Marlborough News
www.themarlboroughscienceacademy.co.uk

27th March 2026 Issue #149

The Marlborough Science Academy

'shaping futures'

27th March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this finds you all well and looking forward to a happy break and obviously the opportunity to indulge in whatever is your particular favourite treat (Bakewell tart for me!).

As always, it has been a very busy as well as feeling slightly surreal term, so much to celebrate but as our social media profile has increased dramatically (thank you Ms. Lepley), there is no need for me to repeat anything here. I would however like to reference our quiet heroes, the staff who are here most mornings at 7am to either do cover, catch up, open the site, listen to staff, I could go on… They are awesome and seldom mentioned so it's a big thank you from me and your work is so very much appreciated.

Accompanying this newsletter is a letter from Governors to introduce you to Marlborough's new headteacher from September, Mrs. Legg. I know you will give her a warm and friendly welcome as she leads the school forward towards the next exciting steps of its journey.

We bid farewell to Ms. Pierseca, teacher of MFL and welcome Ms. Downes who comes to us with a wealth of experience. We also bid farewell to Mr. Roast but know that many of your children will have already met Mr. Manafo in science who delights me with his enthusiasm and interest in your children and their learning.

We have made some excellent appointments for September and at this point in time are fully staffed – their pictures and pen portraits will be on the website after Easter.

So, exciting times ahead, we welcome the new head, Mrs. Legg, our new year 7 students for transition visits and continue to try and ensure Marlborough is an enriching and nurturing community for all.

For year 11/ 13 students I wish you all the very best of luck with your revision, remember it's not too late to make a difference, plan rest, eat nourishing food, remember too to keep well hydrated, it will be over soon and you will be proud of your achievements.

Enjoy your break, be kind and hopefully we'll all get some sun.

Take care,

Ms A Thomson
Headteacher

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Houses of Parliament Trip



Year 13 government and politics students had a wonderful day visiting the Houses of Parliament and the Supreme Court. Students were given a fabulous guided tour, including a visit to the Commons, followed by an important debate in the Lords.
Mr Pressland

Ski Trip

What an incredible week for our 40 student adventurers! From carving up the fresh powder to putting skis on for the first time, everyone showed amazing progress and spirit on the slopes. The fun didn't end with the skiing; our evenings were filled with high-energy quiz nights, a massive pizza feast, and a relaxing soak at the thermal spa. So many skills gained, friendships made, and memories captured. Well done to everyone for making this trip truly unforgettable!

Mr Hodge













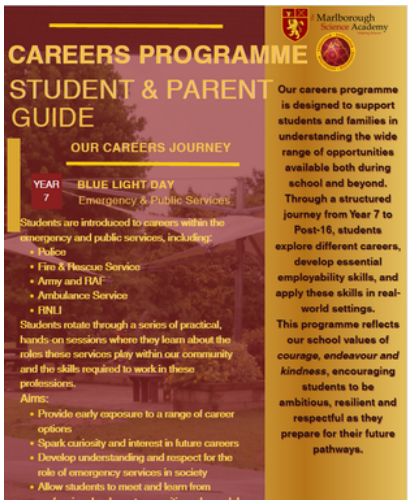
You can see more photos from the trip in the gallery on the school website here

Careers Provision at TMSA

This year as part of our Careers provision we have had Career Pathway Pop-in lunchtime sessions which are available to all year groups. These have covered a wide variety of career paths including Accountancy, Armed Forces, Game Design and Law.



Pictured right are students gaining hands on experience of the Beauty Industry, learning how to give a relaxing hand massage while also having the opportunity to ask questions about careers in this field.



Click on the image left to find more information about our careers provision at Marlborough on our website.

Year 10 Work Experience Week

From 2nd - 6th March our Year 10 students took part in a week's work experience, gaining invaluable insights and hands-on skills in real-world environments. From exploring career paths to building confidence, they made the most of this incredible opportunity.

Some of the places of work included Whipsnade Zoo, Heathrow airport, Ladybirds Nursery, Computacenter, University of Herts sports village and Warner Discovery HQ as well as a number of primary schools. A great learning experience was had by all.



