to tricky winds they raced the finals as another time trial which did little to encourage the rowers.

The year 10 boys possibly under cooked the time trial, just missing out on the A (medal) final. But when the time came for the side by side , they kept their nerve and little by little established a commanding lead over the rest of the field. 7th overall.

The year 10 girls came 5th in their time trial but were looking forward to showing their power in the side by side A final. By late afternoon, the wind had swung round from a straight head wind to a cross/head from the opposite side they were drawn in This means they were rowing in the worst conditions and while they fought incredibly to be right in the thick of it with 500m to go, the conditions were against them to and they had to settle for 5th.

Saturday

Henry Froome was our first ever Championship Single Sculler. He did a tremendous job in the time trial to qualify for the repechage . In the semi Henry had a slow start and was in last position at half way but he then started to close on 5th and with 500m to go was still some lengths off fourth. In a blistering finish he rowed through the sculler ahead of him to end 4th but qualifying for the D final. Which was a great achievement in his first championships in a single.

The year 11 boys coxed four had a solid time trial through to the A final where they lined up against Shiplake,

Dulwich College, Kings Ely and Pangbourne and new comers Lymington.

Kings Ely got off to flying start and lead through the first 500m, but less than a second covered the top 4 crews and while the lead changed here and there the pack was very tight for the whole race. On the finish line there was one and a half seconds from Gold to fourth in an incredibly tight race. GMS were fourth.

The J18 coxless four also qualified for the A final , which as a Championship event was an eight-boat final. As a mainly year 12 crew, they had there work cut out in this J18 (year 13) event. Again, the spread of boats from 2nd to 6th was well under a length for most of the race with the Wallingford four a little ahead in Gold position. Bavk in year 10 this crew managed to overhaul three crews in the last 500m to win gold, but at tis level it was not to be. In top class race they maintained the pressure on the leaders but came 5y overall.

Sunday

As in any good report one saves the best till last. Our Senior Girls' Pair, of Kayla Shillito and Elise Whyte had an aggressive time trial over rating the crews around them but set on securing a place in the A final, which they did. This was a major achievement and a final placing of 5th after a blistering last 500m in their final saw them move up a place was a great result in this championship national event.

The year 11 girls quad- Georgina Greening, Ivy Tomkinson, Claudia Stewart, Lily Nickless (Steers) racing against a large field were keen to improve on their D final ranking in year 10 (There was no year 11 crew last year). The time trial went well and starting in the middle of the pack with many of the faster crews after them, there was an anxious wait as the results came in. At first, they were ranked 6th put as each crews time came in some were faster and they ticked lower in the order. With all results in they were in 11th position, one ahead of Borlase and a couple behind Marlow. This was the B final which was a significant step on, with half the crews coming from Marlow, the Final became very personal and no prisoners were to be taken. GMS did not have the best of starts and at 500, gone, they lay Last, over 3 seconds off the leaders Grange. The Great Marlow Supporters tent was at 900 m gone, and the supporter's team had also spread along the bank to cheer them on. The girls made a big push at this stage in the race, using the cheering parents to fuel their hard work and by the half way mark they lay in 3rd only a second off Grange. While the effort had been draining their momentum and boat speed couldn't be resisted and little by little the GMS girls edged Closer to the front. Grange slipped from the lead and Marlow rowing Club became the main competition. With 500m to go GMS just had their bows in front, and the mad charge for the finish line began. Given the pace of their race to this point, did they still have enough to hold their slender lead, and for 250 m , they did just that. Over the last 250m, showing amazing grit,, they did not hold on, they upped the rate and moved further into the lead to win by a length over Marlow in second place.

A great last day to this three day epic!

HENLEY WOMEN'S REGATTA AND THAMES VALLEY PARK

On Saturday our top girls eight, victors of the Marlow Schools Challenge at Marlow Town Regatta last weekend , competed at Henley Women's Regatta.

Thirty four top junior eights took part in the time trial to qualify for the sixteen places in the side by side racing. A big ask but the crew rose to the occasion and performed outstandingly to qualify for the side by side regatta, an achievement never achieved before by a GMS crew in this Blue Riband event. Their first race was against Godolphin Latymer, a known to be a top flight crew, They had a poor start and let the opposition slip ahead. However despite this they fought hard throughout and were closing in the later stages of the race.

This performance bodes well for Henley Royal regatta qualifiers coming up this Friday.

On Sunday, others from the squad competed at Thames Valley Park, a charming sprint regatta. In the Morning division we had four year 8 quads racing and two girls' doubles.

The boys having won at Marlow last weekend had a tough draw against Henley and Maidenhead and met an early exit. Sunday was the Girls B quad's turn to shine, who had a convincing win in the semi-final. The final was a close race, but the GMS girls just missed out on the tankards.

Both the year 9 girls double and the WJ18 double won their semis but again just missed out in the final.

This was a continuing theme in the afternoon division with both the Year 9 boys and Girls progressing through to the final. In both cases this showed good progress from earlier events, and they are obviously getting faster through the season.

Along with the year 9s, the WJ16 4+ and the J16 double raced in the finals. It took till the end of the day for the year 10 boys four to produce our first outright win. In a great final against Windsor Boys and Bedford School, the four rowed with style and great power to beat this top-class opposition.

A great day with lots of sunshine and some good races won. All crews showing good progress.

JUNIOR INTER-REGIONAL REGATTA (JIRR)

The first of the National Regattas was held this weekend up at Nottingham (National Water Sports Centre NWSC). Great Marlow took 4 crews as part of the selected team for the new Thames Upriver East region. The year 11 boys were doubling up in the fours event and as half of the eight.

