

Dear Year 5 and 6 Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Marlborough.

I have been so pleased that I chose such a caring and nurturing school for my children who are both thriving. My daughter joined Year 7 last year, following my son who will be going into Year 10 in September. My daughter has particularly enjoyed all the clubs that the PE department offer and quickly settled into the new challenges and routines of secondary school.

The school has some amazingly talented and committed teachers and the Head of Year 7, Miss Pounnas, is incredible at managing and resolving any issues that might arise. I am sure you and your child will enjoy everything Marlborough has to offer. You will certainly be supported along your journey by the staff, other students and parents of this amazing school.

All the best

Alex Leech

Dear Parents,

As a family we are very pleased that we chose Marlborough for our daughter's secondary education. From the outset the staff at the school have taken care to get to know her and communicate with us. The taster day was enjoyable and informative. Summer school gave children the chance to meet new friends and the PGL trip later in the term helped to secure the new friendships. Those children identified as needing further help with transition were able to take part in specially tailored extra lessons which our daughter benefitted from. Emily has benefitted from lots of extra curricular activities from Orchestra to Drama and Swimming and there are lots of clubs and school trips covering all sorts of interests.

Academically we have found the school to be excellent. Whilst exam results are important, teachers work hard to make lessons interesting and enjoyable. We have found them to be approachable and if difficulties have arisen, adjustments have been made. The school works hard to promote and reward good behaviour and any poor behaviour is acted on swiftly. We feel there is a strong community feel at Marlborough and the students benefit from its inclusivity.

Finally we would like to say we have found there to be an excellent common sense approach to school life by all levels of staff.

We would wholeheartedly recommend Marlborough.
Mr and Mrs Payne

The Marlborough Science Academy
Watling Street
St Albans
HERTS
AL1 2QA

Dear Year 5 and 6 Students,

It's strange to think that I was where you are just a year ago and just as nervous as you!

I'm so happy that you're considering this school. I was really excited when I found out Marlborough would be my secondary school and since each lesson it's only got better. My favourite lesson is English as it has proved to be a really nice environment for learning and writing. Every teacher is an expert at their subject, they know how to help you reach your potential.

You're most likely worried about all the changes that happen at secondary school but do not fear, Summer School is here! And it's only for three days, you learn about the school day and buildings, meet new friends and go on a trip, we went to Paradise Wildlife Park.

Just a few tips from me – always have your student planner to hand as there's a map in it, don't shy away from help and have loads of fun!

Sam Prestianni

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Dear Year 5 and 6 Students,

There is no need to worry about your transition to secondary school. I was really nervous but with all the kind teachers and students I was quickly started to feel at home.

I know you will have lots of concerns, such as getting lost or not finding a friendship group. These problems are easily resolved as there is a Taster Day where you get to meet your whole year and form. Quickly you will make many new friends. As for getting lost, in your first few days at Marlborough a teacher will take you to each class so you will be on time. After that you will be able to find most buildings without any help at all.

See you soon

Gabby Quist

Dear Year 5 and 6 Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of staff for providing my daughter, Matilda, with the most positive and caring environment for her first year at secondary school.

This can only be described as one of life's most daunting tasks, starting a new school with very different rules and experiences, however Marlborough has, as a collective, managed to overcome any of the concerns Matilda had.

The response to queries, concerns or even just reassurances to us as parents, has been second to none. I feel very strongly that, without this Pastoral care, Matilda's first year of secondary would not have been nearly as enjoyable as it has been.

She's making great progress and enjoying her lessons and getting to know new friends as well as teachers, which is a huge accolade and testament to the fact that staff have taken the time to get to know Matilda and what she's about. Equally, Miss Pounnas and Ms Thomson have played a big part in Matilda's progress by recognising her strengths as a person and used these to her advantage, which is helping to push and progress her.

Thank you all for making this year as a parent easier, because my child has been happy and safe in your care.

Regards

Ms Newbery

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 5 and 6 Students,

Moving into an unknown environment can be rather intimidating, so we would like to encourage you by sharing our experience of our daughter's first year at Marlborough.

During her first academic year we have been very impressed with the level of interest and support offered by staff to each student. Staff are easy to contact — one of Ione's Food Technology assignments was to email a photo of a stir fry. This was sent on a Sunday afternoon and we had a reply the same day! Staff are very approachable and our daughter has several adults she would feel comfortable to contact if she had a query or concern.

There are many extra-curricular clubs on offer and Ione has joined several of them, choir, orchestra, gymnastics, dance and netball and she is currently deciding on adding to this list. School trips have been a highlight and a great way for children to get to know each other, our daughter thoroughly enjoyed PGL and the French Christmas Market trip.

Ione has been interested by the variety of lessons and has enjoyed learning new skills, particularly in Food Technology, Metalwork and Woodwork. Staff praise and celebrate achievement, not only in the more formal core subjects but also in the practical, sport and artistic subjects and there have been several events to display their achievements. Our hopes for Ione's first year at secondary school have been more than fully met and she is looking forward to progressing to the next year with its new opportunities.

Mrs and Mrs Dickson

The Marlborough Science Academy
Watling Street
St Albans
Herts

Dear Future Students,

My experience at Marlborough has been thoroughly enjoyable. All of the teachers have been exceptionally welcoming and are always willing to help out. They always make sure that you are on the right level of learning. One of my most favourite lessons is definitely Science, not only because we do so many practical experiments but also what we learn is so interesting. But the practical sessions are the most fun!

Although Marlborough may seem large it was one of the friendliest schools that I visited. The food is incredible with a different variety of choices daily and waffles and chocolate sauce on Fridays.

To help settle in I highly recommend summer school which is three days of fun and gives you a massive head start on knowing your way round school. You will also have some starter sessions of lessons and a sneak peek of what you will be learning in September.

However strange it may feel at first, I promise that eventually you will feel at home.

Josie Greenwood

The Marlborough Science Academy
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Dear Year 5 and 6 Students,

I am pleased to welcome you to our school. Ever since Open Evening I wanted to come to Marlborough because it feels like a big community.

Firstly, I know what you're thinking 'What if I get lost' or 'I'll be really nervous.'

I was exactly the same until I met Miss Pounnas. She is Head of Transition for KS3 and she is amazing. She would help me find classrooms and make me feel better when I was nervous.

The lessons are fun and interesting, especially Science. We used Bunsen burners in our first lesson and burnt a special metal. The teachers are fantastic and make each lesson as fun as it can be.

The school is very big but the teachers will help you and there are great sports facilities including a swimming pool.

My advice would be if you have a problem just ask a teacher and they will help you.

See you soon,
Ben Gannon