



Marlborough News

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18th July 2025 Issue #145



The Marlborough
Science Academy



16th July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Another newsletter and another end of an academic year that, as always, has been filled with many successes, surprises and of course the odd bump or two.

As is customary this time of year we bid farewell to a number of teachers who are either retiring, off to take promoted posts or to embark on new journeys.

To start I would like to thank Cerys Wernham, Libby Key and Ben Jackson. All past students, they have spent their "gap" year here at Marlborough supporting other students and deciding on the next chapter of their journey. Cerys is off to explore new horizons and we wish Libby and Ben, two of the most delightful students every best wish for future happiness and success.

Miss Culp, Ms. Conwell, Mr. Nicholls and Mrs. Fonte-Castro have been with us for an academic year and between them are either returning to the USA, starting in new settings or moving to a new school, we thank them for all their hard work and as you would expect wish them every success in their new posts.

Mrs. Short is retiring from teaching and has many exciting plans ahead – thank you for all she brought to the MFL faculty. Many thanks to Mrs. Smead, Textiles, who is off to pastures new, we thank her for the enthusiasm she brought to Textiles and wish her every good wish for the future.

Mr. Lewis, Film teacher extraordinaire is retiring and we shall miss him, a "one-off", there isn't much he doesn't know about cultural influencers and I have always enjoyed my exchanges with him as I know many students did, I would have loved to have studied in his classes.

Ms. McLaughlin in Maths is heading off to be Head of Maths in Queen Elizabeth School, she too will be much missed, not just for all she brought to maths and the team but for leading Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, sometimes in the grimmest of weather.

We bid farewell to Mr. Rutherford who I have known now for over 30 years in various guises, he is going to Parmiters to be Head of Computer Studies, his skills and wisdom will be missed as well as the contributions he has made over the years as we grappled with various technologies.

The legendary Mrs. Cuell is retiring after 25 years of loyal and unstinting service. Mrs. Cuell has always impressed, no child ever got left behind, every class was the best class ever and nothing was ever too much trouble if it meant a student could join in and be successful in a lesson. She was a fabulous Head of Year, travelled to Mongolia with World Challenge and there wasn't a pantomime or event that she didn't engage in with enthusiasm and "joie de vivre", she will be much missed but we know she will be taking on many new adventures. Retiring too with Mrs. Cuell is Mrs. Gargrave who is our multi-talented Food Technician. Many is the time I have been grateful for Mrs. Gargrave's calm and reassuring presence in any class I have taught and equally as grateful when she has had to tidy up after me. Highly skilled, talented and valued, she too will be much missed.

Our new staff are all available on the website for you to meet (virtually at least). I am delighted with our new recruits and know that despite a recruitment crisis, our Ofsted report and reputation have stood us in good stead. I know your children will give them all a great welcome, teachers change lives and are deserving of our appreciation, thank you.

As always, we have had an extraordinarily busy year with some amazing successes. Mrs. Lepley does such an amazing job updating our socials, it seems mad to go through old news but to have a Wimbledon champion as part of our alumni has brought us great joy. Our awards ceremony on Monday night was fabulous and it was lovely to welcome back ex students from their current universities, lots of tears (nice ones) and photographs taken, they all do grow up and it seems to be happening more and more quickly.

I want to thank Seamus Van-Der-Puye 12JM in this newsletter for all that he does to support our school. I want to thank Mrs. Francis who did a fabulous job organising the "M" Fest. I want to thank Mrs. Voisey and all the brilliant parents who have started a "Go Fund Me" page to help us replace our stolen minibus. We have however taken this post down as sadly it has attracted some negativity. Please be assured that insurance will not cover the cost of a new minibus, but we will look to another method. I want to thank the site team who work like trojans every day and of course the staff who, come hell or high water do their utmost to enable students to fly and discover who they are. Thank you too must go to your children; they continue to make me smile, they are warm, funny, curious and in the main on side. Mistakes are made, of course they are, but our Values hold us together and for that I am grateful. So from all the staff, our Chair of Governors Mrs. Walker Smith and of course my Senior Leadership Team, I wish you all a kind break.

