



Marlborough News

www.themarboroughscienceacademy.co.uk

13th February 2026 Issue #148



The Marlborough
Science Academy



13th February 2026

Dear parents and carers,

Friday 13th, raining and just realised tomorrow is Valentines day...

It has of course been a whirlwind of a week and thank you to all who sent such lovely messages, they were very kind indeed but enough of that as I'm still here and there is a job to be done.

The Chair of Governors, Mrs Walker-Smith is working really hard with a highly skilled team, to organise the recruitment process. You will of course, be represented by our parent governors and students will be heavily involved as you would expect. The interview dates are scheduled for the 12th and 13th March. I am very confident that your children will shine (in perfect uniform) making Marlborough an irresistible option for a new head.

We wish the Ski Trip and Classics trip much fun, safety and of course adventure, we will see you all again on Monday 23rd February 2026.

Take Care

Ms A Thomson
Headteacher



Graduate Fashion Foundation Competition

We are delighted to announce that four of our talented students have submitted entries to the prestigious Young Talent of Tomorrow Fashion Design Competition 2026, organised by the Graduate Fashion Foundation.

Our Competition Entrants:

Emmie James - 11RVN

Kara Molloy - 9HBT

Eliza Holbrook - 8RLY

Isla Briddon - 8JHE

Each student rose to the challenge of this year's theme, "Delve Into The Archive," creating two original outfit designs inspired by Graduate Fashion Week's 35-year history. Our students drew inspiration from iconic fashion designers including Alexander McQueen, John Galliano, and Karl Lagerfeld, demonstrating impressive research skills and creative vision.

The competition required students to submit both a research page documenting their inspiration and design process, and a design page showcasing their two fully designed outfits. This was an excellent opportunity for our students to develop their creative skills whilst exploring the fashion industry as a potential career path.

Winners will be announced on 9th February 2026, with first prize winners having their designs professionally made and showcased on the catwalk at Graduate Fashion Week 2026 on Thursday 18th June at the event in London.

We are incredibly proud of Emmie, Kara, Eliza and Isla for their hard work and dedication.

Regardless of the outcome, participating in this national competition is a fantastic achievement that will enrich their creative portfolios.

Miss Scott

Research page:

Delve in the archive: J. Galliano

John Galliano's work as the creative director of Christian Dior from 1996 to 2011 was some of the most influential of its time. His work has always been renowned for its dramatic flair, historical inspiration and theatrical runways. I have taken inspiration from his work due to the further development from his work and its large impact on the industry of fashion.



Fabric samples:

Piece 1:



Piece 2:



Eliza Holbrook
8RLY
Marlborough Science Academy



DofE Training Day: Trangias to Tents

Our Year 9 students took an exciting first step on their Duke of Edinburgh's Award journey by completing a full DofE training day, packed with practical skills and teamwork.

Throughout the day, pupils learned how to safely use a Trangia stove, put up tents, and plan expedition meals. They also practised essential expedition skills including route planning, packing a rucksack correctly, and understanding what equipment is truly needed for a successful expedition. In addition, students were introduced to basic first aid and learned about the Countryside Code, helping them understand how to stay safe, respect the environment, and act responsibly while exploring outdoor spaces.

We also were able to award 3 certificates at the end of the day to students who had completed their first area of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Well done to Elaina for completing the volunteer section and to Faye and Esme for finishing their skill section. We look forward to awarding more certificates soon.

The day was a great opportunity for students to build confidence, resilience, and independence, while working together and supporting one another. A fantastic start to their DofE journey - well done Year 9!

Miss Bassett and Miss Rowe



Bebras Computational Thinking Competition

Congratulations to all Year 7 students who took part in the Bebras Computational Thinking Competition last year. The more we work on lateral thinking and problem solving, the better we become at tackling “out of the ordinary” problems we encounter in school and life in general.



The following students achieved Gold Certificates – this refers to the highest achievers in the year group and in the top 10% of the competition entrants! The certificates will be awarded in Year 7 form assembly shortly:

William Cass 7CCS
Myles Kent 7APD
Samuel Cass 7CCS

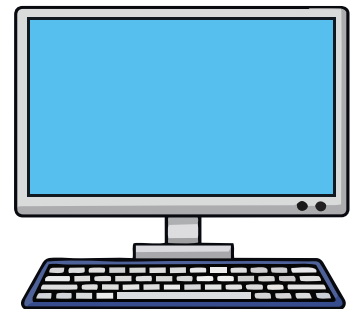
Year 7 students: If you are interested in taking on coding and learning more about computational thinking and cryptoanalysis then send an email to j.hale@marlborough.herts.sch.uk. If we have enough interest, we will start a coding club and work on expanding your problem-solving skills.

