



# MORE HOUSE SCHOOL

2022-2023 in review



# Letter from the Headmaster

Dear all,

Welcome to our end of year review magazine, looking back over the 2022-23 academic year. There is so much within this publication; it is inspiring to read of so many formative experiences and successes of our pupils.

Our mission, describing clearly the aims of everyone within the More House community of staff, volunteers and pupils' families, is to **empower our boys to transform their futures**.

It is a simple statement, but one which never fails to excite me; it remains such a rewarding and humbling privilege to share in our students' journeys.

The key to our More House model is aspiration; aspiration which we transfer to our pupils, fostering their self-belief and skills for true independence. We empower our pupils to grow and succeed – supporting them to acquire the knowledge, skills and hunger for a truly aspirational future.

We are so fortunate in the expertise and dedication within our school family, realising such extraordinary achievements of our students. The partnership with pupils' parents, and particularly the commitment of The Friends of More House, enables exceptional opportunities for our young people.

This magazine is rich with articles, pupils' work and images, and will, I hope, be opened in your house frequently over the course of the year ahead. Please do share it with family members and friends; your sons deserve to feel so proud of their school; unique in its educational model, pupils' experience and outcomes.

I am grateful to everyone involved in bringing together this year's magazine, and wish to recognise particularly the sterling efforts of Mrs Debbie Youl and Miss Annie Jones; they have done a super job!

Binding our community together are both our stated mission and our shared values:

## **Kindness, Spirit and Responsibility.**

These two standards, mission and values, must always be our rallying point, especially in times of uncertainty or challenge. By them, we discover the right path, and grow ever stronger as a school and a community.

I hope that you enjoy dipping in and out of this review, and I thank you for your interest in, and support of our mission and pupils.

With my very best wishes,

**Jonathan Hetherington** | Headmaster



# Introduction from the Chair of Governors

Our boys, who are the heart and soul of MHS, have accomplished remarkable feats this year, not just in their academic subjects but also in sports, music, the arts and beyond. In this 2022-23 end of year review, we celebrate their successes, efforts, experiences, and achievements.

The academic year proved challenging for many pupils and their families with the realities of high inflation and the cost of living bearing heavily on our community. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the MHS Board of Governors for their wise counsel, to members of our school community, parents, and



grandparents, and to our devoted teachers and support staff for their passion and dedication and finally, of course, to our boys, whose hard work, spirit and success make us immensely proud.

The summer holiday always allows some time for reflection, for reassessment, and for rejuvenation. As such, when we return in the autumn, please let us all continue our journey with renewed vigour and determination; the legacy of MHS depends on us all. Together, we are stronger, and together, we will continue to shape the legacy of our esteemed institution.

**Glenn Handley** | Chair of the Board of Governors

## Thoughts from the Bursar

**This year was busy and varied across many quarters. There were challenges to face but, as always, the school community did its very best to support the amazing students of MHS.**

Over the summer, my wife and I made the acquaintance of a delightful family from Coventry. Anne\* (mum) is a teacher at a primary school, and her daughter is at university, studying to become a teacher.

We shared many laughs about common holiday experiences, and Anne also treated us to a very funny, albeit rather dangerous, work story about how a caretaker installed inside guttering and a downpipe to her classroom to deal with a leaking ceiling, just missing an electrical socket in the process!

When the conversation inevitably turned to our educational experiences and the differences in approach in our respective settings, it was a revelation for the family to hear about the MHS approach to Special Educational Needs provision - particularly since they have a son who had difficulties at school, and in their words, ended up achieving very little. Fortunately, he has since found his niche and is now training to be a chef.

Anne spoke about how she had identified a boy in her class as in need of additional support and, in her own time, devised her own way of bringing the best out of him. Oh, how she would have welcomed our Spotlight sessions!

As we now look ahead to the new academic year and whatever it brings, we must never lose sight of the uniqueness of the MHS way, and the transformative effect that it can have on the futures of our boys.

**Stephen Johnson** | Bursar

\*Not real name



# Reflections from the Chapel

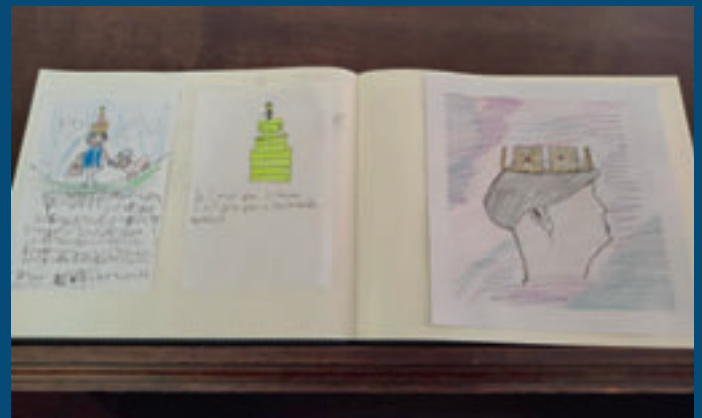
## Changes in the Chapel

In Summer 2022, the school was fortunate enough to acquire several beautiful church pews, now installed in the Chapel. We also experimented with a stained-glass-effect on the windows in the main body of the Chapel, where beams of colour and a warm purple glow rest, particularly on the south-facing windowsills, throughout the day.



## Paying our Respects to the Queen

The morning after the announcement that the Queen had passed away, the whole school gathered in the Sports Hall for a brief time of reflection and prayer. The Chapel was made available throughout the day for students or staff who needed support, or simply a quiet place to reflect. Two books of condolence were kept in the Chapel, alongside a picture and a candle, until the week after Her Majesty's funeral.



## Remembrance

During November, we took the opportunity to remember those loved ones who have passed away. The Remembrance Box was available to the MHS community, in the Chapel.

The names in the Remembrance Box, along with Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth's books of condolence, were prayed for during our School Mass, celebrated by school governor Fr Nick Gosnell, on 17th November.

During the Mass, Fr Nick spoke about his extensive experience as a Military Chaplain and how important Remembrance is for communities he has served with and for. He even pointed out that his cufflinks were made from artillery shells fired on the day that ceasefire was called, during World War One.



## Advent

As well as numerous assemblies exploring the themes of Advent, we marked the coming of this season of preparation by affixing our temporary, stained-glass-effect nativity scene to the large eastern window, at the back of the Chapel. This is the first year since its restoration that we have seen the nativity scene in the Chapel in its full glory, providing a striking image from the inside of the Chapel during the day and from the outside by night.





## Brother Joseph's Grave

In recent years, it has become our school custom to visit and pay our respects at the grave of the school's founder and first headmaster, Brother Joseph Gard'ner, Oblate of the Order of St Benedict. This visit takes place at some point in the days immediately preceding Founder's Day, which marks the close of the academic year, in early July. The timing is also pertinent for another reason: it coincides with the anniversary of the execution and martyrdom of Saint Thomas More, on the 6th July 1535, after whom More House School is named. Sir Thomas More, Lord High Chancellor under Henry VIII, stood firm in his belief of what was right, even to the point of death.

This year's visit took place on Friday 7th July; the day before Founder's Day. Mr Hetherington, the Headmaster, was accompanied by Reef Birch, Head Boy, and by the four heads of house: Joshua Pugh, Cobbett House; Ollie Clement, Hawthorn House; Matthew Bond, Knight House; and Joseph Grinstead, Sturt House. The school's Director of Music, Mr Place and the Chapel Choir were also in attendance.

Brother Joseph's gravestone is located within the Catholic section of West Street cemetery, in Farnham – only a short

distance from the school. A few years ago, the school arranged for the refurbishment of Brother Joseph's headstone and planted a Frensham Rose, which is thriving and decorates Brother Joseph's resting place with beautiful red flowers.

On arrival, there follows a brief but very meaningful ceremony. Mr Hetherington delivered a short introductory address acknowledging Brother Joseph's foresight in designing and opening The Thomas More School in Frensham, in 1939, which later changed its name to More House School. This was followed by short, very personal testimonies, delivered by school officers and other pupils present, in which the students spoke of the impact of Brother Joseph's legacy and MHS, on their lives and their futures. Thereafter, the Chapel Choir sang Immaculate Mary, in four-part harmony, and Mr Hetherington led the assembled company in three short prayers: for Brother Joseph, for pupils of our school, and for MHS itself. Mrs Hetherington, also present, then kindly took a photograph for the school records.

This annual visit is even more special for pupils and staff who belong to Hawthorn House, since Mike Hawthorn's grave is very easily distinguished, adjacent to the cemetery car park.

## Baby Ndlovu

We are delighted that on Thursday 8th June, our Lay Chaplain, Teresa Ndlovu, and her husband welcomed their second child into the world - Temba (meaning have hope/trust) Michael Zwelibanzi (meaning the world is vast). Many, many congratulations!



## Respects to the Queen



This all started with an idea.... my Dad and I wanted to go to Westminster to pay our respects to the Queen.

My mom had to stay home with my baby brother and we set out in the middle of the night on our adventure.

I packed a small bag of snacks, a couple of books, and a water bottle.

I had to wear warm clothes as the night was going to be very cold.

My mom put an apple air tag in my bag to track our every move. It was a very hi-tech operation.

After a few hours of waiting, we were given a set time in the morning to see the Queen. I was relieved I didn't have to walk or wait anymore. We came home and had 5 hours of sleep before we had to go back in the morning.

It took us about half an hour to get inside Westminster because of the walking and all the security.

It took us 9 minutes to get through the hall. It was very quiet inside and it felt very sad, but I didn't cry.

I didn't know what to do when I finally stood in front of the Queen. I was going to salute but I bowed my head instead which I thought was a better alternative.

I also got to see the changing of the guards which was a nice bonus.

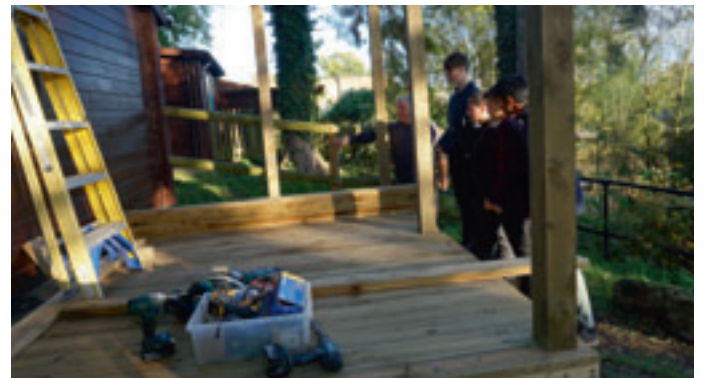
Even though I was tired and I wanted my bed, I was glad I went to be a part of history.

I found out later that I was on the BBC and it was very cool that my whole family from around the world were able to see me visit the Queen.

**Myles Sowah** | Year 7

## Peace Garden

We are delighted with our quiet space for the boys to sit and overlook the newly cleared pond. A very tranquil area for peace and reflection.





# Charity fundraising 2023-23

In the academic year 2023-23, MHS has raised more than £38,000 for a variety of charities through fundraising efforts, including the Christmas/Easter Services, Christmas Jumper Day, Armistice remembrance, and other occasions.

## 2023 Staff Training Review

During this academic year, staff training has not stood still.

Twilight training sessions held every Monday throughout the year provide an introduction to staff who are new to MHS. It has also acted as a refresher course for everyone else, through making the session recordings and slides available to all employees as we further discuss, understand, and apply our school systems and Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) approaches.

Five staff who are new to pupil-facing roles have this year also gained regular training and support around applying the teachers' standards to their practice. Three teachers have achieved their Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) through Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) and Assessment Only (AO) QTS routes with the University of Buckingham, ably supported by experienced mentors in school. We are grateful to All Hallows School for their partnership with us in providing short term placements for these qualifications. Our seven Early Career Teachers have successfully completed their targets for the year under the guidance of Independent School Teacher Induction Panel (ISTIP), who inspected our provision in May and recognised the mentors and tutors involved as providing an 'exceptional level of ongoing support'.

Five staff members this year have made significant progress towards attaining their DfE National Professional Qualifications (NPQs) in Senior and Specialist Leadership. Their closely tutored work is based on DfE frameworks, the Educational Endowment Foundation research base and networking events, working alongside many practitioners from other specialist and mainstream settings. Two teachers have also completed MAs in Leadership and SEND Education (thanks goes to Year 10 pupils and parents for their participation and support!).

Meanwhile, our externally accredited in-house Level 3 and



4 SEND awards are now in their third year and have been completed by more staff than ever before. This route of study helps to deepen knowledge and apply practice of our core belief that when we support cognitive functions such as language, working memory, processing and attention, our teaching is more effective than looking solely at the diagnosis. Research from neuroscientists Professor Joni Holmes et al. at the University of Cambridge, coming out of their ten-year Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM) project, is worth looking up for further reading for those who are interested in this. We have also produced a leaflet, 'Teaching at More House', available from main reception, which explains what this approach might look like in the classroom.

Meanwhile, the essential work of statutory training continues unabated. Residential Care Levels 3 and 5, Designated Safeguarding Officer, working at height, pool plant operator, food hygiene and Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme (MIDAS) minibuss training are a few on a very long list of detailed and highly important qualifications and certificates which the school must hold for the safety of our pupils and staff. Mental First Aid, Safeguarding and Educare courses also continue to expand our skills, understanding and awareness of how we can keep our pupils as safe as possible.

During our April INSET days, as well as developing a better understanding of how to use coaching skills in our development conversations, we also enjoyed an afternoon of activities aimed at supporting staff wellbeing. While some luxuriated in Sound Bath or Guided Meditation sessions, others went for a local walk, played adventure golf or made the most of our new gym!

The training requests for 2023-24 are already pouring in and we look forward to developing our knowledge, understanding and skills so that we can provide our pupils and staff with everything that they need and deserve in the year to come.

**Eleanor Margesson** | Director of Staff Training & Development

# A Year with the Friends of More House

It has been wonderful to see so many MHS families enjoying our events throughout the year. We are so grateful for your steadfast support. We simply cannot run these occasions without an army of parent volunteers and are indebted to everyone who helped us this year!

Thanks to the generosity of the school community, the Friends were able to provide financial assistance for a wide range of projects. We provided a grant of £5000 towards the exciting gym refurbishment. We donated £2800 to the Drama Department to hire a venue to perform Rockbeth at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe because we believe strongly that this will not only showcase the extraordinary talents of MHS pupils but also highlight the enormous benefits neurodiverse students gain from performing. We supported the Library and financed a Disney+ subscription for Boarding. We enabled the Music Department to purchase a 'rock trolley', to be used by pupils in Year 8 and beyond to practise pieces independently in bands of 3-4.

Michaelmas term: Our first event of the academic year was a brilliant finish-line for the Sponsored Walk. Pupils and staff received the warmest of welcomes from a crowd of parents, siblings, and grandparents. Our spirits were not dampened in the slightest by somewhat inclement weather! There were lollies galore, delicious, freshly cooked doughnuts and a coffee cart for much-needed hot drinks.

We organised a host of activities and treats at our Christmas Fayre, including candy cane reindeer to hook, lucky dips, tombolas and retro arcade game machines. The Sports Hall was a riot of seasonal sights and sounds. Adult visitors to the Fayre were able to shop for Christmas presents and enjoy a warming cup of mulled wine in the calmer - but no less festive - gift market located in and around the Discovery Centre. Pupils participating in the 2023 World Challenge expedition to eSwatini sold mince pies, mistletoe and much more to raise funds for their trip. In a keenly fought contest, with a mere seven jars separating first and second place, our House Jolly Jar Competition champions 2022 were Knight!

Our Christmas tree sales initiative was again popular. Year 12 Business Administration students provided invaluable assistance and received payment in the form of a tree for Crosslanes. 97 house steady bears arrived at school just in time for the Christmas holiday.

Lent term: In March we ran a successful family games and pizza night. We built towers using nothing but spaghetti and marshmallows, played several games of bingo and participated in a challenging logo quiz. Pupils enjoyed visiting our Spring Gift Shop in the HotSpot, where they were able to select presents for loved ones from a vast array of goodies sourced by Heather Shepherd. We organised an Easter egg tombola for pupils and donated excess stock to Farnham's Food Bank.

Trinity term: We are constantly seeking new ways to support MHS families, and in May hosted our first seminar. Led by experienced recruitment consultant Rachel Pearson, we explored ways to help neurodivergent teenagers transition from school to higher education and the world of work. We owe heartfelt thanks to Jo Dilworth for arranging this informative session.

Once again, the Friends provided refreshments throughout Sports Day – and what a glorious day it was! Business was brisk, with breakfast bacon baps, lunchtime Pimm's and afternoon cream teas proving especially popular! We are profoundly grateful to Kate Macpherson for arranging the Friends' first ever Summer Fayre! What a spectacular afternoon it was. Pupils and their siblings loved the giant inflatables, gaming bus, BBQ, ice creams and a variety of traditional Fayre games, including a hilarious water balloon and spoon race. As ever, we are indebted to Estates Manager John Brady and his team, Simon John and Artur Kozlowski for their tireless work at the BBQ, Georgina Barnes, Lindsey Downs, and of course the senior leadership team for their assistance.

On 19th May we were flabbergasted and absolutely delighted to be crowned Parentkind's Champion PTA of the Year at the online National PTA Awards! We received a £250 cheque for the school and a trophy, which to be honest was excitement enough, but our win then led to the most incredible opportunity. On 3rd July the Friends, together with three other award-winning PTAs, were privileged to attend a meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Parental Participation in Education at Portcullis House. Anna Benfield gave a presentation outlining the work of the Friends.

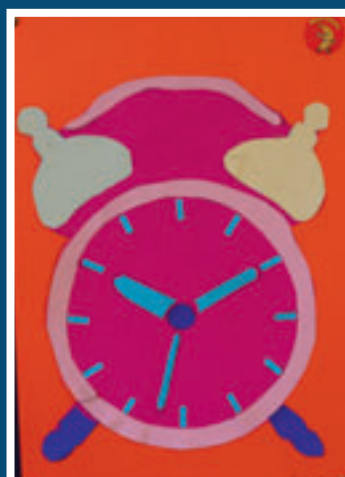
All in all, it has been an extraordinary year for the Friends of More House – we can't wait to see what 23/24 brings!