Take care,



Ms. A Thomson

Headteacher



From our Socials



Our fabulous Year 11s had a fantastic time at their summer ball. Held at Hunton Park hotel on the 27th June, our students looked brilliant and behaved really well. Lots of fun had by all!

To see more photos, please view our website gallery [here](#)



Congratulations to Mars House for winning a very close fought competition. Neptune won the Year 7 shield, Mars the Year 8 shield, Saturn the Year 9 shield and Mercury won the Year 10 shield. Congratulations everyone!



Ex Student Oliver Tarvett Qualifies for Wimbledon

The whole school was behind former student Oliver Tarvett as he competed at this years Wimbledon Championships at just 21 years old. Ollie was the first British man since 2017 to come through the qualifying rounds to earn a place in the main draw and was ranked 733 in the world. He advanced to the second round with a fantastic straight sets victory over Leandro Riedi, however world number 2 Carlos Alcaraz proved too much of a challenge for Ollie, who has been playing collegiate tennis at the University of San Diego. We are all incredibly proud of Ollie's achievement and were delighted to see him at the M Festival. You can see articles about Ollie on the front page of St Albans Times issue 128 [here](#) and on page 34-35 of issue 129 [here](#) which includes quotes from our head of PE Mr Packard.



M Festival

Once again the M Festival was a great success despite cloudy skies and a few showers. Thank you to everyone who supported the event, whether as volunteers or by attending. You can read more about it in the St Albans Times on page 24-25 of issue 128 [here](#)



Year 8 Paris Adventure – A Trip to Remember!

During the May half term break, 56 Year 8 students and six members of staff set off on an unforgettable five-day adventure to Paris. Departing on the morning of May 27th, the group left Great Britain full of excitement, bound for France.

Day 1 and the journey began with a coach trip to Dover, where we boarded the ferry and crossed the Channel to Calais. From there, we travelled south, making an important stop at Vimy Ridge to visit the World War I memorial. After some time for reflection, we continued our journey to the French capital, Paris.



Day 2 was a whirlwind of iconic sights. We started with a tour of the city's famous landmarks – from the impressive Arc de Triomphe to a walk down the Champs-Élysées. We enjoyed lunch beneath the Eiffel Tower before relaxing on a scenic boat cruise along the River Seine. In the afternoon, students climbed the steps to the beautiful Sacré-Cœur and explored the charming streets of



Montmartre, taking in the stunning views over the Paris skyline. It was a full and unforgettable day.



Day 3 saw us leave the capital behind for a visit to the medieval town of Provins. Students climbed the historic César Tower, walked along the city walls, and took part in an entertaining game devised by Mr Henshall and Mr Griggs. The day ended with a spectacular show, *La Légende des Chevaliers*, where students cheered on their favourite knights in a thrilling display of jousting and storytelling.



Continued on page 4

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Day 4 brought the excitement everyone had been waiting for – **Disneyland Paris!** The coach journey was filled with joy as Maya Gomez and Lexy Willingham led a Disney sing-along to get us in the mood. From the thrills of Space Mountain and Tower of Terror to the magic of meeting favourite characters, it was a day full of fun and laughter. Staff and students alike made the most of this enchanting experience, with smiles all around.



On **Day 5**, it was time to say goodbye to France. As we journeyed home, tired but happy, we reflected on all the incredible memories made – from historic sites and cultural treasures to theme park thrills and group adventures.

It truly was a trip to remember, filled with friendship, fun, and unforgettable moments. A huge thank you to all the staff who made it possible, and to the students for their enthusiasm and fantastic behaviour throughout.



Mrs Jubb

Update on 601 Bus Service Changes

We are pleased to share some news regarding the withdrawal of the UNO 601 bus service. The following updates have been received from Cllr Hilton (St Stephen's ward) and UNO:

...HCC has made arrangements for the 361 and 362 bus routes to divert past Park Street Station and How Wood shops to serve this area.

UNO have provided the following information regarding customers based in Borehamwood:

In Borehamwood customers travelling between Ripon Road and the town centre can use TfL route 292, from Borehamwood to St Albans customers can use Hertfordshire County Council tendered route 361 that operates hourly Monday to Saturday. All of these timetables can be found on the intalink website [here](#).



