



Marlborough News

www.themarboroughscienceacademy.co.uk

24h October 2025 Issue #146



Dear all,

One day in the life of Marlborough, Wednesday 22nd October 2025,

We welcomed Karl Nova into school to talk to year 9 students about the power of language, literacy, reading and poetry. He had the students completely enraptured with his passion, authenticity and relevance, hopefully his enthusiasm will encourage more students to move away from screen time and enjoy a good old read.

Ms. Pounnas gives a guided tour to another tranche of Year 6 students showing what a “normal” day at school in Marlborough is – calm, studious and welcoming.

In Art, Ms. Bustin along with Year 12 students are spending the morning with Ant Steele, a St. Albans graffiti artist currently working in collaboration with St. Albans Cathedral regarding the theme of peace and conflict. Our students with Mr. Steele and Ms. Bustin will be working on a giant mural on school grounds using their own designs to represent their views. The initial drawings are stunning and whilst slightly nervous about the mention of the use of “cherry pickers”, we are all really excited about the finished result.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes the Art department are working with the Abbey Flyer and Year 7s to design posters representing St. Albans and other station stops – the theme is “nature and the environment” – topical, relevant and a little bit of history that Marlborough will have had a big part to play in.

And whilst all that is going on, Year 11s are doing their PPE's, Ms. Nixon is presiding over the pumpkin carving competition and all staff ended their day with safeguarding training and the news that we have been nominated as one of the top 7 drama departments in the country (only 3 state schools included), so how fabulous is that, we will however need to wait until February for the results.

The Marlborough Science Academy Ltd - Watling Street
St Albans - Hertfordshire - AL3 2QA
Tel: 01727 856 874 Email: admin@marlborough.herts.sch.uk
www.themarboroughscienceacademy.co.uk Company No: 08003969



And between all of the above, students today (23rd October) are learning new skills, making winter soup, designing poppies and researching St. Alban references to World War 1.....I could go on, and it's just one day and I've probably missed so much, but Marlborough continues to be challenging, vibrant and kind. I have to thank all the fabulous staff who make these events happen every day – and weekends like PGL organised to perfection by Ms. Pounnas and Ms. Bailey.

Enjoy a happy half term,
Take care,



Ms. Thomson

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



This Week's Quote of the Week

" You never know how strong you are until being strong is your only choice"

(Bob Marley, singer)

Word of the Week

perceptiveness: noun—the quality of being very good at noticing and understanding things that many people do not notice.

Value of the Week



House Pumpkin Carving Competition



1st - Saturn

3rd - Mercury



2nd - Mars



4th - Neptune

Houses of Parliament Visit

On Monday 13th October Marlborough's own Parliament took a visit to the Houses of Parliament in Westminster. We explored the historic building, learning about its role as the heart of UK democracy. We saw the House of Commons and the House of Lords, discovered how laws are made, and learned about the traditions and history of Parliament. The tour guide shared fascinating facts about famous figures and key events that have shaped British politics. Post tour, the students engaged in a workshop where they created their own petitions and learnt more about how democracy works. To conclude, students were excited to meet our local MP,



Daisy Cooper. She shared the story of how she became an MP and gave fascinating insights into what her job involves on a daily basis — from representing local people to speaking in debates. Students asked plenty of thoughtful questions, which Daisy



answered with enthusiasm and honesty, making it an inspiring end to the morning.

Before making the journey back to school, we had a whistle stop tour of The Supreme Court, the highest court in the UK, that makes final decisions on legal cases especially those that involve major questions about how laws should be interpreted or whether the government has acted within the law. These court rooms are less traditional



than you might normally see, without a witness box or a stand, but set up in a way that helps facilitate these discussions.

Thank you to the students for making this a really fun and engaging trip and I look forward to organising the next one!

Miss Arrol



School Values

Well done to Katie Sale 7ADY who demonstrated **Kindness** and **Endeavour** when she spent the afternoon with her mum working at a family fun day. Katie helped set up for the day, and assisted running the tombola stall, raising valuable funds for Watford Mencap to support those with disabilities.

Her help was greatly received by the managers and trustees of the charity.



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been disappointing to note this morning that some parents and carers are either ignoring, or are unaware of, the school's **on-site drop-off and collection procedures**.

