



Marlborough News

www.themarboroughscienceacademy.co.uk

4th April 2025 Issue #143



The Marlborough
Science Academy



Dear Parents/Carers,

Another end of term newsletter when it really doesn't seem that long ago since Christmas...at least we have blue skies to look at now and thankfully less mud!

Whilst I appreciate many of you will be keeping yourself up to speed with Marlborough events via social media at the risk of repeating myself there has been much to celebrate.

Our visitors from Kazakhstan and Australia have been full of praise for our school, in particular your children, their warmth, friendliness and politeness, thank you, they were a delight.

I am also keenly aware that we have had a lot of long-term sickness resulting in sometimes less than satisfactory supply teachers. It goes without saying that we do as much as we can to fill the gaps including those at consultation evenings, but I appreciate that from a parent perspective it can be frustrating. All of my leadership team have been out and about supporting where we can and in particular reinforcing the sense of calm that makes Marlborough unique (most days). Our recruitment drive is well on its way to success, and we have made some fantastic appointments. I am delighted at the quality we have attracted, and I know your children will benefit. It's a tough old job, and getting tougher, thank you so much for all the parents/carers who send in "thank yous" and positive emails, they mean so much and our staff do appreciate them.

I hope our Year 11 and Year 13 students will manage their revision time effectively over the next two weeks. Here is the link to a very useful document by Mr. Fitzgibbon to support the sourcing of resources <https://www.themarboroughscienceacademy.co.uk/parents/examination-information/year-11#> and of course when we return there will be a whole raft of after school revision clubs and catch-up clubs. It'll be grand, just regular revision, start with the areas found to be the hardest and take it from there. Rest too, water and of course the odd treat or two.

Special mention this term must go to the drama team and the cast for all their amazing achievements in "Shadows of the Stage". Special mention also to our fabulous buddies, led by Ms. Bustin; their kindness, wisdom and maturity have been exceptional in their care of the charges they have been given, they really have inspired. The students on the Battlefield trip were beautifully behaved and we wish all the best to the students heading off to Spain next week to develop language skills. Special shout out to all our Governors who support the school every day from attending behaviour meetings to conducting safeguarding audits; it's not an easy role, again getting harder but my Governors impress every day with their pride of the school and their knowledge; they are tremendous ambassadors of Marlborough with your children's best interests at their core.

Continued on page 2

So, I've rattled on (as usual). I hope you all have peaceful and calm breaks – I know I'll have forgotten to highlight another excellent achievement (Ms. Nixon – LRC – what she does in there to support reading is inspiring and lunch times whilst on the face of it can look chaotic are great fun and lovely to see students years 7 – 13 without phones, playing good old fashioned games – it's joyful). Enough now...thank you to you as parents/carers.

Take care and God bless,



Ms. A. Thomson

Headteacher

The Marlborough Science Academy Ltd - Watling Street
St Albans - Hertfordshire - AL1 2QA
Tel: 01727 856 874 Email: admin@marlborough.herts.sch.uk
www.themarboroughscienceacademy.co.uk Company No: 08003969



This Week's Quote of the Week

" Neurodiversity may be the birth place of some of humanities greatest minds"

(Harvey Blume, journalist)

Word of the Week

opportunity: noun – A time or set of circumstances that makes it possible to do something.

Value of the Week



Student Achievement

On Saturday 29th of March, Owen Dorrington 13AD and the Watford Waterpolo Club U18s were crowned National Conference League Junior Champions after an impressive performance in the finals. Watford beat City of Manchester 10-8 and in the final against Worthing had an impressive comeback, turning a 4-1 deficit after the first quarter into a stunning 15-9 victory to secure the championship title.



Boxing Saves Lives

Boxing Saves Lives is an award-winning non-profit organisation created to show how boxing can be a way to prevent crime, poor mental health, loneliness and exclusion. Our year 7 and 8 students have an amazing opportunity to learn how boxing can be used as a tool for discipline, fitness, and personal growth whilst helping them stay active, build confidence, and make positive life choices. To find out more, see their website [here](#).



Year 10 Work Experience

During the month of March, our Year 10 students took part in a week of work experience, gaining invaluable insights and hands-on skills in real-world environments. From exploring career paths to building confidence, they made the most of this incredible opportunity.

We are always looking for businesses to host our work experience placements so if this is something you can offer, we would love to hear from you. Please email careers@marlborough.herts.sch.uk



King's Trust News

Bridging the Gap: From Classroom to Careers

When King Charles founded The King's Trust (formerly The Prince's Trust) in 1976, his vision was clear: to provide young people with opportunities to develop essential skills, gain employment, and embark on entrepreneurial ventures. This mission continues to thrive today, and Marlborough is proud to be a dedicated delivery partner for the Trust's initiatives.