Farewell Steph

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of one of the site team after a short but courageous battle against cancer. Stephane Port was seen out every day looking after the grounds and making sure the school was the best it could be. He was involved in the school cadet corps and was always available to help anyone who asked for it. He will be deeply missed. What may not be known was that he was an international hockey player and so a charity hockey match is being arranged for September in his memory by his hockey club, which will be a wonderful way to remember him.



The Site Team completed the Race for Life in memory of Steph on Sunday 13th July. Donations to cancer research can still be made on the following link: <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/team/chris-and-vickis-team>

Mr Paice

Sustainable Marlborough

We are pleased to announce that The Marlborough Science Academy Eco-Committee have been successful in their application and have achieved an Eco-Schools Green Flag Award with Distinction for the 2024-2025 academic year!

A massive well done to everyone who got involved in eco activities this year, thank you for making our school a more sustainable place to live and learn.

Now it's time to look forward to a new year and a new Eco-Committee to continue our Green-Flag journey. If you are a lover of all things eco or go wild for nature, consider joining the Marlborough Science Academy Eco-Committee! More details of how to sign up will be coming in the new year.

Miss Broad



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

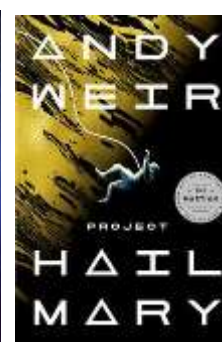
The top ten readers this year are:

1. George Zhang 8RC — 7,413,644 words read
2. Samantha Mullinex 8RC— 3,418,612 words read
3. Eve Kilcast 8AS — 1,944,102 words read
4. Lucian Clements 8AN— 1,512,768 words read
5. Ali Reed— 1,273,138 words read
6. Esme Goldbrom 8RC— 1,211,301 words read
7. Frank Singeton 7JH – 1,072,177 words read
8. Elaina Ridolfi 8RC – 1,025,421 words read
9. Faye Holt 8FC— 933,187 words read
10. Erin Cukaj 7KC — 923,606 words read



Staff Book Club

Our Summer reads for staff book club are *The Quiet at the End of the World* by Lauren James and *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir. Both books are science fiction, the first is written for teenagers and the second for adults, both exploring the threat of extinction of the human race.



Student Achievement

On Saturday 6th June Marlborough took part in the annual Hertfordshire Schools Athletics Championships at Jarman Park. There were some excellent individual performances from our students but all were a credit to the school.

In the 6th form category Seamus Van-Der-Puye 12JM was 2nd in the Shot Put winning silver medal. He also finished 5th in the Discus with a personal best throw.



In the Year 10/11 age group Ethan Ogilvie 11VL won the hurdles event. Henry Schmidt 10MK finished 7th fastest in qualification and made the final of the 100m where he also finished 7th – an excellent result against boys a year older.

Mio Evans 11EM finished 9th best qualifier for the 300m and missed out on the final by one place.

Poppy Neil 11EM finished 13th fastest qualifier in the heats.

James Spicer-Thornton 11EM finished 7th in the 800m



In the Year 8/9 age group Freya McGowan 9VB was runner up in the High Jump and won the silver medal. She also finished 6th in the 200m final.



George Harris-Rogers 8GJ finished 4th in the discus final missing out on a medal by 14cms

Charlotte Swinton 8HS finished 7th in the discus final and 8th in the 1500m final.

Kade White 9PA qualified for the final as 7th fastest in the hurdles heats. He raced brilliantly in the final to finish 4th and miss out on a medal by 5/100ths of a second.

Following his success at the Hertfordshire Schools Championships on Saturday 6th June where he won the 100m hurdles, Ethan Ogilvie 11VL was selected to be part of the Hertfordshire School's team at the National Championships. The event took place on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th July in Birmingham and Ethan performed well in his heat only narrowly missing out on making the final by 1/100th of a second.

However, he placed 9th in England and achieved a new personal best of 13.45 seconds which is recognised as National Top 10 UK Target. We are all incredibly proud of Ethan's achievements.

