



MARLING
SIXTH FORM

Downfield Road



SPOTLIGHT

Term 1 & 2

2023-2024

Dear students, parents and carers,

Merry Christmas and welcome to this edition of Spotlight - our 6th form magazine celebrating the events and achievements of Marling Sixth Formers. You'll find in this edition another array of achievements and activities, from gene technology to street art to ornithology.

This term, amongst many other things, staff and tutors have been hard at work sending off university applications, as well as holding mock interviews for students applying for competitive courses and I'm pleased to say many of our students have already got offers from their chosen universities. It was also our pleasure to welcome hundreds of prospective sixth formers and parents to our Sixth Form Open Evening on 22nd November. As always, our students were fantastic ambassadors, showing people around, answering a multitude of questions and generally doing a great job of conveying their enthusiasm for the sixth form experience.

Wherever students are in their sixth form journey - in the early days of Y12, or in Y13 on the verge of leaving us to take their next step into their future - they continue to inspire us with their energy and creativity.

It has, however, been a long term for all of us - students and staff - and I think I'm safe in saying that we are all looking forward to a break. On behalf of myself and the whole Sixth Form team, we wish each of you a peaceful, relaxing Christmas and a wonderful New Year.



Ms Harris
HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

Welcome to Sixth Form Year 12s Icebreaker Games

Year 12s enjoyed some icebreaker games and got to know each other in the first week of term.



Artificial Intelligence and The Academic Landscape

During a recent PSHE talk our Year 12 and 13 students delved into the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on their academic landscape. Focusing on the critical issues of plagiarism, bias, and misinformation, the session aimed to highlight the ways in which AI intersects with education. As our students navigate a digital world where information is readily accessible, understanding the implications of AI in plagiarism becomes crucial for maintaining academic integrity. This gave students food for thought both for NEA subjects and as our students make their next steps towards university. Furthermore, the session discussed the role of AI misinformation and bias that exists in many AI tools, urging students to cultivate digital literacy skills. We hope that students critically engage with evolving technologies through their academic studies and beyond and feel confident to use them sensibly and maturely as they navigate the complexities of the information age.

Mrs Lee



What is STEM Untapped?



STEM Untapped – directed by Izzy Frazer – is a not-for-profit organization focused on inspiring young women into careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, which are renowned for male domination in the past.

As a member of the Stem Untapped youth advisory board, I join others, like myself, to discuss new ideas and how we can inform more young women about the project. My role includes analysing the podcasts that STEM Untapped produce and looking for improvements as well as successes.

When Izzy first approached me, it was regarding a podcast itself which I did with 2 other girls. We interviewed a clinical scientist who helped work on the COVID 19 vaccine. As this was really interesting, I was pleased when Izzy asked me to become part of the youth advisory board.

Keira, Year 12

Sixth Formers Travel to Spain



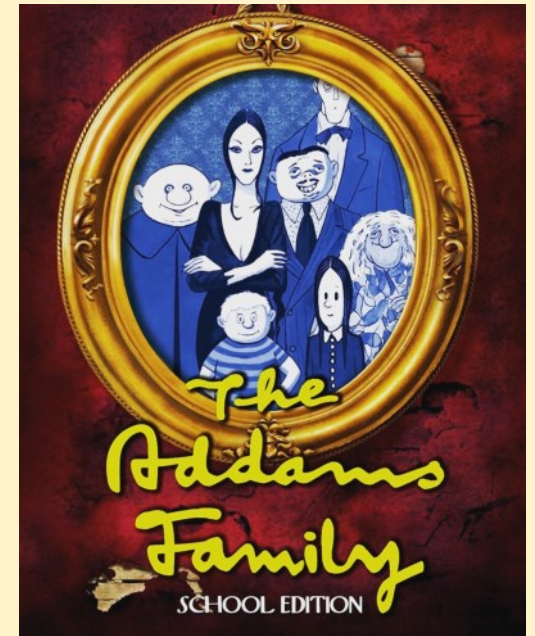
Whilst we may not have had huge amounts of energy when we landed early Monday morning, we were certainly blessed with the tropical European sun each day during our visit to Cadiz. There were many cultural experiences that we got to partake in such as exploring the ancient Torre Tavira in Cadíz and learning about the unique artwork of Pablo Picasso in the Picasso Museum. In other museums around the city and also in Málaga, we were lucky enough to have educational tours that taught us their history in both English and Spanish to help us apply vocabulary and phrases from Spanish lessons in Marling. Staying with Sparks Languages school also meant that we were given an insightful guide to the town of El Puerto de Santa María. Moreover, it was entertaining to practise our Spanish conversational skills again in the markets of the town, where many of the Marling students bought souvenirs and looked at the different products sold in Spanish markets. The last thing from the trip that gave us quite literally a taste of Spanish culture was trying some delicious dishes like Churros con Chocolate, my personal favourite, and Tapas, which many of the students enjoyed. Overall, I would say it was a successful trip that gave us a great experience of staying in a beautiful part of Spain, and to the city of Cadíz, ¡hasta la vista!

