



## Prize Giving at the Abbey

Friday the 13th of September saw The Marlborough Science Academy return to St Albans Cathedral for their 6th annual award ceremony. Over 900 people packed the nave to celebrate hard won achievements and well deserved prizes. Nearly 200 trophies, shields and prizes were presented that afternoon.

We were particularly proud to welcome David Gryn the Founder and Director of Daata Editions, a digital media platform for a new generation of artists. Hearing David's passion for the arts and his commitment to seeing young people unleash their creative talents was a remarkable highlight of the event.



## Student Achievement

Congratulations to Lauren Caldwell 8AS who recently captained the Hertfordshire Under 13 hockey team to win the eastern region finals. They played against 6 other counties – Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex, Lincolnshire, Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire in Kings Lynn.

This is the second year in a row that she has captained the side to victory.



## Duke of Edinburgh Award

A significant number of Year 11 students have been working hard to complete their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. Massive congratulations go out to the following students! Any students who have not yet received their certificate will do so soon. Well done!

Kyle Allaway 11PA  
Kaylei Callaghan 11JJ  
Elliott Clarke 11DG  
Daniel George 11KS  
Thomas Jobson 11JJ  
Roxanne King 11KS  
William Pearson 11AA



Joshua Bennett 11PA  
Shay Cassidy 11PA  
Lydia Edwards 11DG  
Katy Held 11JJ  
Miles Key 11LT  
Jake Leech 11DG  
Alexander Shelley 11KS

## Parkour Club

A small group of boys have been attending Parkour Club with Mr Ivory this year. Parkour is free running where you jump obstacles outside. Our group do somersaults and parkour moves



over our gym equipment indoors and have put a display together to music which they performed at the gym and dance show at St Albans High School for Girls on Thursday 12th March.

Well done to Harvey Matthewson 10RG, Lewis Gillett 10EW, Billy Hicks 9RA and Matt Ridgway 7LW

## The Grimm Tales

### It was anything but Grimm!

This year's school production was very much a Marlborough original. The script was our own adaptation of The Grimm Tales written by Mr Griggs and the music was created by Year 9 and 10 Music students with the help of Mrs Dyde during a Game Changer Day earlier this year.



The show was directed by Mrs Griggs and



featured 61 students from

Year 7 to Year 12, with James in Year 11 running the sound desk for all the shows and the stage management team of Sophie and Liam in Year 13 keeping everyone on track.

The set for the show was amazing. Mr. Armer created a tower for Rapunzel, swing for Little Red Riding Hood, a creepy Toy shop and a Gingerbread House all set off with various special effects. Mrs Baker added finishing touches with hair and makeup for the cast which set off the costumes created by Mrs Whitlock.

It was a huge success with a sell out audience on Friday, the students worked incredibly hard during the process and should be proud of their achievements.

The feedback received has been really lovely and was shared with the cast each night before the show.



*"I was captivated the very moment I walked into the hall. Spine tingly atmosphere which saw music lighting costume and superb acting all coming spectacularly together that had me thinking about the ending whilst I was driving home."*

*"From start to finish it was such a pleasure to watch such a professional team put on a show, that you have put such enormous effort into and seem so proud to perform. Every one of you, cast and crew, should be immensely proud."*

*"I actually got goose bumps and felt quite overwhelmed walking into the space. The opening was absolutely brilliant! So slick, so atmospheric and original. Loved every single detail.*

*We thought all the actors were incredible and so professional. The set, lighting, special effects, music, costume were beyond brilliant. Rapunzel falling was just amazing!*

*The mammoth amount of hard work/talent/time/energy/thought/fun! put into this show is very evident and much appreciated!"*



## So what is it really like being involved in a school production?



*Being part of this years show was a wonderful experience for me. Every single rehearsal left me with a smile on my face as there was always something to have a good laugh about (often some of the most bizarre things). I particularly loved the support from everyone, students and teachers alike. After every show everyone would congratulate and praise each other and it just felt like we were one big family - Katy Year 11*

*I absolutely adored how the script for Grimm Tales was written and I am proud to have been a part of it. It was a great experience in which I was able to improve my acting skills and make new friends - Brogan Year 10*

*I have loved my experience of being able to take part in such a magical creation, anyone who is thinking of taking part should definitely audition next year. You will 100% love it. I love how everyone who takes part has an important role even if your just in the background. - Olivia Year 7*



*Being an older student it's been amazing to participate in multiple productions over the years and seeing all my cast mates grow and improve, this production has been so different to anything we've ever done and we're all so proud to have brought these characters to life - Emelia Year 12*

*It was really fun to be in the school production. I have a very enjoyable time with my friends and other students. I would recommend it to many no matter their interests. - Mae Year 7*

*Being included into this year's school production was a really fun experience. I got to meet new people from other year groups and make new friends. Also make really fun memories. - Russell Year 9*



## Book Week

2nd – 6th March 2020

Our annual book week was once again as busy as ever. The winning form in our Book Door competition was 9AK with their Alice in Wonderland theme. A special mention also goes to Ella Schmidt 7KB, Sam Seaton and Billy Hicks 9BA who also won a small prize for their efforts.



Staff displayed the books they are currently reading on their office or classroom door and wrote a little bit about their favourite book or a book that had a big impact on them for a display in the LRC.



Our Who's Behind the Book Competition proved very tricky this year with no one correctly identifying all staff members

winner were Mae Dawson 7KB, Carly Agar 7KB Florence Van Huet 7KB with the highest score. Everyone who entered will receive house points.



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and



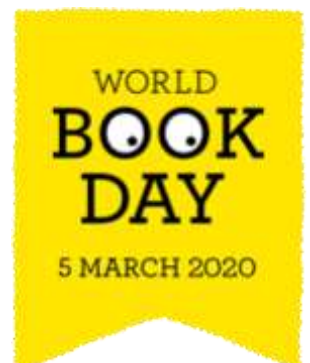
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The overall winner of the 6 word story competition was William Simpson 7TA for 'The tree whispered, "Don't do it"' - William wins himself a £10 book token and a Pinkie. Runners up, who all receive a Pinkie and a chocolate bar, were Seth Ogier 7TA, Lois Punter 7EM, Emily Harris 7KA and Lottie Andrews 7KA. Everyone who entered will be awarded house points.

