



The Marlborough Oracle

March, 2016

Written for the students, by the students



It's been a busy month here at The Mo and we're bringing you all the goings-on! There's been sporting triumph, dressing up for charity, and not least the incredible production of *Bugsy Malone*. Together this all stands to show how hard-working and talented our students are; we have more details on the success of the play on page 4. In this issue we also look at the in-and-outs of the American Election, Mr Freeman's campaign for Shahanaz, and of course, exclusive interviews with some of your favourite teachers in the Definite Article.

Enjoy!



Apple, blackberry, cherry... we all love a bit of Pi.

Tia Parsons and her friends explain why Maths is their favourite subject.

"If Maths isn't your thing sometimes it can be hard to love it, but the fact is that Maths is very important! It is a subject that sets you up for life and can help get you where you need to be for a successful career. Mathematics is used in different aspects and all different kinds of jobs from accountancy through to horticulture." – Tia Parsons

"I love Maths because I learn new things that will help me in life! It also helps me in other subjects such as DT, Food Technology and Science. I like learning ratio because it helps me understand things. My teacher is a great; she has helped me with lots of topics: ratios, fractions and more!" – Jennifer Cheney

"I love Maths because I love gradually improving; I can see this every week. It's really important to like Maths because we use it every day and we will also need it in future jobs. I also like Maths because I like a good challenge – it makes learning fun!" – Niamh Day

"I love Maths! My favourite thing to do is sequences – I am good at it and it is fun! I like Maths when we're in teams and I can learn skills for everyday life. Learning is great fun, especially when you have an encouraging teacher who you trust to teach you new things." – Gracie Larkin

A Beginner's Guide to the American Election

Written for the students, by the students

With the American election taking a front seat in the news at the moment, a lot of people are talking about it – especially because of the two main candidates. Let's just say there are two very interesting delegates launching their campaigns.

Through conversations with friends I came to realise that not everyone really understands how it works. With words like 'inauguration,' 'caucus,' and 'electoral college' being thrown around it can all get very confusing, so to help you out, here is my Beginner's Guide to the American Election!

Step One: The Primaries/Caucuses

America is essentially a two-party system which means there are only two political parties competing for power in elections: Democrat and Republican. Before the campaign for Presidency can really begin, each party must choose their single Presidential candidate. This is done through the Primary Elections and Caucuses - usually taking place over several months between January and June of the election year.

Primaries are more like typical elections and are more common in the individual states. Primary polls open in the morning, people turn up to cast their ballot and the results are announced. Caucuses are different - people turn up to meetings in schools, churches, and community halls to cast their vote, in some cases the vote is public. The 10 caucus states are; Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Nevada, North Dakota, and Wyoming.

Every state has Delegates for both parties who pledge support for candidates; winning the state will get a candidate more Delegates. The candidate with the most Delegates will likely win the party nomination to be the Presidential candidate. They select a running mate to be Vice President and together they are the party *ticket*.

Step Two: The Conventions

Next, both parties hold large meetings for party members where they officially announce their Presidential Candidates. These are called 'conventions'.

Conventions are usually just a formality but if the party contest is still undecided at the time of the convention, there is a contested convention. An inconclusive first tally leads to rounds of balloting and intense political deal making. This continues until there is one overall winner.

Democrat convention 2016: Philadelphia, 25th-28th July. Republican convention 2016: Cleveland, Ohio 18th-21st July.

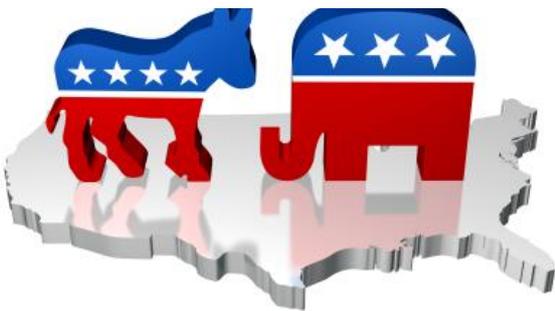
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Step Three: The Election

Once both parties have their candidate, the Presidency campaign really begins. Much like in Britain, the hopefuls travel the country to win as many votes as possible; they make speeches and meet citizens in major cities in the run up to Election Day in November. The outcome can usually be predicted in a series of swing states where the population often change their allegiance.