Distinctions were achieved by:

Mia Murphy 7APD
Elsa Moffatt 7ADY
Willow Neil 7EDG
Ellie Gritmon 7RHE
Samuel Bak 7CCS
Lucas Jones 7ARE

Merits were achieved by:

Alex Brown 7WDN
Isabelle Day 7ARE
Tithi Patel 7RTN
Emmie Coles 7RHE
Livi Ziolkó 7ADY
Isaac Mohammed 7RTN



Congratulations to you all on your success in this competition.

Mrs. J Hale

Head of Department - Computer Science & Creative iMedia



Quote of the Week

“ The internet is written in ink, not pencil”
(Erica Albright, The Social Network Character)

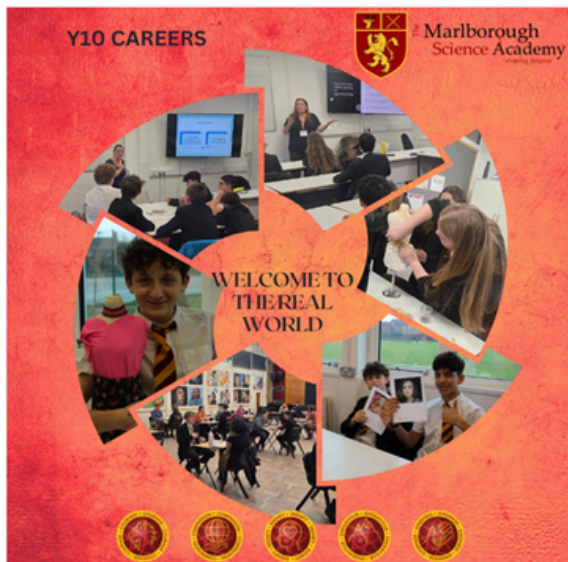


Word of the week

- **digital footprint (noun)** 
the information about a particular person that exists on the internet as a result of their online activity
- **empreinte numérique (nom)** 
les informations concernant une personne en particulier qui existent sur internet du fait de son activité en ligne
- **huella digital (sustantivo)** 
la información sobre una persona en particular que existe en internet como resultado de su actividad en línea

From our Socials

The Art Department and Year 7 are currently doing a community project with the Abbey Flyer - designing posters for the 7 stations that go between St Albans and Watford. We have chosen to look at the environment of this area and the bird wildlife that inhabit it. We are also exploring materials and techniques working in class and with Art club participants. We are hoping these posters will be in place in the Spring. All of the birds represented are British birds and can be found in gardens, woodlands and water lands within this area. Our students have been working hard on this project and creating some beautiful artwork. Displaying their work at our local stations will be a fantastic opportunity to celebrate their creativity and give them a real sense of pride. We can't wait to see them up! *Click on the image to see individual images on our website gallery.*



On Friday 23rd January Year 10 were involved in their 'Welcome to the real world' careers day. The day was focussed around students looking at next steps as well as skills that will help them in later life. In the morning students were given impartial advice from visitors about College, Apprenticeships, Interviewing and Deep Fakes and then in the afternoon they took part in a mock interview run by approximately 20 external visitors (parents and business links). The day was a great success, and the students found it both fun and educational. The mock interviews were particularly successful, and the interviewers were extremely impressed by the students' preparation, confidence, and performance. Thank you to all who attended and helped on the day.



Building positive relationships is at the heart of what we do in the LRC.

We are midway through a brilliant series of visits from the STEP organization. Over the past two sessions, it's been great to see students engaging with the volunteers through games and crafts.

These clubs are about more than just having fun; they provide a space for students to connect with positive role models and enjoy a relaxed environment. We are looking forward to their third and final visit soon!

Birds of the Abbey Flier

As you can see below and on the next page the finished posters for the Abbey Flier community project look fantastic. These are now being reproduced in vinyl to be displayed in the platform stations. Well done Year 7!