Beth, Year 13

DRAMA



A couple of snapshots of Year 12 Drama's work on physical theatre.



March 13th – 15th
Tickets on Sale Soon!

Drama students went to see The Woman in Black at the New Theatre in Cardiff.



SCHOLARS PROGRAMME

It has been a very busy start to the year with the Early Applicant Scholars group! The Y13 contingent have received 22 interview offers from competitive universities and courses thus far, which speaks volumes about the incredible work they are doing academically and beyond the classroom. 10 are for Cambridge, 7 for Oxford, 4 for Medicine and 1 for Veterinary Science.

Some of their personal statements have already been held up as examples to follow for the current Y12. The Y12s are now beginning to really start on their journeys of academic excellence and super curricular pursuit. They are an enthusiastic group with a fine tradition that they're keen to uphold.

Mr Elson



Scholars Gain Some Expert Advice

Our Year 12 Early Application Scholars were treated to some expert advice regarding Life at Oxford and Cambridge when 5 of our successful candidates from last year returned to Marling to provide insider knowledge. Thank you very much to Tom Gibson (Medicine at Oxford); Lowena Biscoe (HSPS at Cambridge); Alfie Arthur (Linguistics at Cambridge); Peter Parker (Natural Sciences at Cambridge) & Jonny Parker (Engineering at Cambridge) for giving your time and answering many questions about the application process and your specific courses for some very engaged Year 12s!

Remember, the PowerPoint they provided is on the Early Application Scholars Google Classroom page – speak to Mr Elson about joining it if you haven't already.

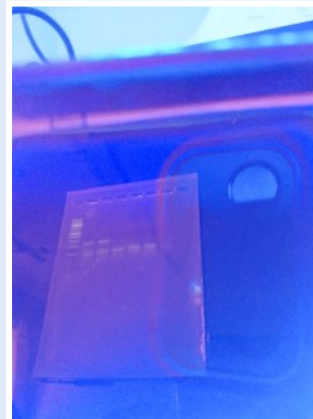
Mr Elson



Biologists Attend Oxford Gene Technology Workshop

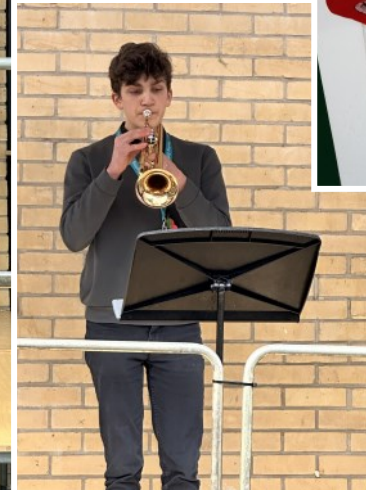


The biology A Level students travelled to Oxford University to attend a gene technology workshop on Friday. They had the chance to analyse and compare their version of a bitter taste receptor gene to their ability to taste phenylthiocarbamide (PTC).



