



Great Marlow School

Excellence • Compassion • Integrity

The VOICE

MARCH 2024

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www.gms.bucks.sch.uk

IMPORTANT REMINDER ABOUT DATES IN THE SUMMER TERM

School reopens on Monday 15th April. We break up for Half Term at 3pm on Friday 24th May. School reopens on Monday 3rd June.

GCE and GCSE exams start week commencing 6th May.

Year 11 and 13 leave on Friday 3rd May.

Year 11 Prom is on Thursday 27th June.

Year 13 prom is on Friday 21st June.

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



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

The arrival of the Easter break signifies the end of the second full term of the academic year and this edition of 'The Voice' showcases some of the school activities and events that have occurred since the last edition. However, this is just a flavour of the multitude of pictures and reports that are on our school website, so do please make sure you regularly visit the website.

This past term, Sixth Form students have completed their UCAS forms and made decisions about university, apprenticeships, or work. Year 11 students have completed their 'Mock Exams' and had their guidance discussions on their next steps, and many have completed their Sixth Form applications; Year 9 students have completed the options process and made their choices for KS4.

For our students, this Easter break away from school provides a very welcome opportunity to recharge their batteries before an action-packed summer term. For our senior students, particularly Years 11, and 13, this period must be used productively for revision and examination preparation. The exam season will be upon us very quickly after our return. Many staff and students will be in school in the first week of the holidays, running and taking part in revision classes.

As I wrote to you earlier this half term, building on the success of last year's Sporting Challenge we are taking the challenge forward in 2024. This year's Sporting Challenge has a rowing focus and incorporates the Inter-Form and Inter-House Indoor Rowing Competition for Years 7-10. This year's challenge is to support the development of the Marlow & District Schools' Boathouse. The groundworks are well underway, but we need a fundraising push to get us over the £500k mark which will enable the establishment of the schools' base for rowing at the new site.

The Team, Form and House in each Year Group which rows the furthest during the allotted time, will receive certificates and House Points for their endeavours. In addition, we are looking for all children taking part in the event

to gather sponsorship for their participation. The Form in each Year Group that raises the most sponsorship monies will visit the Everyman Cinema in Marlow to watch the George Clooney produced movie 'The Boys in the Boat', the best rowing film ever made which also 'stars' Great Marlow School students.

As I said in my earlier communication, when Mr Murison and I addressed the students with the fundraising challenge, we did highlight that some students may think why am I raising money for a boathouse when I do not row? It is the intention that this boathouse will sit at the side of the river Thames for the next 100 years. Whilst some current students may not row but their children might and if their children do not row their grandchildren or even their great grandchildren might row. So, we are asking our whole school community to get behind this project to create this legacy facility.

In the final assemblies this week, I have reiterated the whole school ethos of 'My Personal Best' and the relationship with our original '6Rs' and the now 7th R of Reading. I have also spoken about the importance of attendance and the impact attendance has on progress and achievement.

I would like to publicly thank all the staff and students for their effort and commitment and to take this opportunity to wish you and all your family a very enjoyable Easter.

Best Wishes

**Mr Kevin Ford
Headteacher**



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

Year 10 Borough Market and Tate Modern trip



47 students boarded the coach to the Tate Modern and Borough Market in pursuit of research for their Unit 1 coursework project entitled 'Food and Drink'.

After perusing the vast and famous walls of the Tate, students made their way to the market where they were met with a plethora of

sights, sounds and smells of delicious wares from various sellers and stalls. Time was of the essence and photographs were key, as every student endeavoured to capture beautiful images of their chosen theme in order to provide a basis for the rest of their projects once back at school.

Pupils were overwhelmed with the array of both native and exotic produce on display in the most magnificent of compositions. Many also enjoyed sampling the goods as well as conversing with the stall holders, and the coach home was filled with scents as tantalising as those in the market from the delicious food that the pupils took pleasure in purchasing.

One of our Year 10 students describes her experience of the day...

'When I went to Borough Market, I got to explore different themes for my Food and Drink topic. We got to look at the culture of the areas, and all the diversity between inside the market and along the route there. When I first saw the market I was shocked at the wide variety of food options and diversity in the visitors – from the people who get food there regularly, work people buying lunch, and tourists who had never been there before. When I walked through the market, I saw specific areas that reminded me of when I went there when I was younger, such as the paella stand and then sating area. A lot of foods were available like pomegranates, oranges and kiwis; other foods like fish, shark, squid, chicken pasta and port. I bought beef dripping chips and Japanese chicken and rice. I talked to the fishmonger and he showed me and my friends how and where he likes catching all the fish. Taking my photos gave me the inspiration to do sweet foods, as I can look at a diverse range of products and experiment with lots of different media and techniques.'



Year 10 Eco-Pond mural

Meanwhile, a smaller group of our superbly talented Year 10 artists have been busy collaborating with the GMS Eco committee who commissioned a huge wall mural to decorate our beloved pond area, which is currently in the process of a huge renovation.



Led by Head of Art, Mrs Joseph-Stewart, our students met with representatives from Wild Marlow to find out more about the bio-diversity of the school site. Armed with a plethora of knowledge of plants, insects and larger wildlife, the students set about constructing an innovative design for the impressive wall piece, each taking control of individual elements and then assembling these together to create a final composition.

The Spring term saw many visits from local artist and spray can expert Dan Wilson, who regularly enjoys creating public wall art, often in collaboration with local organisation The Chiltern Rangers, who our students have previously joined forces with for various projects.

Our students spent the visits talking over ideas for the commission, and communicating their vision to Dan, while taking on board his useful and constructive feedback.

Already postponed once due to rain, the artists then braved a rainy February

Thursday to engrossed in an engaging and thoroughly enjoyable spray paint workshop, getting to grips with and learning the ropes in this difficult medium. Once they had mastered the basics, the students then moved over to the mural site, where they started work on the giant undertaking.

One of our Year 10 students, explains the process:

'It was such an interesting and enjoyable experience. The morning workshop was so fun – we got to experiment with spray painting and stencils, and Dan was really enthusiastic and helpful. Lots of the younger students stopped by to watch what we were doing. We then moved over to working on the mural. This was slightly daunting as it was such a large project – we had to be really careful not to spray paint over each other! I feel so inspired and proud that I've been a part of this amazing artwork that will be displayed in the school for years to come.'



The mural now sits pride of place at the back of S block, where decking is due to be laid in preparation for students and classes to enjoy this enriching outdoor learning environment, when the sun (hopefully) makes an appearance early next term!

By Mrs K Joseph-Stewart
Head of Art & Design



Year 7 Art & Design

The year 7s have been learning about observational drawing and painting. They have had to understand how to measure and apply correct proportion to their drawings before adding layers of watercolour and colour pencil refinement.

I think you'll agree they have done a lovely job!



Oscar Harris 7K2

Florence Hawkins
7K2

Ellie Gardiner 7K2

Year 8 Art & Design

This term Year 8 have been learning how important perspective and proportion are when observational drawing. Students have been drawing sweets as part of their pop art scheme of work. They have built on prior colour theory knowledge and added depth and tone to their sweets using harmonious colours. We have had some truly stunning outcomes with accurate proportions and sensitive shading – you could almost pick them up and eat them!



Emilia Degan 7K2. Diya Thapor 7k2

In true pop art style, they have also been investigating the influence of popular culture on art in the 1950s and 1960s and have sculpted their own papier mâché logos in response to Claes Oldenburg's relief sculptures. Each student made a view finder and chose an interesting composition to accurately enlarge, sculpt and paint. The students showed patience, resilience, and accuracy in producing their final outcomes.



Isla Lewis Bell



Sophie Squire



Year 9 Art & Design

The Year 9s have been WOWing us this term their self-portraits this term. We've been building their observational drawing skills, looking at the fine details of the face, proportion and tonal shading; the outcomes have been truly





Erin Bowers 9K3



Dan McGeachan 9K3



Arthur Booth 9h1

outstanding. The resilience and readiness the students have shown has really proven what a fantastically talented cohort year 9 are.

They have started to get creative and experimental with their portraits now, looking at graphic artist Luke Dixon and using typography. They've produced portraits in different styles to show understanding of different ways we can show tone and that art can be more personal and meaningful, creative and clever than just a straight drawing. The students have been so engaged in this scheme of learning and really been able to flourish. There has been a skill and style that has suited nearly every student, which has allowed them to feel so proud of what they have produced. Well done to them all!

Yr 7 & 9 by Mrs A Perman Yr8 by Mrs J Hayward



Izzy Matthews 9K3

Alice Napthine 9K3

Seb Riley 9H1

Theo Freedman 9H3



Izzy Matthews 9K3

Alice Napthine 9K3

Sofia Mills-Miguel 9H3

Ruby Cicchirillo 9H1

FOLLOW GMS ART, CRAFT & DESIGN ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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

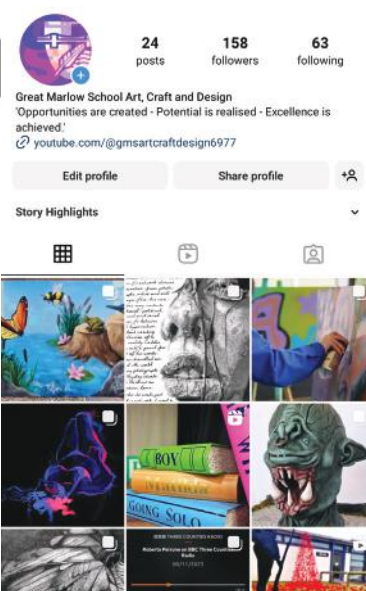
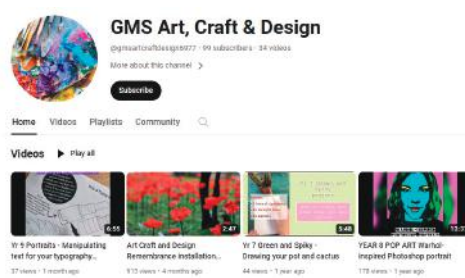
Our Youtube channel has proven to be a fantastic resource for supporting students with practical demonstrations both within lessons, and for homework. The Art and Design department are very quickly building up a large database of visual exemplars and how-tos which serve as excellent teaching aids and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

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

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

Youtube: GMS Art, Craft & Design

Instagram: @GMSartcraftdesign



Year 13 Mock Results

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

Ancient History

Charlotte Pretty came top of the class in the Greek paper with a Grade A score while Benny Maddern was top in the Roman class, also with a Grade A score. Charlotte pretty achieved the best result overall, just ahead of Mea Thomson.

Politics

Matthew McCall came top in the UK Politics paper, Joseph Legerton in the UK Government paper, and Dan Petrov in the US paper. Joseph Legerton was top overall.

Law

Matthew McCall came top in the UK Politics paper, Joseph Legerton in the UK Government paper, and Dan Petrov in the US paper. Joseph Legerton was top overall.

The following students also achieved a Grade A* score in the Criminal Law paper: Millie Elwood, Grace Radnedge and Isaac Rincon all achieved an overall Grade A* after achieving Grade A* in two of the three papers. In addition, Lily Sabba and Mea Thomson achieved Grade A* in the Criminal Law paper, Abbie Stewart in the Tort Law paper, and Joseph Legerton and Mea Thomson in the Human Rights paper.

Congratulations to them all.

By Mr S Pugsley
Head of Department

YEAR 9 D&T TEXTILES

The year 9 students have been learning about sustainability issues within the Textiles industry, specifically fast fashion and how fibres and fabrics are produced; hopefully this will encourage them to reduce their own impact on the environment and make wise purchasing decisions. We have also been exploring print design and how these techniques could be used in product design. Students will use this knowledge, and these skills along with complex construction techniques to produce a loungewear product for those of us still working from home.

FAST FASHION

How many pairs of Clothes do you need? How many pairs of Clothes do you have? Did you know that the average amount of clothes you wear, is only 20% of the amount of clothes you own? Unfortunately, the other 80% of your clothes lie at the bottom of your wardrobe, to change, is so bad, is because (from fossil fuels) to make the machines, and so on. This is obviously bad for the environment. On top of this, there is cotton farming. Cotton is grain in hot countries and accounts for 60% of the world's textiles. Many fertilisers are used to keep the cotton alive and this is of course, damaging to the environment. Once it is fasted, it can be died and any excess dye is put down the sewage pipes, which runs into streams and kills fish and wildlife nearby. In conclusion, DON'T BUY FAST FASHION CLOTHES!

Natural v. Synthetic Fibre production

Have you ever wondered how and where fabrics are produced? Did you know the impact wearing clothes has on the environment? Synthetic clothes accounts for 35% of microplastics released into the environment. Synthetic, man made fabrics such as polyester, acrylic and nylon are made from chemicals.

These chemicals are from fossil fuels such as coal and of weaving these fibres into fabric is not biodegradable. These fossil fuels are responsible for the release of 500,000 tonnes of microplastics enter the ocean every year. It is these plastics that cause many sea life creatures to be illiged.

You might think they are sustainable but natural fabrics can also be very harmful to the environment. For example, a natural fabric such as cotton comes from the plant which is bad for the environment. Cotton must also be watered and tilled, which takes up a lot of water. Fertilisers are used to keep the cotton alive

damaging the planet as well. Machinery's often used to cut crops, powered by fossil fuels this can be very harmful. I think the use of pesticides to protect cotton should be reconsidered. Not only that, cotton is also dead. A lot of leftover die that goes down the sink for example, ends up in sewers and rivers which kills fish due to heat toxics. The use of a lot of water meaning many fish are killed for this reason. Cotton is grown overseas so cotton farms, meaning it must be imported via boat or plane which can be very dangerous for the earth. As well as this, natural fabrics will only biodegrade if they are 100% natural. This includes things like threads. It is put to stop this, many companies are trying to reduce the use of these processes and are trying to improve wastewater-related practices.