Ms Bustin





Year 12 Docklands and Kings Cross Trip

On Wednesday 4th February Year 12 completed their second regeneration study as part of the A level Geography course. The trip to the Docklands and King's Cross gave the students a hands-on look at how cities change and regenerate over time. In the Docklands, we explored how a former industrial port has been transformed into a modern business and residential area, learning about land use, transport links, and economic change. At King's Cross, we saw another powerful example of urban regeneration, where old railway lands and warehouses have been redeveloped into a vibrant, sustainable neighbourhood with cultural spaces, offices, and housing. The trip enabled the students to connect what we learn in class to real places, and we were very lucky with the weather, it was a very enjoyable and productive day.

Mrs James



The MO

Click on the image below to read the latest edition of the student magazine The MO.



Lost Property

We have many items of unnamed uniform and coats, together with a selection of water bottles in our lost property cupboard. If your child has lost anything please ask them to come to Student Services to check the cupboard.

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



LRC NEWS

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. Prethishta Ashok 7RHE - 2,953,189 words read
2. Temitayo Abisa 7RHE - 2,334,271 words read
3. Sonny Scott 7APD - 2,016,494 words read
4. Erin Cukaj 8JAS - 1,775,208 words read
5. Ashleigh Butnaru 8CGR - 1,541,924 words read
6. Victoria Van Gelder 8RLY - 1,537,502 words read
7. Lara Brew 7RTN - 1,492,746 words read
8. Alex Brown 7WDN - 1,251,284 words read
9. James Cowling 7EDG - 1,171,081 words read
10. Max Roach 7WDN - 1,147,253 words read



Big Read 2026

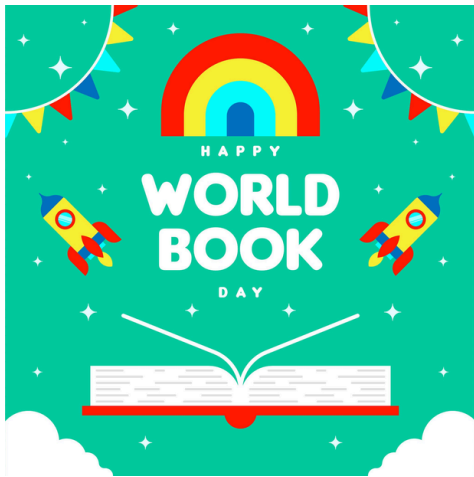
On Friday 16th January we launched our Big Read for 2026, *Spellstone* by Ross Montgomery, with Year 7 & 8 students. Students watched the author read the introduction during Period 1 and then heard some of our talented staff reading the next 4 chapters throughout the day. *Spellstone* is a magical adventure 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.

All staff and students who read the book and complete a short review will be awarded a pin badge and you can see the author's video and listen to Chapters 1 - 17 in a Google folder which you can access by clicking on the book cover. Staff are continuing to record chapters and they will be added to the same folder. You will need to be logged into Google with your school email address to access the folder.

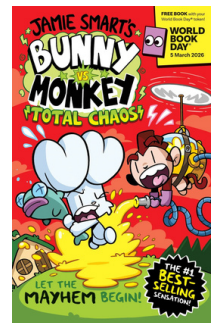
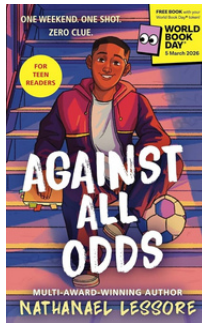
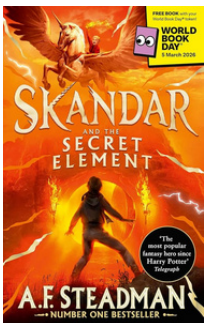


BookFest 2026

During the first two weeks back after half term we will be holding our annual celebration of reading, BookFest. There will be competitions, quizzes and events in the LRC and all Year 7 students have been invited to take part in a Readathon to raise money for the charity Read for Good. Read for Good provide new books and storytellers for children's hospitals throughout the country. You can see a short video about the charity and the Readathon by clicking on the Read for Good image below. We will also be holding a second hand book sale, all proceeds from the book sale will be added to our Readathon total. If you have any good quality pre-loved books that you would like to donate please send them in to school after half term.



During BookFest all Year 7 students will be offered one of the specially produced £1 books along with a £1 World Book Day token which they can use in a book shop. There will be extras available for students from other year groups in the LRC.