Remembrance Day Snapshots

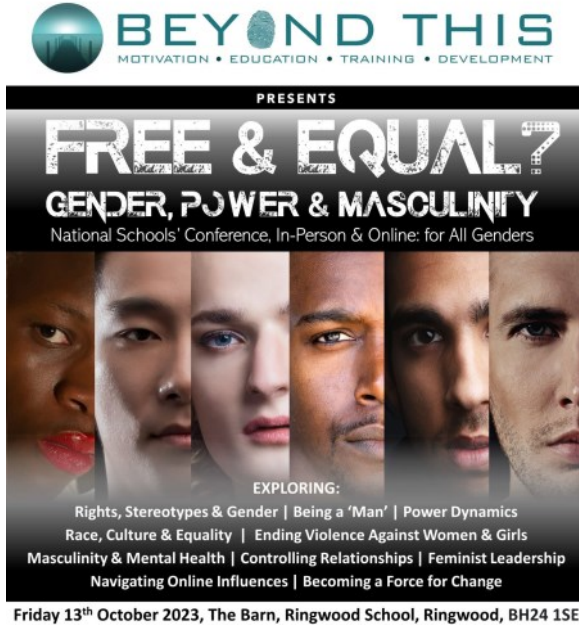
Our Remembrance Day Service was led by our Head Students. Handmade poppies, created in art lessons, created a Poppy Trail. These poppies could be spotted in corridors and windows across the school site. Thanks to Harry Davison for the music.



SPORT



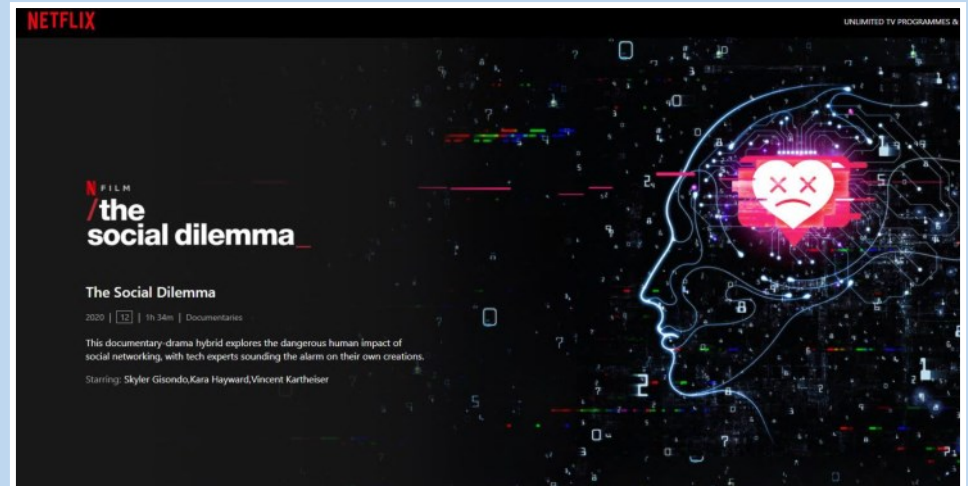
PSHE (Personal Social Health and Economic)



During Black History Month, sixth formers took part in the live Beyond This Conference, focusing on racial equality, gender, power & masculinity. Students watched a variety of live stream sessions throughout the day in lessons and during study time.



Year 12s watched The Social Dilemma as part of their PSHE programme. This documentary focused on how big social media companies manipulate users by using algorithms to encourage traffic to their platforms.





Away Match Report

Great match played by the netball team against Tommies. Playing 4 different teams and winning 2/4. Impressive interceptions by Scarlett playing her first game on the team. Strong defence gaining multiple rebounds and leading to many points being scored whilst also having good attacking pulling off classic skills such as the backline pass onto the post and then scoring from that.

Players of the match: Meg For defence and Sophie for attack.
Well done girls, strong performance. Bella, Year 12



#HelloYellow

M&S | YOUNGMINDS



On 10th October the school held a World Mental Health Day. Students and staff wore the colour yellow in support. Donations went to Young Minds in support of young people's mental health.