Mr Packard



Careers in Languages Presentation

On Wednesday, 25th June, as part of our careers programme, the MFL Department invited three linguists into our school to talk to Year 10 students about their life-long career and professional experience.

Our Head of Department, Kevin Henshall, hosted the session, introducing the speakers and sharing his own experience with learning languages, sitting GCSE exams and developing his career as a language professional.

The first speaker, Phil Muriel, joined us remotely. Phil is a Chartered Linguist, award winning French/English Interpreter and Translator, Tutor, and Lecturer.

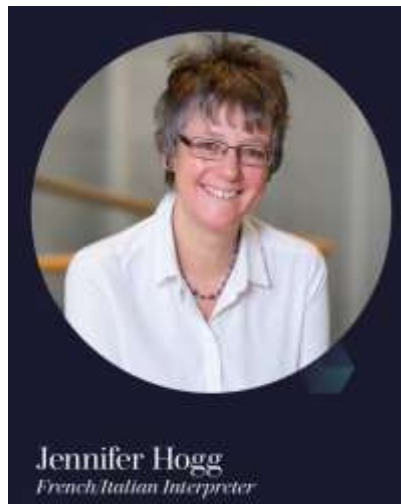
He shared with our students his early work experience and talked about his training and education, alongside the differences between being bilingual and working as an interpreter.

We then listened to Jennifer Hogg, Conference Interpreter from French and Italian, Interpreter Trainer, Tutor and Quality Assessor to postgraduate level. Jennifer talked about how fast our world is changing: in April research was published showing



that the language industry is now recruiting people 50% for their tech skills and thus only 50% for their language skills. This was very informative for linguists who like tech, highlighting the future opportunities opening in this field.

Our third speaker, Laura Pistininzi, is a Conference and Court Interpreter and Translator in English-Italian and German-Italian. Laura focussed on the importance of academic and professional qualifications and CPD courses - a subject she particularly takes to heart. The pupils were given examples on how to take the first steps into the profession, heard about the importance of the ability to be versatile and finally the importance of being humble.



The feedback offered by pupils highlighted that they enjoyed learning about the many opportunities and career paths languages can open, and the difference between a translator and an interpreter. They appreciated that the linguists offered their time to share their experiences and offer an insight into the world in professional interpreting.



We are very grateful to all those involved for their ongoing support and crucial contribution in organising these sessions highlighting the importance of languages in the labour market.

M. Pierseca



"I learned how translating is useful for everyday life. I liked the charisma of the speakers." **Adem Hystuna 10LO**

"I learnt about how tough interpreting can be and I enjoyed some of the participation elements of the talk." **Ayman Shelley 10PC**

"I found out that you can be a translator in a court." **Rosie Fitzpatrick 10MO**

"I learned about the large number of career opportunities surrounding languages and I liked Phil's jokes and charisma." **Libby Blackstaffe 10AD**

"Learning a language can benefit you in many ways" **Mollie Page 10MK**

"I learnt that there are a lot more careers with languages than I thought there were." **Juliette Paice 10RH**



"Interpreters travel to places like football stadiums too." **Clarice Sykes 10MO**

"I learned more about the certain skills needed to be an interpreter and what qualifications are needed." **Charlotte Raynes 10MO**

"I enjoyed learning about the different things that learning more languages can help me do, especially since I am bilingual." **Arbel Lifshitz 10MO**

"Interpreting is cool." **Spike Taylor-Pugh 10LO**

"My favourite thing was handing the flowers personally to the guests." **Sophia Creanga 10MK**

"I liked getting to see and hear from pros in the field." **Dylan Cragg 10PC**



LRC News

On Thursday 19th June 6 Year 8 students who have been shadowing the Carnegie Medal for Writing joined students from Loreto College at Beaumont School for a discussion morning. After spending time discussing the eight shortlisted books, students cast their vote for their winner. The favourite among the students was Glasgow Boys by Margaret McDonald which was later announced as the winner of the medal for writing. King of Nothing by Nathanael Lessor was named as the Shadowers' Choice at the ceremony which we watched on live stream while enjoying pizza and cupcakes.



