



# Marlborough News

www.themarboroughscienceacademy.co.uk

22nd May 2026 Issue #150



The Marlborough  
Science Academy



May 2026

Dear Parents & Carers

It doesn't seem that long ago since I wrote in the last newsletter but as with politics, a week in school is a long time!

GCSE's and A levels have got off to a great start; the Year 11s in particular have been exemplary in every way and I am enormously proud of how far they have all come. Many thanks must go to all the staff giving freely of their time to do last minute revision. As with all the "rite of passage events" there were some great costumes, the same screams at younger selves and a couple of hours of "worry free" moments before the start of exams. As I head (hurtle) towards my last few weeks it is getting harder and harder not to get a bit (very) sentimental ticking of the "last events" for me at Marlborough but still lots of fun. We continue to make some great appointments for September, their pen portraits will be on the website after half term, so you can get to know them before they join the school. It feels very gratifying to be leaving the school with great staff.

We are all very excited to see the new (enormous) mural going up on one of our buildings. Ms. Bustin has collaborated with graffiti artist Ant Steel and her Year 12s to come up with the design – it is going to look fabulous. Can I also take time to say a massive thank you to my lovely year 8 club (you know who you are), a constant source of joy – they remind me every week about the madness and joy of youth as well as the huge potential for a thoughtful and kind world in which to live.

Have a great week, enjoy what I believe is going to be some good weather.

Take care,

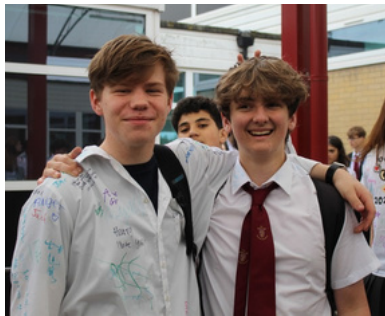
Ms A Thomson  
Headteacher



## Goodbye Year 11



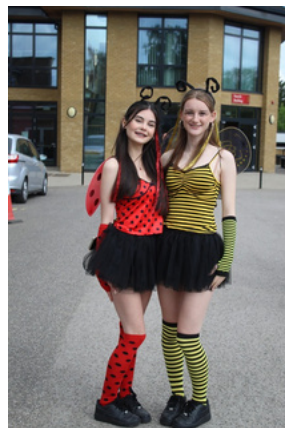
Shirt Signing



Year 11 celebrated their last week of school with the usual shirt signing and celebration assembly. There were some brilliant costumes! We wish them all the best for their exams and for the future, whether they are returning to Marlborough or moving on to pastures new.



Celebration Assembly



## Year 13 Celebration Assembly



We said goodbye to our Year 13s who rose to the occasion with some fabulous costumes. Good luck for your exams and for the future, whatever you do next.



## Student Achievement

Well done to James Baughan 7RHE who captained his team, Fullerians RFC, to victory during their end of season tour in April. Both James and Freddie Ponsford 7ADY played throughout the tournament, putting in tackles and carries, and securing a well-deserved 5-4 win against Richmond in their final to bring home the South Coast Challenge Cup.

James was also awarded Players' Player of the Year by his team at their final training session of the season.



## Uniform Sale

SWI

Ready, Set, Save!

**15% off**

**Everything!**

Use Code: **SAVE15** at checkout.

swischoolwear.co.uk

18th - 26th May

We're making back-to-school easier (and cheaper!) for you.

Promo starts Monday 18th May until 26th May. enjoy **15% off everything!**

Whether you're stocking up or prepping ahead, this is the perfect time to grab everything you need.

 Shop early and avoid the summer rush.

 Built to last sustainable and high-quality products.

 Worried about growth spurts? Don't be we've got extended returns.

 One-stop shop: All your school essentials in one place.

Shop online today and start saving!

Use Code: **SAVE15** at checkout.

swischoolwear.co.uk

## Street Art Meets Textiles — Year 8 Graffiti-Inspired Pencil Case Project

Year 8 students have been completing a project that draws inspiration from one of the world's most bold and expressive art forms: graffiti.

The project began with research into the world of street art. Students explored the work of established graffiti artists, such as Banksy and C215, studying real pieces from around the globe to understand what makes this art form so striking, so personal, and so powerful. Students analysed the work and looked at colour, composition, lettering, symbolism, and style before developing their own unique interpretation of what graffiti means to them.