May I remind everyone that, from the start of the next half term in November, **only individuals with the appropriate authorisation** may come onto the school site for dropping off or collecting students during the following times:

Start of School Day: 08:20 – 08:50

End of School Day: 14:50 – 15:30

Additionally, a number of parents/carers were observed stopping at the pedestrian crossing on Watling Street while the light was green and allowing their children to exit the vehicle into the street. Please be reminded that **stopping on a pedestrian crossing is a criminal offence** and poses a serious safety risk to both you and your children. Photographs have been taken of the offending vehicles and will be shared with the relevant traffic enforcement authorities, including the police.

It is also concerning that we are receiving an increasing number of complaints from our neighbours regarding inconsiderate, and on some occasions, rude or aggressive behaviour from parents. Please ensure that you park safely and respectfully when collecting your children and do bear in mind that private roads should **not** be used for drop-offs or pick-ups.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us ensure the safety and well-being of all our students.

Mr Paice and Mrs Blackburn

Health and Safety



Languages week

The week beginning **22nd September** saw our school buzzing with excitement as students and staff came together to celebrate *all things languages*. With a wide range of activities across year groups, it was a fantastic opportunity to highlight the importance and the fun of learning languages.



Year 7 became *global travellers*, collecting stamps in their special passports as they completed a variety of challenges. From watching films in another language, keeping up a streak on Duolingo, to learning some sign language, it was inspiring to see the energy and enthusiasm with which they rose to the tasks.

The highlight, or *pièce de résistance*, was undoubtedly the *European Day of Languages Bake Off*, a showstopping display of creativity, culture, and incredible cakes!



Year 8 had the chance to experience the magic of theatre with a performance of *Les Trois Mousquetaires*. This interactive production brought French literature to life in a lively, engaging way, and students thoroughly enjoyed joining in with the action.

*"People got to volunteer and do things they never pictured themselves doing whilst speaking French"
"I enjoyed the choice of performance and the level at which it was performed."*

Year 9 were treated to an inspiring talk from guest speaker, Rob Hunt, who opened their eyes to the many opportunities that languages can bring. From exciting careers and travel adventures to global connections, students discovered just how far language skills can take you. A real highlight was hearing about Rob's experiences working as an interpreter with Premier League footballers, something that truly captured their imagination.



"I visited the school for the first time on Wednesday 24 September to talk to Year 9 about languages. I told the pupils about my own experiences learning languages and using them on my travels, and we looked at some of the career paths available to language graduates. I received a really warm welcome from all the pupils, and it was great to see how enthusiastic they were about languages. They asked me lots of insightful questions, and some of them were even able to understand a video of Zinedine Zidane speaking in Spanish. Well done to all of you!"

From baking to theatre, guest talks to global adventures, Languages Week truly inspired our students to see the value of learning languages and to embrace the joy of communication across cultures.

Mrs Jubb



A BREATHTAKING FILM PREMIERE LIKE NO OTHER!



A LEVEL FILM STUDIES ENRICHMENT TRIP – BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

NOUVELLE VAGUE PREMIERE, SOUTH BANK, LONDON, SATURDAY 18TH OCTOBER

Sixth Form Film Studies students had a remarkable enrichment opportunity this Autumn: attending this year's **BFI London Film Festival** for Richard Linklater's biopic of Jean-Luc Godard, *Nouvelle Vague*, and his directing of the French New Wave classic, *Breathless*.



The influence of the **French New Wave** (jump cuts, handheld camerawork, on-location shooting, natural lighting, documentary realism, improvisation, self-conscious techniques, disconnected sound, pop-culture 'coolness' and existential philosophy) relates to several films on the **Eduqas A Level Film Studies syllabus** and may be referenced in evaluations

for student **NEA coursework**. It is rare to find a premiere that is so relevant to the film course!

Richard Linklater (director of *School of Rock*, the *Before* Trilogy, *Boyhood*, *Dazed & Confused*, *Me and Orson Welles*) attended the premiere in person to give an informed Q&A with the BFI festival curator. Students had a starry-eyed experience observing the red carpet and were enamoured by the scale of the festival in Central London.



Nouvelle Vague is a black-and-white narrative revolving around **Jean-Luc Godard's** first feature film, *A Bout De Souffle* (*Breathless*). As a writer for the esteemed *Cahiers du Cinema*, a French film magazine, Jean-Luc was known as one of their most maverick film critics. His directing style was even more rule-breaking and uncompromising than debuts from colleagues (Francois Truffaut and Claude Chabrol).