This term, Year 10 and 11 students participating in The King's Trust Achieve qualification have fully embraced the support, guidance, and opportunities available to them. For Year 11 students, the focus has been on developing employability skills and gaining valuable work experience, all of which will enhance their CVs as they prepare for further education, training, or work. These students were tasked with exploring various roles within the school, selecting



placements that aligned with their interests, and spending time in positions such as finance assistant, site agent, social media manager, and teaching assistant. Through this hands-on experience, they have reflected on the skills they've gained, the aspects they enjoyed, and how these experiences will influence their future career decisions.



Meanwhile, Year 10 students have been immersing themselves in the world of entrepreneurship. The students have embraced the challenge of running their own small businesses, guided by the process of market research, budgeting, resource sourcing, and product development. As part of their Enterprise Project, they created and sold Easter gifts, taking full ownership of every aspect of the initiative. Individual students

assumed leadership roles in tasks such as purchasing and promoting, showcasing their entrepreneurial spirit.



In addition to their entrepreneurial ventures, Year 10 students also participated in external work experience placements. Reflecting on these placements, students shared insights about the professional world and the opportunities available to them. One student noted the variety of further training options offered by their placement company, leading them to develop a clear post-GCSE plan. Another student was offered a part-time job at the weekend in a field they hope to pursue long-term.



These experiences and skills gained through The King's Trust Achieve qualification are not only valuable in the students' current endeavours but also serve as transferable assets for their future careers across various industries. The initiative continues to empower young people, helping them bridge the gap between education and the workforce with confidence and clarity.

Ms Bassett



Catering Update

We are excited to announce that the school canteen will now be open for a short time after school. Many items will be available at reduced prices, with some discounted by up to 50%. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to get a snack before an after-school club, choose a treat for their journey home or purchase lunch for the following day.



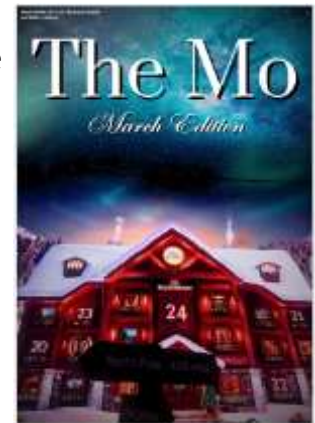
Staying Hydrated

With warmer weather hopefully on the way, students should ensure they bring a water bottle to school to stay hydrated during the day.



The MO

Click on the image to read the latest edition of the MO



Year 9 Netball

The Year 9 girls' netball team played valiantly in the U14's District Plate final, showing incredible determination and teamwork throughout the match. The girls displayed impressive skills and resilience, and whilst the result wasn't in their favour, their performance in the final was a testament to their hard work and dedication throughout the season. The team can hold their heads high, knowing they gave it their all.

Mrs Eaton



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.

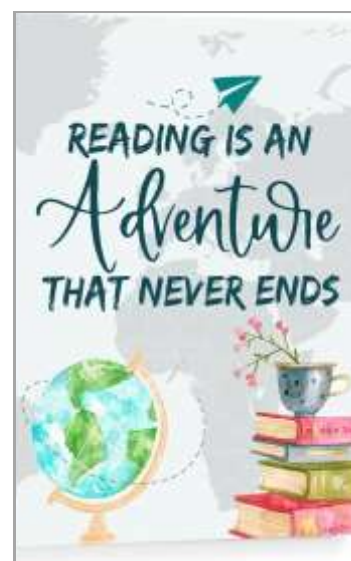


Students can take Accelerated Reader book quizzes at home at any time. The link for Renaissance Learning, who host the quizzes, is in the useful links section of the school website. Students should know their username and password but if they have forgotten they

can contact me on s.nixon@marlborough.herts.sch.uk

The top ten readers so far this year are:

1. George Zhang 8RC — 5,756,478 words read
2. Samantha Mullinex 8RC— 2,885,643 words read
3. Eve Kilcast 8AS — 1,778,838 words read
4. Lucian Clements 8AN— 1,512,768 words read
5. Elaina Ridolfi 8RC — 932,289 words read
6. Erin Cukaj 7KC — 923,606 words read
7. Ted Himsworth 8AR— 825,542 words read
8. Faye Holt 8FC — 807,646 words read
9. Esme Goldbrom 8RC—762,321 words read
10. Lucy Cooper 7KC — 626,496 words read



Carnegie Medal Shadowing Group

If you are interested in joining our Carnegie Shadowing group, we meet on Friday lunchtime in the LRC from 1.25pm-1.45pm. There are 8 books on the shortlist including King of Nothing by our Author of the Month for April Nathanael Lessore. We will be attending a Carnegie event at Beaumont School in June to discuss the books and watch the winner announced via live stream.



County School's Dance Festival

On Friday 13th March our Year 8 and 9 dance students performed at the County Schools' Dance Festival at the Alban Arena. The theme for this years festival was celebrating 40 years of the Hertfordshire County Dance Teacher's Association, drawing inspiration from global events, culture, technology and inspirational figures.