With their designs taking shape on paper, students then turned their creativity into reality. Every pencil case was constructed entirely from scratch, with each graffiti design brought to life using a wonderful range of media, from fabric paints and embroidery to mixed-media techniques. The results are pieces that are bold, creative, and deeply individual.

The standard of work being produced is truly beyond amazing. Each piece tells its own story and reflects the incredible creativity, skill, and effort that has gone into it and we have included some examples of the students' finished work.

A huge well done to all of Year 8!!!

Miss Scott



## History Trip to Normandy

Year 9 and 10 history students recently took part in a memorable four-day trip to Normandy to deepen their understanding of D-Day and the events of the Second World War. After an early 3.15 am departure, we arrived in Caen shortly after lunch and began our visit at the Normandy landings sites.



Our first stop was the Merville Gun Battery, famously captured by British paratroopers in the hours before the beach landings. We also visited Pegasus Bridge, where British glider pilots carried out a daring nighttime landing with remarkable precision.



Throughout the trip, students explored the historic landing beaches of Sword Beach, Gold Beach, Juno Beach and Omaha Beach, gaining a deeper understanding of the experiences of Allied soldiers on 6 June 1944. After visiting a British cemetery, we also paid our respects at American, Canadian and German cemeteries, reflecting on the immense human cost of war and the sacrifices made by so many. Despite the emotional nature of many visits, there were also opportunities to enjoy time together, including ice creams in the warm Normandy sunshine.



The trip concluded with a moving wreath-laying ceremony at the British Normandy Memorial near Gold Beach, where students remembered the 11,000 British soldiers who lost their lives during the Normandy Campaign. The visit was both educational and deeply meaningful, giving students a powerful insight into one of the most significant events of the Second World War.

**Mr Pressland**



## Year 12 Alban Learning Partners Conference 2026

Earlier this term, our newly appointed Student Leaders, Alex, Rosie, Lilac and Freddie, played a key role in leading the ALPS Conference 2026. The event marked the culmination of weeks of planning and collaboration between our outgoing Student Leaders, who developed and designed the sessions, and the new team, who brought them to life on the day.

The conference welcomed more than 250 Year 12 students from schools across the Alban Learning Partnership (Townsend, STAGS, Loreto, Nicholas Breakspear School and Samuel Ryder Academy). Student leaders from across the consortium delivered a range of engaging sessions centred around the conference theme, Escaping Reality. Each partnership school interpreted the theme in its own unique way. At TMSA, the focus was on mobile phone use and the ways in which people can become disconnected from real life through constant engagement with their devices.

The day also featured an insightful keynote speech from Dr Cheryl Greyson, who explored the influence of mobile phones within industries such as marketing and media.

Throughout the conference, students participated in thoughtful and stimulating discussions on topics including fake news, catfishing and the importance of recognising when it is time to switch off from technology. Students also had the opportunity to take part in a drama workshop led by Richard from the SASA School of Performing Arts - a local

performing arts school founded by TMSA alumni, Phoebe Shergold-Willis. It was a highly impactful and engaging day that encouraged reflection, discussion and greater awareness of the role technology plays in our lives. Well done to all our Year 12 students, who represented the school superbly throughout the event, and a special thank you to our outgoing Student Leadership team for their dedication and commitment to student leadership.



### Ms Redfern



#### 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.



#### Staying Hydrated

With warmer weather hopefully on the way, students should ensure they bring a water bottle to school to stay hydrated during the day.



## 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](mailto:s.nixon@marlborough.herts.sch.uk)



### The top ten readers so far this year are:

1. Temitayo Abisa 7RHE - 3,130,483 words read
2. Prethishta Ashok 7RHE - 3,034,380 words read
3. Erin Cukaj 8JAS - 2,836,265 words read
4. Victoria Van Gelder 8RLY - 2,459,310 words read
5. Eloise Swinton 7RTN - 2,283,076 words read
6. Sonny Scott 7APD - 2,248,342 words read
7. Ashleigh Butnaru 8CGR - 1,877,342 words read
8. Lara Brew 7RTN - 1,779,187 words read
9. Ruby Holtum 7ADY - 1,657,126 words read
10. Ooviya Pragash 8CFH - 1,650,007 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.

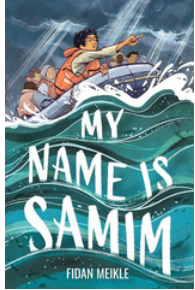
Spellstone is a magical adventure exploring themes of friendship, teamwork and sacrifice which includes a diverse cast of characters including a talking cat! The main character Evie demonstrates all our school values throughout the story, particularly courage and kindness.

