



MARLING
SIXTH FORM

Downfield Road



SPOTLIGHT

Term 1 & 2

2021-2022

Wow, what a start to the academic year 2021/22 and welcome to this first edition of the year of 'Spotlight'. In this edition you'll find exciting news and celebrations ranging from engineering projects to shoebox schemes, from sporting success to mentoring.

In September we welcomed our Class of 2023, our biggest ever cohort, and welcomed back our returning cohort of Yr13s who will soon become the Class of 2022. As always it has been a pleasure to work with the students across our Sixth Form and seeing the Yr12s having a great time at Alton Towers earlier this term was a personal favourite of mine. I must also reserve some thanks here for the outgoing Student Leadership Team of 2021 - Jess, Scott, Lily, Matt, Joanna, Alex and Tasmiyah - more of which on the next page. In the New Year we look forward to appointing the next generation of student leaders, the applications for which will go live shortly after we return in January, so a quick call here to all interested in leadership to look out for the forthcoming opportunity.

Overall, it has been a wonderful term despite the ongoing challenges presented by the pandemic. Looking back I never cease to be amazed by the achievements of our students and I hope you enjoy reading through this edition, celebrating just a small selection of life here at Marling Sixth Form, as much as the students and staff enjoyed creating those memories.

Merry Christmas Everyone and a Happy New Year.



STEVE FARR

HEAD OF SIXTH FORM



Thank you to Tasmiyah, Alex, Jess, Scott, Joanna and Matt; you have worked so hard to make the experience for students in both the Sixth Form and across our school an enjoyable and productive one. You have each made a difference through your role, contributing to the life of the school and I hope you are all justifiably very proud of your achievements. On behalf of the School and Sixth Form, thank you for your service.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP



**Scott,
Head Boy**

As Head Boy, I've worked alongside the Student Leadership Team to implement meaningful projects at school. We've had a fantastic year despite lockdown restrictions, and have learnt so much from the experience. We each had our own focus groups throughout the year, and I worked on Outreach projects. I looked at ways of incorporating technology into the recruitment process of new students, and spreading the word about Marling Sixth Form. Activities included developing a QR Code Scavenger Hunt for the new Year 12 Induction, where students ventured around campus scanning QR codes, answering questions and moving up the live leader board. I highly recommend applying for a Student Leadership position, as you get the chance to develop and improve your skills in a variety of areas.



**Jess,
Head Girl**

My time as Head Girl has truly benefitted me as it has massively helped my confidence and leadership skills. When starting the role, I felt unsure as how to properly lead and organise a team and struggled with the concept of guiding and instructing my peers who I wanted to get along with. However, I feel that I now have a great deal more confidence in doing these things. I feel the most important thing I have done as head girl has been to help conduct the team, speaking to members individually and reminding everyone of meetings and agendas to keep us all updated and on track.

I am excited to take on leadership roles in the future and feel the things I have learned from focusing on mental health and relevant social issues will only better my skills and motivate me to work hard in the future.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP



Lily,
Deputy Head Girl

During my time as Deputy Head Girl, I have been focusing on charity at Marling. Being Deputy Head Girl has taught me so much about commitment, organisation and team work. Having a team that you have to work with has been extremely beneficial since it almost replicates what it's like to be in the workplace with colleagues and a superior. Also, being part of the leadership team comes with commitments that you can't get out of. For example, multiple weekly meetings and the expectation to get tasks done. This is yet another example of real life outside of education and even prepares me for university. I'm so thankful for having had the opportunity of being Deputy Head Girl and it has been such an enriching experience.



