



# Maricourt Catholic High School Summer 2024



Welcome to our summer edition of the Maricourt Newsletter. Inside you will find a snippet of various activities and events that our students have been involved in this term. It's inspiring to see the variety of opportunities on offer and the numbers of young people getting themselves involved. Long may this continue!

The end of the summer term is often the time when we say farewell to members of staff who may be moving on to promoted posts or retiring from teaching. This year we have three teachers retiring and all have given significant service to the school. Mr Varey has been in Maricourt for 35 years, starting off as a newly qualified teacher and moving up to his current Deputy Head position. Over these years, he has given his time very freely to the pupils of Maricourt, not least in organising and accompanying trips to Lourdes, Dublin and Sierra Leone amongst others. We wish him all

the best in his retirement. Mrs Downey is also retiring after 30 years of service to Maricourt. Pupils have benefitted from the dedicated work of Mrs Downey in the English department and many pupils comment on her kind and caring nature over the years. Finally, we say goodbye to Mr Heyes after 16 years of service in the maths department and as a pastoral leader in school. Mr Heyes will be missed by staff and pupils alike. We wish all three of them a long, healthy and happy retirement.

We are also saying goodbye to some of our governors. Maricourt has been very fortunate to have had extensive service from a number of volunteers whose commitment to the school has been nothing short of amazing. We send our heartfelt thanks to Jo Pearson, Noreen Smith and our chair of governors Chris Manning, who between them have offered over 75 years of service to the governing body of Maricourt. We have begun to recruit to the governor positions and if there is anyone who feels they may be able to offer some service to the school then please contact our clerk to the governors on [pritchardm@maricourt.net](mailto:pritchardm@maricourt.net). We look forward to welcoming new staff and pupils into our Maricourt family in September and we wish all our families a safe and relaxing summer break.

The start dates and times for pupils in September are as follows;

Monday 2nd September - Staff Inset Day - No pupils

Tuesday 3rd September - Year 7 and Year 12 pupils in school

Wednesday 4th September onwards - ALL pupils in school



# PE

In June we held our annual Sports Awards Evening to celebrate the contributions of our pupils over the last sporting year. We held the event at Aintree Racecourse and had Liverpool FC Ladies Captain and our special guest Gemma Bonner on hand to present our awards alongside Mrs Hatton. On the night over 100 pupils received their colours awards with further prizes for the top class charts points scorers from PE in each year. We recognised the contribution of individuals, teams and leaders. The main awards of Team of the Year, Sports Personality of the Year, Sports Leaders and Dancers of the Year were all awarded before we presented our Outstanding Contribution Award to this year's winner Daniel.



The Year 8 Boys Football team played against Chesterfield High School at Marine Football Club in the Y8 Sefton Cup final, winning the game 4-0. Goals from Richy M. x2, Harry C. & Jacob C. along with a penalty save from our goalkeeper Harry J. made it back-to-back wins in the Sefton Cup final for the boys.

The Year 10 Boys Football team played Chesterfield High School at Marine Football club in the Y10 Sefton Cup final, with the boys losing 6-2 on the day to a very good Chesterfield side. Goals from Joe H. & Leo J. weren't enough on the day. Despite the result, the boys were a credit to Maricourt for their attitude throughout the game and trophy presentation, and we look forward to seeing them challenge for the cup again in Y11.

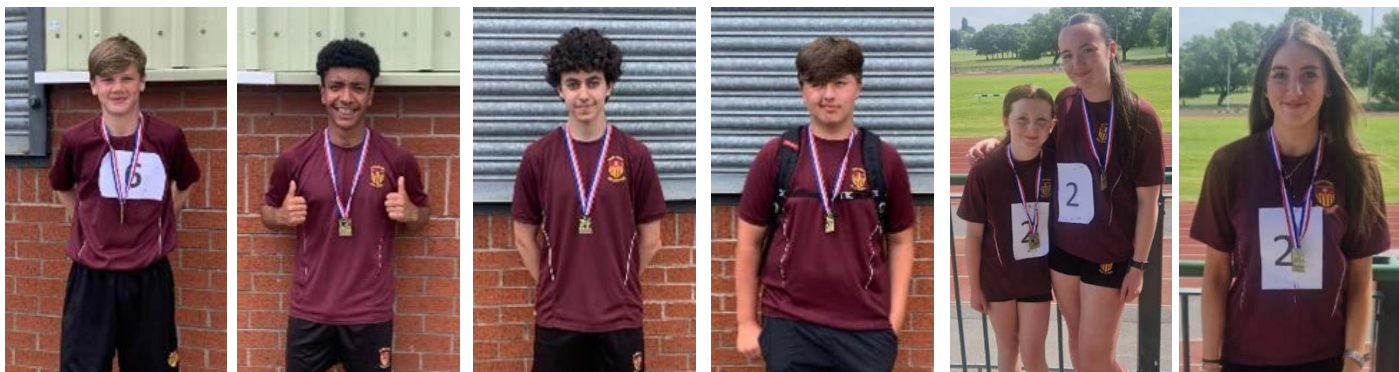


Well done to the U13 Girl's Football team who won their last game against St Marys' 2-0 and this means that we have won our League. The girls have played brilliantly together and the league win is well deserved with 5 wins and 1 loss.