Rugby Sixth Formers Participating in SEEd

Sixth Formers Josh and Austin at a Sustainability & Environmental Education (SEEd) event at Stroud Sub Rooms.

SEEd works for change – supporting change makers, changing places and changing systems, putting sustainability at the heart of learning

Our 'Young Changemakers' are part of a year-long, transformative programme, where students choose, design and lead their own sustainability projects. Students come together to make connections with other schools in developing ideas.

It is also the opportunity to meet and link up with industry leaders and contacts in the sustainability field.



A non-school uniform day was held in the school to raise funds for Children in Need. Some of our sixth form students chose to wear smart attire on the day to contrast the lower school. Great effort!



Art Students Invited to Create Bridge Mural

Sixth Form staff were approached by Stroud Community Police Officer, Amy Webb, to work on a bridge project. The initial idea was to prevent offensive drawings and tagging on the bridge by mounting a mural in order to help the nearby citizens feel safer. Art students were given a community theme brief. Austin's planet-inspired design focussed on global community. Whilst Otto's colourful buildings landscape design reflected the local community. Design drawings were approved. The students were provided by the community project with a freshly painted white canvas before they began to work. You can see here how the mural developed throughout their progress. Well done Austin & Otto!

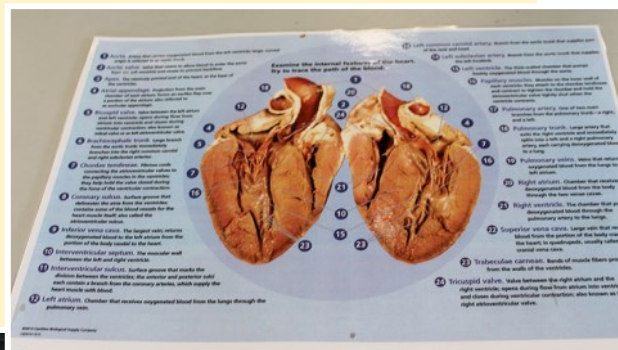


ENRICHMENT



Dissection Club

Students dissected cow's hearts in dissection club (these were purchased from a biological supplier).



Music Clubs

Tuesday: Senior Choir in MU5 - KS4 lunch (13:20 - 14:10) - open to all Y10 - 13 students - (looking for a pianist to accompany the choir in rehearsals and concerts, if there are any volunteers!)

Wednesday: Jazz Band in the Music Hall - after school (15:15 - 16:30) - open to all year groups

Thursday: Downfielders Folk Group in MU4 - after school (15:15 - 16:30) - open to all year groups

Friday: Senior Strings in MU1 - KS4 lunch (13:30 - 13:50) - open to all Y10 - 13 students

Friday: Orchestra in the Music Hall - after school (15:15 - 16:30) - open to all year groups

CHARITIES



On Thursday 7th December, Marling Sixth Form took part in Christmas jumper day, to help raise money for Save the Children. Students did tutor time activities that week about what the charity does and how they help people not only in the UK but around the world.



Marling sixth form students showed their kindness and generosity once again by donating to Stroud Food bank for their Christmas appeal. They brought in Christmas foods that will be put in hampers and given out to those people and families most in need this Christmas. This is particularly poignant given the current cost of living crisis and is greatly appreciated. A special thanks to form I3CAA who all donated money with which Mrs Austin bought lovely chocolates and biscuits especially for the food bank. Thank you to all students who either helped organise this or donated food.

OPEN EVENING

We were delighted to welcome hundreds of prospective students and parents to our Sixth Form Open Evening on 22 November. We had some lovely feedback after the event:

Please thank the lovely teachers and students for being so helpful and giving up their evening.



We were very impressed by the students supporting the evening.



It was a credit to everyone involved. Probably the best school open day or evening event we have ever been to (including other sixth form tours and when we toured schools in year 5/6). The ambassadors are an absolute credit to you as are the teachers we spoke with.

