



Marlborough News

www.themarboroughscienceacademy.co.uk

20th October 2023 Issue #134



The Marlborough
Science Academy



October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

I'm not quite sure where this half term has gone but here we are approaching the mid-term break at an alarming rate.

Thank you to those who completed our parental questionnaire. Whilst overwhelmingly positive the following points were raised as concerns and as a consequence, we will be looking in to them further and addressing your worries where we can.

The main concerns were as follows:

1. The canteen food and prices
2. Lack of or too much communication
3. Sporadic setting of home learning across all faculties
4. How do I know what my child is learning?
5. Lack of information re: clubs and activities

Since the questionnaire we have met with the caterers who I have to say are as open and accommodating as any caterers we have worked with. We all know food prices have gone up but we have asked them to look with creativity at the dishes they are producing so the students are well fed with decent sized portions.

There have certainly been issues re: our communications driven mainly by our move back to SIMS and Edulink. We think since the questionnaire that the 'gremlins' have been sorted and as a consequence the right messages are getting to the right people.

Mr Fitzgibbon, Senior Deputy Head in charge of Curriculum is conducting a major review re: Home Learning which we are hoping will improve things. All information re: home learning being set is available for parents/carers to see by logging in to Edulink and clicking the home learning tab.

To find out what your child is studying, click on the link below to see their Learning Journey based on subject and their year group. <https://www.themarboroughscienceacademy.co.uk/learning/the-faculties#>

All the information re: clubs and activities has now been uploaded on to the website – there are hundreds to choose from (slight exaggeration I know!) <https://www.themarlboroughscienceacademy.co.uk/enrichment#>

I have included a Google Survey re: some issues around uniform and in particular tights and shorts. The survey is totally anonymous and you can access it by clicking on this link:
<https://forms.gle/gRPPs5rHaG7FpaL86>

To conclude, we continue to live and work in an everchanging and troubled world. Please can I recommend that you try as far as possible to monitor your child's phone usage so you can check what sites they are accessing. Can I ask too for your help instilling out of all our Values the importance of kindness and compassion particularly when it comes to difference and/or diversity.

Whilst the majority of our children are fabulous ambassadors for our school and our Values, quite often they let themselves down by cruel use of words (often thoughtless) and increasingly intimidation. I don't think there is anyone out there that would disagree with this so thank you.

Enjoy the break, keep warm, safe, cosy, and above all be kind,



Ms Thomson
Headteacher

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This Week's Quote of the Week

"Character is power."

(Booker T. Washington)

Word of the Week

character: noun—*the particular combination of qualities in a person or place that makes them different from others.*

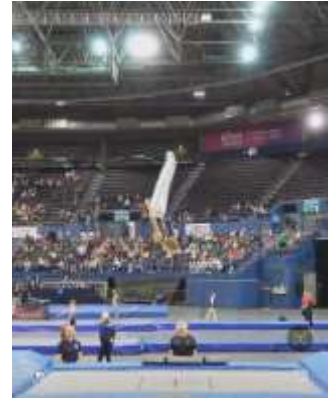
Value of the Week

Courage

Student Achievement

Joe Garman 8PA has been trampolining competitively for his club, High Springers, for the past 2 years and recently qualified for the British Gymnastics Inter-Regional Challenge Cup Final in Birmingham.

After training hard all summer with his coach, he is now 6th in his age group in Great Britain.



The MO

The MO is our student magazine, written by students for students.

Click on the image to read the latest edition, you can also find all previous editions on our website [here](#).



In this edition:-

Barbie: "is it literally impossible to be a woman?"

Future of kidney transplants - no side effects?

The Salem Witch Trials, Fashion trends and why we love social media!

Maths News

Year 10 enjoyed an active lesson where they were discovering the theory behind graphs of linear functions using an overlarge grid and coloured discs.

The learning objective, to plot graphs $y=mx+c$, was met and the notions of gradient and y-intercept were brought to life.

Lively discussions involving all students centred around use of key terminology and all were involved. It was a cracking lesson. Well done Year 10.

