



Marlborough News

www.themarboroughscienceacademy.co.uk

19th December 2025 Issue #147



December 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this end of term newsletter finds you all well, safe and prepared for the festivities that lie ahead. Whilst understanding completely that this time of year can be hugely stressful, I hope that for all members of our school community we can focus on what we have to be grateful for and once again take time to be with the ones we love.

Our term has ended with the usual amazing events that continue to impress – the school production (a spin on “A Christmas Carol”) was testament to some truly talented staff and children showing very clearly why the drama department has been nominated for outstanding drama dept. across the UK, fingers crossed. Our Year 7s are having a movie night this week organised by our exceptional school leaders, in particular Seamus with all proceeds going to our “M” Store, and Thursday brings Christmas lunch and the Winter Fair, otherwise known as total chaos, but tremendous fun!

As with all ends of term we sadly bid farewell to two members of staff – Ms. O’ Neal, maths, is moving to another school to take on a lead practitioner role, we thank her for all she has done for the school in her previous roles and of course wish her good luck for the future. We say goodbye also to Ms. Kelly who has taught engineering to a very high standard, she will be much missed as she heads home to Ireland to embark on a new adventure. I am very pleased to tell you that we have recruited an experienced Engineering teacher who starts with us in January. His name is Mr Kiely and although last knockings (11.45am) I am just waiting confirmation from a Maths teacher re a January start, fingers crossed.

Our new build is coming along nicely as are the additional security gates that are being installed to safeguard our school even more than it is now – we are very excited about our new build and much needed it is as we will be full again in Year 7 for 2026.

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So many staff do so much to help and support students quietly and without fanfare, particularly following PPEs and I would like them to know their efforts are noted and much appreciated. Staff too have made huge efforts to make our school as festive as possible so thank you also to them – it is lovely coming in first thing and seeing our tree, not so much the inflatables!

Thank you as always to Governors and PTA who have done sterling work this term to support the school strategically and by fund raising, Mrs. Walker-Smith and Mrs. Francis are worth their weight in gold. Special thanks too to all the pastoral staff who are supporting students and SEND who can find this time of year a bit overwhelming.

To conclude, whatever your faith or celebration I wish you much kindness, peace and tranquility, it has never been so important to look out for each other – be mindful too of your child’s digital time and keep them safe.

Best wishes,



Ms. A. Thomson
Headteacher



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This Week's Quote of the Week

“ Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you.”

(Princess Diana)

Word of the Week

magnanimity: noun—kindness and generosity towards someone, especially after defeating them or being treated badly by them.

Value of the Week



School Production



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

BELLE EVERCROFT

Our annual school production took place from Wednesday 10th to Friday 12th December. The original script, written by Mr Griggs was inspired by Charles Dickens classic 'A Christmas Carol'. The production featured original songs written by Mr Felkers and a fantastic cast of our talented students. A full report will follow in our next newsletter. Well done to Mrs Griggs and her team for another wonderful production.



The fantastic work by our Drama department has been recognised with a nomination for Outstanding School Drama Department in the prestigious Music & Drama Education Awards. You can read more about the nomination in the St Albans Times issues 145 (page 53) by clicking on the image right.



School's drama department shortlisted for prestigious national awards

St Albans school's drama department has been named a finalist in the prestigious Music & Drama Education Awards 2021.

Students eager to push their craft further. The original production, written by Mr Griggs, was performed at the Waterside Theatre, Colchester, Essex.

Christmas at Marlborough



Christmas Lunch



Winter Fair



Panto



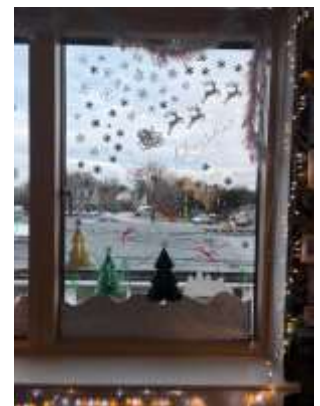
House Christmas Windows



Staff entered into the festive spirit with a House competition to decorate their windows. Congratulations to Miss Fogarty, Miss Caswell and Mr Felkers and Mercury who came first and well done to everyone else who entered and helped make the school look wonderful.