Our theme was based on the inspirational Sir David Attenborough, who has brought the natural world into our homes and classrooms through his series Planet Earth. We focused on the forest episode where lives are entwined in unexpected ways, particularly the Kapok tree, that so many creatures depend on, exploring themes of dependency, loss and togetherness.



Along with 19 primary and secondary schools from across the county, the students performed during the day and in the evening to a live audience and for some of our students it was the first time performing in a professional theatre.



The students' commitment to numerous lunchtime and after school rehearsals has been outstanding. They have been a credit to our school demonstrating our values of endeavour and courage improving their confidence, and also kindness and dignity when working together as a group. They should be very proud of their achievements and their fantastic performances on the day!

Miss Fox

'I really enjoyed being at the Alban Arena with all of the dancers and Miss Fox, it was like one big dance family and I had the best time. I also met a lot of great people from different schools who dance at different places which was super cool. The space the Alban Arena had provided was also amazing and I loved having our own little room and being together doing our hair and make-up before the shows. Whilst performing itself was nerve racking, I've been dancing for a long time now and it was super cool to perform in such an amazing stage. I had an absolutely wonderful time, and I owe it all to Miss Fox and the Alban Arena staff and many people who helped set up the event and of course all of the amazing dancers who were just great! I loved every single act and had the best time.' **Lucy Harland Year 8AN**



Vivian Gayle Dance Workshop

On Friday 7th March professional dancer and choreographer Vivian Gayle led three different musical theatre dance workshops for our students. The first workshop was for our GCSE Dance students who had a technical warm up followed by a fast and energetic routine to the hit musical 'Dream Girls'. The second workshop was for our dance scholars and gifted and talented students and included another technical warm up followed by a paired routine from the musical 'Sister Act'. The final workshop was for some of our Year 8 students who also learnt a routine from Sister Act with lots of fun contact movements.

It was a fantastic experience for our students to be taught by Vivian, who has been in numerous West End shows, and really challenged the students to learn technical choreography and showcase their performance skills. Thank you to Vivian for leading the workshops, the students had a fantastic afternoon and can't wait to experience another!

Miss Fox



'It was a great experience learning from a professional dancer who had trained at Urdang. I really enjoyed the style of musical theatre and learning a mixture of technique, choreography and performance. I left the session feeling really inspired, it was such a good insight into the dance industry.' –

Leia Page 9KE



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.



LRC News

Book Fest 2025 – Monday 24th February to Friday 7th March

Well done to Beau Sweetman 8FC and Ceci Clements 8AN, who both correctly identified 22 out of the 24 of the staff in our Who's behind the book? competition and won themselves an Easter egg each. Xanthe Silvey 9JN, Hannah Tomlins 9JN, Esme Goldbrom 8RC and Faye Holt 8FC all scored over 20 and won a small egg.



Readathon

Thank you to everyone who took part or donated to the Readathon. We raised £300 for Read for Good which goes towards providing free books and storytellers for children's hospitals in the UK. Well done to Florence Redfern 8ED and Freddie Browne 7KT who collected the most sponsorship. They will each be awarded a £5 book voucher. All students who made a donation have been awarded house points for compassion



Competition Winner



Well done to Samantha Mullinex 8RC who won a £10 voucher to spend at the Scholastic book fair this week for her magnificent Maleficent. Runners up prizes of £5 each went to Brendan Cooney 7KC, Harper Frey 8AN and Frank Singleton 7JH



John Gordon Reid Visit

On Friday 26th February John Gordon Reid from What on Earth! Magazine kept Year 7 and 8 students entertained with his 'We Made It!' presentation. The LRC was transformed into his stage which included a fabulous timeline showing when important discoveries were made and items invented. Students were asked to vote on whether inventors should be awarded an Oscar or a Wooden Spoon after thinking about both the positive and negative impact on the world of their creations.



It was funny as we had parts, unlike most visits where they just talk. This one we could join in, I was Isaac Newton where there was an apple that fell onto his head. It was so funny. Kaleb Wells 7KT



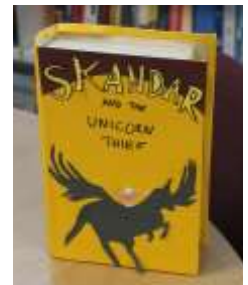
**Read
MORE
Scroll
LESS**



House Book Cover Competition



Congratulations to Miss Fogarty and her team from Mercury House who took first place in the staff book cover competition with their Harry Potter interpretation. Mars took second place with another Harry Potter creation followed by Neptune with their Skandar and the Unicorn Thief.





WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
6 MARCH 2025



LRC News

A small group of students have been reading the shortlist for the Older Readers category of the Children's Book Award. If any other students in Year 7, 8 or 9 are interested in voting in this award, please do come to speak to me. Students can choose to read either the younger readers or older readers shortlist of three books and vote for their winner. There will be a discussion morning at Beaumont School on Thursday 8th May so students have until then to finish reading the 3 books. The morning will include time for students to produce a creative response to one of the books which are then collated into a portfolio for each of the shortlisted authors and illustrators. This award, which is organised by the Federation of Children's Book Groups, is the only national award which is voted for entirely by young people so this is a wonderful opportunity for students to let their voices be heard.

Mrs Nixon



Year 9 Practical First Aid

As part of the PSCHÉ curriculum, some of our Year 9 students recently completed a practical first aid session, empowering them with life-saving skills and fostering a culture of safety and care. This initiative equips them to respond effectively in emergencies, promoting personal growth and community wellbeing.



Clubs

CROCHET & KNITTING CLUB - BEGINNERS WELCOME!

Friday Lunchtime - 1st floor - Fibonacci

BRING A BALL OF WOOL - LET'S GET STARTED

Mrs. Hale

If you have any unwanted wool, crochet hooks or knitting needles

- Please consider donating them to the new Friday Craft club
- We will be learning to Knit and Crochet and hope to inspire, as well as create a moment of tranquillity at Friday lunchtimes!

WE NEED YOUR

WOOL,

CROCHET HOOKS

AND

KNITTING

NEEDLES

UNUSED WOOL REHOMED!

Thank you from Mrs Hale!



Mrs Hale

CyberFirst Club

Wednesday

15:20 – 16:30

Year 7 and 8 girls

By invitation

Drama and Performing Arts News

This has been an **incredibly busy** term in the Drama and Performing Arts department, since returning to school after Christmas on the high of our Grease production we have completed; 4 theatre trips, 2 exam sessions, three performances and won a first place award. Thank you to everyone who has been a part of these projects or come along to support our students by watching one of the performances.

Theatre and performance foster creativity, confidence, and teamwork. It enhances communication skills, encourages self-expression, and builds empathy by allowing students to explore different perspectives.

Theatre trips are a great opportunity for students to experience live theatre and build their cultural capital.

Stranger Things

Up first was Stranger Things, The First Shadow at The Phoenix Theatre in London.

"I loved how they introduced some of the characters from the TV series and it was great to see their backstory",

"It was equally terrifying and exciting",

"The set, the acting, it was all brilliant".



Blood Brothers

Thirteen Year 11 students headed to the Waterside Theatre in Aylesbury to watch Blood Brothers, which is the set text for their GCSE Drama exam. One student explained how *"it will be incredibly useful in the exam to be able to remember what the actors did on stage"*, as well as helping them with their ideas for set and costume design.

Murder On The Orient Express



A change of pace with our visit to Milton Keynes Theatre to watch Agatha Christie's Murder On The Orient Express.

"The set was so clever, I loved how the train carriages moved around to show us inside the bunks and the corridor outside" - Marley Meads 11EM

"I was surprised by the ending as I wasn't thinking that would be the answer".

Welwyn Drama Festival

A new event on the Drama calendar, Welwyn Youth Drama Festival is a competition between local schools and youth theatre groups which culminates in a week-long festival of performances.

Marlborough entered the senior category with 'Shadows of the Stage' written by Mr Griggs. It was performed by our Drama Company students ranging from Year 7 to Year 13. Drama company is an audition only group intended to stretch and challenge our talented actors and provide them with experiences beyond the classroom.



The students' hard work paid off and they were awarded first place, winning the senior category of the festival.



The adjudicator Tristan Marshall from GoDA was very positive about the performance

"The curtains open and we see three clusters of moving hands backlit underneath white cloth then a sea of black masked figures with black blocks later brought on to sit on. Now that is how you open a play!",
"this was stylish with a capital S",

"what an ensemble, this is a really good ensemble play, a bravura exercise in imagination from a company that rose to every challenge, visually great, comedically fabulous, very well done Marlborough!".

There was individual success for the performance as well with Ayman Shelley 10PC being awarded an adjudicator medal for this comedic performance as Lucius.



"Everyone was so supportive, it was a great opportunity to perform on a proper stage and I learnt a lot about different acting styles" - Fay Samson 8HS



"It was great fun, and has made me more confident in performance and also in my lessons, and I have made friends in all year groups" - Olivia Lester 7CF

Continued on page 17

Claramae Collins 13RN and Luke Yon Year 13AD were also recognised by The National School Theatre Awards with nominations for their outstanding performances as Quies and Katherine.



"It taught me about working as a company in a more professional way" - **Tavor Lifshitz 8RC**

"I feel so grateful that I was able to be in Shadows as it taught me the values of teamwork and dedication as it was very ensemble based. I absolutely loved how we were working together as one team to create something spectacular and I feel so privileged to have been a part of it. It was an amazing experience which although was tough at times, especially being patient or being able to hold a still image for periods of time, it was all so worth it when we performed it at the Barn Theatre. It was absolutely fabulous."