The second hand book sale proved popular with staff and students and is something we plan to repeat in the summer term.

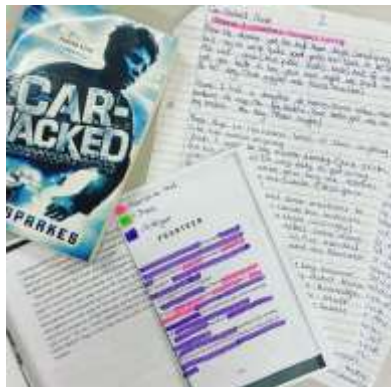
All Year 7 students have had the opportunity to choose one of the special £1 World Book Day books as well as receiving a £1 book token which they can use in book shops or online at <https://www.scholastic.co.uk/> where every order over £10 will earn 25% back for our school in books.



## The Big Read

### Drama

This half term Mrs Day's Year 7 classes have been creating performances based on Ali Sparkes book Car-Jacked our Big Read this year.



First they had to read their chapter of the story and highlight any moments of direct speech, which then formed the starting point of their script.



They also had to highlight any descriptions of the setting and clothing worn by the characters which were then turned into set and costume designs by the students.



Finally Mr Armer came and taught the students about lighting and colours for setting the scene.

Some fantastic work exploring all the aspects of creating a performance from a brilliant story. Well done Year 7!

### Languages

Mr Henshall's Year 7 students have been writing character profiles in French. Some of the best examples are on display in the LRC and on our website [here](#)



Car Jacked

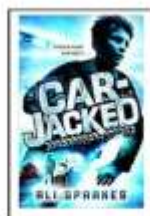
Jack

Je m'appelle Jack Mattingly. J'ai un QI de 170. J'ai les cheveux blonds et les yeux gris. Je parle couramment le mandarin et le latin. J'ai douze ans et j'habite dans une maison moyenne. J'aime beaucoup de choses : la géologie des blagues latines, les cartes historiques et modernes et les sonnets de Shakespeare.



Ross

Salut! Je suis Ross, Je suis genereux et genial. J'ai les yeux noirs et les cheveux noirs et longs et j'ai une barbe et moustache.



Callum McCloy



## News from the Maths Faculty

### Intermediate Maths Challenge

Approximately 100 students in years 9, 10 and 11 participated in the Intermediate Maths Challenge in February. We are proud that many students achieved an award in the competition. Please find the list of students below. All of these students scored in the top 40% of the entire competition and our Gold achievers qualified for the next round of competition.

#### Bronze

Jarin Auddity 11RT

Amy Ben 10MO

Amy Bilson 10DH

Tom Brasington 10JI

Alex Clutton 9AK

Ryan Conway 10DH

Lauren Cropper 11PA

Ben Dellamuro 11LT

Finnian Harris 11PA

Euan Hermon 9LL

Freddie Hobbis 9LB

Daniel Howell 11RT



Mathra Kapugama Geega 10DD

Rubina Khatun PA

Billy Morrisey 11JJ

Marcy Pateman 11LT

Josh Pedder 10EW

Milana Port 11LT

Mikie Ridgway 10RG

Hema Sujatha 10DD

Joseph Toomey 11JJ

Sam Viccars 11JJ

Sonny Wood 9LL

Jamie Yon 11KS



#### Silver

Sean Neveling 10LO

Alex Noon 11DG

Weronika Wrzesniak 11AA

Emma Zhang 9JG

#### Gold

Darius Mafi 9JG - Best in Year, Best in School

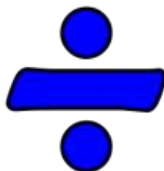
Ilyas Monadi 10LO - Best in Year

Max Pearson 9JG

Miles Punter 9EM

Matthew Ward 10JI - Best in Year

Elise Wylie 11JJ - Best in Year



## 'I Always Hated Maths at School!'

A new initiative was launched this year by the Maths faculty where parents and students were invited in to take part in maths workshops on a range of different topics. The "I always hated maths at school" sessions took place over two Tuesday evenings. The idea was to give parents an idea of how we teach maths in secondary school and to show the methods used for difficult topics such as negative numbers, multiplying decimals and algebra.

The parents and students who participated were absolutely fantastic and really threw themselves into the challenges. The comments from parents were resoundingly positive about the maths they had done, and about how to support their child with maths in the future.



Thank you to the parents and students who attended either the year 9 or the year 7 evenings. We are hoping to run these events next academic year so please look out for information in the future!

Miss Smith

## Year 7 Maths Challenge

Oliver Farmer 7EM, Lottie Andrews 7KA, and Janine Hipkin 7KA represented The Marlborough Science Academy at the Hertfordshire Year 7 Maths Challenge. They did a great job answering general maths questions, completing a memory round, and making great guesses on the estimation round. They earned a smashing 118 points and got a commendation for being one of the groups to score over 100!





## GCSE Maths in Action Trip

45 students from years 9, 10 and 11 joined us in London for Education in Action's GCSE Maths event. We got to hear some dynamic speakers talk about how binary is used in WiFi and Bluetooth, how data can be misinterpreted by the media, the maths behind the flow of large groups in places like Arsenal arena or Glastonbury, and some tricky, practical maths puzzles.

Mrs Gustafson



## Year 9 Holocaust Survivor Testimony

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February, myself and seven other students were given the chance to have lunch with Holocaust survivor Harry Olmer.

We first listened to Harry talk about his experiences during the Holocaust with the rest of the Year 9 students. It was very interesting to hear about Harry's experiences first hand.

