

More News

More House School Newsletter / May 2017 edition



A NOTE FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear parents,

Welcome to our latest newsletter. Our pupils continue to be engaged in an enormous number of exciting and beneficial activities beyond the normal timetabled curriculum, and it is a pleasure to be able to share with you a selection of their experiences in these pages.

The construction of the new Library and Media Centre is nearing completion, and this summer will witness landscaping of the area in front of the new building such that it becomes an attractive area for pupils to sit outside, enjoying books and games in the sunshine.

Also over the summer holidays are planned several other projects. The Media department will move into their new premises, and the library will transfer from the Music School into its much larger, specially designed space. Photography will also move so that it becomes located above art and close to Media, recognising the strong links between these subjects. The English department will take on two new classrooms located in the lowest level of the new building, and Occupational Therapy will move to a larger space on the ground-floor to permit the installation of new sensory-integration equipment and afford more space for Speech and Language Therapy, Literacy and Numeracy support upstairs in the Learning Development Centre.

Music will expand its provision of individual practice rooms and rehearsal space. The school's Main Reception area will be re-ordered to become more welcoming and to manage better the numbers of people passing through on a daily basis. This is likely to mean some disruption to normal administrative functions during the holiday period, but essential operations, including telephone and email contact, will be maintained throughout, and arrangements for publishing public examination results will operate unaffected.

And, as ever in a **More House** summer break, a vast number of other, smaller maintenance, renovation and refurbishment tasks will be undertaken. The challenge, as ever, is to put everything back together again in time for the start of the new school year in September.

I am delighted to welcome so many of you to Sports Day and wish you and your families an excellent day, and half-term break.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Hetherington, Headmaster



DIARY DATES

June 2017

Monday 5th June

Return to school

Monday 5th June

Y8/9 Option choices return deadline

Saturday 10th June

Dinner/Dance at Frensham Pond Hotel – hosted by the Friends

Thursday 22nd June

Arts on a summer evening

Friday 23rd June

Parent Safeguarding presentation

Monday 25th June

Activities week

July 2017

Tuesday 4th July

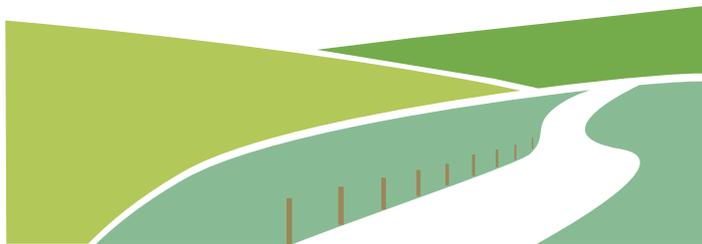
Geography field trip to Dorset (returns Thursday 6th July)

Saturday 8th July

Founder's Day; school year ends

UVI FORM COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

At the end of the course we build on practical skills learnt over the two years. Following on from the construction of bird boxes and planters earlier in the year, they went on a trip to a local builders' merchant to purchase materials to build a 1m² sandpit. They spent a Flexi Day measuring, sawing, drilling and painting. Overseen by Mrs Saunders, Mr McGregor and Mrs McGuire, as well as the Tech teachers to make sure they were on track, the boys worked hard to create the sandpit. It is hoping to be put to good use this summer when it has been finished.





Dear All,

Friends' Auction

This year the Friends auction will be held at the dinner dance. However, the whole school community will have the opportunity to take part. We will be publishing a list of lots via Parentmail. The opportunity to bid will be open to all parents via email prior to the dinner dance. There are some wonderful prizes, with all proceeds directly benefiting the boys. Happy bidding!

Buy a Book for the Library

Friends are delighted to have bought lots of new books for the library. At Founders' Day, there will be an opportunity to buy a book and to inscribe a commemorative bookplate inside from your family or child to celebrate the opening of the new library building. The suggested donation will be £10 per book. We are also excited to be able to fund e-books (downloadable on Kindle) and audio books plus a host of monthly magazine subscriptions for the boys to enjoy. Thank you for your support throughout the year which has enabled us to do this and thank you also for donating lots of books to the library.

Summer Raffle

Summer raffle tickets will be sent home with the boys after half-term and are also available to buy at Sports Day and Founders' Day. There are great prizes – 1st Prize is £100 of Amazon Vouchers, 2nd Prize is a Champagne & Wine Hamper and 3rd Prize is a 6" Kindle Paperwhite.

