



Marlborough News

www.themarboroughscienceacademy.co.uk

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The Marlborough
Science Academy



July 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and students,

Well, it's time, after 22 years to say goodbye, God bless and thank you. With the support of a tremendous leadership team, Governors, PTA and of course staff Marlborough has come a long way and thankfully continues to thrive in a safe, kind and aspirational way.

Being awarded Character Gold, the highest accreditation possible within this particular initiative is a fitting tribute to Mrs. Golds in particular but also reflects the way we have always tried to educate, Value driven, reflective and in some situations with courage.

There have been so many changes since 2004 they are impossible to mention. Most have been good, but not all. Staff in schools should be treasured and respected, they are responsible for opening many worlds and the majority give so freely of their time it is humbling. Without a real set change in some communications with staff, behaviour and lack of motivation we are in danger of losing great teachers who, despite all their best efforts are quite often in receipt of some of the most vitriolic, often factually incorrect correspondence I have seen. We don't always get it right, I have always understood that, but I would urge you all to think twice before potentially destroying a professional's enthusiasm, passion and loyalty to their role and your children, thank you.

You will know from reading the website that as always at this time of year we are saying goodbye to other staff – Mr. Milne, Head of Biology, respected and highly admired raconteur is retiring, and we wish him all the best as he embarks on his next chapter. Mr. Pressland, history teacher extraordinaire is heading up north to be nearer his family and he, like Mr. Milne will be missed. Mrs. Karkaby, food, is bidding us farewell and she is to be thanked for introducing new recipes to food tech that have really pushed the children. Mrs. Curtis too is off to another post, and I know how much she will be missed by her Post 16 students who have always depended on her for fabulous teaching and more often than not, a kind ear.

I know you will give Mrs. Legg a great big Marlborough welcome and I'm sure she will be looking forward to meeting with you.

Very special thanks to Mrs. Dean and Mr. Fitzgibbon, the longest serving members of my team for all their kindness and support in troubled days and special thanks too must go to Ms. Moynihan who is a treasure and Mrs. Walker - Smith, Chair of Governors who continues to lead with integrity and kindness.

Marlborough has been central to my life for so very long and a school I am enormously proud of - for obvious reasons. Unusually in a farewell letter I would like to thank my husband for his unstinting support and patience, my son for his love and support and to my mother and father (now deceased) who always encouraged me to look beyond what I considered to be my own inadequacies, I know too that you will do that with your children. A final thank you, and love to my gorgeous brother who has stood by me in dark times and held my hand, he is a star!

I wish you all a kind, peaceful summer balanced also with optimism and hope for the future. We are here if you need us over the summer holidays and remember too there is still time to join summer camp.

Take care, be safe, be kind, it's been a blast!



Headteacher

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Character Education

The Marlborough Science Academy has always been value driven if not explicitly but intrinsically even before it became a "thing", an accreditation and attributes that helped drive a school forward with kindness and care.

Having acquired Character status in March 2023 we have worked tirelessly to uphold and hold true the values we believe in – Dignity – Endeavour – Courage – Kindness and Compassion. They are the main thread, red or golden depending on which book you read, that underpins all that we do. Without the drive, endeavour and courage of Mrs. Golds achieving character quality mark plus (one of two schools in Herts and only 47 across the UK) might have seemed like a huge mountain to climb. However, with such values from every brick that forms our school, they are indeed a living, breathing and most important part of our everyday commitment to school life and teaching. It's what we believe in, it's what we will always believe in.

Thank you,

Ms A Thomson



Charity Fundraiser

Saphina Port 11BMA is demonstrating Compassion, Kindness and Courage by organising a fundraiser for The Little Princess Trust. Here is a message from Saphina.

For those that don't know me, I've just finished Year 11 and turn 16 in August.

The Little Princess Trust is a charity which makes and supplies wigs to children who have lost their hair through illness, primarily cancer treatment.

I have decided to shave my head and donate my hair to this charity for that purpose. However, the charity is in dire need of money to support the making and distribution of wigs, so it made perfect sense to raise money for this at the same time. It costs around £700 to make and supply just ONE wig so I want to make as much as possible for them.

The Little Princess Trust also supports research into Paediatric Cancer treatments.

Please support me in this important and memorable journey and if you see me round school in September 2026 with a buzz cut, remember to donate. Just £1 from every pupil and teacher would benefit the charity hugely.

I plan on continuing to raise money after the event until I go back to school in September and you can see me in all my new-found-baldness glory.

Here is my Just Giving page and if your parents donate, they can Gift Aid the donation, so the charity receives even more money!

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/saphina-goes-bald1>



Year 11 Prom



Our Year 11 students had a fantastic evening at Prom on Thursday 2nd July at Hunton Park. Click on this [link](#) to see more photos on our website.



