



Summer 2023

THE CASTLE



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CORONATION DAY AT MHS

Whole School celebrates
The King's Coronation

PAGE 29

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Year 8's spectacular
performance

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ECO-SCHOOLS AWARD

Green Flag Award with
Distinction for MHS

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LEAVERS' PROGRAMME

Four fantastic weeks
for Year 8



ENJOYING TODAY
EDUCATING FOR TOMORROW



Note from the Head

Summer 2023



As I write, Alcaraz has just beaten Djokovic, the Ashes are neck and neck for both the men and women and the Tour de France is nearing its gripping conclusion – none of these events are as exciting as Sports Day, the Swimming Galas or the Year 8 Parents versus children cricket match! If we throw in the Summer Concert, Year 4's Robin Hood, Year 2's Eric and the Penguins Save the World and the Year 8 showpiece, Midsummer Night's Dream, we have been royally entertained by the children recently and can now relax into the Summer Holidays.

One of the challenges of the Summer Term, and indeed any term in modern Prep Schools, is trying to find rhythm as well as excitement. We remember the events and occasions celebrated in the magazine you are about to read, but it is also essential that consistent teaching and learning takes place. It doesn't sound so exciting and might not live long in the immediate memory, but that Maths or History lesson on a Thursday afternoon forms an essential part of every child's education. Putting in place the building blocks for future learning cannot be underestimated and must be carefully balanced against the amount of "fun" activities. At the same time, we want to enthuse and inspire the children and sometimes that is best done by doing something different or spectacular.

This Prize Giving, we said goodbye to some big characters, not just in Year 8 (what a send-off that

was!) but also in the staff room. While Mrs Atkins, Mrs Butler-Graham, Mr Little and Mr Payne-Cook get honourable mentions for both contribution and length of service, I would like to highlight Mrs Robinson's contribution to MHS over the last 22 years. Self-effacing but incredibly generous with both her time and spirit, she has been essential to the cause in so many ways – Forest School, Art and Year 4 have all benefitted from her skill and kindness, as have the displays around the School, and she does all of this in such a lovely, understated manner. I wish her all the best in retirement and know that we will miss her hugely.

However, schools must always cope with the flow of staff and children, surging on into the future with confidence and enthusiasm. New teachers arrive and make their mark – I would like to highlight the impact that Mrs Henderson, Mrs McEwan and Mr Priddin have had this year in their own, unique ways. September beckons once again and new faces will fill the corridors and classrooms, bringing new ideas and opinions to continually move MHS forwards. Education is never dull, despite the sense of familiar routine and institutionalised rhythm, and each day will always be different, providing moments from which young and old can always learn and grow.

Eddy Newton, Head

Year 8 Results 2023

Congratulations to our Year 8 Leavers' for achieving such great results. Alongside their successes in the PSB, they achieved a 100% Common Entrance Pass Rate in Maths and English, and a 100% Cranbrook Entrance Pass Rate.

Scholarships 2023

Eliza Bellhouse	Sports Scholarship, Mayfield School
Eliza Freeborough	Sports Exhibition, Kent College, Pembury
Amelia Goodier	Art Scholarship, Dulwich School Cranbrook
Gabriella Sabbage	Music Scholarship, Claremont School
Sophia Sells	Art Scholarship, Dulwich School Cranbrook
Mya Vowls	Drama Scholarship and Sports Scholarship, Mayfield School

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Awards News

We were thrilled to receive recognition from Daynurseries.co.uk, Eco Schools and the Independent Schools of the Year Awards. Huge congratulations to everyone involved in these achievements:

Winner - Daynurseries.co.uk Top 20 Award 2023 Top 20 Nursery in the South East of England



Very well done to our fantastic Nursery Team: Mrs Edmondson, Miss Edwards, Mrs Loke, Mrs O'Brien and Mrs White. As a current parent put it: *"The Nursery staff are the kindest, most patient and dedicated team you could possibly wish for for your child."*

Winner - Eco-Schools Green Flag Award 2023 Green Flag with Distinction



Our pupil-led Eco-Committee, supported by the wider School community, have been working hard this year following the Eco-Schools seven step programme and were awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag with Distinction: *"The Eco-Schools Team have been blown away by your wonderful application; it is incredibly inspirational and we are proud to congratulate you on your Eco-Schools Green flag with Distinction, well done!"*. To find out more about our eco activities, please see page 33.

Shortlisted - Independent Schools of the Year Awards 2023

Independent Pre-Prep School of the Year



We are so pleased that our wonderfully nurturing and inspiring Pre-Prep Team has been recognised by the judges. This is the fifth year in a row that Marlborough House has been shortlisted for a category in these competitive awards which receive entries from hundreds of schools across the country. We look forward to finding out who the winners are in the Autumn Term.