ARTIFICIAL vs SYNTHETIC

Synthetic and Natural Fibres both have an impact on the environment both in a different way. How are they produced and how can their negative impact be reduced?

Synthetic fibres are fibres made by humans through chemical means. Some examples include acrylic and Rayon/Artificial silk, Polyester, Nylon and acrylic.

Natural fibres are fibres produced by geology. They are produced from the bodies of plants and animals. Examples of these are wool, silk, cotton, flax and hemp.

The two most common natural fibres are cotton and wool. Cotton cultivation often needs a lot of water and pesticides. When it is left in the field, it is a habitat for water pollution. Conventional cotton farming involves some chemical cleaning or impurities. Some animals added from sheep have a lower water use but leads to the release of methane, a green house gas. They are more expensive than synthetic fibres to produce in a factory.

Synthetic fibres such as polyester or nylon pose environmental issues. Their production relies on fossil energy and non-biodegradable waste products are not biodegradable. They are not suitable for recycling. They are made from materials that do decompose easily in landfills. While Synthetic fibres offer durability and affordability their environmental impact is very bad.

How to help? One can help in many different ways. Some of these: Careless or careless of acquiring cloth or instead of throwing them away. Don't buy over consume fast-fashion and choose sustainable fabrics. Such as

[illegible]

YEAR 9 D&T TEXTILES

Year 9 D&T Textiles have also been looking at cultures & using them as inspiration for Motif Designs. The results are fantastic, and the students really enjoyed learning a technique called stenciling.



different
cultures



YEAR 10 D&T TEXTILES

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



fabric manipulation



YEAR 12 D&T TEXTILES

Year 12 have worked very hard this term to create a shirt dress for their primary user. The brief included a shirt collar & placket along with decorative features that match the needs of their clients. The students worked tirelessly to meet the deadline, and here are a few to demonstrate.

shirt making techniques

LEGO STEM ROBOTICS CLUB

Lego STEM is a great opportunity to understand how working in technology brings together the learning and knowledge of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths. The basics of computing and programming along with physical building all come together as we explore the functions and mechanics of a kit-built robot.

Members have been learning how robots use various sensors to enable a them to interact with their surroundings, and to perform tasks based on the information they obtain. Lego STEM teaches people how they can make a robot move along a chosen path by understanding how a motor propels and changes the direction of the robot. Lego STEM encourages people to problem solve, work as a team, and think technically about how a robot could use its sensors and motors to perform challenges.

The club is run by Chelton who are a large local Engineering company which specializes, among other things, in antenna technology. They understand the physics of how a robot will work in great detail and help members to develop their understanding and problem-solving skills!

These skills can be transferred to many other applications available in the school including 3d printing. Developing this knowledge will help students to understand how a printer will take the individual layers of a 3d model, plot a path for the printer nozzle and calculate what movements the motors need to sync with each other to get the shape of the 3d model.



By Miss R Addy and Mrs C Clark



A visit from the TIE It Up Theatre Company

TIE It Up Theatre company performed their award-winning performance of 'I Love You, Mum' to Year 10, 11 and 13 Drama students on Monday 19th February. The company transformed the school hall into a theatre for the students to enjoy. The poignant production follows a true-life account of the character Dan, and how the decisions he made led to life changing consequences. The verbatim piece really captured the hearts of the students, as they got to hear real life accounts from Dan's family and friends. Watching this piece brought up some important conversations, which left many students reflecting on the issues surrounding some of the choices Dan made.



Not only did this creative experience allow the students to appreciate a professional company bringing live theatre to the heart of the school, but watching this inspiring piece will support the Year 10 students as they prepare for their Devising exam in the summer and will be written about in the Year 11 Live Theatre exam in May.

Year 11 and 13 Practical Exams

The Year 11 and 13 students hard work, focus and dedication finally paid off this term. Both exam groups performed and showcased their scripted piece, monologues, duologue, and design to their visiting examiner. The confidence and talent witnessed during both exams demonstrated the vast amount of talent we have here at Great Marlow School. The students performed a range of scripts ranging from 'Heavy Weather' by Lizzie Nunnery to 'Shook' by Samuel Bailey. The students have been working and rehearsing during lessons and after school in groups since October, the dedication and commitment show by them highlights their love for the arts. Well done to you all, the Drama department are extremely proud of every single one of you.

By Mrs D Chenery
Head of Drama

Theatre Visit- The Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith

On 7th February, Our A-level class with Mr Ross and Mrs Chenery, went to see Metamorphosis at The Lyric theatre in London. The play was an interesting interpretation of the original novel by Kafka, as the Theatre company Frantic Assembly transformed the story into exploratory physical movement. It was full of emotion as they followed the story of Gregor Samsa transforming into a bug- a reflection of societal pressures. The set and staging was amazing to watch as actors swung off lights, climbed the walls and disappeared in plain sight! We all enjoyed the performance, and we are currently studying it to write about in our A-level exam.

By Maya Whyte – Year 13



SUMMER PERFORMANCE

On Tuesday 9th July and Wednesday 10th July we will be performing "Our Day Out" by Willy Russell.

Our young actors are working hard and we are looking forward to showing a very different play than we have done before.

Tickets will go on sale at the end of April.

Here is a little teaser for you!

[PLEASE CLICK HERE](#)

A workshop with Andrew Stafford

"Our two devising workshops with Andrew Stafford were very motivating and informing for students performing Shakespearean monologues. We began by discussing with Andrew our plays contexts and our characters personality, and throughout performing our monologues for Andrew and rehearsing them with his direction, he further informed us of the history that surrounded the language choices our characters made, for instance encouraging a disgusted delivery when Iago says "Moors" to contrast with Othello's contemporary society which respected Moors for the goods they created. He also illuminated specific points of emphasis within the monologue allowing for clearer communication of our characters ideology and intentions, ensuring the examiners assuredness of our awareness. Although prior to Andrew's visits I had written detailed stage business that would communicate Iago's sadistic personality and cynical intentions, I had not yet considered historical contexts informing line delivery. I do recall believing that experimenting with rasp would be conducive to Iago's enraged monologue, mimicking almost Grinch like vocals, and it just so happened that because Andrew enlightened me of how many words did need emphasising and of intriguing details (the connotation of "supersubtle" is a snake given the sibilance, referring to Satan, thus Andrew encouraged to "move all the muscles off the face and hiss in the delivery"), this became very complimentary. Such detailed vocal delivery was very fun to fully commit oneself to my character, but what made the workshop the most exciting was Andrew's passion and excitement during performance. I recall him eagerly walking over to me to watch my facial and vocal acting and stating, "I really shouldn't come so close but it's just so much fun isn't it." I am eternally grateful for Andrew blessing us with his knowledge and passion, he is a treasure for actors performing Shakespeare. "

By Alana Ray – Year 13



Red Pitch Theatre trip @ SOHO Place London

On Wednesday 20th March, I was privileged to be part of the drama team that took 36 students, from varying years, to see a brand-new contemporary play at the @SOHO Place Theatre, a lovely new theatre in central London.

It was a joy from start to finish! The play itself was performed in the round, which is an ideal staging for our students. It allowed them to experience a play that had no front stage, this was an eye-opener and offered new ideas for drama work in the classroom and for GCSEs.

The plot of the play was about three lads growing up: their friendship; their hopes of becoming professional footballers; and their trials and tribulations. The language was very modern, and the students did need to explain some of the use of language, because it was completely

new to me! The message of friendship was very strong and central to that was forgiveness. I wish you could have witnessed our students leaning on the balcony just being mesmerised by the play and the quality of the acting. I came away with many new ideas; Mrs Chenery is very pleased.

The attitude of our students is to be applauded. Mrs Black was delighted when an audience member came to express her joy at seeing young people enjoy the theatre experience; she believed that exposure to the live theatre was enormously important: I couldn't agree more.

Success is measured in the many small, but important, ways people deal with us. So, a huge thank you to the supervisor who helped seat us and made us feel very welcome. Also, to the coach driver, who again could not have been more helpful.

Most of all, trips like these rely on the team: Mrs Chenery, Mrs Sharp and Mrs Black. I certainly enjoyed their company and their good humour.

Most of all thank you to the students who are a credit to Great Marlow School, their parents and carers.

AN INSPIRING TRIP TO THE POETRY LIVE CONFERENCE FOR GMS STUDENTS

On 29th February the English department took 70 students to the annual Poetry Live conference in Reading. This gave them the chance to hear some of the poets they have studied for their GCSE and to learn first-hand that, while there is a place for the 'pale, male and stale' in literature, there are some outstanding living poets writing to reflect a range of voices and experiences.

The students behaved incredibly well and were prepared with a number of questions for the poets. While not all of these could be answered on the day (we had to let other schools have a chance), Great Marlow's intelligent and articulate students were well represented.

Thanks must go to the staff who helped me in making the trip happen. The day ran very smoothly thanks to their care and professionalism. School trips are increasingly difficult to arrange as costs for coaches and venues escalate so I would also like to thank parents for their support in making this visit happen.

By Mrs C Sadd

Teacher of English and KS3 Lead



YEAR 13 OTHELLO TRIP

"On Saturday 27th January, Mrs Legerton and Mrs Sadd had the pleasure of taking the Y13 A-Level English Literature students to see Othello. This outstanding

performance was staged at the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse which forms part of Shakespeare's Globe. This is modelled on the candlelit theatres of Shakespeare's London and the performance was lit with over 100 beeswax candles. With live musicians and an excellent cast, this production was incredibly memorable. Among the many highlights of the staging was the role of Othello's inner turmoil and feelings (subconscious Othello) being displayed as very much part of the action and increased the intensity of the character. Both Mrs Legerton and Mrs Sadd would like to thank the dedicated students for giving up their Saturday to visit the theatre."

A WORTHY TEACHING EXPERIENCE!!

"Filled with comedic, heartfelt & unexpected poetry. Poetry Live was a worthy, teaching experience to inspired 15–16-year-old poets such as myself as well as being beneficial to students wanting to achieve those higher grades. I really enjoyed every moment. Digging deep into the depths of our loved one's past, the joys they embodied in their fashionable timeline was expressed by Carole Ann Duffy in Before You Were Mine. Duffy is a great role model for feminism and women in the poetry industry. Simon Armitage's emotional experience poetry was shown through the challenges of familial love and grief. He impressed many, having the chance to see the current poet laureate was exciting and inspirational.

John Agard's creativity of making a poem and story a comedy show through his comedic realism and singing, making the whole audience filled with laughter and getting a great round of applause. And the Amazing Daljit Nagra, making traditional stereotypes subverted with comedy and his perceptions of life through romance. There wasn't a dull moment in the theatre. The examiner 'run through' was great as he helped simplify how to write a good essay in 'unseen poetry', in order to get a high grade.

We had plenty of breaks with a range of sweet snacks to choose from and hot and cold drinks, so no students or teachers suffered! I happily gorged on chocolate. Being at Poetry Live not only taught and inspired us but brought togetherness and smiles along many faces. Having a good laugh with my English teacher and friends while being supportive of one another and kind when faced with the deep meanings behind some of the poems was a cherishing moment. As someone who has been writing poetry my whole life, Poetry Live made me feel inspired and happy to get this great opportunity to see such articulate, impactful poetry spoken in front of me, motivating me to carry on writing, no matter the struggles I've faced in life and to be open about them through the beauty of poetry. Every single poet who read at Poetry Live was talented in their writing but when read out, the poetry took on a whole different meaning. I loved it!"

By Jennie Evans, Year 11

Literary Week 4th -8th March

Among the many and varied events of this year's Literary Week, the absolute highlight was World Book Day. The students in year 7 (and all staff members) were invited to dress up in some way which portrayed a favourite book character. The senior prefect team and Miss Miles judged costumes and gave out small prizes for their chosen winners (see further write up in Year 7 news).

In addition, the week also included a house competition spelling bee with Caleb being the overall year 7 Super Speller and Monya being the overall year 8 Stupendous Spelling winner. The House Captains did an excellent job in running the competition.

Mrs Sadd and Mrs Milne- Page both ran Master Classes in English Literature for Year 10 and 11 students. These break time sessions gave students the opportunity to link poetry to art and hone their knowledge of *An Inspector Calls* by JB Priestley.

All form groups were invited to take part in the World Book Day Quiz. Staff members masked themselves behind well-known books which had their titles and authors obscured.

The Top Three Winning Forms were:

1st Place 11K3 with 44/45

2nd Place 8K3 with 43/45

3rd Place 9E1/12K1 with 42/45 (joint)

Mrs Legerton would like to thank all participants in the events that ran throughout the week and the many staff member that gave their time and support.

By Mrs C Legerton



DROP EVERYTHING AND READ

Now in its third year, Drop Everything and Read continues to be a much-enjoyed fixture on the school calendar. Every half term, 15 minutes is devoted to stopping what you are doing in order to listen to a short story. This year the focus has been on student efforts and contributions. We have had Alisha Hassan's (Y13) short story about the darkness, Ivo Chamberlain and Charlie Szucs (Y9) with their dystopian story and one of the finalists in the BBC 500 words competition - Lailah. H. Her story, Seizure City can be found on the BBC Teach website.