Marlborough Students Enjoy Action Packed Day on Wimbledon's Court 3



On Tuesday 30th June, eight lucky Marlborough students headed to the iconic grounds of SW19 for an unforgettable day at the Wimbledon Championships. With the British summer delivering spectacular sunshine and glorious weather, Court 3 became the perfect backdrop for a thrilling lineup of fantastic tennis. The day's schedule delivered non-stop drama, featuring an incredible mix of international superstars and home-grown British talent. First on court was Great Britain's Female No. 2. The students cheered her on loudly, and though she unfortunately lost her match, it was a fantastic experience to see the British star competing on the big stage.

Next on court was the Men's World No. 5. The Australian put on an absolute masterclass, sealing a fantastic victory in straight sets. The highlight of the day came just after the final point; as de Minaur exited the court, the students managed to secure autographs and selfies with the global superstar. Closing out the day was British wildcard Toby Samuel. He treated the crowd to an absolute thriller, pushing his opponent all the way in a dramatic five-set epic.

The trip was a fantastic opportunity for the students to see world-class tennis up close and to soak up the unique atmosphere of the All England Club. The students all had an unforgettable day!

Below are the pictures of a student with Alex Di Minaur and his autograph!

Mr Hodge



Quote of the Week

"Don't count the days; make the days count"
(Muhammed Ali, Boxer and Civil Rights Activist)



Word of the week

• **revelry** (noun) 
lively festivities

• **festivités** (nom) 
festivités animées

• **jolgorio** (sustantivo) 
fiestas animadas

Future Engineers Shine in Final DT Rotation of the Year

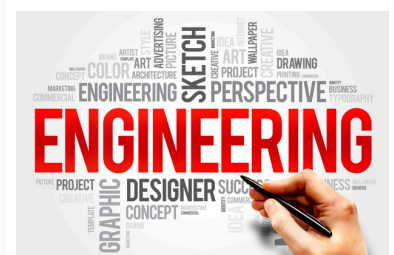
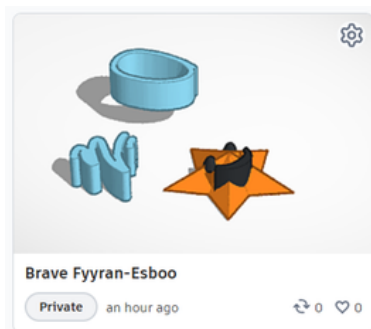
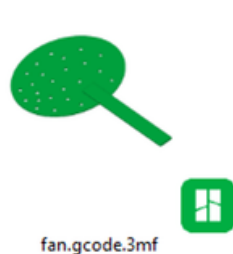
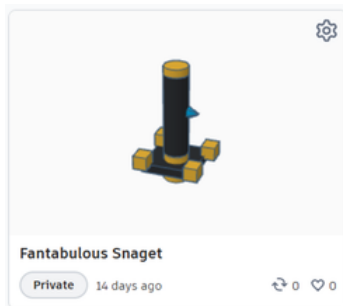
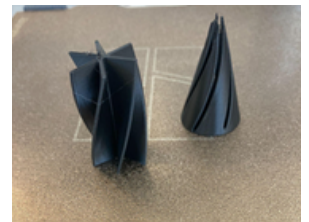
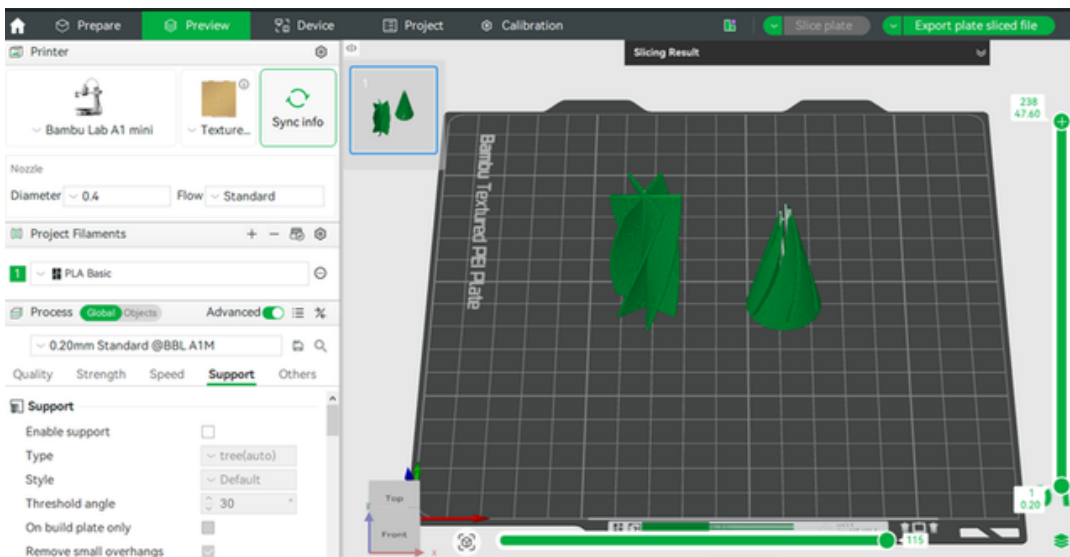
Year 7 and 8 students are finishing the school year on a high note during their final Engineering (DT) rotation. This term, they are diving into the world of Computer-Aided Design (CAD) to bring their own 3D printing ideas to life. Using digital tools, students are learning how to conceptualise, measure, and build objects on screen before sending them to the printer. This final project challenges our young designers to combine creativity with precise technical skills, including understanding spatial proportion, manipulating base shapes, and designing for physical printability.

