

Dear Parent,

Not so long ago myself and my husband were doing just what you're doing now, touring the schools, listening to one Headteacher speech after another and being filled with statistics!

We were both stopped in our tracks by Marlborough, what captured us both was the nurturing feel within this school that can only be created by such caring staff. A passion to create an exciting place to learn, yet fair and firm rules raising children with morals and values.

Josie is our eldest, this was the first time we were entering the "secondary world" and yes it's a scary one. However we knew Marlborough was the right school for her, and almost a year on, we know we made the right decision.

Coming to the school only knowing one other child was a concern, but she quickly made friends and was made to feel welcome safe and secure within her new environment. Communication here is fantastic, I feel we are a team working towards a wonderful future for our daughter.

We thank all the staff at Marlborough for their dedication to making the transition from primary to secondary a smooth one, not the scary one our daughter (and us!) thought it may be!

Many thanks
Suzanne and Ben Greenwood

Our daughter Mya is coming to the end of her first year at Marlborough, and I can honestly say she has had the most amazing year.

We were bracing ourselves for a bumpy ride as she made the transition from a small village school to a large secondary school, but she has settled in so well and much quicker than anticipated. To say she is a different child to the one who started in September last year is an understatement! She has developed so much emotionally and academically in such a short space of time and is so much more confident, which is wonderful to see. She is now starting to realise that she is as good as we have been telling her! She is a very happy young lady and loves school.

From day one she was made to feel welcome and as part of the school. Miss Pounnas and the teaching staff have been very supportive and nothing seems like too much trouble. The communication links between school and home in my opinion are very important and any queries I have made have been responded to quickly and efficiently.

Mya's lessons are varied and challenging, and she particularly enjoys sport and English. She has grown in confidence in Maths and enjoys the practical elements of D&T, Drama, Art and Textiles. She has enjoyed taking part in a number of after school clubs and has represented the school in netball, football and athletics.

Mya has been on school trips to France and Kidzania and is very much looking forward to the sailing trip to the Norfolk Broads at the end of the summer term. The opportunities she has access to at Marlborough are wonderful and will not only help her to further develop her transferable skills, but also allow her to mix with students in different year groups.

From a parent's point of view, we couldn't be any happier with the start Mya has made at Marlborough. I'm sure that if she continues to work hard, receives the same levels of encouragement she has throughout Year 7 and the communication between home and school remains strong, she will go from strength to strength and I look forward to her having a very bright future at Marlborough.

Mark and Sara Levick

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

Dear Prospective Year 7 Student,

Welcome to The Marlborough Science Academy,

We are a happy community with kind and helpful teachers and students. There are many things to enjoy here; my favourite things are the other students (especially the friends I have met here), school clubs, house tournaments and the Design and Technology subjects.

One of my favourite subjects is Geography; I have an amazing teacher and I think it is interesting to learn about the world and the different cultures and styles of living. Although Geography is my favourite, all of the lessons are fun and exciting with amazing teachers in every department.

In conclusion, Marlborough is a great school and I am so happy to be here. I hope you choose to come here as well so you can have as amazing of an experience as I have had.

Yours sincerely,
Joe Larkin

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

Dear Prospective Year 7 Student,

We hope you choose to come to The Marlborough Science Academy next year. The reason why you will be delighted to be here is because the teachers are very welcoming and you will always feel like they care about you and your learning. Our favourite lessons are IT and Maths as they are lots of fun and allow us to show our strongest skills.

The canteen food is delicious and you can get a huge variety of delicious food from there!

If you don't want to spend your lunches in the canteen, you can also join one of the clubs. A good club is the Football Club as it gives you a chance to play practice matches with your friends. If football isn't your thing, there are lots of clubs you can do such as basketball and even table tennis.

We think you will have a great time at Marlborough and you will really enjoy it.

Yours sincerely,
Daniel Brunton and Alex Sijuade

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are parents to two daughters, in Year 7 and Year 11, both of whom are lucky to be part of the Marlborough community. Even though we had experience of looking around secondary schools for our eldest daughter, as each child is different, we underwent the same process again for our younger daughter currently in Year 7.