1st - Mercury 2nd - Saturn

3rd - Neptune 4th - Mars



The LIFE Project



This year's LIFE Project, (Local Intervention Fire Education) was held from Tuesday 4th to Friday 7th November at Harpenden Fire Station. Students from Year 9 and 10 joined the Harpenden Fire Service for the week. The LIFE project is an interactive experience for students who have faced challenges to learn transferable skills through firefighting activities.

Specially trained Fire Fighters deliver the LIFE project; it is an intensive four-day work experience course in a disciplined and well-focused environment. With the help of the friendly trainers, the students learnt the job of a real firefighter through taking part in a range of activities that included using ladders, breathing apparatus

equipment, and learning casualty rescue techniques.

There were some classroom sessions too where the students learnt about social responsibility, and how different behaviours can impact on the community, their families and themselves with the intention of getting them to adopt a new set of values and understand the consequences of their behaviour and the choices they make in everyday situations.

By the end of the week the students had gained resilience, self-esteem, confidence and an ability to improve on their life skills.

All our students successfully completed the course and received an AQA accredited certificate at an official Passing Out Parade attended by their parents, carers and families. Well done to all the students who participated!

Ms Bailey

'All the instructors were supportive and helped us through everything. My favourite part was climbing up the ladder and going in the smoke house to rescue the dummies.' **Maya**

'We got to use a lot of equipment and learnt simple but effective tricks that could save a life' **George**

'We had to wear fire fighting kit which was heavy and made it hard to do some stuff but it was fun and I'm glad I did it' **Zane**

'The LIFE course was super fun and educational, packed with physical activities and lessons to teach you the life of a firefighter and what they do.' **James**



Sixth Form

Following the Post-16 Open Evening, I am delighted to invite Year 11 students who want to continue their academic journey with us to apply to our Sixth Form. With a broad and inspiring curriculum offer, our Ofsted rated 'Outstanding' Sixth Form provides every student with opportunities to thrive, explore their interests, and prepare confidently for their future.

We encourage all parents to support their young people by discussing subject combinations before they submit their application. For now, all students need to do is scan the QR code or click on the image below and complete all sections.

Ms Redfern



A promotional banner for TMSA Sixth Form applications. The background is dark red. On the left, the text 'TMSA Sixth Form application form.' is written in white and yellow. To the right is a QR code. Further right is a photograph of a modern brick building with a red triangular graphic overlaid. At the bottom left are five gold circular icons, and at the bottom right, the text 'Ofsted rated: 'Outstanding'' is displayed in white.

The M Store



We are extremely grateful to the staff at Strabag and Segro who chose the M Store as their charity to support this Christmas. We received brand new jackets for boys and girls, footballs, toys for toddlers, toiletries for teenagers, Christmas gloves, socks and hats as well as an incredible amount of non perishable food.



Student Achievement

Alfie Hooper Slaney 7WDN competed his pony Dusty's Girl at five of the Dacorum & District Riding Club Shows which took place from April to September this year. Alfie gained points in three different height classes and won overall champion in all three, receiving a small glass trophy for each. He also managed to get the most points from the showjumping ring and won champion of champions, as well as a few other prizes.

Despite having been around horses all his life Alfie didn't have much interest in riding until last year when he started getting pocket money for riding and competing. Alfie's family have always had horses, ranging from little Shetlands to big jumping horses both young and old. Alfie's family has had his main pony Dusty for about 10 years. Dusty had a surprise foal when she first arrived and since has had another foal who is now three and ready to start riding. Alfie recently began riding a new pony called Mouse, and managed to win at his first show.

Well done Alfie!



Dacorum & District Riding Club
Champion of Champions Showjumping 2025
Alfie Hooper Slaney & Dusty's Girl



Student Achievement

Congratulations to Emma Barton-Best and her cheerleading team Fusion who won their recent competition in Paris. The teams hard work before the Future Cheer Brings It On competition in Paris helped them to win against other teams from the UK and other countries.

Cheerleading is one of the UK's fastest growing sports, and has just been granted full Olympic Status. Each two and a half minute routine involves tumbling, stunting (lifting), jumps and dance which makes for a fast paced and exciting sport.



What on Earth Quiz!