Well done. You certainly got us interested!



Excellent presentation from staff and students. Highly impressive.

OPEN EVENING

I would like to congratulate the students who stood up and gave their short speeches in the key note talk. They were excellent and a credit to themselves and the school. Well done to them all.



The passion of all the teachers was inspiring and invigorating!

Happy to have met so many impressive young people.



All the student helpers were a credit to the sixth form - so polite, helpful and welcoming. Teachers were very impressive too, clearly a high-quality school that's well run.



The student voice that was integrated throughout the session was really notable and did make Marling stand out from other colleges I've looked around.



Aspens, our catering supplier, provided food on the evening for students and parents to sample the food on offer.

Science Students Travel to London

Biology, chemistry and physics students travelled to London to hear lectures by some of the best scientists who are working at the cutting edge of their specialisms.

science
live: A-level



The Biology Live lecture.



A brilliant end to the Physics Live with Jim Al Khalili on quantum biology.

POLITICS

Stroud Candidate Visits Politics Students

I think its incredibly important that young people register and vote in elections. Democracy is really important and young people have a low record of voting at the moment. We can change that by encouraging all 17 and 18 year olds to register to vote. The more young people vote, the more political parties of all colours will start to sit up and take notice of their demands. Scan the code to register online.

Dr Opher



CAREERS GUIDANCE

A Focus on Medicine



Simon Atkins from University of Bristol met with prospective medical students to talk about how to apply to medical school and provided some useful advice.



Thanks to Dr Bhargava for coming in to do face-to-face mock interviews & provide feedback for Year 13 students in preparation for their medicine university interviews.

My mock interview with Dr Bhargava was amazing! I gained a lot of insight on what I need to do in my interview. The points she covered were really useful. Miraj, Year 13



Med Soc

It was a full room for the student-led Med Soc talk on medicine pathways. The year 13 students discussed a wide variety of path options into medicine from veterinary, medicine, dentistry and diagnostics to research science.



CAREERS GUIDANCE



Graduate Careers Live!

2pm-3.30pm Thursday 5th October 2023

A special TV programme for Year 13 sixth-form students on the graduate job market & degree apprenticeships.

Register to Watch

ABOUT

Apprenticeships

Year 12 and 13 students who are interested in or are considering degree apprenticeships attended a UK-wide live broadcast on Thursday 5th October 2023. It informed them of what degree apprenticeships are, the benefits of them, as well as the top companies and universities that offer them. Please keep your eye on M6 Google Classroom as this is where all live apprenticeship vacancies are advertised.

Apprenticeship Update - Class of 2023

Level 5 GE Aviation



It's going great. Definitely a bit of an adjustment but enjoying it so far.

Otto

Level 3 - Leonardo



It's going really well and I'm writing this on the train into Bristol as a matter of fact. Everyone here is super supportive and welcoming which is great to see considering I entered a professional business environment with 0 work experience (besides a week at Renishaw). I work in a really interesting industry and my company makes a lot of cool stuff which I can't really talk about (visit the Leonardo UK website to see what we do.)

I've learnt a LOT of new things in such a short period of time such as SAP skills, Excel skills and general time management.

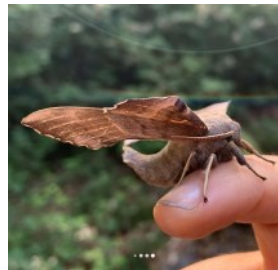
It took a lot of adjusting to since I came straight from a sixth form/school setting and I certainly do miss some aspects of school life such as being able to work with and hang out with my friends which isn't really a possibility here.

Again, thank you so much for helping me with my interview prep which was actually around this time a year ago. Honestly, it was because of your help I was able to get this apprenticeship which I'm incredible grateful for!