Afterwards, the seven of us had the opportunity to ask Harry questions over lunch. We asked questions such as "what was the food like?" and "how did you survive throughout the winter?" before we had to say goodbye and thank you to Harry.

It is important we listen to survivors like Harry as we are the last generation that will be able to listen to the real survivors, so then we can tell the next generation and prevent anti-Semitism in the future.

Matilda Burtenshaw, 9JG



## PSHCEE News

On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January, Year 10 students took part in a full day of presentations and workshops entitled “The S Factor” from the award winning theatre group Tip of the Iceberg. The project gave students the opportunity to look at many attitudes, ideas and pressures experienced by many people their age and how their decisions can change the course of their future. The initial play presentation followed the story of three teenagers in their final year at secondary school before students visited different workshops, before the final presentation showed the different ways in which the character’s lives were affected by the choices they had made.



*“The debate workshop had the most impact on me because there were some questions which needed everyone’s point of view and I thought it brought our year group closer.”*

*“The play was eye opening.”*

*“I learnt that choices you make now will definitely impact you in the future!”*



Before half term, our Year 9 students took part in an hour long workshop delivered by Charlotte from KIP (Knowledge is Power) Education.

The workshop focused on healthy sex and social media and gave students the opportunity to listen to, and share, ideas and opinions on what constitutes a good and healthy romantic relationship. Students were also able to see how social media can have negative effects on us all, and how not to let it take over our lives and damage our mental health.

*“It told us what is good and what is bad in healthy relationships.”*

*“It highlighted how saying things can take a weight off of you.”*

*“I learnt about relationships and how online relationships are different to real life relationships.”*

## Careers News

Students from Year 10 attended a Trip to Gonville and Ciaus College Cambridge. The tour around the buildings showed important features and accommodation used by past students including Stephen Hawking's. Students were given information about the courses studied at Cambridge and the collegiate system as well as how to apply to the University. The trip gave the students the opportunity to start to consider future careers and degree courses that they might pursue in the future.

**Mrs Rutherford**



## Apprenticeship Fair

The evening of Wednesday 5th February saw Marlborough once again host more than 20 exhibitors at our annual Apprenticeship fair. Alongside companies offering apprenticeships were representatives from The University of Hertfordshire and YC Hertfordshire who were able to explain more about this increasingly popular career path.



A wide variety of apprenticeships including Hairdressing, Accounting, Engineering, Hospitality, The Armed Forces and Sports were represented and provided valuable opportunities for our students and those from other local schools to explore their career options.

The National Citizenship Service were also present to discuss the Summer Outreach Programme with Year 11 students and the evening was once again a great success.



## The LIFE Project

This Year's LIFE Project, (Local Intervention Fire Education) was held from Monday 27th to Friday 31st January at St. Albans Fire Station. Students from Year 8 joined the Fire Service for the week. The LIFE project is an interactive experience for students who have faced challenges to learn transferable skills through firefighting activities.



Specially trained Fire Fighters deliver the LIFE project; it is an intensive five-day work experience course in a disciplined and well-focused environment. With the help of the friendly trainers, the students learnt the job of a real firefighter through taking part in a range of activities that included using ladders, breathing apparatus equipment, and learning casualty rescue techniques.



There were some classroom sessions too where the students learnt about social responsibility, and how different behaviours can impact on the community, their families and themselves with the intention of getting them to adopt a new set of values and understand the consequences of their behaviour and the choices they make in everyday situations. By the end of the week the students had gained resilience, self-esteem, confidence and the ability to improve their life skills.

All our students successfully completed the course and received an AQA accredited certificate from John Boulter, Head of Protection, Herts County Council at an official Passing Out Parade attended by parents, carers and families of the students. Well done to all our students who participated!



Miss Pounnas



## Student Achievement

### Clontarf Cup – Galway, Ireland

On Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th January Owen Dorrington 8RV was part of the Under 13's squad representing Watford Water Polo Club in the Clontarf Cup in Galway, Owen's team were the only English team taking part and won all their games on the first day of the tournament. They eventually finished in third place, Owen is pictured here with his bronze medal.



### Schools Art Exhibition

The Schools Art Exhibition at St Albans Museum is open until Sunday 2nd February. On display is an A level piece by Christopher Benn who was in Year 13 last year and a GCSE piece by Demi Hill who was in our Year 11 cohort last year. For more information see the link below.

<https://www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk/whats-on/schools-art-exhibition>



Boys on a Bench by Christopher Benn  
Oil on canvas – one metre by one metre



My Brother Harvey by Demi Hill  
Acrylic on canvas – one metre by one metre

## Year 9 Science Careers Presentation

On Friday 24th January Dr Paul Winter a clinical neurologist and oncologist visited the school to talk with Year 9 about careers in science. As a STEM ambassador Paul has had a large amount of experience visiting schools to enlighten students on some of the different science pathways available. Throughout his talk he used examples of his own life and that of other scientists to illustrate that the subject is about passion and desire to help and support



individuals and society. His talk was engaging and enjoyable ranging from the use of Virtual Reality in surgical techniques to the development of a prosthetic arm produced using 3D printing.



## St Albans in Winter

Well done to all those students who submitted photographs for the Photography House competition. There were some fantastic photographs which have been on display in the LRC. All those who participated have been awarded 25 House points.

The results for participation were;

1st Neptune with 325 house points

Joint 2nd Mars and Saturn with 225 house points each

4th Mercury with 75 house points

The overall winner was Jessica Hardcastle 9HF.

Ms Rickman



*The winning photograph taken by  
Jess Hardcastle 9HF*

## House News

This month there have been lots of house competitions including the St Albans in Winter photography competition, staff badminton, Christmas mobile and Christmas hamper competition.

The current standings in the House Competition are as follows:

1st Mercury with 7700 points

2nd Saturn with 7500 points

3rd Mars with 6950 points

4th Neptune with 6350 points

Well done to everyone who has taken part.

