



MARLWOOD SCHOOL

JULY 2010

It has been a busy final few weeks of term; hundreds of pupils out and about in Curriculum Enrichment Week, Year 10 on Work Experience, the Year 11 Awards Day and Prom, Sports Day, *Alice in Wonderland*, the Summer Concert, Strings Day, a Science and Technology activities afternoon for Year 5 pupils in our partner primary schools and World Challenge preparations.

In **Curriculum Enrichment Week** all Year groups, except those who had just completed exams, enjoyed many and varied activities. These will be reported in *Grapevine* in September. Our pupils travelled to Spain, France and Germany as well as local places of interest, with Year 7 undertaking their Morfa Bay camp during the week. Events were, once again, organised by the Learning Support Department for those in Year 7, who were unable to attend camp. A programme of team building exercises and individual challenges were fun and extremely successful. The weather was kind, which enabled pupils to have varied outdoor games as well as indoor activities. Certificates were presented at the end of the week for all pupils who had taken part. We had many new activities this year and invited SITA UK and Sustainable Thornbury to host workshops, as well as our friends from New Generation Music, who ran music and dance groups with Year 7. All the staff who organised events and activities hope that your child enjoyed the experience of the week and shared with you all they participated in.

Through the generosity of South Gloucestershire Bus and Coach Company, we have acquired a coach to convert to a mobile classroom, which staff and a group of pupils stripped out during Curriculum Enrichment Week. They also installed raised herb beds for both kitchens, a rose bed at the front of school in preparation for a RHS project and a pond by the bungalow to be a resource for the Science-related aspects of the Environment and Land-Based Diploma, a new course being taught from next September.

Year 10 did us, and you as parents, proud during their week of **Work Experience** with many employers' reports full of praise for our pupils. The **Year 11 Awards Day** was a particularly memorable one—the sun shone, all our young people looked smart, lots of parents came to see them arrive or depart in their limousines (including one home-made one!) and a variety of other vehicles. The event finished with a fabulous cake to celebrate the occasion.

We were delighted that Mr and Mrs Froud were able to join the assembly at the start of the day, when they presented a cheque for £3,000 to members of Charlie and Ayman's tutor group. The donation comes from The Charlie Froud Foundation, which was set up to provide financial support to both the mountain rescue team in Ireland, who recovered the plane in which Charlie, Ayman and Ayman's parents died, and also to Marlwood. We are very grateful and the School Council will be consulted on how to use the money in September. The Year 11 Prom at the Grand Hotel in Bristol was stylish and an enjoyable occasion with most of the year group attending in their evening finest.

Alice in Wonderland and the **Summer Concert** once again showed the quality of performance our pupils are capable of. As well as the evening shows, we put on performances of ***Alice*** for pupils from our partner primaries and from New Siblands School in Thornbury, all of whom enjoyed it. New Siblands School also recently joined us for their sports day organised by students in our Sixth Form. Our own Sports Day - bedevilled by bad weather in recent years - went ahead in (almost) glorious sunshine and saw a number of records broken.

As well as Year 6's July Taster Visit, the **Science and Technology** Departments ran a packed afternoon of hands-on activities for a group of Year 5 pupils earlier this month—all made something to take away!

The past week has seen 59 of our pupils and seven staff departing on their World Challenge Expeditions to India and we wish them well on their month long adventure.

Artsmark Gold

We were delighted to hear in June that following the assessment visit in February we had been awarded Artsmark Gold. A celebration event is being planned for the start of next term.

All Weather Pitch

We are eagerly anticipating the opening of our new all weather pitch in the autumn. Work began on site on 5th July and the whole project should be completed by the end of October. School Council are discussing how to celebrate its opening.

Congratulations to...

- double congratulations to David Giles (Year 10) for winning the gold medal at the Kent International Judo competition for boys in the over 73 kg category, and also for winning the South Gloucestershire Chess Championship trophy. Congratulations also to David's sister Adriana (Year 7) who won the bronze medal in the South Gloucestershire Chess Championship.

- Jessica Bickford (Year 9) who has passed Grade 3 in Flute

- the Year 10 netball team did an excellent job representing the school in a tournament in Torquay recently. Eight girls attended the tournament in total and were a real asset to the school. They lost their first game, but the girls managed not to let this get to them and went on to win the overall tournament. Throughout the trip the girls were very well behaved, motivated and even organised their own practices instead of joining in with the activities provided. Well done girls! **Miss Price and Miss Boucher**

- the boys did very well overall in the South Gloucestershire Athletics Championships with the Year 10 boys winning their competition. Congratulations also to: Tom Green – Javelin, James Skelton – 800 metres, Keiran Boyce – 1500 metres, Kaine Duffety – Javelin, Oliver Haines – 100 and 200 metres and Tom Pontin – 400 metres, all came first in their event!

- Tom Pontin, Oliver Haines and James Skelton represented South Gloucestershire at the Avon Championships. Tom and Oliver came 1st in the 4x 100 relay and Tom came 3rd in the 400 metres. James came 1st in the 800 metres and 3rd in the 4x 100 relay.

- Oliver Haines has been selected for the Avon Squad for English Schools Championships having gained the qualifying time of 11.2 seconds (100 metres).

- Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students who have passed their Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering, in preparation for the buffet, which they will be preparing and serving at the PTA Quiz night to be held next term. Well done to Daniel Booth, Shanti Das, Robert Davies, Simran Dulay, Melena Fox, Nicholas Frost, Jack Green, Samuel Humphries, James Scott, Todd Slade, Bryony Smith, Rebecca Vokins and Kelsey Wood.