The American people don't vote directly for their President, the Electoral College system means it is the 538 Electoral votes and Electors that decide the President.



The Electoral College

When the American people go to vote on Election Day, they are not actually voting directly for their preferred Presidential candidate; instead they have a system called the Electoral College.

The Electoral College consists of 538 Electors (for the 100 senators and 438 representatives in Congress) who each have one vote. Really it's these 538 votes that decide the Presidency; they are divided up amongst the states so that every state gets three votes to start with and the rest are divided up according to population. When people vote, what they are really doing is telling their state how they want it to use their electoral votes. 48 states give all of their electoral votes to the candidate who wins in that state, but Alaska and Maine divide their votes up proportionally. Each electoral vote represents an Elector, chosen by the Party, who will be sent to a meeting in December to vote for the President. Surprisingly, Electors aren't required to vote as their state asks, but only very rarely does this change the outcome of the election.

A Beginner's Guide to the American Election

Results of Primaries/Caucuses so far:

(Number of Delegates in brackets)

Iowa: **Clinton (23)** – **Cruz (8)**

New Hampshire: **Saunders (15)** – **Trump (11)**

South Carolina: **Clinton (39)** – **Trump (50)**

Nevada: **Clinton (20)** – **Trump (14)**

Alabama: **Clinton (44)** – **Trump (36)**

Mississippi: **Clinton (30)** – **Trump (24)**

Arkansas: **Clinton (22)** – **Trump (16)**

Georgia: **Clinton (72)** – **Trump (40)**

Massachusetts: **Clinton (46)** – **Trump (22)**

Minnesota: **Saunders (46)** – **Rubio (17)**

Oklahoma: **Saunders (21)** – **Cruz (15)**

Tennessee: **Clinton (44)** – **Trump (33)**

Texas: **Clinton (147)** – **Cruz (104)**

Vermont: **Saunders (16)** – **Trump (8)**

Virginia: **Clinton (62)** – **Trump (17)**

Kansas: **Saunders (24)** – **Cruz (24)**

Kentucky: **Trump (17)**

Louisiana: **Clinton (37)** – **Trump (18)**

Maine: **Saunders (15)** – **Cruz (12)**

Hawaii: **Trump (11)**

Michigan: **Saunders (67)** – **Trump (25)**

North Carolina: **Clinton (59)** – **Trump (29)**

Alaska: **Cruz (12)**

Washington, D.C.: **Rubio (10)**

Wyoming: **Cruz (9)**

Florida: **Clinton (133)** – **Trump (99)**

Illinois: **Clinton (68)** – **Trump (51)**

Missouri: **Clinton (32)** – **Trump (25)**

Idaho: **Cruz (20)**

Ohio: **Clinton (79)** – **Kasich (66)**

Colorado: **Saunders (38)**

Nebraska: **Saunders (15)**

The Election of 2016

Democrat Candidates



Hillary Clinton



Bernie Sanders



Republican Candidates



Donald Trump



Ted Cruz



Marco Rubio



John Kasich

Bugsy Malone

Written for the students, by the students

To say that a lot of hard work goes into the school productions ever year is an understatement. Hours, weeks, months of preparation go towards making something fabulous and the most recent production, 'Bugsy' was no exception. Audience member, Mercury Captain and Head of School Candidate Abbie Sullivan told us what she thought about this year's musical.

What was your favourite part of the play?

At the very beginning and just after the interval when the whole cast were on stage acting, singing and dancing. It was very bright and vibrant. It was obvious how much work went in to putting it together. The accents were really spot on too and really well appreciated. (Laughing) I wouldn't have been able to keep up that accent for long.

What was the character/s that stood out the most of you?

Everyone stood out but at different points and in different ways. I have to say everyone in the play - both onstage and backstage - did an amazing job but for me, Knuckles and Fat Sam shone. They had great chemistry, and you could tell their parts were well rehearsed and their comic timing was very funny. I also loved Dandy Dan, but everybody was amazing, genuinely brilliant.

What was your favourite song?