Mrs Nixon



May I remind all parents/carers that there is NO routine dropping off and picking up from school of the students at the start and end of the school day. Only those with special dispensation can come into the school at these times to drop off/collect their child. Those allowed to do this are provided with a pass, which should be shown to the site agent on the gate.

This is for the safety and security of all the students at school.

Thank your assistance in this matter.

Mr Paice

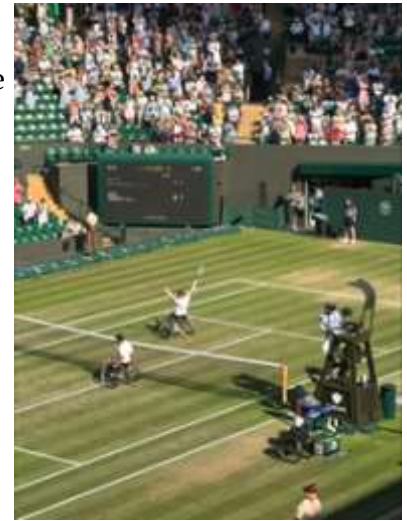


Marlborough Students Enjoy a Memorable Day at Wimbledon

On Friday 11th July, eight lucky Marlborough students enjoyed an unforgettable trip to the world's most famous tennis tournament – Wimbledon.

Accompanied by Mr Hodge and Mrs Blackburn, the group had the rare opportunity to experience top-class tennis on Court 1.

With the sun blazing down, the group were especially grateful that their seats were in the shade – the perfect spot to enjoy the action without melting in the heat. The day's schedule didn't disappoint: students were treated to both of the Women's Doubles semi-finals, with one of the pairs being last year's defending champions, showcasing their incredible skill and teamwork.



The group also witnessed an inspiring Men's Wheelchair Singles match featuring Britain's very



own Alfie Hewett, the defending champion and current GB No.1. His athleticism and determination on court were a highlight of the day. For one student, the experience became even more special when they managed to get Alfie Hewett's signature after the match – a treasured souvenir from a truly memorable day.



The trip was a fantastic opportunity for students to

see world-class tennis up close and soak up the unique atmosphere of Wimbledon.



Mr Hodge



 Marlborough Science Academy

Marlborough is a NUT FREE school

To ensure the safety and well-being of all our students, our school maintains a nut-free policy. Please avoid sending any food items containing nuts or traces of nuts to school. This helps protect those with severe nut allergies and creates a safe learning environment for everyone.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

NUT FREE






Marlborough House Tennis Tournament Serves Up Success




On Tuesday 24th June, Marlborough School held its first-ever House Tennis Tournament—and it was a smash hit! A total of 30 students from Years 7 to 10 took to the courts in a vibrant display of talent, energy, and school spirit.

The sun shone down as players battled it out in friendly competition, representing their Houses: Neptune, Mercury, Mars, and Saturn. It was fantastic to see not only some excellent tennis skills on show but also genuine sportsmanship, teamwork, and encouragement among students across all year groups.



Year 7 saw a full turnout, with all four Houses competing fiercely. Neptune came out on top, showcasing some clinical shots which proved to be too strong. Mercury followed closely behind in second place, with Mars securing third and Saturn taking fourth. Notable mention to George Arnold 7RL and Archie Kelly 7RL.

1st – Neptune 
2nd – Mercury 
3rd – Mars 
4th – Saturn 

In **Year 8**, Mars dominated the court to claim first place, with strong performances from their players, well done to Isaac Stirrat 8AR and Jack Berriman 8AR. Neptune and Mercury finished second and third respectively, while Saturn unfortunately had no entries.

1st – Mars 
2nd – Neptune 
3rd – Mercury 

Year 9 featured a tighter competition with fewer Houses represented. Neptune's players triumphed with excellent shot placement and communication, taking the gold. Well done to James Pope 9AS and Olly Roebuck 9AS. Mercury followed in second, while Mars and Saturn did not field entries.

1st – Neptune 
2nd – Mercury 

Finally, **Year 10** saw Mars take another win, powered by confident serves and quick rallies. Neptune once again earned a solid second place, rounding off a successful tournament for their House. Mercury and Saturn did not participate at this level. A great level of tennis was shown by Jack Hawkins 10RH for Mars and Arbel Lipshitz 10MO for Neptune.