**Anna Benfield & Heather Shepherd** | Friends of More House

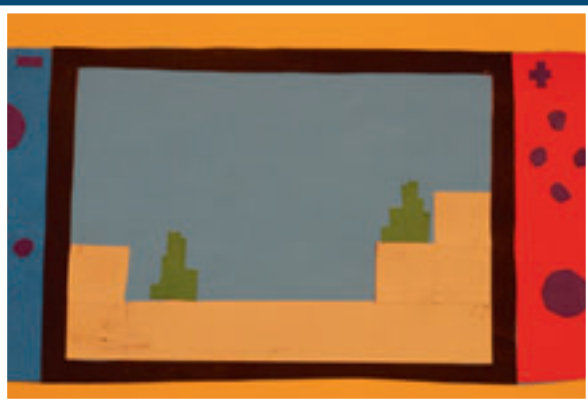
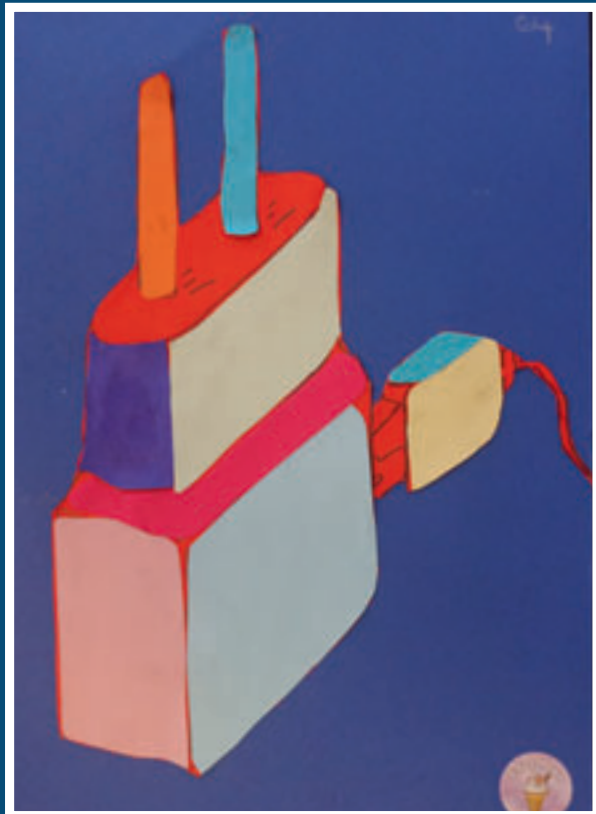
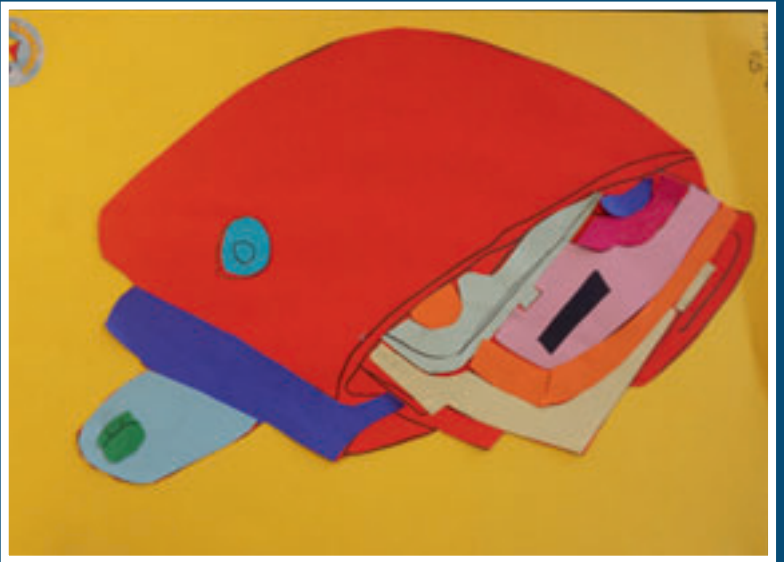




# Year 8 Art







# News from our Alumni

## Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award Success

Harry Millsom completed his Gold DofE award and while celebrating his award at Buckingham Palace, bumped into an old schoolboy, Euan MacIntyre, also celebrating his Gold!

Just goes to show what MHS boys can achieve. Congratulations to both!



## Mayowa Eleso

Mayowa left MHS in 2015. He visited us recently and let us know that he is currently freelancing as a 2D artist for illustration and animation. He said, "I owe it to MHS and the faculty and friends for my achievements and memories at the school."

Great to hear Mayowa is succeeding in his passion.

## William Tallon

Former Head Boy, Will Tallon, is going to start a PhD in October at the University of East Anglia near Norwich. He has been offered a 4-year funded Microbiology PhD and he will be studying Carbon monoxide oxidising bacteria in glacial retreat soils in the high arctic (Svalbard). We are delighted for his success and amazing tenacity.

## VI Form Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Each year, a number of students in the UVI Form choose to pursue the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) as part of their studies. The EPQ offers students the chance to complete a project about an area of interest which they may not study as part of their other subjects. The way the course is designed means students have a great deal of freedom over which topic to choose, resulting in an interesting variety of project choices - and this year was no exception.

Topics ranged from a study of the marine life of the North Atlantic, to the depiction of the future in science fiction, to a careful consideration of the role music plays in film - can music be considered as a character in film?

The EPQ offers a wonderful opportunity for students to develop their research skills and gain confidence in producing a report on what they discover. This year's candidates took that opportunity and through hard work and helpful supervision from their MHS supervisor, each was able to complete the project.

At the conclusion, each student presented their findings to an audience of fellow students and teachers. They faced tough questions from teachers and students but were able to deal with them really well. It was evident just how enthusiastic students were about their work and many talked about how they hoped the experience would help them in their further studies next year.

Congratulations go to this year's candidates:

**Lucas O'Connor**

**Jacob Roughley**

**Freddie Baldwin**

**Thomas Wall Morris**

Thanks, should also go to Mrs Gillian Lomas, Mr Peter Walton and Mr Iain Yeoman for their support as supervisors.

If any student in Years 11 or 12 has any question about the EPQ, please talk to Mr Wright or e-mail [jgwright@morehouseschool.co.uk](mailto:jgwright@morehouseschool.co.uk)

**Mr Joseph Wright** | Extended Project Coordinator



# Year 11 BTEC Art

Here is a selection of the wonderful work created by our Year 11 Art students for their BTEC award. It was so inspiring to see the boys working independently with clear ideas on how to visualise a response to their investigations and preparation. They worked incredibly hard during their assessment time to ensure their outcome pieces were produced to the highest standard. Well done!

**Matthew Garwell** | Teacher of Art



Thom Fleming – Posca Pen, Fineliner & Acrylics over found artwork in response to “Spirit of the Place”



Oscar Balsdon – Pencil & Inks in response to his personal connection to Hungary



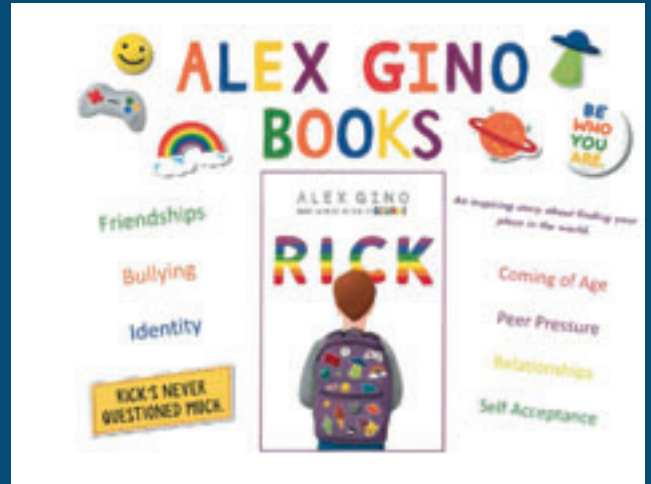
George Hillier – Pencil, Charcoal, Chalk Pastels in response to “Spirit of the Place”



## Our Library - Shelf Life

Our images show that it has been another enjoyable and busy year in the MHS Library. One of the highlights was the Chinese New Year display, which focused on Chinese signs of the zodiac. The boys loved the matching bookmarks so they could work out not only their own animal, but their friends' and family's as well. They were so interested to read the characteristics of each, which often reflected their personalities. The bucket of fortune cookie sayings was also very popular, although some messages were more obscure than others... 'Some days you are pigeon, some days you are statue. Today, bring umbrella.'

Lucy Marshall | Librarian







# MHS Careers Programme

**Our Careers Programme has seen some very exciting developments this year.**

Mrs Kerr, Deputy Head - Curriculum and Careers Leader, introduced a new school careers programme for Junior Years through to VI Form.

## In-school Careers events

Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 attended a carousel of career workshops about a variety of professions, led by teachers. Students in the Junior School also enjoyed some career-related activities on Flexi Fridays, led by teachers and parents.

## VI Form Careers Programme

VI Form students participated in a careers programme including presentations and activities across a range of topics, to support their preparation for further study and the world of work. We enjoyed visits from a selection of speakers who shared their expertise:

- David Rose - Voluntary Action South West Surrey
- Callum Russell - Independent Gap Year Advice
- Nikita Heyland - CG Spectrum Games
- College representatives
- Our Alumni

## National weeks we celebrated:

- National Space Week – October 22 - Mrs Pickett, Head of Science, led an assembly about the Artemis Moon Rocket and the Webb Telescope, and gave students an insight into careers in the space industry
- National Apprenticeship Week – March 23
- National Careers Week – March 23

## Association of Learning Providers in Surrey (ALPs)

We welcomed Sue Taylor from ALPs, who visited Year 11 and VI Form students and staff to advise us about levels, range and latest opportunities in apprenticeships.



## Parent-led Assemblies

MHS parents generously shared their career journeys and wealth of expertise with our students:

- Mr Thevan Ratnam - Aerospace Engineering
- Mr Gareth Capon - Technology and Entrepreneurship
- Mr Richard Alcalay - My Career Journey
- Mr Phil Shortman - The Construction Industry
- Mrs Keersten Kenny - Careers in Science and Technology





## National School & College Leavers Show

Year 11 attended the National School & College Leavers Show at Ascot Racecourse in November 2022. They were able to find information and speak directly to representatives from a wide range of universities and employers, offering opportunities in education, apprenticeships, and training.



## Career Bulletins

We distributed our bulletins with information about a range of careers topics and opportunities:

- Apprenticeship opportunities and university open days / workshops
- Career fayres and events
- Work experience and volunteering opportunities

We offered one-to-one interviews for Year 10 students and their parents (and other year groups upon request), supporting with enquiries and giving advice and guidance.

We are looking forward to 2023-2024, full of new and exciting events and programmes!

## National Citizen Service (NCS)

Lily Wheeler, NCS Youth Engagement Advisor for London and the South East, talked to Year 11 and LVI Form students about their new five-day programmes – Live It, Boss It & Change It.

**Marjorie Withers** | Careers Advisor



# A Flavour of Boarding 2022-2023

## Guiding Principles Awards

It is important that within our boarding community, positive behaviour is seen to be highlighted, rewarded, and encouraged. To enable this, we have a pupil ethos which is anchored by the school's guiding principles of KINDNESS, SPIRIT and RESPONSIBILITY.

To assist the pupils in working towards embedding these principles into their everyday lives, we have a termly focus of either kindness, spirit, or responsibility, which is discussed in our regular boarding chapel meetings. An award is given out each week to the pupil who has shown the most commitment to exemplifying the focus principle.



## Cooking for Life

Part of our VI Form boarding provision is 'Cooking for Life', where boarders learn to prepare healthy, balanced, and delicious meals with Head Chef Artur. Working in our dedicated VI Form boarding kitchen, the students enjoy learning to cook... and eating the final products.

## Boarding Trips

Boarders go on at least one trip every term, and there were some particularly exciting ones this year. Different groups have been to water parks, laser tag, golf, Ninja Warrior, arcades, buffets, lake inflatables and many more.



## Chess Tournament

In the Michaelmas term, we held our first Boarding Chess Tournament for Years 6 to 9. More than two thirds of boarders entered, some of whom have been playing for years, others had never touched a chess set before. With group stages followed by a knockout round, everyone got the chance to play several games. It was lovely to see those who were more experienced giving pointers to those new to the game.

After three months of competition, everyone's game had improved, and we had to buy new chess sets to keep up with the enthusiastic practice! Well done to everyone who took part, and to our champions, in particular:

1st place: **Will Reehal** | Year 9

2nd place: **Rhys Legrand** | Year 7

3rd place: **Henry Cameron** | Year 8





## Boarding Weekends

We have had some great weekends this year! Fantastic trips to laser tag, the arcade, mini-golf, ice skating and Brighton Pier, to name a few. In between trips, weekend boarders have made the most of all the onsite facilities to pursue their hobbies and enjoyed outings to the shops and local parks.



## Evening Walks

Boarders took advantage of the nicer weather in the Trinity term to visit local parks and other places of interest. Alice Holt was a favourite, but we also visited Peakfield Park and Frensham Ponds. Shortfield Common was also popular as we got to watch the local cricket teams from the play area.

## Tie-Dye Shirts

Boarders in Main House got together to create their own tie-dye t-shirts in the Michaelmas term. Some fantastic designs were created, and the finished products looked amazing.

## Boarding Free Time Fun

Boarders have free time every night and have made the most of it this year! From building dens, investigating the aerodynamic abilities of toy cars, and challenging each other on FIFA or Mario Kart, they have enjoyed pursuing their hobbies together.

One of the most popular events of the week is Treat Night. The boys have had some great ones this year, from ice cream to s'mores, and even cake decorating.



## Halloween

Halloween brought with it a spooky scavenger hunt, Trick or Treating and parties for the younger boarders. They got properly into the 'spirit' of things with some great costumes and props.

Favourite games included 'toilet-paper mummies', followed immediately by a very energetic game of 'throw toilet-paper at the boarding staff'!



## Pancake Day

Boarders celebrated Pancake Day in style this year, spending the evening producing (and eating) some impressive creations. Thank you to Miss Starkey and Mrs Richmond for their expertise.



## Christmas

Christmas in boarding always brings with it much excitement, as the boys help to get the boarding houses appropriately decorated for the season. The Juniors have their Christmas party to look forward to, Christmas jumpers are the standard, and this year, the Year 8 boarders were lucky enough to participate in the Great Boarding Duck Hunt.

## Boarding Snow Day

There was much excitement in the boarding houses in January as we all woke up to find a beautiful covering of snow across the school site. It has never been quite so easy to get everyone out of bed, and the morning was spent building snowmen, making snow angels, and taking part in a very enthusiastic snowball fight.



## Easter

Younger boarders enjoyed an Easter party and egg hunt this year, with the golden egg being enthusiastically competed for. The boys enjoyed traditional Easter games such as egg-and-spoon races as well as some less traditional ones like 'draw a rabbit on a plate on your head'.

## Pizza Points

Boarders in Years 6 to 9 can earn 'pizza points' for good behaviour in boarding – everything from being a good friend to helping to carry up the laundry basket. When they reach the coveted 100 points, it is time to celebrate!





## Boarding Inter-House Competitions

Boarders have the opportunity to earn extra points for their school houses in special competitions each term, and there is fantastic participation from everyone. This year, we have had inter-house football, basketball and rounders, and the boarders had a great time trying to help their house to victory. The results were as follows:

### Football

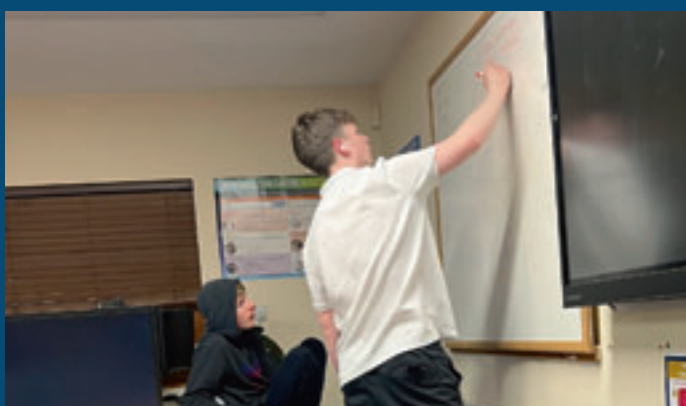
1st: Cobbett    2nd: Knight    3rd: Hawthorn    4th: Sturt

### Basketball

1st: Sturt    2nd: Knight    3rd: Hawthorn    4th: Cobbett

### Rounders

1st: Hawthorn    2nd: Cobbett    3rd: Sturt and Knight - joint



LVI student, Bill O'Grady can be seen here during Boarding, showing some Year 9 pupils how to write Pseudocode for their Computer Science homework. Good work Bill!

## Boarders' Talent Show

The end of the Lent Term brought with it the much-anticipated annual Boarders' Talent Show. The previous Head of Boarding, Mr Pennell, returned to join the judging panel for the ninth year in a row, and veteran host Thomas Wall Morris give his final performance as a MHS student. Everyone was looking forward to it, and it didn't disappoint! All the performers did brilliantly, and the judges had a very difficult decision at the end of the night. Congratulations to all.

Junior Champion: Cal McCaffrey, Will Dumbrell and Brodie Anderson-Lang (Band)

Junior runner-up: Lewis McGechan (Comedy)

Senior Champion: Joe Lawrence (Guitar)

Senior runner-up: James Senior (Saxophone)

Judges prize for excellence in comedy: Nathan Harris-Orr and JoJo Davis (Musical performance)

The 'Mr Pennell Award': Luke Martin (Dance), Jude Cash (Dance) and Oliver Sharples (Singing)



# Extra-curricular Programme 2023

Extra-curricular activities at MHS have been very successful this year. Offering a wide variety of activities, both on and off site, these trips have been a great way for students to experience new cultures, learn new skills, and make new memories that will last a lifetime

The school hosted a fantastic theatre production, Rockbeth. In fact, it has been so successful that they are going on tour in the summer holidays to the Edinburgh Fringe. Students also participated in a whole-school sponsored walk, Science trips to Wisley RHS and Arundel. These outings provided students with opportunities to showcase their talents, learn new things, and connect with their classmates and teachers.

One of the more popular activities was the ski trip to Italy. The trip was well-organised, and the students had a great time skiing in the Italian Alps. They also enjoyed exploring the local shops.

Another popular activity was attending the Laver Cup. The boys were excited to see Roger Federer and other top tennis players compete in the event. They learned a lot about the sport and had a great time cheering on their favourite players.

Geography fieldtrips gave students the opportunity to visit different parts of the UK to learn about the country's geography, including a visit to Hurst Castle Spit.

In addition to the fieldtrips, students visited the theatre several times this year, seeing a variety of productions. They thoroughly enjoyed the performances, learning a lot about different cultures and time periods.

A trip to Marwell Zoo gave the pupils a great time seeing all the different animals, including lions, tigers and elephants, and learning about the importance of conservation and animal welfare.

There have been many other trips and events on offer this year, all of which have been a delight. The school offered a wide variety of activities that allowed students to explore their interests and talents. They had a great time participating in these activities and they learned a lot.

Here are some specific examples of how the extracurricular activities at MHS benefitted students:

- Ski trip - helped students to develop their physical fitness and teamwork skills.
- Laver Cup - exposed students to professional tennis and helped them learn about the sport.
- Geography fieldtrips - helped students to learn about the UK's geography, history, and culture.
- Theatre trips - developed appreciation for the arts and learning about different cultures and time periods.
- Marwell Zoo - developed knowledge about animal conservation and welfare.
- Sponsored Walk - raised money for charity and helped students to get some exercise.

Extra-curricular activities at MHS are an important part of the school's overall curriculum and are essential for a well-rounded education. They provide students with opportunities to learn and grow outside of the classroom. The school's commitment to offering a wide variety of extra-curricular activities allows students to find activities that fulfil their interests and help them develop their skills and talents. I am confident that the extracurricular activities will continue to be a success in the years to come.

**Jarred Cooper** | Director of Extra-Curricular Education

## Create-a-Book Club

One of the after-school clubs on offer in the Lent term was 'create-a-book', where a group of boys worked together to write and illustrate their own story. The finished product was an exciting intergalactic adventure involving space pirates, giant sand worms, and suspiciously heavily armed monkeys! The boys worked together well to come up with the story and used an exciting mix of computer-generated art and real-life drawing skills to illustrate their work.

The year is 202024. When their spaceship crashes into a mysterious planet, the Armstrong family are separated and scattered across a challenging world. Facing monsters, jungles, and some terrifying space pirates, will they ever find each other and get off the planet?

Check out the book in the Library to find out!





## A Business Proposal...

As part of the Business and Enterprise Club, run by **Helen Williams** (Teacher of Business), a brave Year 9 trio made up of Charlie Hyatt-Williams, Reuben Hardy and Leo Smith, took to the spotlight and pitched their small business idea to the Headmaster and **Penni Kerr** (Deputy Head - Curriculum). They talked through their business plan to sell a football card game called 'Small Potato', through the MHS HOTSPOT - and succeeded in securing investment from the Headmaster, to kickstart their business!

