



# Marlborough News

www.themarboroughscienceacademy.co.uk

14th February 2025 Issue #142



The Marlborough  
Science Academy



Dear Parents/ Carers,

Thank you so much to those of you (363) that responded to our recent questionnaire re. our provision.

First of all, thank you as I know these things take time and again thank you too for your positive affirmations of what we do well.

To capture, in a nutshell the following key points emerged:

#### **What we do well:**

- Pastoral communication came through very strongly as did positive relationships with staff and some fabulous teaching and learning.
- The vast majority of your children enjoy coming to school, understand our values and most importantly feel safe.
- Students who have joined the school as in year admissions have transitioned well and found the school welcoming as well as a positive experience re. mental health.
- The majority of parents agreed that Marlborough performed well in the following areas also:
  - Curriculum
  - Clubs/Activities (in the main)
  - Personal development
  - Leadership and management

#### **The reoccurring areas of concern are as follows:**

- Overuse of supply teachers. I would absolutely agree with this and do so sadly. We have been hit since September with a number of long-term sickness that has proved difficult to cover. Some of the supply we have engaged have not been good enough, so we have sent them away. It is a constant worry. All I am grateful for are the enormous efforts staff go to make sure students, particularly in exam subjects are keeping up with their work.

*Continued on page 2*

### Home Learning:

- Again, I agree, we are either setting too much or too little, the balance that needs to be struck has eluded me throughout my career which doesn't mean it can't be tackled. Like you, I am concerned about the over reliance on various platforms to set some homework as well as the inconsistencies, this concern will form a major part of our development planning 2025/26.

### SEND Provision:

- There are some concerns raised about the lack of one-to-one support; bespoke provision being offered to children with SEND needs. Whilst I have an absolute sympathy with this, I am currently running a SEND team of 6 AT's due to the national picture re. challenges recruiting teaching staff and support. Whilst inclusive, Marlborough has never claimed to be a special school anymore than any other school in the local area. We will continue to do our very best and voice our concerns re. numbers/ funding at the highest level.

Please be absolutely assured that the issues raised above will be on our radar more so than ever although SEND can prove challenging, for the reasons as outlined above despite all our best efforts to provide the bespoke provision often being looked for in a mainstream school.

There were up to 3 comments from parents about bullying – please contact your child's Director of Learning should you wish to pursue further.

Overall, we were really pleased with the results, we continue to be value driven and always student centred. Do we get it right all the time, no; do we always try to do what's right; yes, and that is a great deal to do with the staff who come to school every day to educate your children.

Best wishes,



Ms. Thomson



## Visitors from Kazakhstan

Yesterday we welcomed 3 visitors recommended to see our school, from Kazakhstan. The visitors came from backgrounds including Unicef, global leaders in educational policy, chancellors of universities and EU, UN advisors regarding Education.

Naturally we were delighted to show off our school and children. I was exceptionally proud to see Marlborough through the eyes of our guests. They loved our Values, the positive relationship seen between staff and students, fabulous teaching and learning as well as what they described as being a vibrant community.

Our next guest is from Australia, another recommended to walk around our school and see what we do well. It's wonderful to have the affirmation of good practice in a school that puts children first.

**Ms Thomson**



### This Week's Quote of the Week

**“ Security used to be an inconvenience sometimes, but now it's a necessity all the time.”**

(Martina Navratilova)

### Word of the Week

**security:** noun— The state of being free from danger or threat.

### Value of the Week



## Student Achievement

On Saturday 18th January Jude Haisman-Bolt 11MM travelled to Bristol to take part in trials for the Under 16 British American Football national squad. A few days later Jude received the news that he had made it into the team.

*"This means that I will be part of the squad that travels to different countries to play games against other national teams. My first camp day was on the 1st February and there is another on the 1st March. American Football is a sport for everyone, no matter what shape or size you are! If you want to get involved search up Hertfordshire Cheetahs on Facebook or Instagram."*



Well done to Jude from everyone at Marlborough on this fantastic achievement!



Rosie Robbins 8AR drew this wonderful picture of her rabbit for her Art homework. Students were asked to draw an object of personal significance.

Her hard work and artistic talent didn't go unnoticed—Rosie received a postcard home from Ms Thomson in recognition of her outstanding effort.

Amazing detail, texture, and expression—well done, Rosie!