This Summer our boys made their long-awaited return to Division One. We finished in 5th Place to retain our place in a much more difficult competition held at Wavertree. Our winners on the day included year 8's Michael in Long Jump and Jacob in the Discus, year 9's Benjamin in Discus and year 10's Adam in the Hurdles. We also had a flurry of second and third place finishes on an excellent day for our athletes. Well done to all who participated on the day.







The girls athletics team travelled to Wavertree to take part in the Sefton Athletics Championship. The girls were a credit to the school and their behaviour was impeccable as well as their team work.

Key performances were Year 9 Double winner Emily in the 100m and the relay as well as sister Abbie double winner in the 100m and the Long Jump. Year 9 Tara won the Javelin competition with 15.91m also coming second in the Discus. Tia won her Javelin competition for the year 10s with a throw of 14m51. The year 9 relay team won the relay for the 3rd time in a row – well done Emily, Olivia, Freya and Matilda.



This Summer we brought back extra-curricular Softball and played away Maghull High School. The boys had a great time batting and field in their first competitive game.



The mixed rounders team had their first match against Maghull with the older girls helping our new year 7 team learn the ropes. The Game ended in a draw – Well done Ladies!





# Transition Day



On Thursday 27th June we invited our year 6 students to Maricourt for their Transition day. It was an action packed day and all students were a credit to their primary schools. The pupils tackled a range of activities with energy and a smile and it was great to see everyone fully engaged. All year 6 pupils were amazing! Some of the activities we ran included Science with Mr. Gunn, where the pupils focused on Chemistry and the Bunsen Burner!!! The pupils investigated how different metal compounds produce different coloured flames if held in a Bunsen. In the next Science lab Mrs Mulholland also had the pupils engaged in chemistry. Pupils also investigated flame tests but, made a pH rainbow using different amounts of acid and alkali added to water. Groups then set off hydrogen balloons at the end of the session. Finally with Mr Evans, they studied variables linked to Alka-Seltzer rockets, and investigated how different sized tablets changed the rate of reaction. This group of pupils also set off methane/oxygen rockets.

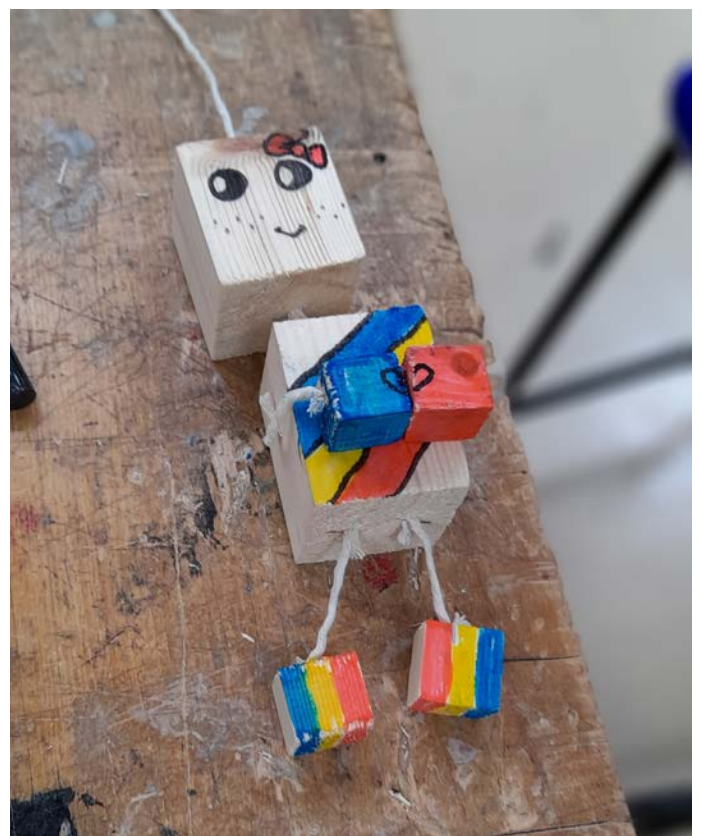
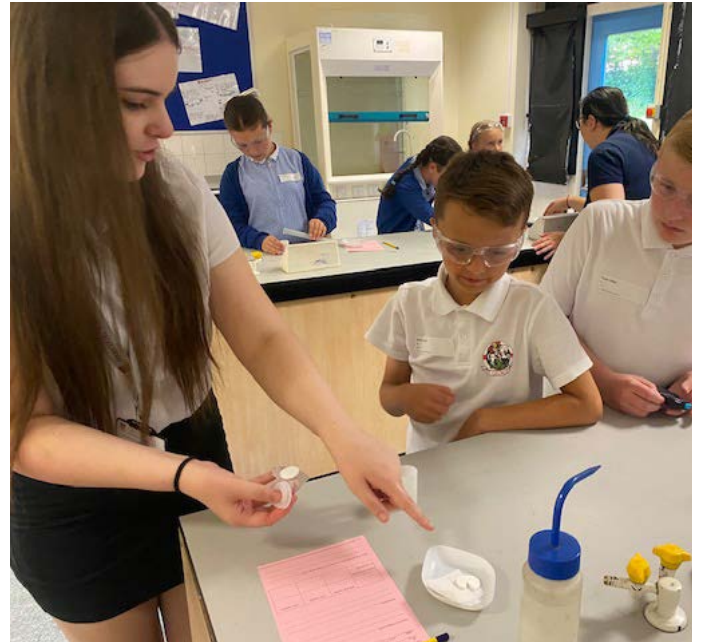