By Mrs C Legerton

Book Clubs

The KS3 Book Club is different every week! From book reviews to making characters out of play dough, this break time club has seen a surge in members since it started in September. Our last meeting of this academic year (before the easter break) is a competition with our own 500 word short stories. Winners will receive easter treats. To demonstrate the enthusiasm of our members, here are what they had to say:

'I have made new friends through book club. It has been so much fun!'

'I didn't know very many people when I came to Great Marlow. Since starting book club I have made new friends and really enjoy the biscuits and the new activities each week.'

Book Club will start again in the autumn term.

By Mrs Legerton and Miss BHA

KS5 BOOK CLUB

Meeting every Thursday in the Sixth form library space there is debate, sharing of our love of literature and a very diverse range of reading. The loyal Y13 students have elected new committee members to take the club forward in to the new academic year. Mrs Legerton and Miss BHA want to wish the current Y13 book club members all the very best for the next stage of their academic or working journey and very much hope that their love of reading will continue.

By Mrs Legerton and Miss BHA



SIXTH FORM STUDENTS VISIT AUSCHWITZ

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

Since 1999, 41,000 students have been given the opportunity to take part in a four-part course organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust due to the premise, 'hearing is not like seeing'. The course looks at the universal lessons of the Holocaust and its relevance today. The department spent time reviewing the applications and were delighted to allow both Joseph Cogan and Joseph Legerton to take part in this invaluable experience. In February both students attended an online orientation seminar where they got to hear from Holocaust survivors and to prepare them for their visit to Auschwitz. At 2am on Tuesday 5th March, both students left to get to London Stansted for their 4.30am check in to fly to Poland. The students then spent the day visiting the different camps in Auschwitz and had time to reflect in the museum exhibitions. To end the day the students attended a memorial at the crematoria and were asked to read out a poem. This was an incredibly moving movement and was a real privilege for the students. To follow up their experience, both students attended an online seminar to reflect on the visit and to understand the relevance of the lessons of the Holocaust. To complete the project, both

Joseph and Joseph will be coming into Year 9 lessons after Easter holidays to share their experience of the visit to the students. They will present and answer questions so that they students will comprehend and be fully aware of the Holocaust and the lessons from it.

"I was incredibly grateful to be invited onto such an important and unique experience. I was truly impacted by the tour of both Auschwitz one and two and will carry these memories with me in remembrance. I would highly recommend the process of application for the trip to anybody considering going as it is truly a one in a lifetime event where you can gain the skills to educate yourself about the horrors of the Holocaust." Joseph Legerton

Chloé

GoldBiS (Best score in school ; Y11 student)

Brodie

SilverBiY (Best score in year 10)

Theo

SilverBiY (Best score in year 9)

Daria

Silver

Intermediate Maths Challenge 2024

This year we had over 60 students take part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge from Year 8 to Year 11.

It was the first time GMS had entered students from Y8 into the challenge which is designed for older year groups.

It is a challenge we encourage students to work on independently.

The following students had achieved either the Gold, Silver or Bronze Award. We also had 2 awards from year 8.

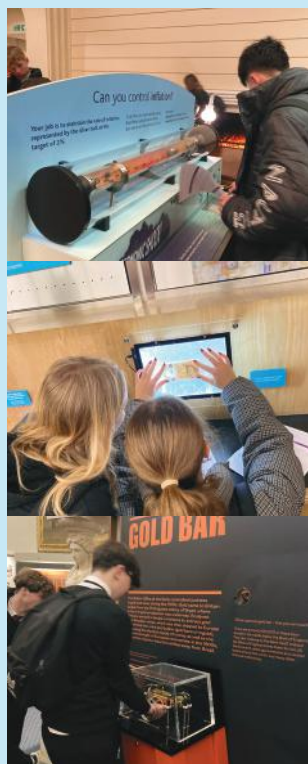
**Gold: Top 7% of scores
in the UK**

Silver: Top 13%

Bronze: Top 20%

Chloé	Gold (Best score in school - yr11)	Yuliia	Bronze
Brodie	Silver (Best score in yr 10)	Alvin	Bronze
Theo	Silver (Best score in yr 9)	Hugo	Bronze
Daria	Silver	Paul	Bronze
Grayson	Silver	Alice	Bronze
Saoirse	Silver	Lucy	Bronze
Daisy	Bronze	Liam	Bronze
Ewan	Bronze	Matilda	Bronze
Charlotte	Bronze	Markas	Bronze
Alistair	Bronze	Michael	Bronze
Raphael	Bronze	Jamie	Bronze
Poppy	Bronze (Best score in yr 8)	Alexandra	Bronze
Lily	Bronze	Anastasiia	Bronze
Elisa	Bronze		

STATISTICS STUDENTS ENJOYED A RECENT TRIP TO LONDON



On Wednesday 7th February the Statistics department had taken 24 students into London. We wanted to give students the experience of learning beyond the classroom, not only showing the use of Statistics but also some cross curricula learning linked to History and Economics along the way.

Students had walked from Farringdon station to Smithfield market and had a brief overview of its history.

One of the main stops was the London Stock Exchange Group students had a short talk from Mrs Bansal on companies and their trading of shares, how the companies were effected by the pandemic and the bounce back.

Students were shown graphs to help their understanding. It was here students were given a small surprise regarding a competition which will launch after the half term.

The department will be running a competition for students where

they get to spend £1000 (not real money!) on shares of their choice trading on the LSEG. The aim is for students to make as much money as possible. We will take this opportunity to discuss risk and analysing how much students are making on a weekly basis using Statistics. Their will be vouchers awarded to the top 3. Students are keen to get this started and some have already started thinking about how they will invest.

After lunch we walked to the Royal Exchange and students learned how it originated and how it is used today, unfortunately we could not go in but there was plenty of history around the site for students to read.

Our last stop was the Bank of England museum. This was filled with information from the history of banking to its links to the slave trade where there is a small exhibition to show how it still effects the bank today.

Students had the opportunity to hold a gold bar worth over £600,000 and learned about how 400,000 of these are kept in vaults underground.

This was followed by a 30 minute introduction to the Monetary policy and how it works. This linked topics such as consumer price index and inflation which is taught in Statistics.

Overall students appreciated not only the learning but the rich culture and history London has to offer and how much more there is yet to explore.

By Ms A Bansal

Spanish Students vist beautiful Granada

At the beginning of February the MFL department took 7 A level students to the lovely Spanish town of Granada in Andalucia for 5 days. It was trip packed with different activities to enhance, not only the students' language skills, but also their knowledge and appreciation for the Spanish culture.

During the trip the students got the chance to meet and work with students from a Spanish school where they did various activities that involved sharing facts about their own countries and their traditions and sharing information about themselves and the differences between the two school systems.

Granada is very famous for the Alhambra, a UNESCO World Heritage site, which is a palace and a fortress located on a hill above Granada. It is one of the most famous monuments of Islamic architecture and one of the best-preserved examples of this. It was a delight for all our students, especially those who are also studying Art and Design and we got a guided tour of the site with one of the expert guides.

This guide also gave us a tour of Granada town as well, explaining the history of the area and showing us the other famous monuments like the gothic cathedral in the city centre.

For the A level course we have to study a work of literature and we were lucky that the playwright, Gabriel Garcia Lorca who wrote La Casa de Bernada Alba of the piece we are doing was born near



MFL Granada, so we got the chance to go and visit the house in which he was born and see the area that helped influence his famous play.

During the trip we got to do lots of shopping, lots of eating and on the final day we got a cooking lesson with a Spanish chef, where we learnt to make paella, and then eat it! As well as paella, I think the students consumed their body weight in chocolate con churros as well. We hope to run this trip again in the future.

By Mrs T King



Doughnut Club makes an impact at GMS

A significant success in the Religious Education department at Great Marlow School for 2023-24 has been the introduction of our Doughnut Club every Thursday at break two. This is a club run in conjunction with Emily Clark, Youth Leader at All Saints Church, Marlow and has grown from a very keen group of approximately ten students in September to a classful by the new year! Massive credit is also owed to Mr Ford for facilitating this opportunity to begin with and Kam Salah at Wycombe Youth for Christ, who has co-delivered the club since November. The purpose of the club is to give year 7 students space to reflect on, discuss and develop their beliefs around Christianity in a respectful and supportive space, whilst also playing games and making new friends.

Youth Leader at All Saints Church, Marlow, Emily Clark commented:

"It has been a joy to meet with the year 7 students at Great Marlow School each week. They have blown us away with the complexity of their questions about the Christian faith. Along with the respect and maturity with which they have approached discussing such challenging topics.

Thank you to all the staff and students who have welcomed us into their community. We look forward to continuing to journey with the students as they explore their beliefs and develop a deeper understanding of what it means to

Some of the topics that have been discussed:

- Why did Jesus die?
- How and why was the universe created?
- Why did God create humanity?
- Why does a good, wise and loving God allow people to suffer?
- Is every story in the bible true?
- Who is the trinity?
- Do you believe in things that you can't feel, hear or see? Why?

Head of Religious Studies, Graham Pightling, said "Doughnut Club has made a major contribution to our extra-curricular offering to students, which they have taken up with great enthusiasm! It has helped them explore beliefs in a less formal setting than the classroom and contributed to their religious literacy, vocabulary and love of learning in Religious Education, which I'm sure will continue in their journey through the school in years to come!"

We are now reflecting on our success and looking forward to planning ahead so that this exciting extra-curricular opportunity can continue to grow.

By Mr G Pightling
Head of Religious Studies

everyone's interests: games, art and research for those who were so inclined.



On some occasions, we were given special, behind the scenes access in the museum such as visiting the Huxley room, which was very prominent at the time when Darwin first published his theories on evolution. Seeing such things helped to highlight the impressive historical features that were on offer as well as the science.

The eight weeks are concluded with an individual (or group) project putting into practice the research skills learned throughout the programme. The project allowed us to focus on our particular areas of interest and use the resources and specimens around us to help us in our research- some projects even included the study of the live cockroaches on display!

Spring, Scientists and Daisies

These are our Y10 Scientists out enjoying a brief spell of March sunshine conducting Field Investigations - an essential part of our GCSE Science course. The students were estimating the number of daisies on the field using random quadrat sampling (which managed to miss any muddier patches!) and then investigating the effects of light intensity on daisy distribution.

By Miss E Brassington



For anyone who is interested in science or keen on learning more about natural history, I couldn't recommend the Investigators programme highly enough. I have learned so many new things and feel that I have developed key scientific skills such as problem-solving. It was a privilege to take part.

Science



By Emmalene Gentry Year 13



Natural History Investigators

Every Saturday over an eight week period, the Oxford Natural History Museum offers students aged 14-16 the opportunity to develop their knowledge and scientific skills in a programme known as the 'Natural History Investigators'.

Each session begins in the 'Seminar Room' - a quiet space away from the main attractions, but filled with an eclectic range of specimens nonetheless. In order to capture our curiosity, every table would have its own set of natural history artefacts and it was our job to deduce what they were and what they had in common.

Around fifteen minutes in, we would listen to a brief talk about the day's focus. The topics ranged from Darwin's Theory of Evolution to the work of a paleo entomologist. The broad range of subjects allowed us to discover new areas of interest and consider potential career opportunities in STEM.

To enhance our understanding, we were tasked with a variety of exercises and activities which were accommodating for



HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION PROVED A TOUGH TASK FOR OUR JUDGES

The Spring Term kicked off with House Music competition. Performing for their respective houses, students excelled in a variety of categories, performing solos or as part of an ensemble with a variety of different instruments. Whilst each category winner earned house points, each participant also earned valuable points for their house, making House Music very much a team event.

As is becoming the tradition, guest judges Mrs Bennett, Ms Beswick, Mr Bradley, Mr Day, Miss King, Mrs Legerton, Mrs Milne-Page, Mr Ouedraogo and Mrs Sanchez had the hugely challenging task of deciding a category winner for each category. Congratulations to all musicians for a fantastic competition.

Category winners:

KS3 Ensemble = Ethan and Miles

KS4 Electric Guitar = Noah

KS4 Ensemble (Rock and Pop) = Hugo and Paul

KS4 Piano = Ivy

KS4 Voice = Jemima and Zac

KS4 Woodwind and Strings = Clara and Isobel

KS3 Voice = Miles

KS3 Piano = Zeph

KS3 Drum Kit and Guitar = Paul

KS4 Ensemble (Classical) = Clara and Ivy

The overall House Music standings:

1st place = Kites

2nd place = Hawks

3rd place = Eagles

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

But the Music Department are not finished yet! On Monday 25 March, the Chamber Choir will be performing in the Buckinghamshire Choir of the Year finals! We wish the choir the very best of luck.

After the break, the Music Department has a variety of events throughout the Summer Term. This includes the Jazz Evening, Cookham Festival, performances at Dorchester Abbey and All Saints Church, as well as annual performances at local primary schools. More details will follow on the above events after the break.

Please see the extra-curricular timetable below, which will start straight away after the break. If you are interested in pursuing music lessons on any instrument at Great Marlow School, please email the Music Department at: music@gms.buck.sch.uk

Monday:

After school - Rock and Pop bands (all years)

Tuesday:

Tutor time - Chamber Choir (all years)

After school - Wind Quintet (invite)

Wednesday:

Tutor time - Chamber Choir (all years)

After school - Wind Band (Y7-10)

Thursday:

Tutor time - String Ensemble (invite)

Break 1 - Show Choir (all years)

After school - Jazz Band (Y10-13)

By Mr O Kidd

Head Of Music

I have been extremely proud of Year 7 this term. Our year group has continued to thrive and develop, and I have been really impressed by the growing maturity of the students. I am in awe of the continued contributions Year 7 are making to school life, from sports teams to creative clubs, like music and drama, as well as their daily contributions to school life.