All staff and students who read the book and complete a short review will be awarded a pin badge.



## Children's Book Award

On Wednesday 29th April a group of Year 7 & 8 students attended a discussion morning at Beaumont School for The Children's Book Award older readers category. The students read the three shortlisted books - 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 before the event and then spent time discussing the books with students from other local schools.



This year the discussion took the form of a Book Oscars with awards for categories such as Biggest Plot Twist, Most Emotional Moment and Best Friendship.

After casting their votes, students spent some time creating artwork for the portfolios which will be presented to all the shortlisted authors and illustrators at the award ceremony on 9th June.

During a break for cake and squash the votes were counted and our winner was announced. My Name is Samim came out on top but we will have to wait until June to find out if the rest of the country agrees with us.



Before heading back to Marlborough students took part in an interactive workshop with author Sarah Hagger-Holt who spoke about her books including The Fight that Makes Us which is partly set in the 1980s. Her talk included students trying to guess what some items from that time were including a mix tape, an old style telephone and a film cartridge.



Thank you to all students who took part, you were wonderful ambassadors for our school.

Mrs Nixon

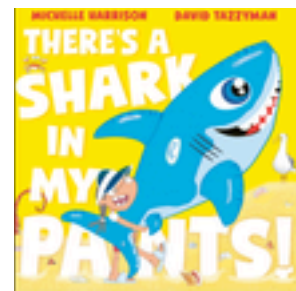
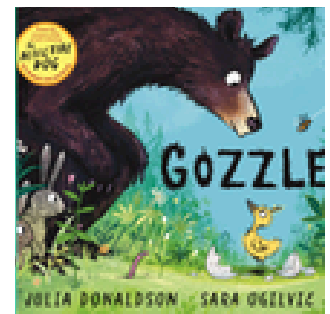


## Year 11 Inspire Young Readers Through Children's Book Award

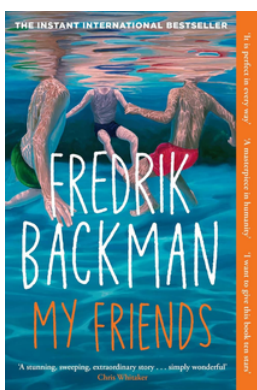
Our Year 11 King's Trust students recently took part in the Federation of Children's Book Groups Children's Book Awards project, helping to inspire younger students to develop a love of reading for pleasure.

As part of the project, students visited Killigrew Primary School where they worked with Reception and Year 1 classes. Students read stories aloud to the children, encouraged discussion about the books and helped pupils rank their favourites before submitting the results to the Federation of Children's Book Groups as part of the national awards process. Although many students were nervous at the beginning, the experience gave them a huge confidence boost as the sessions progressed. They developed valuable workplace and communication skills including reading aloud clearly, asking questions, prompting discussion and managing a class of younger children. The children loved the books, especially the one about a glowing pair of creepy underwear! The students loved awarding the younger children with a sticker for their participation. The project was a fantastic opportunity for students to step outside of their comfort zones and prepare for life beyond school and the world of work, while making a positive impact on younger readers.

Miss Bassett



## Staff Book Club



After the wonderful Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir our next staff book club pick is My Friends by Fredrik Backman.

*Twenty-five years ago, a group of teenagers found solace in each other during one unforgettable summer. Their friendship inspired a transcendent work of art, a painting that now mysteriously belongs to eighteen-year-old aspiring artist Louisa.*

*Driven to learn the story behind its creation, Louisa embarks on a journey to the seaside town where it all began. But as she gets closer to the painting's birthplace, Louisa learns that happy endings do not always take the form we expect.*



## National Year of Reading

To celebrate World Book Night on 23<sup>rd</sup> April staff were encouraged to choose one of our adult quick reads and switch off from the digital world for The Reading Agency's Reading Hour. At a time when 35% of adults say that they used to read regularly but no longer do, a short book can help us to model good reading habits.

Mrs Lepley and Mrs Claridge share their thoughts on the very different books that they read below.