- **Charlotte Raynes 10MO**



As winners of the festival the Company will perform their piece again as part of the main Welwyn Drama Festival which opens on 19th May at The Barn Theatre, Welwyn.



"Being a part of Shadows has been incredible as it was my first time performing in a proper theatre. I feel my acting skills have really improved, especially my comic timing and it was great to be a part of an ensemble piece where we all worked together." - **Ayman Shelley 10PC**

Year 9 Performance to Audience

This term the Year 9 Drama class have done a page to stage unit where they have brought a performance to life. The whole class worked together and were responsible for all aspects from casting to set and costume. For many students it was their first time performing in front of an audience and they were brilliant.

"I feel as if I have come out of my comfort zone and been more focused within the build up to the play and when I was doing the sound, I was proud of myself and all of us for what we achieved. Thank you." - **Sofia Williams 9HF**



"That was such a good feelings, I'm going for a bigger role next time" - **Shaf Phillips 9MT**



"This has been so much fun, I really enjoyed that we all worked together on the performance" - **Alexie May Miller 9KE**

World Theatre Day

The #SeizeTheDay movement for World Theatre Day celebrates the power of live performance and encourages artists, educators, and audiences to embrace theatre's impact. It inspires creativity, highlights storytelling's role in cultural expression, and urges people to support and participate in theatrical experiences that unite, educate, and empower communities worldwide.

This was our second year celebrating World Theatre Day on 27th March with a performing arts evening. Seventy Eight students from Year 7 to 13 took part showcasing their talents in Dance, Drama, Music and Gymnastics. Acts ranged from solo pieces to large ensemble performances. It is always a pleasure to see students working together across year groups.

The evening was truly a student-led event presented by Claramae Collins 13RN Luke Yon 13AD, Daisy Gill 13RN, Milo Sydenham 9AS and Clark Van Huet 9JN, Seamus-Vande-Puye 12JM and Guy Kusman 11VL provided the lighting for the show.



Continued on page 19

"Theatre Day was a fabulous opportunity for people with an array of talents to work together towards a common goal. After 7 years at Marlborough my last performance on Da Vinci stage was highly emotional for me, the connections you build through theatre are truly sacred and the fact we have a whole day to celebrate this means so much- Thank You!" -

Claramae Collins 13RN



"World Theatre was the most unforgettable time of my life. My experience was so supportive from the cast to the teachers. Everything behind and on stage was exciting because of fun environment of people, talking, reciting their show and singing. Everything is chaos but perfection. I sang solo on stage and am proud of this achievement." - **Sophie Ahern 10AK**



"I really liked the way that I felt on stage because it felt that I was achieving one of my dreams . It has helped me by having Miss Eastwood as my coach and she has really pushed me into doing gymnastics and now I love it. I am so happy !" - **Holly Lloyd 7CC**



"I was able to be the lighting designer and operator for World Theatre Day, and it was honestly one of the most fun things I've done! It was hard work to get the lighting to the quality I wanted for the show, but I enjoyed it all the same. A shout out to Mr Issacs for teaching me everything that I know!" - **Seamus Van-de-Puye 12JM**



Continued on page 20

"I absolutely loved being part of World Theatre Day as it was so awesome to be able to perform things I had been working on with groups in school and perform them to an audience and it was so cool watching so many talented individuals and groups perform. I loved how music, drama, and dance was combined as it gave everyone who liked performing arts the opportunity to perform what they love and I think it was so nice seeing people do what they enjoy on stage. It was brilliant!" -

Charlotte Raynes 10MO



&Juliet Trip

After such a busy term I can't think of a better way to end it than with a final theatre trip for the term. *&Juliet* is a vibrant jukebox musical that reimagines Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet*. Instead of tragedy, *Juliet* takes control of her destiny, featuring hit pop songs by Max Martin. The show blends humour, romance, and empowerment, celebrating second chances and self-discovery with electrifying performances.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in drama and Performing Arts this term, let's see what we can do in the Summer Term.

Mrs Griggs

Using ChatGPT and other AI Tools

A Guide for Students

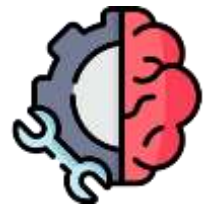
Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming an increasingly powerful tool for learning, and platforms like ChatGPT can help students with research, writing, and problem-solving. However, with great power comes great responsibility! While AI can be a fantastic resource, it's important to use it wisely and ethically. Here are some key tips to ensure you get the most out of AI while staying safe and responsible.



1. AI is a tool, not a replacement for thinking

AI can assist with ideas, explanations, and summaries, but it should never replace your own critical thinking. Don't just copy and paste answers—always read, understand, and evaluate the information before using it in your work.

💡 Tip: Use AI as a tutor to clarify concepts, not as a shortcut for assignments.