A look at our most recent progress report makes for very positive reading with much of the year group achieving 'Good' or 'Excellent' in every subject. There have been challenges along with this and the resilience of the students has been tested as the curriculum becomes more demanding during the academic year. When students have found the demands of school difficult, they have been well supported by Miss Blanco-Rand and the rest of the brilliant team of Student Support Officers along with their tutors.

It is the positive "can-do" attitude of the cohort and their willingness to get involved and give things a go, which will allow them to realise their full potential during their time here at GMS. Keep it up Year 7! A couple of my highlights of the term are below:

Y7 ROWING

Rowing has been an exciting addition to the list of opportunities on offer for students in Year 7 this half term! Lots of students have taken this opportunity in their stride, revealing a newfound passion and talent for the sport which holds a very special place in our school's heart.

Inspired by Mr Murrison's recent assembly on rowing opportunities in school, some of our Year 7 girls in Eagles raised over £40 at a lemonade stand they set up one weekend! Well done girls- your valuable contribution towards the GMS boat house is greatly appreciated. I hope this spirit continues when the inter-form sponsorship competition takes off.



GMS LITERARY WEEK AND WORLD BOOK DAY

GMS had a weeklong literacy festival where a range of activities were available for the students to partake in. These include a form quiz, spelling bee and a Poetry by Heart competition. Thank you to Mrs Legerton for all your hard work with putting together the events programme.

To celebrate World Book Day on the 7th of March, students in Year 7 were invited to come to school dressed as a book character of their choice. A big thank you to the senior prefects who visited each of the form groups to hand out small prizes to the students.

Special mentions go to:

- Caleb Flood 7H1
- Megan Tilbury and Sophie Morter 7H2
- Cameron Aldridge 7H3
- Ethan Rudge 7K1
- Fox Drake 7K3
- Guy Ibbotson 7K2
- Lucy Hellewell 7E3
- Ruby Roper 7E1

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



The winner of the DOL special prize and recipient of a £10 book voucher was Isabelle Nicholson in 7E2, our very own Queen of Hearts! (pictured)

By Miss A Miles

Director of Learning Year 7

I was delighted to welcome Year 8 back this spring term and with the support of Mrs Flannery and the form tutors, we have worked hard to support the students in their learning journey at Great Marlow School.

Year 12 mentoring of Year 8!

We have been trialling a new mentoring scheme and so far have 31 Year 8s being mentored by Year 12 students. I have been so impressed with the willingness and kindness of the Year 12s in offering their time to mentor younger students. Each week during registration, the Year 12 students collect their mentees and take them to an agreed place such as the Library or Canteen. The Year 12s talk about what has gone well during the week, some targets for the coming week and help to support Year 8s with independent learning.

It has been a lovely positive atmosphere seeing the conversations going on between the pairings!

Make Up and Beauty Club for the Year 8s

Students begin their journey towards maturity in Year 8. Year 7 is behind them and "body image", the term used to describe the way we see ourselves, becomes all important. "Body image is how we think and feel about our appearance, and this includes the relationship we have with our bodies." (NHS)

To recognise this increasing awareness, Mrs Flannery organised a Make-up and Beauty Club as an enrichment opportunity for the Year 8 cohort. The club takes place every Monday from 3-4pm and since its launch it has welcomed a variety of interesting guest speakers.



For example, Jo Budden, a make-up artist, who has worked with famous actors and with famous screen directors, came in to talk about the importance of applying make-up in such a way that it looks natural: make-up should enhance the natural beauty of a person's face by flattering its shape, skin type and tone.

In the photo, Brow Artist, Alex tints Mrs Flannery's eyebrows.



Evie Cabbage, a local hairdresser, students to be interested in by giving a fabulous talk about career. She gave advice about products to use and tips for demonstration focused on how to straighteners.

GMS thanks all their visitors for taking the time to inform and inspire our students. If any other professional is interested in coming in, please do get in touch.

**By Mrs N Pendelbury
DOL Year 8**



Congratulations to the following students for achieving 10 or more "excellent" grades for their attitude to learning on their most recent progress report. I am extremely proud of them. They really are super examples of our 6Rs!

8K1	Misbah Ali Maria Hidalgo-Minarro Halima Hussain Matilda Martin		
8K2	Owen Barnes Olivia Egginton, Grace Suder	8H3	Alexandra McGuiness Amber Nickolls Delilah Nicol Sophie Squire Thomas Whitely Leila Bagaza Lucy Bedford Lori Bowles Anna Brown Poppy Butler Faith Cabbage Ava Harbinson Niamh O'Conchuir Courtney Westfield
8K3	Elle De Beer Charlie Elliott Tristan Heath Sophia Hicks Alisa Ivanchenko Morya Kanti Bethany Kentell Hasan Nawaz Maddox Potter Sophie Rogers Alexander Whittle-Serano	8E1	Willow Andrews Jude Collin Elizabeth Green Alessandra Jedras Sofia Pritchard Riley Stevens, Sophie Allen Evie Beasley Amelia Berger Faith Brooks Jake Clegg Noah Codron Rasheeda Dean Kayla Dow Nina Handley William Hardman Darcey McNeil Freya Thorkildsen, Erin Arnold Henry Constable
8H1	Josie Bevins Eva Biggs Samuel Hall Eva Jameson Annabelle Jones Natalia Kearey Jasper Lai Eleanor Laithwaite Kelis Mason Grace Murado Tallulah Rees Scarlett Speare Braden Stark Ava Williams	8E2	
8H2	Alfie Clark Ahmed Contractor Oliver Garnett Isla Lewis-Bell Seth Lowdon	8E3	

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

The Spring Term of Year 9 is a key moment for our students as they are currently in the process of making their GCSE Options choices. We had a very successful GCSE Options Evening on Wednesday 21st February which the vast majority of parents/carers and Year 9 students attended. The feedback from parents was extremely positive and our Year 9 tutor team is supporting students with every step of the process.

GCSE OPTIONS AND PARENTS' EVENING

The GCSE Options Evening was the first time in the Year 9 students' GMS journey that they were able to be on the school site together with their parents. It was gratifying to see the appreciation that parents/carers and students have for what the school provides for them and to have a chance to connect with our students outside of the usual day-to-day context of school life.

We had the Year 9 Parents/Carers Evening on Thursday 21st March. As is usual, the Year 9 evening took place before the deadline of the GCSE Options Form on Monday 25th March. Students and parents had the opportunity to discuss their choices directly with their teachers; it was also an opportunity to discuss the Progress Reports that were sent home on 20th February.

BUCKS NEW UNI TRIP

Mrs Southon led a successful trip to Bucks New University for the Pupil Premium students in Year 9 on 21st February; our students spent the day exploring what University life could offer them and the potential career paths that higher education can lead to. The students represented Great Marlow School exceptionally well and the feedback from the University team acknowledged the maturity and ambitions that our students demonstrated throughout the day.

PROGRESS REPORTS

I would like to mention the Progress Reports in a little more detail. This term, the Leadership Team emphasised with teaching staff the importance of holding students to account for their Attitude To Learning in lessons. In some previous reports, students have been given a 'Good' score when their attitude in lessons more closely represents an 'inconsistent' approach. As a result of this new emphasis on reporting, we have seen an increase in the number of students receiving an 'inconsistent' mark for their ATL. This has significantly helped me, Miss Hyde and the Year 9 tutor team to address and support students with improving their ATL in lessons. A number of strategies have been put in place including parental contact, tutor monitoring, a more formal tutor report card and eventually DOL and SLT report cards for key individual students. I feel encouraged by the level of student and parental engagement in this process and am hopeful that our strategies of support will contribute to a more positive attitude to learning in Year 9.

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

By Mr S Taylor

Director of Learning for Year 9

As with most Progress Reports for this year group, the vast majority of Year 9 students still received all 'Good' or 'Excellent' scores for their ATL. Well done to the following students who received 100% 'Excellent' scores on their ATL:

Alexa Hartstone

Jamie Watson

Grace Puddephat

Rahael Tsolaki

Michael Coldwell

Clara Burge

Ava Brownlee

Maia Timpson

Lyla-Rose Jacobs

Congratulations to you all!

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

YEAR 10 TEAM

The Year 10 team continues to work tirelessly for their students. The consistent monitoring of attendance, lateness, achievement points and behaviour points means that students are well supported academically and pastorally, also allowing for appropriate interventions where necessary. We also work with the SEND/Mental Health teams to support our more vulnerable students who benefit from additional support such as MHST work or counselling.

ELEVATE REVISION SEMINAR

On 29th February, we invited a team of Elevate speakers in to school to present to Year 10 in their form groups. They ran an hour-long session on 'How to Ace your Exams'. Feedback surveys were conducted at the end of the session and the results were incredibly positive:

- **99% of Year 10 would recommend the programme to other students**
- **97% of Year 10 found the programme time well-spent**

We hope to have the Elevate team back in school to complete some follow up work in Year 11.

RSHE

The new RSHE curriculum has run for 7 months now and is proving a success. Students have settled into the new routine and do appreciate the sessions. The RSHE curriculum is constantly evolving to cover new and relevant topics for our students to ensure their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC).

PROGRESS REPORTS

The second set of Year 10 progress reports will be published on the 27th March, just before the Easter holiday. These progress reports will include an Attitude to Learning and a Progress Grade for all GCSE subjects. Students and their parents and carers will be able to have a clear picture of their progress and achievement in each subject alongside areas for development. The Year 10 team will then work with students using the progress reports giving the advice on their strengths and potential improvements.

YEAR 10 PARENTS EVENING

Year 10 parents evening in on the 16th April, just after Easter where students and parents/carers will receive valuable feedback on their GCSE progress so far.

FUTURE EVENTS

- Prefect applications are on the horizon. An exciting opportunity for Year 10 students to demonstrate their commitment to GMS and to become role models in a position of responsibility
- Workplace experience day. A valuable opportunity for students to benefit from some work experience in an industry of their choice for a day

We continue to be proud of Year 10 and the responsibility and respect that they have demonstrated now they are fully settled into their GCSE courses.

Wishing you an enjoyable Easter holiday

**By Miss F Tuddenham
Director of Learning Y10 & KS4**

Congratulations
to our Year
10 students
with the top
Achievement
Points in
each form:

10E1

Yulia Zayachuk
Willow Anderson

10E2

Emily Yelloly
Eva O'dell

10E3

Brodie Kennedy
Cameron Brooks

10K1

Natasha Pendlebury
Charlotte Hall

10K2

Tom Wharfe
Abbie Weedon

Tonisha Talwar 81

10K3

Ronak Chan
Isabel Gladwel

10H1

Lucy Appletree
Thuan Vu

10H2

Tabitha Reeve
Cameron Fraser

10H3

Grace Collier
Jess Bewley

I would like to begin by saying well done to the Year 11s in completing their mock exams and showing high levels of maturity throughout - I am confident that the summer exams will be equally successful in the routines and experience.

Students have now received feedback on their grades and are taking the actions required to progress towards their targets.

Students have had their guidance discussions with members of the sixth form team and also their careers meetings with the careers lead. The vast majority have successfully applied for their next steps in education and support is offered to those struggling with this.

REVISION

RHSE has been utilised surrounding the mock exams to teach students about revision techniques, what learning is and how best to support themselves with healthy routines and more.

These resources are being collated and shared on the school website here.

The cohort have had multiple assemblies regarding revision techniques and are being equipped with the resources they need for success.

Easter revisions sessions have been signed up to by a large number of students.

It really is a pleasure to see the commitment to progress and learning being shown by the cohort - Well done!

BUCKS SKILLS SHOW



The Bucks Skills Show was successful with attendees being exposed to a multitude of career and education providers for their next steps.

The students showed high levels of responsibility throughout the trip and represented the school positively.

Importantly, there was the opportunity to speak with universities, colleges, and apprenticeship providers, who have abundant knowledge about the next steps, post-GCSE



Staff and students enjoyed their day and benefited from the experience. I hope that all students are prepared for their next steps in education with their applications and opportunities secured.

AND FINALLY..

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

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

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

The end of year arrangements have been shared via email.

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

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

By Mrs Jen Webster
Year 11 Director of Learning



The Sixth Form team are delighted to report on a successful Spring term. 93 students submitted their UCAS application process in January 2024. Students have been completing interviews and have been eagerly accepting offers from a variety of institutions. For those not applying and looking for apprenticeships, Miss Southon organised for an Interview Skills Workshop which allowed students to gain invaluable insight into apprenticeships and also allowed for these students to make contact with industry.

It was delightful for the school to welcome back previous students to explain their experiences of the world of work. Year 13 have also been supported this term through mock examinations in January and the Parents/Carers Evening in March. Both allowed students to identify areas to target to ensure progress in their A Level and BTEC examinations which commence in May.

YEAR 13 PROGRESS GRADES

Year 13 progress grades were completed and given out on Friday 1st March. To celebrate their achievements praise postcards were sent to 27 students to congratulate them on achieving excellent ATL in all of their subjects or to congratulate them for achieving on or above their aspirational targets in every subject. Congratulatory posters can also be seen around our Sixth Form centre but we also wanted to congratulate the students here.