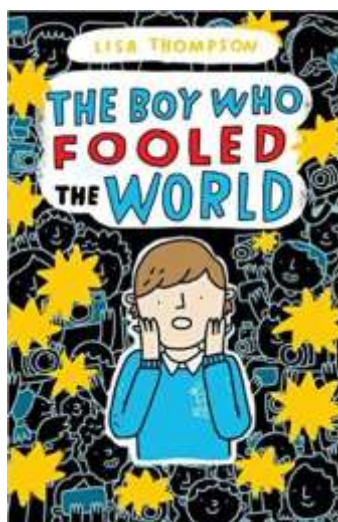


*Mars' winning entry in the  
House Christmas Mobile  
Competition*

## St Albans Schools Book Award

On Thursday 12th December 8 students from year 7 and 8 who have been reading the shortlisted books on the St Albans Schools Book Award took part in a discussion day at St Columba's College.

The students discussed each of the books in groups with students from the other schools attending before voting for their winner. This was followed by a quiz with a round of questions on each of the books and one on general book knowledge. During lunch students were given a book cover quiz to solve and then we were treated to a presentation by last year's winning author Lisa Thompson.



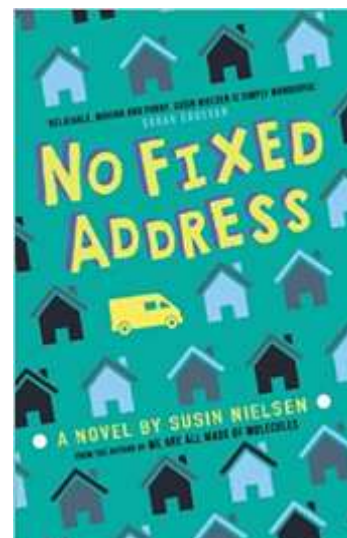
Students were able to buy copies of Lisa's books and have them signed including her most recent book The Boy Who Fooled the World which isn't officially published until next month.



The students thoroughly enjoyed the day and were a credit to our school as usual. Well done to them all and especially to Keira Callcut 7TA who not only won a prize for her bookmark design but was also part of the winning team in the quiz.

The winning book this year was No Fixed Address by Susin Nielsen which was the most popular book among our students too. We have copies available in the LRC if anyone would like to read it!

Mrs Nixon





## Student Achievement

Congratulations to Owen Dorrington 8RV who helped Watford Water Polo Under 12 team clinch the 2019 East Region Grand Prix. The team took the title in convincing style winning all four matches by at least 10 goals.



## English Stars of the Month for November

The following students have been recognised by their English teacher for their hard work, consistent effort and pleasing work in November.



**Bailey Burrows, Lottie Andrews, Alice Ling, Emily Smith, Finlay Moffit, Charlotte Meads, Taylor Bryan, Zuweyn Uddin, Sophie Do, Selin Oney, Sean Nevling, Charlie Mennie, Lydia Simmons, Nell Delaney, Charlotte Forster, Ben Dellamaro, Molly Burke, Thandy Metcalf, Rhys Smith, Sam Lynas, Miles Key, Emily Payne, Charlotte Hardy, Isaac Sijuade, Leah Stevens, Natalie Simmons, Aimee Mullen, Daniel Gee, Lisa Hutton, Marino Phote, Sammy Newcombe, Annabel Blackford, Jamie Seal, Muskan Zaman, Achilies Perimoviq**

## Quote of the Week

“Whatever our souls are made of, his and mine are the same” (‘Wuthering Heights’, Emily Bronte)

## Word of the Week

**Abrupt:** *Adjective*—Sudden, unexpected, rapid, surprising

## Charity Events

The first of the School Parliament charity events this year was held in the LRC on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December. The 'Festive Thursday' brought both of the school's nominated charities together with a festive sale at the front of the LRC and the Guide Dogs in for a visit at the back.



Students were able to speak to the Guide Dog representatives, buy merchandise and pet the dogs – all of which really allowed the students to see where their charitable donations were going. One student even commented, "having the dogs here makes me want to donate more. I know we had the assembly but there is nothing like seeing things for yourself."

There were also jars of lovely bits and pieces, cakes, scones, stationery to buy, and three beautifully stocked hampers being raffled. In all, students raised £120 for Teen Cancer Trust and Guide Dogs UK. The winners of the hampers were: Izzy Chambers, Ishika Kumar and Miss Chapman.

Thank you to all who bought, donated and participated.



### Ms Redfern

We welcomed the Guide Dogs again on Friday lunchtime amid the chaos of the House Christmas Hamper Competition. In total over the two days more than £300 was spent on the Guide Dog merchandise and tombola which was a fantastic amount and greatly appreciated by the charity.



Thank you to everyone who came to support and to Jan, Maggie, Fiona and Jackie from the Guide Dog fundraising team for running the stalls and Ben, Dave and Jackie for bringing puppies Walter, Vinnie, May and Archie.

### Mrs Nixon



## Charity Events

### House Christmas Hamper

The House Christmas Hamper Competition this year was a fantastic event involving students and staff collecting non-perishable food items for local foodbanks and culminating in a frenzied building of hampers at lunchtime in the LRC on Friday 13th December. Despite being asked not to prepare items beforehand the creativity was amazing and the teams built a snowman, a parcel, a sleigh and a fireplace in just 45 minutes and filled them with the items donated. Mercury house were victorious with their wonderful fireplace and a total of 866 items were donated to local people in need. Thank you everyone for your support with this event.



### Christmas Tree Festival

Our students are always ready to support charities, especially if they are from the local community. This was proven, yet again, when several members of Student Parliament from Year 7 and Year 8 attended St Stephen's and St Julian's to decorate a Christmas tree that the school had sponsored.