Friends' Coffee

We look forward to seeing lots of you at the next Friends' afternoon coffee which will be at the Holly Bush in Frensham at 3pm on Friday 16th June.

Parent Contact List

For those that are not aware, the parent contact list is simply a list of parents grouped by year and geographical location, which enables you to get in touch with others for things such as playdates and lift-sharing. The list is updated as and when new people are added (and leave) and then circulated to everybody that is on the list. If you are not yet on the list and would like to join please email contactlist@morehouseschool.co.uk.

With best wishes

The Friends of More House

SAFE AT SCHOOL

Digital parenting

The latest edition of Vodafone's 'Digital Parenting' magazine is now available online from <http://vodafonedigitalparenting.co.uk/>. You can access information on social media apps, cyberbullying and online pressure, cybersecurity and setting family technology rules, among many more very interesting and useful articles.

Parental safeguarding presentation

We will be welcoming Marilyn Hawes on Friday 23rd June to present to parents on safeguarding our children from abuse. Marilyn presented to staff during our INSET day in April, and was incredibly engaging and informative, and we sincerely hope that many parents will be able to join us. Please let the school office know if you would like to attend. The presentation is from 4.00-5.30pm in Bradbury Heights.



The Friends of **MHS** are selling some extremely good quality **More House School** umbrellas - all proceeds to The Friends of course! Please email dinkel@live.co.uk if you would like to buy one at £19.99.

RESTORING OUR FOUNDER'S MEMORIAL

It recently came to the school's attention that the headstone for Brother Joseph's grave had become unsafe, and was badly in need of some care and attention.

Brother Joseph Gardner was the school's first headmaster, and the founder of our school. When he opened the school in 1939, it was first named The Thomas More School, named after St Thomas More who was councillor to Henry VIII, and Lord High Chancellor of England from October 1529 to 16 May 1532. Thomas More was executed on 6th July 1535 because he opposed Henry VIII's separation from the Catholic church and divorce of Catherine of Aragon. Thereafter he was made a saint by Pope Pius XI in 1935.

Brother Joseph Gardner began The Thomas More School "to help boys of good intelligence" who need "extra consideration and individual attention" in order to achieve that of which they are capable (taken from an early school prospectus in the year Brother Joseph died). The school, which has always had boarders, provided a wide range of lessons, as well as speech therapy. The pupils also learned to perform in the Frensham Circus, the performances of which were watched by thousands. The school, of course, later became known by its present name: **More House School**.

In April 2017 the current headmaster, Mr Jonathan Hetherington, instructed for Brother Joseph's headstone to be cleaned, the lettering re-enamelled, and for the stone to be re-fixed in the ground, ensuring its safety and witness to the remarkable Brother Joseph's life, for many years to come. It is intended that an annual visit to the grave, by a party of pupils from **More House School**, will be made before Founder's Day each year.

For those interested, Brother Joseph's headstone may be viewed in West Street Cemetery, Farnham in the Roman Catholic section, at plot V1212.





THE HISTORY OF THE ST JOHN SERVICE

School Governor Tony Gardner came to talk to Year 6 about the St John Ambulance Service - Tony is a long-standing member of the Service. He taught the boys' about the history of the Service, as well as how to react in an emergency. The boys had great fun while also learning a great deal.



Tony Gardner with Alexander Tasker, Edward Buckton, and Jamie Dinkeldein.

ASSOCIATED BOARD OF THE ROYAL SCHOOLS OF MUSIC (ABRSM) INSTRUMENTAL EXAM RESULTS



We are delighted to announce that these students have achieved success in their recent instrumental exams:

MATTHEW HILLSON-RODRIGUEZ Grade 5 cello **Distinction**

LUCAS WALFORD Grade 2 Cello **Merit**

JAMES SENIOR Grade 1 Piano **Merit**

FRASER MURRAY Grade 5 Trumpet **Merit**

JAMES NOE Grade 1 Trumpet **Merit**

OLIVER HAWKINS Grade 5 Tenor Horn **Pass**

SEBASTIAN JENNINGS Grade 1 Clarinet **Merit**

HARRY COX Grade 1 Saxophone **Merit**

NOAH LEWINGTON Grade 1 Saxophone **Pass**

HARRY SUTHERLAND Grade 1 Saxophone **Pass**

ALEXANDER TURNER Grade 5 Theory **Pass**



Many congratulations to them all! We hope they will continue to develop their musical talents.