ON/ABOVE TARGET IN EVERY SUBJECT	Form	Milli Guinness	James Hadjikyriacos
Holly Eyles	E2	Charlie-Jai Bristow	Finley Gomm
Matthew Taylor		Lucy Miskell	Luca Novello
Ethan Prior	H1	Helena Sykora	Daniil Petrov
Mea Thomson		Ethan Prior	Alicia Ray
Lola Newcombe	H2	Faye Simpson	Lauren Hudson
Edwin Chamberlain	K1	Edwin Chamberlain	Molly McNally
Rebecca Stevens		Charlotte Pretty	Grace Radnedge
Joseph Cogan	K2	Rebecca Stevens	Maya Whyte
Millie Elwood		Joseph Cogan	Millie Elwood
Benny Maddern		Gabe Hunter	Joseph Legerton
Abbie Stewart		Benny Maddern	Isaac Rincon
		Abbie Stewart	

YEAR 13 SENIOR PREFECTS

Year 13 senior prefect team have also had a busy term. They have continued to support the school through completing interviews and school tours but have also had the opportunity this term to deliver Burford Primary School a session in awareness for Safer Internet Day. This was an invaluable experience for all, and many thanks for those taking part. The Senior Prefect Team and Interact, our charity group are also organising for a charity Bingo night on Wednesday 27th March and we know it will be a huge success. For worthy causes.

REVISION SESSIONS

Revision sessions, final day, examination and result arrangements have already been circulated via letters from Mr Hollyman but we just wanted to mention that we are looking forward to celebrating with the students at their prom on Friday 21st June. It is always a fantastic night and important to mark what the students have achieved at GMS.

YEAR 12 PROGRESS GRADES

Year 12 have received their first set of progress reports with their A-level/BTEC target grade included. Miss Jones was delighted to send praise postcards home to celebrate

their achievements but we would also like to celebrate them here.

Amy Appleton	Monty Todd	Tilly Hanson	Sophie Apletree
Tamiya Phillips	Aparna Sharma	Ansty Van Romburgh	Amelia Horan
Emily Hughes	Holly Rockell	Sadie Huddleston	Samuel Terrett
Anouk Oldham Wood	Kristin Rasmussen	Charlottle Haddock	Danny Power
George Spencer	Oliver Pitt	Oliver Braid	Ellie Weedon
Eleanor Robertson	Theo Papaioannou	Nicole Borkowska	Rebecca Tinnelly
Aminah Ibraz	Isabella Jedras	Arran Bligh	Shelley Paternoster
Finlay Lewis-Bell	Madihah Hussain	Emma Lumley	Swaira Babur
Natalia Gajewska	Bryn Crampsie		

YEAR 12 MENTORING SCHEME

Year 12 have been effective in supporting the lower years recently by undertaking mentoring of year 8 students. 12 have volunteered to provide support and communication for a variety of students and we are proud of the way these students have risen to this challenge, the year 8 students are delighted.

YEAR 12 WORK EXPERIENCE

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

YEAR 12 YOUNG ENTERPRISE

The Year 12 Young Enterprise group continues to go from strength to strength with team capitalising on a succession of holidays including Valentines and Mother's Day. We continue to wish them every success with their business ventures.

We are incredibly proud of all of our students at Great Marlow. Many students not only undertake their studies with us, but also dedicate their time to sport and music to a high level.

SIXTH FORM SUCCESSES

We would like to acknowledge and congratulate the following students on their successes this term. Millie Ellwood, Charlotte Greening, Caitlyn Urie, Leo Hazlem, Liam Bruno, Ash Barber, Matthew McCall and Malakhi Allick.



Millie Ellwood (left) – 13K2 Millie was a member of the Reading FC Under-21s team that won the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup Final on 17th March.

The Senior Girls Hockey Team have had another successful

season in hockey, reaching the quarter finals of the national competition and attaining a bronze medal in the indoor championships and the Senior Boys Hockey Team who achieved 4th position.

REVISION SUPPORT

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

Mr Hollyman, Miss Jones, Mrs Evans and Mrs Paul

The Sixth Form Team

Great Marlow are always pleased to hear of the extra-curricular successes of students. Aside from their learning, it shows resilience, readiness and responsibility for their chosen sport or discipline and we would like to congratulate everyone who achieves success out of school hours.

BRITISH SCHOOLS' JUDO COMPETITION

Ralphy, a talented judo enthusiast, was in The British Schools' Judo Competition a few weekends ago. There he performed so well that he was awarded Bronze, a fabulous achievement considering he was the youngest participant in his group.

The competition was held at the Institute of Sporting Excellence in Sheffield. Ralphy's result has placed GMS on the judo map.

The hall was busy with competitors and spectators. More than one bout took place during the competitive sessions, for there were three floor mats or 'tatami'. The tatami are important because they provide a safe surface that absorbs impact, which reduces the risk of injury during falls and throws. The tatami's texture also prevents slipping, allowing competitors to maintain their footing while executing techniques.

SIBLINGS JUDO SUCCESS

Josh and Cait Urie also competed at the British Schools judo finals recently. Josh earned himself a top-ten placement, being ranked as 7th overall. Cait was awarded the Bronze medal.

For Josh, this was an amazing achievement, as he was one of the youngest in the Year 8/9 category and, notably, in the group with the biggest number of competitors.

The attached video shows him giving his best throw in the competition; it's a huge 'uchi mata'!

Cait was disappointed with an early loss which took her out of the running for Gold or Silver. However, she was determined to take the Bronze and won four subsequent fights by ippon to achieve that, with 3 drop seoi nage's and a hold down.

GMS is very proud of both students and wishes them further success as they move forward with their chosen sport.



Don't forget to let us know of your child's personal achievements so we can acknowledge them at GMS



SILVER KICKBOXING MEDAL

Congratulations to Lara, Year 8, who has won a place on the GB Kickboxing Team.

Recently Lara attended the British Kickboxing Nationals in Nottingham; it was a demanding competition and Lara showed fortitude and resilience to gain the highly-ranked Silver medal position.

It's been an exciting term for the Houses, with new House Captains being selected and some big events shifting the landscape. Let's dive in and look at this term's achievements!

HOUSE CAPTAINS

After an application and interview phase, the House Leads deliberated on and selected brand new House Captains for this academic year. Many difficult decisions were made, as all of the applicants were well suited for the role, but we'd like to offer a huge congratulations to the following successful candidates:

EAGLES: William Hardman, Yuliana Yurychko and Gabe Lunn

HAWKS: Jamie Watson, Mason Leek and Annie Groom

KITES: Taylor Smith, Arran Bligh and Ansty Van-Romburg

HOUSE SPELLING BEE

During Literature Week, Great Marlow School's English department hosted our annual Spelling Bee – which saw a lot of entries and some key winners, who have secured even more points for their houses. The winners were Caleb in 7H1 and Morya in 8K3. A huge congratulations to all involved, and especially to the winners who have earned those crucial house points.

HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION:

The GMS Music Department hosted a huge, school-wide competition which saw lots of entries from various talented musicians, judged by a range of staff throughout the day. The competition saw 15 winners from a variety of different categories. However, the overall winning house was Kites, who had the most participants and the most winners.

Congratulations to Kites and to all students involved in performing.

Our current leading House is currently Kites!

As we move into the last few months, House Points become more vital than ever before. The competition is extremely close at this point and there's plenty to play for. The stakes are high and with more events round the corner (including Sports Day), things can change in an instant.



GMS HOSTS THE FIRST MARLOW SCHOOLS' ECO-CONFERENCE

On Thursday, March 14th, 2024, Great Marlow School hosted an Eco-Conference with a difference, and with a decided flair.

The sun shone, meaning the inside and outside areas of the Sixth Form Centre was used to house buzzing, enthusiastic stall-holders. Each vendor wanted to raise awareness of the environment and succeeded in doing evidenced by the animated students, who actively engaged with the stimulating way nature, the environment, and sustainability can be achieved.

The Eco-Committee built up for 4 GMS 6th form students, 2 Borlase students, Phil Irwing, Miss Addy, Mrs Fortnum & Mrs Renoylds spent 6th months on the development of the project, from events management to venue set up students have learnt about the logistiics involved in hosting such a huge event. We are so grateful to this resilient group for their hard work in the organisation. We have had many words of thanks from participants. (Perhaps we can add some testamonials from here Letters of thanks.docx)

The range and depth of engaging activities aimed to improve and enhance the knowledge and understanding of the environment and how all parts of interact and rely on each other was amazing.

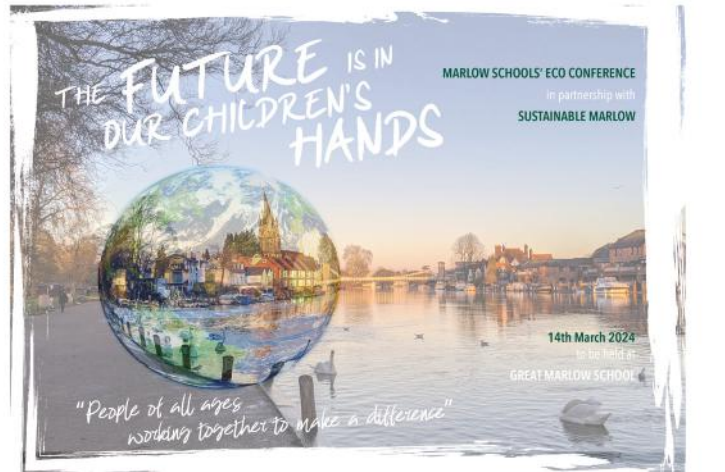
Students engaged in activities such as building bird boxes, making natural wax candles and understanding how polluting the meat industry is through tasting a variety of Vegan foods.

The 34 School Eco warriors each supported a stall in the delivery of materials. Christian Parker is now an excellent Bird box builder and Hugo Bester is heading into a sucessful career in teaching after his excellent performance in educating students about recycling.

At the end of the day, an exhausted Miss Addy, eco-prefects, and stall holders reflected on the total success of the day: without fail departing visitors praised and thanked them for their dedication and hard work. It was a worthwhile send-off for all the collaborators, who exhaustively planned for this interactive, stimulating, and motivating conference.

The photographs, now available, in the GMS's website gallery are evidence of the vibrant atmosphere. The four pillars of environmental protection, central to making our planet's resources sustainable, were represented: namely, biodiversity, waste and recycling, sustainable energy, and gardening.

By Mrs M Morgan



The student feedback made the event all worth while;

"The atmosphere was great, and bustling"

"It was brilliant"

"The event was very interesting and full of exciting vendors"





Photos and some testimonials Miss Addy received from hosting GMS's first Eco-Conference.

"I do hope that you have recovered a bit from all the hard work and excitement yesterday.

Thank you for inviting the Marlow Wombles to be there. We had an amazing day and felt the event was a huge success for you, the school and hopefully, eventually, the climate!

Please pass on my hugest thanks to your Eco-warrior team who were outstanding through the event - in particular, of course- Hugo and Alex.

Have a happy weekend when it comes. " Debbie

Dear Rachel, "Congratulations for organising the Eco-Conference so well yesterday and many thanks for inviting MEG.

We interacted with a great number of children and students and we hope that they gained a little knowledge from our stand and the information and games we had upon it.

We hope that this event will be repeated in 2025 and forward to be invited again."

Best wishes, John Laker (Director MEG).

Chiltern Rangers:

"First off, a huge thank you for the invitation to such an incredible event. It was fantastic to witness the genuine enthusiasm for the environment among so many young people.

Lastly, several students expressed interest in our Junior Ranger work experience program. Could you kindly pass on my contact details to the school's career advisor? I manage our work experience program and would love to connect with them. Here's a link to our work experience page for their reference.

Thanks again for everything, and best of luck with all your eco adventures at Great Marlow School."

"I hope you have had a relaxing weekend after such a great conference! We really enjoyed engaging with the pupils, their questions and interest in the vegan samples was great.

Thank you for running such an impactful and needed conference, I am sure that everyone learnt something – including myself!! "

Charmaine

"What a day it was! I just want to say a massive thank you and well done to you and your amazing team for organising everything. You aced it!

And Kevin, to you for your leadership over the last few years and for being happy to host at GMS.

I had a chat with Ed Goodall late on when he popped in and I asked if he might be prepared to host a future event at Borlase. I didn't need to twist his arm to get him to say yes!

I look forward to continuing to work with you both and with the expanding Marlow eco school community. As always I will help wherever I can. I would also be really happy to talk to GMS students who are considering a career in the environmental sector.

Regarding next steps and future events, I have some ideas as do many others and I look forward to discussing them with you in due course. My vote would go, I think, to doing something a bit different next time. I would like to get a collaborative project off the ground that creates personal opportunities for senior students at Borlase and GMS and leads to active cross-school working (ideally with the primary schools) throughout the year, producing outputs that are shared at a future event."

Rachel, enjoy the calm after the storm! I know there were some bumps in the road but your energy and focus delivered something very special yesterday, Marlow is lucky to have you.

Time for a glass of wine!

Phil

Dear Miss Addy

Congratulations to you and your wonderful team of Eco Warriors.

It was a remarkable day and ReLeaf Marlow were very pleased to be involved.

Special thanks are due to our Eco Warrior Ivo. He was so involved and very helpful.

I have attached a photo of our Post-it note challenge on the whiteboard which proved to be very popular, across the age range if it is helpful for any further promotion.

Many thanks

All the Best

Jonathan Slack - ReLeaf Marlow



Occasionally we are asked to help promote local organisations and charities. We have included these posters in this edition of The Voice which some of our readers may find useful.

Great Marlow School does not support any one charity or organisation over others, unless we choose to fundraise or ask for donations as part of an event like 'Children in Need' or 'One Can Trust'.