Harvey

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

My name is Jose and I am part of the BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) which (in general) focuses on understanding birds, how and why they are changing and to enable more people to learn more about birds. The BTO is filled with amazing and enthusiastic people who I am privileged to volunteer for. The official strand I am part of is the BTO Youth section - a volunteering position. My role as the Youth Representative for Gloucestershire is to engage more young people into nature and to help develop their knowledge about birds and how they interact with the natural environment. My aim for next year is to work with the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, our Regional Representative Gordon Kirk and Oliver Norris - a keen birder and nature enthusiast to host at least an event or two in Gloucestershire in which young people who are interested can get involved. Furthermore, looking ahead, I am aiming to do a few talks and to run a few events in some primary schools to increase the interest and engagement from a young age.



Jose, Year 12

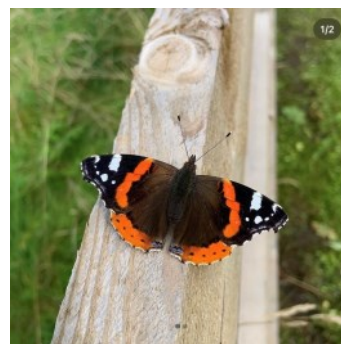
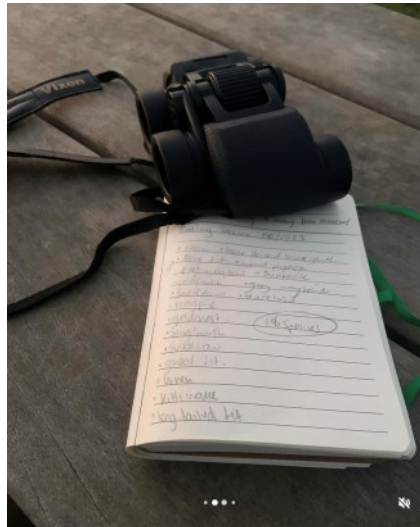
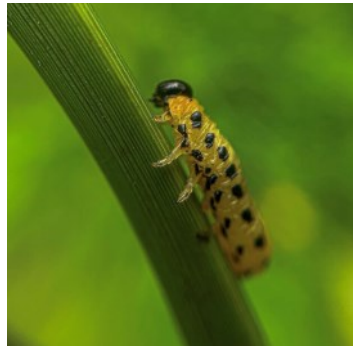
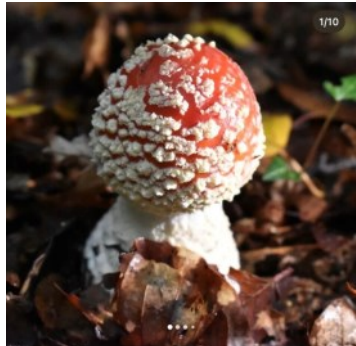
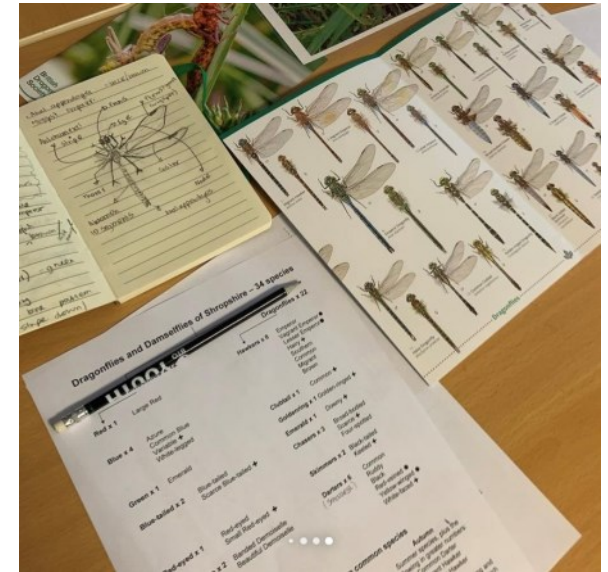
I got selected for this role through an application and interview process. I started volunteering for the BTO on the 11th of August 2023. Since then, I have participated in the Big Bird Race as well as winning in one of the categories. Aside from BTO, one of my most notable achievements is being a Young Darwin Scholar of 2023. 383 people applied for the 80 places available for the 1-week scholarship which I was successful in getting. I had a great time at the Preston Montford Field Studies Centre with many lovely and like-minded people! I have also been to many wildlife camps including the Wild New Forest Camps. Reading and writing is also something I really enjoy - as well as having a blog page of my own. I am also very passionate about wildlife photography as it captures the world in a way we cannot imagine.