*The Woman Next Door is gripping and fast-paced and pulls you in from the very first page. The prologue is great and sets an unsettling tone straight away.*

*The story quickly draws you into its mystery, and I really liked that it focuses on a small number of main characters. I also enjoyed the alternating narration between the two women which kept the tension building until the end. Short chapters make it an easy read, with a pace that stays consistent right through to the end.*

*It's great to see a shorter novel that's still interesting and satisfying to read as an adult especially for those who may struggle with longer books.*

**Mrs Lepley**



*What do you think of when you hear 'I was a Love Island contestant'? I bet it's not an A&E doctor who worked through the COVID pandemic and who is now an ambassador for a charity supporting young people's mental health. It certainly wasn't the first thing that sprung into my mind when I did a little digging on my chosen author.*

*Non-fiction is not normally my cup of tea, but just like the beverage itself, this little gem of a book has the power to uplift and revive. The book covers seven "universal truths" of mental well being and three of them rang very true for me as a teacher:*

*We all need to check our battery levels from time to time. Get to know what a "good day" feels like for you. When you start feeling extra snappy, tired, or quiet, that's your brain telling you it's running on 1% and needs a recharge.*

*Boundaries are beautiful. Setting limits with your time, digital devices, and relationships is not selfish, but an essential act of self-care.*

*Perfect mental health doesn't exist - mental fitness is a spectrum; it is about progress and management, not achieving a permanent state of "perfection."*

*His ideas are not rocket science and we've heard many of them before. However, the book is as comforting and as reassuring as a cuppa with friend and his writing hits just the right balance between educational and entertaining. I'm super keen to get hold of the 204 page version which will go right on top of my mountainous TBR pile.*

**Mrs Claridge**



## Trinity Laban Dance Trip

A group of 25 GCSE Dance students and students in our Dance Company/Year 8 Dance Club had an exciting day at The Trinity Laban building in London on Wednesday 6th May. The day involved a tour of the impressive building where the students were able to see students in action, studying and attending their performance and choreography classes. We were able to sit in on one of the classes and watch a snippet of them taking a technique class. Each class had live music being played from bongos to guitars to piano! We also had a careers talk in the lecture theatre about different career paths and training in dance. The day finished with a brilliant contemporary class on performance and choreography in one of the studios. The students were excellent and really engaged with all the different activities throughout the day. A really inspiring day for all, well done!

Miss Fox



## Meet Mabel

Introducing Mabel, our newest member of staff. Mabel will be working alongside Bertie as a comfort dog in training.



## The Mo

Click on the image below to read the latest edition of The Mo

**THE MO**

2026

MAY EDITION



PHOTOGRAPHY BY FLORENCE VAN HUYET

# Sustainable Marlborough

## Tiggywinkles Trip

On Thursday 23rd April the Marlborough eco-committee students visited Tiggywinkles Visitor Centre. During the day students learned about the essential principles of wildlife rescue and rehabilitation, gaining hands-on knowledge of hedgehog conservation and learning to recognize common man-made hazards to wildlife, like garden netting and litter.

The Visitor Centre is the public-facing educational wing of the world-leading Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital, dedicated to rescuing, treating, and rehabilitating British wildlife. Entrance fees and funds raised at the centre go directly toward the treatment of over 13,000 sick, injured, and orphaned animals treated annually.

Using the information learned on the day, the eco-committee students are more ready than ever to become stewards of nature at Marlborough. They have already been hard at work creating posters and pushing to reduce litter around the school.



We would like to invite everyone in our community to help us support nature this spring!

Over 97% of wildflower meadows have been lost since the 1930s. Unmown lawns can help replace this lost habitat on a micro-scale. **No Mow May** is a conservation campaign that encourages us to let

our lawns grow a little taller and a little wilder by holding off on mowing for the month of May. In this way you are able to support nature by actually doing less!

By letting grass and wildflowers grow, you create a vital food source and habitat for bees, butterflies and other pollinators. Our crops, ecosystems and food systems all depend on pollinators so they deserve all the help they can get!

If you missed the memo this May or still want to go the extra mile to support or ecosystems in coming weeks, you can continue your lawn conservation projects as we will now be moving into **Let it Bloom June!**



## Cadets Rise to the Challenge on Annual Inspection Day

Students from our Combined Cadet Force (CCF) proudly took part in this year's Annual Inspection Day, demonstrating excellent teamwork, resilience and determination throughout a range of demanding activities.

Cadets tackled challenging construction tasks, tested their focus and confidence during clay pigeon shooting, and had the opportunity to explore a variety of army equipment, including specialist telescopes. The day gave students a valuable insight into military skills while encouraging communication, leadership and problem-solving.