The conditions were beautiful with bright sunshine and a wonderfully calm day which for veterans of NWSC was a pleasant change, All events start with a time trial and then based on results crews are put into final side by side

races, with the top 6 being in the "A" Final for the medals. Then B, C finals etc.

The year 11 four of Dima Polino, Luke Quann, Ralph Hill, Jamie Watson and cox Theo Harper won their time trial and so went into the final with high hopes. The old region we rowed for was Thames Upriver but because we were so dominant , it was decided to break us into 3 separate regions- Thames Upriver West, Thames Upriver Central and Thames Upriver East. So in the final there was Abingdon School, representing Thames Upriver West, Shiplake College representing Thames Upriver Central and Great Marlow representing Thames Upriver East as the fastest three qualifying crews.

Abingdon in lane 3, took off at a flying pace in a very well drilled high rate , and took an early half length lead, GMS and Shiplake, were neck and neck through 500m. The Great Marlow crew pushed hard going into the middle 500m and looked to be challenging Abingdon and moving slightly ahead of Shiplake. The Abingdon crew then responded and re-established a three quarter length advantage and while all three crews were moving ahead of the rest of the field, the order looked pretty stable as Abingdon, GMS, Shiplake for the next 500m. With 250m to go, It looked very much as though Abingdon had the gold, but GMS in Silver were definitely under pressure from Shiplake. Sadly despite a very determined push from GMS, a last-minute crab in the dying phases allowed Shiplake to slip ahead. So Bronze medal for GMS. This was a great race and the crew, after initial disappointment, justifiably proud of a great performance. Both these schools have won the prestigious Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta, Shiplake as recently as last year.

Our other crew to make an A final was the boys eight, However the fours final had definitely taken a lot out of the boys so they had to be content with 5th, beating Reading Blue Coats.

The year 10 Girls four of Rugile Banuilaityte, Edee Somers , Lily Powel, Olivia Griffiths and cox Lily Nickless were in the B final and had a flying start in their race, only to have to go back for a restart due to a crash between two other crews. Second time around they were not so smooth and were in 4th place at 500m gone. The middle 500m was solid and they had moved into 3rd position. The last 500m saw a very determined push from the girls and they were closing on the leaders the whole time. While the margins were getting closer and closer the whole time the order didn't change but this was a very spirited race from this young crew.

Possible the race of the day from a GMS perspective was from Georgina Greening in her single. Not having raced much in a single , Georgina took a slightly cautious start and found herself in 4th position at 500m gone. Nothing daunted she pushed through the middle 500m and overhauled the next two scullers and looked to be moving well and powerfully. Coming into the last 500m she was in second place some 4.4 seconds behind first. A considerable margin, and while moving well it seemed too much to expect. However, Georgina was clearly in the zone and just kept eating up that margin. With 80m to go she hit the front and won her final by over a second. A really determined performance.

On Sunday Connor Quann took part in the GB trials regatta, with his pairs partner from Kew House. They had a good Time trial for a scratch crew , being the fastest of the 3 Kew House pairs competing, they then came second in their semi final, to progress to the E final. The final was a tough line up with two St Pauls Crews in the mix but Connor and his crew mate raced well and it was definitely a great day of races.

By Mr F Murison





Nurture at GMS

The Children at Nurture have had a fantastic year, making impressive progress in their learning, confidence and personal development.

Throughout the year, they have embraced new challenges, built friendships and shown kindness and resilience in everything they do.

I am delighted to see the children grow in confidence and become more independent both in and out of the classroom.

From the creative projects and group activities they have always demonstrated a positive attitude throughout their time at Nurture.

I am incredibly proud of every single one that has been with me this year and look forward to seeing them continue to thrive in the future.

By Mrs Black
Nurture Lead



AND FINALLY....

THE GMS staff wish everyone a restful Summer break.

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

Stay safe and healthy.

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

Great Marlow School
Bobmore Lane
Marlow Bucks
SL7 1JE

Make time for Reading!

As the summer holidays begin, GMS would like to encourage every student to make time for reading. Whether it's a gripping adventure, a fascinating biography, a graphic novel or a favourite classic, because reading for pleasure is one of the best ways to keep young minds active over the break.

Reading has many benefits beyond improving literacy. Just 20 minutes of reading each day can help to reduce stress, improve concentration, boost memory and develop empathy.

Moreover, regular reading helps academically: it expands vocabulary; improves writing skills; also it maintains the progress students have made throughout the school year, making the return to school in September much smoother.

This summer is also the perfect time to support the UK's National Year of Reading 2026.

The campaign, led by the Department for Education and the National Literacy Trust, encourages children, families and communities to rediscover the joy of reading for pleasure.

The initiative's theme is, "Go All In" and it celebrates reading in all its forms. It aims to inspire lifelong reading habits that benefit wellbeing, learning and future success. To find out more and discover ideas for becoming involved go to the National Year of Reading website: <https://goallin.org.uk/>

Marlow Library's Summer Reading Challenge is a fantastic way to discover new books, earn rewards and enjoy reading with friends throughout the holidays. The challenge is free to join and is suitable for readers age 6-12 years, so ideal for our new Year 7s. Older students may even enjoy helping younger siblings complete this <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/campaign/summer-reading-challenge/>

Finally, if you're looking for inspiration, there are some recommended reads from our local independent bookshop, Marlow Bookshop on our website <https://gms.bucks.sch.uk/> Whether you're an avid reader or just looking for your next great story, there's something for everyone!