House News



MERCURY



HOUSE NEWSLETTER

MEET OUR HOUSE CAPTAINS

YEAR 7	Reuben Blakeway-Ely	Eloise Swinton	Ruby Holtum
YEAR 8	Lilith Tomissi Sahiner	Erin Cukaj	
YEAR 9	Patrick Antoine	Elaina Ridolfi	
YEAR 10	Peace Jegede	Hugo Perez-Landrove	
YEAR 11	Sophie Ahearn	Stefan Reed	

Wishing Everyone A Wonderful Half Term Break!

NEPTUNE HOUSE UPDATES 2026

	House Totals
Mercury	3rd 13,200
Saturn	1st 15,100
Neptune	2nd 14,800
Mars	4th 11,050

1ST IN ENDEAVOUR
1ST IN COURAGE
1ST IN TOTAL HOUSE POINTS
2ND IN TOTAL PINKIES

1ST PLACE ARTWORK

FANTASTIC JOB SO FAR!

2ND PLACE DOORWAY

MARS HOUSE 2026 UPDATES



PUMPKIN CARVE - 2ND PLACE

DANCE - 1ST PLACE

SCIENCE COMPETITIONS - 1ST PLACE

CHARACTER - RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS - 1ST PLACE

HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHY - 1ST PLACE - KIRIL TKACHOV 9ANE

LET'S WORK TO EARN MORE HOUSE POINTS AND PINKIES

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK AND KEEP PARTICIPATING IN HOUSE COMPETITIONS!

SATURN UPDATES 2026

KEEP TAKING PART!

INTRODUCING OUR NEWLY APPOINTED YEAR 12 SATURN REPS

PUMPKIN CARVING 1ST PLACE

YEAR 7 CASTLES 1ST PLACE

ART 6 PHOTOGRAPHY FANTASTIC

EXCELLENT RESULTS!!

House	Compassion	Kindness
Mercury	2nd 750	1st 1000
Saturn	1st 1000	2nd 750
Neptune	4th 250	4th 250
Mars	3rd 500	3rd 500

House	Totals
Mercury	3rd 13,200
Saturn	1st 15,100
Neptune	2nd 14,800
Mars	4th 11,050

WORLDS BEYOND THE PAGE with Jonathan Stroud

Saturday 21 February, 2.30-4.00pm
St Albans Library

Tickets: £5 per person
Best suited to ages 8+




A fun-filled, interactive event with an exclusive sneak peek at Jonathan's new project.

100 years Marlborough County Council Libraries Service 1925-2025

Minecraft Club: Medieval Castle Challenge

Students in Minecraft Club have been busy designing and constructing an impressive medieval castle as part of this term's creative challenge.

The brief required students to build a castle complete with defensive towers, a surrounding moat, a grand throne room and detailed interior spaces. As you can see from the images, students went far beyond the core requirements.

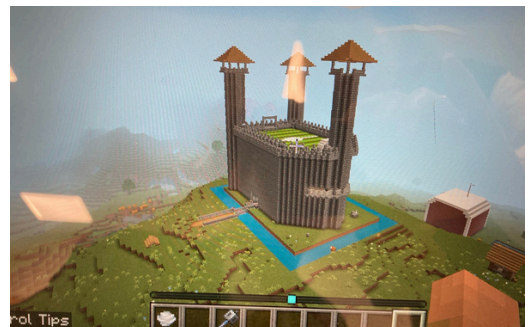
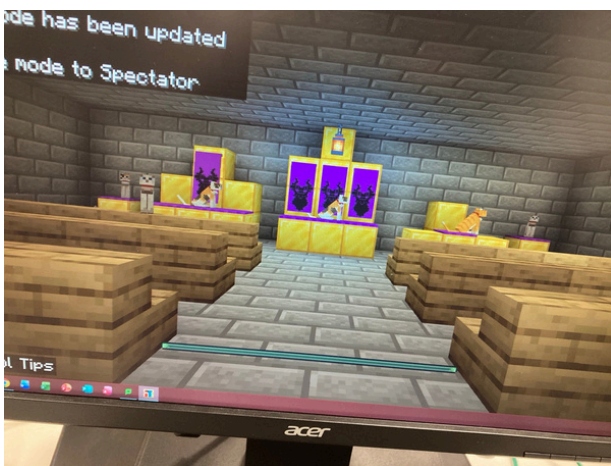
Highlights include:

- A fortified outer wall with lava-filled moat
- A spectacular throne room guarded by full suits of armour
- Custom banners and decorative detailing
- A fully designed kitchen and food preparation area
- A royal library and enchanting room
- A bird's-eye master plan showing the castle's layout and surrounding landscape

Students demonstrated outstanding creativity, spatial awareness, teamwork and problem-solving skills throughout the project. The level of detail — from lighting design to interior decoration — reflects both imagination and perseverance.

