



# Marlborough News

[www.themarboroughscienceacademy.co.uk](http://www.themarboroughscienceacademy.co.uk)

20th December 2023 Issue #135



The Marlborough  
Science Academy



December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's certainly been a long and busy term; there aren't many schools who have the stresses and strains of two Ofsted inspections within a month and we await the final report with anticipation. Many, many thanks to all of you who contributed so positively to the parent questionnaire and of course an enormous thank you to all the students and staff who did Marlborough and themselves proud. The proof will be in the writing of the report however and I am hopeful we will be in receipt of this before close of business for Christmas.

I want to say thank you also to everyone who was involved in the school production; written by Mr Griggs. Once again it showcased real talent but special mention must go to Mrs Griggs, Mrs Day, Ms Fox, Mr Isaacs and Mrs Whitlock who worked tirelessly to ensure a great night was had by all. Special mention too must go to all the staff who helped behind the scenes from make-up, stage management and minding front of house; it really is a team effort and I am in awe and indebted to all they do to support the school and the students. I have to say there is real up and coming talent and I look forward to seeing what they do next (Mr & Mrs Griggs), I'm sure they will kill me for even mentioning that!

Your kindness in supporting Mrs Hicks in filling up our Food Bank has been nothing short of inspirational. We all know that the forthcoming holiday can be a truly magical few days but as always for some, more now than ever, the whole festivities can be hugely stressful particularly when we have lost loved ones, suffice to say it's all about being with the ones you love. No gift, large or small can ever take the place of taking the time to tell those around you how much you love them all; with so much unkindness going on in our world I strongly believe that these 3 little words are now stronger than ever.

So, my favourite day of the year is beckoning, the school Christmas lunch (I always serve the brussels sprouts; beware!) and then the madness that is the Winter Fair (Mr Fitzgibbon's absolute favourite). The atmosphere in the hall is always fabulous and as we normally raise over £1,000 for various charities it really is a fabulous afternoon, albeit messy and driven by buckets loads of Haribo – hurrah!

So enough from me, there has been so much to celebrate this term but for most the important thing has been the sense of team, family and community that continues to reign supreme within our school.

As a reflection of our growth within the local area we have been given more money from the Local Authority in order to build another new classroom block so watch this space; it was always our dream to make Marlborough the first choice of school within our local community and I believe we have managed to achieve this.

We say farewell to Mrs Szameitat who is off to lecture at Brunel University and welcome to Ms Fontecastro in the science department from January. We wish Mrs Szameitat every best of luck in her new role and thank her for all her hard work.

There can be no doubt that the upcoming holiday isn't always restful but I wish you good cheer, a lovely Christmas film (Scrooge for me sadly, any version!) and that you will join me in raising a glass to welcome the New Year in with kindness and prosperity.

Take care,



Ms Thomson  
Headteacher

And a special Yappy  
Christmas from Bertie x



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### **This Week's Quote of the Week**

**"My legacy is that I stayed on course.. from the beginning to the end,  
because I believed in something inside of me"**

(Tina Turner)

### **Word of the Week**

**tenacity:** noun—*the determination to continue what you are doing.*

### **Value of the Week**

**Courage**

## Student Achievement

On Monday 4th of September Nikhil Patel 13EC took part in the Scottish Open Taekwondo Championships. He battled his way through to the finals fighting tremendously well and went on to win a gold medal. His sister Rhianna, former Marlborough student, who is off to study Nutrition at the University of Surrey also took part and received a silver medal in her category. It was a long day followed by a very long (7 hour) drive home.



## Water Polo Heroes

It has been an excellent weekend for two Marlborough students. Gethin Dorrington and Alex Sawkins represented Watford Swim England Water Polo in the U15 National Championships at the Alan Higgs Centre in Coventry. After an equal opening period, Manchester had a 2-1 lead into half-time. They had to hold off a late fightback after Watford scored three of their four goals in the final period to heap the pressure on the North West side. It was a nervy final few minutes but in the end, it was a fourth period goal from Manchester that got them over the line to regain their title with a 5 - 4 win. Unlucky Watford but congratulations to both boys for reaching the final.