We are always looking for businesses to host our work experience placements so if this is something you can offer, we would love to hear from you.

Please email careers@marlborough.herts.sch.uk

Red Bull Racing Careers Sessions

On Monday 9th and Monday 16th March students from Year 7 to 13 with an interest in motor racing and STEM took part in the Red Bull STEMX Challenge Day, exploring how science, technology, engineering, and maths drive success in Formula 1 and beyond. This was a fantastic opportunity that brought the world of racing and STEM to life for our students.



Year 9 Geography Fieldwork Trip

Year 9 Geographers visited Stratford on Tuesday 3rd March to complete their GSCE fieldwork. Students observed how land use and the local environment have changed over time. The sunny weather made the trip especially enjoyable, and students appreciated the chance to take part in hands-on geography by collecting data and making real-world observations outside the classroom.

Mrs James









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.



Sustainable Marlborough

We'd love to share some of the ways our students and staff have been getting hands on with sustainable action both in and out of the classroom.

River Chess Restoration Fieldwork in Geography

On Tuesday 10th March, Year 12 and 13 geographers and biologists spent the day taking part in a river restoration project on the River Chess at Sarratt. Working alongside the Chiltern Rangers, students helped to create bank supports to protect the watercress beds that line parts of the river.

The River Chess is particularly special as it is a globally rare chalk stream—one of only around 300 in the world. These streams are fed by crystal-clear, mineral-rich groundwater from the Chiltern Hills and support a unique and fragile ecosystem.

The day provided students with a fantastic opportunity to gain hands-on experience of conservation work, develop practical skills, and learn more about protecting local ecosystems. Blessed with lovely sunshine throughout the day, it was an enjoyable and rewarding experience for everyone involved.







Learning eco-lingo in MFL

The Modern Foreign Languages department has been teaching our students language to discuss climate change, sustainability and ways to protect the planet for future generations. Students learn the key vocabulary pertaining to recycling and how to save water /energy.

Here are some phrases you might find handy when traveling abroad:

English: No straw, please. **Spanish:** Sin pajita, por favor. **French:** Sans paille, s'il vous plaît.

English: I don't need a plastic bag, thank you. I have my own.
Spanish: No necesito una bolsa de plástico, gracias. Tengo la mía.
French: Je n'ai pas besoin d'un sac en plastique, merci. J'ai le mien.

English: Where can I find a recycling bin?
Spanish: ¿Dónde puedo encontrar un contenedor para reciclaje?
French: Où puis-je trouver un bac de recyclage ?



Reducing Reusing and Recycling in the Art Department

Our Art Department clearly believe that being creative and being eco-friendly belong together. The art faculty staff are always looking for clever ways to upcycle everyday items that would usually end up in the bin. For example, tetra packs are turned into a resource for dry point etching, this allows them to create multiple images by scratching the surface and inking it up. They also use plastic food trays as oil paint palettes to reduce the use of harsh chemicals in cleaning, and are always on the lookout for waste paper to create a rainbow of scraps ready for collages. Even the containers used to hold paint brushes and pencils are recycled tins and tubs. A round of applause to the Art Department for proving that we all can make small changes to help protect the planet.









Some of our A-Level art students are taking this mission even further through their latest project, "Origins." By studying how life begins with trees and following the journey of paper from tree, to lumber, to sheet, to bin. These students have made sure this journey is not one that ends in land-fill by exploring how recycling can extend this life-cycle. Students have been making their own paper, creating pulp from used worksheets and old books, they have been testing their skills to recycle in the classroom.

Lower down the school, inspired by the work we have done for a community project with the Abbey Flyer, Year 7 students have continued learning about biodiversity through local bird species. A house competition was launched for Year 7's to create bookmarks featuring some of Hertfordshire's beautiful birdlife. Here are our winners and runners up:







Coming soon !

We are excited to announce that when we come back after the Easter break we will be launching a house competition to promote recycling.

The competition will run until May half term and will be open to everyone.

More updates to come soon.