FOR 11-17 YEAR OLDS (SCHOOL YEARS 7-12)

MARLOW YOUTH HUB

THURSDAYS 4.00-5.30PM (TERM TIME)

MARLOW METHODIST CHURCH, 31 SPITAL STREET, SL7 3HJ
(ALONG THE PEDESTRIAN WALK WAY, NEXT TO HELEN & DOUGLAS CHARITY SHOP)

DO YOU NEED TO PRESS ...  ... ??


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**RELAX, HAVE FUN THROUGH GAMES & ACTIVITIES,
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For more information contact:
Kam Salah (Wycombe YFC Schools & Outreach Worker)
Email: kam@wycombeyfc.org.uk / Tel: 01494 522777

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UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORTING ADOLESCENT STRESS AND ANXIETY

FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

- recognising the difference between stress and anxiety
- understanding key CBT principals
- Practical strategies to support young people


Register for virtual sessions delivered via Teams by scanning the QR code below

Wednesday 24th April 2024
13:00-14:30



Repeated

Wednesday 24th April 2024
18:00-19:30



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Youth!

... at All Saints, Marlow



 Find us online ...
[@aisaintsmarlowyouth](https://www.instagram.com/aisaintsmarlowyouth)
[@aisaintsmarlowunder18s](https://www.instagram.com/aisaintsmarlowunder18s)

Sunday Mornings
We run a youth group during the 10.59 Sunday service where school years 6-9 have fun together, playing games, making crafts, learning more about God and praying with their peers.

Sir William Borlase's Grammar School
'Doughnut Club' meets during the morning short break on Mondays in H1U. This club is a space for years 7-9 to ask questions about life, chill out, play games and find out more about Jesus. Oh, and eat doughnuts too!

Youth Worship Band
We are relaunching our youth worship band! If you are of secondary school age and want to learn and grow in worship, come and join us! We will be meeting fortnightly on Thursdays from 17:00 to chat, pray and worship through music. Contact Nick (nick.collard@4u-team.org) or Emily (emily.sutton@4u-team.org) for more details.

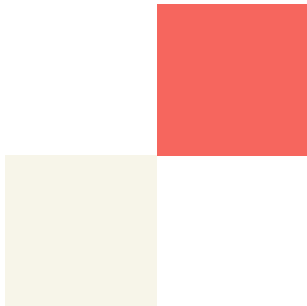
Youth Groups
Our youth groups run on a Wednesday evening during term time in the church hall. These groups are a space for young people to have fun, play games, and discuss questions about faith and topics that affect the lives of young people.

Compass | Wednesdays 6pm-7pm
Our younger mixed-gender youth group for years 7-9.

Cake and Axis | Wednesdays 7pm-8.30pm
Our older youth groups for years 10-13. Cake and Axis primarily meet together but sometimes break out into their separate groups for girls and boys.

For more information, contact
Emily Sutton, Youth Leader at emily.sutton@4u-team.org



SPRING TERM RUGBY ROUND-UP

YEAR 7 RUGBY

The year 7 rugby team returned to training and had two fixtures to end their first season representing GMS.

The boys got off to a flying start against Holyport, putting in their best display of tackling this season. At the ruck the boys won lots of turnovers which meant Holyport couldn't get a footing into the game. Strong running from Jooles and Stan converted GMS possession into points and the boys eventually ran out comfortable winners; 35-5.

The final game of the season saw GMS travel to Leighton Park. A tremendous display of attacking rugby saw GMS dominating from the start. The offloading game coupled with powerful direct running saw GMS take a commanding lead. There were no signs of complacency in the second half as GMS continued to attack the wide channels and finished off their season in style, winning 70-20.

Well done to all the boys who have represented GMS this season.



By Mr Pulsford

YEAR 8 RUGBY

The Year 8 Rugby team were treated to a variety of sevens tournaments this term. The first tournament was up at the world-famous school of Stowe, for the Northampton Saints 7s series. Against very strong opposition, some of which would likely be the top in the whole country, the boys fared well, winning 3 out of their 6 matches. Josh Urie and Aidan Allen were fantastic with their displays on the pitch.

The next tournament was the John Hampden 7s. Again, this was a tournament full of some of the most talented sides in the area. Zach Ayland put in a resilience effort throughout the tournament, playing every minute and never taking a step back. Henry Constable was a tackling machine. The player of the tournament was Josh Urie, who went on countless barnstorming runs in the wet conditions, including the winning try against Vyners to finish the tournament with a win.



YEAR 9 RUGBY

The Year 9 rugby team were excited to host Great Marlow School's first 7s tournament, which was kindly held at the grounds of our friends, Marlow Rugby Club.



To warm up to the event, GMS played in a triangular 7s fixture against John Hampden and Furze Platt. Both games were incredibly close, with GMS narrowly losing on both, but the big success story of the day was the emergence of new players to GMS rugby. Jack Frazer-Hogg showed-off his dazzling running game which had become apparent to the teachers in his PE lessons. Other debutant, Felipe Ferreira, was electric in attack and aggressive in defence, which included an incredible try where he volleyed the ball when receiving a kick-off, chased it, picked the ball up and scored.

In the GMS 7s tournament, the boys initially struggled to get to grips with the demands of the 7s game, losing to Aylesbury Grammar. However, they adapted quickly and pushed the tournament favourites, John Hampden, all the way, agonizingly losing in the final play. Mac Morrison's engine was something to behold, supporting runners to get on the end of tries, as well as making last-ditch tackles. Will Hoyle, well-known for his superb attacking game, enjoyed the open space 7s provides, with two tries of his own.



The team grew and grew into the tournament, with comprehensive wins against Burnham Grammar and Sir Henry Floyd. Jack Frazer-Hogg rugby emergence continued, with some brilliant solo tries. Toby Smith and Kai Savage

reveled in the playmaker role, putting the fast men into gaps. In the game against a heavily fancied side in Furze Platt, the team pulled off a shock win. McKenzie Grange reminded us of all of his devastating speed, ripping through the helpless defenses to put GMS in front at half time. Furze Platt came back into the game, but GMS pulled away with another lightning runner in Will Bowett speeding down the wing twice to score. Conlan O'Connor was unbelievable with the drop-kick conversions, sending touchline kicks over the posts, to the crowds astonishment. The team would finish a highly respectable 3rd in the tournament.

By Mr Jones

U13 NORTHAMPTON SAINTS SEVENS SERIES – STOWE SCHOOL

The U13 Rugby 7s squad took the trip to Stowe School to take part in the Northampton Saints 7s. With over 20 schools taking part the boys knew they would have their skills and fitness put to the test.

The team got off to a flyer in their first game, keeping possession and staying patient to score down the right hand touch line with their first attack. The team continued to deploy their strong runners and secured victory in their first game.

A tough defeat in the second game meant that the pool finished tied and was decided on tries scored – GMS finishing in second and progressing into the next pool.

The next few games saw some exciting end to end rugby – the tough nature of sevens was starting to take its toll and the whole squad had to step up as fatigue started to creep in and it needed the whole squad to dig deep.

GMS finished the tournament well, fighting hard to draw the penultimate game and win their last game.

All the boys should be really pleased with their performances.

By Mr Jones



BOYS' FOOTBALL

It has been another hectic half term of football, with boys and girl's teams chasing county cup glory and competing in a number of fixtures against local schools.



Yr 7 Football

The Year 7s continued their outstanding form in both the County and National Cup. Having progressed to the semi-final of the County Cup before Christmas, they faced a physical and skilful Walton High in the semi-final. The Year 7s produced a resilient

defensive display that was matched by their clinical finishing to triumph 6-1 and reach the County Cup final. In the final they faced Dr Challoner's who they had already beaten in the National Cup. The boys capitalised on mistakes by Dr Challoner's and controlled the final from start to finish. Riley Yost scoring 4 goals in a Man of the Match performance to lead the team to a 6-1 victory and secure the County Cup at the first time of asking.

The Year 7s continued to make history in the National Cup competition, having reached the last 32 before Christmas to become the most successful team in the school's history. The boys were determined to see how far they could go in the competition. This drive and motivation led them to the semi-finals, where unfortunately the dream ended to a very strong Shenfield High. They battled hard and led 1-0 at half time with the goal coming from Freddie Rowley, however, the quality of opposition came through in the second half to secure a 3-1 victory.

En route to the semi-final, they beat 3-time National Cup champion's Northampton School for Boys in the last 16 with a brace from Riley Yost, and then produced a dominate display against Budmouth School in the Quarter Final with an excellent defensive display from Mason Borrey.

This term has also provided more students to represent the school with

various district fixtures taking place. Outstanding performances by the A and B team ensured victory against the local rivals Sir William Borlase with Fin Andrews demonstrating confidence in possession. This meant over 30 students played football for the Year 7 football teams.

The talent demonstrated by all the boys this season and the accomplishments they have achieved is something to be proud of and it is exciting to see how far this team can go in the future.



By Mr A Higgins

Yr 8 Football

Building on from before Christmas, the Yr 8 football team has continued to produce outstanding team and individual displays. An excellent turnout and commitment in training has helped push the competitive edge of the team even higher. They have shown dominant displays in friendlies against the likes of St Michaels, Cressex and in a district 6-a-side tournament. In the tournament, Zack Gilham was outstanding in midfield, and Riley Stevens producing some wonderful saves low in the corner. This half term also saw a friendly against the local rivals Sir William Borlase. A tough game for both the A team and B team, with all students putting in excellent performances, and both games ending 1-1

Building towards next year, considering the level of performance the boys have already, along with their drive win, will make them a very strong Year 9 team.

By Mr H Magnay





Year 8 Football Team



Year 9 Football Team



Year 11

Yr 9 Football

After a short break in winter, the year 9 boys picked up where they left off. The weather conditions made some games difficult, but the high standard of our players shone through. They had great performances in friendlies against the likes of St Michaels, and Highcrest, led by Kai Savage showing great leadership from defence. In the county cup, it was a tougher game against Walton High, but once the players settled into the match they took control and came away with a win. Progressing into the semi-finals, the standard was even higher. Thorpe House came and it was a cagey affair. The visitors took a lead early in the second half, which then doubled their lead. Great Marlow responded by upping the intensity and getting numerous chances, grazing the post. This continued deep into the second half. Converting one of the chances raised the spirits further, with the boys pushing on for an equalizer. However, it was too little too late, and Thorpe House held out for the win. A solid performance from the team showed how much they have progressed from the start of the season, showing resilience, and battling right until the end.

Year 11 Football

Following from their tough start to the academic year, the Year 11 boys football team have started to get some consistent performances and results to match their efforts. It kicked off with a 6-a-side tournament at John Hamden Grammar School. The players performed well against all the schools, showing some grit and outstanding effort throughout the tournament. Harry Sheffield was outstanding. These performances built momentum moving back into 11-a-side fixtures. The next fixture was against Cressex. The boys were dominant throughout the game, limiting Cressex to only a couple of attacks, and ending the match with a 6-1 win.

By Mr H Magnay

6th form Football

The 6th form football team enjoyed a successful season making it to the semi-final of the County Cup. Having been promoted into division 1 last season, it was always going to be tough. However, the Year 12 and 13s came together to produce some excellent league results against AGS (drawing 1-1) and Sir Henry Floyd (winning 2-0) which meant they finished 6th in the league to progress to the knockout phase. In the quarter final, they faced Royal Latin who they previously lost 4-1 to in the league. The boys produced a resilient display to battle back from 2-1 down in extra time to take the game to penalties. The boys held their nerve with a string of composed penalties to progress to the semi-finals. However, they came up against a strong Dr Challenors team who went on to win the cup. The boys battled hard, but the quality of finishing was the difference with a host of chances missed by GMS and DCGS taking theirs.

It was good to see a team made up of predominately Year 12 go one further than last year's squad, so hopefully that progress can continue next season and a final could be achieved.

By Mr A Higgins



GCSE PE Revision

Attendance has been very good at GCSE PE revision this term, with students who attended regularly performing well in their mock examinations. These sessions will continue after Easter on a Monday or Tuesday after school, keep an eye out on the sports bulletin. There will also be Saturday sessions the weeks before the final examinations.

GIRLS' FOOTBALL

Great Marlow is continuing to work closely with the FA to grow and develop girls' football. The project is supported by Barclays. This term has been full of opportunities for the girls' football teams at GMS.

Great Marlow on Friday 8th March hosted a 'Girls Biggest Football Day'. This was nationally celebrated for International Women's Day and over 285,000 girls played football across the whole of England. Great Marlow alone managed to get over 700 girls playing football throughout the day, and we shared this opportunity with the year 7, 8 and 9 female students throughout the school day. Local primary school students also attended this day in either a morning or afternoon session. Over 200 primary school girls ranging from year 1 to year 6 attended a carousel football event on the Astro with help from the Year 12/13 Sports Leaders. The day was a huge success and to top the day off, GMS won the U13 afterschool tournament and the U15 team placed second.

By Miss Pana



U15s Football

After receiving a bye, the U15's travelled to Kings Langley Secondary School for the 2nd round of the Cup. It was a very well fought game against a clearly well set up team that had a lot of pace up front. The hosts opened the scoring with a well worked bit of passing and a through ball to their striker who slotted it into the corner. GMS didn't let their heads drop, stayed resilient and Grace scored a wonderful solo effort, taking the ball down the left wing and scoring from a very tight angle. The match was very finely balanced in the second half with both teams showing a strong defensive display. The match went to a nerve racking extra time where the wind picked up and legs started to get heavy. Unfortunately, our captain Jess H picked up a small injury and elected to go in goal, fortunately she was just as comfortable controlling her goal area as she was controlling midfield. Great opportunities were presented to both teams but no goals were scored and the game went to penalties. We started penalties strongly with Jess H making a save however sadly lost the game 3-1 on penalties in the end. Despite our time in the cup ending, we lost to a very good side, who won the next round 11-0 and are still in the cup.