Alex,
Deputy Head Boy

I'm Alex and I'm studying Geography, Business and Psychology. As part of the leadership team, I had a focus on student well-being and mental health. We set up a mental health podcast as well as a mental health section in the library. I have also helped with the mentoring programme and with the sports department, specifically with the athletics team and in sports day. It has all been a really interesting and fun experience. Something that is personal to me, and where the school stands out is the AEN (additional education needs department). As someone with dyslexia, the AEN programme has always, and continues to, support me. Being part of the Student Leadership Teams, gives me the chance to give back to the school that has helped me. Through this, I have gained a lot of experience in dealing with people's problems and communicating with different types of people.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP



Matt,
Deputy Head Boy

During my time as Deputy Head Boy, I've loved working alongside the rest of the team on some great projects, including raising awareness around International Women's Day and helping with the consultation on the sixth form dress code. I'm particularly proud of the coaching and mentoring programme that Tas and I set up. This allowed us to strengthen the links between the lower school and sixth form, which was something that I wanted to focus on when I started in the role. It's been so rewarding to see the positive impact that the programme has had on the students involved, and it was great to see so many members of the sixth form volunteer to help out. I've also really enjoyed helping out with school events, and I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to develop my skills and represent the school community.



Tasmiyah,
Deputy Head Girl

Over the last year, I have had the opportunity to be Deputy Head Girl, and I am beyond grateful for the opportunities it has presented me and the life lessons it has taught me. When I set out on my journey to be a part of the Student Leadership Team, I was keen to focus on strengthening the relationship between the lower school and the sixth form, and found that I shared this ambition with Matt. In order to achieve our goal, we set out to create the Coaching and Mentoring Programme, which has grown significantly over the last few months, and jumped from strength to strength. When we first launched the Programme in March of this year, we had 32 coaches and mentors, and since coming back after summer, we grew to a group of 92, which makes me extremely proud!

In terms of how holding the role has impacted me, I have learnt so many valuable lessons from being a part of the leadership team, and I can't wait to apply them to my future ventures. As a team, we had to navigate leading through quite a tough year for all, and we managed to come out on the other side with so much to be proud of. I am very sad to be saying goodbye to my role, but I can't wait to see what the next team achieve, and I wish them all the best!

STUDENT LEADERSHIP



Joanna,
Deputy Head Girl

My name is Joanna. Throughout my time as Deputy Head Girl my focus area was Community. My aims were to establish a group for students from schools throughout Gloucestershire to discuss areas that students find important, to learn from each other, and, most importantly, to allow students to have a voice. Within the process there have been challenges, however I have learnt valuable lessons – most importantly that things do not always go to plan therefore you need to work around them. In my role chairing the school meetings I learnt about time management, organisation, planning and developed my self-confidence. I often had to present in front of a large number of complete strangers, which has been an experience I will be able to apply frequently in my future career.

Being Deputy Head Girl was a journey of growth, where teamwork and commitment were essential. I am very grateful for the opportunity and being able to work in such an amazing team. It was an enriching experience and definitely one that has helped me learn a lot about myself, which I will never forget.



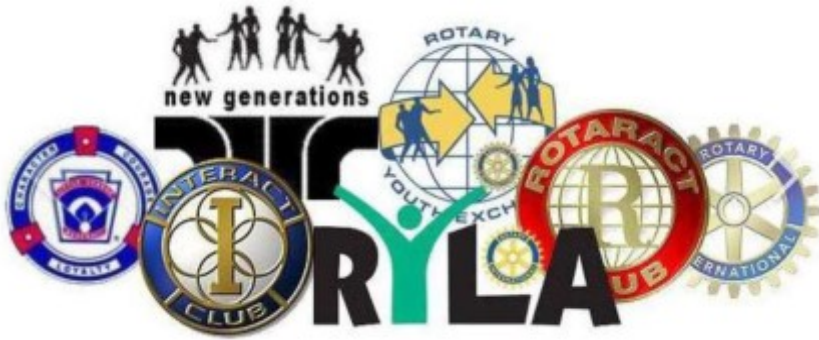
Mental Health Day



Staff wore yellow to show students they're not alone with mental health.



Pupil Takes Wins with Poem



Rotary President, Martin Greaves and Youth Lead Bob Roberts presenting Kerry with her certificate, trophy and vouchers.