In Design Technology pupils designed and made a block bot character. They used pine, which was sanded before they added a design of their choosing. The final products were outstanding and the teaching staff commented on the talents of the different groups. Over in food technology pupils baked the most wonderful chocolate brownies which were made to perfection! The taste was wonderful and many pupils could not resist the temptation to eat them. Sorry parents!

In PE students took part in fun games both indoors and out. The energy from the pupils was great to see, I think we have a sporty bunch for next year.

To end the day our new year 6 community came together and met our school chaplain, it was a fitting end to a fabulous day. An ice cream treat followed in the dining room to unwind and catch our breath. Pupils headed home hopefully excited for September.

Thank you to all year 6 pupils, have a great summer! We look forward to seeing you all soon in September!





# Art Trip to Liverpool

Year 7 artists went on a cultural appreciation trip to Liverpool city centre.

They have been studying architecture and colour this term in art, and have looked at Liverpool's cathedrals. We have focussed on the work of the artist John Piper, who designed the stained-glass corona (crown), at the top of the Metropolitan cathedral.

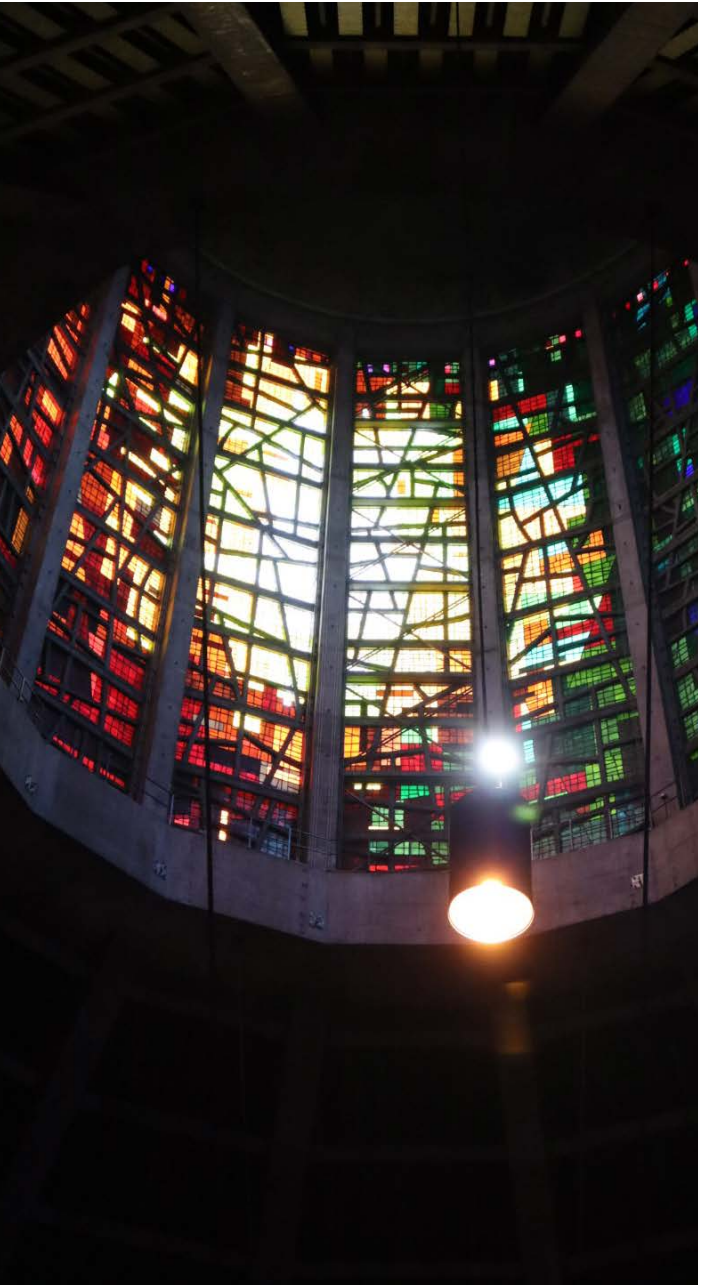
Pupils were able to experience first hand the majesty of the architecture. They noticed that the building looked very different in real life compared to looking at a picture. We were able to have a few precious minutes of reflection in the cathedral and soak up the spirituality the stained glass helps to create. Pupils showed their thoughtful and generous side by making voluntary donations to the cathedral on the way out, which was very touching.