We invite all parents to a free presentation by Marilyn Hawes from **Enough Abuse UK**

on
Friday 23rd June 2017
4.00pm-5.30pm
in **Bradbury Heights**

Refreshments provided

We ask that you please register your interest with the school office



FRENSHAM FAYRE!

Saturday 17th June sees Frensham village host their annual Summer Fayre! As is tradition, the Y10 GCSE Music students will lead the parade of local primary schools - balancing on the back of the **MHS** truck, squeezing between some steel pans and wowing the audience with their fantastic playing as they open the fayre. The Jazz Band will also be providing some excellent entertainment, and there are many other art, craft and food stalls for your perusal. Do come along for an afternoon of fun and (hopefully!) sunshine! The fayre opens with the schools' parade at 1.00pm, Hollowdene Recreation Ground, Shortfield Common Road, Frensham.



WHY UPPER SIXTH FORM STUDENTS SHOULD HAVE THE MEN ACWY VACCINE

Students going to university or college for the first time in September should contact their GP to have the Men ACWY vaccine.

Cases of meningitis and septicaemia due to Men W have been increasing in England, from 22 cases in 2009 to 176 in 2015. Men W infections are particularly severe and usually need to be treated in intensive care. They have a higher death rate than the more common Men B strain.

New university students are at high risk of infection because many of them mix closely with lots of new people. The highest risk of meningitis is in the first year of university, particularly the first few weeks.

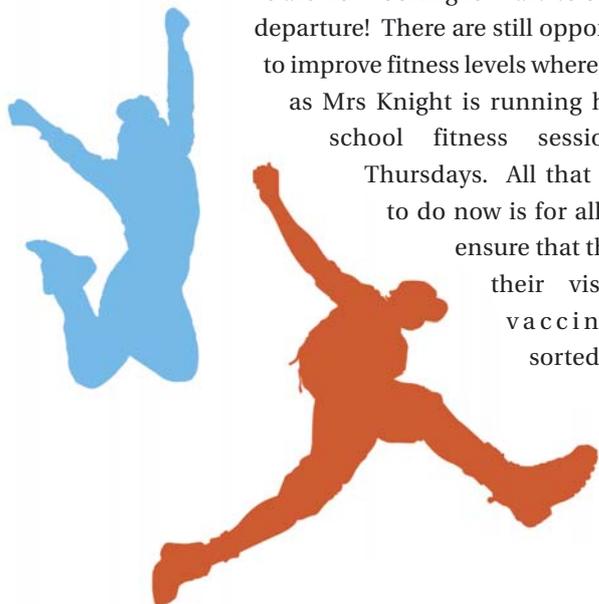
Students should contact their GP to have the Men ACWY vaccine, ideally before the start of, or as soon as possible after the start, of the new academic year.

WORLD CHALLENGE PREPARATION!

Last weekend saw the final training expedition in advance of our World Challenge departure at the end of June. We 'camped' overnight in the sports hall, there was no point in getting our lovely tents wet and muddy so close to the big day!

After a kit check and as much pizza as we could eat we had what was supposed to be an early night before an early morning. We were incredibly lucky with the weather, the sun was shining as we set off to catch a bus to Hindhead - the bus driver was very surprised to see 24 of us clamber aboard his empty bus. We had a couple of light showers - but the walk back to school from the Devil's Punchbowl was most enjoyable. The boys got to practise leading the group, road crossing skills and how to quickly check that everyone is still present in the group.

We are now looking forward to our grand departure! There are still opportunities to improve fitness levels where needed, as Mrs Knight is running her after school fitness sessions on Thursdays. All that remains to do now is for all boys to ensure that they have their visas and vaccinations sorted.

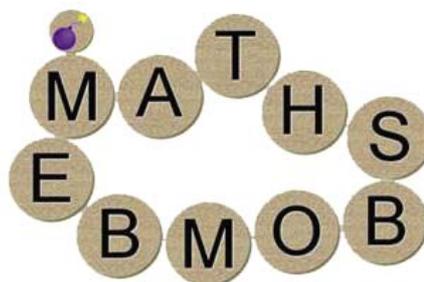


LVI MATHS BOMBE COMPETITION

Last term, eight LVI form students took part in a Maths competition run by the University of Manchester. Students were racing against other teams nationally to solve Maths puzzles released online fortnightly throughout the Lent term. The competition not only needed mathematical talents but also initiative, team work and calmness under pressure. The boys took part in two teams of four and all did exceedingly well. Congratulations must go to Jack Goodwin, Henry Ginn, Sam Hilton and Matthew Groom who finished the national competition placed 66 out of 530 teams, and also to Matthew Kenworthy, Joe Saum, Wilfred Mellor and William Tallon who won a spot prize for one of the puzzles, each receiving a £10 Amazon gift voucher.