1st – Mars 
2nd – Neptune 

We look forward to making the Marlborough House Tennis Tournament an annual tradition.

Mr Hodge



Hertfordshire School Games Celebration

On Friday 4th July four of our Year 7 students and two of our Year 10 sports leaders took part in Hertfordshire School Games Celebration day at Oaklands College. Our students participated in a variety of different inclusive activities along with three students from Killigrew Primary School who will be starting Marlborough as Year 7's in September. One of the activities included a karate session led by the inspirational Jordan Thomas who is a British Karate World Champion! The students also met the fantastic Harry Leslie Aikines-Aretey, a former British sprinter also known as 'Nitro' in the BBC sports competition series Gladiators.



Our Year 7 students Ollie Golds 7FC, Daniel Green 7CC, Charlotte Stuckey 7CC and Areeya Catherwood 7FC were fantastic role models for the Year 6 students, showing amazing teamwork and leadership skills whilst giving advice and answering questions about life at Marlborough. Our two Year 10 sports leaders, Sloane Peters 10MO and Henry Schmidt 10MK, helped and took part in the activities, always being supportive, encouraging and inspiring to the other students. Thank you for being excellent ambassadors and for finishing the day by being awarded the Respect relay baton! Thank you to all of the School Games Organisers and the activity leaders for providing such a fantastic opportunity for the students.



Miss Fox



Sun's Out, Sustainability's In: We're Warming Up to Change!

This half term, our Year 9 King's Trust students have been exploring global citizenship and the role they can play in promoting environmental sustainability.



From participating in the **World's Largest Lesson** - which introduced them to the UN Global Goals - to evaluating which economically sustainable businesses they would support as hypothetical investors, students have developed a well-rounded understanding of global environmental challenges.

Building on this learning, students have launched their own sustainability initiative: supporting biodiversity in an internal courtyard on our school site. After surveying the space, they planned the following eco-friendly enhancements:

1. **Clear out the unused planters and sow pollinator-friendly plants** to attract bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects.
2. **Create wildflower beds** around the garden's edge, covering them with bark mulch to help the soil retain moisture and reduce water use. Utilise the existing, unused water butt to provide eco-friendly, rainwater for watering.
3. **Build a bug hotel** using recycled and existing materials to create habitats for insects.
4. **Prepare bird feeders** to support local wildlife during the winter months.



As part of their commitment to sustainability, students are reusing as many on-site materials as possible. This week, they repurposed bark from a recently felled tree, transporting it to the courtyard to cover the newly created beds.

The students are excited to continue developing the space in the coming months - and are already planning to share their learning and experience with the year group below, helping to ensure the long-term sustainability of their project.



Miss Bassett



Drama Department: 2024/25 A Year to Remember!

We know school is about more than classroom lessons, in Drama we aim to provide opportunities for our students to extend their knowledge and skills beyond their lessons through trips, extra curricular activities and performances, and this year has been a busy one.

September kicked off with a bang when our Year 9–11 Drama Company performed *Murder Most Marlborough* at Open Evening. Families followed a trail of performances around the school, cleverly linked with science who explored the forensic evidence left by our characters, an immersive experience that set the tone for an exciting year ahead.



Open evening Murder Mystery

November saw Year 10 sharpen their skills with the Splendid Theatre workshop, perfect preparation for their devising coursework. Meanwhile, our Year 12 and 13 students enjoyed a variety of Q&A sessions with inspiring professionals from the performing arts world



Clara chairing the Tedx Talk

— including casting directors, lighting technicians, and BBC radio experts. Big thanks to Bobbie Chatt, Phoebe Shergold-Willis, Simon Nicholas, Rebecca Warrack, and Sonia Beldom for sharing their insights. And shoutout to Claramae Collins 13RN, who interviewed the panel for a TEDx St Albans talk on 'Empowering Young People Through Creativity'. If any Marlborough friends or family work in the performing arts or know someone who may be willing to give up an hour or two to chat to our students Mrs Griggs would love to hear from you!