This was followed by a walk along Hope Street to the Anglican cathedral, where pupils got a chance to see the contrasting architectural styles. Along the way we also got chance to see St Luke's 'bombed out church', The 'Three Graces', the Chinese arch and multiple sculptures. After lunch was time spent in the Museum of Liverpool. The displays were cross-curricular, celebrating Liverpool's contribution to art, sport, computing, music, drama, history, fashion and geography. Pupils were able to see the many successes from our locality, raising aspirations and understanding the need for creativity and diversity.

A thoroughly rewarding trip where art came to life and catapulted cultural appreciation of the wondrous city on our doorstep.



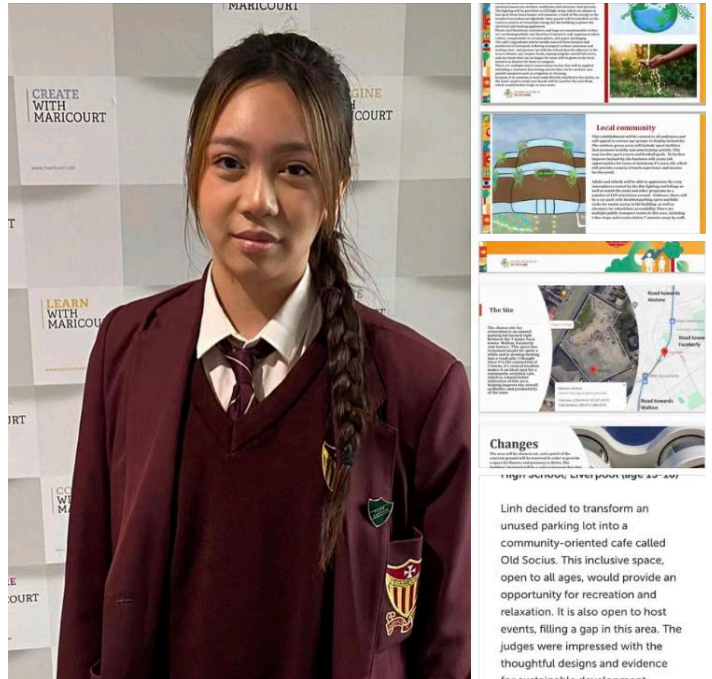




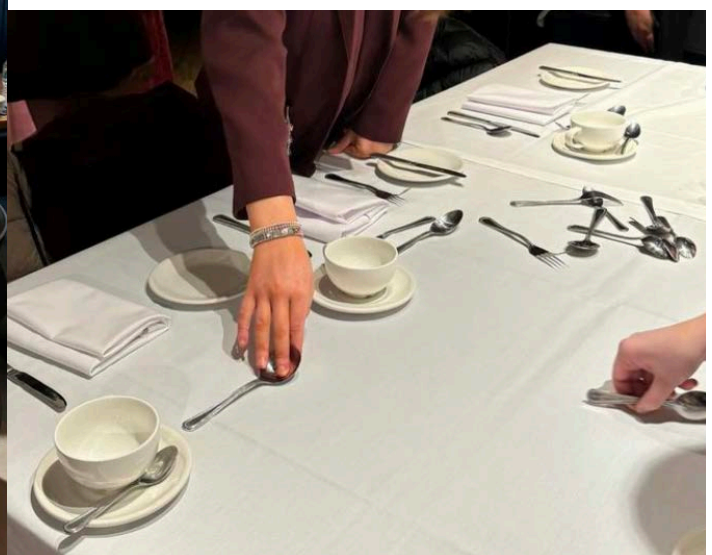


# Careers

This year's UK 'My Environment, My Future', MEMF competition gained interest from young people across the UK, ranging in ages from 11 to 18, who presented thoughtful and sustainable designs for redeveloping a building or space in their local areas through the lens of wellbeing. The passion and creativity demonstrated by the participants exceeded all expectations, and the expert panel of judges had a difficult task selecting a winning proposal from each age category. I am so pleased to say one of our Year 10 students Linh at Maricourt won one of the categories. Congratulations and well done to everyone who entered. We are already looking forward to the next competition.