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 - 3,118,398 words read
2. Prethishta Ashok 7RHE - 3,034,380 words read
3. Erin Cukaj 8JAS - 2,244,896 words read
4. Victoria Van Gelder 8RLY - 2,197,248 words read
5. Sonny Scott 7APD - 2,027,021 words read
6. Lara Brew 7RTN - 1,779,187 words read
7. Eloise Swinton 7RTN - 1,686,946 words read
8. Ashleigh Butnaru 8CGR - 1,541,924 words read
9. Alex Brown 7WDN - 1,456,793 words read
10. Max Roach 7WDN - 1,358,311 words read



Big Read 2026 - Audio Book Quiz

Staff continue to record chapters of our Big Read Spellstone which can be accessed by clicking on the book cover image. Students will need to be logged into Google with their school email address. Also in the folder is a quiz for students to identify the staff reading chapters 1-9 which is part one of the book. This has also been sent out via Edulink. All students who enter the quiz will receive house points. There is a link to each chapter and a choice of 6 answers for each question.

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.

BookFest 2026

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Readathon and donated to the charity Read for Good. We raised £268 to support the charity in providing new books and storytellers for children's hospitals in the UK.

SPONSORED READ



BOOK SALE

The second hand book sale proved very popular with both staff and students and all money raised from this has been added to our Readathon total.





Some of our Year 7 & 8 students took part in a writing workshop with author Penny Joelson. Penny is the author of our first Big Read - I Have no Secrets and other crime and mystery novels. Students used dice to determine the characteristics of their protagonist and the direction of their stories.

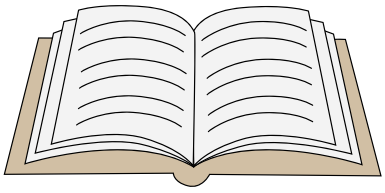
AUTHOR WORKSHOP



READING QUIZ

Reading Champions Quiz

Well done to our two Year 7 teams who took part in the Reading Champions Quiz on Thursday 25th February. Temitayo Abisa 7RHE, Lara Brew 7RTN, Prethishta Ashok 7RHE, Sonny Scott 7APD, Krish Kara 7ADY, Max Roach 7WDN, Ellie Gritmon 7RHE and Josh Kilcast 7RHE had the opportunity to test their knowledge of children's books and although they didn't progress to the national final both teams did really well and had lots of fun.







BookFest 2026



WORLD BOOK DAY
5 MARCH 2026

Students were offered one of the World Book Day books.

FREE BOOKS





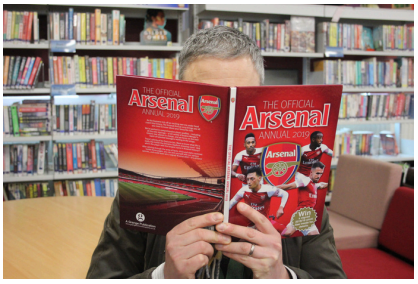
PHOTO BOOTH





Students had fun dressing up as book characters on World Book Day.







WHO'S BEHIND THE BOOK?

Who's Behind the Book Competition

Well done to Sam Henshall 12SCE, Beau Sweetman 9FCE, Arwen Thomson 11PCM Ellie Carter 11PCM who identified the most staff hiding behind books and won themselves an Easter egg. Lily Dennet 8JHN, Kayla Atkinson 8CFH, Ruby Barber 8RLY and Trishitha Pilla 8JHN also won a small prize each.

The National Year of Reading 2026
In partnership with THE READING AGENCY
GO ALL IN.

Attitudes to Reading Survey

Thank you to all students who completed the reading survey. Results will be shared next term and used to help plan the development of the LRC.

READING SURVEY



TRAITORS GAME

The Traitors Book Game

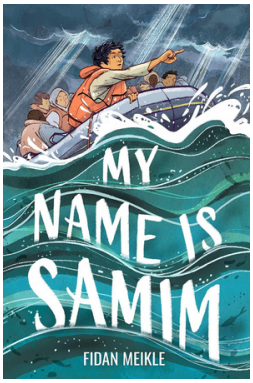
Year 7 & 8 students took the opportunity to hone their persuasive skills in their LRC lessons by playing a literary version of the tv show The Traitors. Students read out descriptions of a variety of children's books with the traitor in each group having to convince their peers that the fake book they were describing was real.