Some of the tasks suggested for the students to create during this rotation included:

- **The Custom Pencil Topper**
- **A Personalised 6-Sided Dice**
- **A Minecraft-Style Character**
- **A Mini Classroom Trophy**



Each of these activities pushed students to develop specific technical talents. They mastered core CAD skills such as precise measuring, aligning shapes, grouping elements, and utilizing the hole tool. This final rotation is a fantastic way to see our students applying maths, spatial awareness, and design-thinking in a practical, hands-on environment.



Student Achievement

District Athletics

On Friday 12th June our team of students from Year 7 - 10 took part in the District Athletics competition at Jarman Park Hemel Hempstead. Overall we were 3rd as a school in our competition with the following students gaining medals.

Year 7

Joe Keegan - 3rd in Long Jump
Yolo Farrow - 3rd in Pole Vault
Eloise Swinton - 1st in Discus
Zara Saunders - 1st in Long Jump



Year 8

Tilly Howells - 3rd in 1500m

Year 9

George Harris Rogers - 1st in Discus and 1st in 300m
Onur Diri - 2nd in 200m
Charlotte Swinton - 1st in Discus
Boys relay - 2nd



Year 10

Stevie Kelly - 2nd in shot
Freya McGowan - 1st in High Jump (this has led to being selected for Hertfordshire at the National Championships) and 1st in 200m.
Kade White - 2nd in Hurdles
Tobias Cropper - 2nd in Triple Jump

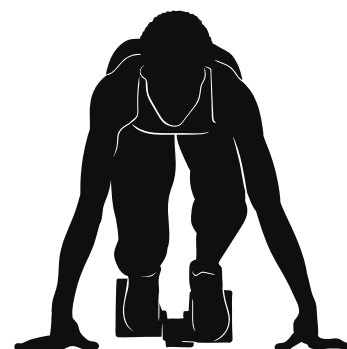


County Championships

Despite the horrendous rain we also had some excellent performances at the County Championships which included:

Freya McGowan - County champion - High Jump
Kade White - County champion - 100m Hurdles
Charlotte Swinton - County champion Discus
Eloise Swinton - Silver medal discus
Seamus Van Der-Puye - Bronze medal in both Discus and Shot Put.

Mr Packard



A Journey to Remember: Year 8's MFL Cultural Trip to Paris

Sunshine, history, friendship and a little Disney magic - our unforgettable French adventure.

On Monday 25th May, Mr. Henshall and his team took our wonderful Year 8 students to France for their annual MFL cultural trip. The adventure began long before sunrise, with the coach departing school at 5am. Despite the early start, excitement filled the air. The journey to the ferry echoed with laughter, songs and the kind of conversations that become treasured memories years later.

After a smooth crossing from Dover, our first stop was the historic Vimy Ridge. This site holds enormous significance in history:

- It was the location of the Battle of Vimy Ridge in April 1917, where all four divisions of the Canadian Corps fought together for the first time.
- The battle is often regarded as a defining moment in Canadian national identity, symbolising unity and achievement during the First World War.
- Today, the site is home to the striking Canadian National Vimy Memorial, which commemorates those who fought and died there and serves as a place of remembrance and reflection.



Walking among the memorials and preserved trenches gave students a powerful connection to the past before we continued on to our accommodation.

There we met our fantastic animateurs, Tristan and Dennis, who made sure that French was being used throughout our stay. Whether ordering food, asking for directions or simply chatting, students were encouraged to practise their language skills in real-life situations.



A Day in Paris:

Our second day was packed with iconic sights as we toured Paris. Highlights included the Arc de Triomphe, the Eiffel Tower, and the majestic Notre-Dame Cathedral.

We then enjoyed a relaxing river cruise along the Seine, seeing the city from a different perspective before making our way to the beautiful Sacré-Cœur Basilica in Montmartre. The panoramic views across Paris were breathtaking, and the glorious weather made the experience even more memorable.

I ♥ PARIS

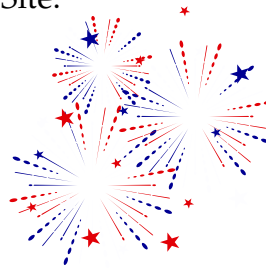


Stepping Back in Time: Provins.

On our third day we travelled to the medieval town of Provins. Students climbed the historic tower and explored streets that seemed untouched by time before settling in for the spectacular show *Légende des Chevaliers*. Thankfully, as the story unfolded, good triumphed over evil!