Some Year 9 and Year 10 Hospitality students attended a Hospitality event with Everton in the Community which they all enjoyed and had the opportunity to meet some hospitality industry professionals for a Q & A.





Congratulations to Ava in Year 11 who has made it through to the final stage of the Maddison law internship hosted by Everton in the Community. Good luck in the final stage.

Edge Hill University visited Year 12 at Mari-court to offer helpful advice & tips to support them in creating personal statements and completing UCAS applications in Year 13.



A selection of Y8 students visited Liverpool University coordinated by Elevate EBP for an introduction to higher education and engage in a science experiment.





# Careers



A number of Year 10 Construction students participated in a 'Try a Trade day' hosted by Sovini to allow the students to get stuck in with their practical skills. There were a variety of employers from the Construction and landscaping industries that attended which was a great success and students thoroughly enjoyed.





# Chaplaincy

Thanks be to God for another busy term at Chaplaincy! Our most important endeavour has been to create a school prayer based upon the Mercy values. Form Captains met in the Chapel and discussed what the Mercy values meant to them and what it means to be a Mercy school. A beautiful prayer has been written by students and this will be launched in September 2024

Dear Lord

Help us to follow your truth and love

So, we fill today with compassion

Help us to always do our best in everything we do and to fulfil our Mercy values

Each and every day

Give us courage to act on injustices here and around the world

Amen

Our Lady of Mercy, Pray for Us

In the month of May we honoured Mary as the mother of Jesus by crowning the statues of Our Lady with flowers. This beautiful tradition is something we will continue to do as we have Our Lady of Mercy at the heart of our heritage.

Our CAFOD Young leaders continued their training at Carmel College and we are delighted that they have completed their course. They will be working with young pupils in September as we launch our Live Simply campaign.

We said goodbye to our year 13's with a beautiful Mass celebrated by Mgr. John Butchard who reminded us to 'always stay close to Mary, as she will draw you to Jesus'

Pupils and staff joined together at St George's for the Mass of Pentecost. This is part of our ongoing mission to work more closely with our local parish Church. We were delighted that pupils read so beautifully and we are grateful to Mr Loughlin, the choir and Daniel from year 8 leading us in music.

Confirmations were held across the Deanery and we were delighted to see so many of our young people receive the Sacrament in beautiful services. We pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide them and ignite in them a love of the Lord.

Our Faith in Action group were awarded their Bronze badges by Bishop Tom Neylon at a special day hosted by the Animate team. Our young people were surrounded by pupils from schools across the Archdiocese and it was a wonderful witness to how our young people respond to the call of faith. We look forward to working towards the Silver award in the coming academic year and welcoming any new pupils to the programme.

We were delighted to attend the Good Shepherd Mass at the Cathedral celebrated by Bishop Tom Williams. We were honoured to be asked to bring up the Offertory and it was a really joyful celebration in thanksgiving for the work of Nugent Care in the Archdiocese.

We said goodbye to our year 11 cohort with a beautiful Mass at St George's celebrated by Mgr. Butchard. It was wonderful to see the Church packed with pupils and their families. We gave thanks to God for all the staff who have supported our young people in their time here and we will continue to hold them in prayer as they await their GCSE results.

As the academic year draws to a close we are reminded that the Gospel of Jesus and the Mercy values are at the heart of everything we do here at Chaplaincy. We are blessed with a growing Chaplaincy team and we pray that all of our young people and staff have a restful and refreshing summer break.



# Computing

Celebrating Our Bronze iDEA Award Winners!

The Computer Science and IT department are thrilled award Bronze certificates to those students who have successfully completed the iDEA Award. Known as the inspiring Digital Enterprise Award, iDEA is an international award-winning program that helps students develop and demonstrate digital, enterprise and employability skills. iDEA aspires to be the digital and enterprise equivalent of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Bronze is beginner, Silver intermediate and Gold advanced.

In an era where technology drives progress, the iDEA Award program is designed to prepare students for the challenges and opportunities of the digital age. Through this program, students have delved into various aspects of computer science, from software development and artificial intelligence to cybersecurity and data analysis, using state-of-the-art digital tools and methodologies.