The 5ft tree was decorated by: Mechia Richards 7EM, Isaac Mortimer 7TA, Zoe Carlow 8AS, Jez Berry-Potts 8CG, Deborah Akowa 8AS, Blessing Mavhangira 7KA and followed the 'First Nowell' theme. The church are aiming to raise as much money as possible for the 'Let There Be Light' campaign. Should you wish to support the church and donate to their cause please visit:

[www.justgiving.com/campaign/let-there-be-light](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/let-there-be-light)



## Charity Events

### Another first for The Marlborough Science Academy's School Parliament

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December the Charity Committee of School Parliament hosted a Year 7 'Movie Night'. The students were invited to start their festive celebrations a little earlier than the rest of the school by coming together in the Da Vinci Hall cinema! Entrance fees were donation only and students were allowed to buy popcorn and nibbles after an interval for lunch. The Year 7 students raised £212 – all of which will go towards our two nominated charities, Teen Cancer Trust and Guide Dogs UK. A special thanks needs to be given to Kiera Pegg-Edwards 10MO, Ella Fox 10DH and Tegan Kotula 10MO who helped arrange the event.

**Ms Redfern**

## Election Debate

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November two weeks to go before the General Election, The Alban Learning Partners were pleased to host a Question Time style debate between the Parliamentary Candidates for St Albans. Marlborough Science Academy hall was buzzing with questions from students across the Sixth Form consortium. The Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrats were ably represented by their Candidates Anne Main and Daisy Cooper. The Green Party and Labour sent proxies, Jack Easton and Ian Grant to represent candidates Simon Grover and Rebecca Lury respectively.

The event was a huge success allowing students to hear from candidates on topics as diverse as Mental Health in Schools, Brexit and the toxic nature of modern Politics. Some of the candidates stayed afterwards to discuss their views with students.



## Positive Mental Health Conference

In order to celebrate and share the exceptional work that students are doing to raise awareness of mental health within schools The Marlborough Science Academy, in partnership with five local councillors and the St Albans Museum hosted a Positive Mental Health Conference.

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December a number of student council representatives, from nine St Albans and Hertfordshire Secondary schools came together to learn more about local provisions, share how their school encourages positive mental health and begin planning ways that they can use their Student Voice platform to promote resilience, and support positive mental health within their school community.



Held in the beautiful assembly room of the former Town Hall four keynote speakers: Isabella Segal, Youth Council, MHST and Trailblazers spoke of triggers. Later students were able to talk to other professions before concluding the afternoon with students sharing their experiences, what they do in school and planning for the future.

In terms of bringing young people together, empowering students to make a change within their own school community and in light of the 'Transforming Children and Young People's Mental Health Provision' Green Paper the event was certainly something to be celebrated.

### Ms Redfern



## Rotary Club Youth Speaks Debate

On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November at St Saviour's Church, St Albans, the Marlborough Debate Club pitted their oratory skills against other teams from local schools.

The event involved having a chair person, responsible for introducing the debate. It also required a speaker for and against the motion. As a school, we entered two teams: one consisting of Jez, Ayesha and Eleanor; the other, Sam, Cosmin and Josie.



The first team presented a for and against motion on the topic 'Personal technology should not be in the hands of young children.' The latter presented a for and against motion on the subject, 'Social influencers are of great value to society.'

Both teams did a fantastic job in learning their speeches off by heart (something the judges commended them on) and delivered them with real composure and confidence. To show such a

flair for public speaking at a young age is so admirable, especially given how talking in public is a phobia for some people.

At the end of the evening the teams were presented with certificates from the Rotary Club and advised to come back again next year.

Jez Berry Potts said, *'The debate was a new, exciting experience and - despite the fact we lost - I do not regret it.'*

With points deducted for being under the time limit, the students feel they have the experience to advance when they enter the competition in the future. Cosmin Vlad said, *'It was nerve-wracking, but worth it.'*

**Mr Theivamanoharan**

## Book Buzz

Earlier this month, the BBC reported that students who read for around twenty minutes every day are more confident in their approach to other challenges life throws at them from conversations with other people to completing examinations. (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-50651769>).

We are delighted to report that once again, The Marlborough Science Academy are at the cutting edge. Every student in Year Seven has now received a free Bookbuzz book! And here's why...

Our school is taking part in BookTrust's Bookbuzz reading

programme which aims to get students excited about reading. We gave them the opportunity to choose their own book to keep because we believe reading for pleasure is important. Over the coming months, students will be taking part in reading challenges, book circles, book swaps and our exciting Christmas selfie competition.



Below are three top tips on how to get involved and encourage your child to read more at home:

1. Get talking! The easiest way to get involved is to talk to your child about books and reading. Their Bookbuzz book is a great place to start. Why did they choose their book? Are they enjoying it? Talking about books together shows them the value of reading and will encourage them to form and share their opinions on what they read.
2. Make it fun! Reading should be a fun and social activity. You can find lots of activities on the Bookbuzz website to share and enjoy with your child, including videos and blogs from the Bookbuzz authors, quizzes and competitions. Just visit: [booktrust.org.uk/bookbuzz](http://booktrust.org.uk/bookbuzz).
3. What next? Finishing their Bookbuzz book should be the start of the adventure for students, not the end! No matter what their interests, there are thousands of fantastic books out there to discover and capture their imagination.

For more advice, you can ask a librarian or local book shop.

**Ms Duncan**



## Marlborough in the News



The Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) is a leading professional body representing more than 18,000 school, college and system leaders across the UK. ASCL works to shape national education policy, provide advice and support to schools across the country.

Schools were asked if they could write a small article in less than 200 words on our thoughts of having mobile phones in schools. Only four articles were published from all the schools that submitted across the country and ours was one of the four chosen.

Please see the article below. Thank you for your ongoing support allowing for this to be so effective.