Provins is historically important because:

- In the Middle Ages it was one of the most important towns in Europe and hosted the famous Champagne fairs, where merchants from across the continent traded goods.
- The town still preserves remarkable medieval architecture, including fortified walls, gates and towers that offer a rare glimpse into life hundreds of years ago.
- Its historical significance and preservation earned Provins recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



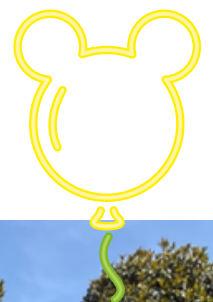
The Magic of Disneyland Paris:

Finally came the day many students had been counting down to: Disneyland Paris. The excitement on the coach was impossible to miss as students prepared to step into the world created by Walt Disney.

Disneyland Paris is home to the famous Sleeping Beauty Castle (Le Château de la Belle au Bois Dormant), designed specifically for the European park. It opened in 1992 and remains one of the most visited tourist destinations in Europe. Students enjoyed rides, attractions and the magical atmosphere before ending the day with the dazzling Disney Illuminations show, a fitting finale to an unforgettable trip.

What our students said:

- "I got closer with my friends and had a lot of fun."
- "The Notre Dame - it was beautiful."
- "I enjoyed the Eiffel Tower and Seine boat trip as it is very famous and nice to see for the first time."



As all good trips do, ours eventually came to an end, and it was time to say au revoir to France. We would like to thank all the students, parents and staff whose enthusiasm and support made this incredible experience possible.

For many of our Year 8s, the memories of sunny Parisian streets, medieval towers, shared laughter on the coach and the sparkle of Disney fireworks will remain long after the suitcases have been unpacked.

Ms Fogarty



Student Achievement

Congratulations to Henry Tomkinson 9ASO who recently competed in international remote car racing competitions. Henry's club selected him to represent them, and the country, at an event in Gussago Italy from Wednesday 3rd to Monday 8th June.

After a spectacular drive to finish 4th in his last race in Italy, Henry officially qualified for the EFRA 1/8 Off-Road European Championship which took place at the famous CARTT Fuencarral circuit in Spain from Monday 22nd to Sunday 28th June. This gave Henry the opportunity to compete against the very best radio-controlled buggy drivers in Europe.

Well done Henry!



EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF RADIO
OPERATED MODEL AUTOMOBILES



PLAYERS WANTED – U16 GIRLS LIGHTNING 26/27 SEASON

U16 Girls Lightning (currently U15s) are looking to add a number of new players to the squad ahead of the 2026/27 season.

With the expectation of playing in Division 4 of the Herts Girls Partnership League, we're keen to strengthen the squad and welcome new players who are looking for a fun, competitive and supportive football environment.

Open Training Session: -

Monday 21st July (early evening)



We're looking to finalise our squad for next season before everyone breaks up for the summer, so now is the perfect time to come along and get involved.

📞 For more information or to register your interest, please contact Keith Collins on 07968 718966.



LRC NEWS

End of Year Review

Once again it has been a busy year in the LRC. We have held fortnightly reading lessons for all students in Year 7 & 8 and hosted one off classes for many different subjects.

The year began in September with a BookBuzz assembly for all Year 7 students where they were introduced to a selection of 16 books and given the opportunity to choose one as a gift from school. We also hosted the annual MacMillan Coffee Morning for parents, organised by Mrs Eaton.



October saw a fantastic visit for Year 9 students by performance poet Karl Nova and the lunchtime chaos that is the House Pumpkin Carving Competition. Book Club also enjoyed a Halloween themed session.



In November the BookBuzz books arrived and were distributed to all Year 7 students. We also entered a team into the What on Earth? Virtual Quiz and hosted classes for Non-Fiction November.



We celebrated Jolabokafloð in December, an Icelandic tradition which involves exchanging books and curling up to read them with a hot chocolate. Our version included a virtual log fire and some chocolate treats for students during their LRC lessons. We also hosted the English Department's KS4 Winter Showcase

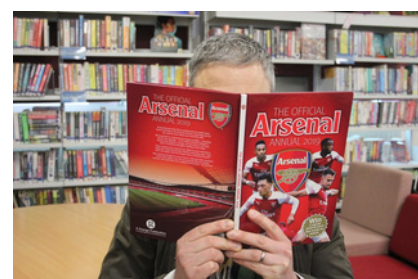


January saw the start of the government's National Year of Reading and we began the year with the launch of our Big Read for 2026, Spellstone. Students watched the author Ross Montgomery read the introduction and then listened to some of our staff reading the first four chapters at the beginning of each of their lessons. If you would like to listen to the whole book all chapters are available by clicking on the book image below. Students will need to be logged in with their school email address to access the folder.

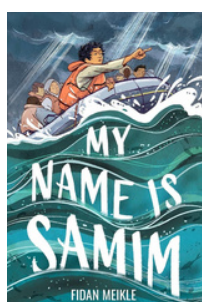
In January we also hosted the St Alban's Schools Book Award (SASBA) where Year 8 students from eight local schools chose their favourite title from a shortlist of three. The event included a talk from author Tamsin Winter, a previous winner of the award. Students chose thriller Watch Your Back by Sue Walman as their winner.