A particular highlight of the day was seeing four of our students awarded medals in recognition of their effort, commitment and achievement. All students represented the school brilliantly and should be extremely proud of their performance.

If you are currently in Year 8 and are interested in getting involved with CCF, keep an eye out for information about our summer term taster sessions. These sessions are a great opportunity to try new activities, meet current cadets and find out more about the exciting experiences CCF has to offer.

**Miss Bassett**



## Blisters, Backpacks and Big Achievements: Year 9 Take on DofE Practice Expedition

Our Year 9 students recently took part in their DofE Practice Expedition, showing fantastic determination, teamwork and resilience throughout the experience. Over the course of two days, students walked for around six hours each day, navigating a planned route while carrying all their own equipment.

The expedition gave students the opportunity to develop important outdoor and life skills, including map reading, navigation and tent pitching. Students also had to be completely self-sufficient, organising their kit, managing their time and preparing and cooking their own meals at the campsite.

Despite the challenge of long walks and heavy rucksacks, students showed a positive attitude and supported one another throughout the expedition. In the evenings, students enjoyed some well-earned downtime at the campsite, playing football, cricket and frisbee, as well as relaxing together with games of Uno.

We wish our students well in their upcoming qualifying expedition.

Year 8 students interested in taking part in Bronze DofE should keep an eye out next half term for details on how to sign up and get involved.

Miss Bassett and Miss Rowe



# TRAVEL PARTNERSHIP WITH PETE & LAURELLE AT NOT JUST TRAVEL

We've teamed up with local Personal Travel Consultants to help raise funds for the PTA. Pete & Laurelle are Personal Travel Consultants based in St Albans. They provide clients with FREE, independent travel advice and a reassuringly personal service.

Every time a booking is made through them, part of their commission goes straight back to the PTA to help fund some of the Academy's exciting initiatives.

They can plan everything from off-the-shelf packages from providers like TUI and Jet2 to bespoke holiday experiences tailored to your unique preferences and budget - saving you time, hassle, and often money in the process. Amongst other things, they curate city breaks, cruises, honeymoons, ski holidays, golf holidays, Disney & Santa breaks, rail adventures and tailored multi-centre itineraries all around the world. Holidays to suit all budgets.

For all your holiday enquiries to Pete & Laurelle, please use the following link:

<https://notjustholidays.com/themarlboroughscienceacademy>



Movie Festival



**Movie Festival**  
**FAMILY OPEN AIR CINEMA**  
**AT THE MARLBOROUGH SCIENCE ACADEMY, ST ALBANS**

**SATURDAY 27TH JUNE 2026**

TAKING PLACE ON THE PLAYGROUND, CHOOSE FROM EITHER FILM BELOW  
 PLEASE BE AWARE PLACES ARE VERY LIMITED



**Mamma Mia! - Certificate PG**  
 Doors Open 2pm  
 Film Start 3pm



**School of Rock - Certificate 12A**  
 Doors Open 6pm  
 Film Start 7pm

Click on the image right to book your tickets for our Movie Festival



EARLY BIRD SAVING = AVAILABLE FROM  
 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026 FOR A LIMITED TIME

TICKETS	EARLY BIRD	ONLINE AFTER EARLY BIRD
<b>FAMILY OF 2</b> 1 ADULT + 1 CHILD	£15	£20
<b>FAMILY OF 3</b> 1 ADULT + 2 CHILDREN	£20	£25
<b>FAMILY OF 4</b> 2 ADULTS + 2 CHILDREN	£28	£35

MANY MORE TICKET OPTIONS ONLINE  
[WWW.BUYTICKETS.AT/MOVIEFESTMARLBOROUGH](http://WWW.BUYTICKETS.AT/MOVIEFESTMARLBOROUGH)

# Teens Unite Charity Bake Sale



On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April the LRC hosted a bake sale to raise awareness of teen cancer and to support Teens Unite, a local charity that helps young people and families facing cancer. This fundraiser, on the final day of Teen Cancer Awareness Month, was organised by the parents of Erin Parrott 8LGM, to give back to the charity who have provided incredible support for their family during Erin's cancer recovery.

We received lots of donations of cakes, biscuits, traybakes, cupcakes, and other sweet treats which helped make the event a great success. Thank you so much for your kindness and support. In total we raised £792.75 for this incredible charity.

