



MARLING  
SCHOOL

## e-Newsletter 2021-2022 (Edition 2)

We hope you enjoyed our Virtual Christmas Concert earlier this week. We heard some fabulous performances from our musical ensembles: Junior and Senior Choir, Keyboard Club and Jazz Band, as well as our joint ensembles with Stroud High School including the String Group, Downfielders and the Orchestra. We also heard some wonderful solo performances from our Marling students too!

Textiles at Marling was introduced at the start of this school year in Design Technology and the Year 7's and 12's involved have really enjoyed the new projects. We have a group of Year 12 students taking part in an external competition to recycle items into fashion and our Year 7's have been immersing themselves in the fashion world, from designing outfits on the mannequins, learning how to pin and work to a pattern, developing the skills to create successful fashion illustrations and using both hand sewing and machine sewing to create their very own set of monster juggling balls. We are looking forward to developing textiles at Marling in the coming months and well done to all of the Year 7 students who have completed their projects this week, keep sewing! Click [here](#) to read more.

The Schools Grow Project with Computer Science and DT has got off to a great start. The project involves automating the feeding and watering of fruit and veg, using Raspberry Pi's and a variety of sensors to measure soil moisture levels and environmental conditions to ensure they have the best chance of growing. Our goal is to have the project powered by 100% renewable energy. We recently received confirmation that Marling will be a choice for the Stroud Tesco Blue Chip Community Grant with our focus on sustainability and education of food security. If you do happen to shop at Tesco in Stroud, please do vote for our cause using your blue chip. Each project gets some funding regardless of end position.

Two teams of students have successfully moved to phase 2 of the Astro Pi Mission Space Lab competition. The Year 10 team are planning to run an experiment on the International Space Station (ISS) to measure the Earth's magnetic field from space and the Year 13 team are planning to predict cloud weather using Artificial Intelligence to compare with real time data from the ISS. Both experiments are using Raspberry Pi computers to collect and process the data. Their challenge now is to create the coding that could be sent to the ISS in phase 3 of the competition. We look forward to hearing how they progress, please click [here](#) to read more.

The Chemistry department are pleased to announce that Dr Kennedy (Head of Chemistry) has secured a grant from the Royal Society of Chemistry's Primary Science Empowerment Fund to deliver Earth Science CPD for Primary School Teachers. With the £580 grant, Miss Butcher and Dr Kennedy will help deliver bespoke training to local primary schools on teaching earth science, with a particular focus on working scientifically and links to Chemistry. The primary schools will then be given access to geological samples from across the world to utilise with their students. Several primary schools have expressed an interest, and Miss Butcher and Dr Kennedy will work with as many schools as they can to offer this training. Click [here](#) to find out more.

Dr Kennedy and Mrs Wittke ran a STEM poetry competition in which entries were invited to explore the infinite ways we are connected to the universe, the natural world, and one another. We are delighted to be able to present our winning poem [here](#) by Owen Darlington (7B).

We were thrilled to restart educational visits at Marling with Year 9, 10 and 11 Latin students enjoying a trip to Fishbourne Roman Villa which involved a source handling session and looking round the villa to see the amazing mosaics. Year 10 and 11 Latin students also went to Bath to the Roman Baths and took part in a session targeted at their Latin language skills, decoding tomb stones and alters. They also had the opportunity to handle some Roman objects before touring the baths.

It was great to see recent Marling cross country alumnus, Tom Mortimer, help secure a Silver medal with a brilliant 14<sup>th</sup> place finish in the European Cross Country Championships in Dublin. If you missed it, you can still find the race on the BBC iPlayer. Tom is the latest in the long line of international runners to come through Marling School and, after a hiatus

caused by COVID, that production line is back. There's a large turn out every week for running club on a Wednesday after school and it's never too late to join. It's open to all ages and abilities and will be back once the days are long enough again in mid-January.