Well done to Harry Day, Ned Davies, Vincent Gierszewski and George Smithard, all in 8RLY, who took part in the What on Earth Quiz heats on Thursday 6th November. The boys enjoyed the quiz and learnt lots of interesting facts in the process. They have all said they would like to enter again next year.



Year 7 Motte and Bailey Castle Building Competition

We would like to say a huge thank you to all Year 7 students who entered our motte and bailey castle building competition this term. An impressive 120 entries were submitted, and the creativity, imagination and hard work on display were truly outstanding!

Students were asked to design and build their own motte and bailey castles, with judging based on historical accuracy and effort. The standard was extremely high, making the judging process for the history department both exciting and challenging.

As a thank you for taking part, every student who entered received 20 house points. In addition, the top 10% of entries were awarded a history book to take home in recognition of their exceptional work.

In first place was Akain Kalubowila 7APD, second place was Matilda Flynn 7ADY, and third place was Tegan Reed 7APD. A big well done and thank you to everyone who took part!

Mr Pressland

This competition also counted towards the House Championship. After adding up all the points, the results were:

1st place – Saturn

2nd place – Mars

Joint 3rd – Neptune and Mercury



Family History Project

Last year, for Remembrance Day, my sister and I were given a wonderful opportunity by our history teacher, Mr. Pressland, to research our great-great-uncle who fought in the First World War. He served in the Irish Guards and tragically died in France in 1917. His body was never found.

A few months ago, after the passing of my grandad, Peter Fitzpatrick, my dad discovered something remarkable while sorting through old boxes in the attic — my great-grandmother's journal from her time in the Auxiliary Fire Service (AFS) between 1939 and 1945. When my dad shared it with Mr. Pressland, we realised it could be a gateway into learning more about my great-grandmother, Alice Rosina Bull, and her life during the Second World War.

With the help of Mr. Pressland and historian Alen House, a member of the Firefighters' Memorial Trust, we uncovered an incredible story — not only about Alice but about all the women who served in the AFS. Alice joined in 1939, even before the war officially began, as Britain was already preparing, as Chamberlain's policy of appeasement bought more time. Her diary revealed her dedication to her work, filled with detailed descriptions of incidents, fires, and the methods used to combat them.



Rosie's grandfather, Peter (left), just before he was evacuated.

NAME: FITZPATRICK, ALICE ROSINA BULL		CLASS: AFS 12	
ADDRESS: Home - 32 Hogarth Ridge, Millbank, Lambeth, S.W. 8		Wife of Peter Bull	
State of birth:	OCCUPATION: Housewife	SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS:	
Medical classification:	Date Medical Exam:		
Basic Training:	Date commenced: 6.4.39	Date completed: 2.1.40	
Inducted to:	Date appointed:	Rank:	Date appointed:
1/49		Constable to British 100th Co. 12	2.1.40
WAR STATION: AT WHICH AUXILIARY WILL BE CONTACTED: LAMBETH, LONDON			



Alice's induction card shows us she worked as a cook for the AFS, most likely at their headquarters in Lambeth.

Through Alen House, we learned that Alice served as a warden, responsible for controlling operations rooms, assisting in rescue missions, and carrying out driving duties. Women like Alice were the backbone of the AFS. They drove lorries and motorcycles through bomb-damaged streets, delivered petrol and food, maintained telephone services after air raids, cooked meals for the male firefighters, and even tended to injured people and animals caught in the chaos.

Continued on page 13



Rosie's great-grandmother, Alice (fourth from the left), at Peter's wedding.

I don't believe women like Alice receive enough recognition for their service and sacrifice. Though they weren't on the front line, they performed vital behind-the-scenes work that kept the fire services — and the nation — running. Without their courage and determination, many firefighters would not have been able to do their dangerous jobs. Women like my great-grandmother deserve to be remembered and celebrated for their bravery.

Rosie Fitzpatrick 11

Click on the image to read an article in the St Albans Times about Rosie's project (page 31-32)

Student uncovers her family's wartime past ahead of Remembrance Day

A chance discovery in her parents' loft meant her journey of discovery for a St Albans history student who's revealed her lineage has her family's wartime past. Rosie Fitzpatrick, who is 11, at The St Albans Town Centre Academy, found information about her great-grandmother's role in the Auxiliary Fire Service prior to the outbreak of the Second World War. She has used the information as the basis for a project on the period to coincide with Remembrance Day.