The boys were terrific. They gained confidence during their presentation, thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were really proud of their success.



Congratulations to all three and best of luck for their venture.

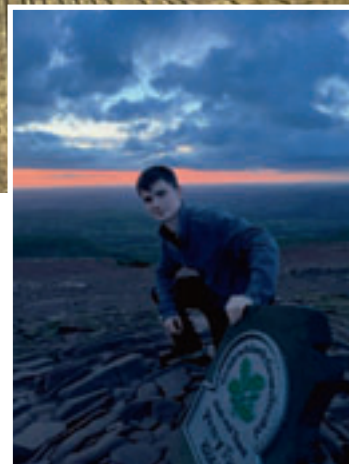
## Act of Kindness

Year 7 pupil, Henry Davies, had been growing his hair for some time (years, rather than months) before he braved a transformational cut and donated his hair to The Little Princess Trust. Henry has also been fundraising to help children and young people who are experiencing a remarkably difficult time in their lives. We are very impressed by such a kind act by Henry for those less fortunate.



## The Welsh 3 Peaks Challenge

Thomas Banfield (Year 10) and his mum Rachel took on the Welsh 3 Peaks challenge on Monday 19th June, just a few days after completing his GCSE exams. In torrential rain, they climbed Snowdon, Cadair Idris and Pen y Fan. Their total climb time was 10 hours 32 minutes, and they covered a distance of 18 miles. Thomas took part in this to fundraise for Cancer Research UK and raised a fantastic £759.



## Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

Congratulations to Adam John (Year 13) for completing his DofE Gold!

Adam passed his Bronze award at MHS. He completed his Silver and Gold awards during the Covid pandemic with an outside company, but ran the Warhammer Club at school as part of his award. What an exciting opportunity to receive his Gold award in the grounds of Buckingham Palace. Well done, Adam!



## Flying High

In school, my phone pinged. It was a message from my sergeant, and it read, "Would you like to go flying in the Grob tutor training aircraft?" I felt really pumped. My first chance at powered flight and I was still only 14! The headmaster gave me permission to go flying, so I was all set.

The day came. I woke early feeling hyped. I had to wear my uniform - the dark blue one. My Dad stopped me at the squadron. It was very foggy, so we were all worried it might not happen. However, the weather cleared up as we drove along in the sergeant's car. When we arrived, we were escorted into base by an RAF patrol and taken to the Air Cadets Training Centre. First, we had safety training - we were taught how to open the canopy of the aircraft and how to jump out of the aircraft with a parachute, safely. Next, we were taught how to use the parachute. I felt sure that I could do what was required in an emergency.

Now was the time to be suited up in an RAF flight suit with a helmet. It felt heavy, especially because I now had a parachute on my back. Then I had to wait until it was my turn. I was told it was my time to fly! I felt so excited. I had been waiting for this chance my whole life.

I walked to the plane with another cadet who was wearing a bright yellow jacket for safety. I stepped onto the wing and got into the cockpit next to the RAF pilot. He introduced himself and asked if I had done any flight training before. I said yes, in a glider. The RAF pilot said that it is like a glider but with an engine and a few more instruments. Then we started to taxi to the runway. It felt incredible! We stopped to do brake tests and intermittent tests, and everything was going really well UNTIL... one of the instrument panels was not showing the correct RPM and had broken! So, we had to taxi back to ramp.

I got into a different aircraft - still with the Grob tutor - and we taxied all the way back to the runway, did the tests and everything went correctly. Finally, we took off and I took the controls, and did a couple turns and a 180-degree turn. My pilot asked if I wanted to do acrobatics and, of course, I said yes. So, my pilot took control, and we did two loop the loops, pulling 4 to 5 Gs each, and a barrel-roll. I took over again and took us back to the airfield and my pilot landed very nicely.

I have had about 5,480 hours in flight simulators and 1 hour and 10 minutes in real life and hoping to get my glider licence in 9 hours of flying in a glider.

**Josh Wehner** | Year 10

## Going for Gold

KICKBOXING IS MY PASSION.

My passion for martial arts started when I was five years old. I started with Kung Fu, and when I was six, I started doing Kickboxing as well. As I got older, I found my love for Kickboxing was greater so, instead of grading for my black belt, all I wanted to do was tournament fighting. I am very dedicated, training mornings before school, most evenings and weekends.

My original club was limited, so in February 2022, I changed club and went to Basingstoke Kickboxing Organisation, because they take their team to so many tournaments and this is what I love. On the 15th and 16th of October 2022, I travelled to the Bristol Open Championships, an international event, where I achieved three bronze medals and on the 30th of October, I went the Junior Euros in Nottingham, and won two gold, two silvers and one bronze. On the 6th November, I took part in The Southern Open in Southampton winning a gold and two silvers. My goal is to be selected for Team GB and eventually become a World Champion. Ultimately my dream is to win a gold medal representing Great Britain in the Olympics.

Through dedication to Kickboxing, it has taught me to zone out, so when I fight, I am in the zone, and I fight with the best of my ability. This also helps me at school. I find I am able to zone out a bit better in my lessons which will, hopefully, help me achieve really good grades at MHS.

**Danny Stewart** | Year 9





# Swimming Success for Rhys

Rhys Legrand (Year 7) competed at the Leatherhead Swimming Club Gala at Dorking Leisure Centre on Sunday 2nd October, representing Teddington. He won gold medals in 25m and 50m freestyle, as well as the 75m medley competition. In backstroke, he gained a silver medal and in breaststroke, a bronze. The largest haul of medals that day!

He was so excited, and it has given his sporting confidence a huge boost. Congratulations Rhys.



# Symphony in a Day

'Beethoven 9th in a Day', Brockenhurst College, 19th February 2023.

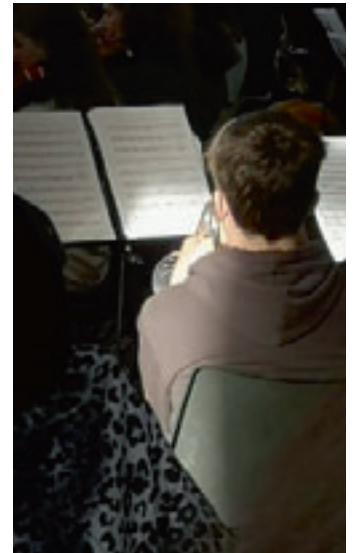
I was honoured to take part, recently, in the 'Symphony in a Day' project hosted by Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and Hampshire Music Service.

We were playing Beethoven's 9th and final symphony. We studied the first and second movements in the morning, had a lunch break, and then the remaining movements in the afternoon. The most difficult part of the symphony was coming in on time and not missing my cue.

For the fourth movement, we were joined by a magnificent choir for the final (and famous) 'Ode To Joy' section of the symphony, and we performed the symphony in the evening.

The players were lovely, and the experience of playing in a full orchestra was incredible. I would recommend all aspiring musicians to take part in an orchestral workshop.

**Tom O'Brien | Year 11**



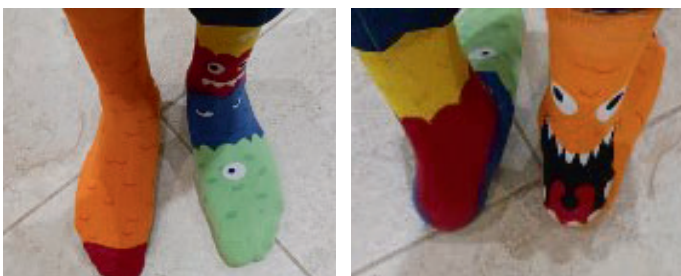
# Anti-Bullying Week

Reaching Out...

The week beginning 14th November was Anti-Bullying Week and MHS took the opportunity to include plenty of activities and information within our curriculum to support anti-bullying.

Odd Socks Day started off the week as a way for pupils to express themselves, celebrate their individuality and to show what makes us all unique.

Best foot forward!





# Sponsored Walk

This year our theme was 'Where's Wally'. So, of course, we had to have our own whole school photo to create a MHS version. We started with an assembly about expectations for the day and the Headmaster reminded us that we were doing this to support others in need, by raising money for charity. It was lovely to see pupils dressed in all sorts of outfits and it created a fantastic atmosphere. Soon after assembly, groups set off on their journey, guided by their group leaders.

It was a race against time! The morning was lovely and sunny, but we knew that rain was forecast, and our goal was to make it back to school before it started... The pupils did well, staying in their groups, and made it to the stop at Frensham Great Pond, where the Catering Team eagerly awaited, ready to serve lunch. Although clouds had started to form, the weather was still pleasant enough and there was a slight breeze in the air. Pupils should be very proud of their conduct at the lunch stop - the café owner commented on how well behaved and polite everyone was and, once all the groups had left for the second half of the walk, there was no litter in sight!

After last year's very successful finish line, set up by the Friends of More House, we decided to do it again! The Friends organised refreshments for pupils to enjoy once they had crossed the line. Parents were also invited to come and congratulate them as they came in. Needless to say, this was very well received and a fantastic way to finish the day's walk. Happily, everyone made it back before the rain began - it was as if the weather had been waiting for us to conclude our walk, because as soon as we had, the heavens opened!

It was a terrific day and a fantastic whole school community event.

**Jarred Cooper** | Director of Extra Curricular Education







# MHS Open Day

## We welcomed many families to the MHS Open Day on Wednesday 28th September

Here is what some of our visitors had to say:

"We will never forget our tour of your wonderful school. It was so refreshing to meet all teachers and staff so passionate about enabling the students to find their passion and reach their full potential. The boys are a huge credit to their parents and the school. Please pass on our gratitude and thanks for the patience and time they certainly left and impression."

"We would like to thank Mr Hetherington and the entire school team for a wonderful open afternoon. Special thanks to the VI Form, who showed us around. Such brilliant young men, fantastic role models and school representatives."

"I was really blown away (as I'm sure all parents attending were). True heart, soul and passion came across from all staff and our tour guides were incredible. "

"Thank you so much for a wonderful morning at MHS. I was very impressed with everything I experienced from the helpful parking attendants to Mr Hetherington's speech. The welcoming refreshments were very well received, and I

enjoyed chatting with your exhibitors. Thank you to Louis and Joe who showed us round and answered all our questions."

"Please thank all involved for a hugely impressive Open Day. Thank you for the presentations and introduction to the staff and team, it can be hard to command the attention of an audience for a long time, but I was gripped and focused from the get-go."

"We felt there was a consistent experience of warmth and sense of community and great pride, something very hard to cultivate in any setting or school".

"I just want to take a moment to thank you for stopping to chat with us briefly yesterday afternoon as we were concluding our tour with your most excellent Head Boy. If we seemed a little discombobulated it was because we were absolutely bowled over by what we had seen and heard over the preceding hour or so. We have visited many schools this year in the search for somewhere for our son who is dyslexic and dyspraxic, yes, but more importantly, smart, kind, creative and funny - and here, finally, is a place which would see our son not primarily as a bundle of needs, but as a font of potential. We were genuinely excited on our (sadly quite long) drive home by what you and your team are doing."



# Certificate Evening

The delicious foods were laid out and chairs carefully arranged. As Bradbury Heights began to take on a more ceremonial colour, the Headmaster wondered who and how many would attend the Year 11 – 13 certificate awards evening: a heroes' return for boys, past and present, that would not be forgotten.

And so came the boys from wherever they roamed. As though a clarion call had been sent from deep in the Surrey hills, eyes began to leave college textbooks, and tools on apprenticeship schemes were downed. You could almost hear the idling engines of teenage first cars coming to a halt in the gravel car park as those first bottles of fizz were uncorked in Bradbury Heights. For those who had left Year 11 at the end of that year, this announced that the boys were most definitely back in town.

The evening began to swing into life. The sound of chatter and friends reunited hung on the air in Bradbury Heights. Some friends congregated on their way up to the ceremony, finding each other as they made their way up the hill. Some knocked on doors of their esteemed former teachers to see if they remained at the school, remembered old times, and would be coming to see their triumphant send off.

And then it was lights, action!

Seats were taken and the boys were taken on a trip down memory lane, with photographs of their formative years appearing in succession at the front of the hall. That time on the trip. The Flexi-day when? Remember that haircut! Some stifled chuckles as their minds cast back, to something that seemed so long ago but at the same time, just yesterday.



Mr Iain Yeoman's was the voice of reflection, recognising that with all that passes, it is our achievements and character that remain with us and those around us. Mrs Erin Easdown roused the crowd: with tales of the boys navigating their first steps into young manhood recounted. Laughter ensued at the tales that were told and only made more amusing by the parts that were left unsaid. Whilst some may have recognised the group as a once tough assembly crowd on Friday afternoons, you would no longer know it.

And then the prize giving. Former teachers looked on with applause as their old charges passed by in procession, receiving their certificates with the scent of success and new aftershave on the air. And as each young man passed by with shoes shined and smart suit on, some of us wondered where these boys had been when we were asking their younger selves to tuck their shirts in.

While boys and parents watched, it became apparent that they were no longer just experiencing fond memories of a More House past. They were watching a future unfold for these boys- boys who were now fast becoming young men, bound for glory.

**James Kay** | Teacher of English

# Christmas Dinner





# All the fun at the Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre was a place where you buy toys, LEGO and even spend money on playing games such as Pac-Man and Street Fighter II. I went over to the fayre and there were lots of people there. Students, teachers, and students' parents. My mum told me she would be there, so I walked inside the fayre, and I looked around the place.

I looked around and something caught my eye. It was a Sonic the Hedgehog squish toy. I spent fifty-pence on it and continued shopping. I also found an awesome Minecraft toy collection. The sad thing was that you had to get a 'Golden Ticket' to get it. So, I spent my money - but didn't get it. When my mum arrived, I said "Hi!" to her and I tried getting the Golden Ticket again. I failed! I did it for a final time and yet again, I failed. At the same stall as the Sonic squishy, there was an R2D2 keyring. R2D2 is my favourite character in movie history. But the keyring didn't look that good. I was planning on getting it, but the annoying thing was that someone already got it! I also spent a bit of time enjoying myself while playing Street Fighter II. It was really fun. I played a few rounds and I won a few and lost a few. I also played a bit of Pac-Man as well. I did all sorts of things there, but eventually it was time to leave.



## Students are quacking the case

In the Christmas countdown, Year 11 went quackers for their 25 ducks for 25 days! Each day the students were given a hint to the location of the Christmas themed duck and once found, handed it in to collect their advent treat!



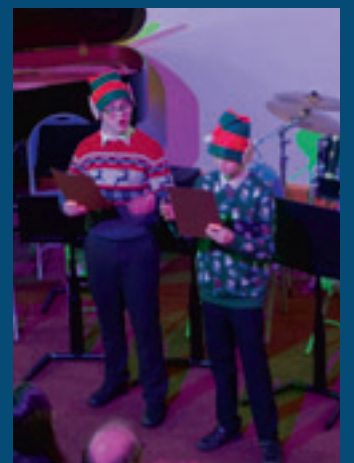
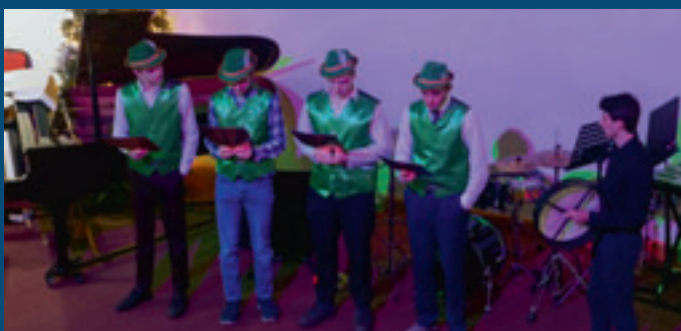
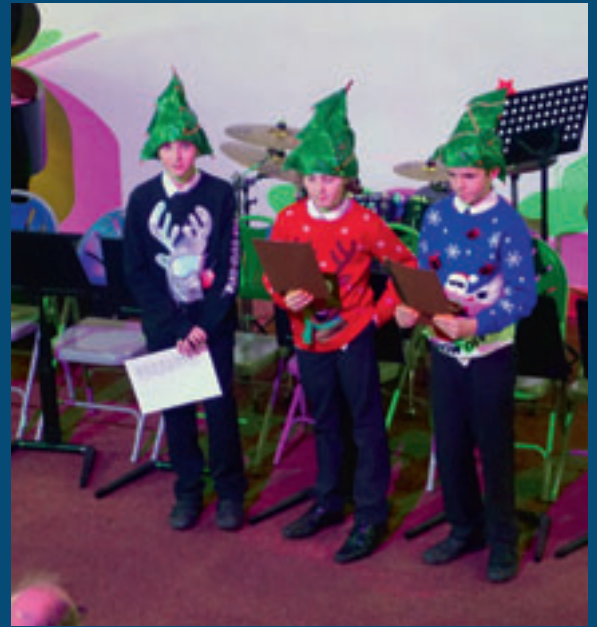
But before I left, I spent my last fifty-pence on a Samurai sword. The reason why I got it was because everyone else got one and I didn't want to feel left out. Me and mum left. My mum actually worked at one of the stalls there. I really enjoyed the fayre. When we left, me and my mum asked each other how our days were. We then had to go home. Maybe there'll be a fayre next year. Who knows?

I wanted to say what my favourite thing there was... It was quite a hard decision. But in the end, I decided. It was by far either the stall with the Sonic squishy, or the place where you play Street Fighter II. But out of both of those two, I had to pick Street Fighter II. It was so fun fighting other people in a video game. Not in real life of course. Did you know that apparently Street Fighter II was the first ever game to introduce combos? I really enjoyed playing it. There was also Pac-Man, which was fun as well. Luckily, I have a game at home where you can play as a character from Street Fighter II (and Pac-Man as well). Such a shame we had to leave in the end.

Findlay Hudd | Year 7

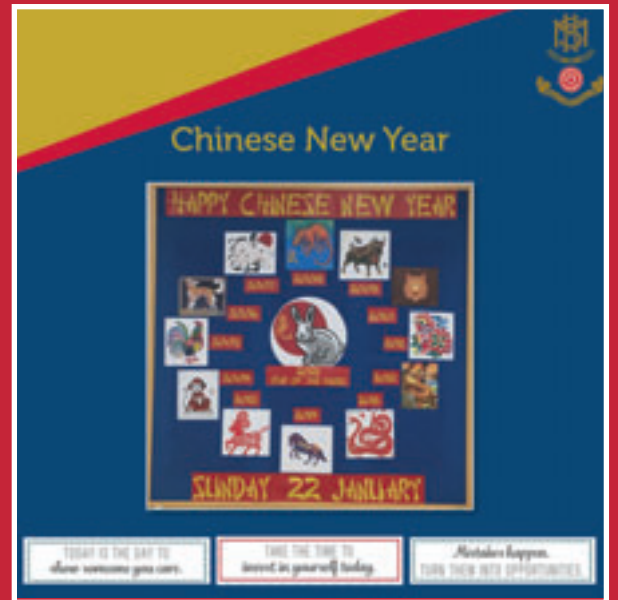


# Christmas by Candlelight





# Chinese New Year







## Ski Trip





# Year 8 were inspired to write about the Snow Day!

I was driven through the snowy lanes and the car suddenly stopped. I grabbed my bag and stepped out. Snow was steadily falling, and the car park was vacant.