2. Fact-check everything

AI tools are trained on vast amounts of data, but they are not always accurate.

Sometimes, they make mistakes or provide outdated information. Always double-check facts from trusted sources, such as textbooks, academic websites, or your teachers.

💡 Tip: If something seems suspicious, verify it with another source before relying on it.



3. Avoid Plagiarism – Make It Your Own

Submitting AI-generated content as your own work is plagiarism, which can lead to serious academic consequences. If you use AI for inspiration, be sure to rewrite ideas in your own words and properly cite sources when needed.

💡 Tip: Think of AI as a brainstorming partner rather than a writing machine.



4. Protect Your Privacy

Never share personal information, passwords, or sensitive school details with AI tools. ChatGPT and other AI platforms do not store personal data, but it's always best to be cautious about what you input.

💡 Tip: Treat AI like a public space—keep your personal details private!



5. Use School-Approved AI Tools

Not all AI tools are appropriate for academic use. Some AI platforms might generate unreliable content or violate school policies. Always check with teachers or the IT department to see which AI tools are recommended and allowed for schoolwork.

💡 Tip: If you're unsure whether an AI tool is allowed, ask a teacher before using it.



Continued on page 22

6. Be ethical – use AI for learning, not cheating

Using AI to get ideas or explanations is fine, but using it to cheat on assignments, tests, or projects is not. AI should support your learning, not replace the effort needed to develop your own skills and knowledge.

Tip: If you wouldn't feel comfortable telling your teacher you used AI for something, you probably shouldn't use it for that!



7. Know AI's Limits

AI cannot understand emotions, provide personal advice, or make moral decisions. It also lacks real-world experience and can misinterpret context. Use AI as a helper, but always rely on teachers, experts, and your own judgment for important decisions.

Tip: If you need personal or academic guidance, talk to a teacher or counsellor instead of AI.



8. Stay Aware of Bias

AI learns from data created by humans, which means it can sometimes reflect biases. Be critical of the responses you receive and consider different perspectives before accepting information as fact.

Tip: Always think about whether the information you're getting is fair, balanced, and appropriate.



9. Use AI for Creativity and Learning

AI can be great for sparking creativity!

Try using it to help outline essays, generate study guides, brainstorm ideas or explain complex topics.

When used responsibly, AI can enhance your learning experience.

Tip: Ask AI to explain a concept in different ways to deepen your understanding.



Final Thoughts: Be Smart, Be Safe, Be Responsible

AI tools like ChatGPT can be incredibly helpful, but they should be used responsibly. Always fact-check information, protect your privacy, and use AI as a support for your learning—not as a way to avoid doing the work yourself. *Remember, you won't have AI to help you during an exam.* If you have any questions about using AI tools appropriately, reach out to your teachers or the IT department.

By using AI wisely, you can make the most of technology while becoming a responsible and independent learner. 🚀 📖

Need more guidance on using AI tools effectively? Visit the IT department or ask your teacher for recommendations!

Mr Sava

Save the Date



The Marlborough
Science Academy
Shaping Futures



Sunday 27th April
10:30am – 1pm

Pre – Loved Teen Clothes Sale

Pascal Hall, The Marlborough Science
Academy, Watling Street, St Albans,
Hertfordshire, AL1 2QA

We are inviting everyone in the St
Albans community to our Pre-Loved
Teen Clothing Sale !

Tickets will be available for £5 at the
gate. Each ticket grants access to
the event and can be exchanged
for 10 items of clothing at check
out. (Please note there is not
an item limit, and additional
items can be purchased.)
Free entry to under 10s.
Cash and card payments
accepted.

All proceeds from the day
will be going to the
charities Youth Talk and
the M store.



Save the Date

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

A colorful poster for MFestival. The word "M" is large and orange with a yellow outline, surrounded by musical notes, butterflies, and stars. Below it, "Festival" is written in a bold, red, rounded font. A red banner across the middle contains the text "SATURDAY 5TH JULY : 2PM - 10.45PM". Underneath, it says "BAND LINE-UP INCLUDES:" followed by four categories: "COMMON PEOPLE" with a photo of the band, "SIX GO MAD" with a logo, "SINEAD QUINN" with a photo of the artist, and "PUMP IT UP!" with a photo of a DJ. At the bottom, it says "FOR MORE INFO & TICKETS GO TO WWW.MFESTIVAL.CO.UK".

M
Festival
SATURDAY 5TH JULY : 2PM - 10.45PM
BAND LINE-UP INCLUDES:
COMMON PEOPLE SIX GO MAD SINEAD QUINN PUMP IT UP!
Common People GO MAD Sinead Quinn Pump It Up!
FOR MORE INFO & TICKETS GO TO WWW.MFESTIVAL.CO.UK

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

Support for Families











Click on the image to be taken to the Families First page for more information.

