



HEADTEACHER: Mr K Ford

Friday 15th March

Dear Parents and Carers

GMS 2024 Sporting Challenge – Thursday 2nd May and Friday 3rd May

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.

Last week, Mr Murison and I led the assemblies for Years 7-10 introducing the Sporting Challenge and outlining the competitions. 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.

At the end of the assembly when we 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.

The donations will be collected on the [Go Fund Me site which can be accessed via this link](#), it is important that when you make your sponsorship on the site that you record on the details of the donation, the Form to which the donation needs to be registered against **eg 7E2**.

It is no secret that Great Marlow School places a huge emphasis on the importance of physical activity and exercise. I have written in numerous communications, including The Voice about how we believe that people who live physically active lives are physically healthy and emotionally healthy. We as a school also find that students who are physically active and participate regularly in exercise and sport find the acquisition of knowledge easier and can apply that knowledge and understanding more successfully in tests and examinations.

To reinforce this focus on the importance of physical activity, staff will, again, this year be taking on a continuous physical activity challenge in the Redgrave Sports Centre Fitness Suite. As we are now in 2024, it will be the 20 hour and 24-minute challenge. Last year, we were delighted to welcome so

many members of our local community to take part in this challenge and we extend the invitation, again, this year. We will start the challenge at 4.00pm on Thursday 2nd May and finish at 12.24pm on Friday 3rd May. Community members can join in for as long as they wish during this time period and I will send a communication just before the Easter break that enables people to sign up to participate in the challenge.

Over the next few weeks, there will be regular information and further updates on our 2024 Sporting Challenge.

Thank you for continued support.

Kevin Ford
Executive Headteacher