I climbed up the four steps to the hard play, where a few fellow pupils were loitering and throwing snowballs at each other. I crouched down and scooped up the snow with my Arctic-grade gloves. More students arrived and helped me with my snow-wall.

We were quickly hurried into the sports hall where, after a long wait, someone whistled and silenced our mumbling. The Headmaster came up and gave us instructions.

I was hurried out and staggered up the hill into Bradbury Heights, where people were slowly gathering and bubbling. I looked down over the white landscape and thought of snowball fights to come.

The whole school was touched in some way or another, although people had trudged paths in many areas.

**Louis Reumont** | Year 8

As the weather showed no sign of stopping, the delicate flakes of snow dusted the leaves of the old oak, which sat among the children in the cold grounds. The schoolboys ran out of their tedious lessons and pounced on the densely powdered fields in joy of such an occasion. Gloves of all colours were thrust into the snow, grasping this crunchy goodness, and trying desperately to pack it into a rough sphere. Ammunition! At this point, the blanketed white field had become a war zone. No-one took notice of the beautiful, frosted trees, neither noticed were the falling chips of glistening sleet.

**Oliver Devitt** | Year 8



## Ofsted Outstanding

Our MHS community has again been recognised as Outstanding in every judgement area by Ofsted, following our 2023 dual inspections of both the school and the boarding provision.

They found that MHS 'is a school where high ambitions underpin every aspect of day-to-day life' and wrote that 'students' progress as a result of their time at this school is excellent'.

The inspectors reported that 'staff provide students with care and support which has a transformational impact on their lives', and graded MHS 'Outstanding' overall, for both its quality of education and for the experiences and progress of its boarding pupils. The inspectors also awarded 'Outstanding' as the judgement for every sub-section of their reports.

Describing the exceptional breadth of curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities, the inspectors wrote 'sport, technology, music and the arts are valued highly here' and quoted one pupil who described the school's extra-curricular offer as 'insane'.

Of the teaching and therapeutic intervention, the inspectors reported 'classroom visits showed staff to be experts in the way they design and promote learning'.

They also quoted parents - 'the school is fantastic and has been a life-saver for my son' and 'they have transformed not only our child but our whole family'.

MHS has attracted the highest inspection grades in previous inspections but it was noted that the school 'has not stood still in its ambition to evolve'. Despite learning challenges associated with literacy and developmental-language weaknesses, pupils regularly achieve exam results above national averages, with a majority progressing to university.

The full inspection reports can be viewed at: [www.morehouseschool.co.uk](http://www.morehouseschool.co.uk).

Congratulations to all our pupils, staff, governors and all MHS families!

# Learning & Development In Review

## Sensory Support Strategies

We have had an exciting year in Occupational Therapy (OT), developing the sensory support strategies for students at MHS. This has evolved from collaborative work between the OT team and the Junior School teachers. We have had great success with the introduction of our very own 'Fizzometer' - a tool to support students' self-regulation. Boys can turn the arrow to identify if they are flat, just nicely bubbly or overflowing with fizzy energy. From here, they can start to problem-solve whether they need a strategy to increase or decrease their fizzy energy.

The Fizzometer can be found in OT, LDC and some of the Gard'ner house classrooms.

How fizzy are you today?!

**Bridget Brooker Payne** | Occupational Therapist



## Shared Reading

Daily reading with your son - focusing on enjoyment and understanding - can improve reading fluency, support the development of comprehension, and enrich vocabulary.

- Choose books together - look at front covers, read blurb.
- Try a few pages - it is OK not to like a book!
- Consider graphic novels.
- Share the reading - a page, a paragraph or even a sentence each.
- Start tricky words off - often using the context enables the child to work out the word.
- Chat to ensure comprehension - use the questions; Who? What? When? Where? Why?
- Discuss and explain vocabulary.
- Actively engage with the text by relating it to your own life experiences.
- Making predictions and inferences will support the development of wider language skills.
- Model good reading habits - let your child see you enjoying reading.
- Little and often works best.

As recommended by Ofsted!

## Food Explorers Programme

This year has seen the return of the Food Explorers programme, facilitated by the Occupational Therapy team. It has been available for small groups of pupils between Year 4 and Year 9, who currently have limited diets. The aim of Food Explorers has been to provide the opportunity to explore a range of food items through games and activities in a low-pressure environment. We have been exploring food using our different senses for example smell, touch, and taste, as well as discussing our own sensory preferences. The boys have been amazing at pushing themselves out of their comfort zone to explore new foods, as well as supporting each other.

**Ysella van Herwijnen** | Occupational Therapist



## Published Poets!

In June, Year 4/5 pupils Francis Gormley and Rory Murphy amazed their LDC Literacy Tutor with their fantastic, creative poems. They were entered into the 'Young Writers Poetry Towers' competition, and shortly received the exciting news that their poems had been selected for publication. We are all looking forward to receiving our copy of 'Poetry Towers - A Way With Words' in September. We are sure that all will agree that becoming a published poet at such a young age is a remarkable achievement.

**Nicola Lincoln** | Lead Literacy Tutor and Academic Assessor





# Inter-generational Pen Pals – 5th Anniversary

The pen pals have been busy writing letters again this year! Knowing that their letters will be enjoyed by an elderly person in a care home, writing becomes a little less arduous for the boys. And then there is the anticipation of receiving a reply...

Whilst many boys hand-write their letters, we also use the project as an opportunity to try out Assistive Technology such as Microsoft Dictate. The boys enjoy researching on the internet to find relevant pictures to include in their correspondence and some boys have even branched out into creating wordsearches for their pen pals.

We have made up for previous Covid restrictions, visiting two of the care homes this year – Tilford Care and Nursing Home in the Lent term and more recently, Farnham Mill Care Home. On both occasions, every boy was a true credit to the school, earning house points for excellent listening, kindness and patience.

Thank you to all the boys involved in the project and keep letter-writing!



## Hatch Mill Residential and Nursing Home pen pals:

Kush Satsangi, Isaac Conde Roberts, Henry Paton, George Baldwin, Sam Lock, Cameron Hamill, Henry Williams, Joshua Lloyd Jones, Oscar Moore, Jacob Christmas, William Walton, Ben Chapman, Louie Marshall, Nathan Dunn.

## Farnham Mill pen pals:

Rufus Clare, Brodie Mitchell, Charlie Ward, Bertie Coghlan, Rory Murphy, Henry Lardner, Sammy Ward, Hugo Bruce, Charlie Fry, Ben Johnson, Harry Collins, Connor Lowe, Alfie Anstey, Dylan Middler, Rafferty Chambers, Oliver Cathcart Jones, Sam Reid, Harry Hale.

## Tilford Care and Nursing Home pen pals:

Owen Bebb, Francis Gormley, Austin Mayo, Michael Thorpe.

Sarah Jupe (Activities Co-ordinator at Farnham Mill) added, "Our residents really benefit from participating with More House pen pals, building friendships whilst supporting the boys with their writing skills. We enjoy being part of their community and are looking forward to another year of receiving and writing letters. It brings so much happiness to our residents."

**Karen Wane** | Literacy Tutor, LDC

# Year 9 Art

Year 9 worked on a project called 'Everyday Objects' - studying various artists who incorporate everyday objects into their own artwork.

Pupils studied the work of Michael Craig-Martin and conducted research on the artist's life and art pieces. They learned about the formal elements with a particular focus on Space, Shape and Colour. Here are some examples of the watercolour outcomes from this year's class.

**Naomi Jivanda** | Teacher of Art





# Technology In Review

## Marble Runs – Year 9

Mr Morgan's Year 9 Technology class were tasked with designing a marble run in the Trinity term. The challenge inspired some impressive outside the box thinking and pupils put their heads together to understand the needs of the product, then designed and made their solution.

They relied on the skills they have been learning and practising in Technology such as using fret saws, sanding discs, pillar drills and the laser cutter, as well as practising organisation, teamwork and problem-solving.

The runs were put to the test in a competition to see which group's marble would take the longest to drop 30cm. The entries were judged on creativity and time to drop (with times ranging from 6 seconds to many hours). In fact, one marble was still rolling 2 hours in!



## Technology welcomes McLaren with GT Supercar, valued at £300,000

On 25th November, the Department of Technology welcomed Ella Podmore from McLaren Automotive and a McLaren GT Supercar, valued at £300,000.

Ella is an award-winning Materials Engineer, who talked to Year 9 and Year 10 Technology students about McLaren supercars and the GT, and different types of Engineering in the Automotive industry. She also shared what her day-to-day job looks like, as well as her career journey so far.

Students were interested to know which famous people she had met who had wanted to buy a McLaren... her reply was David Beckham and Rowan Atkinson.

MHS students thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and benefitted hugely from the visit.

**Charles Stewart** | Head of Design & Technology, Engineering, & DEC

## Wood Scrap Challenge!

The Technology department tasked some pupils to create something from scrap wood in class. Their mission was to design and make something original... some very creative ideas were brought to life.



# Drama Department in Review

## To Kill a Mockingbird...

I would say this day trip was the highlight of the week! Going into London is nice and lively, especially at night. But it's the theatre play that meant the most to me, as it was the main reason that we went into London today.

To Kill a Mockingbird is a story set in 1930s Alabama, America, where a lawyer (Atticus Finch) defends a black man (Tom Robinson) falsely accused of raping a white woman. The play made me feel bad to see how much racism there was as Tom's life was ruined because he was sent to prison because he was black, and no one but Atticus believed him, even though he was innocent. I think that Atticus must have felt bad for Tom too. Atticus' daughter, Scout, seemed interesting as she spoke about what she was experiencing.

The author (Harper Lee) based it on her own childhood. I enjoyed watching the play and actually studying a play for the first time was interesting. I also liked the court room the most out of all the sets as it looked dramatic.

**Marcus Ziegel** | Year 10



## Mission 44

In early May, our BTEC Performing Arts students Aaron Cody, Adam John, Joe Grinstead, and Tom Wall Morris staged their devised piece - Mission 44 - a fantastical tale of overcoming the odds featuring an eclectic mix of heroes: Lewis Hamilton, Beowulf, Prometheus, and Alex.

The piece had been created in response to stimulus material issued by the exam board, the poem Random, which suggested that readers choose a book at random from a shelf. The boys visited the library and did exactly this, generating the characters and story lines that became Mission 44.

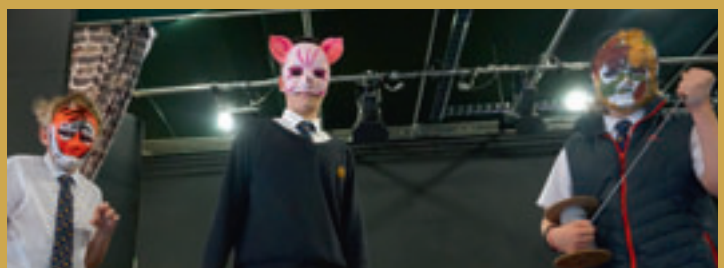
Teachers, families, and friends joined the boys in the Simkins Theatre for their final performance and were thoroughly entertained and inspired by the piece with its hopeful message of winning against all the odds, and that no matter how disparate the individuals, a team can still be forged.



## Performing in Masks

During Michaelmas term, Year 7 and Year 8 learned about masks and how they have been used in theatre for over 2,500 years - since the Ancient Greeks started performing with them.

Pupils designed and created their own masks and thoroughly enjoyed performing with them.





# Tenors Un Limited help send Rockbeth to the Edinburgh Fringe



We were delighted to welcome the number one selling classical act Tenors Un Limited to MHS on Friday 19th May, when they performed at a fundraising concert in the school sports hall, helping to raise money to send our school production of Rockbeth to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August.

The silken voiced tenors, featuring Jem (a school parent) and Paul, dazzled the audience with a diverse repertoire of classical opera and modern pop songs, including Nessum Dorma, Volare and Can't Take My Eyes Off of You. They then introduced the talented cast of Rockbeth to the stage to perform a medley from the show including songs by AC/DC and the Doors, backed with gusto by Mark Place and the Rockbeth rock band, before bringing the first half to a close with a rousingly punk 'God Save the King!'

During the interval, an auction, kindly organised by parent Alexandra How and her generous donors, was held with newly appointed Town Crier, Michael Stephens (another parent) ringing the bell in his historic accoutrements and acting as auctioneer. The lots, which included tickets to Weyfest, a case of fine wines, a hamper to pamper, and a week in a Snowdonia holiday cottage, raised another whopping £1,680 for Rockbeth. One of the highlights was hearing student Thomas Wall Morris speak with wonderful wit and passion about the holiday cottage, which has been in his family since his grandfather's time.

The audience enjoyed refreshments available at the bar and were in excellent spirits for the second half. More

fabulous singing from Paul and Jem ensued before Lauren Patterson-Brown (Rockbeth's Lady Macbeth) joined the tenors on stage for a powerful rendition of You'll Never Walk Alone. What then followed will live long in the memory, as the tenors raised the roof with, We Raise You Up, introducing the school's Junior Choir who had been rehearsed tirelessly by Mark Place, and were conducted with great brio by Lizzy Hetherington. Finally, the choir, along with the cast of Rockbeth, supported the tenors, now resplendent in their Rockbeth t-shirts, for the soul stirring song From Now On (from The Greatest Showman) and there was not a dry eye left in the house.

The sports hall had been magically transformed into a concert hall by the technical team of James Haigh, Neil Duprés and student Alex Carter, who had designed the stage lighting, and the audience had been completely transported. The programme began with the Impossible Dream, which was entirely fitting as when the idea of taking Rockbeth to the Fringe was first floated in February, after its run in the Simkins, it seemed like it might be too ambitious a plan at too late a stage. However, with the tremendous support of the school community, its family and friends, and with Tenors Unlimited, we are making the dream come true. The Drama and Music departments are grateful for the astonishing generosity that is taking Rockbeth on tour to Edinburgh.

**David Aldred** | Head of Drama



# Rockbeth goes to the Edinburgh Fringe!

"Rockbeth is a fantastic show encompassing the brilliance of Shakespeare's Macbeth with inputs of legendary rock music, including AC/DC – Thunderstruck, Jimmy Hendrix – All Along the Watchtower, Eric Clapton – Knockin' on Heaven's Door and more...

I play King Duncan! I love his character – a strong leader who is respected throughout his kingdom, until he is killed by one of the closest people to him; Macbeth! Personally, I love Shakespeare's plays and ever since I first got my hands on an old Complete Works of Shakespeare from a bookshop in Rye, I became inseparable from the amazing stories. After starting this show, I soon realised that I was born in the wrong era – all the songs in the show are from the 70s to 90s and are some of the best songs from those eras.

Rehearsals are always the best part of a musical, with people coming together and belting their hearts out to their favourite rock heroes and letting themselves become at one with their character. Everyone is creating this production from scratch which, on stage, will transform into the entertaining tragedy it ought to be! I love it when we are starting a play or show and the whole thing just starts coming together. You see people having fun and the joy on their faces as they also feel the same way. That's why I love theatre so much. You can meet loads of people who generally want to learn more and perform shows and musicals so that that the pure underlying message of that spectacular hour or two will seep into the audience's minds.

The show could not be complete without the fabulous costumes provided by Mrs Rashleigh, a talented teacher who holds the cast together and works so hard to combine items of clothing into costumes for the character, which really give the impression to the audience that they are not watching a bunch of school and VI Form kids – they are watching a show!

And we can't forget the amazing, talented Mr Aldred. He has performed and produced many musicals and shows in the past! When I heard he was going to be the new Head of Drama and Director of Rockbeth, I was curious and excited to see what he would do with the cast of MHS. And he has been nothing below exemplary. After Rockbeth, I can't wait to see what plans he has for us next!

MHS gives us the opportunity to transform our futures and to realise our true potential with the help of amazing staff. And Rockbeth allows us to spread a message to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival: that just because we have learning difficulties, it does not mean that we can't put on a good show!

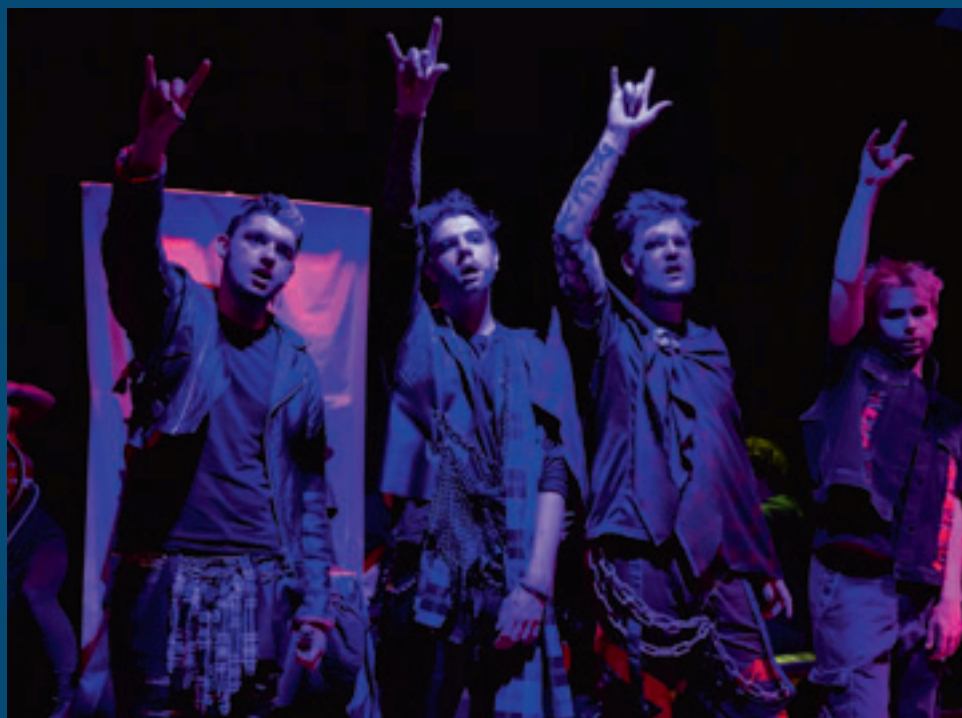
I am really looking forward to bringing Rockbeth to the Edinburgh Fringe. The Space Triplex is an amazing theatre, and the surrounding area of Edinburgh is so exciting to me. Hopefully, with any luck I might get spotted, as it has been my dream from a young age to perform and do what I love to do – singing and acting, telling a story... These are things I can't wait to do."

A big thanks to the Drama staff at MHS.

**Reuben Moorey** | Year 11













## Rockbeth – a gem of an idea...

September 2022 brought the perennial question to the Performing Arts department of what show should we do for the Michaelmas term's Senior School production. Enter stage-left our new Acting Head of Drama, David Aldred, armed, as luck would have it, with a gem of an idea to take Shakespeare's Macbeth and fuse it with some classic rock songs to create a new musical called 'Rockbeth'

Auditions were held in the second week of term, running over three nights. Mr Place checked vocal ranges, while Mr Aldred and Miss Collington wandered about encouraging drunken porters, withering witches, and menacing Macbeths. Within a week, we had a fabulous cast of committed young actors ready to give their all. We managed to secure the unbelievably talented Lauren as our Lady Macbeth and the up-and-coming ingenue Yasmin to play one of the witches. We were set –

Selecting the songs that would highlight the drama of the piece was more fun than should be allowed at work. The office in Simkins was second only to the 1970 Isle of Wight Festival in joy and decibels as we tried out this song and that..., each one sparking another suggestion or memory.

Bolts of tartan arrived by the lorry load, a second-hand garden chair became a throne, the washing machine ran non-stop drying everything within reach and a rather gothic black and an initial 'look' took shape.