Mrs Greenwood



Camps International - Kenya and Tanzania 2023

Over the summer holidays 17 Year 11 and 12 students travelled to Kenya and Tanzania for 4 weeks. The students have been fundraising for the past two years to support themselves on this trip of a lifetime and was privileged to have the opportunity to accompany them on the incredible trip alongside Miss Frost.



The trip consisted of two weeks in Kenya and two weeks in Tanzania, where we stayed at different camps across the two countries. We were joined by Trevor and Anna, leaders from Camp International, who travelled with us on our month-long adventure.



Week one

We stayed at The Wildlife Foundation (TWF) camp, located just outside Nairobi National Park, Kenya. Throughout the week students participated in projects, such as wildlife monitoring, setting up camera traps throughout the park, picking up litter and bolting animal deterrent lights on the local farmers' chicken huts and we were treated to an educational walk from national park rangers, who are also leaders of the local tribe. Here, we learned about the native flora and fauna that span the park. To finish the week, we celebrated two birthdays - what a place to turn 16!



Week two

The second week started with the relocation to our second camp in Kenya, Camp Tsavo, located in southern Kenya in the Tsavo East National park. This week focused on humanitarian work. We spent several days completing projects at the local primary school. Some of these jobs included painting the walls, making bricks to be used to build a new classroom and building ramps for the students to use. We were lucky to meet some of the students at the school, who were all so welcoming and loved helping us out on the tasks. On the other days, we helped with building elephant deterrent fencing and assisted in goat deworming. We were honoured to receive an invitation to visit with the local women's group, where everyone was able to show off their dance moves! We were also privileged to spend time with the Masai trip, who showed us their way of living. On the last day at the camp, we embarked on safari, which proved to be the highlight for many. We were lucky enough to see elephants, zebras, giraffes, warthogs and lions!





Week 3

This week, the team undertook the massive challenge of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. It is the highest free standing mountain in the world and the highest point in Africa. Each day consisted of walking for 4-8 hours a day on very rocky terrain. Everyone made it to the base camp, which is at a whopping 4670m above sea level! Nine students made it to the summit, where they stood at 5895m. This was an amazing experience, and the views were incredible. Despite the difficult trek, the students were absolutely fantastic! The team worked together and motivated each other to keep going when the trail ahead seemed difficult - especially when we couldn't shower during the week!



Week 4

The last and final camp of this trip was on the stunning Tanzanian coastline overlooking the Indian ocean. We had a few days of well deserved R&R, where we spent our time lying on the beach and swimming in the ocean. The water was so clear and warm - much needed after the chilly air up on the mountain! While at camp, we completed some more projects. We helped make a mud hut for local villagers and made water hut foundations for the local school. Here, we used old flip flops to create key rings in an effort to promote reusing equipment.



After a long 14 hours of travelling (which included a 7 hour layover in Doha), we arrived back in the UK. I think I can speak for all the students when I say that this adventure was one of the best experiences! We laughed, we cried and we had the best time together. This trip of a lifetime is one that I will never forget.



Mr Hodge

"Our Camps International trip to Kenya and Tanzania was life changing and will be something that any of us will ever forget. From seeing a lion 2 metres away, to summiting Mount Kilimanjaro...I enjoyed every minute of the month. All of us have said how much we want to go back and do more to help the communities we were living in. If you get the chance to go, just do it!" - Madelaine Smith 12HA



MacMillan Coffee Morning



On Thursday 28th and Friday 29th September 2023, we held our MacMillan Coffee mornings and cake sale for Macmillan Cancer Support. On Thursday staff enjoyed coffee and cake in the staff room and on Friday we welcomed lots of lovely parents/carers who brought with them some delicious cakes. Staff and students also baked some amazing goodies. We have managed to raise over £500 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you!

