



Dear Parents/Carers

You just had to be in the middle of the LRC Friday lunchtime to know and understand that Marlborough was once again flinging itself with wild abandon into the festive season! Seeing staff and students produce an interesting range of mobiles, as well as thoughtful and creative ways of supporting Food Banks this Christmas, was just lovely. I believe Mercury won overall, but as far as I am concerned everyone was a winner for just sheer enthusiasm.

It is splendid ending on a high, particularly as it is been another great year for our school with as always, so much to celebrate as a community. There have been so many individual achievements reflecting the talented and creative school community that you know I hold dear. Meeting with students and governors last week to reward excellent and positive attitudes towards school life has been, as always, a wonderful highlight of my term. What is particularly motivational are the number of students who are there because they have turned things around and doing all that they can to be successful, caring and kind; surely that's what we are all about!



As always this term will end with the chaos that is Thursday; Carol concerts, Christmas lunch, Christmas jumpers and of course, the Winter Fair; lovely events and every year I have to hold back the tears. We are so grateful to the staff who put all of these events together and special mention to Ms Haines, who not only rehearses all of this, but is also getting married over the holidays. Best wishes to Mr Nash, who is also getting married on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – we hope they both have great days and we wish them much, much happiness. Many thanks also to Ms Gustafson and her husband, Ms Bullock, Ms Frost, Ms Fogarty and Mrs Aylward for all their support at the evening carol concert and special thanks, from me, to Mrs Aylward for wearing the most extra-ordinary Christmas dress I have ever seen!



The Lille trip was a great success again this year, with one student remarking it was the best thing he had ever done; another good reason for always being grateful to the MFL team, in particular to Mr Henshall and Ms Morrissey for organising the event. Our cadets went off to a weekend winter camp last weekend (coldest one this year!), so many thanks to Mr Robertson and as usual, all staff for cracking on and making the school a nice place to be in at this time of year.

As I have said before, what staff do for students above and beyond their learning in the classroom, is what continues to make our school the unique community it is; what all staff do every day is truly inspirational as well as exhausting. Your emails of support and thanks certainly go a long way to let good people know they are valued. We bid farewell to Mrs Lee-Ireland too this holiday as she moves on to pastures new. We thank her for all her hard work here and wish her every success going forward.

To conclude, I wish you all a peaceful break; it can be a stressful time for all. I hope that in the midst of all the chaos, there is some quiet time for you and your loved ones.

Hoping that it is a special time for everyone,

Best wishes

*Ane Thomson*

Ms A Thomson  
Headteacher

*Merry  
Christmas*



## The Merlin Centre



The Merlin Centre, named after Merlin Williams, a much loved and highly respected colleague, who passed away two years ago was officially opened by Merlin's son Adam on 26th November.

Speaking at the official opening, headteacher Annie Thomson said: *"We are delighted with our new modern building designed not only to enhance our students' learning, but also to allow us to accommodate our growing number of post-16 students comfortably. In*

*addition, we are sure our new state-of-the-art music facilities will continue to reflect our commitment to the arts and creativity."*

Guests at the opening included members of staff, past and present, governors, and representatives from Elbourn Architects and Aldwicks Building Company who designed and constructed the new block which will be used to accommodate the school's increasing number of post 16 students.





## Year 8 Drama and Music Enrichment Day

In October a group of 30 year 8 students spent the day creating movie trailers in a genre of their choice. They started the day by



storyboarding their ideas and looking at camera angles and then went around the school site to film clips and edit them together. The students also created their soundtrack from scratch using a variety of instruments and techniques.



*Drama and Music enrichment day was an exciting experience, which gave me, and the others who participated, a chance to develop our performing, leadership and cooperation skills. The element that made the day especially exciting, was the fact that we, as students were given the freedom to work with whoever we wanted. The majority of us chose to create a horror-style trailer. I found the day was made interesting and everyone was enthusiastic thank you to Miss Haines and Mrs Griggs who helped us through the day I really feel I have grown in confidence, and in skills that will help me in my lessons. - Sabah Torabally*

*I have learnt how to transpose different instruments which are in different keys. for example; the clarinet is two semitones above the piano. Also I now know how long it must take to make the movie in comparison to the trailer. It would be easier to make the film and take spinets from the films for the trailer rather than do the trailer from scratch. - Miles Punter*



## Student Achievements

Well done to Amber Cutmore for showing true community spirit. Amber put together a rucksack of clothes, food and other essential items for a local homeless woman. Amber was rewarded for her kindness with a heartfelt letter telling her to 'never stop being the kind girl that she is because she makes the world a better place.'