By Miss E Boddy

The numbers for Year 7 netball have been exceptional this year with large numbers attending training each week. Rain or shine the girls have shown fantastic commitment and outstanding teamwork, turning up to training and always giving 110%. Their fantastic attitude has led to exceptional progress by both squads throughout the year. Final results from the league saw the A team finish in 3rd place and the B team in 2nd place. A big thank you to Year 9 netball leaders Ella, Erin and Maisie, who have been brilliant role models to the young girls and have done a fantastic job coaching and umpiring this term.

By Miss G Muttitt



Year 7 Team

DISTRICT NETBALL TOURNAMENTS

All of the league fixtures were played before Christmas this season, giving girls the opportunity to get involved in some of the other sports on the extra-curricular programme throughout January and February. The netball season then came to a close with the highly anticipated district tournaments hosted by Wycombe Abbey School. Amongst all year groups, the girls played against a number of private and comprehensive schools in the area and put on a brilliant display of netball, finishing the season on a high.

Well done all!

U19: 4th place

Year 11A: 4th place

Year 10A: 4th place/ Year 10B: 4th place/ Year 10C: 5th place

Year 9A: 3rd place/ Year 9B: 3rd place/ Year 9C: 8th place

Year 8A: 6th place/ Year 8B: 6th place/ Year 8C: 5th place

Year 7: 3rd place



Year 9A, 9B, 9C Netball Teams



Year 11 and U19 Netball Teams

FINAL LEAGUE STANDINGS:

U19 3rd Place

Year 11A 3rd Place, 11B 2nd Place

Year 10A 4th Place, 10B 2nd Place

Year 9A 3rd Place, 9B 1st Place, 9C 5th Place

Year 8A 4th Place, 8B 2nd Place

Year 7A 2nd Place, 7B 2nd Place

U19 NETBALL

The 6th Form netball team had a really successful season, finishing 3rd in the District League and 4th in the District Tournament.

The squad welcomed new faces Tamiya Phillips and Lucy Pease to the squad. The squad took some time to gel with the new combinations, but with lots of talent amongst the group this did not take long. Rachel Clarke and Abbie Corrick formed strong connections in the shooting circle, fed ably by our creative midcourters Sophie Apletree, Emma Merry and Lucy Pease. The defensive unit gelled with outstanding performances seen by our intercept queens Tamiya and Sophie, and Ella Goodhram, Mia Dudley-Holt and Evie Jenkins formed good partnerships turning over ball and taking it smoothly through court. An extremely successful season, and an absolute pleasure to coach such a lovely group of girls.

Good luck to Year 13 netball players Ella Goodhram, Mia Dudley-Holt and Emma Merry on their ventures next year, we hope you still find time to take to the court!

By Miss G Muttitt

SPRING TERM HOCKEY

Year 7 Girls' Hockey

With GMS hockey now well established on a local, regional and even national level, it is unsurprising that there was keen interest in the sport among the year 7 cohort. Given many of the year group have not had much previous hockey playing experience, the girls have had to work incredibly hard to compete in their fixtures.



Despite some losses in the earlier parts of the season, the girls persevered and found enjoyment in their small successes, such as effective passes and tackles, outcomes in the D and of course the goals they scored. Every game the girls played they improved on their previous performance, so the gaps between themselves and their opponents narrowed as the season went on, which culminated in the team winning all of their games at the Winchester House Tournament.

At their county tournament, the A team's main aim was to enjoy the day and be competitive in every game they played. They did much more than this and achieved strong wins against Waddesdon, Chesham Grammar and Beaconsfield High School, which helped them to finish a commendable 5th place, whilst also demonstrating a

huge amount of promise for the future.

The B team went into the District Tournament excited to compete. They performed well, and made steady progress throughout the day, getting better with each game they played. The team showed a huge amount of team spirit, which enabled them to enjoy their day, and experience the social and emotional benefits of physical activity, all of which are far more important than winning.

The girls have epitomised hard work, commitment and enthusiasm. We are very excited about the future for this year group, and I have no doubt that regional finals will be on the cards in a couple of years.



Year 8 Girls' Hockey

The national success of the GU18 hockey team last year, and with the team reaching the semi-finals of the National Cup this year, has shown the younger students exactly what can be achieved with hard work, commitment and team unity.



With many of the year group not having much hockey playing experience before attending GMS, the girls have had to work incredibly hard to catch up with their local rivals in the county. And catch up, they have! Despite the challenges presented to them in year 7, with a number of tough fixtures, the girls' commitment to training and constant enthusiasm for the sport has enabled them to, this year, compete as one of the best teams in the county.



The A team were confident going into their County Tournament that they could improve on last year's result, where they placed in the bottom half of the competition. The team started the tournament with a 1-1 draw with debutants Waddesdon, a game where they were disappointed not to come away with all 3 points, yet rallied themselves quickly to take 1-0 wins over Chesham Grammar School and Aylesbury High School.

Unfortunately, despite enormous effort, the girls fell short of qualification with 1-0 losses against Becky High and Pipers Corner, and a 2-1 loss to Borlase. Nevertheless, the team and coaching staff were incredibly proud of the team's performances in these games. Having lost heavily to all three of these teams last year, there is no doubt that the GMS team have made the most progress out of all of the teams in Buckinghamshire.

There is distinct likeness between this year group and the current Year 12s, who at the same age, did not qualify for any regional competitions but showed a huge amount of spirit, team unity and commitment to become National Champions 4 years later. We hope these results give them the belief that they too can one day compete on the national stage.

U14 Boys Hockey

The U14 boys have had an enjoyable term of hockey. The team's commitment to training has been evident throughout the season, with many of the boys choosing to join the girls' training sessions, in addition to their own training which started in December.

The team have had a good season in terms of results; making emphatic progress, which has seen victories against both John Hampden and RGS, which they fell short of in previous years. The boys qualified for the Tier 3 Regional Finals for the first time, which took place at Reading Hockey Club, thanks to good performances in the County Tournament which took place at Stowe School. Despite their results at the Regional Finals, the boys persevered and found enjoyment in their small successes, such as effective passes and tackles, outcomes in the D and reducing their goal difference each game. Every game the boys played they improved on their previous performance, so the gaps between themselves and their opponents narrowed as the tournament went on.

With the majority of the schools competing at the Regional Finals being prolific Public Schools, such as Eton and Radley, the boys are now looking forward to the National State School Festival which is taking place at Nottingham Hockey Centre in May.

U18 Boys' Hockey – National Finalists

I am very proud to be able to sit here and write that our first ever Boys' Hockey team have also become our first ever Boys' team to become National Finalists.



The team finished 4th in the Tier 3 National Finals, which took place at Nottingham Hockey Centre on Monday 18th March. Only losing one game all day, the team were unfortunate not to finish higher. The boys positive, mature and sporting behaviour was noticed and acknowledged by a number of England Hockey officials, so the

team did themselves, their school and their community proud.

For our Year 13 students it was an incredible way to sign off their school hockey experience. As the first GMS boys' team, they have all done a huge amount to raise the profile of boys hockey within the school. We've gained some students and lost some students to other schools a long the way, but we are incredibly proud of the commitment, enthusiasm and resilience they've shown continually throughout their time at GMS.



U18 Squad: T Reekie, H Critchlow, A Barber, C Rhymer, M van Romburgh, I Maddern, H Wilson, M Arnold, B Maddern, J Bedford, M Allick, E Wills, B Crampsie

Thank you to everyone who made the long journey to support the boys in Nottingham. As always the support of friends and family is invaluable and made for a day to remember.

By Miss L Porter



BOYS HANDBALL



This term has seen at least 15 ks4 boys attending handball every week. This allowed them to learn the tactics of the game which led them to participate in a range of fixtures. The boys produced an excellent display against a physical and competitive Highcrest school to win 16-13, with the shooting power of Henry Harbinson and Harrison Sheffield being the difference. They then faced JHGS and RGS in more tactical affair, these fixtures helped to develop their defence skills and allowed the players the opportunity to put some of their attacking moves into practice.

For the boys it has been an excellent opportunity to participate in competitive handball which has allowed them to learn a new sport as well as securing a GCSE grade for handball. This term has shown that students who are committed

and are willing to give a sport a go can make significant progress to secure some excellent practical grades.

By Mr A Higgins

GIRLS' HANDBALL



The girls handball has been a very well attended and successful club. Handball is a game which is relatively simple to play and access, however it requires a significant amount of coordination, power and cardiovascular fitness to play well. The year 9 and 10 girls have worked hard to get their standard of play competition ready.

Each week they have worked on skills and set play drills to develop their ability and understanding in preparation for games against other schools. The girls demonstrated focussed attitudes and worked with endeavour to progress their ability to access this fast flowing and exciting game.

In addition to the enjoyment of attending the club, exercising, meeting other students and learning this game, some of the students have demonstrated such good progress that they will be able to use this game as a GCSE PE assessment sport (1 of 3). The positive steps that the girls have taken in trying something new has paid dividends in return with the wealth of experience and progress it has afforded them. This is a fine example of taking opportunities and what this can do for you.

By Mr S Goodright

Head of PE



GIRLS' RUGBY

The return of the girl's rugby club has been greatly received by our aspiring female rugby players. Students with a range of abilities from club players to those who have enjoyed and been inspired by rugby in their PE lessons have attended the club, relishing the opportunity

to develop their knowledge and understanding of this brilliant game.

Each week the students have worked on developing their skills in many different facets of the game, with intention of being able to piece them all together in preparation for the county tournament in April. Tackling was a firm favourite, and the, at some point to be famous, 'chicken' methodology, developed here in PE at GMS enabled the students to learn tackling safely and effectively. This incremental method instils confidence in the learner which is a significant factor in the prevention of injury in this part of the game. In addition to tackling, the students learned about phases of play, rucking, passing and the associated rules.

The attitude of the students has been absolutely superb. The open minded and receptive response to the sessions has enabled exponential progress and a genuine sense of direction with the group, who are eagerly anticipating their opportunity to put these taught skills to the test in the afore mentioned tournament.

By Mr S Goodright

Head of PE

Boys' Fitness

This term has seen a great number of boys make use of the fantastic facilities in the Redgrave fitness suite. The year 9 boys can always be found in the free weights section, working hard to improve their muscular strength and power. There is a core group of year 7 boys who have been exploring the different methods of training and working on basic technique.

By Mr Pulsford



OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL EVENTS

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

Table Tennis Festival



On the 16th March we had the opportunity to take a group of year 10 students to the table tennis competition at the Beaconsfield High School in February. The students played well throughout the event, which was split into cup and plate competition. Noah Fitzpatrick was highly competitive within the event showing an excellent range of table tennis skills. The students had to demonstrate their responsibility and organisation to find and play all their matches against all the other players within their group. Mason Leek demonstrated outstanding respect and responsibility throughout the event. The students also showed great integrity, umpiring fairly,

and ensuring all scores were submitted correctly. All the students played single matches, with great skill development throughout the day from Christopher Sommers and Markas Marcinkus.

Girls and Boys Fitness

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

Badminton



We went to Wycombe Badminton Centre for a GCSE badminton event. Students used the league format and showed great responsibility to seed themselves and ensure each game had two officials before they started. Considering some of the students have not been involved in a badminton fixture before, the students got the hang of the rotations

and scoring very quickly.

Students showed great resilience within the games and determination. Finlay Tood demonstrating some excellent shots to try and outwit his opponents. Some of the games were very close and the students had to think carefully about their shot selection. Hilton Schafer showed some fantastic precision, winning points regularly with his short backhand serve and drop shot.

Our KS3 students had the opportunity to get involved in a badminton festival at GMS led by our sports leaders. Our year 9 and 10 leaders demonstrated fantastic organisation and communication skills, to successfully run the competition. In the fixtures, the student's enthusiasm and commitment to each match resulted in some very close games. Well done to Jarrad Dunne for helping organise the team and Leo Bray for helping officiate.

By Miss E Boddy



Bench ball

GMS took part in the Benchball event for the varsity series on the 20th March. GMS were against some top opposition and were on the losing end of their first game. With some superb leadership and coaching insight from sixth formers, Scarlett Lee and Lucy Scott, the GMS team grew and grew into the tournament. Mahd Intisar and Danny Harding were excellent, and there were also outstanding contributions from Elle De Beer and Maria Hidalgo Minnaro. GMS finished a respectable third in the tournament.

Swimming

In January we took a group of students to a competitive swimming gala at Wycombe Abbey. The students showed true determination, and enthusiasm which meant that we filled every event, sometimes with multiple swimmers.

Ralph Weaver- Poole and Archie Messenger showed great teamwork and volunteered to be entered in every race which didn't have a swimmer. The relay races were a big highlight, with our swimmer showing great teamwork with the boys entering two teams in both the freestyle and noodle relay. Jayden Garvey and Sean Webb had some very close race coming out with a first and second. The girls team shows great enthusiasm with three entries in every race. Well done to everyone involved.

The morning finished with a presentation where Zephy Fulton, Jayden Garvey and Daisy- Mae Colloton were awarded their medals. All members of the GMS team deserve a well done for their effort and teamwork put into the morning at Wycombe Abbey swimming pool.



Multi Sports After School Club

The boys and girls multi sports has continued to be a successful club in

terms of high participation rates. Every Wednesday, from 15:00 to 16:15, students come to play a variety of sports. A club where students have the responsibility to choose what they want to do, students have jumped at the opportunity to try sports they have not played before. These include Danish Longball, dodgeball and table tennis and basketball. Students have encouraged their friends to join them in the club, showing the positive effect sport can have in developing friendships and people interactions. Some of the student were then selected to play in a varsity bench ball match hosted at Sir William Borlase.