WORLD'S BIGGEST
**COFFEE
MORNING**
MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



LRC News

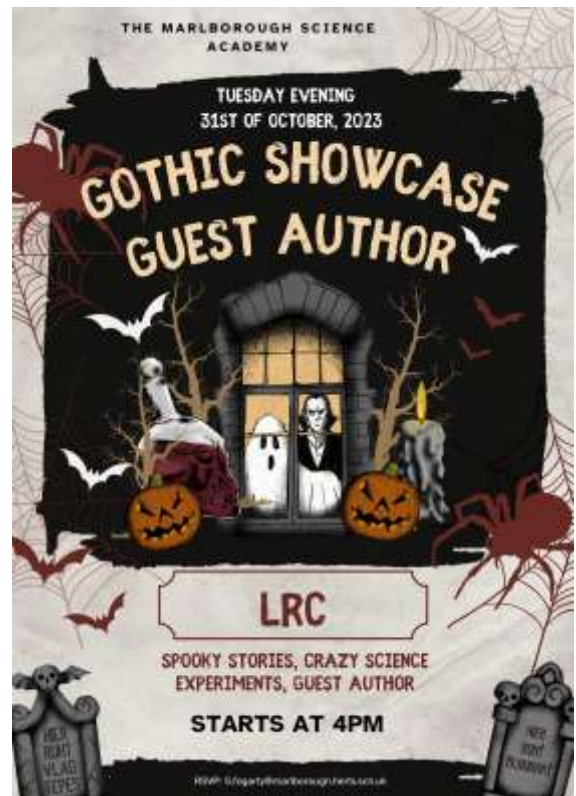
The LRC team were busy over the summer rearranging the fiction section into genres. We hope that this will make it easier for students to find books that interest them. We are currently in the process of stamping the books with matching stamps on the date label but as there are over 4000 fiction books this will take some time.

Mrs Nixon



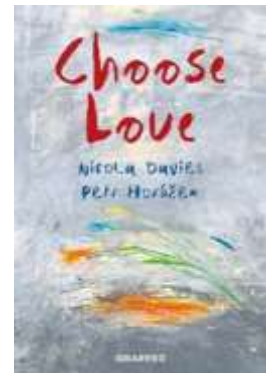
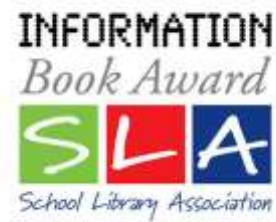
Coming soon...

On Tuesday 31st October we will be welcoming author Alex Foulkes to our school. Alex will be speaking to all Year 7 and 8 students about her Rules for Vampire books and the world of publishing and hosting an interactive Ghostly Gameshow Quiz. Alex has also agreed to stay on after school to take part in the Year 8 Gothic Showcase.



Information Book Award

Some of our Year 8 students spent time in their LRC lessons this week looking at the four shortlisted books for this year's Information Book Award 13-16 age group. This annual award, now in its 13th year, celebrates the importance of information books, highlights the wealth of impressive resources available and supports school libraries to get the most out of them. The award is organised by the School Library Association (SLA) and is sponsored by Hachette Children's Group and supported by Peters Books.