From Monday 23rd February to Friday 6th March we held our annual BookFest which included a visit from author Penny Joelson, a Readathon for all Year 7 students and a second hand book sale. We also gifted one of the special £1 books to all students in Year 7 & 8, took part in the heats of the Reading Champions Quiz and held our usual Who's behind the Book Competition. Students played a Traitors - Book Edition game in their LRC lessons and we sent out an Attitudes to Reading survey.



In 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 and chose their winner which was My Name is Samim by Fidan Meikle. We also hosted a visit from Guide Dogs UK which was a big hit with students and staff raising over £400 for this fantastic charity.

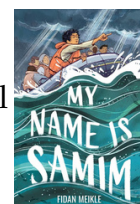


April concluded with a bake sale to support local cancer charity Teens Unite which raised nearly £800 for this fantastic charity which has supported one of our students and her family. Throughout the year we have welcomed local Christian charity Step who have brought games and crafts to share with our students during lunchtime and answered any questions they have about God. The final session in May saw some of our Year 13 students taking the lead.



In June the winners of both the Children's Book Award and the Carnegie Medal were announced and we held a mini Carnegie event to watch the livestream of the award ceremony with some members of book club.

As the school year draws to a close I would like to thank all the Duke of Edinburgh volunteers that have helped in the LRC this year, you have been amazing!



Throughout the year both our student and staff book clubs have been something I really look forward to as I enjoy nothing better than discussing books with a cuppa and a biscuit!



Well done to all our Year 7 & 8 students who have embraced reading for pleasure in their LRC lessons, particularly those who find reading difficult. In an age of many distractions taking time out to slow down and read is more important than ever.

The students below have all read over 1 million words this year:

1. Sonny Scott 7APD - 3,615,213 words read
2. Temitayo Abisa 7RHE - 3,580,768 words read
3. Prethishta Ashok 7RHE - 3,034,380 words read
4. Erin Cukaj 8JAS - 2,998,389 words read
5. Victoria Van Gelder 8RLY - 2,656,662 words read
6. Eloise Swinton 7RTN - 2,228,824 words read
7. Ashleigh Butnaru 8CGR - 2,219,414 words read
8. Ruby Holtum 7ADY - 2,193,510 words read
9. Lara Brew 7RTN - 1,885,357 words read
10. Ooviya Pragash 8CFN - 1,796,218 words read



11. Max Roach 7WDN - 1,700,005 words read
12. Alex Brown 7WDN - 1,456,793 words read
13. Zoe Andrea 7EDG - 1,307,742 words read
14. James Cowling 7EDG - 1,284,539 words read
15. Lucy Cooper 8JAS - 1,235,619 words read
16. Joshua Kilcast 7RHE - 1,218,780 words read
17. Eleanor Lowe 7ADY - 1,212,586 words read
18. Sebastain Lewry 7ADY - 1,079,887 words read
19. Aiva Joulia 7RTN - 1,031,430 words read
20. Samuel Bak 7CCS - 1,000,235 words read

Mrs Nixon

Let's Celebrate!

Key Stage 3 students have wrapped up the academic year with a project that explored celebrations from around the world and across the calendar. Students researched a range of festivities, then designed and created a gift bag to represent their chosen celebration.

Alongside firm favourites like Halloween, Christmas and Birthdays, students ventured into some more unexpected territory. Some chose World Pigeon Day, celebrating the vital role pigeons played delivering messages during wartime. Others explored the Day of the Dead, the Mexican holiday that celebrates life and honours loved ones who have passed. Some students also looked into World Wildlife Day, which raises awareness of the world's wild animals and plants and the importance of protecting them.

The project brought together research, design and creativity, and it has been a brilliant way to end the academic year. A huge well done to all our Key Stage 3 students on their fantastic outcomes.

Enjoy a well-deserved summer break!

Miss Scott



Geography Field Trip

Our Year 10 Geography students enjoyed a field trip to Walton-on-the-Naze, where they investigated how the coastline has changed over time. As part of their studies, they examined a range of sea defences and explored the historic World War II pillboxes, considering how both the natural and human landscape have evolved. Blessed with beautiful sunshine throughout the day, it was an excellent opportunity to bring classroom learning to life.

Mrs James



A Lasting Legacy of Hope

Our Year 12 Art students have proudly unveiled a powerful new mural, created in collaboration with St Albans Cathedral and renowned graffiti artist Ant Steel.

Inspired by themes of conflict, peace and reconciliation, the students explored the personal challenges facing young people today, creating a striking artwork that celebrates resilience, hope and belonging.

The mural was officially unveiled on Wednesday 3rd July by Ms Thomson who spoke about the importance of giving young people a voice and the power of art to bring communities together. We are incredibly proud of our students for their creativity, compassion and commitment throughout this inspiring project.

Ms Bustin

Both the St Albans Times and The Herts Advertiser have published articles about the project. Click on the logos below to read the articles.

**ST ALBANS
TIMES**

**The Herts
ADVERTISER**



A Year in Performing Arts

This year feels like it has absolutely flown by, and when we look back at everything that has been happening in Performing Arts, it's really no surprise that the time has disappeared so quickly! It has been another incredible year, packed with performances, workshops, competitions, theatre trips and achievements that have made us so proud of our students. We started the year on a high in **September**, celebrating our Year 11 LAMDA Grade 5 results. The students worked incredibly hard and we were delighted to achieve 100% Distinction grades, a fantastic achievement and a brilliant way to begin the year.