Ms Nutt



## Year 8 Classical Civilisations

Today we mummified an ancient Egyptian pharaoh (a carrot) to help us learn about the Ancient Egyptian mummification process. Our aim was to dry the "body" to prevent rotting, seal it away so that moisture can't get in, and scent it so if any rotting occurs nobody knows. To replicate this, we used linen as the Egyptians used, oil, natron (salt), spices and glue (the Egyptians used resin). It was an enjoyable experience, a fun way to recreate the unique way the Egyptians preserved the bodies.



In Egyptian times, when a pharaoh died he went through a process of mummification in order to preserve the body correctly so the deceased pharaoh was ready for the Egyptian afterlife. This process took about 70 days. The pharaoh also took items with them into the afterlife, some of which were put with the body in the sarcophagus, but others around it in the burial chamber deep within the pyramid.



Firstly, we made our amulets, making designs of an ankh (Egyptian symbol for life), a scarab beetle (Egyptian symbol for rebirth, resurrection and new life) and a design of our choice. Along with this, we also drew the face of the pharaoh to



put on our mummified carrot at the end. Once this was finished, we cut strips of linen to wrap around our Egyptian Pharaoh. After we covered the carrot with the natron, we wrapped our first layer of linen around the carrot. Some of us were struggling at first but then we managed to prevail! Then, we smeared oil over the strips and we



rolled it in natron. After this, we scented the body by sprinkling it with spices because you don't want to smell bad in the afterlife. Another layer of linen was wrapped around the carrot. After even more layers of linen strips later, we layered it with resin, for which we used PVA glue. From there, we added our amulets and our picture of the pharaohs to the mummified body. Finally, we put it in a box and let Miss Rowe dry it for the next 70 days!



Overall, it was a fun lesson and everyone enjoyed it. In 70 days we will find out how successful we have been.

**Luki Clements 8AN, William Harris 8RC, Marcelo Skut 8AN, and George Zhang 8RC**

## Sustainable Hertfordshire Youth COP 2024/25

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February students from the school sustainability committee attended the Youth COP sustainability conference in Stevenage.

29 schools from across the county took part in a mock United Nations climate change conference and debate. Students had to demonstrate their knowledge of key issues and enter negotiations to keep warming to 1.5 degrees above preindustrial levels. The day included workshops, and a future pathway talks and careers fair, all great experience for A Level geographers.

### Mrs James

Sara Urdaneta 13RN, Jessica Bonnin 13AD, Jasmine Oates 12SJ and Ella Stirrat 13CG who attended the conference are pictured right. The photo below shows Jasmine representing her group in the negotiations.



## Children's Mental Health Week

From Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February students were invited to a variety of workshops designed to support their mental health. Students were encouraged to be more self aware and to think about how they can look after their mental health.



# Introducing the Allergen Buddies

Our Allergen Buddies are fully trained members of our catering team, identifiable by their distinctive purple aprons and hats. See this uniform beautifully modelled by our very own Mr Paice



## Roles & Responsibilities

- Guiding students towards making safe food choices
- Answering any questions or concerns regarding food allergens
- Providing up-to-date and accurate allergen information

## Lost Property

We have many items of unnamed uniform and coats, together with a selection of water bottles in our lost property cupboard.

If your child has lost anything please ask them to come to Student Services to check the cupboard.

If these items are not claimed they will be donated to charity.





We are currently accepting donations of clean teen clothing (ages 13 - 18) for our upcoming pre-loved clothes sale! All donations will make a positive impact in our local community and all proceeds will be going to the charities Youth Talk and the M store.

# Donations Wanted!

## Yes Please

Aged 13 - 18	Skirts
Jeans	Tops
Shirts	Dresses
T- shirts	Leggings
Hoddies	Coats
Joggers	

## No Thankyou

Footwear	Clothing for children under 13 or over 18
Underwear	
Any torn, dirty or otherwise damaged.	

The clothing collection point will be set up at the site office during school hours, from:

Feb  
3<sup>rd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>



Marlborough  
Science Academy  
*shaping futures*



# LRC News

## The Big Read 2025 - Author Visit from Bali Rai

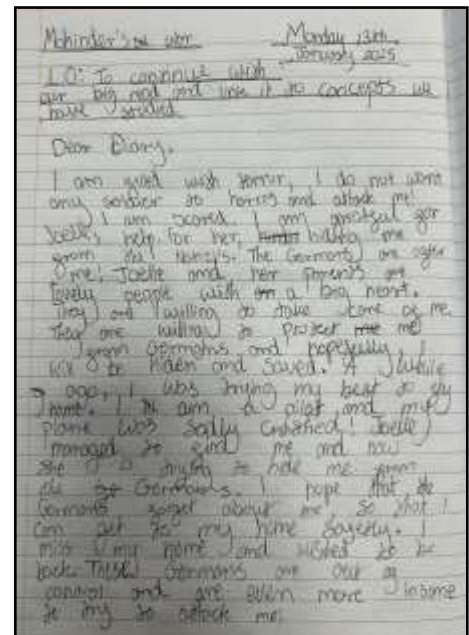
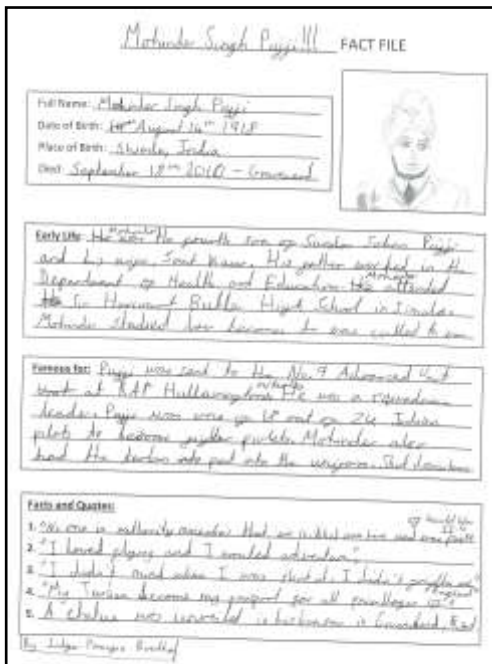
On Wednesday January 8th Year 7 and 8 students heard from author Bali Rai about his motivation for writing this year's Big Read Mohinder's War and the importance of reading about and researching historical events. Students were surprised to hear that over 3 million servicemen from the British Empire and Commonwealth fought for Britain in World War II. This included over 2 million from India. Bali Rai based the character of Mohinder on Mohinder Singh Puji, a Sikh pilot who flew for the RAF during World War II.



As part of our cross-curricular work on Mohinder's War, Mr Pressland brought his Year 8 students to the LRC to research Mohinder Singh Puji and create a fact file about him.

In their English lesson, Miss Caswell's Year 8 students read the book together and have produced diary entries for Joelle and Mohinder.

You can see some of the student work below and on there will be more on our website soon.



During their LRC lessons students have been listening to sections of the book and looking out for examples of our school values in the text. You can see some of the examples they chose on the next page.



## LRC News

### The Big Read 2025 - Mohinder's War by Bali Rai

*Marlborough Values*



Joelle's parents show courage by being part of the resistance despite the danger. — **Maria Dadarlat 7KC**

Joelle chose to leave France and start a new life in England **Kiril Tkachov 8AN**



*So, I embraced my new life despite my fears.* **Erin Parrott 7EM**

Joelle took the time to bury her parents under the apple tree.

**Megan Colvin 8FC**



*The ovens must never grow cold* **Charlie Ruck 8AS**

*I have given you my word Joelle. I will not let you down.* **Sophie Argyrou 8FC**



*We both loved books, and when his eyesight failed, I would read to him whenever I could.* **Joanie James 7CC**

*"You'll be safe here."* **Kyla Kirby 8FC**



*Mo sensed discomfort placing his hand on mine.* **George Lomas 8HS**

Joelle and her parents were hiding two people even though they would be in danger if the Nazis found out. **Victoria van Gelder 7RL**

## LRC News

### 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. George Zhang 8RC — 3,991,641 words read
2. Samantha Mullinex 8RC— 2,120,524 words read
3. Eve Kilcast 8AS — 1,283,816 words read
4. Lucian Clements 8AN— 909,276 words read
5. Elaina Ridolfi 8RC — 840,445 words read
6. Erin Cukaj 7KC — 823,856 words read
7. Lucy Cooper 7KC – 626,496 words read
8. Esme Goldbrom 8RC—499,334 words read
9. Hassan Hussain 7JH —463,898 words read
10. Frank Singleton 7JH— 439,393 words read



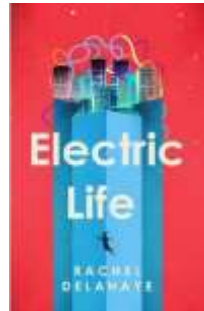
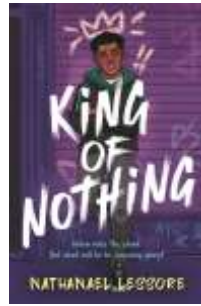
### Blind Date with a Book

Our Valentine's Day inspired Blind date with a Book display has proved popular with students. Each book is a recommended read with just a hint of what it is about. If you are feeling adventurous there will still be a few books available to borrow after half term.