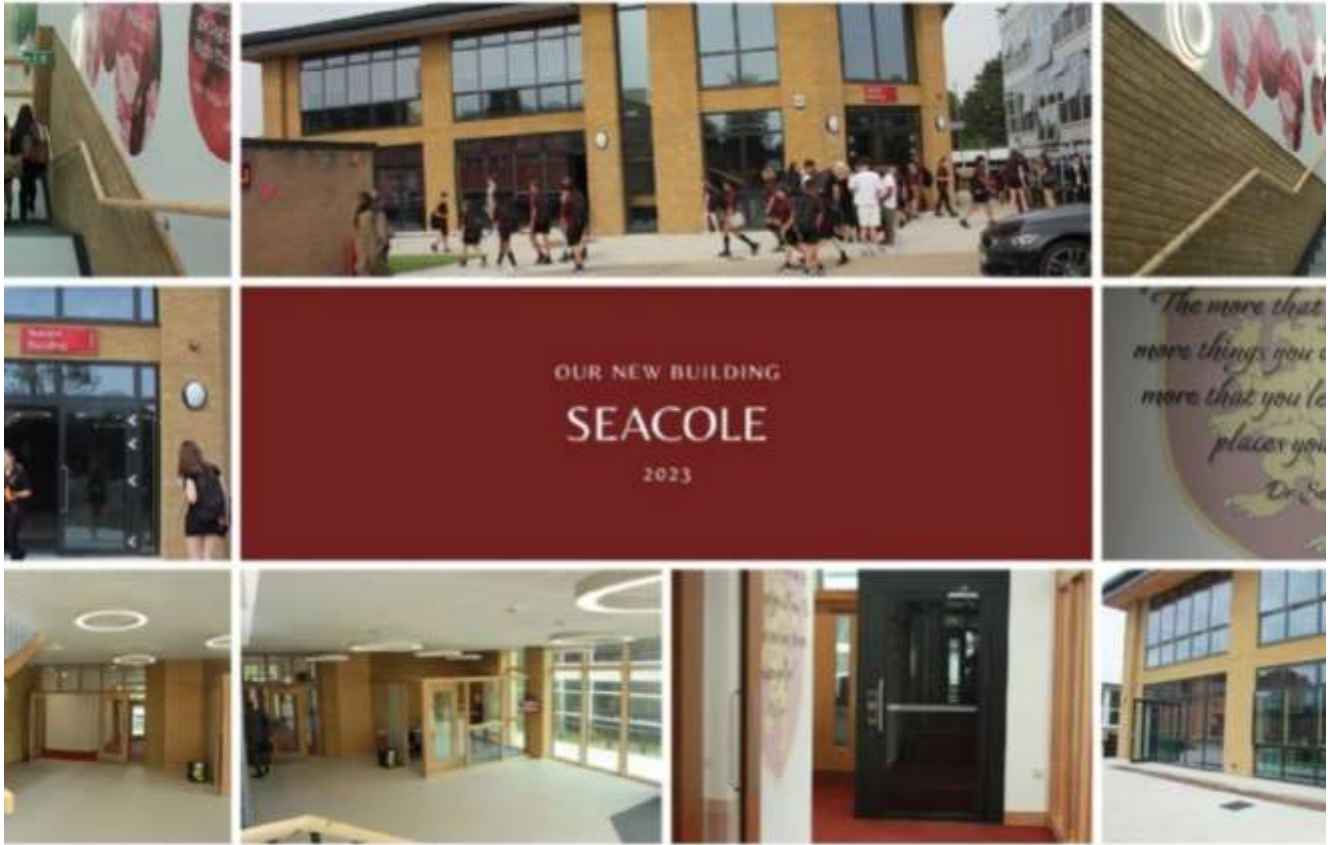


The two groups involved had very different opinions with one group choosing Medicine: A Magnificently Illustrated History by Briony Hudson and Nick Taylor and the other group choosing An Illustrated History of Ghosts by Adam Allsuch Boardman. Their votes have been submitted in the Children's Choice award. The winners will be announced in November.

Read more about the award [here](#)



New Seacole Building



Our new 9 classroom building opened in September and houses the English faculty.

This is what it looked like during open evening when the English staff transformed it into Hogwarts.



Drama News

This half term, a small group of Year 10-12 students went to Milton Keynes theatre to watch '2:22 A Ghost Story'.

The students really enjoyed the play and in lesson have discussed how the naturalistic acting style worked to create tension and characterisation and Y12 will go on to explore extracts from the play practically.

Mrs Griggs



Cadbury World Business Trip

On Monday 9th October Year 9 and 10 business students travelled to Bournville to visit Cadbury World. The students learnt how the nation's favourite confectionery is made and heard the fascinating history of Cadbury chocolate.



Sustainable Marlborough

Introducing our new sustainability logo!

A symbol of our school's dedication to environmental responsibility and commitment to a greener future. Miss Broad and Mr Dwane have now jointly taken over the role of school sustainability coordinators. They are set to guide our amazing student eco-committee on their path to renewing Marlborough's Eco-School's green flag accreditation this academic year.



A few positions on the committee are still available, so if you would be interested in becoming an eco champion, let your sustainability coordinators know!

Eco-Schools Green Flag



TMSA is proud to have achieved the Eco Schools Green Flag award in the 2022-2023 academic year and hope to achieve the same once again this year.

The Eco-Schools programme provides a simple framework that empowers young people to take a lead on environmental action. The program is broken down into seven steps that take place over the academic year and gives young people the freedom to decide on the environmental issues they would like to tackle. If you would like to learn more about what was done last year, please visit the Sustainability ethos page on the TMSA website.