### Help Children Navigate the Perils

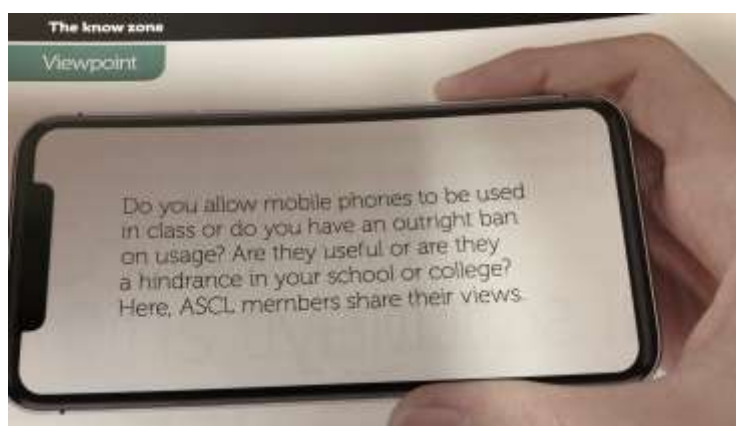
Social technology is here to stay, and we believe very strongly at our school that it is our duty as educators to ensure that all students are enabled to use their devices safely and responsibly. The key to this is to

make sure clear procedures, policies and training are consistently applied and monitored, and understood by all.

We insist on all parents and students signing up to our policies and each year all of our students must successfully complete four bespoke online safety modules, as an insurance that they know the laws, dangers and what to do if they have any concerns. We have as a leadership team seen mobile phones used in some exceptionally creative ways to support learning but there are too areas of the school where mobile phones are not allowed.

Our system works for us – communications have improved considerably – and why would we ban something that has become a huge part of modern life without helping our children navigate their way through the perils?

**Mark Fitzgibbon**





## Maths in Action Workshop

A group of Year 12 students joined Mrs Gustafson in London for a Maths in Action workshop. The speakers were dynamic and engaging. We got to hear Simon Singh, author of Fermat's Last Theorem and other books, speak about making mathematics emotional. Michael Blastland spoke about how the news uses statistics and explained that we should be asking questions about the data behind the statistics given. Dr Frost gave students some helpful tips on how to revise and reduce stress in preparation for exams. The day's host, Matt Pritchard, wowed us with some fun mathematical magic. David Acheson spoke about the maths and physics in music and finished his talk by playing an original piece on electric guitar for us all. And Dr Jackie Bell ended our day speaking about how her degrees in maths have actually helped her take steps towards her lifetime goal of one day going to space. It was delightful to hear so many people passionate about maths engaging with and exciting young people about the



## Remembrance Day



On Monday 11th November the whole school took part in an act of remembrance led by Mr Eve.

Students and staff congregated on the tennis courts to Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis. After an introduction from Mr Eve our Heads of School Evan, Zara, Harry and Ellie read the poem Ypres which was followed by a beautiful rendition of The Last Post played by Thomas Stewart 11RT. After the two minutes silence was observed Mr Eve read the exhortation which concluded the act of remembrance. It was a lovely way to commemorate those that have given so much for our freedom.



## Guide Dogs



Thanks to the hard work of our school parliament and the generous support of students, staff, parents and carers we were delighted to be able to present a cheque for over £1500 to The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. This means that we are able to name our third puppy at some point next year.

The same amount was raised for Cancer Research UK.

This year we will be supporting Guide Dogs once again alongside The Teenage Cancer Trust and our first visit from the Guide Dogs will be Thursday 12th and Friday 13th December for a sale of Guide Dog merchandise in the LRC at lunch time. On the Thursday lunchtime the School Parliament will also be holding a festive fundraiser to raise money for both our chosen charities.

Thank you as always for your support.

## Rotary Young Chef Competition

Well done to all our students who took part in the Rotary Young Chef Competition on Wednesday 20th November Libby Key 9EM, Jessica Hardcastle 9HF, Caitlyn Hardy 9RY and Charlotte Joyce 9EM all did themselves proud.



Particular congratulations go to Jessica who took first place and Libby who came third. Well done girls!

Jess is now preparing her menu for the next round in February.



## Year 7 Classics Game Changer Day

This Game Changer day on Monday 4th November launched us into the second half of this term. Each student was given the same resource and demonstrated a unique ability to absorb information, transferring this into their own work.



The students were excited to carve their Latin names on the clay tablet supplied. Despite the practicalities of using the Latin alphabet to translate their names, this was a challenge nonetheless enjoyed.

After break the students were asked to research a particular myth writing numerous facts and replicating the myth by drawing it on a vase. Students began by exploring the architecture and how it represented the afterlife. This task focused on cultural memory. It seemed more appropriate as this day fell on Remembrance Day.

As well as being able to translate pictorially the image on to the surface of a vase students completed an extended piece of writing in the form of a diary.



The final task of the day allowed further research of the Ancient Greek philosophers.

Students were asked to find out at least ten facts about three or more philosophers of Ancient Greece and then develop their findings into journalistic writing.

I would like to thank the students who participated for their prompt feedback of the day.

**Ms Metson**

## Drama Game Changer Day - The National Theatre

On Thursday 14th November, 30 Year 9 and 10 students visited The National Theatre for a backstage tour and a workshop. Not only were the students able to sit in two of the National's theatres, The Lyttelton and The Dorfman, they also visited the set design workshop areas where they could see designers working on projects for upcoming shows. Our guides for the tour were very knowledgeable about the theatre's history and the various jobs their staff of around 1000 people



do. The day gave students an idea of some of the job roles in the theatre industry beyond actors and directors.



After lunch the students met one of the set designers from The National Theatre who talked to them about how a design idea gets from sketch to stage. One aspect of this is model boxes, the students were set the brief of designing a model box set for Alice In Wonderland, adapted to be set in a world inspired by a game of their choice.

The students were really creative with designs inspired by Minecraft, Tetris, Connect 4, The Sims, Fifa and Piano Tiles, to name just a few.

*"I enjoyed the set making the most because we could create something of our own."*

*"I enjoyed learning about what goes on behind a show and how many jobs there are for a play to go on. I also enjoyed making our own sets in the boxes."*

*"It made me realise how much more detail I need to put into my design ideas"*



*"I was impressed with how much the designers consider, everything is really important, like the set on the Lyttelton stage having the faded patch above the fireplace to show a pictured used to be there".*

## Year 9 Game Changer Day -The Beauty of Maths



A group of year 9 students spent the day exploring all things maths. We started by looking at patterns in numbers and discovered ways to determine divisibility of a number and even how to multiply very large numbers in our heads!