December was showtime with our whole-school production of *Grease*. 63 students from Years 7 to 13 lit up the stage and backstage with their hard work and energy, earning glowing reviews from the National School Theatre Awards. Special congratulations to Claramae Collins 13RN, Daisy Gill 13RN, Sam Henshall 11AP, and Matilda Goldbrom 10MO on their well-deserved nominations!



Grease



Grease cast with their nomination certificates



In 2025, our theatre adventures continued with thrilling trips to see Stranger Things: The First Shadow in London and Murder on the Orient Express at Milton Keynes Theatre. Two great shows which really inspired the students.



Stranger Things trip



Murder on the Orient Express trip

March was Welwyn Youth Drama Festival: our Drama

Company wowed the Welwyn Youth Drama Festival with Mr Griggs' original play 'Shadows of the Stage', taking home

the 1st place trophy and receiving great feedback from adjudicator Tristan Marshall. The cast also received another 4 nominations for the National School Theatre Awards, for best play, best ensemble and best actor and actress nominations for Claramae Collins 13RN and



Shadows of the stage cast with their trophy



Shadows of the Stage



Clara and Luke with their nomination certificates

Luke Yon 13AD.

March is always busy with our annual World Theatre Day performing arts evening, joining forces with Dance, Music, and Gymnastics to showcase our students' incredible talents.

World Theatre Day



Our Year 9 GCSE students took to the stage for their 'Page to Stage' project, with many students performing for the first time. The performance was a huge success that boosted confidence and gave students a look into the process of putting on a show as they created the set and decided

on costumes themselves.



Year 9 Page to Stage Performance



& Juliet Trip

Just before the Easter break we enjoyed another brilliant theatre trip to Milton Keynes for & Juliet, a fresh and fun take on Romeo and Juliet.

In **May** our *Shadows* cast were back at The Barn Theatre to open the main Welwyn Drama Festival.



Shadows Of The Stage

In **June** we announced our 2025 main school production and held auditions. Marlborough's first original musical 'A Christmas Carol Belle Evercroft' is a new take on Scrooge's story.



June also saw drama scholars mastering stage combat with a fabulous workshop hosted by Squire Stage Combat, complete with sword fighting and hand-to-hand techniques!

Scholars Stage Combat Workshop



Our first-ever **Drama Club Showcase** was an all-student-led project, brilliantly devised and directed by Claramae Collins 13RN and Luke Yon 13AD, with technical support from Seamus Van-Der-Puye 12JM, Owen Dorrington 13AD, and Isla Collins 10LO. 'The Lost Illusions' explored dreams through a series of captivating scenes performed by Drama Club students from Years 7–10.



Drama Club Showcase

The year culminated in the prestigious National School Theatre Awards at London's West End, an evening of performances and awards with our nominees. Claramae Collins 13RN won the Kavanagh Award for outstanding contribution to school drama, truly well-deserved.

Clara with her Outstanding Contribution award



National School Theatre Awards



Year 7 and 8 Drama Award winners

Finally July, all Year 7 classes performed their work based on our school Big Read 'Mohinder's War' by Bali Rai to a small audience as a great way to apply their learning from this year. We wrapped up the year with our Year 10 students taking their Grade 5 Acting LAMDA exams. Best of luck to everyone, results will be released in the summer!



Year 7 Big Read production



Big Read design winners

What a fab year it's been, full of creativity, achievement, and unforgettable moments. We can't wait to see what our brilliant students will do next. Have a wonderful summer.

Mrs Griggs



This Week's Quote of the Week

" Excellence is not a singular act but a habit. You are what you do repeatedly"

(Shaquille O'Neal)

Word of the Week

allegiance: noun—loyalty or commitment to a superior or to a group or cause.

Value of the Week



Dance Workshop with ex student Amy Narramore

On Monday 7th July we were lucky enough to have the lovely Amy Narramore come in to deliver two dance sessions for our students. Amy is an ex student at Marlborough and has been studying at Urdang in London for the past 5 years. She has just graduated with a First Class honours degree in Professional Dance and Musical Theatre, an amazing achievement!



The first session Amy led was an open audition to be a part of our new Dance Company starting in September. Amy taught a challenging contemporary piece to 40 of our students from Years 7-11. The talent shown in the session was of such a high standard, the students really stepped up to the challenge showing excellent performance skills, endeavour and courage. Well done to all of the students involved.