Our Sustainability Calendar

The UN designates specific days and weeks throughout the year as occasions to promote awareness on particular events or topics.

At Marlborough, students will now learn about the environmentally themed days. They will see them promoted on the school's information screens and be able to learn more on these important topics through activities and structured discussion during form time.



The Sustainability Shelf



All your sustainability information in one place! Following our extensive LRC remodel, students can now find all things eco in one dedicated section within the learning research centre.





Area Development club



In line with our schools sustainability goals, an Area Development club has also been set up. The aim of this club is to design and create a new space that allows for the development of not only the environmental sustainability of the school, but also its social aspects. In the sited area, at the back of B7 beside the new build, plans have been put in place for a communal seating area for students to seclude themselves in nature, surrounded by wildflowers. There are plans to incorporate, native wildflower patches, hanging gardens, climbing plants a fountain and more.

We hope to bring many of our students together to work on the garden in order to encourage creativity, ingenuity, perseverance and to hopefully inspire a feeling of ownership and responsibility for our outdoor spaces.

Ideas for this area are being presented firstly by the Eco-Committee, who have set plans in place and created a specification for what the school is looking for.

Work on design and the creation of features to be added to the garden are being undertaken by the newly formed area development club.

The renovation of the garden from its current state to a beautiful and usable space complete with flowers and pathways is kindly being supported by our Prince's Trust group.



Art Club

Students produced some fantastic henna designs in art club with Mrs Punio this month.



Learning Counts

At the heart of everything we do at The Marlborough Science Academy is high quality Teaching and Learning. Each week members of our senior leadership team meet with a selection of students from different forms and year groups to discuss how they feel about their learning, what good practice looks like and voice their opinions on what areas could be improved; we value the voice of our students.

Please find their recent feedback below:

Year 7 – Ours is a friendly and happy school and we would recommend the school to others. We feel safe at school and there are lots of activities and clubs to join. Our best learning experiences so far have been in ICT, Science, Woodwork, Maths, English and PE, although we wish the swimming pool was a little bit warmer! Special mention to Miss Caswell in English.



Year 8 – There are so many activities, both during the school day and after school. There are lots of staff everywhere which helps you to feel safe at school. We are enjoying our Music lessons; our teacher lets students lead the way and teach others! We enjoy using our Chromebooks in English lessons and are enjoying making and doing in our Design and Technology lessons, especially Woodwork, Textiles and Graphics.



Year 9 – We feel safe at school and would recommend it to our friends. We have just started our GCSE courses and are enjoying our practical subjects; Food Preparation and Nutrition, Engineering and PE are some of our favourites.

Year 10 – We love school, we would definitely recommend it; it is friendly and nice and we feel safe here. Whilst we feel relaxed we are still challenged in our lessons. We enjoy all our lessons but especially like Computer Science, Creative iMedia, Graphics, History and Music. We enjoy using the Chromebooks and would love to use these more often in some of our lessons. Special mention to Mr Felkers in Music.



Mr Fitzgibbon



The M Store

Since late 2022, I have been discreetly developing the 'M' Store here at our school. This onsite foodbank was established to support our school community with the increasing cost of living. We now provide basic non-perishable food items as well as toiletries and hygiene products.

The 'M Store' has been a great success and lots of families have supported us by donating to this extremely worthy cause. One family suggested we place wheelie bins at the front gate to receive donations in a practical and discreet way. This great idea will come into force after the October half term—two labelled wheelie bins will be located outside the school gate from 8am to 5pm for any donations.

I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge all the parents, carers and staff that have made this wonderful project successful so far and on behalf of the students that have benefited from the hot meals, clothing and hygiene products that you have facilitated, a massive thank you!

We always require more Items such as...