After the screening, a quick end-of-trip debrief with the cohort featured ratings of the film that were either 8/10 or 9/10, highlighting just how much of a labour of love Linklater's ode to the 1950s/60s French New Wave really is.

COMPENDIUM OF STUDENT REVIEWS

What was most refreshing, was that students are now attending **Tuesday Lunchtime Film Club** for screenings of the film,

"Gorgeous aesthetic and incredible casting" – Florence, Year 13

"I liked how it celebrated the people behind the scenes in cinema" – Scarlet, Year 13

"Truly funny and enjoyable" – Caitlin, Year 13

"The casting was good and quite accurate to Breathless" - Charlotte, Year 13

"Paying homage to one of the most iconic French New Wave films" - Freya, Year 13

"Clever and creative" – Jenson, Year 12

"The film immerses you as if you are part of the production" – Mariandrea, Year 12

"An engaging dive into the creation of films in the French New Wave" – Henry, Year 12

"Brilliant and interesting" – Libby, Year 12

"An insightful film about one of the most influential filmmakers" – Dean, Year 12

"You feel as if you are making the film along with them" – Karl, Year 12



Breathless (1960), to understand how those 20 days of filming on-location turned into the Jean Seberg and Jean-Paul Belmondo classic that is still revered in the history of French cinema today.

Students remain inspired by many nationalities and eras of cinema, and how these film documents (much like the best art, theatre, TV and literature), become incredible forms of expression that can be enjoyed and studied for generations.

Now that we all have the filmmaking bug, let's see if students can bring their own **maverick** style to the art, and build a New Wave that go beyond the ones before.

RELEVANT FILM STUDIES KEY TERMS

Homage	Jump cuts	Discontinuity	Existentialism	Nouvelle Vague
Auteur	Cahiers du Cinema	Aesthetics	Self-reflexive	Guerrilla filmmaking
Episodic	Non-linear	Montage	Metanarrative	Break-the-fourth-wall



RECOMMENDED FRENCH NEW WAVE FILMS

Mr S Cole - Head of Film Studies

Karl Nova

On Wednesday 22nd October Year 9 enjoyed a visit from award winning performance poet and hip-hop artist Karl Nova. Karl spoke to the whole year group about his childhood in London, Surrey and Nigeria and his journey to becoming a poet. Karl explained that RAP is an acronym for Rhythm and Poetry, which is the title of his first book. During his presentation he challenged students to count how many colours were included in his poem True Colours—well done to Cayden King 9HBT who counted correctly and won himself a copy of one of Karl's books.



The presentation was followed by a workshop in the LRC where students used the technique of repetition to create their own poems. Some students had the **courage** to perform their pieces and Karl was particularly impressed with 'Watching Shadows Move' by Eve Kilcast 9ASO. The workshop culminated in Karl creating a freestyle rap from ten random words suggested by the students. You can watch Karl's performance [here](#)



Thank you Year 9 for representing the school so well, you showed **dignity** and **kindness** to our visitor and it was wonderful to see you all so engaged.

Mrs Nixon



Watching Shadows Move

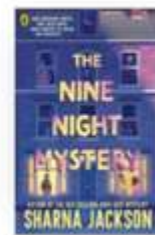
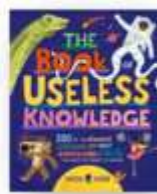
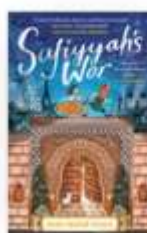
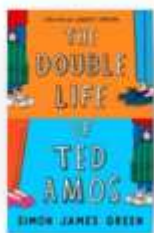
*Have you seen them there?
Smothered, quiet things.
Stuck still with fear, I glimpse them and
I am watching shadows move
Now, look in the mirror
Do you see them there?
Well used to the echoing sensation, when
I am watching shadows move
Waiting, waiting for something to open
I turn over in bed and peel away the stomach lining
In the dark, with lights off, I begin to see myself, in
the roaring silence
I am watching shadows move.*

Eve Kilcast 9ASO

LRC News

BookBuzz

All Year 7 students will be receiving their free book chosen at the beginning of the year when we come back after half term.