Children's Book Award

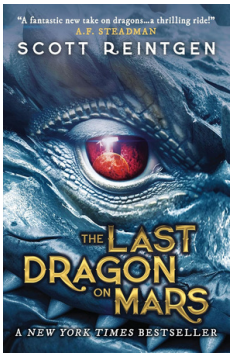
The Children's Book Award is an annual national award run by the Federation of Children's Book Groups. Each year the shortlist of 10 books is announced in February which includes 4 picture books in the Younger Children's category, 3 books for Younger Readers and 3 books for Older Readers. These books are chosen using the votes of children in testing groups across the country. As members of the Hertfordshire Children's Book Group our students have the opportunity to read brand new books and vote on their favourites to contribute to the shortlist.

Students in Years 7 & 8 are invited to read the 3 shortlisted books in the Older Reader category - My Name is Samim by Fidan Meikle, Fear Files: Hide and Seek by Christopher Edge & Mathias Ball and The Last Dragon on Mars by Scott Reintgen. Students will have the opportunity to take part in a discussion day at Beaumont School in April and cast their votes. If you would like to take part please speak to the LRC staff.















In a new activity for this year our Year 11 King's Trust students have stepped outside their comfort zone to visit Killigrew Primary School to read the shortlisted books for Younger Children to Reception and Year 1 classes. The students had some informal training from Terrie Bourner who is the book award coordinator for Hertfordshire and have been practicing in their lessons before visiting the school for the first time on Friday 20th March.

Carnegie Medal for Writing

Readers in Year 8 and above are invited to take part in shadowing of the Carnegie Medal for Writing Shortlist. There are 8 diverse books on the shortlist and students will shadow the Carnegie judges by reading the books and scoring them by the same criteria the judges use. Students can vote for their favourite which will be announced as the Shadowers' Choice alongside the judges choice in a ceremony on 23rd June. Students that read at least 5 of the books will be invited to an event at Beaumont School to discuss the books and watch a livestream of the award ceremony. Speak to me for more details. Some of the books contain mature themes so parental permission will be needed for Year 8 students to borrow these.

Mrs Nixon



District Gym and Dance Display

Our Marlborough Dance Company performed at the District Gym and Dance Display at STAHS on Monday 16th March. The students from Years 8-11 have been working extremely hard during lunchtime rehearsals, with this being their first performance together as a group. It was a brilliant evening of gym and dance with 6 other schools in the district also performing fantastic routines. Huge congratulations to all of the students involved, you always demonstrate our values and represent our school so well. The next performance is at The Great Big Dance Off Competition in London on the 14th April!

Miss Fox











Family Support

You can click on the images for more information and find other links to support our SEND page on the school website here





Vista Support Services and DSPL7 Delivering Special Provision Locally

2026 SEND Coffee Mornings

DSPL7 & Vista Support Services host coffee mornings where School and SEND Family Workers are available to support parents / carers of children with SEND regardless of a diagnosis. This is an informal and safe place for parents / carers to share information and chat. The DSPL7 SEND Lead and other professionals may also be available for discussions. There is no need to book to attend this drop in session.

Time: 9.15-11.30am

Venue: The Hub, Fleetville Junior School, 228 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW. The Hub is to the right hand side of the school building at the bottom of the car park. There is no parking available onsite, but 3 hours free parking is available nearby in Morrisons supermarket.

Community News

GEORGE ORWELL'S
1984
AT

ADAPTED BY: RYAN CRAIG
PRODUCED BY: COMPANY OF TEN

ABBEY THEATRE | THURSDAY 23RD APRIL | 7:30PM

BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU

Join us for a powerful and thought-provoking production of this classic story, brought to life on stage for one special charity night in support of local charities Citizens Advice St Albans and Youth Talk.

Tickets: £15 + £1.96 booking fee

Scan the QR code to reserve your seats:

Charity Performance in support of

citizens advice St Albans District

YOUTH TALK We're listening



STUDY SMART Free Online Courses

Aspire Education | Marlborough Science Academy | ncfe. | cache | Education & Skills Funding Agency



www.studysmartuk.online



Spring Term 2026

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

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