By Miss E Boddy

ORIENTEERING

The orienteering event that was previously postponed due to poor weather was rescheduled for January. Luckily, we had better weather, and the event went ahead. Orienteering was something new for our year 7 students to have a go at. This was hosted at Alfriston School. Students had to navigate themselves around the wooded area and playing fields to find the check points. At each check point students had to complete a different problem-solving activity, including English and Maths tasks. Once the students had mastered orientating the map, they were off! Frankie Caudery and Ellie Gardner did not shy away from this challenge, sprinting between check points to ensure they completed as many challenges as possible. Due to great teamwork and determination, some students completed over 5 challenges in a hour!



Rowing

On 12th March, some year 10 sports leaders helped run a rowing session for four schools, including 12 of our year 7 students. The students learnt about the rowing technique and competed in a range of competitions. These competitions consisted of a speed (strokes per minute) and power challenge, a distance competition and team relays. The students managed to complete a relay at the end. Well done to all the year 7 students who took part and thank you to our leaders.





School Games

This term has been a busy one for School Games who have hosted a number of both festivals and competitions for local primary schools. The year began with Badminton festivals for years 5&6 and 3&4, respectively. Fun games and practices were set up by the year 9 and 10's that helped out with the festivals with many of them showing their creativity and adaptability to make the session as engaging as possible for the primary pupils.

A couple of weeks later, the Dance festival which was attended by over 90 pupils was a huge hit both pupils and staff those that came! Two routines in different styles of were presented by the fabulous dance teachers from Kobika Dance. The routines were then presented at the end. 14 Great Marlow students that are involved in the upcoming dance show supported the event by performing the routines with the primary pupils, and were the perfect role models while doing so.

Coming back from half term, GMS showed their knowledge for aesthetics during the Gymnastics competitions for year 5&6 and 3&4. The Sports leaders from year 9 judged the competition within vault, floor routine and body management. This event gave local primary schools the opportunity to give gymnastics a go in a competitive setting but above all, have fun doing a sport they love.

The half term also saw GMS host two Inclusive festivals (Hockey & Rowing). For both event schools from across Bucks came to try out the fun practices and games that had been put together by the Sports leaders from year 12 and the Year 10 Rowers. Both events were really well received and appreciated by the schools that attended.

By Miss E Boddy



BADMINTON

This year, badminton club has been popular as ever. Starting in November, a large body of students regularly attended the practices to improve their badminton skill, leading into the fixtures in January. We played fixtures against Cressex, John Hamden Grammar School and Highcrest. The opposition schools had some good individual players, but our players had some standout performances, which saw GMS dominate. Aditya overcame their strong opposition, but the standout player throughout all the matches was Ellen. She blitzed through all of her opponents regardless, whether it was a singles or doubles match, with fantastic movement over the court and some devastating backhand shots (and advanced skill at GCSE PE).

In the KS3 the year 7s, 8s and 9s continued their commitment to training, consistently attending in large numbers. Their skills have been developed further through this commitment to attend training sessions without fail, and have continually improved throughout the season. Josh has been a consistently strong athlete, producing a high calibre of games. Daniel and Charlie deserve recognition as their work over the past 3 years has really improved them as a badminton player and sportsmen. Alexandra and Isla have always put in fantastic work in training and games, with Alexandra showing her usual no-nonsense attitude to win.

The work and training this year has no doubt provided a strong foundation for the competitive club next season.

By Mr H Magnay



GCSE Trampolining

Over the past term, year 10 and 11 GCSE PE trampolining students have been working hard to refine and improve their skills. They have shown excellent commitment, attending after school and lunch time sessions, which have enabled them to develop their two assessed routines. Pupils have worked tirelessly to ensure they maintain height and clarity of their shapes, as well as continuity between the moves. The students hard work at their trampolining clubs outside of school meant they showed great progress each week, due to the hours they put in on the trampoline. The hard work certainly paid off with students becoming more confident as time went on, leading to an improvement in their GCSE PE grades.

By Mr S Goodright



Gym & Dance Show

At GMS the extended opportunities facilitate learning beyond the classroom which plays an integral role in the shaping and development of our young people as they continue their journey toward adult hood. The dance club and annual show is the perfect example of such an opportunity. The dance show was the culmination of a huge amount of work which our students choreographed and developed every Friday after school from mid-November.

The dance club in particular, has presented the perfect platform for the development of leadership. Jemima Suddaby, with support of Bonnie Francis-Kelly ran the club every Friday evening since mid-November and used this time and experience as evidence towards her National Level 3 Sports leaders Qualification. At this point it should be noted that Jemima is the only year 11 at GMS to be undertaking this course as it is ordinarily offered to the 6th form. She demonstrated leadership and management skills well beyond her years and if she was employable, she would be offered a position within the PE Department with an immediate start date.

In addition to the leadership, there has been a fantastic sense of community amongst the dance club, as the older students have assisted the younger students in choreographing and perfect their dances. The girls worked exceptionally hard to produce the performances which were received superbly and with great joy by our 160 strong audience. Our 90s themed event encompassed an array of musical genres from this significant decade, and the dancers did their level best to reflect their interpretation of the music...even if some of it was the Spice Girls! Nevertheless, it was a memorable evening and the extensive accolades voiced by all who were in attendance were well deserved by our talented dance club members.

By Mr S Goodright

Head of PE

CROSS COUNTRY



The annual county cross country was held at Stowe School. This is an incredible National Trust site with rolling hills, roaming animals and plenty of mud...especially with the unprecedented amount of rain we've had.

We advertise this to the students as 'proper cross country' as some may have only experienced a few laps of a school field as their introduction to this challenging sport. Students were still keen to attend, and we entered full teams in the main age groups for the day for both the boys and girls in years 7, 9 and 11.

The weather was relative kind on the day, but the torrential rain which we received leading up to the event meant the course was more like a quagmire than a running route on the day. The students fared very well and exercised resilience in spades as they all had to finish by running up a 300metre drag to the finish line. Caked in mud and completely out of energy there were still smiles...from most as they knew they had conquered the course and given it their best shot.



There were notable performances from Holly Knott, year 7 and Isla Sutherland year 8 who were selected to run in their respective County Teams due to finishing in the top 10. Isla was selected for the year 9 team as she was running a year down.

We are incredibly proud of all the students who attended and are thoroughly looking forward to the athletics season with them, we are also

hopeful that the weather will be slightly nicer when this comes around!

By Mr S Goodright

Head of PE

Junior Inter Regional Trials

On Friday March 8th, GMSBC took 6 crews to compete for selection to represent Thames Upriver at the inter-regional regatta in April. Due to our position at the heart of British rowing, TUP is a very tough region to represent, and it is normally the case that we win the overall event comfortably.

All crews performed well and the Year 11 boys four just missed out by 0.8 seconds to ending up in a race off as they did last year to win selection.

Congratulations to the year 10 girls who won both the coxed quad and double sculls in dominant fashion. Particularly gratifying to convincingly beat old adversaries Henley by over 7 seconds in the quads. Under the rules of the event the girls will forego their double slot so they can race in the quad. So Lucy Platt, Kayla Shillito, Bea Spence, Natasha Pendlebury and Isabel Berger will be representing TUP up at Nottingham in April.

Our other selection was Connor Quann in year 11 single. A particularly fine result.

By Mr F Murison

Schools' Head of the River

Wednesday, 20th March saw some 250 crews line up on the championship course, from Chiswick Bridge to Putney to compete in this years race. The Schools' Head is the major national long-distance race of the year and is the culmination of the Winter training period.

Due to excessive flow from the flood waters coming downstream the year 10 event was moved to Dorney, but more on that later.

We had three crews racing: our boys School 1st Eight, Girls Championship Quad and a J16 Girls School 1st Eight.

The boys eight were first down the track with Rafael Quinn, George Spencer, Sal Dunn, Ethan Hunt, Connor Quann, Lucas Wolgers-Gray, Joe Cogan, Sam Terret and Cox Monty Todd. This is the fastest crew we have ever entered. They had a spectacular race, overtaking several crews, including Clare's Court, and broke the course record. While the result was truly impressive, it was frustratingly, after 4 ¼ miles and over 17 minutes, 0.6 seconds behind first place. Still a great result for the boys and I am sure there will be more to come later in the season. It is not often you break the course record and come 2nd!

The Championship girl's quad was next down the track containing Charlotte Greening, Poppy Spence, Abi Forgenie and Lucy Platt. GMS have raced this event for the last 3 seasons, and continuing to progress year on year, in 2022 finishing 18th, 2023 finishing 15th and this year finishing 13th. Notably this is the first year it has not contained a single

Year 13, which is exciting for the rest of the season and the years to come.

The J16 (Y11) Girls School 1st 8+ containing 50% J15 (Y10) girls raced well in a boat type they do not often row in, not having had this boat out since October 2023. They kept a calm and sensible head focusing on ensuring the boat speed remained consistent, in doing so they placed 3rd in their category. The merging of these two squads is a testament to the attitude and commitment of this squad.

Dorney

As mentioned earlier, the J15 (Y10) boys school 1st 8+ raced in a rescheduled event at Dorney and it was obvious those clubs who had been able to train on the water and those who had not. Year 10 being the first-year athletes can row (with 1 oar) as opposed to scull (2 blades) and balancing an eight can take quite a lot of practice.

The boys went off at an aggressive pace and really raced the piece. The race has two sections to it, 1900m up the lake then turn and 1900m down the lake. Looking at most of the crews there was a fatigue factor of about 10 seconds on the second leg, but the GMS boys should be pleased that it was under a second between their two times. They came fourth in their event and beat a number of notable independent schools including Henley rivals, Shiplake College.

A very good days racing for GMSBC

By Mr F Murison

Junior Sculling Head

There are good days and bad days on the water, then there are great days. Last Friday, March 23rd 2024, saw the last major race of the winter season, the Junior Sculling Head at Dorney. This is a national time trial race over two lengths of Dorney lake 3600m. Racing takes all day as the first division is for J18 quads and then each successive division is for different categories.

Our two top boys quads, who had just missed the Gold Medal on Wednesday by 0.6 seconds in the eight, raced as an A and B quad in the first division. The top crew won the event by 13 seconds ahead of their nearest rival and the B crew won their event by a similar margin. This is the first time GMSBC has won gold at this level and an amazing result for the boys.

The great results do not end here as our senior girls' crews followed shortly after with the top crew coming fourth in their event and the B crew coming second in theirs.

For all four crews to be so competitive is hugely exciting for the regatta season to come.

Given a number of our year 11 rowers were involved in our top crews we did not have any boats in this category but we then had the year 10 girls coxed quad. WJ15 quads is a particularly competitive event because there are less options for them to compete at the Schools head and other categories so our crew were faced with very large field. Regular readers will know that they won silver here last year behind Henley Rowing Club and just missed out on a medal at National Schools last summer, so they were very determined to make their make on the 2024 season.

The girls won Gold, nearly 12 seconds ahead of local rivals Marlow Rowing club, and some 20 seconds ahead of Henley who came fourth. A really great performance and very exciting for the season ahead.

The last race of the day was the year 9 boys octos where our crew have had plenty of success. However, this was the big stage with many major independent schools coming into the arena for the first time. The boys raced aggressively and overtook a couple of crews on the first leg. Despite their lack of water time they looked well drilled and kept their form. Fourth in their first truly National Event was a great achievement and the highest any GMS year 9 crew has come in this event.

A really great day. I have spent the last few days at GB trials in Nottingham and so many coaches have offered their congratulations. In passing the results here are also very good but more on that tomorrow.

By Mr F Murison

**Congratulations to Sal Dunn who
has been selected to represent
Great Britain at the Munich Regatta
in May in the U19 GB quad sculls.**

**This is a first full junior
GB vest for GMSBC.**

GMS Vacancies

GMS has several Teaching and Associate Staff vacancies that are available to view on our website.

We have job vacancies in our SEN Department, including Exam Invigilators for SEN students. The school is oversubscribed being the school of choice for many students in the area. The SEN Department plays an important role in supporting students with special educational needs; the team is enthusiastic and committed to achieving the very best for the students in their care.

If you are interested in joining our school, all job descriptions are on the website under "About Us" along with the application forms.

AND FINALLY....

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

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

Remember results days are:

A-level

**Thursday 15th
August 2024**

GCSE

**Thursday 22nd
August 2024**

Great Marlow School
Bobmore Lane
Marlow Bucks
SL7 1JE

Exam invigilators required

We are seeking to appoint flexible, reliable people who have plenty of hours to spare to supervise examinations.

The main examination season is in May and June. However, there will be other examinations requiring invigilators at other times during the academic year, November, December, January and March. Hours and days will vary according to need and normally within school hours.

No experience is needed as full training will be given and an hourly rate of £11.50 is payable (plus holiday pay entitlement).

So if you are.....

- Punctual and reliable
- Able to use common sense and initiative
- Able to adopt a firm but fair approach
- Have an eye for accuracy and attention to details
- Have three days or more to spare per week

...and are interested in this role, please complete an associate staff application form, which can be located on the school's website under the heading - about us – job vacancies.

Please forward your fully completed application form to exams@gms.bucks.sch.uk for the attention of Mrs Smith (Exams Officer) to register your interest.

If you wish to contact the school to discuss this role prior to submitting your application, please contact the school on 01628 483752 and ask to speak with the Exams Officer,