## English Stars for November

Ross Andrews, Ellie Armer, Jez Berry-Potts, Tamina Bibi, Chloe Bilson, Skye Cook, Faith Coyle, James Dodd, Rhylee Dutton, Ella Fox, Jack Fryer, Joshua Haworth, Mat Heeley, Amy Hunt, Shaun Hussain, Asim Karsandi, Corin McLean, Lily Oates, Lui Page, Thomas Paveley, Neta Shribman, Munawar Shah, Alex Stefanova, Jasmine Sykes, Hollie Thornton, Elliot Tulloch, Leo Turner, Archie Whitby, Elise Wylie, Oscar Herold, Maria Bratan, Amjad Choudhury, Carly Handley



"If you arrive at school before 8am, please remain in PASCAL HALL until this time. This is especially important with the weather changing and the risk of ice and snow, as we cannot guarantee that the site has been cleared and that is safe for you to move around the school. Thank you "

Chris Paice

Estates and H&S Manager



## Second Hand Uniform Sale

**Saturday 12th January, 10.30 - 12.00pm**

*(Sales are held in the Boardroom)*

*Good quality clean uniform for sale. All proceeds go to the PTA.*

**WANTED – Your old uniform!**



*Donations are welcome on the day or can be left at school reception during the week. Enquiries can be emailed to [pta@marlborough.herts.sch.uk](mailto:pta@marlborough.herts.sch.uk) please put the subject as 'Uniform'*

## Lille Christmas Market 2019



And so another December comes around and it's off to the Lille Christmas market in France. Up at 3 o'clock in the morning and a long, fun-filled day ahead of us. Some students were expecting to see fish out of the train window in the tunnel but thankfully we didn't!

As usual the ice skating, ferris wheel and market

all delighted the students. The famous flams went down a treat and the new white chocolate and raspberry dessert

flam proved a spectacular hit.

On behalf of myself and the trip I would like to thank all the students who impressed us so much with their enthusiasm and sense of fun. They were fantastic ambassadors for the school and a real joy to be with.

*'The Christmas market was really exciting, I was able to get presents for my family. The view from the ferris wheel was really pretty.'* Crystal Hibbitt 7AT

*'I really enjoyed ice-skating and lunch was amazing. The Christmas market was great for practising French'* Sam Prestianni 7TR

*'It was the best school trip ever!'* Megan Ypey 7FD

We wish you and your families a wonderful festive season.



Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année à tout le monde !

Monsieur Henshall



*'This trip was so much fun! It's a great way of testing your French skills.'* Sana Toorabally 7ZK



## Communication App

We are delighted to introduce our new app 'EduLink One'. This exciting new resource will provide you with the most up to date information and data relating to your child. We have initially launched it with the following features:

- Timetable information
- Achievement information (instantly find out when your child has earned pinkies or house points).
- Home learning information (personalised home learning instructions for your child)
- Book parent consultation appointments (only prior to parent consultation events).



Many more features are being rolled out over the next few weeks including behaviour data, attendance, catering balance, etc.

Please install the app on a smartphone or tablet by searching for 'EduLink One' (created by Overnet Data) in your app store. Alternatively you can access EduLink One online by visiting <https://www.edulinkone.com/>

The details of one parental account has already been emailed out to each family. Please also encourage your children to download the app to take advantage of the information provided. Your child's login details will be the same as their username and password to access the school network. Our School ID is 'marlborough'.

If you are having difficulty accessing the system please email Mr Rutherford on [j.rutherford@marlborough.herts.sch.uk](mailto:j.rutherford@marlborough.herts.sch.uk)

## Bake Sale

Well done to our Student Parliament who made over £50 for Cancer Research UK and Guide Dogs UK with their bake sale on 14th December.



## Student Achievements

Congratulations to year 11 students Neta, Ernie and Robert who together form band Kick Pistol. The band play gigs locally and have just received their first fantastic review on their self titled EP which you can read [here](#)

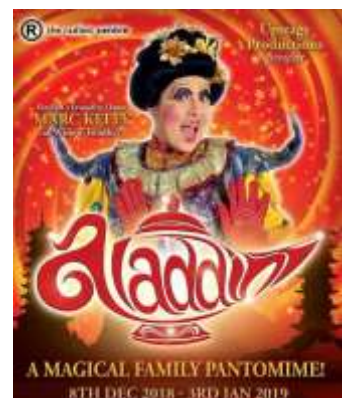


Well done to Chloe Field, Ceitidh Clarke, Freddie Hobbs and Alex Clutton who took part in the North London Heat of the Kids' Lit Quiz on Wednesday 28th November at Queenswood School, Hatfield



Amy Narramore is a principle dancer in the pantomime 'Aladdin' at The Radlett Theatre. She has been working extremely hard fitting in lots of rehearsals, shows for Primary Schools and performing evening shows. We wish her the best of luck for her remaining performances which go right up until the 2nd of January!