*"A huge thank you from us to the staff, students and families who baked and bought cakes to help raise money for this cause that is so close to our hearts".* **Helen & Alex Parrott**



This certificate is presented to

**Marlborough Science Academy**

for

raising an incredible £792.75 for Teens Unite Fighting Cancer

With your kindness and generosity, Teens Unite can support more young people living with cancer and the lasting effects of their diagnosis.

  
**Roxanne Lawrence**  
Chief Executive

14/05/2026

Date

**teens: unite**  
FIGHTING CANCER  
Registered Charity Number: 1118361

## Guide Dog Visit

On Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th April we had a wonderful visit from the Guide Dogs team, which was both inspiring and educational for everyone involved. The students and staff thoroughly enjoyed learning about the incredible work that guide dogs do and how they support people with visual impairments to live more independent lives.

Over the two days, the enthusiasm and generosity shown by our school community was truly heartwarming. Thanks to everyone's efforts, I am delighted to share that they raised an amazing £411 in support of this fantastic cause.

A big thank you to the Guide Dogs team for visiting us, and to all pupils and staff who contributed so kindly.



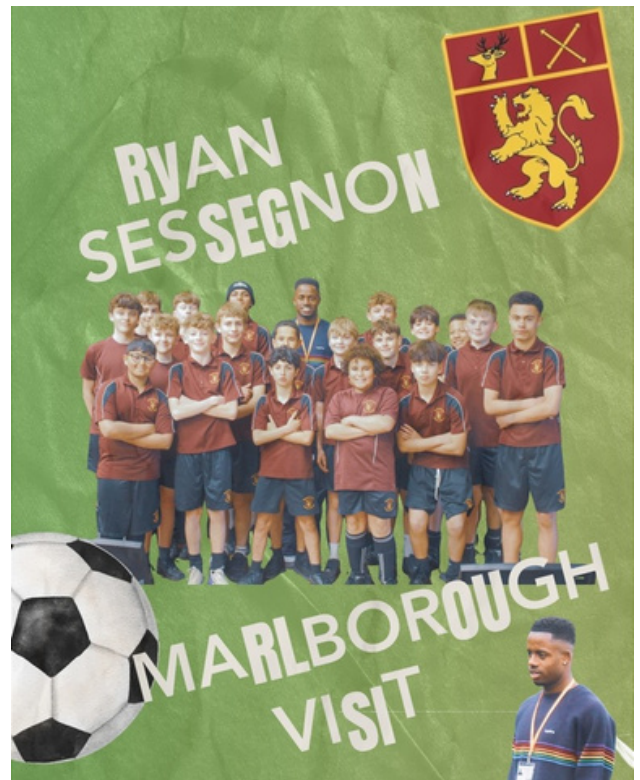
## Ryan Sessegnon visit



On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May a group of Year 8 students had an incredible experience welcoming Ryan Sessegnon from Fulham FC to Marlborough.

During the visit, students gained a insight into a realistic perspective of achieving success through discipline, focus and hard work. It was an inspiring session that left students motivated and excited, and we're very grateful to Ryan for taking the time to share his journey with us!

Ms Demitri-John



### Word of the week

- **resolve (verb)**   
*to solve or end a problem or difficulty*
- **résoudre (verbe)**   
*résoudre ou mettre fin à un problème ou à une difficulté*
- **resolver (verbo)**   
*resolver o terminar un problema o dificultad*

[themarboroughscienceacademy.co.uk](http://themarboroughscienceacademy.co.uk)



### Quote of the Week

**“ Unless commitment is made, there are only promises and hopes...but no plans”**  
(Peter F Drucker, Consultant, Educator and Author)



[themarboroughscienceacademy.co.uk](http://themarboroughscienceacademy.co.uk)

## The Great Big Dance Off Competition

Congratulations to our Dance Company who performed at The Great Big Dance Off competition at Cadogan Hall in London on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April.

The students performed a contemporary/lyrical routine to 'To Build a Home', receiving a fantastic 249 points out of 300 from the judges. They placed 9<sup>th</sup> out of 18 schools in the KS4/5 category and 10<sup>th</sup> overall out of 29 performances. It was a great experience for our students to perform in a professional London theatre and such a fun and inspiring evening of talent from all the schools involved.

Thank you to our students for being so professional and supportive of one another and to all the other schools involved. Well done girls, all of those lunchtimes rehearsals definitely paid off!