Rotary Young Writer Competition 2020/21

The theme for this year's Young Writer competition was "My Happiest Day." Young people were asked to produce a piece of fiction or non-fiction/story or poem, relating to this theme.

Kerry won at Senior Group, Local and at District levels. Then went on to take 2nd at National.

The judge said of Kerry's 8 line poem, *"Poetry, does tend to force concentration, so there is more in those lines than appears at first sight. I particularly like the way that the writer turned the title on its head, almost berating the organisers for picking a title that devalues every other day. In these eight lines, there is a philosophy of life. The poem meets other technical criteria, there are no clichés, few wasted words and excellent use of vocabulary."*

My Happiest Day

I hate the idea of the 'happiest day'.
One day when you just feel good
Fixated on concepts of 'perfect',
The 'best'. We don't see what is already here.
We don't understand - imperfect's perfect;
It's sadness that helps us see good.
We'll wait and wait for the 'happiest day'
But it's been here all along - we just missed it.

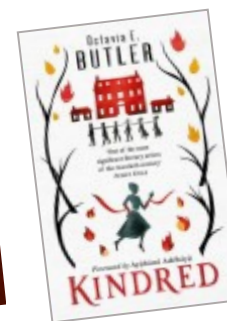
From the Librarian...



The return of Sixth Form Book Club

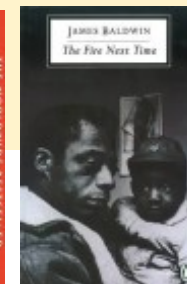
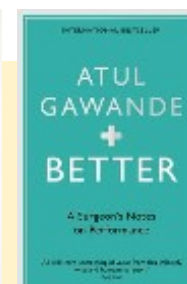
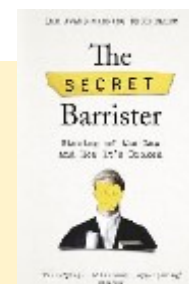
Thanks to Kerry Myers and Lily Stephens for flying the flag for Book Club and the Library in general at the Sixth Form Freshers' Fair. Book Club kicked off this year with Ray Bradbury's book-burning dystopian classic, *Fahrenheit 451*, followed by Angela Carter's dark fairytale collection,

The Bloody Chamber. Coming up next year will be Octavia E. Butler's ground-breaking novel *Kindred*, which sees aspiring writer, Dana, travel back in time to rescue a drowning man from a Maryland plantation, setting in motion a pattern of events that will endanger her life as a black woman in slavery-era America.

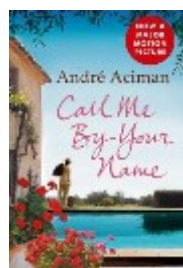
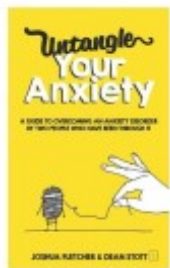


You asked, we answered - new books requested by you

Over the last few months you've made some brilliant recommendations for books you'd like to see in the Library. These are just some of the books you asked for that are now available to borrow, from Madeline Miller's modern take on the Circe legend for the Me Too era, to non-fiction titles that are a must-read for anyone applying for law or medicine.



Developing our mental health and LGBTQ+ book collections



Following on from the Sixth Form leadership team's focus on mental health awareness last year, the Library has successfully bid for a grant of £380 from the Stroud & Rodborough Educational Charity to develop our collections around mental health and LGBTQ+ fiction and non-fiction. Look out for these and many more titles appearing on our shelves soon.

YEAR 12 TRIP ALTON TOWERS

The new Year 12s enjoyed a fun day out at Alton Towers at the beginning of the term.