## 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:-*

- ♦ The case of the 'Chocolate Cream Killer'
- ♦ Marilyn Monroe and the two brothers
- ♦ Populism: the greatest threat to our politics
- ♦ Warner Bros. studio expansion: positive or negative?
- ♦ Can being vegan save the planet?
- ♦ Are Electric cars the answer for the motoring future?



## PTA News

The Marlborough PTA would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who shopped at the Co-op and chose the Marlborough Science Academy PTA as their local community fund. Together we managed to raise an amazing £2,237.24, which will be put to good use funding various projects around the school.

Thank you to everyone who ordered their Christmas Tree through Christmas Treeasy.

For every tree sold through the school, to staff, parents, relatives and friends, Christmas Treeasy made a donation to us of between £3.50-£6.50 per tree.

As a result £90 has been raised for the school this year.

## Christmas Treeasy



## Charity News



Members of staff supported the 'Movember' campaign to raise funds for men's mental health. They raised over £750 for this worthy cause!



### ODD SOCKS DAY

Staff and students, participated in Odd Socks Day as part of Anti-Bullying Week. The support was overwhelming and we managed to raise £315.00 for the Anti-Bullying Alliance charity. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



### GUIDE DOGS VISIT

The Guide Dogs joined us for 2 days in November. They were beautiful, well behaved and very friendly. Our students and staff loved stroking them and learning about their lives. They were aged between 6-9 months old and were absolutely adorable. Wasabi, Jacob, Pascoe and Kate will no doubt make wonderful dogs for people with sight loss.



Thank you to all who bought lots of doggy goodies. We raised over £130 for this excellent cause.



### POPPY APPEAL

Students and staff raised well over £100 for the Royal British Legion by selling poppies and wristbands.



## Drama News

### Box House Theatre Workshop

On the 16th November, the Year 10 drama class were lucky enough to take part in a drama workshop run by **Box House Theatre** company to hone our devising skills

Throughout the duration of the workshop we covered three different styles of theatre. The first kind was 'Physical Theatre'. We looked at ways to use our bodies to show emotions and scenes. We were given a piece of paper and we had to choose a word and then write connotations of the word. My group chose 'dreams' then we split off into partners and, in conjunction with three pieces of music, had to do some physical theatre based on 5 words we associated with the word we chose.

Next up was the theatre company's own style 'Platform Theatre'. Platform theatre is a very creative kind of theatre because it's all done in a small rectangle space but that doesn't limit what you can do with it and as they showed us, even with a small space you can still create anything. We learned some of their techniques such as drawing imaginary objects and using people to create objects. We used both these skills to recreate famous children's stories. It was quite difficult at first but once we got into the swing of things it ended up being a lot of fun and we all really enjoyed it and I



can see how it would be used in our own performance work.

And last but not least we have 'Naturalistic Theatre'. At the start we all were in a circle and were told to talk amongst ourselves but after a couple of minutes of the workshop, people told us that there was a nuclear weapon dropping on England and we had to devise a plan. At the start we all were taken aback and were joking about it but we then settled and we were given roles and scenarios to discuss. We managed to create branches of stories just by discussing. It was really interesting to see peoples responses to the scenarios, I particularly enjoyed this style and will use this technique as a way to create work for our devised piece.

Overall I really enjoyed the workshop and I think it was really helpful when it comes to devising our own performances.

**Sam Henshall Year 10**

## Drama News

### Sky Studios

On 6th November Year 12 Drama and Film Studies and Year 10 Drama Scholars visited Sky Studios for their Sky Up experience. Students had the opportunity to tour some of the spaces and look into the recording studios. They also worked in small groups to create their own film trailers. They explored shot length and use of green screen as well as the impact of music and adding dialogue.

The day also educated students about different careers at Sky and students were able to ask about ways into the industry and were introduced to the Sky Early careers programme.