Completing the iDEA Award equips students with essential skills for future success. They have gained hands-on experience with the latest technologies, honed their problem-solving abilities, and demonstrated their capacity to innovate. Congratulations to all the recipients, we look forward to you achieving your Silver award. It is not too late for others to continue to work through modules to achieve their award. This is something we will continue through the whole of KS3.

Finn 7H

Anthony 7B

Wiktor 7H

Joshua 7C

Ameila 7M

Sean 8A

Scott 9C

[Idea.org.uk](http://Idea.org.uk)





# Duke of Edinburgh Award

Over 2 weekends in June, we have had students in Year 9 and 10 completing their expedition section of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. This has involved students completing after school sessions in how to put up a tent, map reading and navigational skills, nutrition and cooking skills, as well as other camp craft, before embarking on a 2 day hike, approximately 10 miles each day. All students were impeccably well behaved throughout and showed great resilience and teamwork skills.

There are 4 sections to complete at Bronze and Silver level. They involve helping the community/environment, becoming fitter and healthier, developing new skills, planning, training for and completing an expedition. Aside from the expedition the other 3 sections must show a commitment for 3-6 months.

If your child is entering into Year 9 or 10 from September and is keen to achieve this nationally recognised award, please contact Miss Horrell [horrells@maricourt.net](mailto:horrells@maricourt.net)





# Mr Varey

Mr Varey began teaching in Maricourt in 1989 and has been an integral part of the development of the school. Originally employed as a teacher of RE and maths, he very soon moved over to develop the computing and IT curriculum as he helped Maricourt navigate the introduction of the internet and more digital learning. He progressed through the ranks in school as Assistant Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and was the Acting Headteacher in Autumn 2022. Mr Varey has always been very proud to be part of a MERCY school and recalls with great fondness the early days of his career when the school was blessed with the presence of the sisters. He has worked hard to ensure the history of the school will always be remembered and that our ethos remains firmly in the teachings of Catherine MacAuley. Pupils in Maricourt have benefitted not only from Mr Varey's knowledge of Computing where he has taught numerous students up to A level, but also from his generous spirit in organising groups of pupils to visit Catherine MacAuley's house in Dublin and St Raphael's school in Sierra Leone where Mr Varey established a link. Doing this for a number of years, he has given up his own time frequently and generations of pupils will always be thankful for that. He has also been instrumental in introducing the link with the Confucius Institute and with the Latin Excellence Partnership. These links allow Maricourt students to learn Mandarin and Latin. Mr Varey's impact on the school is very evident and he will be a loss to the community. On behalf of all the pupils, staff, parents and governors of the school we want to say thank you for your years of service and we will hold you in our prayers for a long and happy retirement.

Interview with Deputy Head Mr Varey by Sixth form students.

1. What has been your favourite moment of being a teacher in Maricourt?  
Helping and supporting students to be a success and go onto successful destinations such as University and attending trips for example Sierra Leone.

2. What advice would you give to the new deputy head teacher?

To be kind and ensure teachers and students are happy and also keep Maricourt going on a successful path.

3. What has been the biggest change you have seen at Maricourt in your career?

Technology as on first arrival there was no internet.

4. What would you like to stay the same at Maricourt?

The best thing at Maricourt that I would like to stay the same is the care that we offer to our students.

5. Do you have a story about a student who you feel had a significant impact on you?

There are so many to mention, some of which went on to study Computer Science and also in caring professions.

6. What are your plans for your retirement? Any holidays?

Yes, lots of holidays, no bookings as yet but lots of time to reflect and enjoy booking them in.





# English

This year, we successfully trialled the Bedrock Literacy programme with Year 8, receiving an extremely positive reaction from both students and teachers. Bedrock Literacy is an innovative platform designed to enhance students' grammar and vocabulary skills through engaging and interactive activities. This cutting-edge programme tests students on various aspects of vocabulary and grammar, providing personalised feedback and tracking their progress over time. Given the success of this trial, we are excited to announce that we will be rolling out the Bedrock Literacy programme for the entire Key Stage 3 in the 2024/25 school year. By incorporating Bedrock into our curriculum for Years 7, 8, and 9, we aim to foster a more robust understanding of language among our pupils, equipping them with the essential literacy skills needed for academic success. At Maricourt, we look forward to modernising our literacy programme and improving every child's literacy journey. The programme's dynamic approach will not only make learning grammar and vocabulary more enjoyable but also significantly boost their overall language proficiency, preparing them for future educational challenges.



## Archdiocese of Liverpool Public Speaking Competition 2024

A huge congratulations to Poppy and Zuha for their incredible performances in the Archdiocese of Liverpool Public Speaking Competition 2024. On top of both students being roundly commended by the judging panel, Zuha was awarded 2nd place overall! 🏆

Having given up their own time to hone and develop their speeches with Mr. McGuinness and Mr. Harkin, the girls performed brilliantly and did Maricourt proud. Their maturity, charisma and courage were something to behold!

