

Dear Parent/Carer,

Choosing the right school for your child is a daunting task, even more so if your child requires additional learning support. I was extremely anxious to ensure I could secure a secondary school that would be able to support my son through his educational journey.

When I visited the school at the Open Evening, Marlborough felt like a breath of fresh air. The Headteacher's talk was all inclusive, not just showing the gifted and talented but encompassed students of differing abilities and needs.

I spent quite a lot of my evening with the SENCo, Mrs Robinson and Head of Transition Miss Pounnas who spoke honestly and openly about the school, and the kind of support my son would receive at Marlborough.

Since joining Marlborough my son has grown emotionally and his confidence in his own ability has started to shine through.

The school put in place support mechanisms to allow him to perform in class, with access to a laptop and mobile phone to record important facts.

When he began his journey, the pastoral team suggested he join their self-confidence club designed to support Year 7 transitioning students. The afterschool club helped him to make new friends and increased his confidence. He now embraces several afterschool clubs and has an established network of friends.

I cannot speak highly enough of the pastoral support received from Miss Pounnas and Mrs Robinson. Despite their busy schedules, they are always available and open to parental suggestions, and deal with any issues swiftly and sympathetically.

I am confident my son will achieve his dreams in such a supportive and understanding environment and I hope this evening you will experience for yourself, the Magic that is Marlborough!

Yours sincerely,

Amanda

Dear Prospective Parent,

Making the choice about which secondary school to send your child to is one of the most difficult and daunting decisions you will ever have to make as a parent. This time last year, we were in the same position as you are now, however, once we set foot at Marlborough, we knew that this was the right place for both our daughter and us as a family.

Isobel has had a fantastic first year at Marlborough and the whole process of transitioning from Year 6 into 7 was handled so well by Miss Pounnas and the KS3 team, to ensure that she felt positive about starting this new chapter in her life. Isobel is not the most outgoing, but a testament to how confident Marlborough made her feel is the fact that within her first few weeks she volunteered to be a guide at Open Evening and a few weeks later helped at a Humanities evening for Year 6 children.

There are a great many opportunities for Isobel to become an active member of the Marlborough community; we have been really impressed by the sheer number of extra-curricular activities available to her and she thoroughly enjoyed the PGL trip where she got to know a lot of new faces in a very short and action packed space of time!

My overwhelming impression of all the staff at the school is how much they care about each and every student, not just academically but pastorally too. Staff cannot do enough to ensure that every child's achievements (no matter how small) are noticed, rewarded and encouraged. Even during the unusual and unprecedented times of lockdown and home schooling, the staff were great, always there to answer any queries with work (or anything else for that matter!). We have been really impressed by how quickly Google Classroom was set up and utilised by the staff to ensure the high level of learning was able to continue for Isobel.

Isobel is looking forward to Year 8 and from our point of view we couldn't be happier that she is so settled, confident and content in her school life. We are sure that if the positive encouragement alongside her hard work continues, she will have a bright future at Marlborough.

Many thanks,
Claire & James Garman

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

Dear Prospective Year 7 Student,

Welcome to Marlborough Science Academy! You have made a great choice in deciding to visit our school tonight.

I remember just a couple of years ago, I was looking round too. I was amazed by how big the school was compared to my primary school. It didn't take too long to learn my way around and there were always plenty of people to ask for directions.

I have really enjoyed the variety of subjects I have been learning this year. In particular, P.E. where I have played football and netball in competitions, swimming in the school pool and running. I have also liked the experiments in Science and making a wooden car in Design and Technology. I have designed a school hoodie and used Tie-Dye in Textiles. In Drama I have created a play script, made hand and finger puppets, a cardboard stage and scenery, written a play-script and performed my play.

I have made lots of new friends since September and PGL was great for meeting new people as well as great fun! I can't believe that Year 7 is nearly over, it has whizzed by, even with Lockdown!

I hope you are as impressed with our school as I am.

Yours faithfully,
Esme Dickson

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 and kind school with many helpful teachers and students.

At Marlborough there are many different activities to enjoy; my favourites are the many lunchtime clubs and House tournaments. Plus I love the amazing food!

We have high quality learning facilities including a swimming pool, metal workshop and multiple science labs. My favourite subject is Science as we have very fun lessons and light many things on fire! Design and Technology is also fun, and you make things like wooden cars and pizza in it. All the lessons in Marlborough are much more interesting than in primary school.

We hope you choose to come to the Marlborough Science Academy.

Yours sincerely,
Lewis Maguire

Dear Parents/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.

Not so long ago, we were looking around secondary schools for our daughter Esme. We already have an older daughter attending Marlborough, but wanted Esme to choose a secondary school she was happy with. As parents, it would be much easier to have siblings in the same school, but we felt it was only fair to give her the freedom to choose for herself, as we gave to her older sister Ione. As she had already attended the school several times while watching her older sister in music, gym and dance displays and a school play, Esme was quite sure she wanted to choose Marlborough for herself. Her choice was decided after attending the Open Evening.

During her first academic year here, we have been very impressed with the level of interest and support offered by the staff who are easy to contact and respond promptly. Staff are very approachable and our daughter has several adults she would feel comfortable to contact if she had a query or a concern.

There are many extra-curricular activities on offer and Esme has joined several of them – in her case, choir, orchestra, football and netball, and she is currently deciding on adding to this list next year. School trips have been a highlight and a great way for children to get to know each other; our daughter thoroughly enjoyed the weekend away during the Autumn term.

Home learning is often set online and the children have their own login. Parents are also informed of the home learning set as well as their child's timetable, house points and grade cards.

Esme has been interested by the variety of lessons and has enjoyed learning new skills, particularly in ICT, drama, woodwork and badminton. 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 in these areas. Our hopes for Esme'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. In September, the girls will have their younger sister joining them, again choosing Marlborough as her first choice.

Best wishes,

Adrian and Amanda Dickson

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,

I hope you will choose Marlborough. I chose Marlborough instead of other schools in the area, because I could see that it is a really great school. It is a warm, welcoming and safe place, with tonnes of exciting opportunities.

My favourite subjects are IT, Design & Technology, Drama and Maths. I have made many new friends at Marlborough, and I am sure you will too. I came to the summer transition week, which helped me understand what my new school was going to be like, and it made me really excited about starting secondary school.

There are so many clubs that you can take part in at Marlborough. In fact, if you can't find anything that suits you, you can easily create your own club. Me and my friends set up our own Warhammer lunchtime club in our first term at school!

There are many places to go if you want to have a break or some quiet time, such as the Brooks Suite, your form room, or Miss Pounnas' room (which is only for Key Stage 3 students).

The school has been brilliant at keeping in touch during lockdown. We've had lessons on Google Classroom, form time meetings and lots of information about how to look after our minds.

In summary, I love Marlborough and I am sure you will too. It is a great school and I am very happy and proud to be part of the Marlborough community.

Kind regards,
Oliver Farmer