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



SCAN



Visit Hertfordshire's Families First website:-
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/familiesfirst

Support for Families

APRIL 2025 ACTIVITIES

SESSIONS FOR NEURODIVERGENT CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE AND SIBLINGS
BOOKINGS potentialkids.org.uk/events

POTENTIAL
KIDS

Date	Sessions 	Time
3rd Thu	Bushcraft/Stem Home Ed 4 + yrs	10.30-12.00
4th Fri	Welcome Space Community Drop-In	10.00-12.30
8th Tue	Easter Egg Hunt and cooking and crafts 4 + yrs	10.00-11.00
8th Tue	Easter Egg Hunt and cooking and crafts 4 + yrs	11.30-12.30
8th Tue	Donuts at Gosling Snow Centre 6 + yrs	14.00-15.00
10th Thu	Go Wild in the Forest at Hudnell Park 10-14 yrs	12.45-15.00
10th Thu	Trampolineing 5 + yrs	18.30-19.30
14th Mo	Pony Day 6-11 yrs	10.00-12.00
14th Mo	Pony Day 6-11 yrs	13.00-15.00
15th Tue	Donuts at Gosling Snow Centre 6 + yrs	14.00-15.00
16th We	Ninja Warrior Watford Exclusive session	19.00-20.00
17th Thu	Inflatables at Hatfield Leisure Centre	17.00-18.00
24th Thu	Bushcraft/Stem Home Ed 4 + yrs	10.30-12.00
24th Thu	Trampolineing 5 + yrs	17.20-18.30
25th Fri	Welcome Space Community Drop-In	10.00-12.00
25th Fri	Therapeutic Gardening Home Ed Group 8 + yrs	12.30-14.00
25th Fri	Skateboarding 10 + yrs	17.30-18.30
25th Fri	Youth Group 16 + yrs	18.30-20.30
26th Sat	Free Family Football Drop-In Birchwood	16.00-17.00

PK Hub & Garden



Therapeutic Gardening
1:1 & Group Sessions.
Volunteers Needed



Danecroft Stables



Pony Days

OUR OFFER

Sports & Social
Activities
Tutoring
Mentoring
Therapies
1:1 & Group Work
Alternative
Provision Provider
EOTAS

Communication,
Learning & Social
Support for All



Visit us here



For further information on any of our Activities or Educational Services please email us at info@potentialkids.org

the galeria

CCN



COMMUNITY FUND



Parents and Carers talk about self-harm and recovery

Please join us at an information session to learn more about self-harm and get practical ideas and strategies to help your child towards recovery

Our guest speaker will be a clinician who works at *HPFT CAMHS

Where: Online over Zoom.

When: Tuesday 6th May, 7pm to 9pm

* Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

For more information or to book your place:
Call: 01992 58 69 69
Email: contact@carersinherts.org.uk
Go online: www.carersinherts.org.uk/events



About Carers in Hertfordshire

We are a charity that provides information, advice and support to unpaid carers - people looking after a partner, relative or friend, who is ill, elderly, has a physical or learning disability, or misuses substances.

We support carers of all ages - young people and adults - living, working or caring in Hertfordshire. Our services are free to carers and bereaved carers, who can access support for three years after the death of the person they looked after.

We provide services to carers to help them with their caring role or have a break from caring, to improve their health and wellbeing, and to have a voice in shaping health and community services.

We are partly funded by Hertfordshire County Council and the NHS in Hertfordshire. In partnership with them and other local organisations we work to ensure unpaid carers are identified, informed, supported and heard.

Carers in Hertfordshire

The Red House, 119 Fore Street, Hertford, Herts, SG14 1AX.
Tel: 01992 58 69 69 Email: contact@carersinherts.org.uk
www.carersinherts.org.uk

Our support for parents and carers

We have a team of Carer Engagement Workers who can provide advice and information and also support you to speak up.

We also:

- Give you a chance to meet and talk to other parents, carers and staff who understand;
- Give you the opportunity to represent your views to the authorities that commission and manage Children and Young People's Mental Health Services (CYPMHS) in Hertfordshire;
- Provide free training and learning opportunities; and
- Offer a Carers' Passport Discount Card that gives savings in shops, restaurants and other venues (contact us to apply for one today!)



Click on the image to see a larger version.

St Albans Community Bank

St Albans Community Bank has been in operation for more than twenty years and we have helped many local people with loans and savings. The “High Street Banks” usually provide loans of several thousand Pounds but we concentrate on loans, from £500 upwards, that are of value to most people and families. For example, if someone without much in the way of savings needs £500 or £1000 for an emergency purchase, repair, bill or holiday they cannot get that from a large bank but have the opportunity of applying for a loan from a Community Bank.

In providing this financial support we can help people to cope with unexpected expenses. We can also help to prevent people from relying on long term credit card loans, bank overdrafts or becoming prey to expensive doorstep lenders.