We are incredibly proud of the effort and dedication shown in Minecraft Club this term and look forward to the next creative build challenge!

Mrs Curtis



YOUNG MINDS



1 min read

Parents and carers are often the first place young people go when they're struggling – whether that's relationships, school or their mental health.

However experienced you are, it can be hard to know the right thing to say when someone you love is hurting, or what next steps to take.

This Children's Mental Health Week, we want parents and carers to know that help's out there.

Our Parents Helpline advisors are just a click or phone call away with free, expert, confidential, 1-1 advice. And we have hundreds of online guides and real stories from parents who get it.

Click on the image above to go to the Young Minds website for more information.

Careers Opportunity

WANT TO BE AN ENGINEER?

Get in contact today to find out more about our **Applied Training Programme**



Email: careers@jk-engineering.co.uk
Website: www.jk-engineering.co.uk





Discover our FREE rail safety videos and keep your children safe by visiting railsafefriendly.com

THE RAIL SAFE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

The Rail Safe Friendly programme has educated over **3 million young people** on the dangers of the railways.



DON'T LET YOUR CHILDREN BECOME THE NEXT STATISTIC



"I implore you to listen to Harrison's story"

Simon Frazer, Principal, Guilsborough Academy

According to the **ORR Report**, April 23 – March 24 on UK railways:

12

people died in accidents while trespassing

58%

were struck by a train or tram

42%

were electrocuted

According to **Rail Safe Friendly**, July 25:

120+

companies support the programme

11,000+

schools in the UK have engaged

20,000+

UK schools still need to be reached

JUNIOR SAINTS (GIRLS RUGBY from ages 9-18)



COME BE PART OF THE BEST GIRLS RUGBY CLUB IN HERTFORDSHIRE

TRAINING | WEDNESDAY'S
U11-U16's 18:00-19:30 & U18's 19:30-21:00

and Sunday games or training at OA's; Old Albanian RFC, Woollams Playing Field, 160 Harpenden Rd, St Albans, Herts. AL3 6BB

JOIN US FOR A 4 WEEK FREE TRIAL

EXISTING PLAYERS AND ANY NEW MEMBERS LOOKING TO LEARN THE GAME ARE VERY WELCOME PLEASE INVITE AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS ALONG!

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact:

Lead Coach: Craig Ihlenfeldt or E. craig.ihlenfeldt@oarugby.com M: 07943 274 534



Vista
Support Services

- ✓ Essential Life-Saving Techniques
- ✓ Empowerment and Confidence
- ✓ Comprehensive Curriculum

FIRST AID TRAINING FOR TEENAGERS

Basic First Aid (Level 2)

Gain the knowledge and skills needed to save lives.

The course is delivered by an approved ProTrainings UK instructor.

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 2026

Venue: Sandridge School, Woodcock Hill, St Albans, AL4 9EB

Time: 10am-2pm

Cost: £55 per person

For 13-16 year olds.

This course includes full ProTrainings digital certificates, downloadable CPD time credit statements and evidence based learning statements for all attendees. The qualification is valid for 3 years in line with UK Resus Council and HSE requirements.



Scan QR code to make a booking



www.vistasupportservices.org.uk.org.uk

info@vistasupportservices.org.uk

01727 519128

Spring Term 2026

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

Years 7 & 12 students only - Wednesday 2nd September

First day back for ALL Students - Thursday 3rd September

Half Term – Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October

Occasional Day - Friday 27th November

INSET DAY - Monday 30th November

End of Term - Friday 18th December

Spring Term 2027

INSET DAY – Monday 4th January

First day back for ALL Students - Tuesday 5th January

Half Term – Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February

End of Term – Thursday 25th March

Easter Break – Tuesday 30th March – Friday 9th April

Summer Term 2027

First day back for ALL Students - Monday 12th April

Half Term - Tuesday 1st June - Friday 4th June

Further dates to follow

**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.