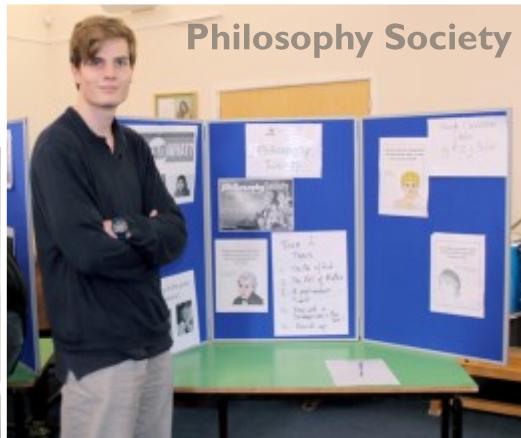


Freshers Fair

Year 12 students attended the Freshers Fair to see what opportunities are on offer to them, to develop a range of skills and achievements as part of The Marling Diamond Programme. The stalls showcased a number of societies and clubs, staffed by year 13 students who either run or take part in these clubs themselves.



Girls' Football



Philosophy Society



MedSoc



BIOLOGY

Gene Technology Trip

Year 13 biologists enjoyed a gene technology workshop at Oxford University where they investigated a bitter taste receptor gene. Firstly, students carried out a taste test to determine their taste phenotype (non-taster, mild taster or strong taster). They then isolated their own DNA from cheek cells and used the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to amplify a key fragment of the taste receptor gene. Students used a restriction enzyme digest of their PCR product to differentiate between 'taster' and 'non-taster' alleles, followed by using a gel electrophoresis to visualise their digested DNA to discover their genotype and compare this to their phenotype. They ended the workshop by discussing their results in the context of human evolution.



The biology department has recently purchased a suturing kit, so that prospective medics, dentists and veterinary science students and nurses can practice suturing. Very exciting!!!

Dissection Club



We are also delighted that dissection club has started again. In the first meeting students dissected ox hearts!

MedSoc

MedSoc has started and we are so pleased to see so many students interested in studying medicine, dentistry and veterinary science! We are also very proud of our year 13s who are running the society and are sharing their experiences. Recently, we had a guest speaker - Simon Atkinson, who is in charge of admissions to Bristol Medical School.



SCIENCE



A Level Students Receive Biology Olympiad Awards

The International Biology Olympiad competition is for pre-university students, testing their practical and theoretical biology skills. 34 students took part with 22 receiving awards. It's the first time the school has participated in this competition.

Marling Chemists Receive Cambridge Challenge Awards



Thirteen A Level chemists entered the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge. Two received Silver Award for being in the top 20% and six received the Copper Award for the top 33% of 7000+ entrants. A brilliant achievement for all those who took part and achieved an award.

The Power of Mentoring

The Sixth Form hosted an inspirational speaker Andy Lewis MBE European, World, Paralympic & British Champion. The gold medallist came to talk to Year 12 students about his experiences with mentoring.



Arkwright Scholarship



Congratulations to Jonathon Parker who has been awarded the prestigious Arkwright Engineering Scholarship, the most esteemed scholarships of its type in the UK, designed to inspire students to pursue their dreams and change the world as a future leader in engineering. The scholarships are awarded to hard-working 16 year old students through a rigorous selection process, to support them through their A Levels. Every scholarship is sponsored by a commercial company, trade association, university, professional institution, armed service, government organisation, worshipful company, charitable trust or personal donor. Very few students achieve The Arkwright Scholarship, and we are delighted that Jonathon secure this. Scholarship money goes to support their studies and to pay for attendance on technical courses or summer schools. They will also have a mentor - a professional engineer who will provide advice and guidance about future study, projects and career development, and have access to exclusive events that will give him valuable insight into different sectors of industry and academia - truly fantastic opportunities.

An Arkwright Interview by Jonathon Parker

The first part of the interview was a presentation I had prepared in advance. In this, I explained and demonstrated a project I had submitted in my application - in this case a morse encoder run on a raspberry pi, as well as any interaction on it since applying, in my case including a Caesar cipher. The presentation then moved on to demonstrating leadership, extra-curricular, super curricular interests in engineering: work experience, competitions and finally a secondary project, in this case my NEA.