Miss Fox





## Author Visit

Year 7 & 8 students took part in 'The Witchfinder Experience' on 10th December with author William Hussey. This was definitely not for the squeamish as it included a recreation of a 17th Century Witch Trial, vivid descriptions of torture and even the execution of a student!. William also ran workshops in creative writing for groups of year 8 & 9 students and finished the day with an intimate evening of ghost stories in Pascal hall to which parents were invited. The students and parents were all very enthusiastic about the visit.



*'I found the author visit very informative and fun because he told us things from English to History. My favourite part was when he got three students to get up on stage and act. I hope to read lots of his books in the future'*

*Keira Leece Blackett 8HF*



*'I just wanted to say thank for organising yesterday's author visit and for inviting parents to come to the evening ghost stories. Grace and I loved it and went away wondering how hard it would be to write a story that didn't make complete sense until the very last word! Very inspiring and atmospheric - I now want to bring alive the ancient art of storytelling with family and friends too!'*

*Emily Cleaton*

## House Christmas Hamper and Mobile Competition



Well done to Mercury who won both the hamper and the mobile competition last Friday. There was a great atmosphere in the LRC while staff and students worked on their creations and we want to say a huge thank you to everyone who brought in food for the hampers which will help to make Christmas easier for families in need.







Thank you to Pines and Needles who have donated a 6ft Nordman fir Christmas tree for the new Merlin Centre. Their pop up shop is open now at Verulamium Park, opposite Westminster Lodge, Holywell Hill, St Albans, AL1 2DL

See below for more information about the company and a code for a free gift when you purchase a tree from them.



A visit to one of our pop up shops is a great shopping day out for families. We aim to create a fairytale scenario with our beautiful lights and brilliant trees; and, of course, our kilt-bedecked Santa's helpers.



Christmas is a time of giving and receiving hope and love. Preparing for Christmas is also very busy and can be a little stressful at times. We aim to make everyone's tree-buying experience a beautiful and magical occasion with laughter and happy memories.

Here at Pines and Needles we are passionate about Christmas trees and all things green and good. Where possible, our trees are organically grown and come from sustainable British forests.



Families from your school can use the code 'FESTIVE18' to get a free gift with their purchase online as well as at our pop up shop. Our website is <https://www.pinesandneedles.com>

## Understanding behaviour in your child with additional needs

Does your child have additional needs?

Supporting links are offering a free 6 week course for parents of children aged 2-19. Click [here](#) for more information





**A FULLY FUNDED /  
FREE**

**6 week course for  
parents and carers of  
children aged 11+ yrs**

**Funded by:  
Big Lottery Fund**



**LOTTERY FUNDED**



# Understanding Teens, The Gross Stuff & Ground Rules

## Topics covered include:

- ♦ The importance of self-esteem/resilience
- ♦ Tools for handling conflict
- ♦ Understanding physical and emotional development
- ♦ Teen brain development and teen culture
- ♦ Improving communication and relationships
- ♦ Dealing with challenging behaviour

## Venue:

**St Albans Girls School  
(STAGS) Sandridgebury Lane,  
St Albans AL3 6DB**

**Time 7pm – 9pm**

**Date Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Feb-3<sup>rd</sup> April '19**



**To Book Contact:**

**Contact: The Bookings Team**

**Email: [admin@natural-flair.com](mailto:admin@natural-flair.com)**

**Or Call: 01992 446 051**



**Natural Flair**

# Christmas Services

## St Stephen's Church

Watling Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 2PT

*Sunday 23rd December*

- 8.00am** Holy Communion  
**10.00am** Family Communion with Nativity  
**6.30pm** Carol Service by Candlelight
- 

### *Christmas Eve*

- 4.00pm** Crib Service  
**11.30pm** Midnight Mass
- 

### *Christmas Day*

- 8.00am** Holy Communion  
**10.00am** Family Communion

## St Julian's Church

3 Abbot's Avenue, St Albans, Herts AL1 2HY

*Sunday 9th December*

- 4.00pm** Family Carol Service and Nativity
- 

### *Christmas Eve*

- 4.00pm** Crib Service
- 

### *Christmas Day*

- 10.00am** Family Communion



You would be most welcome to join us celebrating Christ's birth at any of our Christmas services



St Julian's Church

3 Abbot's Avenue, St Albans, Herts AL1 2HY

# Christingle Service

6th January  
10.30am

*Join us for our  
beautiful all-age  
candlelit service*



St Stephen  
with St Julian





## Term Dates

### Autumn Term 2018

**Wednesday 5th September to Friday 21st December 2018**

*Half Term*                      *Monday 29th October to Friday 2nd November 2018*

### Spring Term 2019

**Monday 7th January to Thursday 4th April 2019**

**Friday 5th April – Inset day**

*Half Term*                      *Monday 18th to Friday 22nd February 2019*

### Summer Term 2019

**Tuesday 23rd April to Friday 19th July 2019**

*Half Term*                      *Monday 27th to Friday 31st May 2019*

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



## Marlborough News

www.themarboroughscienceacademy.co.uk

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