Musicians were performing to a standard worthy of the

afore-mentioned festival, songs thundered out, dances were taught and an extraordinary soundscape was designed to open the show.

The show... and what a show it was! After the first night it was clear that this had to have another life and the only possible place it belonged was the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

It is one thing to have the will and a show that deserves to go, but quite another to finance such a venture. Step up a cast of heroes, comprising ex-parents, current parents, grand-parents, friends of staff, and staff themselves. We raised an incredible amount of money, sufficient to secure a wonderful venue, lovely accommodation, and enough food to feed an army.

Watching the boys grow in stature and confidence will prove to be the highlight of my career. Working the Royal Mile, selling their show while decked up in full make-up and costume, they hit their stride, terrifying passers-by with a witch's cackle, performing magic tricks, singing, and dancing, all done with tremendous charm. The ticket sales shot up, to the point the venue had to open an extra seating area to accommodate the demand. The joy the boys experienced was so evident to all who encountered them, it was beyond infectious and, like the Pied Piper of Hamlyn, they reeled their audience in.

The cast, for the most part, went up to Edinburgh as boys, and returned as young men, with their heads held high and quite rightly so. They were magnificent.

Tracy Rashleigh



# Humanities in Review

## Year 8 Trip – Army Flying Museum

On Friday 5th May, Year 8 visited the Army Flying Museum. This incredible opportunity allowed students to handle historical objects from both World Wars, and to try on military uniform. As this trip coincided with the coronation of King Charles III, pupils were lucky enough to see a military convoy leave the airfield, as they made their departure to London.

**Ellen Lazell** | Teacher of History



## Black History Month

The whole school community was able to enjoy Mrs Easdown and Miss Lazell's delivery of 'Gamechangers', including discussion surrounding key characters such as those pictured, alongside individuals and groups who are campaigning for change in the modern day. Pupils were enthralled by discussion surrounding UK rapper, Dave, but took the opportunity to create links between his action and aims, and those individuals who we tend to study in an historical sense. All pupils have recognised a consistent delivery of sessions and classes surrounding Black History Month, tying together our Personal and Social Development aims with our PSHE programming. We hope that this inspires further consideration and study of the topic and the necessity for milestones of this nature.

**Lewis Clarkson** | Deputy Head (Pastoral)  
& Teacher of Humanities

## Year 9 Trip – Imperial War Museum

Year 9 took part in a superb trip to the Imperial War Museum, where they put their historical skills to the test. Students were tasked with analysing items and objects within the exhibitions to further uncover the experiences of Jews during the Holocaust.

I was so proud to see pupils acting respectfully and responsibly during this visit, asking insightful questions, and seeking to understand the wider world around them. With the support of the amazing team at the Imperial War Museum, pupils have an enhanced awareness of how they can leave a positive footprint within their global citizenship.

**Ellen Lazell** | Teacher of History

## Holocaust Memorial Day

Friday 27th January was Holocaust Memorial Day, which marked the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. The MHS community came together to learn more about the past and take action to create a safer future. Year group assemblies led by Mr Wright, our Religious Studies specialist, focused on remembrance of those who endured genocide, and honouring the survivors and all those whose lives were changed beyond recognition. The boys responded to this discussion in a mature and enlightened manner, demonstrating empathy and understanding in their responses.

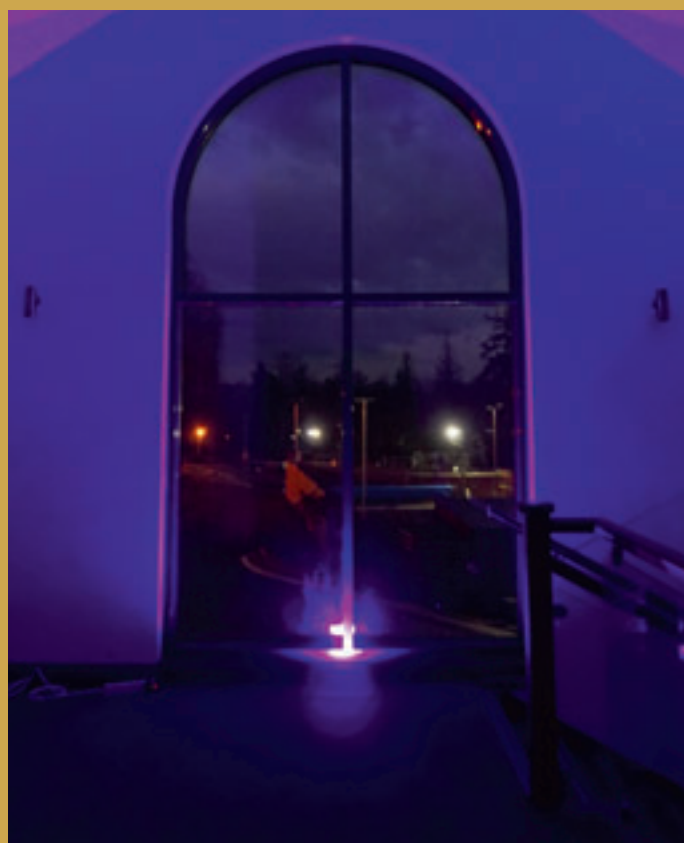
MHS also took part in a national moment for Holocaust Memorial Day - Light the Darkness.

At 4pm we lit candles and put them in our windows to:

- Remember those who were murdered for who they were
- Stand against prejudice and hatred today

Main House Reception and the Chapel were lit up in purple during this powerful national moment of commemoration and solidarity.

**Erin Easdown** | Head of Humanities (History Lead)





## WWII escape room

Miss Lazell and the Year 9 History pupils cast themselves back to codebreaking in WWII during this Flexi Friday escape room. Working together, they had to decrypt the codes to find out the date, location and target of a German attack!



## Exploring Hurst Castle Spit

Senior students of Geography and Countryside Management took trips to Hurst Castle Spit on the Hampshire coast, braving the elements to gather primary field data. This coastal spit is a depositional feature, which points south-eastward across the West Solent estuary towards the Isle of Wight. The purpose of the visit was to explain why the spit needs protection.

The castle at the end of the spit, originally built during the reign of Henry VIII and extended during the Napoleonic, Victorian and WWII periods, is now under threat from coastal erosion. Coastal defences and updrift at Milford-on-Sea, are slowing down the natural supply of sediment and the spit is in danger of being breached. This is also a threat to the saltmarsh which lies in the lee of the spit, with its unique habitat and species.

In addition, climate change is leading to rising sea levels as well as greater frequency and severity of storms. It's been estimated that the saltmarsh may be lost by 2050 as the sea overtops the weakened spit.

The boys worked with skill and efficiency, gathering details of the salt-tolerant (halophytic) plant species, assessing the protection methods at the castle and, on the return leg, measuring the changing profile of the spit using basic surveying instruments. The weather was kind to us, with bright sunshine and a moderate onshore breeze. We had a clear view across to the Needles stack rocks on the Isle of Wight and, although the tide was in to begin with, we were able to access the saltmarsh and experience the protection that the spit provides for this unique area.

**Peter Walton** | Teacher of Geography







## Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park Geography and Travel & Tourism field trip

Following the physical geography field trip to Hurst Castle Spit, on 25th November, Year 10 and Year 11 Geographers, together with the Year 9 Travel & Tourism students, went to Stratford in East London to investigate the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park - the former Olympic Park built for the 2012 Games - along the river Lea in a declining industrial part of the East End.

The purpose of the fieldwork was to find out what new opportunities have been provided by urban regeneration, including transport provision, housing, employment, leisure and recreational facilities, sports venues and green space. In other words - has the urban change brought social, economic and environmental benefits to this area that has suffered deindustrialisation?

The park provides state-of-the-art sporting and leisure facilities, including the London Stadium (now home to West Ham United), the Aqua Park, the Velodrome and the Copper Box. It has been hailed as a global icon for sustainable Olympic leisure provision, with sporting facilities that have remained in full use in stark contrast to other Olympic parks around the world that have been neglected. The former Olympic Village now provides housing, and the green spaces have been enhanced by the planting of native species to encourage a balanced variety of habitats.

Although we had a long journey, the boys gained a great deal from the day and they were able to assess the opportunities at first hand, using questionnaires and drawing a field sketch of the river Lea at the Water Bowl area. For the Travel & Tourism students, this was an ideal place to visit in terms of the many visitor facilities and attractions.

All in all, a good day with bright sunshine and a unique postmodern urban environment.

**Peter Walton** | Teacher of Geography & Travel and Tourism





## Year 11 & VI Form Countryside Management

Year 11 and Year 12 worked with the MHS Site Team to help remove the invasion of bamboo from the school pond area.

Year 12 Countryside Management students helped build the new gazebo in the Peace Garden which overlooks the school pond. They also helped with maintenance on the school site, including fence repair and a new path surface near Crosslanes.

Year 13 have been investigating the health of the school pond and creating tracking tunnels to see which species visit the area.

They have also completed work experience at Farnham Community Farm, Tice's Meadow and another local farm.

In February, all the VI Form Countryside Management students visited Marwell Zoo for a post-16 conference on Wildlife Conservation, learning about the work the zoo is doing for conservation and looking at how they manage their large site to create an ideal environment for the species there, as well as educating about the importance of their work. Students even got to hold a snake!





# Summer Fayre 2023





# Coronation Celebrations

## Coronation Lunch

To mark the coronation of HRH King Charles III, MHS held a fantastic celebration lunch full of all things British! Staff and pupils tucked into a mighty beef roast dinner with all the trimmings or our version of the King's quiche, followed by some sticky toffee pudding or traditional trifle. Huge thanks to Mr Simon John and the whole catering team for this amazing treat.



## Coronation Tea Party

The Junior School rounded off the coronation celebrations in style with a fantastic tea party out on the quad. Surrounded by balloons, flags and party hats, pupils were treated to snacks, drinks and party games on their Flexi Friday afternoon.





# Year 10 Art

## German Expressionist Woodcuts

Our Year 10 students have been exploring German Expressionist woodcuts and how tone and contrast have been used to create striking portraits. Pupils excelled in developing strong self-portrait outcomes using grid methods to scale up their own photos and applying acrylic paints over their pencil studies. They then developed their work closer to the original woodcuts by creating intricate, detailed, hand-cut stencils and using spray-paint to produce a more modern response to the work of German Expressionists. I'm really excited to see what the boys will achieve in their projects in Year 11.

**Matthew Garwell** | Teacher of Art

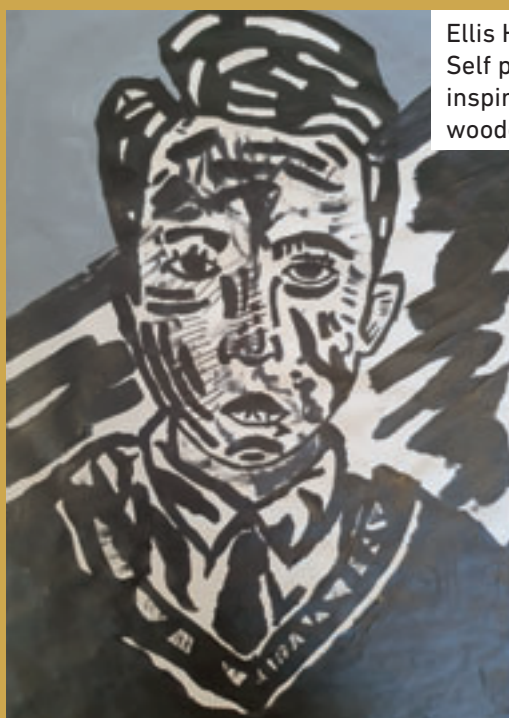
Louis Refausse – Self portrait using pencil and markers inspired by the etchings of Kathe Kollwitz



Ellis Hammond – Hand-cut stencil inspired by Expressionist woodcuts



Ellis Hammond – Self portrait in Acrylics inspired by Expressionist woodcuts



Oliver Trott – Self portrait in Acrylics inspired by Expressionist woodcuts



Oliver Trott – Spray painted outcome piece using hand-cut stencil





# Maths in Review

## Crowns by Year 10

To celebrate the coronation of King Charles III, the Mathematics Department encouraged Year 10 pupils to make a coronation crown. They were given a template from which they then proceeded to improvise in many wonderful and creative ways. In retrospect, it might have been that the templates were designed for heads of a slightly smaller circumference! Nevertheless, a royal time was had imagining being King for a day.



## Number Day

Year 7 started their day on 3rd February 2023 with a 'My Favourite Number' competition in which they were tasked with creating a poster of their favourite number and why. This sparked lively discussion, and the creations were judged by the Headmaster.

The MHS Library also rose to the occasion once again with a numeracy-based station showcasing maths books, number jokes and a maths workbook created by one of our very talented junior pupils!

## Pi Day

14th March is a special day for the MHS Mathematics department for two reasons:

1. It is Albert Einstein's birthday. As a Mathematician with Dyslexia, he has been truly celebrated!
2. It is known in mathematical CIRCLES as Pi Day! 3.14

To mark the occasion, Year 7 and Year 8 have been working with circles in their Mathematics lessons, finding the circumference and diameter of various items and looking at the relationship between the two.... Pi.



## Lego – Symmetry

As an extension to their recent Mathematics lessons on Geometric Reasoning, some Year 7 pupils were given an opportunity to show what they understood about symmetry using concrete manipulatives (bricks).



# Science Department in Review

## A BIG discovery of little things

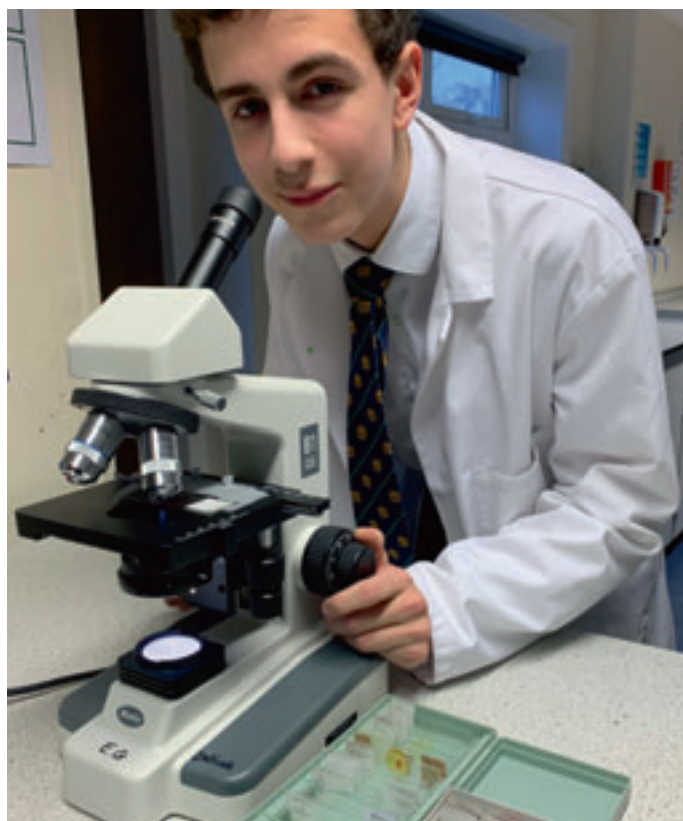
Some Year 11 boys have made a valuable and interesting contribution to the Science Department this year, as part of Mr Meakin's GCSE Science Club.

William Pilkington, Chayce Summers and George Goode spent weeks viewing and evaluating hundreds of microscope slides – many of which were discovered during an epic clean out of the deepest cupboards and storage spaces of the department.

Chayce became the blood and vessels specialist, William led on plant tissues and animal organs, whilst George majored in insects and difficult-to-identify curiosities.

This has helped Mr Meakin catalogue and label these hidden treasures, and make them up into lesson kits, ready to use for teaching and learning in the department. As well as honing their own microscope techniques, these boys have learned a great deal from their experiences, gaining specialist knowledge and building their confidence.

"It has been such a pleasure to work with these young men on this project" said Mr Meakin "all of whom showed good skill, rigour, concentration, curiosity and dedication throughout. All qualities demonstrated by the finest of scientists!"



## Scientific Solutions

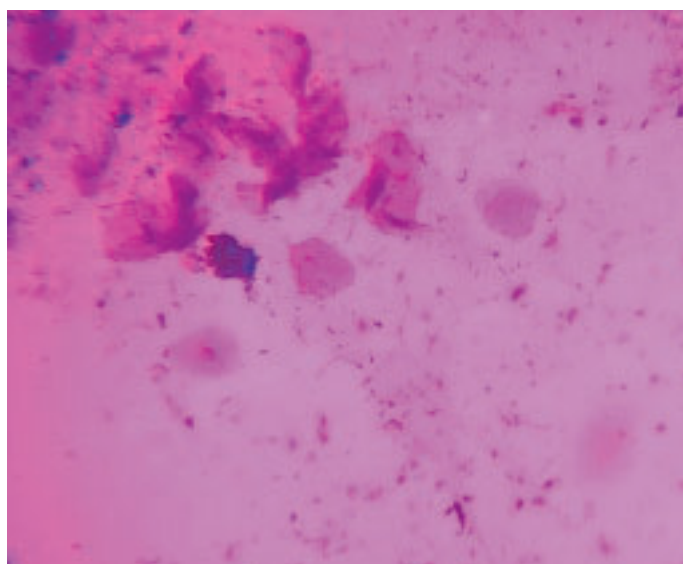
Year 7 have investigated 'dissolving' which involved making solutions. This included saturated ones which, when left to evaporate, form salt crystals which can be seen in the images.

Copper sulphate solution forms blue crystals, as shown in the "time lapse" style series of evaporating dishes. Sodium chloride is extracted from seawater in the same way on a larger scale, to form what is more commonly known as table salt, for cooking and seasoning. Trace elements such as magnesium, potassium and iodine give different culinary salts their characteristic flavours. (Note, copper sulphate is toxic and can make you very ill or even be fatal if consumed).



## Microscopy Skills

Year 9 have been refining their microscopy skills and learning how to prepare samples for viewing on slides. This has been particularly interesting when sampling their own cells (after practising on onion skin cells first). A stain is required to enhance the cell features and, when applied, the cell membrane, cytoplasm and nucleus (containing the boys' own DNA) can become visible. You can see this in the image. The aesthetic, as well as scientific appreciation, came across strongly from the pupils who all did very well learning these new skills.





## Science Club - Biscuit Bridges

During Michaelmas term, we revisited a favourite Science Club activity - biscuit bridges. Examples of engineering genius are pictured! The best bit, of course, is disassembling the bridges and disposing of the materials (or in less scientific terms, enjoying a biscuit feast).



## Science Trip to Wisley

Year 10 pupils headed out on a Science trip to RHS Garden, Wisley. They had hands-on experience looking for plant diseases on rose bushes which will directly support part of their GCSE course. Pupils drew some amazing pictures and benefitted from an extra workshop delivered by the Wisley team! They even helped an MSc student with their research on ways to teach students about fungi.



## Science Club -Space Week

We celebrated Space Week with a competition for Year 7. Posters advertising Sustainability and Space decorated the library and congratulations to our winners who took away magnetic putty and Magnets.

Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 also had an assembly on the importance of how we use Space and a reminder about all the fantastic careers linked to the Space industry. Tutors in Year 11 were invited to use a PowerPoint from our Careers Advisor, Mrs Marjorie Withers, about careers available. There is a bewildering number, and every type of skill set can be relevant.





## Trips to Arundel

Year 7 and Year 8 put their scientific knowledge and skills to the test during their visits to Arundel on Flexi Fridays this spring / summer.