On a personal note, the supervision of this competition was previously undertaken by the late and sorely missed Mr. Clarke. It's fantastic that Poppy and Zuha were able to continue the legacy paved by Mr. Clarke and all of our previous finalists.





# Geography

As our newsletter goes to press our Year 12 students are currently in their classroom at the Field Studies Centre just outside the beautiful village of Betw- y- Coed. It has been a really productive week. Our students have undertaken a number of investigations in nearby Llandudno as well as the coastal town of Criccieth.

The students have used a wide range of qualitative and quantitative methodologies to investigate both changes in Llandudno and coastal management of Criccieth Bay. It has been a fantastic week and the students have worked really hard each day to collect their data. The students will now complete their own independent investigations based on their experiences this week. What a great group of students!



As part of the year 8 curriculum the students have been learning about Africa. This has meant they have compared their school experience to those who live in Ghana. The students have shown a huge amount of compassion and kindness whereby over 200 students took part in a sponsored walk to replicate the walk children in Ghana make every day to school. A huge thank you to every single year 8 student who were amazing role models during this walk. Overall the year 8 students managed to raise £115.50. Every student should be proud of their accomplishment.

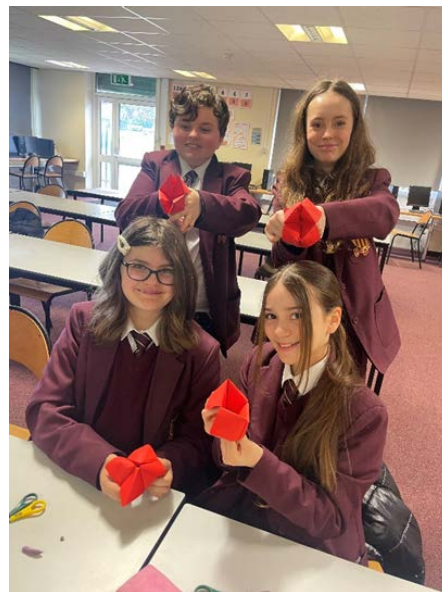


Furthermore, a cake sale was taken place to also raise money for students in Ghana. The geography staff were overwhelmed and overjoyed with the amount of cake donations made by students and staff. The kindness of students was not unnoticed and was reflected in the amount raised. £247.50 was raised by all students. A big thank you to everyone! All money raised will be going directly to children in Ghana when Miss Macdonald volunteers in a local school during the summer holidays. The total amount is £363, well done all.



# ***Mandarin interventions***

This half term, a group of our year 7 and 8 pupils have taken part in Mandarin sessions run by Edge Hill University. The children have learnt about culture and language whilst completing a range of fun activities each week; these have included Chinese ink painting's, Chinese sports and a range of catchy songs and dances! The children have looked forward to the sessions each week and have said they have a better understanding of the Mandarin culture!



# ***LFC Foundation 'Feeling Sound' trip***

Year 7 and 8 students were invited to attend Anfield Stadium for a reward trip for their completion of the LFC 'Feeling Sound' programme. The aim of the programme was to combat anxiety, increase confidence and self-esteem, through the work of music and arts. Students have been working really hard over the past few months and received their well-deserved certificates this week, as well as winning many prizes! Well done to all students involved.