The second half of the day had us looking at codebreaking. We started with Caesar Ciphers one of the simplest and most widely known encryption techniques named after Julius Caesar, who used it in his private correspondence. Students then found out that a monoalphabetic cipher like this has four hundred septillion (400 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000) different possible combinations of solutions. We then learnt about frequency analysis to discover tricks on how to crack these.

Our day ended with a study of Enigma machines. We were fortunate enough to have Mr



Fitzsimmons leading through our discoveries and he shared a digital programme that allowed us to manipulate all the parts of Enigma machines just as they did during World War II.

It really was an exceptional day and I hope students remain as excited about their knowledge as when they left at the end of the school day.

**Mrs Gustafson**

*"This was the best day I've ever had at school. It was just a full day of maths!"*

**-Darius Mafi**

*"I am excited to help teach this to other students!"*

**-Sabah Toorabally**

*"I am asking for an Enigma machine for my next birthday!"*



**-Luca Gheoca**

## Music

The Marlborough Choir performed with other St Albans's secondary schools at this year's SASSMA (St Albans Secondary School Music Association) performance. We had a beautiful collaboration with Townsend School on the song You Will Be Found from the musical Dear Evan Hansen and we sent everyone away preparing them for the Christmas spirit with our rendition of Last Christmas. It was a lovely evening sharing music with so many of the local schools.



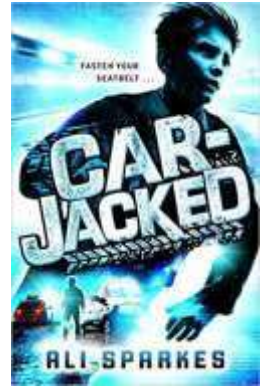


## LRC NEWS

### The Big Read

Don't forget this year's TMSA Big Read – Car-Jacked by Ali Sparkes. There are copies available to borrow from the LRC or maybe you could ask for a copy for Christmas.

In the new year we will be exploring some of the themes of the book in different subject lessons and there will be our very own audio book available on Google Classroom read by members of staff. As well as making the book accessible for those who find reading a challenge there will be a competition to identify which members of staff are reading each chapter.



### Kid's Lit Quiz

Well done to Joshua, Jacob, Keira and Toby who made up our Year 7 team for this year's Kid's Lit Quiz at the North London heat at Queenswood School on Wednesday 27th November and finished a very respectable 9th. Also Annabel, Jody, Ella and Evie our Year 8 representatives who were in 3rd place at the half way mark but found the second half far more challenging and finally finished 16th. The students all enjoyed the afternoon and congratulations to Toby who won a spot prize for identifying Chitty Chitty Bang Bang as the book being described in one round of the Super Hard World Final questions.



## The Globe Players

On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October it wasn't in "fair Verona where we lay our scene", but Da Vinci Hall when the English department welcomed in The Globe Players to deliver a 60 minute version of 'Romeo and Juliet' with a difference to Year 10 students. The players explored the themes and characters, motivations and plot development, in an abridged version of the tragedy. The event proved to be a really enjoyable conclusion to our study of 'Romeo and Juliet'.



Endeavouring to enrich the curriculum for all and introduce another way to help Year 11 students to prepare for the PPEs in November The Globe Players went on to deliver a 60 minute version of 'An Inspector Calls' transporting students to the fictional town of Brumley. Again, the players explored the themes and characters, motivations and plot structures, in an abridged version of the whodunit mystery. What was perhaps most rewarding for the students was the fact that the actors were able to explain some of the cultural context, developing the students' understanding of the issues that the playwright wanted to address.

Not to be outdone, the Year 7s were also taken to a world of renaissance theatre in a whistle stop tour of Shakespeare's best loved plays. The performances ranged from the tragic to the comedic, from tears of joy to lamentation. Although the students are not studying a Shakespeare text currently they will be soon. Having a light touch approach to Shakespeare ensured that the students were unintimidated by the language and keen to pick up the bard in the near future.



## Student Achievement

Harry Daw 10DD was awarded the John Embley Award for Outstanding Volunteer Contribution 2019. The award is in recognition of John Embley who worked voluntarily as a Special Constable in Hertfordshire for 49 years. Harry was nominated by his fellow cadets and leaders and John then selected who he felt deserved acknowledgement for their contributions this year.



## English Stars of the Month for October

The following students have been recognised by their English teachers for producing outstanding work and making excellent progress.

**James Rumsey, Olivia Turner, Alex Shelley, Syanne Taylor, Andrea Jenkins, Joshua Gibbons, Lauren Masoero, Lottie Parker, Kira Temple, Finley Deacon, Deborah Akowa, Abbie Bierman, Dina Said, Liam Vaughn, Jay Butler, James Dodd, Olly Brannan, Evie Summers, Ben Goldsmith, Lottie Parker, Honor Wild, Jack Arnold, Jolie Paveley, Emily Smith, Emily Boughton, Felix Stanley, Tai Stajonovic, Grace Scott, Libby Douglas, Alice Key, Scarlett Hammond, Lui Page, Nicholas Runjic, Ella Fox, Oscar Niel, Ellen McCloy, Zoe Decruz, Denise Xhepa, Ben Coxall, Honey Smith, Sam Rowland, Lista Veneti**



## Student Achievement

Edie Austwick and Megan Adams 8AD were recently awarded the St. Stephens Parish Council Youth Community Award and were presented with certificates at the end of September.

Both girls are members of 1st Chiswell Green Guides and the award is in relation to the Girlguiding Anglia Macmillan Smarties challenge, where the aim was to raise £28 each, enough to pay for one hour of Macmillan nursing care (28 x £1 coins fit into one Smarties tube). Edie and Megan made beeswax wraps that they advertised for sale to friends and family for £2.50 each. They spent much of the May half term making the wraps and aimed to make as much money as possible as well as doing their bit to tackle the use of single use plastic as the wraps can be used as alternatives to Clingfilm. They even received orders from overseas and managed to raise £335.50. Having been nominated for the award they were successfully selected by a panel of judges from St. Stephens Parish Council and were presented with certificates at a ceremony at Greenwood Park in September.