Puzzle it out...

A miserly billionaire stores UK coins in a giant silo to avoid paying tax. Coins are released by turning a giant crank attached to the silo, but only one coin is released for each turn of the crank. The billionaire requires 60 coins of identical value. Assuming that the silo contains an infinite supply of coins of every possible denomination in standard circulation (ignoring any special commemorative coins), how many turns of the crank are needed to guarantee this?





YOU'VE REACHED 5,000 PODS!

Amazing results from year 10 and year 11. Thanks to LDC who have supported students in using GCSEPOD.

Need a benchmark? The average number watched for a school of our size (between 0 and 216 Year 10+11 students combined) is 1,984.

For comparison, in the whole of last academic year (2015/16) your students and teachers watched 8,979Pods. The average number watched for an establishment of your size last academic year was 2,350.

We are steadily increasing students usage of GCSEPOD!

Thank you everyone!

Top 3 Students Last Term

Some outstanding usage from your top three student users who have clearly got the GCSEPod bug!



Henry Bruce
Physics, Biology, History

Gareth Hoare
English Literature, English Language, D&T:
Resistant Materials

Stephen Lavery
Chemistry, Physics, Biology

EAGLE RADIO SOCIAL MEDIA

On Monday 3rd July, we will be delighted to welcome back Eagle Radio to **More House School** to provide students with up to date information on the latest apps, and to refresh the students on how to safely use social media. More information on the workshops will be released closer to the time of the event.

ENGLISH AND DRAMA NEWS

Drama/Music: The Performing Arts Department will be presenting Arts on a Summer's Evening on Thursday 22nd June. This evening of entertainment will take place at various locations around the school site and will include a performance of the year 7 & 8 play, 'Dr Dolittle and the Monkey Mayhem' written by our very own Mr Kirkham, as well as plenty of entertainment from the school's musicians. Keep an eye on the website for more information regarding what is sure to be a fantastic evening.

Year 11: Year 11 GCSE Drama students recently performed their final GCSE exam - an adapted version of **Lord of the Flies** by William Golding in front of pupils, teachers and parents. The boys did fantastically well and are now recovering from playing a bloodthirsty, murderous tribe whilst they eagerly await their results!

Year 7: Year 7 Drama students have been having fun in the wardrobe as they find suitable costumes for their short performance of a scene from **The Twits**. The boys are studying the swashboggling works of Roald Dahl and have encountered many lickswishy and delumptious characters as well as some uckyslush and rotsome ones!

English: Forty Year 10 English students apprehensively boarded a coach on Thursday 18th May as they made their way to Southampton to watch The 'most terrifying live theatre experience in the world': **The Woman in Black**. The boys were joined by Mr Mann, Miss Dosi, Mrs Foster and Miss Davenport to watch the spine-chilling piece of theatre at Southampton's Nuffield Theatre. After two hours of nerve-shredding, blood-curdling malevolence and malice, everyone was relieved to have the hour's return journey back to school in order for their nerves to subside and breathing return to normal.

ARTS ON A SUMMER'S EVENING

We hope you can join us for another summer evening to celebrate the arts at **More House School**. Our annual 'Arts on a Summer's Evening' will be held on Thursday 22nd June from 6.30pm. Refreshments will be available whilst you stroll around the school grounds perusing the displays from Photography and Media, as well as enjoying the sights and sounds of the performances from the Drama and Music departments.



RUN-DERFUL, MRS TULLY!

Debbie Tully from our School Office successfully completed the Virgin London Marathon in April, running for **More House School**, with an outstanding time of 3hr 47mins...smashing her desired goal of 4 hours.

The weather conditions were perfect for the event and the crowd support unwavering for the whole 26.2 miles. The highlight of the day (apart from the relief of finishing and the glass of champagne at the end!) was running over Tower Bridge and then spotting her family around the corner.

With Gift Aid donations, Debbie has raised over £1,300.00, and would like to thank everyone who supported and sponsored her, it really did keep her going in the last few miles when her legs were tiring. The money raised will be used for the mental health awareness provision at school.

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/DebbieTully>



INTER-HOUSE BOARDING TUG-OF-WAR COMPETITION!

All years (and staff!) involved.