Once I had answered the interviewers' questions on the presentation, they moved onto their own questions. These focused for the main part on moments where I had demonstrated initiative and leadership. The final section was about what plans I had once I've left school, as in universities, courses, apprenticeships. Once again, I had to demonstrate a commitment to engineering.

MUSIC



Coming Soon!
March 23rd - 25th



Production rehearsals have started for The Addams Family a musical comedy.

The production is not just for acting and singing roles. It also involves musicians for the orchestra, opportunities for set design, lighting, and stage make-up roles.

DRAMA



Drama students attended a production of 'Wuthering Heights' at Bristol Old Vic theatre.

ENRICHMENT



Rugby



Girls' Football

ENRICHMENT



ENRICHMENT

Netball 2021-22 Teams

The Marling Netball Team are celebrating a fantastic start to the season, with some fantastic wins this year. Considering the teams were completely new at the start of the season, the girls have worked really hard to form a cohesive, successful and competitive A and B team. With new kit this year, training kit on the way and the potential for a netball tour next year, the girls are really settling into Marling Netball. This week, we celebrate their success with a Netball Christmas Party, Dominoes pizza, sharing snacks and festive music! Well done Ladies, you've worked really hard and deserve it!



ENRICHMENT



Greenpower invites teams of students aged 9 to 25 from across the globe to compete at events in the UK and other countries including USA, Poland and China. The annual International Final takes place at venues such as the UK's Silverstone National Circuit and Goodwood Motor Circuit.

Our current team consists of a group of Year 12 students who are renovating a vehicle donated by Siemens in 2020 to make it 'race ready' for the upcoming season. So far they have stripped the vehicle back to a bare frame and chassis before strengthening the design and modifying the floor pan and body panels. Over the coming months they will upgrade and fit the motor and electronics along with a wide range of other 'tweaks' to improve the competitiveness of the car.

We are hoping to enter competition heats during 2022 with the aim of reaching the final at Silverstone later in the year. If you, or anyone you know, can support the team with advice, expertise, access to tools and equipment or sponsorship please get in touch with Mr Berry (sjb@marling.school) or Mr Green (bcbg@marling.school).



Marling Gets Two Teams Through in Astro Pi Project

MISSION SPACE LAB:

Teams of young people design and program a scientific experiment to run on board the International Space Station.

Phase 1: Design

Design an experiment to be run on an Astro Pi computer on the International Space Station.

Phase 2: Create

Teams that pass Phase 1 of the challenge write their programs. Teachers/mentors submit their team's completed program. Astro Pi HQ will test the programs on Earth to determine the viability of the experiments.

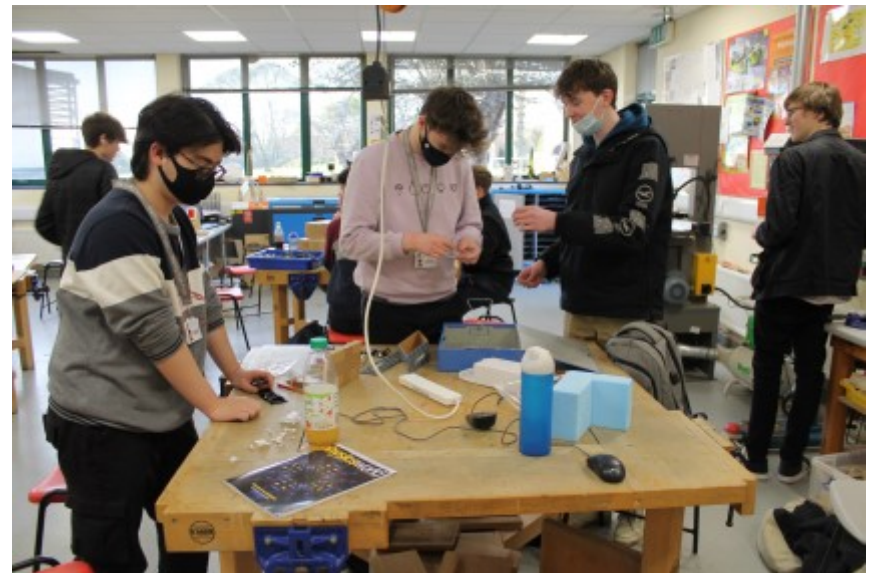
Phase 3: Deploy

The best experiments will be deployed to the ISS.