It was a brilliant, creative day.

### Students in performances

Not only has it been a busy half term for performance in school, for some of our students it has been a busy half term performing outside of school too!



Jacques in Year 8 performed with St Albans Musical Theatre Company in Elf at the Alban Arena in November, playing the role of Michael.

Ronia and Milo in Year 8 and Fred and Ted in Year 7 have been treading the Abbey Theatre boards this week in 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe'. It is fantastic to have so many Marlborough students in the same performance.



Claramae in Year 12 has also been performing in Cinderella over in Watford at The Palace Theatre, with performances continuing to New Years Eve.

It is brilliant to hear about so many students who are taking their love of Drama and performance beyond the classroom.



## Drama News

### *And finally....* "Game of Harts: Unravelling the Tale Before Alice"

Transporting audiences to a pre-Alice Wonderland, our school production, "Game of Harts" by Mr. Griggs, delved into the enigmatic story of the Queen of Hearts. This immersive narrative sought to



uncover the genesis of her tyranny—when did this notorious ruler ascend to power, and what catalysed her transformation?

This production marked the culmination of months of dedication and perseverance by all involved. The unwavering commitment of our students—juggling rigorous rehearsals, mastering lines, and managing their academic workload—testified to their resilience and dedication.

A remarkable ensemble of 73 students from Year 7 to Year 13 played pivotal roles in bringing this captivating tale to

life. Beyond acting and dancing, this year's production witnessed students contributing their talents to lighting, sound, prop-making, and even directing, illustrating a rich tapestry of diverse skills and interests.



The resounding success of the show stands as a testament to the efforts of our students. Their hard work, creativity, and collaborative spirit elevated "Game of Harts" to new heights, leaving an indelible mark on both the stage and the hearts of the audience.



Congratulations to the entire cast and crew for an outstanding performance.



### Accelerated Reader

All students in Years 7 and 8 are enrolled in a reading scheme called Accelerated Reader. Students take a comprehension test to assess their reading ability and this helps to guide them to select appropriate reading material. When students finish a book on the scheme they can take a short online quiz to check their understanding of what they have read. Students earn house points for each quiz that they pass.



These are added at the end of each half term.

Students can take Accelerated Reader book quizzes at home at any time. The link for Renaissance Learning, who host the quizzes, is in the useful links section of the school website. Students should know their username and password but if they have forgotten they can contact me on [s.nixon@marlborough.herts.sch.uk](mailto:s.nixon@marlborough.herts.sch.uk)

The top ten readers so far this year are:

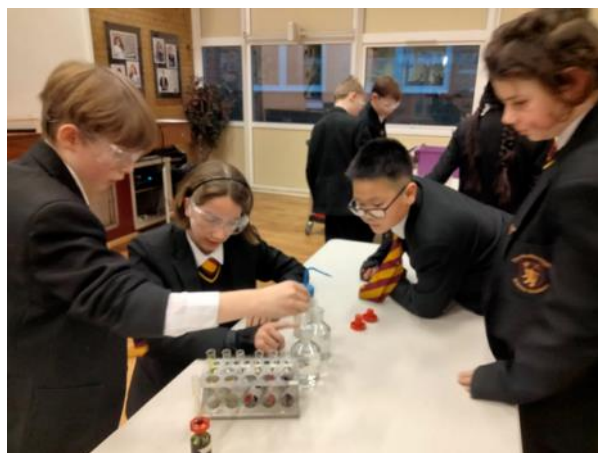
1. Tom Baker 8LI — 1,285,943 words read
2. George Zhang 7RC — 743,460 words read
3. Samantha Mullinex 7RC — 703,366 words read
4. Amin Lafi 7RP — 703,007 words read
5. Eve Kilcast 7AS — 523,996 words read
6. Allie Reed 7RP — 383,050 words read
7. William Harris 7RC — 357,125 words read
8. Anjali Monet 8EM — 352,424 words read
9. Ellie Swindells 7FC — 339,869 words read
10. Riley Haigh 7AR — 327,709 words read



## House Competitions



**Christmas tree decorating....** So good there were 2 winners—Congratulations to **Mercury & Saturn** who came joint first place!