'I'm Feeling Fine' was really emotional and spoke about her journey. I loved the moment when there was no music and she started singing. It even brought a tear to my eye.

What was the best part of the set?

The lights reading Fat Sam that glowed and changed depending on the song and mood of the scene really brought about and created a fun atmosphere. It was so cool I can't even explain it but I just really liked the effect of it on the whole play.

Did you know?

It seems as though everybody is talking about Bugsy and we at Marlborough are trend setters.

Did you know that the stage show is even being put on in the West End?

Did you also know that just days after the school's finale BBC1s The One Show featured a song from the musical.

Students Sponsoring Shahanaz

Written for the students, by the students

Marlborough students continue to donate their pounds and pence to Shahanaz.

Meet Shahanaz

Shahanaz is a 10 year old little girl who lives in the village of Nilphamari, Bangladesh. Her parents are farmers as is her 13 year old brother. They live together in a two room hut made from mud and bamboo, a tin roof protects them from the sun and rain and their carpet is a dirt floor. They have no electricity, they have no plumbing and they have no access to fresh running water. In fact, the nearest water is a five minute walk away. Her two bedroom home has space to cook and sleep. There is no hot tub, no Jacuzzi or power shower - instead she shares a pit toilet with other families from her village. However, Shahanaz doesn't complain or grumble that the walk is "too long" or that helping her family is "peak".

Life in Nilphamari

For many, life in Nilphamari is hard. 74% of the population live below the poverty line and 47% of these are children. Forced marriages are commonplace and the average bride is just 15. So, whilst we are revising and preparing for our exams our peers in Nilphamari are preparing to marry. In the United Kingdom young people are in education until they are 18, but in Nilphamari 1:4 children do not complete their primary schooling. Whilst for some not going to school seems like a dream the reality is quite different. These children have to toil, to work and to grow in to young adults quicker than we could imagine.



What is being done to support children in Nilphamari?

Through Plan UK, an ongoing education programme, the United Kingdom has worked to bring the average school enrolment up to 99% and reduce the dropout rate to just 19%. They have also been working through the Universal Birth Registration programme to put an end to child marriages. Other programmes include: raising awareness of pre and post natal nutrition and good nutrition generally; building clinic management groups and improving the water, hygiene and sanitation situation. For children like Shahanaz there is help.



Charity Work

How are the Marlborough community helping?

At the end of the Christmas Tree Appeal 2015 one collection box had raised significantly more than the others - this box was Plan UK. It raised enough to sponsor a child's education for a month - that child is Shahanaz.

Mr Freeman had calculated that if every one of the 400 to 500 students who entered A4 over the two week timetable were to donate 5p a month we would be able to continue Shahanaz's sponsorship. Currently the student community has raised almost £70 and Mrs Thomson has matched this pound for pound meaning that Shahanaz's education can continue until September.

What happens next?

Well, to put it simply, we keep donating! We keep Shahanaz in education and we help keep her wider life choices open.

Many students, particularly in Year 7 and Year 8 have already written to Shahanaz; it is hoped that we will get replies in April. Mr Freeman confirmed that once the first letters have been received an ongoing letter exchange will begin.

Who knows, perhaps there could be an opportunity for a small group of Philosophy and Ethics students to travel to meet Shahanaz. This is certainly something that can be arranged with the help and support of Plan UK.

Marlborough students launch St Michaels CoE School's sponsored readathon.

On Friday 4th March 2016 twelve students from Year 7 and Year 8 visited a local primary school to help launch their first ever sponsored readathon. Our students were accompanied by Ms Redfern who spoke in the school's assembly, read a short story and with the help of Marlborough students, inspired students from reception to Year 6 to pick up a book and read.

After the assembly our students acted as ATs and lead one-to-one and small group guided reading sessions, encouraging students from all of the key stages to read aloud and share their favourite stories. Deputy Head teacher, Mrs Nichols thanked our students for the "lovely assembly and exciting launch" and commented that "the teachers have said how lovely it was [for the primary children] to read with [Marlborough] students."

One of the Year 8s commented that "it was really good fun working with the younger children - they seemed really pleased to be reading to us".

After a great start by Marlborough students the St Michaels' children raised over £500.