The head of history Andrew Pritchard said: "It was during a project on the history of the town that Rosie discovered her great-grandmother's role in the Auxiliary Fire Service. Rosie's great-grandmother, Alice, and her service was vital when she was training to be in the AFM." Rosie continued: "I guess my great-grandmother would have passed it down to my granddad, and everything from him is as close as I can get. He recently passed away, so my dad had been looking through all his stuff, which is when he found my great-grandmother's journal."

She discovered that Alice Rose Fitzpatrick (1914-1991) was part of the volunteer fire service supporting regular fire brigades during air raids. The organisation, which was made up of men and women, was formed in January 1941 in response to the increasing number of air raids, with the possibility of air raiding over the town.

Students brought thousands of them during the fire, and they were called 'bombs with grey faces' by British Museum historian Charles Dyer for their volunteers. Alice's name is in the period 1941-1942 and she has been awarded the rank, with details on her specific service work. She has obligations to read the journal.

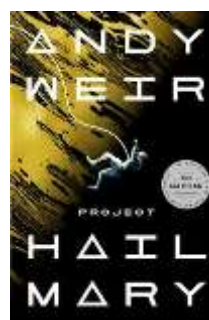


people and taking them to go and give other firefighters food for the night.

Staff Book Club

Staff Book Club finally met this week to discuss our science fiction reads from the summer of *The Quiet at the End of the World* by Lauren James and *Project Hail Mary* by Martin Weir. We all enjoyed the books and particularly loved *Project Hail Mary* and look forward to seeing the film adaptation starring Ryan Gosling which is due out next year.

Mrs Nixon



Words That Cut Deeper: Year 9 Use Poetry to Tackle Knife Crime

As part of their PSHE lessons, some Year 9 students have been exploring the devastating reality of knife crime through the power of poetry. Inspired by discussions around choices and consequences, pupils wrote thoughtful and moving poems that examined the impact of knife crime on both the victim and the perpetrator.

The project was closely linked to the recent visit of the Knife Angel to Hertfordshire. The Knife Angel is a striking national memorial made from 100,000 seized weapons, symbolising the lives lost and communities affected by knife crime. The Knife Angel's presence sparked powerful conversations in lessons, encouraging students to reflect on the real human cost behind the statistics.

Students were also motivated by the launch of a county-wide poetry competition by the Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner, giving their work a meaningful real-world audience. Many poems explored themes of loss, regret, fear and hope, showing a mature understanding of how one moment can change many lives forever.

Through creativity and reflection, Year 9 demonstrated that young voices can play a vital role in raising awareness, challenging violence and promoting safer choices for the future. Please see some of their work below.

Ms Bassett – PSHE teacher

A Stab You Regret: The Knife Angel

Indya Panayia-Bouter

Drip Drip Drip,
Crimson red
Staining your hands,
Now what?
Try to wash them clean,
But you can't
Can you?

The red keeps flowing,
A waterfall of dread.
You can't get it out of your brain.
Why did you do it?
Was it really worth the pain?

That blade in your hand
Has engraved in your mind.
You throw it aside,
But it keeps coming back.
You can't escape it.

You tell yourself
You don't care,
But you do, don't you?
That life you took
Is stuck with you forever.

Drip Drip Drip,
Crimson red
Staining your hands,
Now what?
Try to wash them clean,
But you can't
Can you?

Then comes the angel,
You look upon it.
Each individual blade on its wings
Are like pins in your eyes,
The blood flows deeper.

The guilt and remorse runs greater,
Red flowing from each blade upon the angel's wings.
That crimson red upon your hands
Joins upon the red it bleeds.
You are a part of it.
You are the reason it exists.
You are the villain of your own story.
Are you happy now?

Journey to the Knife Angel

Zach Wilson

Quietly, quietly, quietly,
Weaving through the night,
Quietly, quietly, quietly,
Once seen as a blight,
Quietly, quietly, quietly,
It drips into your soul,
Quietly, Quietly, Quietly,
A knife can corrupt your goal.

Suddenly, suddenly, suddenly,
He sneaks up from behind,
Suddenly, suddenly, suddenly,
A thought entices his mind,
Suddenly, suddenly, suddenly,
He makes an egregious request,
Suddenly, suddenly, suddenly,
You can't compare the best.