Their mission was to identify animals in the pond which is fed by a natural spring. Pupils spent time pond dipping in the sunshine, finding creatures such as a water snail, caddis fly larvae, mayfly larvae, and many others. This set of species shows just how biodiverse wetlands can be. They then turned their attentions to bird watching, scanning the skies and local environment for the wildfowl that visit after long migrations.

Well done scientists! These hands-on experiences will help to enrich further discussions and work on this topic in future classes.



## Visiting lecturer working with Years 10, 11 & UVI Form

Dr Reiss from the University of Roehampton visited us towards the end of Michaelmas term for a specialist session on microscopy. She brought with her samples of live microorganisms for MHS students to view and hone their microscope skills. Some were unicellular animals (for example Paramecium) and others single-celled photosynthetic plants – Euglena. A multicellular crustacean was also viewed (Daphnia), just visible to the naked eye and its internal organs viewable through its transparent carapace under the microscope. The boys had a fascinating time learning from Dr Reiss's expertise, and we thank her for her visit.



# Art Year 11

## Trevor Johnson Memorial Award

This year, a new award was presented at Founder's Day to celebrate progression in Visual Arts. The Trevor Johnson Memorial Award was awarded to Year 11 GCSE student Nicholas Hiller, for his dedication and creativity in Photography.



# Social Sciences – Getting Creative

## ‘Welcome to the Big Brother House’ Dream Analysis

Year 10 pupils started the year learning about the ethical issues and guidelines that must be followed in psychological research. Putting their learning into practice, pupils entered ‘The Big Brother House’ and were faced with psychologically demanding tasks that challenged their views on how much ethics can be pushed until TV shows have taken it too far.



## Unlocking their Potential

Year 9 psychologists concluded their studies of the brain while putting their learning into action. Pupils explored the minds of a ‘Genius’ and discussed the development of an individual’s brain. Using sweet treats, they created a neuron to demonstrate how messages are transported through electrical impulses and finally, they dove into the medical world of MRI scans. They imitated the process of a MRI: ‘scanning’ the brain of a peer and creating their own diagnosis!

## Psychologists in the Making

All year groups ended the year practically by conducting their own experiments and writing up their findings in the format of a psychological report. Pupils were able to select a research area that they were interested in which covered topics such as: gender and short-term memory, personalities and music preference, perception of fear, conditioning of animal behaviour and many more.

After collecting the anonymous dreams of staff around the school, GCSE Psychology pupils used their understanding of manifest (what we see) and latent (what it really means) dreaming to decode and analyse the dreams. After discussing Freud’s psycho analysis, they had a lot of fun interpreting dreams in a way he might have.

## Extending Learning outside of the Classroom!

### Psychology of the Criminal Mind

On 9th November 2022, Year 13 Psychology pupils joined expert forensics lecturer, Jennifer Ross, for an interactive talk that explored the different categories of criminal behaviour, whilst debunking common myths often displayed on our TV screens. Expanding their scholarship outside of the classroom meant they were able to develop abstract thought processing to better understand the biological and social factors that mould the behaviours of infamous criminals so many of us become enthralled by.

### Psychology of Fear – Creature Courage

To understand phobias, Years 11 to 13 participated in an interactive Psychology of Fear workshop where they discussed the ‘caveman brain’. The purpose of this workshop was to immerse themselves in someone else’s shoes and tackle the natural fears and anxieties arachnids induce. The workshop further demonstrated how the “wonder and fascination can bring the healing love of animals to everyone.”

### Dream Analysis – Virtual Workshop

Joining a Freudian expert, Year 10 and 11 pupils were presented with an array of real-life accounts of patient dreams. Working alongside the psychoanalyst, pupils decoded possible meanings of dreams through interpretations based on Freud’s early work. This opportunity allowed pupils to discuss what dreams really reveal through the power of wish fulfilment and the unconscious mind.

**Lea Adkins** | Teacher of Psychology







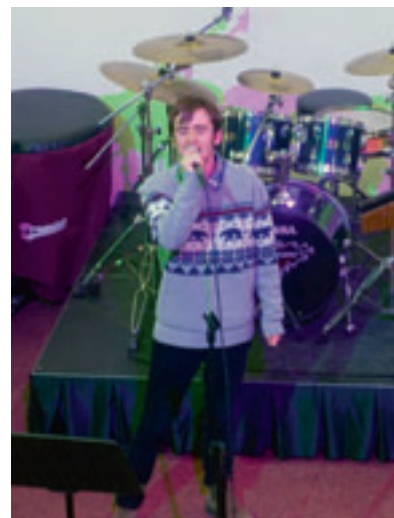
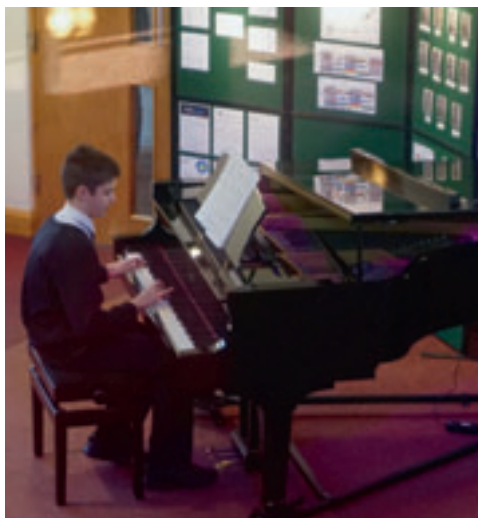
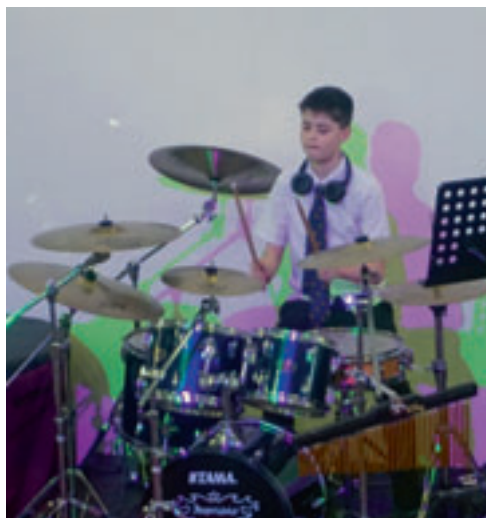
# Music Department in Review

## House Music Competition

The MHS House Music Competition was a huge success!

Pupils from all year groups took to the spotlight and showcased a huge variety of musical skills and talents - from flutes to electronic music, piano, vocals, and drums.

Very well done to everyone who took part and represented their houses. Special congratulations to winners Hawthorn House who earned a HUGE 147 house points!



## Yr. 7 & 8 Music Assembly

On Friday 12th May, Years 7 and 8 joined forces and attended a music assembly in the Bradbury Music School...

This was not the usual music assembly with ensembles and peripatetic teaching staff showing off their skills and what they have been rehearsing... Instead, the role of inspiring others fell to Year 9 pupil James Ratnam.

James has been playing the guitar for around two and a half years and, through lots of hard work and determination, is now performing famous guitar lines that we all know and bop along to in the car and at home. One iconic solo guitar moment is the Top Gun Anthem, which was recently promoted back to the top of the 'Embarrassing Dads Air Guitar' efforts around the world with the release of the film, Top Gun: Maverick. James thought this would be the perfect start to a day... Boy was he right!

After the Heads of Year gave out various rewards, Mr Burnett went through how long James had been playing and that he started playing around their age. He talked about practice and commitment, but the overriding message to the boys was to take advantage of MHS, seize every and any opportunity and to not leave MHS with any regret.

The backing track began, and James started playing... Every student was fully focused on James and his performance. He played brilliantly and showed off some amazing techniques,



inspiring two-year groups and staff in a matter of minutes.

The applause was fully deserved but do not worry; James, along with other students, will return...

If your son has expressed an interest in learning an instrument then please, do get in touch with Mr Burnett.

Let's make the magic happen.

**Craig Burnett** | Teacher of Music



# Frensham Fayre 2023

The fantastic pupils and staff of MHS took part in the Frensham Fayre this June.

Following the sound of the Frensham church bells heralding the coming Frensham Fayre, the MHS Steel Pan band led the procession of floats. The MHS jazz band then put the swing into the fayre in the afternoon. Congratulations to first prize winners from MHS, whose artwork was on show. Thank you to Mrs Babayan for your inspiration and guidance.

Well done to everyone who participated and performed, you should be very proud.



## Music Concert





# Sports Day 2023

1st HAWTHORN

2nd STURT

3rd COBBETT

4th KNIGHT









# MHS Sports Day Finals - Winners 2023

50m		
Year 4/5	Alfred Colombo	9.18
Year 6	Yohan Grant	7.44 - New Record
75m		
Year 7	Archie Clipsham	11.16
Year 8	Joe Evans	10.90
Year 9	Jacob Christmas / Zack McColl-Eljanfali	9.58 - New Record
Year 10	Toby Robinson	9.91
100m		
Year 4/5	Alfred Colombo	17.87
Year 6	Yohan Grant	14.07 - New Record
Year 7	Archie Clipsham	15.06
Year 8	Harry Rosenshine	15.35
Year 9	Jacob Christmas	12.37 - New Record
Year 10	Toby Robinson	12.54 - New Record
200m		
Year 4/5	Alfred Colombo	35.42
Year 6	Yohan Grant	31.62 - New Record
Year 7	Archie Clipsham	30.35
Year 8	Joe Evans	28.80
Year 9	Jacob Christmas	26.25 - New Record
Year 10	Toby Robison	26.65 - New Record
800m		
Year 4/5	Otto Elkington	3.17.45
Year 6	Rory Elithorn	3.01.10
Year 7	Myles Sowah	3.04.10
Year 8	Archie Purnell	2.43.60
Year 9	Zack McColl-Eljanfali	2.28.33
Year 10	Oliver Trott	2.29.65
Shot Put		
Year 4/5	Charlie Van Roest	4.6m
Year 6	Barnaby Greenwood	7.40m - Equal Record
Year 7	Alex Seaton	7.55m
Year 8	Lucas Lallemmand	.40m
Year 9	Zack McColl-Eljanfali	12.01m
Year 10	Marcus Allan	9.82m

Long Jump		
Year 4/5	Benedict Laszlo	3.08m
Year 6	Myles Powell	3.45m
Year 7	Archie Clipsham	3.94m
Year 8	William Mason	3.85m
Year 9	Rannie Tillet	4.33m
Year 10	William Alcalay	4.93m
High Jump		
Year 4/5	Owen Bebb / Alfred Colombo	104cm
Year 6	Rory Elithorn / Toby Macpherson	120cm
Year 7	Alex Seaton	137cm - New Record
Year 8	Lucas Lallemmand	145cm - New Record
Year 9	Ethan Sores / Zack McColl-Eljanfali	151cm
Year 10	Jasper Wanendeya	148cm
Cricket ball		
Year 4/5	Rory Murphy	27.10m
Year 6	Toby Macpherson	31.90m
Javelin		
Year 7	Henry Marshall	15.95m
Year 8	Lucas Reeves	21.85
Year 9	Ethan Soares / Harry Aldous	22.90m
Year 10	Oliver Trott	27.00m
Overall Victor Ludorums 2023		
Year 4/5	Alfred Colombo	
Year 6	Yohan Grant	
Year 7	Archie Clipsham	
Year 8	Lucas Lallemmand / Joe Evans	
Year 9	Zack McColl-Eljanfali	
Year 10	Toby Robinson	





# Year 10 Art

## Trip to Tate Modern

On a Flexi Friday in November, Year 10 Art pupils visited Tate Modern in London, accompanied by Art teachers, Miss Naomi Jivanda and Mrs Clare Babayan.

Pupils gathered primary and secondary research around their project's art theme - Growth and Decay - and the exhibitions provided an excellent opportunity to learn more about artists who work in the industry and with similar themes.

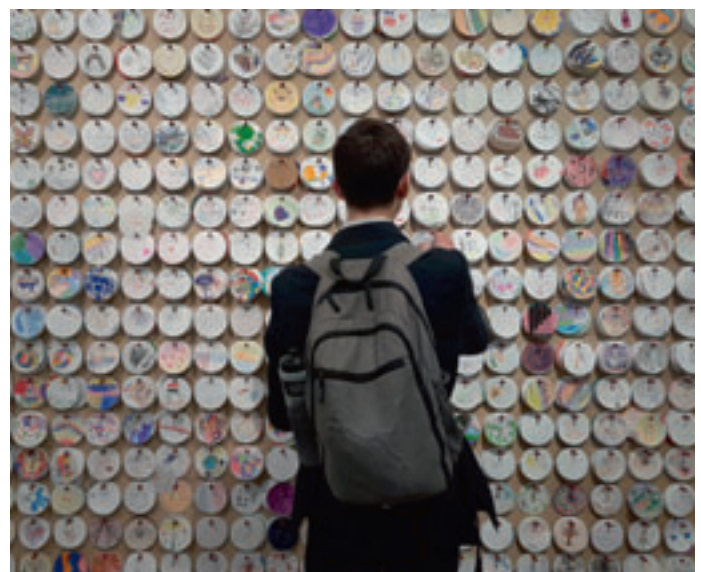
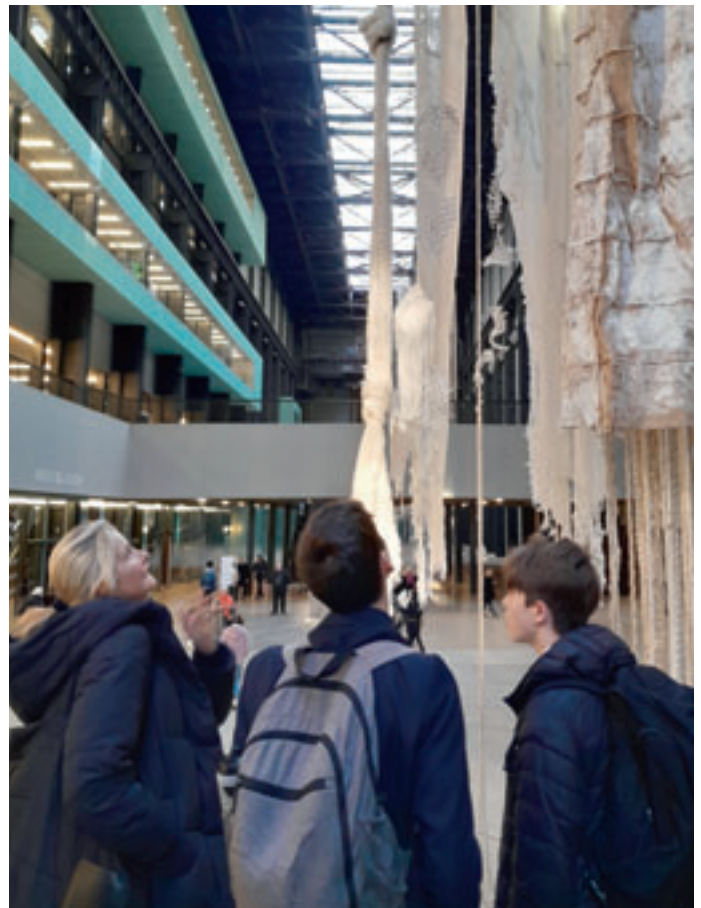
The group visited the Maria Bartuszo exhibition to look at her unique artwork, made from plaster and casted by hand to create abstract shapes resembling eggshells, raindrops and the human body, with strong links to her connection with nature. Pupils were able to take photographs of the work and document or draw from observation in their sketchbooks, whilst walking around the exhibition in pensive demeanour.

The second exhibition held art pieces from Impressionist painter, Paul Cezanne. His collection consisted of still life, landscapes, and portraiture. Pupils were struck by the radiant colours and fascinating compositions of his artwork.

The group also had the chance to add to the gallery's wall display by creating their personal illustrations and contributing to society's wider art community.

This was a very enjoyable day for everyone, enabling pupils to explore elements of modern, contemporary, sculpture and traditional artwork.

**Naomi Jivanda** | Teacher of Art





# Junior Years – In Review

## World Environment Day

MHS took part in World Environment Day 2023, running activities and discussions about our world and the 2023 theme: #BeatPlasticPollution. This included the Junior School's Flexi Friday project on bug houses.

The MHS Library also created an informative display, with a selection of relevant books at hand to spark interest and inspiration to learn more about our environment.



## Headmaster's Tea Party

Some of the Junior School pupils were invited to attend a special tea party with the Headmaster as an acknowledgement of their positive attitude and behaviour in school. The feast of scones, cakes, tea and juice was a celebration of them receiving absolutely no academic or behaviour consequences across the entire school year to date! These pupils are great role models for their peers and should be incredibly proud of their achievements.



## Junior Master Chefs

As part of their English curriculum, the Junior pupils were travelling 'Around the World in 80 Days' with Phileas Fogg. They stopped off in Japan to practise making Sushi, then tasted their results! Pupils watched and listened attentively to a tutorial from Simon and the amazing Catering team, then got rolling! Well done boys for getting stuck in, learning new skills and creating some delicious snacks.

The Junior pupils took over the Refectory and served up a little slice of Italy this year. They worked together to make delicious pizzas which were then wood-fired... and eaten of course!



## World Book Day

MHS Juniors marked World Book Day this year by dressing up as their favourite characters from stories / books / graphic novels. Here they are in all their glory! Well done boys for getting involved!





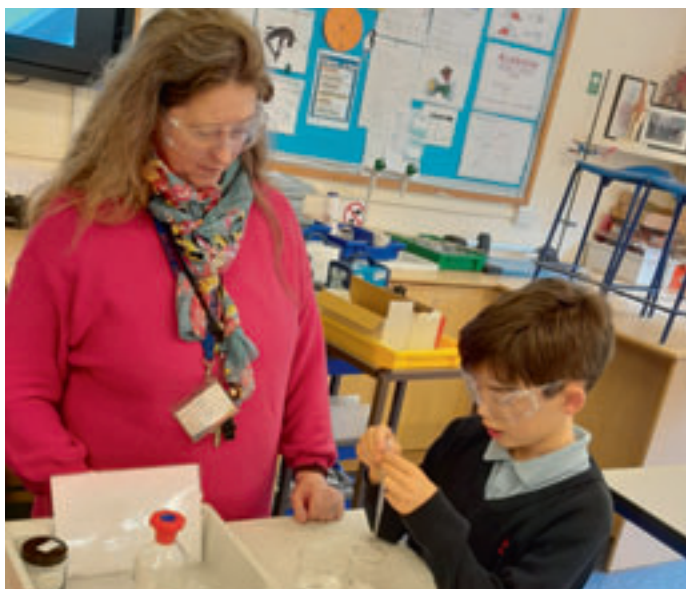
## The Living Rainforest trip

Year 6 pupils visited 'The Living Rainforest' on a Flexi Friday this year. They took part in a brilliant workshop which explored resources in the rainforest and sustainable development. Pupils also had the opportunity to explore over 850 species of plants and animals; although the best moment was undoubtedly watching the sloth have his lunch!



## Junior Practical Science Skills

Year 6 pupils explored the 'cause and effect' in their cross-curricular Project lessons this year. They applied this theme to Science, investigating why statues on Exeter Cathedral have become eroded. Part of this involved a practical experiment using a weak acid on sodium hydrogen carbonate and on limestone to see erosion in action! Through practical tasks, pupils improve their skills with apparatus and develop their understanding of key ideas and how science works.



## Careers Talks

As part of their PSD Flexi Friday programme, Junior pupils took part in a Careers Day. They learned about cooking and practised some valuable first aid skills such as applying bandages, tying slings and how to use a stethoscope. Pupils also had the opportunity to hear about careers in the Military, Artificial Intelligence and Law.