The Definite Article

Written for the students, by the students

With National Science Week hitting the school with a 'Big Bang' and National Maths week soon upon us, we thought we would explore what makes our Scientists and Mathematicians tick. What a mixed bag they all are!

Which literary character do you most resemble and why?

Miss Smith: Probably Tigger; I'm quite loud and bubbly.

Miss Nugent: Charles Darwin – I particularly like the beard. (Although he wasn't actually a literary character!)

If you had to be a hero or villain which would it be and why?

Miss Smith: Hero, not sure I'd make a very good villain.

Miss Nugent: A villain – bad guys always have better costumes!

Miss Sutton: A hero; I like to make things better.

What is your most prized possession?

Miss Smith: It has to be a teddy bear that my parents bought me before I was born or an 18th birthday card from Jonny Wilkinson!

Miss Nugent: My BEAUTIFUL cats: Billy (AKA Grey Lightning) and Pearl (AKA Brown Thunder)! I adore them!

Miss Sutton: My CBR600RR

What subject did you find most challenging when you were at school?

Miss Smith: Definitely DT - especially woodwork. I couldn't use any of the tools and ended up creating a mess every lesson. I used to dread putting that apron on!

Miss Nugent: German; I was terrified of my teacher.

Miss Sutton: French.

What's your one regret?

Miss Smith: Never seeing Nirvana or The Smiths live.

Miss Nugent: Not making it home in time from my travels in Borneo to see my lovely Nan one last time.

Miss Sutton: Being convinced to move schools in between GCSE and A-Levels.



The Definite Article

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Triumphing can be tricky, but what personal triumph are you most proud of?

Miss Smith: Without doubt passing my driving test. I had five attempts, but managed to pass it in the end!

Miss Nugent: I was hugely proud of getting a First Class degree – my dad wept tears of pride at my graduation; that made all the hard work worth it.

Miss Sutton: Passing my driving test.

Meow or woof? Why?

Miss Smith: Woof, dogs are far more straight forward than cats

Miss Nugent: Meow, if you met my beautiful cats you'd know why.

Miss Sutton: Woof! Dogs are more loyal and loving.



What is your guilty secret?

Miss Smith: Err...not sure really. I claim to have outstanding music taste, and love Oasis, The Stone Roses but I sometimes can't resist putting on a bit of Katy Perry!

Miss Nugent: Probably best not to tell you!

Miss Sutton: I love a puzzle and a board game!



Other than your own, whose lesson would you most like to be in and why?

Miss Smith: I have never studied Spanish; I'd like to be in Mrs Morrissey's class!

Miss Nugent: I would love to spend more time over in Performing Arts – maybe a media lesson with Mr Salih, some art with Ms Bustin or a spot of photography with Ms Rickman.

Miss Sutton: Any Art lesson so that I can be creative.

If you won £1,000,000 what would be your first purchase?

Miss Smith: Probably some gig tickets or a season ticket for Leeds United!

Miss Nugent: An around the world plane ticket. I would love to go to the Galapagos Islands and Madagascar to see the wildlife.

Miss Sutton: I'd pay off my mortgage!

Art Hoes: a new movement?

What does the word "Art Hoe" brings to your mind? Scrolling through my tumblr Sophie Brown explores the movement of pastel hue; black spine journal; trusty Fjallraven Kanken; doodled over selfies cute little outing pictures and of course cactuses – all of them stating that they are "Art Hoes".

Once upon a time I would have loved to be one of those girls, I would buy myself lots of plants, wear cute frilly socks and would have being highly honoured to be considered an 'Art Hoe' seeing as that was all the range. Well that is until I looked up what it really meant. The term "Art Hoe" is yet another thing that our society has white washed and wrongly claimed as something that it is not.

The phrase "Art Hoe" is actually from a movement which was started by black artists in an attempt to combat the stereotype that people of colour can't be "soft" or interested in art or art culture. This movement was created by 15 year old gender fluid artist and Rookie contributor Mars, and their friend Jam. It has also recently become a very popular topic that everyone on social media is talking about. The aim of this movement was for them to create an online space to empower and to share people of colour art work and to also express the issues of race and representation in art.