Wildly, wildly, wildly,
A sharp and deadly gleam,
Wildly, wildly, wildly,
It's not all as it seems,

This man he tries to make it along,
Not realising of this terrible song,
He resorts to violence and gore,
But it will hurt *him* so much more.

First,
He'll start with sudden doubts,
Looking as if the police is about,
Then,
He'll start to feel remorse,
No one found, he'll have no recourse,
Except, Except,
That terrible dread,
That someone out there might want you dead.

So, he'll look past his terrible crime,
But know he'll suffer for all his time,
Eyes that watch, Ears that listen,
That sharp, sharp knife, that always glistens.

Because death is a permanent thing,
No fixing, restarting or avoiding,
Because knives instead of lives,
Is a value that will make us thrive,

The knife angel represents the disdain of your actions,
The argument, the guilt, the dissatisfaction,
It's a starter for those who seek redemption,
And a support for who those who felt the temptation,
But most of all, it's very one purpose,
It helps comfort those who death's touch has coerced.

Rotary Debate Competition

We recently had the exciting opportunity to debate in a Rotary Club, competing against numerous other schools. To prepare, we worked tirelessly for months on our speeches. The topic we chose to debate was: "Are billionaires justifiable in today's society". We found this incredibly interesting, so it was fun to research and put our ideas to paper.

Then came the night, we all got ready and arrived at the venue which was Verulam Golf Club. It would be a lie to say we weren't nervous. Nonetheless, we heard our names get called, stood with determination and confidently performed our speeches. For the rest of the night we anxiously waited to hear whether we had been victorious. Then we heard the news. We had won! We excitedly got up and shook the presenters hand and accepted our trophies. I was ecstatic and elated to win through to the next round.

Tavor, my teammate also said, "I'm excited for the round ahead, as the competition will be stronger but I think we're ready for the challenge."

William added, "Even after two previous wins it still is a great feeling to win with my friends."

Overall it was a marvellous experience and now we're working on our speeches for the second round!

Eddie Walsh

Edited by:- **William Harris and Tavor Lifshitz, all 9RCL**



Christmas in the LRC

During the last two weeks of term we have been enjoying reading by the fire inspired by the Icelandic tradition of Jolabokafloð - Christmas Book Flood, which involves giving books as gifts on Christmas Eve and spending the evening reading them together with hot chocolate and treats. Although we didn't provide hot chocolate, students were given a small chocolate to enjoy in their LRC lesson.



Stop Hate Workshops

This term, all students in Years 7, 8 & 9 took part in workshops by Stop Hate UK, an organization dedicated to challenging and preventing hate crime, discrimination, and prejudice views. The sessions aimed to raise awareness about different types of hate, including racism, homophobia, misogyny and religious discrimination, and to empower students to speak out against hate in all its forms.

During the workshop, students engaged in interactive discussions, role-playing scenarios, and group activities that highlighted the impact of hate and bullying on individuals and communities. They also explored real-life examples of hate crime and learned about how to report incidents and offer support to others who may be affected.

Mr Moses



A Dickensian Night to Remember: Winter Showcase 2025

On Wednesday 3rd of December, our school was transformed into a truly festive wonderland as the English Department, in conjunction with the Drama and Music Departments, hosted a fantastic Winter Showcase inspired by the timeless works of Charles Dickens.

From the moment the evening began, it was clear that this was no ordinary school event. The night opened with a selection of festive musical numbers, beautifully performed by our talented students, instantly setting a warm and joyful



atmosphere. This was followed by a special preview from our much-anticipated school production, with a short scene performed ahead of opening night. The performance left the audience excited and eager to see more, showcasing the dedication and talent of everyone involved.



The spotlight then turned to our KS4 English students, who bravely took to the stage to perform their own original short stories and poems. Their work was imaginative,

thoughtful, and often moving, demonstrating not only their creativity but also the lasting influence of Dickens' storytelling. It was inspiring to see students confidently sharing their writing and bringing their words to life for a live audience.



However, the magic did not stop there. In a surprise twist, Miss O' Krafka and Mrs Leinster delighted the crowd with a truly magical science show. Combining spectacle, humour, and a touch of festive flair, their performance had the audience amazed and thoroughly entertained.