# Middle Years – In Review

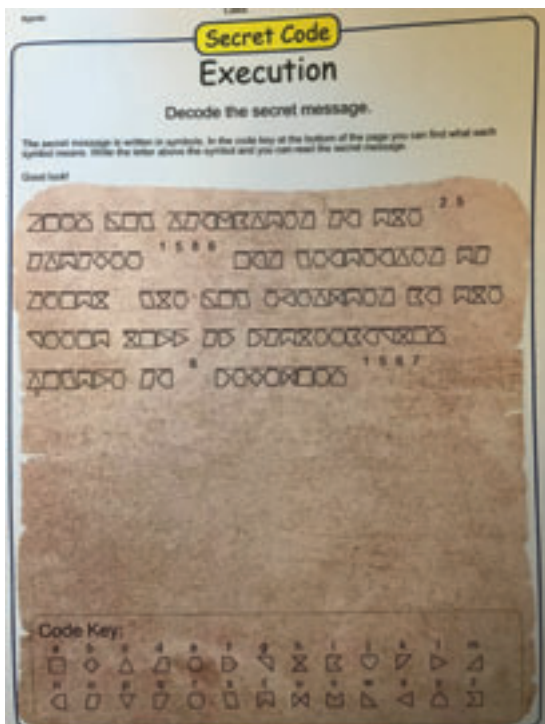




In Lent Term, a selection of Year 8 Personal & Social Development (PSD) groups explored 'What happened on this day in History...'. This was an opportunity to explore a new topic each lesson, with a focus on developing language and understanding of concepts in society, practising life skills, as well as working in teams and thinking outside the box.

Some of the sessions included:

- 8th February 1587 - Mary, Queen of Scots is executed. She was discovered with coded letters and accused of treason. This led to puzzle-solving and writing our own code in lesson.
- 10th January 1868 - London Underground opened. Students raced around the Tube Map finding famous landmarks.
- 25th January 1890 - Agatha Christie is born. We looked at writing techniques for mystery stories and plotted our own murder mystery.
- 7th February 1935 - The game Monopoly is released. After a discussion on monetary value and location, we created our own Monopoly editions. Petsopoly! Fast Foodopoly! Memesopoly! GIGAopoly!
- 23rd January 1957 - The Frisbee takes flight. Teams invented their own sport, using categories such as accessibility, equipment needed and safety. Extreme shed racing won...





# Senior Years – In Review

## Sweet Neurons

Year 9 Psychology pupils concluded their studies on the brain last half term by exploring the minds of a 'genius'. Here they are using sweet treats to display their understanding of a neuron, explaining how messages are transported through electrical impulses.

Pupils later dove into the medical world by imitating the process of an MRI: 'scanning' the brain of a peer and creating their own diagnosis!



## Technology Project

Year 9 Design and Technology pupils put their skills and imagination to good use! Their mission was to design and make a practical and useful project by teachers' request. Here are some of the brilliant final pieces, from balance boards and pencil holders to writing slopes, book stands and number/letter spinners. The teachers were thrilled!

## Assemblies

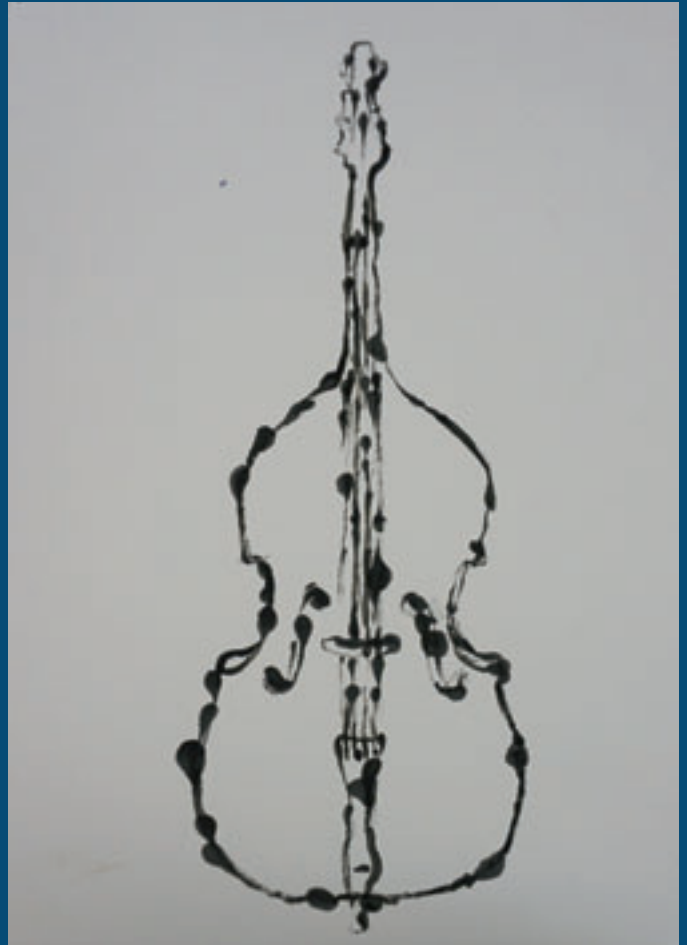
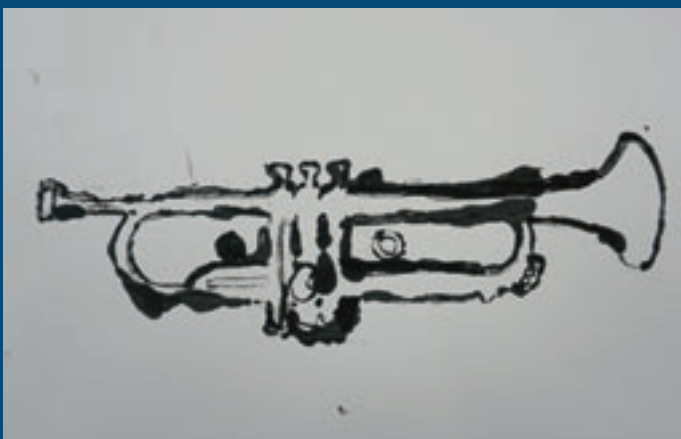
Through Michaelmas term, Year 9 embarked on some Challenge Assemblies with form groups, competing against one another for points and prizes. Each tutor group was responsible for arranging a particular week. The challenges have been skills and knowledge-based, with winners often resulting from a large dose of good luck or unknown underlying talent! The form groups chose different members of the group to participate each week and they faced tasks such as the cracker challenge, After Eight challenge, Science challenge and the 'name three...' challenge.

This, of course, went hand in hand with regular Celebration Assemblies that recognise the House Point achievements of the Year 9 pupils. It was great to be able to award a number of students with their Bronze Certificates. There was much to celebrate and enjoy in Year 9!

**Chloe Durrant** | Head of Year 9



## Year 9 Art





## Class of 2023

Our first meeting in the Sports Hall at the start of this year seems so long ago. Throughout the year, you have truly absorbed the MHS values of kindness, spirit, and responsibility as you have worked towards your GCSE examinations. Not only that but you have approached the examinations with determination and resilience, whilst putting yourself first in order to prioritise your future.

As you prepare for your next steps and progression into young adulthood, it is a great time to reflect on the early years that shaped you along the way.

### Mr Kay fondly recalls your Year 7 trip to Grittleton House...

The year group were so excited on that June summer's day as the bus pulled away from school. Boys with hats on chattered excitedly, with sun cream already applied to their faces and Pokemon cards carefully stashed in their bags. For many this was the first time that they would be away from home and some were a little anxious.

However, any doubts were quickly forgotten as soon as the groups' bags were downed in their dorms – it was now all sunshine and action! Go karts were skilfully built by the boys from barrels and timber and raced down the Wiltshire fields. Scores were settled with other students (and teachers!) in thrilling Zorb battles. The eagle eyed amongst the boys tried their hand at the archery, with precision struck bullseyes awarded to the steadiest handed of the crew. What a trip!

### ...and Tough Mudder in Year 9...

As the boys got off the bus, there was a moment of nervous anticipation in the changing huts. They had heard that there were rivers of sludge and mud, log bridges and long, cold plunges into icy water.



The front runners clambered up and over the netting, slipping over logs straddling the river. Some stealthily took their time as they clambered through waterlogged pipes, up and over slippery hills, sliding down where they could not keep their grip.

By the end, all were dripping wet and happy. There was no boy who remained uncovered by mud, and no boy without a smile on their face!

It has been a true privilege to be your Head of Year and play a small part of your journey. I remain grateful that you trusted me to join you.

As it should be, your tutors are incredibly proud of how far you have come, and Mrs Stiff and Mr Walton summarise the Pastoral team's thoughts with their message to you: what an absolute pleasure it has been getting to know each and every one of you during your critical GCSE years at More House. We are so proud of the way you have all conducted yourselves and are certain that you will all go on to achieve amazing things! With the very best wishes and all the luck in the world for whichever path you choose to take in your next steps!

Here is to you, to your future and to all your fantastic achievements! Remember, you all have an individual pathway to follow, give everything your best go, take on challenges and always say yes to exciting opportunities! Only then will you truly know what you are capable of.

**Miss Adkins** | Head of Year 11 and your Pastoral Team



## Tutor Challenges

Tutor groups competed against one another in order to build teamwork, sportsmanship and resilience. The tasks were designed to challenge and encompass different skill sets, such as speed, logic, patience and abstract thought processing.



## End of Year Celebration

Year 11 ended their year celebrating the end of examinations and their GCSE journey. In roaring 20s fashion, pupils enjoyed a 3-course meal, danced the night away with a disco, bowled top scores on the skittle alley, captured memories in the photobooth, and cheered their peers along in the 'most likely to be...' awards.

The evening gave them an opportunity to 'let their hair down', sharpen up in their best attire and connect with one another post examinations.

Well done to all!

**Miss Adkins** | Head of Year 11  
and your Pastoral Team



# VI Form – In Review

Another year has swiftly passed into the annals of our VI Form history - almost in a blink of an eye! It has been busy down in Crosslanes, with a lively intake of new students finding their feet whilst 'old stagers' knuckled down to the business of 'getting stuff done' in their final year.

A real highlight has been the continued development of our highly successful life skills course - ASDAN. Dovetailing perfectly with the existing Amicus and Renaissance opportunities, this life skills course really has made a difference by helping LVI and UVI Form students to consolidate their soft skills. Julie Nelson (Life Skills Coordinator) writes:

"Students began the year by developing their understanding of the importance of international links before moving on to develop their problem-solving abilities. They had a crash course in home maintenance, safe appliance usage and an understanding of health and safety (ably taught by Nigel, part of the MHS Maintenance Team). This independent living project also involved cooking for others which needed an understanding of budgeting, recipes, allergens, supermarket pricing and shopping. Some students cooked for their families at home and others at school in the Discovery Centre. They were not afraid to try out new ingredients,

and one brave pair even gutted and pan-fried a whole fish! This practical unit showed that students can plan their way around problems and restrictions and still create a fantastic outcome that benefits everyone.

A further Enterprise Challenge saw students create a break-time takeaway venture in teams. Each one ran the takeaway for a week, serving younger (always hungry) MHS students. Again, group planning, commitment and staffing were excellent with many showing how much their leadership skills had developed and – for all those involved – it was clear that their confidence in dealing with customers, handling money and tracking spending was developing and strengthening."

The whole VI Form team has thoroughly enjoyed being involved. It has been enjoyable, challenging and, ultimately, encouraging to see how each student has so much to offer and responds so well to new challenges. It bodes extremely well for their futures.

**Iain Yeoman** | Head of VI Form

**Hugh Rashleigh** | Custodian of VI Form

## Winter Wonderland, Hyde Park

On 6th December, VI Form students and staff went on their annual pilgrimage to 'Winter Wonderland' at Hyde Park for a pre-Christmas celebration. The ice-skating, for both novices and the experienced, was huge fun on the outdoor rink, accompanied by loud music and shrieks of, "Watch out! I'm out of control..." And there was plenty of time to enjoy the funfair, a range of fast-food outlets and a myriad of shops and stalls full of unique gifts, handmade crafts, jewellery, winter wear and sweets galore!

## VI Form Leavers Hog Roast 2023

Our VI Form year was rounded off with the traditional VI Form Leavers' Hog Roast which took place on 30th June attended by students, teachers and around twenty 'old boys'. The Hog, side-dishes and very fine staff-made desserts disappeared without a trace, except for a solitary slice of cheesecake and a few slivers of Somerset Brie!!

We've had a quite a year!



## Sold Out - Charity Cake Sale

MHS VI Form worked tirelessly to arrange and run a cake sale in aid of charity. Students and staff baked up a storm, and their efforts managed to raise a huge £190 for the British Red Cross, supporting victims of flooding in Pakistan and those needing food and shelter in Ukraine.

Congratulations and thanks to all of those involved. What an achievement!





## Land & Wave

The name, more or less, defines the experience. We stayed on land, and we played in the waves...

This 'institution' of a trip at the beginning of the academic year is never dull and it's never the same experience. Defined by the personnel and the weather and who knows what else, there is a reason why this annual pilgrimage to Corfe Castle is a permanent fixture on the VI Form calendar. Quite simply, it helps us all to figure out who we are and what we're meant to do with the year. There is little you can hide from your fellow man or woman when you're squeezing your tired body into several unyielding yards of 5mm neoprene before leaping onto a great big raft of a paddleboard. The photos tell the story - a snapshot to mark 'Land & Wave 2022'.



## Black Tie

Sharp dressed men (and the occasional woman) were very much to the fore at this next milestone in the VI Form calendar. This refined and tasteful celebration of the bon viveur way of life was indeed a convivial opportunity to teach the etiquette of the formal dinner to the elegant aspirants of the VI Form Common Room. Naturally, with Simon John in charge, the food was sumptuous, and the wine choices cultivated. Wit and repartee flowed readily, and the evening was completed by a welcome return of former student, Henry Young, whose inspirational speech stirred the soul and stiffened the sinews of all in attendance.



## Surrey Choices

MHS has been working successfully with 'Surrey Choices/ Employability' for several years. It genuinely makes a difference for those who remain unsure about where they want to steer their lives after their time at MHS comes to an end. The Surrey Choices team works with selected Year 13 students to build employability skills with extended work placements allowing a real sense of all that the world of work entails.

Early support from the Friends of More House was invaluable and now the scheme seems really to have gained momentum.

In previous years, Surrey Choices participants have gone on to secure full-time employment because of their participation in the scheme. It really can be a game-changer if you are not sure what direction you want your life to take when the magic ends on Moons Hill. With thanks to Becky Grammel and her SC team, here is a roll call of the VI Form students who took part in this year's Surrey Choices placements:

Lucas O'Connor - The Bluebear (book shop), Farnham, Luke Martin - Chimera VR, Fleet, Hampshire, Dylan Newman - Nuffield Gym, Guildford, Jude Cash - Farnham Leisure Centre, Edward Allen - Waitrose, Fleet, Alex Rutinsky - Waitrose, Farnham, Aaron Cody - The Bluebear (book shop), Farnham, Henry Llewelyn Jones - Farnham Town Council.

Congratulations to all for successfully completing their placements and special thanks to the local employers who offered the work experience opportunities.

## Armistice Commemoration Service

On Friday 11th November, the school conducted its Armistice Commemoration Service followed by the Act of Remembrance attended by the entire school and staff. **Craig Burnett** (Teacher of Music), played the Last Post and the Reveille on trumpet, Head Boy, Reef Birch, introduced the Service, followed by the Headmaster's Address and Deputy Head Boys Joe Grinstead (Sturt), Matt Bond (Knight), Ollie Clement (Hawthorn) and Josh Pugh (Cobbett) delivered the four readings. We are also proud of the MHS student, Matt Bond, who performed the Last Post and Reveille for the Frensham Infant School Act of Remembrance.

## Safe Drive Stay Alive

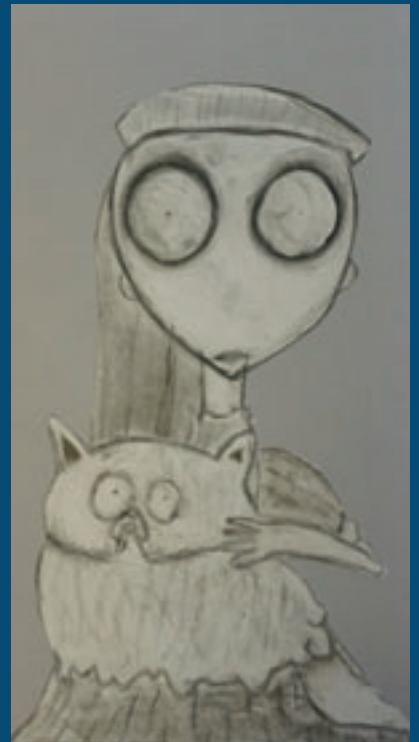
On 8th November, the LVI Form attended the award-winning "Safe Drive, Stay Alive" road safety initiative run by Surrey County Council, specifically targeting young people, aiming to make them more aware of the risks and dangers of driving - a modern, original, hard-hitting event that challenges student attitudes and perceptions. The event covered several road traffic collisions and the responses of the emergency services who spoke of their own experiences at the scene of accidents and of the aftermaths. The real-life stories of members of the public too left the air heavy with emotion and firmly stamped home the message that, when driving, their lives and those of their passengers are in their hands.

## ASDAN - learning life skills





# Art - Tim Burton style



# World Challenge

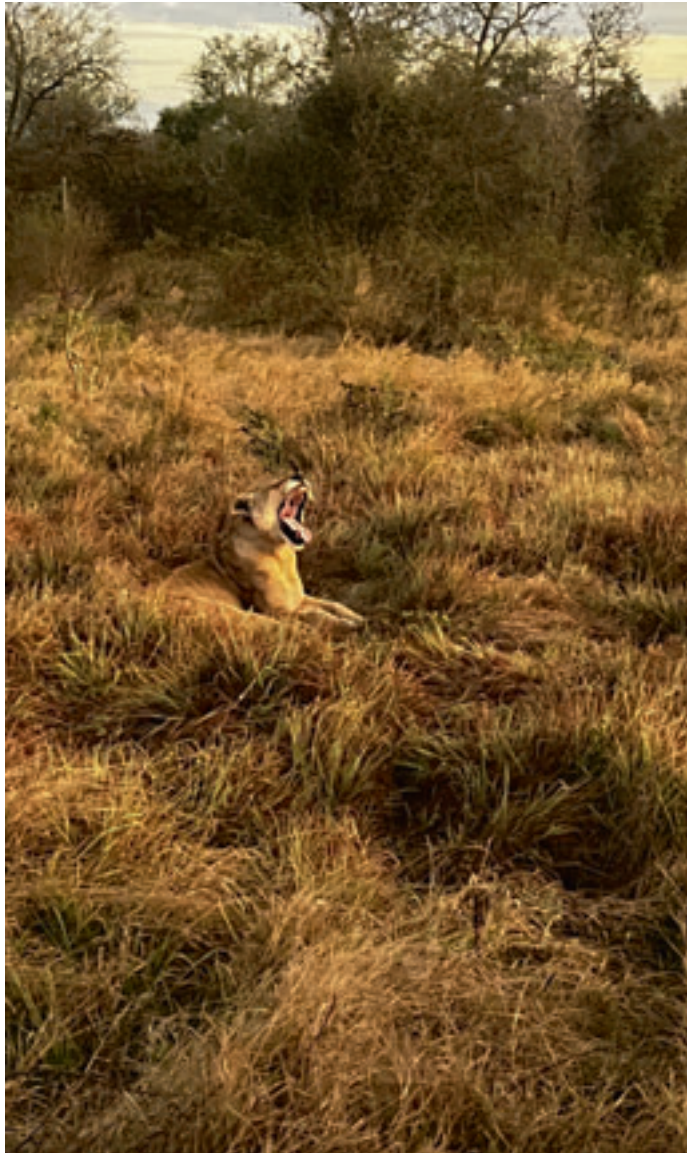
We recently took part in a school expedition to eSwatini through World Challenge. It was an amazing experience that we will never forget. We camped every night and the boys budgeted for and planned all our meals. We cooked from the fire which was a lot of fun and a great way to bond as a group.