Our money comes from our Members; local people like you, who save with us and are happy that the money can be used to provide loans to others in their local community. We have both adult and junior savings accounts, protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

Our Members own the Community Bank and we are a “not for profit” organisation. We are run by unpaid volunteers, which keeps our costs down, and we are supervised by the UK’s financial services regulators.

Our loans can be repaid over various lengths of time, to help make them affordable. Some loans can be repaid using child benefit payments.

To find out more, to apply to be a Member or request a loan, visit us at www.stalbanscommunitybank.co.uk



**AFFORDABLE
LOANS**

**SAFE
SAVINGS**

Find out more
www.stalbanscommunitybank.co.uk

**St Albans
Community Bank**

Tel: 01727 859135

**For people
in Herts**



Support for Young People

Hertfordshire Mind Network offer support for mental health and emotional wellbeing for young people through their website withyouth.org This includes online support, group sessions, drop-ins, and counselling for children and young people in Hertfordshire.

The group offers drop in sessions at their [Haven Cafes](#) in Watford, Hemel Hempstead and Ware and has an instant messaging service from 2pm to 10pm every day (except Bank Holidays) if you just need to talk.



Click on the image to be taken to the website for more information

A flyer for 'DSPL7 Delivering Special Provision Locally' titled 'Parenting Support Summer term 2025'. It features a central graphic of various family silhouettes in shades of blue and green. The text at the bottom identifies the service as 'DSPL7 St Albans District, Harpenden and Villages Redbourn, Wheathampstead and Kimpton'.

£85 per Term
Starting in April



CHILDS HILL GYMNASTIC CLUB CLASSES

Beginners class:

Ages 6 and up

WEDNESDAYS – 5.30 – 6.30pm

EMAIL for information –

Childshillgymnasticclub@gmail.com

Venue –
William Harvey sports complex
Marlborough Science Academy
Watling Street
St Albans
AL12QA

CHECK US OUT ON INSTAGRAM

[@childshillgymnasticclub](https://www.instagram.com/childshillgymnasticclub)



For improvers or experienced gymnasts
who would like to do more tumbling or
arco and join the clubs display team

please email for details:

Childshillgymnasticclub@gmail.com



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 or call 07941829187



MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY

Marlborough Science Academy
Mondays 28th April - 14th July
3:30 - 4:30pm
£11 per session

Please email or WhatsApp us using the details below to get your child's place secured for the Summer Term!

Endorsed by the Drama Department at Marlborough

07982 513 590 | danny@sasa-arts.co.uk | www.sasa-arts.co.uk

BARRACUDAS ACTIVITY DAY 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!

HIGHLY RATED School Holiday Camps!!!



OFSTED REGISTERED

barracudas.co.uk
01480 467 567





Hertfordshire County Council Services for Young People

HOLIDAY ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

Harpenden Young People's Centre
27 High Street Harpenden
AL5 2RU

Join us this Easter
Monday 7 April to
Thursday 10 April 2025
2pm-6pm each day



For young people aged 12-16

Priority booking for those eligible for
benefits-related free school meals

- Fun physical activities such as sports, dance and team games
- Creative activities such as music production, cooking, arts and crafts.
- Informal healthy lifestyles workshops
- Meet and socialise with other young people
- Free healthy food every day

Contact
SFYP St Albans Team to sign up.

Area Service Manager: Karen Haswell
Youth Work Practice Manager: Robert Brown

Tel: 01442 454060 Text: 07860 065195
sfyp.stalbans@hertfordshire.gov.uk
www.servicesforyoungpeople.org
X   @HCCSYYP



Services for
Young People



at



St George's School

**ACTIVATE YOUR
2025 CAMPS!**



**THE CRICKET
ACADEMY**



7-11 Apr
11-15 Aug

**NETBALL
FEVER**



4-6 Aug

**STAR
PERFORMERS**



11-13 Aug

**LET'S
COOK**



28-30 Jul
18-20 Aug

**ULTIMATE
LACROSSE**



18-20 Aug

BOOK EARLY AND SAVE | CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED



Minerva Mill, Station Road,
Alcester,
B49 5ET

0121 227 4385

Info@we-activate.co.uk

Community News



ALL DISABILITIES WELCOME

AGES 8-16

FREE INCLUSIVE CRICKET SESSIONS

GET ACTIVE AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS!

WHEN

EVERY SUNDAY
910am-11am

STARTING 8th JUNE
2025

KINGS LANGLEY HUB

KINGS LANGLEY CC
VICARAGE LANE
KINGS LANGLEY
WD49HR



CONTACT:

 **LUKE HESKETT**

 **078943187560**

 **LUKE.HESKETT@HERTSCRICKET.ORG**



LORD'S TAVERNERS
Empowering young people through cricket

www.lordstaverners.org/super1s
Registered Charity No. 306054 | OSCR No. 5CO46238

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

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