- Toothpaste • Toilet rolls • Toothbrushes • Deodorant • Soap • Shampoo • Conditioner • Laundry detergent • Tins of beans, vegetables, spaghetti and fruit • Pasta • Rice • Squash/ bottled water • Crisps • Cereal • Cereal bars • Long life milk • Cook in- sauces • Crackers • Biscuits • Tea • Coffee • Hot chocolate •



Any other non-perishable food/drink items • Any clean school uniform

Thank you so much,

Emma Hicks Family Engagement Worker and Poverty Prevention Lead

Please contact me in the following way with any enquires related to the M Store: e.hicks@marlborough.herts.sch.uk 01727 731 364 07916 038 784



Support for Families

St Albans & District Foodbank

Several of the distribution centres are now able to offer a CAB officer to talk with clients on a regular basis. At the moment they have been attending New Greens, London Colney and Harpenden distribution centres every two weeks.



There is no longer a centre at St Stephen Church, Watling Street.

Local distribution centres are as follows:



Monday Morning

The Vineyard Church

7 Brick Knoll Park, St Albans, AL1 5UG

10.00am- 12.00pm

Monday Afternoon

Redbourn Methodist Church,

North Common, AL37BU

2.00pm-3.30pm

Tuesday

Christchurch, New Greens

1.00pm – 3.00pm

3 High Oaks, St Albans; AL3 6DJ

Wednesday

Cottonmill Community Centre

12 Old Oak, Cottonmill Lane

St Albans, AL1 2EF

1.00pm-3.00pm

Thursday

Hilldyke Community Centre

17 Hilldyke Road, Wheathampstead

AL4 8TU

12.30pm-2.30pm

Friday Morning

London Colney Parish Council

Caledon Community Centre, Caledon

Road, London Colney, AL2 1PU

10.00am-12.00pm

Friday Afternoon

Crabtree Church-Harpenden

139 Crabtree Lane, Harpenden

AL5 5RD

Support for Families

ADD-vance are running a number of courses next half term to support parents of children with ADHD and Autism. Click on the image to see details on our website.



ADD-vance
The ADHD and Autism Trust
Registered Charity No. 1158968

Website: www.add-vance.org
Email: herts@add-vance.org
Phone: 01727 833963 (Mon-Fri 9am-1pm)



The Hub
ASC/SEND Coffee Mornings

Vista St Albans are hosting coffee mornings with a School Family Worker to help support Parents/ Carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, diagnosed or not. This is an informal and safe place for Parents/ Carers to share information and chat.

Running alongside our coffee mornings, there will also be the opportunity to pre-book an appointment with a member of staff from the SEND Specialist Advice and Support Service (These sessions are for ASC advice).
Times available are: 9.30am, 10.00am, 11.00am and 11.30am

Time: Coffee Morning starts at **9.15am** until **11.00am** (no need to book)
Venue: The Hub, Fleetville Junior School, 228 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW (The Hub is situated to the right hand side of the School building)

For more information about this service or to book an appointment please call Vista/St Albans Plus on 07584 798528
Email: vistastalbans@gmail.com

Dates:
Wednesday 4th October
Wednesday 29th November
Wednesday 31st January 2024
Wednesday 13th March 2024
Wednesday 8th May 2024
Wednesday 26th June 2024

www.vistastalbans.org.uk
www.facebook.com/Vistastalbans



DSPL7 **DSPL8** Delivering Special Provision Locally

Services for Young People

Emotional Based School Avoidance

Suitable for parents/carers of children in year 7 - 11, in DSPL7 & 8.

This EBSA coffee morning is aimed at parents and carers who have a child in year 7 - 11 who is not attending school as a result of emotional, mental health and wellbeing issues. The children and young people can also attend. This event is being run by DSPL7 & 8 with Services for Young People.



This will be taking place at Hemel Hempstead Young People's Centre, 1st Floor, XC centre, Hemel Hempstead, from 9:30 - 11:30am on the following dates:

- 19th October
- 21st March
- 28th November
- 7th May
- 25th January

There is no need to book this event.



admin@dspl7.org.uk



01727 319228



www.dspl7.org.uk

Staying Safe

Click on the image to see the latest Stay Safe newsletter from Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Distances and St Albans
Quarterly Schools Newsletter

Welcome!
Autumn 2023

To our Autumn edition of the Schools Stay Safe Newsletter.
Read on for advice on ways to stay safe for you and your family.



ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER.



Click on the image for the latest online safety newsletter from Herts for Learning.