Scholastic On-line Book Club

Our new Scholastic Book Club is up and running! Go to <https://schools.scholastic.co.uk/the-marlborough-science-academ/digital-book-club> to browse the latest books and order online, or click on the image to read the online magazine. For every £1 you spend on this month's Book Club, our school will earn 20p in Scholastic Rewards.

Please place your order online by November 20th, 2025.

Mrs Nixon



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. Temitayo Abisa 7RHE - 1,054,025 words read
2. James Cowling 7EDG - 767,630 words read
3. Erin Cukaj 8JAS - 741,407 words read
4. Harlech Leung 7ARE - 632,969 words read
5. Prethishta Ashok 7RHE - 551,499 words read
6. Eliza Holbrook 8RLY- 539,410 words read
7. Sophie Clarke 7WDN - 534,234 words read
8. Sonny Scott 7APD - 441,110 words read
9. Daniel Green 8JHE - 439,135 words read
10. Lucy Cooper 8JAS - 340,209 words read



Book Club

Book Club meets every Thursday after school in the LRC for quizzes, games and booky discussions. We currently have members from Year 7,8 & 9 and everyone is welcome. Our Halloween themed meeting included a quiz, a choose your own adventure story and of course some snacks!

Mrs Nixon



Support for Young People

North Hertfordshire College is pleased to announce our November open event at **Springboard Watford** which will be held on **Thursday 6th November 3pm – 5pm** at our prestigious premises. This is an opportunity for professionals, parents, and prospective students to meet the team and find out more about the Springboard programme.



Please note our address for this event will be:

**Springboard
Unit 8 Wilmington Close
Watford
Hertfordshire
WD18 0FQ**



The nearest car park is the local Sainsbury's where you can park for free for two hours, or Gade car park in Rosslyn Road and Wilmington Close is off Upton Road:

<https://citipark.co.uk/car-parks/watford/gade-car-park>



If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Mark Kucper:
mkucper@nhc.ac.uk or text / call us on: 07961522708.

To help us to manage numbers we would appreciate a confirmation from you as to what time you are planning to attend.

Click on the images for more information about the provision below.

Hertfordshire County Council Services for Young People

DACORUM

YOUTH WORK PROJECTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



AUTUMN TERM 2025

Enabling young people to succeed

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



Herts & West Essex
Mental Health Support Teams

Please read this letter regarding provision in school from the Mental Health Support Team [here](#). If you do not wish your child to be involved in any support from the team you need to contact the school to opt out.

Parent & Carer Support
TALKING ASD & ADHD
Workshops Autumn 2025



There is lots of information about courses and other support for students on our website [here](#)

Christmas Treasy 2025

If you plan to have a real tree this Christmas, please consider ordering from Christmas Treasy, which is run by ex student Dean Turner. For each tree ordered the school will receive a small donation. For more details of prices and how to order click on the image below, follow the QR code or visit the website [here](#).





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

Super 1s

ALL DISABILITIES
WELCOME

AGES 12 - 25

FREE INCLUSIVE
CRICKET SESSIONS

GET ACTIVE AND
MAKE NEW FRIENDS!



<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">HARPENDEN HUB</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">THURSDAYS 5-6PM</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">KATHERINE WARRINGTON SCHOOL</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">HARPENDEN ALS 5FH</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">WATFORD HUB</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">SATURDAYS 9AM-10AM</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">PARMITERS SCHOOL</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">WATFORD WD25 0UU</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">HATFIELD HUB</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">SUNDAYS 10- 11.30AM</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">CHANCELLORS SCHOOL</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">BROOKMANS PARK AL97BN</p>
<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">HITCHIN HUB</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">SATURDAYS 9- 10AM</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">WESTMILL COMMUNITY CENTRE</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">HITCHIN SG5 2PG</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">HITCHIN HUB IS OPEN TO 8-16 YEAR OLDS</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">ALL OTHER HUBS 12-25 YEAR OLDS</p>	

CONTACT:

#LUKE HESKETT
 07894318736
 LUKE.HESKETT@HERTSCRICKET.ORG



LORD'S TAVERNERS

Empowering young people through cricket

www.lordstaverners.org/super1s

Registered Charity No. 306154 | OSCR No. 50046238

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2025

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](#)



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

Please contact admin@marlborough.herts.sch.uk for any
information regarding the content of this or future publications.