## Science Competition

The science department hosted a quiz night with four quiz rounds and three practical rounds for students across all years, including rounds on the binomial naming system, making a parallel circuit, carrying out food tests, and making a pH rainbow. All competitors earned a pinkie for participation—with **Neptune's** team winning overall. Well done to all entrants!



## Christmas Cards MFL

The languages department held a foreign language Christmas card design competition, where students designed a card with Christmas traditions of another country. Congratulations to the winners:



1st Mercury  
Samantha &  
Esme, 7RC



2nd Neptune  
Maddison,  
7AS



3rd Mars  
Alexia,  
8MT





## Photography Competition.

Starting this festive period until the end of February half term, grab your camera or phone, head outside and take photos of birds that are in your garden, or when you are out and about.

They can be any type of bird, try and capture a magical moment.

You can shoot in colour or black and white. Only one photo per student so pick your best one.

Photography is the most powerful tool with which to record the world around us.



Pick your best image and email it to

[photographycompetition@marlborough.herts.sch.uk](mailto:photographycompetition@marlborough.herts.sch.uk). Don't forget to add your name, form and what house you are in. Make sure the image is a JPEG when you email.

Every entry will be awarded a house point. There will be three runners up and one winner for a prize.

Good Luck, Mrs Wood & Ms Rickman

**Last date for entry is 26/02/2023**



# 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.



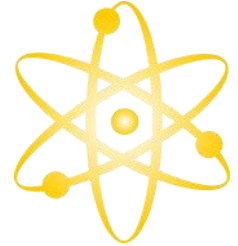


## Learning Counts

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 8** – ours is a friendly school. We enjoy our English, Maths and Science lessons. Special mention to Mr Cockram in Graphics, Miss O’Krafka and Miss Kelly, both in the Science faculty.



**Year 9** – we would recommend our school to other students. We feel safe at school. We especially enjoy our Business Studies, Media Studies and PE lessons. Special mention to Mr Felkers in Music, Mr Green in Creative iMedia and Miss O’Krafka in Chemistry.



**Year 10** – ours is a creative school, staff are helpful, kind and caring and we feel supported. There is always lots to do and we

feel safe at school. We are looking forward to finding out more about what Post 16 learning is like and investigating what careers we could do in the future. We especially like our Art, Drama, History, Maths, Media Studies, PE and Philosophy and Ethics lessons. Special mention to Ms Bustin in Art.



**Post 16** – we are proud of our school and feel comfortable with all the staff. There is a lot of flexibility in Post 16; we like having the dedicated Post 16 area and are enjoying a more independent way of learning. Staff support us both academically and pastorally. We are really enjoying our lessons in Business Studies, Classics, English Literature, History, Media Studies, Photography, Product Design, Psychology, Sociology and Sports Studies. Special mentions to Mr Salih, Ms Rickman and Miss Curtis.



## Support for Families

We are all aware of how difficult situations can be during this time with the cost of living going up considerably. Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Aylward on 01727 731339 or Mrs Hicks on 01727 731364 if you require some help with foodbank vouchers. We are both here to support all our students and families through difficult times.



### 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

Hillydyke Community Centre  
17 Hillydyke 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

Albans & District Foodbank (There is no longer a centre at St Stephen Church, Watling Street)

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.



## Support for Families

ADD-vance, Family Lives, Families in Focus and other support networks, are running a number of courses over the Spring Term, to support parents. Click [here](#) to access the Parenting Support Booklet for 2024



### Find the support you need at the **Families First Portal**

**Families First is the name for early help in Hertfordshire. It is a way of getting extra support for your family to help you manage problems early on.**

Families First is available to all Hertfordshire families with children under 18 (25 if they have a learning need or disability).