## LRC News

On Friday 24th January we were delighted to host this year's St Albans Schools Book Award discussion day. Our own students were joined by students from 6 other local schools to discuss the shortlisted books, *Electric Life* by Rachel Delahaye, *King of Nothing* by Nathanael Lessore and *The Clockwork Conspiracy* by Sam Sedgman.



Students then cast their vote for their winner before taking part in a quiz. After a break for lunch YA thriller writer Sue Wallman announced the winner – *King of Nothing* – before telling us about her career journey and the inspiration behind her books.



Before the other schools said goodbye the winners of the bookmark design competition were announced and Hannah Tomlins 9JN won a prize for her *Clockwork Conspiracy* inspired design. It was a brilliant event, and we look forward to seeing which books are on the shortlist next year.



Thank you to Mrs Shepard from Beaumont School who made this lovely award for Nathanael Lessore who was delighted to have won and described the award as utterly wonderful and thoughtful. If you would like to read *King of Nothing* or the other shortlisted books we have copies available to borrow from the LRC.

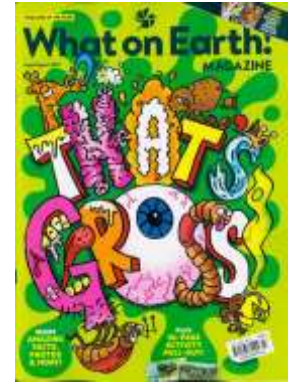
**Mrs Nixon**



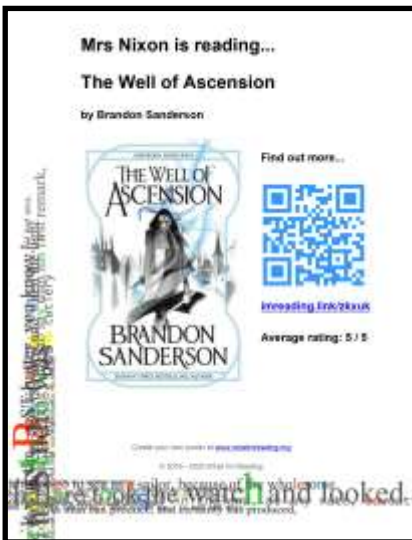
## LRC News

### Book Fest 2025—Monday 24th February to Friday 6th March

For the first two weeks after half term we will be holding our annual celebration of reading. There will be lots going on including competitions, a book character photo booth and a visit from John Gordon Reid from What on Earth! Magazine.



All Year 7 and 8 students will be offered a free World Book Day book and £1 voucher to spend and we will have vouchers available in the LRC for other students who would like them.



Staff will be displaying what they are currently reading to encourage book related conversations and all Year 7 and 8 students will be taking part in the Read for Good Readathon. We hope that all students will read at least one book, comic or graphic novel during this time and although there is no obligation for students to ask family and friends to sponsor them, all money raised will help Read for Good provide new



books and storytellers for children's hospitals in the

UK. **As an added incentive this year all book quizzes passed on Accelerated Reader during the two weeks of Book Fest and Readathon will count towards a house competition.**

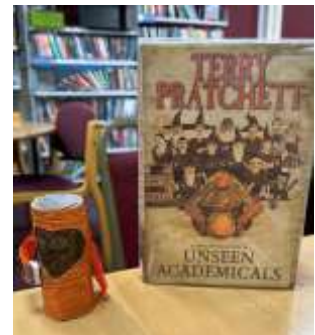
Parents, carers and staff will be able to donate through School Gateway and we hope you will feel able to support this worthwhile cause.





We will also be holding our usual second hand book sale where books will be priced between 20p and £1. All proceed will be added to our Readathon total.

In book club this week, students made some book characters from cardboard rolls, wool etc. You can see some of them here. We will be running a competition to create your own book character during Book Fest. There are craft materials that you can use in the LRC if you need them. Bring your finished character to the LRC or send a photograph to [s.nixon@marlborough.herts.sch.uk](mailto:s.nixon@marlborough.herts.sch.uk) by Friday 6th March.



Winners will receive a voucher to spend at the Scholastic Book Fair which we will be holding from 31st March—7th April. Students will also be able to spend their £1 World Book Day vouchers at the fair.