It was then time for our first performance, Murder Most Marlborough. Our Drama Company students created and performed an interactive murder mystery for Open Evening, entertaining prospective families while showing off the creativity and talent of our performers.

In **October**, our Year 10 Drama students took part in a devising workshop with Best Theatre Arts to support their GCSE coursework. Working with industry professionals gave them the opportunity to explore new techniques and build confidence as they began creating their own original pieces of theatre.



November was the turn of our Year 12 students, who performed their Studio Performance pieces, before heading to Milton Keynes Theatre to see Mary Poppins – a fantastic opportunity to experience professional theatre and gather inspiration for their own work.



December brought one of our biggest challenges yet, creating an original musical. Belle Evercroft explored the Dickens classic A Christmas Carol, but from the perspective of Belle, Scrooge's only love. Nearly 80 students from Years 7–13 were involved; performers, musicians, technicians, designers, stage crew and backstage team, making it a real whole-school production and a wonderful example of what can be achieved when everyone works together.



The new year started with more exciting opportunities. In **January**, some of our talented actors from Years 10–12 took part in an audition day with the National Youth Theatre. Congratulations to Niamh who was offered a place on the NYT summer programme as a result of her audition. We were also back at the theatre to watch Ballet Shoes.



In **February**, we were incredibly proud to attend the Music & Drama Education Awards in London after being nominated for Outstanding School Drama Department of the Year. Although we didn't bring home the award, simply being recognised at a national level was something to celebrate. We also took our Sixth Form students to see Frantic Assembly's *Lost Atoms*, introducing them to Frantic's distinctive physical theatre style and giving them plenty of ideas to take back into the rehearsal room.



Success continued in **March** as we returned to the Welwyn Youth Drama Festival with another original production, *Mephisto*. Our Drama Company students from Years 7–11 performed alongside 18 fantastic groups from across the country and were absolutely thrilled to be awarded First Place in the Senior Category for the second year running. Our dancers also took to the stage at the District Gym and Dance Display at St Albans High School, showcasing their hard work and commitment.



In **April**, after their successful District performance, our Dance Company performed at London's Cadogan Hall as part of the Great Big Dance Off.

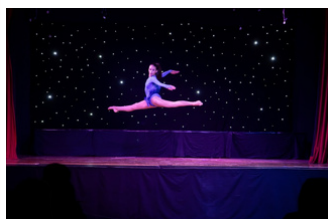


There were more competition opportunities for our actors too, with students from Years 9–13 entering the National Youth Monologues Competition. Although we didn't have an overall winner this year, we were delighted that Allie, Rose and Marine reached the regional shortlist, with a further ten students receiving commendations from the judges. Performing a monologue is a brilliant opportunity for young actors to develop independence, confidence and strong character work.



As winners of the Welwyn Youth Drama Festival, the cast of Mephisto were invited to open the main Welwyn Festival in **May**, before our Year 12 students performed another original piece, Half Past Twelve, the following evening. Performing at festivals like these gives students invaluable experience and the opportunity to share their work with wider audiences. Also in May some of our dancers spent the day at the Trinity Laban building in London.

June brought our annual World Theatre Day Performing Arts Evening, a fantastic celebration of Marlborough's dance, drama, gymnastics and music students from Years 7–13. These evenings are always a highlight of the year, giving students the chance to perform, build confidence and celebrate the amazing range of talent across the school.



We also had the pleasure of attending the National School Theatre Awards in London, where Belle Evercroft received five nominations: Best Actress in a Musical (Charlotte), Best Supporting Actress in a Musical (Florence), Best Lighting Design (Seamus), Best Musical and Best Ensemble. We were especially proud of Seamus, who won Best Lighting Design by a student, a brilliant achievement and well-deserved recognition of his hard work.



Our Drama Scholars joined our Year 12 Film students on a visit to Sky Studios Elstree, where they had the opportunity to film and edit their own pitch films in the XR Studio, tour the studios and find out more about the many careers available within the film and television industry. Experiences like these help students see just how many exciting pathways exist beyond performing on stage.

Although **July** is always a shorter month before the summer break, it has been just as busy. Our Year 9 Drama students took to the stage with their class production, taking responsibility for everything from casting through to set, lighting, costume and publicity. It gave them a real taste of what it takes to bring a production from page to stage.



We rounded off the year with our Key Stage 3 Drama Awards and Drama Club Showcase, celebrating another fantastic year of creativity and performance. We also presented the winners of our Big Read Spellstone Set and Costume Design Competition. Every Year 7 student produced either a set or costume design inspired by the novel, and the quality of work made judging incredibly difficult.



Eleanor Lowe



Name: Eleanor Lowe
Form: 7A11
Character: Cressida



Congratulations to our Set Design winners: Myles, Zara, Matthew, Ethan and Mia, with Isaac and Taylor receiving Highly Commended. Congratulations also to our Costume Design winners: Max, Eleanor, Tithi and Matilda.