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](#)



# SUPPORT GROUPS

## FREE ONLINE SUPPORT GROUPS FOR HERTS PARENTS/CARERS



### ABOUT THE GROUPS

ADD-vance runs regular support groups which provide an opportunity for you to meet other local parents and discuss individual concerns with two specialist ADD-vance coaches. We welcome parents and carers who have a formal diagnosis for their child, as well as those who do not have a formal diagnosis but would like to learn more about neurodivergence.

### TIME AND PLACE

#### Sleep Support

Tue 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026 - 1.30-2.30 pm

#### Joint Support Group with The OLLIE Foundation

Tue 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026 - 1.30-2.30 pm

#### Parents/Carers of 16 to 25 yr olds

Tue 16<sup>th</sup> June 2026 - 1.30-2.30 pm

#### General Primary Aged Children

Tue 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2026 - 1.30-2.30 pm

#### General Secondary Aged Children

Tue 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026 - 7.30-8.30 pm

#### PDA Support

Tue 7<sup>th</sup> July 2026 - 1.30-2.30 pm

ALL ONLINE VIA ZOOM

01727 833963

[herts@add-vance.org](mailto:herts@add-vance.org)

<http://www.add-vance.org/>

Book your FREE ticket on <http://add-vance.eventbrite.com/> or visit our website <http://www.add-vance.org/>

These groups are open to residents of Hertfordshire only

**Vista**  
Support Services

and



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



**THE MAKERS OF TASKMASTER ARE CASTING NOW FOR A NEW CHANNEL 4 SHOW!**

Does your household enjoy watching Taskmaster and would you love the chance to try the tasks?

What if you could compete together against other households from the comfort of your own home AND be in with a chance of winning a cash prize?

Avalon Television is looking for fun and quick-thinking families/housemates/couples to tackle a host of creative and head-scratching tasks set by Alex Horne of Taskmaster fame.

More information and application form link below

[www.avalontvcasting.com](http://www.avalontvcasting.com)

*Terms and conditions apply.*  
We only accept applications from a household member aged 18+  
Closing date 23:59 on Sunday 7 June 2026.  
Any information you provide as part of your application will be processed in line with our privacy policy: <https://avalonuk.com/privacy-policy-cast-crew-and-talent/>

May 2026

Dear Parent

**Reference:** The makers of Taskmaster are casting families for a fun new primetime Channel 4 show.

**Dates:** Filming half term October 2026.

I am writing to you from Avalon Television Limited, a multi-award-winning production company, producers of *Taskmaster* and *Junior Taskmaster* (Channel 4), *Dogs Behaving Very Badly* (Channel 5), *Not Going Out* (BBC One), *The Chris & Rosie Ramsey Show* (BBC Two), as well as many more. Please see our website here: <https://avalonuk.com/productions/>

We are looking for children and their families to take part in an exciting new entertainment show. The chosen households will take part together in an array of creative, fun and head-scratching games from the comfort of their own homes – in the hope of beating the other households to win a cash prize, as well as having a lot of fun as a family! The tasks will be set by Alex Horne of *Taskmaster* fame.

More information, T&Cs and the application form can be found at

[www.avalontvcasting.com](http://www.avalontvcasting.com)

We would also like to reassure you that Avalon Television takes its duty of care when filming with children very seriously and there are robust safeguarding protocols in place. All crew, production team and on-screen talent in direct contact with the children will have an Enhanced DBS check done. In addition, the licensed chaperones' sole focus is to ensure that the children are monitored, happy, informed as to what is going on and they will make sure they have breaks and sustenance.

Please note that a parent or legal guardian must get in touch. We cannot respond to emails or applications from children.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

Alexandra Lockyer  
Casting Producer  
Avalon Television Limited



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BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY | SING | JURASSIC PARK

**FRIDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY - SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST**

**OPEN-AIR CINEMA**

**FOOD TRUCKS & BAR**

TICKETS: [BATTERSGREENFARM.CO.UK](http://BATTERSGREENFARM.CO.UK)



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## Community News



# WE ARE HIRING FOR

SENIOR COACH (COUNTY TEAM)

1. **Kardale Netball Club is based in St Albans**
2. **Looking for a paid Level 2 Coach**
3. **Start: Sept 2026**
4. **Coaching Herts Div 3 Team**

Please email:  
[admin@kardalenetballclub.com](mailto:admin@kardalenetballclub.com)



🗣️ Calling ALL GIRLS years 7-13 who are looking for a club!