Phase 4: Analyse

Teams receive their experimental data from the ISS for analysis and write their final reports. Teachers/mentors submit their team's report. The ten best reports are selected as the Astro Pi Mission Space Lab winners!

Marling teams are preparing for Phase 2 and awaiting their equipment kit to arrive. Look for an update in the next edition of Spotlight.

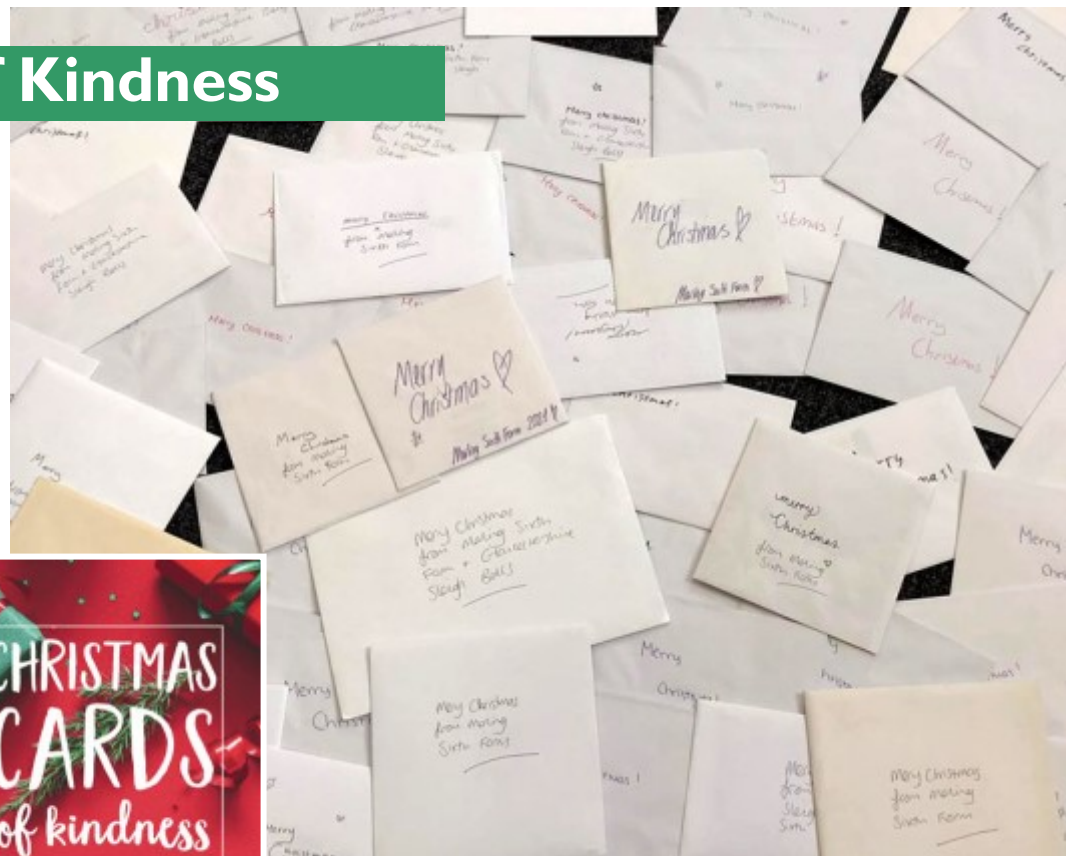


Christmas Cards of Kindness

Organised by Mrs Bhambra, the sixth form students wrote some 'Christmas cards of kindness.' These were sent to residents of Scarlett House Care Home in Ebley alongside some gifts organised by Mrs Philips. Some of the residents have little or no family visiting them so this will be a welcome surprise for them at Christmas.