Looking back over everything we've achieved this year, it really has been a year to celebrate. Whether performing on stage, working behind the scenes, competing nationally, creating original work or simply stepping outside their comfort zone, our students have continued to impress us with their talent, commitment and creativity and our choir has been selected to perform at Disneyland Paris in December!

We can't wait to see what else next year has in store.

Mrs Griggs



Duke of Edinburgh - Triumph Through Torrential Rain

Congratulations to our Year 9 students, who have successfully completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award qualifying expedition!

Despite facing challenging weather, including strong winds and persistent rain, our students showed remarkable resilience, determination and teamwork as they navigated rural routes and camped overnight. Their positive attitude and maturity were evident throughout the expedition, with other groups sharing the campsite commenting on how impressed they were by our students' skills, behaviour and willingness to support one another.

With this expedition complete, almost all 68 participants have now achieved their Bronze DofE

Award. This is a fantastic accomplishment that reflects months of preparation and hard work.

We look forward to celebrating their success

at our DofE Award Evening in September,

where students will receive their awards

and we will also present special value

awards, recognising those who have

demonstrated our school values throughout their DofE journey.

For our current Year 8 students, keep an eye out for a letter coming home this week

with information about taking part in the Bronze DofE Award next year. Students

entering Years 10–13 will also have the exciting opportunity to begin or continue

their DofE journey by completing the Silver Award.

Miss Bassett and Miss Rowe



Debate Event

On Tuesday Marlborough played host to a debate with Mandeville Primary School. The motion was "Social Media should be banned for under 16s." A pertinent topic given the government's landmark legislation to outlaw the communication in Spring next year. Marlborough argued in favour of the ban, whereas Mandeville argued against. The argument was respectful but hotly contested with Marlborough citing how social media can be a threat to young people's physical and mental health; with Mandeville countering saying that the ban has not been wholly successful in Australia, since teenagers have circumvented the block and have continued to use the apps.

Once the debates had been made and questions asked, the students voted for their favourite speakers. Tavor Lifshitz won for Marlborough and was rewarded with a mini box of Celebrations.

Well done to all debaters – your arguments were worthy of the House of Commons.

Mr Theivam



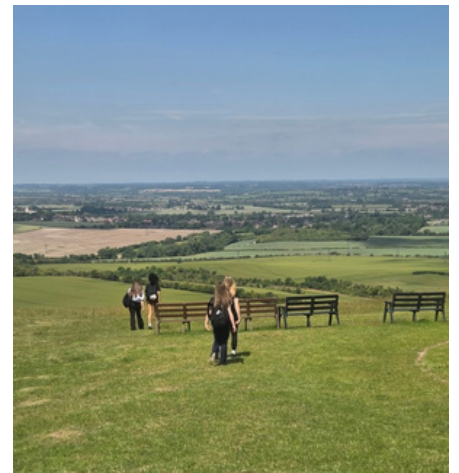
Wild About Sustainability at Whipsnade Zoo

Our Year 9 and Year 10 King's Trust students enjoyed a fantastic visit to Whipsnade Zoo as part of their sustainability unit, learning how conservation organisations work to protect animals and the environment.

During an interactive workshop, students discovered that while iconic animals such as elephants, giraffes and penguins attract visitors, the income they generate helps fund vital conservation work for many lesser-known species. They were fascinated to learn that some of their work isn't even viewable to the public. Whipsnade Zoo cares for around 3,000 endangered snails behind the scenes, playing an important role in preventing the species from becoming extinct. Work also takes part in communities across the world using the money raised and research carried out by the zoo.

The visit gave students a real insight into how sustainability, conservation and education work hand in hand. Highlights of the day included seeing the zoo's amazing animals up close and, with the sunshine making an appearance, enjoying a well-earned ice cream to round off a memorable trip.

Miss Bassett



Author of the Month

In this National Year of Reading I thought I would make you aware of the initiative we run in school to promote literature. Every month we have an author of the month where students are introduced to a writer and book they may not have heard of; they then explore the first few pages and investigate the construction of its opening.

The books we have chosen for next term include:

Jeffrey Boakye, Kofi and The Rap Battle Summer (September book of the month)

Ruta Sepetys and Steve Sheinkin, The Blotchley Riddle (October book of the month)

Natasha Farrant, Voyage of the Sparrowhawk (November book of the month)

Anthony McGowan, Brook (December book of the month)

So get reading Kofi and The Rap Battle Summer (copies are £3 on Ebay) over the holidays, and the other selections we recommend.

Mr Theivam



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/themarlbroughscienceacademy>



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.



DISCOUNTED STUDENT BUS TRAVEL WITH ARRIVA BUSES



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If you're a student getting the bus to school, college or university make big savings on your travel and spread the cost of the ticket over affordable monthly payments when you pay by direct debit.

