

April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to introduce myself as your child's Director of Learning as they embark on their journey at Marlborough this September. It is both an honour and a privilege to oversee the start of their academic journey. I will also oversee their nurture and care according to our values.

With over 12 years of experience guiding students from **Year 7 through Year 11**, I understand the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. My goal is to ensure that every student achieves **outstanding academic progress**, regardless of their starting point, while also enjoying a **fulfilling and enriching** school experience.

"Pupils are polite, respectful and behave very well. Excellent relationships are evident between staff and pupils. Behaviour and attitudes to learning are very positive." – **Ofsted 2023**

In today's ever-evolving world, students face a diverse range of challenges. By working in close partnership with you, we can provide the support and guidance necessary to help your child develop the **resilience and confidence** they need to thrive. We want them to **embrace new experiences**, overcome any worries they may have, learn and have fun.

"Pupils feel safe, cared for and happy in school." – **Ofsted 2023**

Transition Events & Key Dates:

To support your child's transition, we have arranged several key events:

- **New Year 7 Evening – Monday, 16th June 2025 (5:00 pm – 6:30 pm)**
This event will provide vital information about your child's transition, featuring **Ms Thomson (Headteacher), Form Tutors and me**. Our Year 7 cohort consists of **240 students across 8 form groups**, and this evening is a great opportunity to ask questions and prepare for the year ahead.
- **School Values Days – Monday 23rd June or Tuesday 24th June 2025 (9am – 2:30pm) Year Group to be a split over the 2 days**
Students will have the opportunity to experience a school day at Marlborough as part of their transition. To ensure a smooth and engaging experience, the year group will be split into two, with half of the students attending on one day and the other half on the following day. This will allow students to familiarise themselves with the school environment, routines, and expectations before they officially start in September. We have notified all Primary schools which day we are expecting your child to attend and there is a separate letter included in this pack with the date we would like your child to attend. We understand that some students may be away on a residential trip or



engaged in other activities that prevent them from attending on their designated day. Please rest assured that we will fully support them through the transition process, both during our Taster Day in July and when they join us in September.

Taster Day – Thursday, 10th July 2025 (9am – 2:30pm)

This day allows students to explore the school, meet staff, and begin forming friendships ahead of September.

- **Induction Day – Tuesday, 2nd September 2025 (8:40am – 11:40am & 12:10pm – 3:10pm)**

To help students settle in before the whole school returns, they will attend a shorter induction day again split as a morning or afternoon attendance, 4 Tutor Groups at a time. On this day students will complete their online testing called Midyis and those who have ordered Chromebooks through FreedomTech will be given their Chromebook to take home before they leave. More details will be sent after **May half-term**.

- **Official Start Date – Wednesday, 3rd September 2025**

The entire school will begin the academic year on this date. Normal school day.



Additional Support & Information

To ease the transition process, we will integrate various activities into the first term that have been **highly effective** in helping students settle in, make new friends, and build confidence.

Included in this **welcome pack** you will find:

- ✓ Important dates for the **2025/26 academic year**
- ✓ Information about **Chromebook scheme: Details for ordering through Freedom Tech & BYOD**
- ✓ **Marlborough Uniform Information, price lists & ordering instructions** from SWI Schoolwear
- ✓ **Additional Transition Visit letter** for either 23rd or 24th June 2025
- ✓ **School Gateway procedures (Access will go live after 16th June 2025)**
- ✓ **Ordering school blazers through the school's Finance Team (Access will go live after 16th June 2025)**
- ✓ **Locker Letter (Access will go live after 16th June 2025)**

Further details will follow regarding:

- **Invitation to our New Year 7 Evening in June including Tutor Group details**
- **Secondary Transition Day Thursday 10th July**
- **PGL Trip (October 2025)**
- **EduLink Communication App – (Access will go live once students are on our roll in September)**

For more information, please visit our **school website**, where we have a dedicated '**New Year 7 Information**' section, soon to include our updated '**Transition Booklet**'. This will go live first week of May 2025.

Contact Information

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact:

- **Ms. Myrian Pounnas (Assistant Headteacher – KS3 & Transition)**
✉ m.pounnas@marlborough.herts.sch.uk | ☎ 01727 731386
- **Mrs. Sara Bailey (Year 7/8 Pastoral Support)**
✉ s.bailey@marlborough.herts.sch.uk | ☎ 01727 731335
- **Mrs. Sue Milton (Admissions Secretary)**
✉ s.milton@marlborough.herts.sch.uk | ☎ 01727 731375

I am confident that your child will have a **wonderful induction experience** as they begin this exciting new chapter. I look forward to working with you and sharing in your child's journey at Marlborough, where our values and ethos underpin everything we do.

Kind Regards,

Myrian Pounnas

Assistant Headteacher – KS3 & Transition

The Marlborough Science Academy