Student Travel 2023-24

Do you or your child travel to University, College or School by bus? If so, we've got the perfect solution! Arriva Student and Child Saver tickets are valid for anyone in full time education and, is a cost effective and flexible way of paying for travel costs.

Unlimited travel - You'll get unlimited access to travel on any Arriva bus, at any time, across all routes in your chosen area.

No restrictions - The Saver tickets will cover your travel to and from University, School or College, evenings, weekends and throughout the holidays too at any time of the day.

Flexible payments - Arriva's Direct Debit scheme allows you to spread the cost of your ticket over affordable monthly payments. It's an easy way to pay for travel and there's no contract involved, making it an ideal way to get reduced bus travel for the whole Academic year, without paying upfront.

Sign up in advance - Either set your direct debit to start at a future date for when you need the ticket or, you can start your ticket now to get used to the local bus routes.

Plan your journey - Please use our 'Plan a journey' tool on our website to work out which bus you require or, download our app on the Apple Store or Google Play: www.arrivabus.co.uk

It's a simple process to apply, to arrange your Direct Debit and for further information please use the link or scan the QR code below and, select the region the school, college or university is in:

www.arrivabus.co.uk/monthlytickets



Once registered you can select either to receive your monthly pass by post or sent to your mobile phone, so you won't have to worry about paying every time you board the bus. This ticket will rollover every month for as long as the direct debit remains active.

For any queries regarding the scheme, please email: talktous@arriva.co.uk

Direct Debit tickets are an alternative to the Herts Saver Card. A Herts Saver Card will only be required as a form of ID with a Direct Debit Ticket, for any student (6th form upwards, College or University Student), who does not have a valid student ID. Any student in school year up to Year 11, will not require a Herts Saver Card with a Direct Debit Ticket.

***Our tickets do not cover Arriva London/TFL routes**



Never Lose your ticket again
Choose to have your ticket on your mobile phone with the Arriva UK Bus app.



If you are planning to buy a real tree this Christmas please consider using Christmas Treeasy and supporting the school at the same time.



Dear Parent,

Christmas Greetings..... we know we're early but we thought we'd get started early bringing some joy and festivities and remind you of our fantastic Christmas tree delivery & recycling service that Christmas Treeasy offer through your school.

For every tree sold through your school, to both staff and parents, your relatives, friends, and work colleagues, we have raised our donations to between £3.50 and £6.50 (size of tree dependant) to your school/PTA fund by the start of the end of the Christmas term.

Christmas Treeasy specialise in only the very best top-grade trees available, the non-drop Nordmann Fir Christmas tree, which we deliver free of charge direct to your home. For a small additional fee there is also the option of recycling, whereby we collect and recycle trees in the New Year. For all your tree needs we also supply tree stands and bags of logs too!

Our 9ft and 10ft Nordmann Fir Christmas Trees are available as a special pre-order, along with Extra Large Cinco stands for them! Please order these by 20th November, so if you fancy going really big this Christmas get in early!

This year we have 14 dates available for delivery, the weekend dates do get booked up very quickly so please order early to avoid any disappointment.

HOW TO ORDER

Go to the order a delivery page online at: www.christmastreeasy.co.uk

Choose your size of tree

Add recycling, a stand, or logs to your order if you wish

Add your school

Choose your preferred delivery date from the options

For more information call 07710 407149, email enquiries@christmastreeasy.co.uk or follow us and your delivery on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/christmastreeasy

Please make sure you mention your school in all correspondence to ensure a donation to your school. I look forward seeing many of you soon.



Yours faithfully

Dean Turner

Christmas Treeasy Ltd.

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2023

Half Term - Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October 2023

Occasional Day - Friday 24th November 2023

Inset Day - Monday 27th November 2023

End of Term - Wednesday 20th December 2023

Spring Term 2024

Start of Term - Thursday 4th January 2024

Half Term - Monday 19th - Friday 23rd February 2024

End of Term - Thursday 28th March 2024

Summer Term 2024

Start of Term - Monday 15th April 2024

Bank Holiday - Monday 6th May 2024

Half Term - Monday 27th - Friday 31st May 2024

End of Term - Thursday 18th July 2024—Please note this is a change of date.

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



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