The second session was a commercial class for some of our GCSE Dance students and Gifted and Talented Dance students. With Amy doing GCSE Dance here at Marlborough it was a great opportunity for our students to ask questions about further education and careers in dance.

Amy, as she always was when here at Marlborough, was so inspiring and such a role model to our students. Thank you so much for coming in to deliver the sessions, we hope to have you back again!

Well done to all of the students who took part, you were brilliant.



Big Read

Year 7 Drama students were set a task before half term on their Big Read project to create either a set design or a set of costume designs for a play of Mohinder's War. They were given extracts from the book which included descriptions of Joelle's home or Mrs Moreau's bookshop to give them inspiration for their set designs and descriptions of Mo and Beatrice for the costume designs. Once all the designs were in Mrs Griggs and Mrs Day displayed them all for judging. I was blown away by the quality of the designs and found it very difficult to narrow them down so well done to all students for their hard work. The winning designs can be seen below.



Heidi Durrant 7CF—Heidi's design was full of detail including a broken shelf, French paintings and lots of books. It was carefully made by hand, even the legs of the chair. Well done Heidi!

Emma Burnham 7KT—We loved Emma's design as not only was it hand made but it fulfilled the brief of a set design most clearly, including wings with hand drawn and coloured books and the word Livres on the window reversed. Great work Emma!

Sienna Spencer 7CF—Sienna's model included lots of details from the text including the stuffed animals, the stairs, Mrs Moreaux's cat and of course the books. We particularly liked the lolly stick floor. Brilliant attention to detail Sienna!

Alya Cercioglu 7KC—Alya's design has the wow factor, including a chandelier that lights up and authentic furniture. Although the furniture was not handmade there were lots of thoughtful touches including a ladder, a mouse hole and a sign and the design conveyed well the cluttered description of the book shop. Well thought out Alya

Freddie Browne 7KT—We loved that Freddie's design included both the living area of Joelle's house and the basement where Mohinder was hidden. The design was well thought out and mostly hand drawn and painted. Great work Freddie!





Maria Dadarlat 7KC—Maria’s designs were well drawn, authentic and clearly annotated. Even though there was no description of Joelle’s clothing she thought about Joelle’s lifestyle and chose appropriate clothing. Well done Maria!



Kai Haolai 7KT—Kai’s designs were beautifully presented, he has taken great care with them. They are well annotated and visually very striking. Brilliant work Kai!



Poppy Deasley 7JH—Poppy’s designs are well annotated and carefully drawn and coloured. She has thought about the styles of the time and read the extracts carefully to create authentic designs. Brilliant attention to detail Poppy!



Victoria Van Gelder 7RL—Victoria’s designs are striking and realistic. They are well annotated and true to the descriptions in the extract and the style of the era. Well done Victoria!



Evan McGowan 7CF—Evan created simple, realistic designs which reflect both the extracts and the style of the 1940s. Well done Evan!

During the final two weeks of term I have had the pleasure of attending all of the Mohinder’s War short performances joined at some by Mrs Lepley, Miss Freeman, Miss Pounnas and Mrs

Bailey. The students worked incredibly hard to learn their lines and displayed courage in performing in front of an audience. There were some fantastic individual performances and it was lovely to see the students showing kindness by supporting each other and stepping in at short notice.

Well done Year 7!
Mrs Nixon



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.



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Term Dates

Autumn Term 2025

Inset Day—Monday 1st September

Years 7 & 12 students only (Year 12 start at 10am) — Tuesday 2nd September

First day of term for all students—Wednesday 3rd September

Half term—Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October

Occasional Day—Friday 21st November

Inset Day—Monday 24th November

End of Term—Friday 19th December

Spring Term 2026

Inset day—Monday 5th January

First day of term—Tuesday 6th January

Half term—Monday 16th to Friday 20th February

End of term—Friday 27th March

Easter Break—Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April

Summer Term 2026

First day of term—Monday 13th April

Bank Holiday—Monday 4th May

Half term—Monday 25th to Friday 29th May

End of term—Friday 17th July



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



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