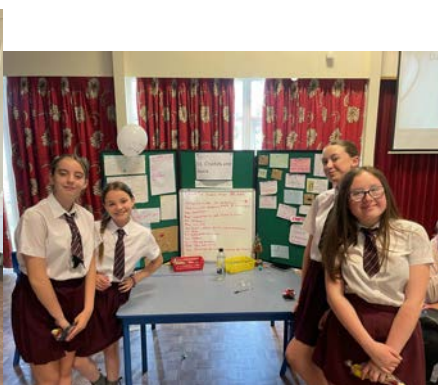
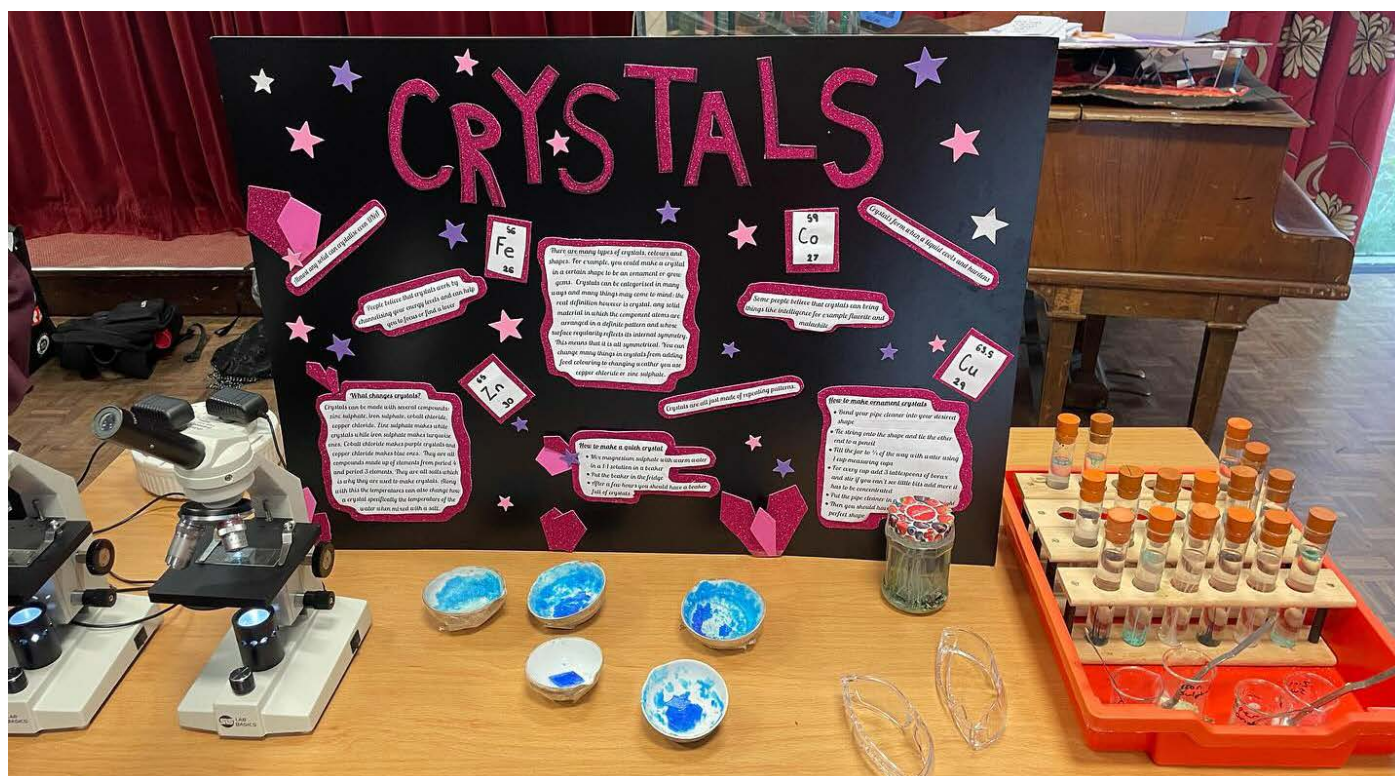




# Science Fair

Earlier this term, the Maricourt Science Department ran a science fair for key stage 3 students. Students were asked to produce a science presentation on an area of science that they found interesting. Topics chosen by the students included how crystals are made, space, biomes, how the Earth was formed (and could end), carnivorous plants, is Pluto a planet?, the Solar system, is there life on other planets?, coke and mentos, caterpillars, is there life on Mars? and many more.. The students were given an afternoon to set up and were then asked to present their projects to the teachers, parents and students that came. The turnout was amazing and our thanks must go to everybody who came. However, our biggest thanks must go to the students who took part, the standard was incredibly high and the effort they put in was extraordinary. A special thank you must also go to Mrs. Bailey who put a huge amount of work into making sure the event was a success.

After fierce competition (and fantastic science), the event was won by the crystals group, with is there life on other planets? in second and the solar system in third. We look forward to them defending these places next year.





# Chester Zoo Rewards Trip

On 26th July Year 7 visited Chester Zoo for our rewards trip. Despite it being a very hot day all pupils were wonderful. They were full of enthusiasm seeing the animals and inquisitive, speaking to the Zoo staff and getting involved with activities around the Zoo, including a quiz about the new addition to the zoo, The Snow Leopard. Walking around the Zoo it was great to see the excitement in the pupils for the animals, especially the Batcave, Penguins, the sleeping Lions and the very popular Capybara. All staff that accompanied the pupils spoke about how much they enjoyed the trip as the pupils were so well behaved and a real pleasure to be with. Pupils enjoyed the trip and some have been talking about their experience to staff in school and really positive feedback from parents has been great to hear. It was lovely to spend time with pupils outside of the classroom and see their unbound enthusiasm. A great day for everybody that attended.

Mr Marsh







**MARICOURT**  
CATHOLIC  
HIGH SCHOOL  
& SIXTH FORM CENTRE