By the end of the evening, everyone left feeling suitably festive, uplifted, and proud of the incredible talent within our school community. It felt only right to conclude that Charles Dickens himself would have been proud to see how his legacy continues to inspire and spark creativity in the younger generation.

A huge well done to all students, staff and parents involved in making the Winter Showcase such a memorable and magical night.

If you would like to read their fantastic collection, please look on our school website [here](#).

Wishing you all a wonderful and restful holiday.

Miss Fogarty & The English Department.



King's Trust Pioneers: Year 10 Students Cook Up Success at Tesco HQ!

In a brand-new partnership between The King's Trust and Tesco, our students became the very first group in the UK to participate in this exclusive day at the retail giant's headquarters. The goal of the day was to provide a real-world insight into the diverse careers available with one company and Tesco certainly delivered an unforgettable experience.

From Classroom to Culinary Lab

The highlight for many students was the rare opportunity to enter Tesco's state-of-the-art Food Development Kitchens. Under the guidance of a professional development chef, our Year 10 students rolled up their sleeves to plan and prepare an impressive two-course meal. This hands-on session gave them valuable experience in food preparation, teamwork and there were impressive levels of endeavour to create the best meal! Congratulations to Grace and Ellie who were judged overall winners by a Tesco Director who came down to taste their meals.



A Glimpse Behind the Retail Curtain

Beyond the kitchen, students were given a comprehensive tour of the head office, seeing various departments in action. This helped them understand the sheer scale of operations required to run a major national retailer. A particularly fascinating discovery was the intense planning that goes into seasonal events, specifically Christmas. The students learned that for Tesco, Christmas is launched to the press in July! This early-bird planning is essential to ensure stock is ordered, marketing campaigns are ready, and product lines are finalized well in advance of the festive season. Christmas 2025 is old news at Tesco. They are already well under way planning Christmas 2026.

Building Skills for the Future

The entire day was designed to complement the personal development and employability skills being developed through the King's Trust qualification. It wasn't just about seeing a workplace; it was about engaging with professionals, understanding career pathways, and developing the confidence necessary for future employment.



Our students left the day not only with full stomachs (and a sack of freebies each to take home!) but a sense of achievement, ideas for the future and even some very generous donations from Tesco for our M Store.



Ms Bassett

King's Trust Teacher



National Year of Reading 2026

As you may have heard in the news, the government has designated 2026 as a National Year of Reading. This is in response to the worrying decline of reading for pleasure among children and young people. In a world of instant entertainment and information, it can be difficult to set aside time to read but the benefits are enormous for building empathy, tolerance and understanding as well as reducing stress, improving attention span and raising attainment in all subjects, not just English.



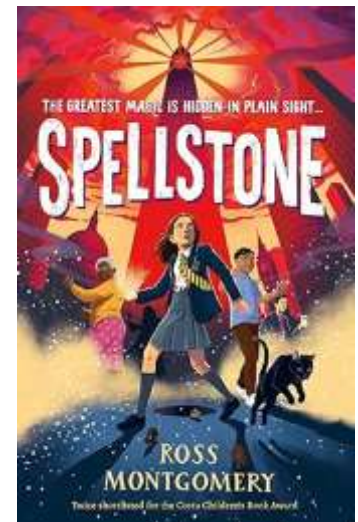
As a school, Marlborough has always valued reading and we will be celebrating 2026 with lots of activities, competitions and initiatives to encourage our students and staff to read more.

Big Read 2026

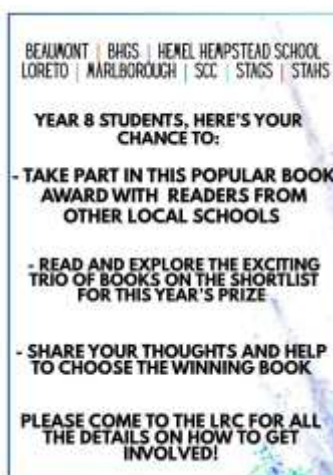
We are starting the year in January with the launch of our Big Read for 2026—Spellstone by Ross Montgomery. Spellstone is a magical adventure exploring themes of friendship, teamwork and sacrifice which includes a diverse cast of characters including a talking cat! The main character Evie demonstrates all our school values throughout the story, particularly courage and kindness.