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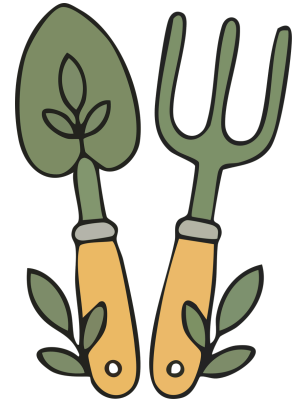
arrivabus.co.uk/monthlytickets



Student Achievement

Well done to Gabriel Boulter 8JHE for exemplifying the value of Endeavour. For his 13th birthday, Gabriel requested a greenhouse and since then, he has endeavoured to grow a wide variety of vegetables and fruit from seed. He has carried out all of his own research and has diligently cared for his plants every morning and evening.

Gabriel's hard work, patience, and dedication has certainly paid off.



Community News

MOOVIES ON THE FARM
SPONSORED BY **INSPIRED DESIGNS**
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BOOK NOW!

FRIDAY 31ST JULY - SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST
OPEN-AIR CINEMA
FOOD TRUCKS & BAR
TICKETS: BATTLESGREENFARM.CO.UK

ANCHORMAN | THE GREATEST SHOWMAN | DIRTY DANCING

Ticket includes free parking, deckchair seating & a mini bag of popcorn!

Click on the image below to see dates for Add-vance autumn workshops for parents and carers of neurodiverse children

Community News

POTENTIAL
KIDS

For Neurodivergent Children, Young People
Their Siblings and Parents/Carers



JULY 2026 ACTIVITIES

Date		Sessions	Time	Venue
2nd	Thur	Teen Group 12 Plus	5.00 6.30	The Hub@The Galleria
3rd,10th 17th	Fri	Gardening for Wellbeing	10.30 12.00	Potential to Grow Garden
3rd,10th 17th	Fri	Parent /Carer Wellbeing	12.30 2.00	Potential to Grow Garden
3rd	Fri	Skateboarding	5.30 6.30	The Pioneer Club St Albans
4th	Sat	Tech support	10.00 1.00	The Zone@The Galleria
6th,20th	Mon	Dungeons & Dragons 18-25 (contact for details)	12.30 3.30	The Zone@The Galleria
7th,14th 21st	Tue	Coding and Game Design Home Ed session	1.00 2.30	The Zone@The Galleria
9th,16th 23rd	Thu	Bushcraft/Stem Home Ed Age 4+	10.30 12.00	Potential to Grow Garden
9th,16th	Thur	Fun Rings	5.00 6.00	The Snow Centre Gosling
11th,25th	Sat	Intro to Dungeons & Dragons	1.00 4.00	The Zone@The Galleria
11th,25th	Sat	Learn to play Magic the Gathering	1.00 4.00	The Zone@The Galleria
11th	Sat	Family Football	4.00 5.00	Birchwood Leisure Centre Astro Turf
13th,27th	Mon	Dungeons & Dragons 12 + (contact for details)	12.30 3.30	The Zone@The Galleria
18th	Sat	Water Wipeout	11.15 12.30	Lea Valley White water centre

To book visit : potentialkids.org.uk/events
For futher information email: info@potentialkids.org

the galleria
OUTLET SHOPPING



SCAN FOR ALL OF OUR
IMPORTANT LINKS



Community News

Dear Padel Players,

Do you have a son or daughter in year 7, 8 & 9* who wants to play padel?

If so, we'd love to see them at one of our summer camps.

They don't have to already played padel - our camps are mixed ability, everyone is welcome.

Both camps cost £150 per player, which includes racket hire.

Girls' Summer Padel Camp

Monday 3rd - Friday 7th August, 9.00-12.00

Intros to Padel

Coaching

Matchplay and fun games

Mini tournament with prizes on the last day

Junior Summer Padel Camp (boys and girls)

Monday 10th - Friday 14th August, 9.00-12.00

Intros to Padel

Coaching

Matchplay and fun games

Mini tournament with prizes on the last day



Spaces are limited so please book soon!

How to book: email stalbans@padelstars.co.uk

If you have any questions, please email or call 07356102806.

Refer a friend: if you refer a friend and they book their child onto either camp, they will receive £12 in their Padelstars account, to spend on a padel booking in the future for them or their child.

We hope to see you soon at the club,

Your Padelstars Team

* children who are about to go into year 7 and about to leave year 9 are also welcome

SA SA
MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY

Marlborough Science Academy
Mondays | 7th September - 14th December 2025
3:30 - 4:30pm | £13.20 per session

Please email or WhatsApp us using the details below to get your child's place secured for the Autumn Term!
Option to pay monthly available

Endorsed by the Drama Department at Marlborough

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

GIRLS RUGBY at **OLD ALBANIANS**
OLD ALBANIANS RFC

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GIRLS AGES 8-11
ARE WELCOME TO EITHER MINIS, SAINTS OR BOTH!

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JOIN US
BE PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL!

ALL ABILITIES WELCOME | MAKE NEW FRIENDS | BUILD CONFIDENCE HAVE FUN!

FIND OUT MORE: JUNIORSAINTS@OARUGBY.COM | #ONECLUB

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

Good Friday - Friday 26th March

Easter Monday - Monday 29th 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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