Visit the [portal](#) for more information, with direct links to:-

- 🏠 Relationship Support
- 👶 Parenting advice and childcare
- 💰 Money advice
- 🧠 Emotional and mental health
- 🏠 Domestic abuse support
- 🏡 Staying healthy
- 🌐 Online Safety
- 📠 SEND Local Offer

and many other useful links




[hertfordshire.gov.uk/familiesfirst](https://hertfordshire.gov.uk/familiesfirst)




*"I am struggling to cope with everything at present, so feeling overwhelmed."*

*"I'm worried about money"*

*"I'm worried about my child's behaviour in school and at home"*

*"I need reassurance and support"*



## ADD-vance

The ADHD and Autism Trust  
Registered Charity No. 1158968

Website: [www.add-vance.org](http://www.add-vance.org)  
Email: [herts@add-vance.org](mailto:herts@add-vance.org)  
Phone: 01727 833963 (Mon-Fri 9am-1p)

### Spring Term 2024

**FREE** to parents and carers living in Hertfordshire

#### TALKING TEENS

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children aged 12-19, covering:

- The Teen Brain: physical and emotional changes taking place and why behaviour changes.
- The link between behaviour and communicating difficult feelings.
- How to maintain your relationship with good communication.
- Understand risk taking behaviour around drugs, alcohol and gang culture.
- How to negotiate and reduce conflict.

**Thursdays 7.45-9.15pm**  
4<sup>th</sup> Jan to 8<sup>th</sup> Feb  
**Online Course: ID 624**

**Wednesdays 7.45-9.15pm**  
7<sup>th</sup> Feb to 20<sup>th</sup> Mar  
(no session in half term)  
**Online Course: ID 625**




#### TALKING ANGER in TEENS

6, weekly sessions for parents and carers of children aged 12-19, supporting you to:

- Understand why young people and adults get angry.
- Develop strategies to handle anger in yourself and others within your family.
- Recognise the early signs of anger.
- Reduce conflict and arguments.
- Encourage positive behaviour.

**Tuesdays 7.45-9.30pm**  
23<sup>rd</sup> Jan to 5<sup>th</sup> Mar  
(no session in half term)  
**Online Course: ID 626**



#### TALKING DADS

6, weekly sessions for dads & male carers of all ages, sharing information on:

- Improved listening and communication skills.
- A healthy dad-child relationship now and for the future.
- Effective strategies for dealing with anger and conflict.
- How to enforce boundaries.
- Being the dad, you want to be.

**Wednesdays 7.45-9.15pm**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Jan to 7<sup>th</sup> Feb  
**Online Course: ID 627**

**Tuesdays 7.45-9.15pm**  
6<sup>th</sup> Feb to 19<sup>th</sup> Mar  
(no session in half term)  
**Online Course: ID 628**



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## Parenting ADHD Skills

### 3 week online course

Tuesdays 16th, 23rd and 30th January, 10am-12pm



Increase your knowledge of ADHD and build a toolbox of strategies to support family life.



Praise and Criticism



Organisational Aids



Diet and Nutrition



Understanding and Managing ADHD



Learning Styles



Learning Styles



[spaceherts.eventbrite.co.uk](https://spaceherts.eventbrite.co.uk)



an online group that will help you to manage your child's ADHD

day mornings 10 to 11.30am

entry 28th & 29th Jan 2024

### Handling anger in your family

Facilitated by Founders, Lesley and Francine, our course aims to help parents:

Our award winning six session course is funded by Hertfordshire CC Targeted Parenting Fund and is FREE for parents of children aged 4 to 11 years living in Hertfordshire.

Understand more about what triggers children's & parents anger

Gain more understanding of children's common sleep issues

Learn communication techniques to increase children's emotional regulation and decrease angry outbursts

Meet other parents and share experiences

Learn techniques to manage stress, conflict and so much more...

Email Francine & Lesley to secure your free place:

## Term Dates

### 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.**

Have a lovely break everyone!



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



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