The author has made a short video for us introducing the book which you can watch [here](#).

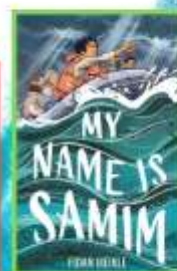
All staff and students who read the book and complete a short review will be awarded a pin badge. A letter will be sent out with more details when we return to school after the Christmas break.



On Wednesday 21st January, we will be hosting the St Albans Schools Book Award with Year 8 students from Marlborough and 7 other local schools. If any other Year 8 students would like to read the shortlist and join in the event please come to the LRC to borrow the books as soon as we return to school to allow yourself time to read the three books.



ST ALBANS SCHOOLS BOOK AWARD (SASBA) 2025/26



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:

The top ten readers so far this year are:

1. Prethishta Ashok 7RHE — 2,824,140 words read
2. Temitayo Abisa 7RHE — 1,546,449 words read
3. Sonny Scott 7APD — 1,462,193 words read
4. Erin Cukaj 8JAS — 1,315,623 words read
5. Lara Brew 7RTN — 1,109,193 words read
6. Joshua Kilcast 7RHE — 1,026,978 words read
7. Zoe Andrea 7EDG — 959,316 words read
8. James Cowling 7EDG — 957,638 words read
9. Ruby Holtum 7ADY — 954,372 words read
10. Eloise Swinton 7RTN — 906,507 words read



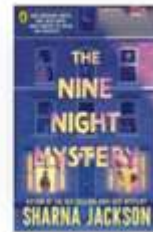
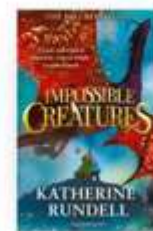
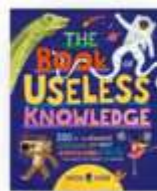
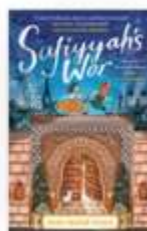
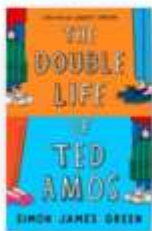
As you can see, we already have 6 students who have read over one million words this year. They will earn themselves an extra 20 house points for each million words read plus a special Word Millionaire badge.

Mrs Nixon

LRC News

BookBuzz

All Year 7 students should now have received their BookBuzz books and I hope they are enjoying reading them. Bookbuzz have a competition running to design a bookmark and be in with a chance of having their winning design feature in next year's programme.



Their design can feature characters or scenes from their Bookbuzz book, share reading tips with other students or represent what reading enjoyment means to them. The winner will also win £50 of book tokens; the second and third place runners-up will win £30 of book tokens each; and all three students will win a bundle of books worth over £100 for their school.

Students can create their bookmark either by hand or digitally. Download the blank template (60 mm x 215 mm) [here](#) or collect a printed copy of the template from the LRC

We will run our own competition along side this, awarding house points for all entries and choose our own winner and runners up. Please submit your entries either by email to lrc@marlborough.herts.sch.uk or in the red post box in the LRC by Friday 9th January and we will then forward your entries to the national competition.

Good luck!

Help Over the Holidays

If a young person needs help over the holidays here's a useful list from Well at School:

YoungMinds – urgent help and guidance.

The Mix – support for young people under 25.

Childline – information, advice and emotional support.

Kooth – free, safe and anonymous online support.

AFC Crisis Messenger – free, confidential 24/7 text support.

Papyrus – non-judgemental support and advice for anyone experiencing suicidal thoughts, depression or emotional distress.

Beat – support, information and guidance for anyone affected by eating disorders.



Managing Conditions

Many conditions can be more challenging over the holidays – e.g. allergies and eczema can be affected by Christmas trees and decorations or festive foods and drinks. Visit our Conditions section to learn what to look out for and what to do if symptoms arise.

wellatschool.org/conditions



Supporting Children with Medical and Mental Health Needs at School

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

The MO

The latest edition of the MO is now available to read on our website, full of thoughtful articles, The MO is written and produced entirely by our students and includes their original artwork and photography. Click on the image to access a copy on our website.



The Hospice of st francis

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

Register your tree and support your local hospice

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026...