The movement has influenced thousands and possibly millions, with people of colour all over the world sharing their art work and taking pride in their colour and culture. In fact the "Art Hoe" movement has become so widespread that it has influenced young role models such as Amandla Stenberg and Willow Smith, who have both taken interest in it allowing the platform to reach a wider audience.

Mars heavily emphasises through her accounts, how, although this attention is "beautiful" and "important" as it allows people to become aware of the movement, that the main intention still remains: to create a safe space for ALL people of colour and for nobody to be discriminated on what they create or from where they come from.

Their aim for 2016 is that they want to hear more from the "narratives of the LGBT+ community, Non-Binary people, Women of colour, people of colour and so on" and for their movement to spread even more and for more people to understand that this term has nothing what so ever to do with those girls posing with their £50 sketchbook on tumblr.

But do not think that just because this movement is not for you – that you can't express your individuality! This movement is in fact, not just brilliant for people of colour, but for everyone. It shows people, that embracing themselves; their background; their style is okay and any way you want to display is also okay! #arthoe is one of the many movements out there that people use to express themselves. I am personally part of the bookstagram community where although it is not a movement, over thousands of people on instagram celebrate their love of books through photos and reviews! So go home and find what your cup of tea is and whatever it is, whoever you are, express it loud and proud!

Sophie Brown.

Sport

Written for the students, by the students

On Wednesday (2nd March), the Year 7&8 girls football team played their long-awaited County Cup semi-final, at home to Queens.

Despite kicking downhill in the first half, the Marlborough girls were rarely troubled by the Queen's forward line, and were able to create a few chances themselves, although the opposition keeper was clearly experienced, thwarting every yellow attack.

At half time, Miss Arrol asked the girls to attack with pace and use the downhill slope to their advantage, and the girls certainly listened - Kayra picking out Kamdi on the right with an inch perfect through ball, and Kamdi calmly finished in the bottom-left corner.

Despite constant pressure from Queens, Marlborough defended solidly, with everyone in the fifteen player squad doing their part.

It looked like we were heading to the final with just minutes remaining, but loss of concentration for just a moment allowed Queens to take a short corner, and with their striker not picked up, she fired into the bottom corner to send the tie into extra time.

The additional ten minutes passed without incident, and the teams were faced with a penalty shootout.

Despite a great save from Alicia, the Queen's keeper again came out on top, with two good stops to see her team win 3-1 in the shootout.

It was a devastating loss for Marlborough, who were by far the better team, but they should be massively proud of their efforts both in this game and throughout the competition, as they have proved themselves as one of the best teams in the County.

Full Team: Charlotte Callaghan, Ellarose Copley, Alicia Davey-Pascoe, Lydia Edwards, Sam Farrer, Katie Hamm, Lily Hughes, Kamdi Iweka (1), Kayra Karakus, Mahirah Khan, Molly Louis, Louise Maclennan, Natasha Marsh, Milena Port, Jess Williams (C)



Sport

The Year 7 and Year 8 girls' football teams both recently competed in the district football competition.

The Year 7s won the competition, going unbeaten in every game, with two wins and a draw. Kayra scored all of their goals and the team did excellently in defence too. They will now represent St Albans in the next round of the competition.

Full Team: Saimah Ali, Shamika Arciaga, Alicia Davey-Pascoe, Lydia Edwards, Katie Hamm, Kayra Karakos, Mahirah Khan.

The Year 8s finished third playing up in the Year 9 competition, just missing out on a place in the next round.

Full team: Charlotte Callaghan, Sam Farrer, Lily Hughes, Kamai Iweka, Natasha Marsh, Jess Williams.

Sport Relief at Marlborough

A massive well done and a huge congratulation to everybody who took part in the day. All students were involved to a varying degree – whether that is taking part in the first ever Marlborough Mile, the student of steel competition or simply donating money to a worthy cause.

A grand total of £741 was raised by the school for the biannual charity event.

Out of school bits:

Ellie Hobbs has been successfully selected for the National Performance Academy for Netball. She will hopefully wear a bib for England.

Rhianna Berryman: was awarded first and second place for she achievements in an Irish dancing competition.

We need you!

If you are forever in the street and always enjoy any supporting activity then we need you!

We are after enthusiastic sports journalists to join the team!