Competitive racing started up again with the traditional district cross country competitions at the start of this year. The racing in Term 2 focussed on the English Schools Athletics Association Cross Country Cup. In November, both Junior (Year 7 and Year 8) and Inter boys (Year 9 and Year 10) teams won their regional Finals at Bromsgrove School. The Inter boys did so in commanding fashion. Henry Sheffield (10F) led the way, gliding over the firm ground to 1<sup>st</sup> place. He was closely followed in by Dominic Martin (9E) in 4<sup>th</sup> place and Sam Wilson (9G) one place further back. Isaac Boyd (10B) completed the scoring team with an excellent 14<sup>th</sup> place; a fine achievement for an inexperienced racer in a strong field. The team was completed by Cassius Brown and Ben Batterham who competed hard for every place to help secure victory over a much fancied Shrewsbury School in second spot. A very young Junior boys team produced an unexpected win in their race that bodes very well for the future. It was a brilliant team effort with Oliver Wilson (7G), Luke Sefton (8B), Jack Pennell (7E), Nick Westoby (8G), Archie Gladstone (7C) and Francis Stuart-Menteth (8C) running in a pack to claim places 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>.

Those performances qualified the teams for the National Finals in Newquay in December. There, the inter boys team were hit by the late withdrawal of Isaac with a football injury, which may have cost them a place on the podium. They still finished an excellent 7<sup>th</sup> in the country with Henry a commanding winner of the individual race. The Junior team all ran their hearts out on a very sticky, technical course gaining experience that will stand them in good stead for next year's competition.

The following day most of the ESAA teams (and several others) were out again for the Individual County finals at Newent. Two races in one weekend definitely told in the legs of some competitors but there were still some notable performances. In the Minor Boys race, Jack Pennell and Oliver Wilson qualified for the county team with 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> place finishes, as did Sam Wilson and Dominic Martin who came 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Junior boys (Year 8 and 9) category. Henry Sheffield strolled to victory in the Inter Boys. All move on to the Regional finals in early February.

Well done to all the students that took part in the Rotary Young Chef Competition in November. Congratulations to Tom Taylor for winning overall, click [here](#) to see his winning dish. Congratulations to Charlie Denton in Year 10 for winning both the Junior Singles and Junior Doubles at the recent National Deaf Tennis Championships! Well done to Stanley Bhargava for winning 1<sup>st</sup> place out of 21 at the national Vert skateboarding competition and to Fergus Bhargava for placing 1<sup>st</sup> position of the whole 2021 series. Fergus has started training with the Skateboard GB Team and Stanley hopes to join them when his GCSE studies are complete. Click [here](#) to read more.

In charity news, students and staff fundraised last Friday wearing a whole array of Christmas Jumpers in support of Save the Children (they raised £1204) and earlier this term they raised £1766 for Children in Need – well done to all and thank you for your support. Don't forget to follow our social media accounts to see what else we've been up to this term (Instagram - [@marling.school](#) Facebook - [@marlingschool](#) Twitter - [@MarlingSchool](#)).

**The Addam's Family: A Musical Comedy** school production has now been cast and rehearsals have started. The show dates are Wednesday 23 – Friday 25 March 2021 so please save the date.

The [term dates](#) for 2021/22 and 2022/23 can be found on our website.

Please refer to the email from the Health & Safety address regarding the staggered return to school in January.

This will be my last newsletter as Headteacher of Marling School and the next one will come to you from Mr Glen Balmer who will be Headteacher from 1 January 2022. In the meantime, I wish you all a wonderful Christmas.

**Stuart Wilson – Executive Headteacher** ([ssw@marling.school](mailto:ssw@marling.school))

### **Ebley Coaches Price Increase**

As from January 2022, Ebley Coaches are increasing their fares for Route 16a from Hardwicke to Cainscross Road.  
£2.30 single/£23.00 Twelve Tripper from Hardwicke  
£1.50 single/£15.00 Twelve Tripper from Stonehouse

### **Polite Reminder**

Please can we remind parents, for health and safety reasons, not to pull in to the main gates in the mornings or after school when dropping or picking up your child at school. Also, can you remind your child that should they become unwell during the school day, they need to go to Student Services and not phone home during the school day.

### **Train to Teach with Us**

Are you interested in becoming a teacher either in the secondary or primary sector? Cotswold Edge Teaching Alliance (led by Marling School) is a provider of Initial Teacher Training. You would be placed at a local primary or secondary partner school and supported throughout the course by outstanding practitioners. Please contact us here at Marling through Nikki Embling (info@ceta.school) or visit <http://www.ceta.school/itt/> for further details.