!! An exciting opportunity for access to consistent, fun & competitive basketball through the 2026/27 season!

📈 Designed and curated through our skill development programme, we aim to deliver a high standard of basketball with the hopes of competing in the Junior NBL.

📅 Welcome evenings & Taster Sessions are due to take place on Saturday 16th May & Saturday 23rd May 5:30PM - 7:30PM

📍 Queens' School

✈️🌍 Through joining, you will have access to discounted camps and tours via our partner [@essellesportstravel](https://www.essellesportstravel.com)

📱 For more information direct message or email [dom@dsrtraining.org](mailto:dom@dsrtraining.org)

🌐 or visit our website  
[www.aroundtheglobebasketball.com](http://www.aroundtheglobebasketball.com)



## YEARS 7-13 BASKETBALL TRY OUTS WITH ATG BASKETBALL ACADEMY

16TH AND 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY, 2026

QUEENS' SCHOOL, ALDENHAM ROAD,  
WD23 2TY, BUSHEY  
17.30-19.30PM

# CALLING ALL GIRLS!

FOR GIRLS WITH BASKETBALL EXPERIENCE LOOKING TO:

- DEVELOP INDIVIDUAL SKILLS
- PLAY COMPETITIVE GAMES
- JOIN A DEDICATED SQUAD
- IMPROVE CONFIDENCE AND PERFORMANCE
- COACHED BY PROFESSIONAL COACHES

SERIOUS ABOUT BASKETBALL? COME BALL WITH US.

[WWW.AROUNDTHEGLOBEBASKETBALL.COM](http://WWW.AROUNDTHEGLOBEBASKETBALL.COM)

[DOM@DSRTRAINING.ORG](mailto:DOM@DSRTRAINING.ORG)



ANNOUNCING



The  
**BIG**  
**SWIM**

**JOIN OUR SPONSORED SWIM**  
**28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE & 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY**  
**HELP US RAISE £10,000 FOR**  
**IMPROVEMENTS TO THE POOL**

### THE JOURNEY SO FAR

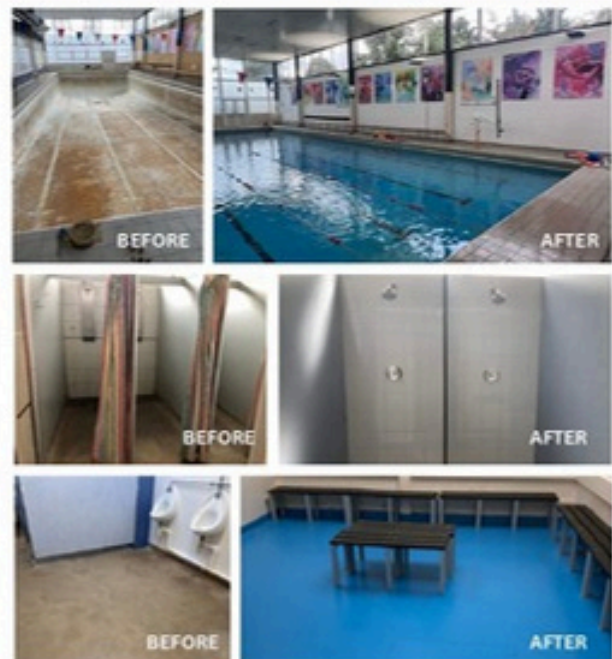
Back in 2015, we held a number of events to raise over £30,000 to renovate the pool, the interior of the building and the changing rooms. It was the only way to save the pool and continue to offer swimming lessons to 1,000s of children. Without the support of the community, the pool would have closed.

### OUR CURRENT TARGET

Building on the success of our fundraising activities in 2015 we are holding a **Sponsored Swim** to help raise funds for much-needed tiling, painting and drainage works. There will be two fun afternoons on **28<sup>th</sup> June** and **4<sup>th</sup> July**, open to children from 3+. They can swim as far as they can in 30 minutes and be sponsored per width or length, or simply for taking part.

**The Big Swim** is a fantastic way for children to have fun and feel proud of supporting their pool. Every splash, width and length will help us get closer to our target – so please come along, cheer them on and support **The Big Swim!**

*Lauren*



#### HOW TO JOIN IN:

- Register by end of May
- Find your sponsors
- Take part
- Collect your funds
- Donate by cash, bank transfer or our GoFundMe page

## 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*

End of Term - Tuesday 20th July 2027

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



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