Continued

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

I am very enthusiastic about students joining me on my wildlife and bird endeavours. You can contact me via email at josebtoyouth@gmail.com or on my Instagram/ Twitter which my handles are @josekimburi. Alternatively, if you see me around the site or out and about, feel free to talk to me and ask questions about what I do and to interest me about your involvement or you want to get involved in nature/anything nature related.

Jose, Year 12



You can find me on the official BTO Website here:

<https://www.bto.org/community/regional-network/bto-youth-representatives>

<https://linktr.ee/josekimburi>

ALUMNI

Former Marling Student Makes Club History



Tom King made Cheltenham Town history when he went on from the bench during their opening League One match of the season.

The first year scholar was 16 years and 319 days old, becoming the youngest player to represent the club in the EFL.

Read details [here](#).



Ex-Student Makes West End Debut!



Imogen Grover, Class of 2021, made her West End debut this month in 'Diana' - a musical in which the character Diana reflects on her past.



'Tis the season

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



Decorating Sixth Form Reception.



Christmas Crafts!

On Friday 15th December, Marling sixth formers got in the festive spirit and made and painted some salt dough ornaments, while listening to some Christmas Music. Yes, there was another week of school left but I think it got everyone feeling Christmassy!



Mrs Elder & Mrs Bailey-Yip



Christmas Quiz & Meal



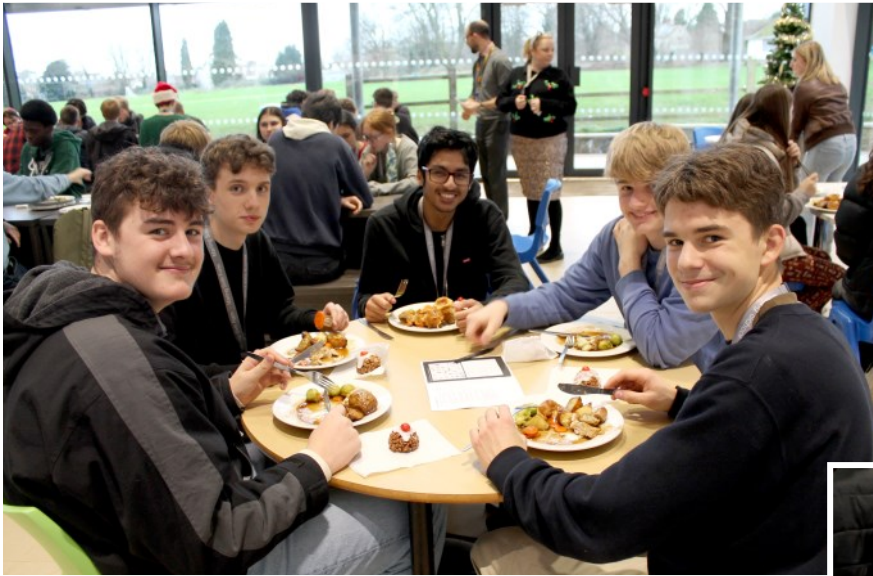
Over £120 was raised for
Gloucester Feed the Hungry.



Gloucester Feed the Hungry is a volunteer organisation to serve the homeless and vulnerable in our community. Hot meals and a warm space are provided at the Smiles Café, which is just off King's Square. **Every £1 donation feeds two homeless friends.** They also give out free haircuts, clothing, and emergency food parcels. Thank you to everyone that supported the quiz



Christmas Quiz & Meal



The winning team "Boxers".



Ms Harris, Mrs Rogers and Mr Elson.