## Highlights:

- Community Service Project – we helped to build a new kitchen for children in the community to have a place to make and eat food. It was a lot of hard work, but very rewarding.
- Zip-wiring in Malolotja over the Majolomba river – an incredible experience flying through the air and seeing the beautiful scenery below.
- Glass-blowing factory – it was fascinating to see how glass is made.
- Mandela's Cultural Complex – we experienced traditional dancing and saw what the traditional housing looked like, which was a really interesting and informative experience, and gave us a great appreciation for the culture of eSwatini.
- Trekking through the Lubombo region – the three days were challenging but rewarding and a lot of fun. We saw amazing scenery and learned about the local culture.
- On safari – we went on a sunset and morning safari in Hlane Royal National Park and saw lions, elephants, rhinos, and giraffes. A truly unforgettable experience.















We had the most amazing time in eSwatini through World Challenge. It was both challenging and rewarding and an experience I am sure the boys will never forget. I would thoroughly recommend re-visiting eSwatini. It was certainly an adventure!

Tips for other students thinking about joining in our next school expedition:

- Be prepared to work hard – there will be times when you are tired, hungry, and frustrated, but it is important to remember that the challenges are part of the experience.
- Be open to new experiences – you will be exposed to new cultures, new people, and new ways of doing things. Be willing to try new things and step outside of your comfort zone.
- Be a team player – you will be working with a group of people from different backgrounds. It is important to be willing to cooperate and help each other out.
- Above all, have fun! This is an amazing opportunity to learn and grow. Make the most of it and enjoy the experience.

I would like to thank the World Challenge staff for their support and guidance throughout the trip. They were always there to help when we needed it and made sure we had a safe and enjoyable experience.

**Jarred Cooper** | Director of Extra-Curricular Education



# Activities Week 2023

Activities Week 2023 was an opportunity to bring together pupils of each year group and their tutors to celebrate the past year and strengthen relationships as they move into the next.

Year 4/5 visited the New Forest Activities in Beaulieu, where they camped in bell tents. Activities were jam-packed with various fun activities, and they focused on developing resilience, self-awareness, communication, self-confidence, well-being, challenge, and risk. They took part in Bushcraft, Paddle sports, Archery and so much more.

Year 6 visited Hooke Court in Dorset. The site houses a Grade II listed 14th Century manor house in a stunning rural location, bringing learning to life. The group took part in activities inspired by the world wars including digging trenches, drills and marching, and some battle practice. All of this was then put into practice as they ended the week with a mighty reenactment.

Year 7 visited Grittleton House Adventure Camp in Chippenham. The activity centre is set within the Wiltshire countryside on the edge of the Cotswolds in 30-acre grounds. They took part in many fun activities such as water wars, body zorbing, escape and evasion, archery, karting, buggy building and a crate challenge.

Year 8 travelled to Acorn Activities Woodland Centre and slept in bell tents, next door to the West Midlands Safari Park. The centre provided a range of bushcraft activities, fun experiences and a day visit to the safari park, which was certainly the highlight of the trip. The boys toured the park in minibuses and fed giraffes from their hands. They also braved some of the rides and had fun playing games. I am told that everyone's sleep was interrupted by the lions roaring late into the evening!

Year 9 travelled to Land and Wave in the Swanage area. The site offers a mix of land and water-based activities, delivered by qualified instructors. Some of the water activities on offer were kayaking, canoeing and stand-up paddle boarding. The group also got involved in bushcraft, playing pool in the hotel, football, manhunt, rounders and various other beach games.

Year 10 had an excellent trip to France, staying just outside

Paris at Chateau de Grande Romains. The chateau had superb facilities, including an outdoor swimming pool, tennis courts, basketball courts and a full-size football pitch, all set in 70 acres of grounds. All of this was fantastic to have at their disposal, but the boys had an incredible trip planned. They ventured into Paris to climb the Eiffel Tower and visited the Sacré Coeur. They then spent an entire day visiting Disneyland Paris. The boys had an absolute ball, staying late into the evening to watch the fireworks display. There was so much fun to be had and certainly a trip for all younger year groups to look forward to!

After working tirelessly towards their end of year examinations, pupils of Year 11 threw themselves into a range of day trips and activities. Starting off with a detox and chill, pupils fought for first place in Mario Kart, relaxed with a film and popcorn, and competed in an 'in your future' themed quiz, all whilst awaiting a Domino's pizza delivery (the 15 large pizzas never stood a chance!). They had the opportunity to spring from the walls at Ninja Warrior, swing above the treetops at Go Ape, battle their peers (and teachers!) while paintballing and fuel their adrenaline rush at Thorpe Park. Overall, an action-packed week filled with laughter and making memories with their current and future VI Form peers.

VI Form students also had a week full of daily activities. Starting with tenpin bowling, they then joined Year 11 at the aqua park in Southampton. On Wednesday, they spent the day on-site, supporting with gardening and other activities around school. They also went paintballing towards the end of the week and took part in the annual walk to the Bluebell pub for lunch.

Many thanks to all staff involved in the organisation and running of the trips and activities this year. It was a truly successful week celebrating friendships and fun!

**Jarred Cooper** (& the Activities Week team)





## Year 4-5



## Year 6





# Year 7



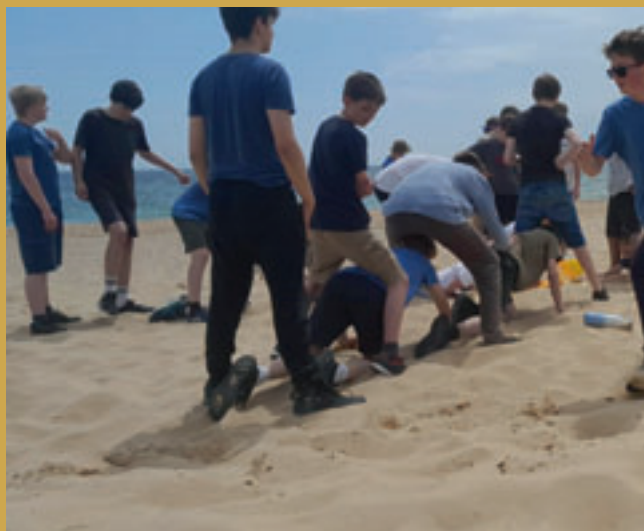


# Year 8





# Year 9 and 10





# Year 11 and VI Form

On Thursday of activities week, Year 11, VI Formers and their form tutors went to play paintball. It was the first time on the battlefield for many of the boys and the sight of the arena with its camouflaged surroundings, stationary helicopters, and mess-hall style eating quarters was a striking one. The boys were quickly inspired for the day of tactical military endeavour that was to follow.

Stood in their overalls with a string of ammunition hanging expectantly at their waist, there was a palpable sense of excitement amongst the boys - particularly those who had arrived in full-size banana costumes! The prospect of being able to do battle, settle a few old scores and round off the day trading war stories was an enticing one. Mr Yeoman, Head of Sixth Form, seemed particularly enthusiastic about the unique opportunity to spend time on the front lines. With his paintball gun set to rapid fire and a knowing chuckle as his protective headgear slipped into place, there was more than one moment when form tutors questioned if there had

been an ulterior motive when Sir and Miss Adkins planned this event for their year groups.

It was inspiring to see how the boys worked so well as part of a team, moving around each map together, playing to their strengths and supporting others through their greatest challenges. Some boys were staunch defenders of their team's territory, others playing a covert game of strategy where the opposition were firmly outwitted and sent into retreat by stealthy, gently encroaching attack. Some also demonstrated a truly remarkable sense of precision firing where paintballs never failed to hit their moving target - particularly if this happened to be one of their form tutors!

After a day of fun in each other's company, battles fought, and new allies made, everyone went home feeling like a winner.

**James Kay** | Year 11 Form Tutor





# Founder's Day 2023

On Saturday 8th July, MHS celebrated Founder's Day 2023

A wonderful day of celebration, inspirational stories and achievements. Pupils, staff and families took their seats for the Rockbeth Fundraising Auction, run by Farnham's Town Crier and parent, Mr Michael Stephens. Thank you to all who donated prizes for this event and to those who placed their bids. Your generosity is hugely appreciated by the Rockbeth team on their journey to Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

We then heard from Mr Lewis Clarkson (Deputy Head – Pastoral), Mr Glenn Handley (Chair of the Board of Governors), Mrs Anna Benfield (Chair of the Friends of More House) and the Headmaster, all of whom recalled moments during the academic year at MHS. The presentation of individual certificates followed during which the cheers and applause drowned out the sudden thunderstorm as pupils took to the stage to receive their subject prizes and commendations. Congratulations to every pupil for their hard work and commitment to their academic studies, involvement in the school community and embodiment of our school values of Kindness, Spirit and Responsibility.

Following the trophy presentations, our guest speaker, para-athlete, Rachel Morris, MBE, addressed the marquee with her inspirational speech reminding us that even though we all face challenges in life, if we strive to face these with optimism, hard work, commitment, and self-belief, we can achieve great things!



As the rain finally stopped, our Head Boy and Deputies took to the stage with reflections on their time at school, sharing some of their fond memories, anecdotes, sporting, musical and academic achievements. They also took time to thank those who had a particular impact on their journey through MHS, giving sage advice to LVI Form pupils who will be stepping into their shoes and leading the way through the next academic year. Our ceremony ended with the inauguration of the new 2023-2024 School Officers as the Head Boy and Deputies accepted their positions with pride, greeted with support and ovation by the whole MHS community.

Many thanks to everyone involved in the organisation and running of this memorable day.













# The Head Boy's 'Year in Review'

What strikes me the most about this year is just how fast it has gone by – from the first day back to school as newly appointed Head Boy, to planning the formal black tie dinner (thankfully, deemed a success), to the various speeches, duties and events that I have carried out, representing the school throughout the year, ending in the final task of writing my departing valedictory speech at Founder's Day; it's all passed in the blink of an eye, and I have enjoyed every second of it.



Being Head Boy has been an experience that I will never forget, offering me the privilege and opportunity to give back to an incredible community that has given so very much to me. I have really enjoyed working alongside a dedicated group of students from all year groups, during our regular School Council meetings, and am proud of the hard work that they have all put in to the Open Day tours and other school events that they helped to organise.

Without a shadow of a doubt, my favourite part of the past year has been the introduction of the House Ceremonies, which has resulted in a noticeable difference in students' sense of house identity, pride and belonging. I believe that this initiative has helped make students feel a part of a team, giving them a shared goal to work towards collectively. I am grateful that Mr Clarkson put his faith in me to lead

a large segment of these whole-school gatherings; he had confidence in me and the Heads of Houses (Joe Grinstead, Matthew Bond, Josh Pugh and Ollie Clement) to address all members of the school during these ceremonies and latterly to lead the House Assembly, announcing individual and House prizes and presenting them to fellow students.

Along with others, I have been lucky enough to benefit from using the new school gym, a fantastic facility which certainly helped me to channel exam stress in a positive way. Along with this, I walked the whole-school sponsored walk for the last time, accompanying some of the younger year groups on their walk, many for the first time. This amazing year culminated with sitting my A-Level exams and, grades willing, I will be heading off to university in September to read Biomedical Sciences.

To close, 2022-23 year has been particularly special and memorable for me, but actually so have my previous six years at More House. I urge you to make the most of every opportunity that you get at More House – before you know it, you too will be moving on with the next stage of your lives. I would like to give a huge thank you to all the school staff who have cared for, nurtured and guided me over the years – keep on doing the outstanding job of inspiring students that you have done for me – you are all awesome and I will be forever grateful to you.

**Reef Birch | Head Boy 2022-2023**

## Introductions from our new Head Boy and Deputies for 2023-2024

"I am Evan and I am honoured to announce that I am the new Head Boy of MHS for this next academic year. I am here to serve the school proudly and continue to make it a happy and supportive environment.

I would like to thank Mr Hetherington and the teachers for giving me this huge opportunity. I would also like to thank my amazing Deputies, Maverick, Luke, Eddie, Patrick and Ollie, who will support me through the next school year. This role is going to enhance my team-working skills and improve my leadership qualities for the future and, while I feel slightly apprehensive, I am also confident that I, and my Deputy Heads, will excel in this position.

I am really looking forward to starting this new adventure and exploring my new role thoroughly."

**Evan McMullon | Head Boy**



"I am humbled, grateful, and honoured to be appointed to the office of Deputy Head Boy and Head of Hawthorn. It is my intention to execute the tasks and duties asked of me to the best of my abilities, including being a role model for the lower years, displaying social willingness, touring parents and new staff around the school and conducting assemblies.

I understand that there will be many challenges as I am not perfect and will make mistakes along the way. This is only natural, and I would be misleading the Governors, Headmaster, and my house, which I care about very much, to say otherwise. However, I plan to overcome these using wisdom from my colleagues, Evan, Maverick, Luke, Eddie and Ollie and the wonderfully supportive teachers around me.

When I leave the school in 2024, I hope to leave a legacy which shows that I was always willing to take on any challenge, do my bit to improve the school and Hawthorn House (which is doing very well now in all things academic and in sports) and give back what others have given to me throughout my nine years here.

Once more, I am honoured that the school has selected me to take on such a senior and important role. I promise to always do my best and be there to help fellow students when required. I cannot wait to start in September."

**Patrick Stephens | Head of Hawthorn**





"Hi, I am Edward, one of the new Deputy Head Boys and Head of Knight at MHS and am here to ensure that I complete all tasks that are set, and to make MHS a better place of learning, so that all students are happy and comfortable within the MHS environment. I feel very honoured to take up this role and I feel that I am going to learn plenty and become more hard-working during my final year.



As a Deputy Head, I will try my best to get involved and know that this role will open up different gates in preparation for what I might want to do after leaving school. For example, university or an apprenticeship? Overall, I am very nervous, but also happy, that I have been selected to represent the MHS community and I know that I am going to become much more knowledgeable and independent because of the opportunity that has been presented to me."

**Edward Buckton | Head of Knight**

"Hello to all, I am Luke, and I will be the new Head of Sturt and Deputy Head Boy for the 2023/2024 academic year. I would like to warmly greet my fellow Sturt pupils (most importantly!) and the rest of the school. I am very excited about this new role and about collaborating with some good friends in the Head Boy, Evan, and the other Heads of Houses. I hope I can bring something new and different (even if I can never match the great Joe Grinstead!).



For my fellow Sturt pupils, I know this year will bring much success in all aspects of school and beyond, as well as the chance to get hands on the many inter-house trophies (all of which I am sure we will get!). A very warm welcome also goes out to all the new boys joining the school this academic year. I wish you all the best of luck in your first year. I hope everyone has a great summer and I look forward to what this new school year will bring."

**Luke Marson | Head of Sturt**



"Hello, I am Maverick, the newly appointed Head of Cobbett and Deputy Head Boy. I am grateful for being appointed to this position for my last year at MHS, as I have always looked at this role since my first Founder's Day and wanted to be in such a position. With the responsibility that comes with my role, I will try, to the best of my ability, to change and improve the school. There will be challenges ahead over the next academic year, but I personally can say that, looking at the team we have, we will manage to get through anything. Alongside this, I am hoping that, throughout this academic year, I will be able to achieve the various goals I have set for myself, which include passing my A-Levels and BTECs.



I look forward to meeting up with everyone again in September for the academic year that awaits us."

**Maverick Rayner | Head of Cobbett**

"Hello, I am Olly Kekwick and I am humbled to serve as your new Chair of the School Council for the 2023-24 school year. My role involves talking to you as members of the school community through frequent meetings and discussions, to debate and put forward suggestions for how you think the school can be improved. These suggestions then get sent to the relevant members of staff such as the Headmaster, the Deputy Head or Heads of Years to be implemented if possible and practical.



I know that there will be many challenges to this role as I believe I am the first person to be in this position. However, I will always try my absolute hardest to make sure that everybody at MHS is represented in some way or another. Whether that is through talking to representatives in your year group, reading suggestions emailed to us, or responding to your interest in being involved in this project, we want you to feel heard and listened to. Together we can improve the school community in which we all are a part of.

Finally, I would like to ensure that when I leave MHS at the end of 2024 (after 10 years of being at this school), that you feel as though you have been represented. I will serve alongside the rest of the school officers, led by Evan, to ensure that your voice is heard.

Thank you, I look forward to hearing your suggestions and ideas."

**Ollie Kekwick | Chair of the School Council**



# Exam Results

## Summer 2023

All the hard work and commitment shown by our Year 11 and Sixth Form pupils has paid off. We hope they are all incredibly proud of their exceptional achievements at GCSE, A Level and BTEC.

### Sixth Form

Upper Sixth students celebrated exceptional success in their public exams and university entry, having overcome the barriers posed by their personal learning challenges. Despite a majority holding an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) recognising significant difficulties with learning, 81% of More House leavers applied to university. All secured places, and will study courses as varied as Acting, Animal Behaviour, Architecture, Biomedicine, Biochemistry, Computer Games Design, Computer Science and Cybersecurity, Film, Mechanical Engineering, Paramedic Science, Politics and Television Production and Media.

The percentages given below in each case refer to the total number of certificates awarded to this summer's Upper Sixth Form at Level 3. (A Level, and equivalent BTEC qualifications realising the equal number of university admissions – UCAS – points to a full A Level).

#### A Level and Level 3 BTEC results combined:

55% A\*-C or Distinction\*-Merit

91% pass rate A Level and L3 BTEC combined

#### A Level only

47% A\*-C

89% Pass rate

#### Level 3 BTEC only

65% Distinction\*-Merit (equivalent to A\*-C at A Level)

96% Pass rate (equivalent to A\*-E at A Level)

## Year 11

Against the odds, our pupils with learning difficulties relating to literacy, language-skills, attention and motor-skills have triumphed in their GCSE and equivalent BTEC qualifications, beating national averages. 77% of Year 11 pupils have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) evidencing higher levels of special educational needs.

#### GCSE and Level 2 BTEC results combined:

**77% 9-4, A\*-C or Distinction\*-L2 Pass**

68% secured at least five 9-4 or Distinction\*-L2

Pass grades

57% secured at least five 9-4 equiv. grades including GCSE English and GCSE Mathematics

**50% gained at least one A\*-A equivalent grade (9-7, or Distinction\*-Distinction)**

69% gained at least one A\*-B equivalent grade (9-6, or Distinction\*-Merit)

#### GCSE only:

including Design Engineer Construct!

76% 9-4 (A\*-C) **beating England (male) national average by 12% points!**

#### Level 2 BTEC only:

39% Distinction\*-Merit (equivalent to GCSE 9-6, or A\*-B)

79% Distinction\*-L2 Pass (equivalent to GCSE 9-4, or A\*-C)

62% achieved 9-4 pass in GCSE English **beating England (male) national average by 4% points!**

71% achieved 9-4 pass in GCSE Mathematics **beating England national average by 10% points!**

81% achieved a 9-4, or Distinction\*-L2 Pass in a Science





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