Marlborough very much treats every child as an individual, identifying their strengths and passions and ensuring they seek to fulfil their potential, whatever that may be. We have very much found it beneficial that our daughter has been put into different ability groups for each subject right from the start of Year 7. Whether from an academic or pastoral point of view, Marlborough have thought of everything to make sure our daughter transitioned so well to secondary school.

We have benefitted from evenings to meet other parents ahead of the start of Year 7; an initial consultation evening with teachers during the first term to discuss our daughter's performance and how she was settling in; a session to talk through expectations and student Grade Cards; and a very informative evening on a new online system for home learning along with safety with online media / social networks. At any time too, the teachers, Head of Year, Senior Leadership Team or the Headteacher Ms Thomson have been available to phone, email or arrange to see if needed, making them approachable on anything at all. All these sessions, and the ease with which we can communicate with school, reinforce an ethos of parents, students and school working together for common good, which we truly value.

Ahead of our daughter starting Year 7, she attended a Taster Day, and also a fantastic summer camp during the holidays. This helped her meet new people and develop key friendships, participating in varied activities and a day trip.

Added to this, the Year 7 PGL trip early in the first term also helped her meet more people, gain new skills and see how fun the teachers are. In fact, after only a few weeks into her first term, our daughter felt so settled and part of school that she offered herself up to show prospective new students and parents around school on tours during Open Evening, as if she'd been a Marlborough student for years! After such a short period of time, it is testament to Marlborough that she was so confident and enthused to do this.

Students are recognised at this school and praised for their successes. Be it via assemblies, in Form, in class or Game Changer days, our daughter has felt she has been noticed - so very important we feel when part of a larger secondary school community. Feedback and collaboration from students and parents alike is welcomed at this school, as is the ethos that happiness makes for success. If you value this approach both academically and pastorally, then Marlborough will be a great choice for your child too.

Best of luck with your secondary school choices and kind regards,

Samantha and Andrew Vincent

The Marlborough Science Academy
Watling Street
St Albans
Herts

Dear Prospective Year 7 Student,

Starting at The Marlborough Science Academy is a very exciting beginning to a new chapter of your life. You may feel a bit scared or worried but that strange new feeling will only last for a few days. Once you settle in everything will feel so great you will have no words for how to explain it.

Marlborough is an amazing school and you will fit right in. It has so many clubs you can join and if you don't like any of them you can start your own. The canteen has the best food; it even sells cakes and doughnuts. But try not to buy too many doughnuts because your parents can see what you buy!

In my opinion Marlborough is one of the best schools for trips, especially when you're in Year 7. There are so many trips like: PGL (where you get to stay in cabins), Harry Potter World (definitely worth the journey there), France, and all the trips you go on when it's a Game Changer Day. In Year 8 you have the chance to go to China and in Year 11 you can go to Italy where you can visit all the Roman ruins in Rome.

If you try your hardest and get involved, you get to see just how exciting it can be. Classes are lots of fun and you get to learn new things.

Plus, when you help Miss Pounnas (the Head of Year 7 and 8) or any of the teachers they sometimes give you house points or Pinkies (a large achievement worth 20 house points) that you can then swap for prizes at the end of each term. It's also really great when you get a card from the Headteacher.

I hope you love Marlborough just as much as me! Hope to see you around!

Yours sincerely,
Tamsin Ali

The Marlborough Science Academy
Watling Street
St Albans
Herts

Dear Prospective Year 7 Student,

Welcome to Marlborough. It is the best school you could ever ask for and will give you the greatest education in the world!

What really makes Marlborough a home is the teachers. Without them, you would not be able to learn and not be able to have a good education. Lessons are fun and exciting but you also get to learn a lot of new things which is fantastic. I realise that not a lot of people enjoy school but when you get to Marlborough you won't even remember those negative thoughts.

Of course, when you start a new school you are a little worried, but all the other students can guide you and show you the way around the school. The older students are very caring and the Marlborough community as a whole is happy to help.

The best lessons in my opinion are Art, Drama and English. You will have fun in lots of lessons, but they would have to be my favourite three.

I hope you choose Marlborough. You won't regret it!

Yours sincerely,
Katie Albert