Some cards are also going in food hampers for a charity called 'Hamper Scamper' which provide food parcels for those who rely on food banks or have been affected financially by the pandemic and cuts to some benefits.

Many thanks to the sixth form students for their help with these at what can be a difficult time of year for some.



CHARITIES



The non-school uniform day raised an amazing £1,770.70 for Children in Need. Thank you to all who contributed.

Shoe Box Appeal



Pupils, parents and staff graciously gave items for the Rotary Shoebox Scheme to help those in need.

Rotary Shoebox Scheme
"Spreading a Little Happiness"



The Sixth Form collected 5 boxes of Christmas and luxury items off the Food Bank's Christmas Shopping List

Pupils Make U18s County Rugby Squad



Cameron and Archie made the Gloucestershire County Schools U18 Rugby Squad.



A representative from Robinson College came in to do a presentation on Russell Group universities and an introduction to Oxbridge.

ALUMINI NEWS

MARLINGTONIAN TAKES A WIN AT ST ANDREWS



Jack Cope has won the prestigious St Andrews Links Trophy in a 4-hole playoff. He's the current reigning English Amateur Champion and now takes a win at the Home of Golf on the Old Course at St Andrews as he comes towards the end of his amateur career.

'Tis the season

AS CHRISTMAS APPROACHES, THE SIXTH FORMERS
HAVE BEEN GETTING INTO THE FESTIVE SPIRIT



Lunch time fun!

Christmas Jumper Day raised £1196.50
for Save the Children.



Christmas is Coming

MORE FESTIVE SPIRIT



Christmas Jumper Day



Christmas Crafts



After a long term and in the lead up to Christmas, the students were offered a Christmas craft activity, making salt dough ornaments. They enjoyed the session and all agreed it was extremely relaxing and therapeutic – just what was needed for the festive season! Thank you to Mrs Bhambra for organising.





Marling Sixth Formers Support Longest Table Lunch



Marling sixth formers held a Longest Table Christmas lunch this week as part of a local week-long event to combat loneliness and to raise money for charity.

The Long Table - a Stroud-based organisation that provides good quality food to people in need - is encouraging local people and organisations to host their own meals to share some much needed company and good food. Covid precautions mean that all events need to be planned carefully to keep people safe, but everyone involved hopes that a good time can still be had.



Marling students were joined at their lunch on 15th December by Tom Herbert, founder of The Long Table, and Will North, long Table Community Development Lead - himself an ex Marling student.

Will said: 'It was great to see my old school taking part in our project this year and am excited to spend some time with the students at their Longest Table. It was a proud moment when I knew that Marling wanted to extend their warm welcome to both Tom and myself and I look forward to meeting many new students and potentially some old faces – I will have to remember where my old house tie is!'



Tom added 'The Long Table exists because we love, love, love to eat together. The Longest Table is a way for Stroud and beyond to take the ember of The Long Table experience and make it your own. In late January 2017 I took 100kg of oats in my Polo to Calais to cook with the Refugee Community Kitchen and almost 5 years on they are still cooking and serving food. Thanks to Marling for inviting us to share their table and thank you to all The Longest Tables keeping the ember of hospitality aflame this Christmas.'

Continued



The money raised from holding the lunch will go to The Refugee Community Kitchen, a charity that provides food for people fleeing war, poverty, persecution and climate change.

Y12 student Molly Allwood (right) said: 'It's been a challenging year for everyone, so it's really nice to end the term with the chance to eat together. It's even better to know that by doing so we are helping to provide food for people in need - particularly at Christmas time when so many of us have so much.'

The Longest Table Lunch



The Longest Table Lunch