We will once again be asking students Who's Behind the Book? to see if they can identify the members of staff - there may be a clue in what they are reading!



On World Book Day there will be a photo booth available for staff and students to dress up as a book character

We will finish the festival with a house quiz for staff and students in the LRC at lunchtime on Friday 6th March.

Mrs Nixon



## Save the Date

Click on the image to read the Prom letter on the school website.



**BARRACUDAS**  
ACTIVITY DAY CAMPS

HIGHLY RATED School Holiday Camps!!!

AT A SCHOOL NEAR YOU IN **2025!**  
EXCLUSIVE PARENT DISCOUNT

USE CODE **SCHOOL20** FOR AN EXTRA £20 OFF YOUR BOOKING!

\*Minimum 2 days. \*Not to be used in conjunction with other offer codes

- ⦿ 4½ to 14 year olds!
- ⦿ 80+ Activities!
- ⦿ Choice each session!
- ⦿ Specialist Courses!
- ⦿ Flexible bookings!

OFSTED REGISTERED

[barracudas.co.uk](http://barracudas.co.uk)  
01480 467 567

Trustpilot

## 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

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

## Head lice and nits

**Please see the NHS guidance below for head lice and nits:**

Head lice and nits are very common in young children and their families. They are not caused by dirty hair and are picked up by head-to-head contact.

### Check if it's head lice

Head lice are small insects, up to 3mm long.

They can be difficult to spot in your hair.

Head lice eggs (nits) are brown or white and attached to the hair.

Head lice can make your head feel itchy.

The only way to be sure someone has head lice is by finding live lice.

You can do this by combing their hair with a special fine-toothed comb (detection comb). You can buy these online or at pharmacies.



### How to get rid of head lice

Treat head lice as soon as you spot them. You can treat head lice without seeing a GP.

Check everyone you live with, or have close contact with, and start treating anyone who has head lice on the same day.

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice. You do not need to wash your laundry on a hot wash.

### Wet combing

Lice and nits can be removed by wet combing.

You can buy a special fine-toothed comb (detection comb) online or from pharmacies to remove head lice and nits.

There may be instructions on the pack, but usually you:

wash hair with ordinary shampoo

apply lots of conditioner (any conditioner will do)

comb the whole head of hair, using the detection comb, from the roots to the ends

It usually takes about 10 minutes to comb short hair, and 20 to 30 minutes for long, frizzy or curly hair. When you've finished combing the hair, comb through all the hair again for a second time.

Do wet combing on days 1, 5, 9 and 13 to catch any newly hatched head lice. Check again that everyone's hair is free of lice on day 17.

## **Medicated lotions and sprays**

If wet combing has not worked or is not suitable, you could try a medicated lotion or spray. These kill head lice in all types of hair, and you can buy them from pharmacies, supermarkets or online.

Head lice should die within a day. Some lotions and sprays come with a comb to remove dead lice and eggs.

Some treatments need to be repeated after a week to kill any newly hatched lice.

Check the pack to see if they're OK for you or your child to use, and how to use them.

If lotions or sprays do not work, speak to a pharmacist about other treatments.

## **Treatments that are not recommended for head lice**

Some treatments are not recommended because they're unlikely to work.

For example:

- products containing permethrin

- head lice "repellents"

- electric combs for head lice

- plant oil treatments, such as tea tree oil, eucalyptus oil and lavender oil herbal remedies

Information:

### **Wet combing video**

The charity [Community Hygiene Concern has a video about wet combing for head lice.](#)

## **You cannot prevent head lice**

There's nothing you can do to prevent head lice.

You can help stop them spreading by wet combing regularly, using a detection comb, to catch them early.





Do not use medicated lotions and sprays to prevent head lice. They can irritate the scalp.