Skydive - 11 th April	Walk Your Ridgeway - 28 th June
Bubble Rush - 14 th June	Trek Sahara - 10 th to 15 th Nov

Hospice CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

COLLECTING ON 9th, 10th & 11th JANUARY FROM:

- Harpenden (AL5)
- St Albans, Redbourn & Markyate (AL1, AL2, AL3, AL4)
- Hemel Hempstead (HP1, HP2, HP3)
- Berkhamsted (HP4), Tring (HP23)
- Chesham (HP5), Amersham (HP6)
- Kings Langley (WD4), Abbots Langley (WD5)

Help fund a hospice nurse

Register your tree by 5pm on Tuesday 6th January

RECYCLE YOUR TREE AND HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

We'll collect and recycle your Christmas tree for a donation - helping to fund the vital work of our hospice nurses who care for people right here in our community. With over £6 million needed each year to fund our care, your support truly makes a difference.

HOW IT WORKS

1. Register your tree online
2. Make a donation to the Hospice
3. Leave your tree outside on Thursday 8th January (you don't have to be in!)

stfrancis.org.uk/treecollection

Register your tree!

Thanks to our collection supporters

Reg. Charity No. 288823

Year 11

Don't forget to order your Year book and leaver's hoodies if you would like them. Click on the images below.

The Marlborough Science Academy

The Marlborough Science Academy

CLASS OF 2025 YEARBOOK

The Marlborough Science Academy

Leavers 2026

Please select 'pick up from producer' at checkout for free curiel delivery to school

<p>Marlborough Science Academy Leavers 26 Sweatshirt £20.00</p>	<p>Marlborough Science Academy Leavers 26 Hoodie £22.00</p>	<p>Marlborough Science Academy Leavers 26 Jacket £25.00</p>
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No orders can be placed after Friday 27th March 2026.

WANT TO TRY AMERICAN FOOTBALL?



TRAIN WITH US!

NO EXPERIENCE
REQUIRED!

ALL AGES 14-19

SCAN BELOW



NEXT SESSION
JANUARY 18TH 2026



GOLF | DRINKS | FOOD | SOCIALISE

The Ultimate Mini-Golf Adventure for
Teens!

Looking for a fun and affordable activity
these Christmas holidays? Play Putt is
now open and ready to welcome teens
for an unforgettable mini-golf
experience packed with lights and
music!

Perfect for hanging out with friends,
celebrating the end of the school year,
or just getting out of the house!
Students aged 14+ can visit without an
adult, making it a great independent
holiday activity.



Encourage your teens
to swing into the
holidays with
something new and
exciting. Come join
the fun at Play Putt!



TEEN
TICKET

OPENING HOURS

Sun - Thurs: 12pm - 10pm
Fri & Sat: 12pm - 11pm

PRICES

Adult - 12 & over: £11.95
Junior - 11 & under: £8.95

WWW.PLAYPUTT.CO.UK



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



SASA
SCHOOL OF
PERFORMING
ARTS
ANYTHING
IS POSSIBLE

MUSICAL THEATRE CLASS

Marlborough School | Mondays
£13.20 per session
12th January - 23rd March 2026
3:30 - 4:30 PM

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

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

Beezee
by maximus



You don't need a new year to start new habits
Start small, start now!

Sign up to one of our free healthy lifestyle services today to kickstart your health goals for 2026 and beyond.

Beezee FAMILIES

- Free, fun, family-focused support
- Learn about healthy eating
- Get moving more
- Connect with other families
- One-to-one support also available!

Beezee YOUTH

- 13-17 year olds can talk about topics that matter to them
- Learn about physical, mental and social wellbeing
- Get free health resources
- Join a safe space.

henry

- Free support for families with children aged 0-5 years
- Explore parenting and healthy lifestyle tips
- Chance to make new friends
- Free toolkit provided.

 hrt.maximusuk.co.uk

 BZBinfo@maximusuk.co.uk

 01707 248 648


Click me to find out more

Start making healthy habits TODAY



Term Dates

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

Autumn Term 2026

Inset day—Tuesday 1st September

First day of term for all staff and Years 7 & 12 only—Wednesday 2nd September

All students back—Thursday 3rd September



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



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www.themarboroughscienceacademy.co.uk

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