**ST STEPHEN**  
PARISH COUNCIL



## Bletchley Park Game Changer Day

On Wednesday 16th October a group of year 9 students had the opportunity to visit Bletchley Park for a Game Changer Day. On their tour, students learned about the expectations and conditions of the young people recruited to break codes during WWII. They also had the opportunity to use digital Enigma machines during their Coding Workshop!

**Mrs Gustafson**



*"This was the best school trip I've ever been on!"*



*"I really enjoyed this and am excited to do more with ciphers in the future!"*

## Author Visit

We were delighted to welcome Ali Sparkes, author of our Big Read Car-Jacked, on Monday 7th October. Ali entertained the whole of year 7 with a lively presentation in Da Vinci Hall including readings from the book, a genius quiz and a story about her own 'monster mother moment'.

Students were able to buy copies of Ali's books and have them signed by her at lunchtime. Ali then worked with two smaller groups to help them create

exciting titles, blurbs and introductions to their own stories.



## Tales of the Gothic

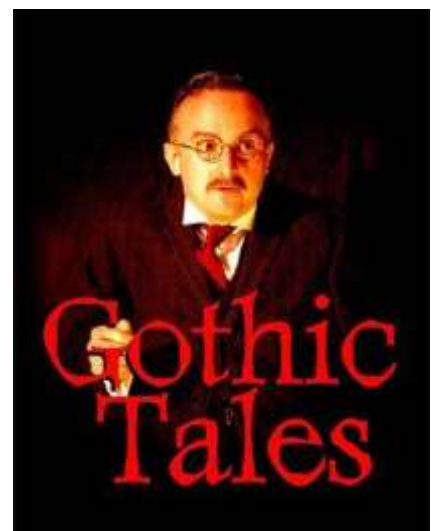
Tales of spookiness and horror were the order of the day on Tuesday 15th October as Year 8 indulged in two nineteenth century gothic tales. 'The Tell Tale Heart' and 'The Red Room' were performed as a monologue by Rupert Mason, a seasoned professional, to eager ears.

The tension in the room was palpable as the lights dimmed, the candle flickered and the eerie stories of yesteryear commenced. Students were transported to a world where the truly terrifying was possible, and it was a world they seemed to thoroughly enjoy! The visit was arranged by the English faculty as a way of supporting the students in their study of the Gothic genre and in preparation for their own creative writing pieces.

*"It was amazing. I can't believe I got so hooked."* Sam

*"Mr Mason was so good; I wanted to give him a tip."* Ben

*"I liked the Tell Tale Heart best, the heart beat under the floor boards was so scary."* Chloe



## Student Achievement

Congratulations to Douglas Lote 11AA who has had a fantastic season competing in Motorcross events all over the UK. He has made great improvements this year and has achieved some fantastic results including:

- 1st place in the British Cross Country Series
- 2nd overall in the British Sprint Series
- 4th in British Extreme Series
- 1st in youth class at an event called "The tough one", a one off event held in a rock quarry in Wales



The weekend of 22nd-23rd September saw Doug winning not only the youth class in the UK round of the World Enduro Super Series, but the whole race ahead of 180 starters including many adults.



## Reading for Pleasure

At The Marlborough Science Academy we believe that reading for pleasure is vitally important. In addition to the educational benefits, reading builds empathy, improves relationships and supports emotional wellbeing.

Reading enjoyment has been reported as more important for children's educational success than their family's socio-economic status (OECD, 2002).

## Quote of the Week

*"Beware; for I am fearless, and therefore powerful" ('Frankenstein', Mary Shelley)*

As part of our commitment to encourage reading for pleasure we are trying to develop discussions about books and reading with our new 'Quote of the Week' which will be either a quote about reading or a quote from a famous novel.

## Word of the Week

**smattering** (noun) a slight knowledge of a subject

Every Monday we have a new word of the week which have all been chosen by our students. Tutors have been discussing these words with their form and from this week each form will have the opportunity to win a prize for the best sentence containing the current word of the week.

## The Big Read

We are also delighted to announce this year's TMSA Big Read – Car-Jacked by Ali Sparkes. More information has been sent out by SchoolComms this week and we are lucky enough to have a visit from the author on Monday 7th October.

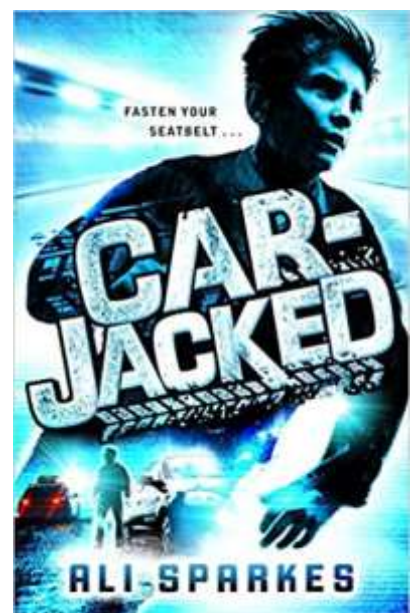
*Jack Mattingly is a genius.*

*He has an IQ of 170.*

*He speaks fluent Mandarin and Latin.*

*And he can calculate the square root of 1,673,549 in his head.*

*But when Jack's parents' car is hi-jacked, with him inside it, for once he's as clueless as the rest of us. The car-jacker doesn't know Jack's in the car - yet. But it's only a matter of time before he's discovered. And then anything could happen. Only one thing's for sure: Jack's in for the thrill-ride of his life ...*





If you have any questions and are not sure who to ask  
please click here for the [general enquiry form](#)



## Marlborough News

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