Engineering Education Scheme

This scheme aims to inspire future engineers and scientists. We were delighted that four of our Sixth Form students took on the challenge to get involved in an EES project. Chris Blick, Richard Cowie, Oliver Dyer and Torben Hattingh represented the school at Bristol University last month. They presented their findings on 'Hydrogen Economy' to a panel of industrialists. Each student received a certificate for their participation.

Department News

Art

The Art Department would like to congratulate our fantastic Year 9's for their incredible achievements on their CEW Street Art Day, which was organised by Miss Hepher. After looking at Street Art from around the world including artists like Banksy, pupils designed personalised graffiti tags which they hand painted with fabric paints onto tee-shirts as well as tagging a 'graffiti wall' which will be displayed in school.

Pupils and staff involved, thoroughly enjoyed a very successful and fun day in which behaviour and creativity were exemplary. Many thanks to all involved and well done Year 9!

Miss O'Connell and the Art Team

Learning Resources Centre Year 7 Accelerated Reader Programme

As we reach the end of the first year of this reading programme at Marlwood, we are delighted to report that we have seen some phenomenal results. Some of these are listed below - and there are many other pupils who deserve special mention, which unfortunately space does not permit. The evidence at the end of the year is quite clear; those pupils who have taken responsibility for their personalised learning and have read the average number of books (nine books during the year) or higher, at the reading level they have been advised, have generally made the most progress. Most students also say that their reading has got faster during the year.

A special awards ceremony was held to celebrate the success of the scheme. We are very grateful to the Rotary Club who generously donated some of the prizes for our presentation.

Highest number of quizzes passed in each tutor group:

Matthew Bird (MT) 15, Bethany Cook (DV) 23, Jordan Ryan (ST) 24, Aidan Woodman (SBC) 25, Oliver Clarkson (JS) 34, Harry Wright (MS) 38, Dominic Webb (BD) 64.

When a quiz is taken at the end of each book, pupils aim to score at least 85%. The following pupils have all done much better than that and have understood the literal and implied meanings of what they have read:

Eden McIlroy (JS) 93.3%, Lily Bennett (MT) 94.2%, Meghana Karnati (MS) 95.7%, Gemma Tovey (BD) 96.0%, Sumayah Al-Kouraihi (98.9%) and Matthew Walford (ST) 99.0%.

The total number of words read by all Year 7 pupils during the year has been 71,970,935! This has been greatly contributed to by the following pupils: Grace Coles (MT) 655,409, Mitchell Pickard (ST) 1,523,990, James Millward (DV) 1,600,828, Harry Wright (MS) 2,362,768, Oliver Clarkson (JS) 3,342,451 and Dominic Webb (BD) 5,248,827.

The reading age of the majority of students in Year 7 increased by an impressive amount during the year. The top improver in each tutor group is: Thom Harris-Lee, Stacie-Marie Smith and Charlie Watkin (all in BD); Jack McNamara, Matt Sully (SBC); Michael Clarke (ST); Lucy Thomas (MS); Charlotte Fox (DV); Oliver Clarkson (JS); Luke Austin (MT). Congratulations to all of you.

Year 8 Reading Challenge

The World Cup Reading Challenge final was a very close event between the three top tutor groups. Well done to our new winner STB (55 books this term), who managed to beat JZB (49 books) right at the end. Keep on reading!

Karen Carrington, LRC Manager

Do we have your correct contact details?

If you have changed your address, home telephone number, emergency contact number or email address, please inform us by emailing data@marlwood.net

Arrangements for the last day of term: Friday 23rd July

As usual school will finish at 12.30 pm on the last day of term after the year group awards assemblies. The day will be a 'non-uniform' one with the proceeds going to each year group's chosen charity. Buses have been re-arranged accordingly.

Term dates for 2010 - 2011

The term dates for 2010 - 11 are printed at the end of this Newsletter and can also be found on the school's website www.marlwood.com. In September term starts for all pupils on **Thursday, 2nd September at 8.40 am**. Next year's Year 12 have been informed separately about course registration arrangements on the morning of Wednesday, 1st September, which is an INSET day for staff. We look forward to seeing them at 11 am in the Post 16 Centre.

End of term farewells

As always a number of staff are leaving at the end of term. Mr Logan and Miss Vance are moving on to promotion in other schools. Mr Bolster and Mrs Young are finishing maternity covers. Mrs Lockwood is re-locating. Mrs Newport, Mrs Harris and Mrs Giddings are retiring. We thank them all for their contribution to the school and wish them well for the future.

Collection of GCSE and A level examination results

Pupils may collect these from the Quad Dining Hall as follows:

AS/A2 – from 9.30 am on 19th August and
GCSE – from 9.30 am on 24th August

Any person intending to collect results on behalf of a candidate must have signed written authorisation.

With some shops seeming to start their 'Back to School' marketing campaigns as soon as the school holiday starts, may I remind you that uniform details are available on the website. The School Uniform shop will be open on Wednesday, 1st September between 9 and 11 am.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank parents for their support of the school over the past year and to wish you and your family an enjoyable summer break.

**Keith Geary
Headteacher**

Term Dates for Academic Year 2010 - 2011

Term 1:
Wednesday 1st September 2010 – Friday 22 October 2010
INSET Day – Wednesday, 1st September

Term 2:
Monday 1st November 2010 – Friday 17th December 2010

Term 3:
Tuesday 4th January 2011 – Friday 18th February 2011

Term 4:
Monday 28th February 2011 – Friday 8th April 2011

Term 5:
Tuesday 26th April 2011 – Friday 27th May 2011

Term 6:
Monday 6th June 2011 – Friday 22nd July 2011