# Get the right help at the right time



early help, brighter futures

## Need advice and support for your family?

-  Relationship support
-  Parenting Advice & Courses
-  Emotional & Mental Health
-  Staying healthy
-  School attendance/anxiety
-  Money advice
-  Services for Young People
-  SEND Local Offer
-  Search local services
-  and much more



Visit Hertfordshire's Families First website:-  
[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/familiesfirst](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/familiesfirst)



# TISKA KARATE

TRADITIONAL INTERNATIONAL SHOTOKAN KARATE

JOIN A FUN COMMUNITY FOR CHILDREN, ADULTS  
AND FAMILIES & DISCOVER THE AMAZING BENEFITS

- IMPROVE FITNESS
- LEARN SELF DEFENCE
- BUILD CONFIDENCE
- GAIN FOCUS & MENTAL CLARITY
- BUILD RESPECT & ETIQUETTE
- IMPROVE SELF DISCIPLINE



**LOCATIONS:**

THE MARLBOROUGH SCIENCE ACADEMY AT 12:10PM - SATURDAYS  
(MINIMUM AGE 5 YEARS & ABOVE)

BERNARDS HEATH JUNIOR SCHOOL AT 6:00PM - TUESDAYS  
(MINIMUM AGE 7 YEARS OLD & ABOVE)



REGISTER NOW FOR YOUR  
**FREE 2 WEEK  
TRIAL!**



[www.tiskakarate-stalbans.co.uk](http://www.tiskakarate-stalbans.co.uk) or call 07941829187

# FEBRUARY & HALF TERM 2025 ACTIVITIES

Sessions for Neurodivergent children/young people and Siblings

Date	Sessions	Time
1st Sat	<b>FREE Family Football - Drop In</b>	16.00-17.00
6th Thu	Bushcraft/Stem Home Ed 4+	10.30-12.00
6th Thu	<b>Trampolining 5+ yrs</b>	17.20-18.30
7th Fri	Welcome Space Community Drop-In	10.00-12.30
7th Fri	<b>**NEW** Therapeutic Gardening Home Ed Group 8+ yrs</b>	12.30-14.00
8th Sat	<b>Soft Archery 7+</b>	16.00-17.00
13th Thu	Bushcraft/Stem Home Ed 4+	10.30-12.00
14th Fri	Welcome Space Community Drop-In	10.00-12.30
14th Fri	<b>**NEW** Therapeutic Gardening Home Ed Group 8+ yrs</b>	12.30-14.00
15th Sat	<b>**NEW** Basketball 7+ yrs</b>	16.00-17.00
18th Tue	Half Term Cooking and Seed Planting 4+ yrs	10.30-12.30
18th Tue	<b>**NEW** Roller Skating 8+ yrs</b>	18.00 - 19.30
21st Fri	Youth Group Games and Crafts 10-14yrs	18.00-19.30
22nd Sat	<b>FREE Family Football - Drop In</b>	16.00-17.00
27th Thu	Bushcraft/Stem Home Ed 4+	10.30-12.00
27th Thu	<b>Trampolining 5+ yrs</b>	17.20-18.30
28th Fri	Welcome Space Community Drop-In	10.00-12.00
28th Fri	<b>**NEW** Therapeutic Gardening Home Ed Group 8+ yrs</b>	12.30-14.00

For further information on any of our Activities or Educational Services please email us at [info@potentialkids.org](mailto:info@potentialkids.org)

POTENTIAL KIDS



CCN Accredited Training Member of 20+ Local Authorities

PK Hub & Garden



TUTORING



Danecroft Stables



1:1 Horseriding Returning in Spring



Communication, Learning & Social Support for everyone through our inclusive programmes



Therapeutic Gardening 1:1 & Group Sessions. Volunteers Needed



Contact us for details of our PK offer:

Tutoring  
Teaching  
Mentoring  
Therapies  
1:1 & Group Work  
Alternative provision  
EOTAS  
DoE

Visit us here



# STUDY SKILLS SESSION

Monday 17 February: 2-3.30pm

St Albans Library



Study in a relaxed group setting,  
learn skills and techniques to  
help ace your exams!

Suitable for ages 14-24.

**FREE EVENT!**

Spaces are limited so please  
pop into the library or contact  
us to book your place!

0300 123 4049

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk)



## Term Dates

### Spring Term 2025

*Half Term - Monday 17th to Friday 21st February*

**End of term** - Friday 4th April

*Easter Break - Monday 7th April to Monday 21st April*

### Summer Term 2025

**First day of term** - Tuesday 22nd April

*Bank Holiday - Monday 5th May*

*Half term - Monday 26th to Friday 30th May*

**End of Term** - Friday 18th July



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



## Marlborough News

www.themarboroughscienceacademy.co.uk

An official publication of The Marlborough Science Academy Ltd,  
Watling Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 2QA #08003969  
01727 856 874 | [www.themarboroughscienceacademy.co.uk](http://www.themarboroughscienceacademy.co.uk)

Please contact [admin@marlborough.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@marlborough.herts.sch.uk) for any  
information regarding the content of this or future publications.