Resurfaced Astro

At the start of the Summer Term the newly resurfaced Astro pitch was unveiled. This smart, new surface was fantastic for cricket and tennis in the summer term, and we know pupils will be looking forward to using it in the coming hockey season.



Young Shakespeare Company

The first Friday of the Summer Term started with a visit from the renowned Young Shakespeare Company.

Once again this extremely talented troupe of young actors kept all the children in Years 5 to 8 spellbound with their superb rendition of the classic play "Hamlet".

Acting in a variety of roles, and fully involving the audience throughout, the actors conveyed this powerful story of madness and treachery, tragedy and pathos. The acting was simply superb and reduced many of us to tears (which is no mean feat in a simple production in a packed Old Gym with no special lighting, effects or makeup!). I feel sure that we will see many of these actors' names again in years to come, so accomplished were they all.

Mrs Atkins, Head of English

Year 4 Forest School Day



The only thing better than a Forest School lesson is a Forest School DAY (complete with campfire cooking).

Team building, problem-solving and creativity was the focus for the day. The year group's Humanities theme for the term is 'settlements' and the children were initially set a task to build their own living spaces. The results were fantastic with all the Year 4 children demonstrating that they have the ability to create, design, collaborate and think originally: considering the best materials and strategies to protect themselves and their dwellings.

In the afternoon there was a busy buzz of activity as lunch was prepared, with groups of children chopping vegetables, making flat bread dough and measuring out hot chocolate. With the lunch bubbling away on a nicely stoked fire, Year 4's Mr Priddin accompanied a campfire sing-along on his guitar and everyone ate delicious flat breads which had been carefully roasted in a hot pan. All in all, it was an enjoyable, successful day.

Mrs Mathers, Year 4 Form Teacher





Year 7 Geography Trading Game

Having spent some Geography lessons learning about the fashion industry, discussing the morals of using low-income countries to produce garments, Year 7 spent a morning finding out about the equality, or lack of it, in the wider world trading systems.

Playing the 'Trade Game', the pupils were told to manufacture shapes to specific dimensions with only the resources that they were given. It didn't take them long to realise that while some countries had all that they need, others were lacking technical equipment such as pencils, rulers and protractors. They had to be resourceful, work in their country teams and negotiate their way through the task. The morals of some teams were questionable as they sold their 'duds' to other countries, and some stole resources, but it was a useful talking point when it came to the summary!

Year 7 fully engaged in the activity and while some thoroughly enjoyed their spot at the top of the trading world, others certainly felt aggrieved at the situation they found themselves in. Creativity, negotiating skills and initiative were needed to make the most of each country's situation.

During the conclusion Year 7 reflected upon the situations that were introduced and the behaviours of the children and how they relate to the real world, as well as how fortunate we are to live in a prosperous country. We also compared how the desire of wanting to increase wealth can conflict with personal and religious values.

Mr Kimber, Head of Geography

MFL Spelling Bee Competition

For the second year running, the MHS MFL Spelling Bee Competition proved to be a popular event with focused and determined contestants. It takes a lot of courage to go up on stage and spell words in a foreign language and I wish to congratulate everyone who had the confidence to do so. The audience was very supportive and made the event a success. The winners this year were: Phoebe M (Yr 8), Cleo M-C (Yr 7), Bea T (Yr 6), Olivia S (Yr 5), Emil D (Yr 4) and Verity P (Yr 3).

Next year, teachers are welcome to enter!

Mme De Haan, Head of MFL



Scan the QR code to watch the video



SCAN ME

Spinach Harvest

In early May, the children enjoyed their first green smoothies of the year, made from produce that they had grown in our fantastic polytunnel. During Forest School, Year 3 had planted and grown spinach, which was harvested with great excitement and taken to the kitchen to be added to the delicious smoothies. The polytunnel has been a brilliant addition to our outdoor facilities, as it has allowed the children to plant their seeds and bulbs earlier in the year so that they can be harvested and enjoyed during the School term. Next up, onions!

Mrs Henderson, Year 3 Form Teacher



Coronation Celebrations

Coronation fever took over in May as the children enjoyed an array of wonderful class led activities throughout the School, ensuring a meaningful and exciting lead up to the historic event.



On Friday 5th May we held our Coronation Day at MHS which started with special assemblies for the Prep School and Pre-Prep. Fabulous renditions of God Save the King were heard ringing out from the Hopkins Hall. Then, amid a sea of bunting, children enjoyed their break of Coronation Cupcakes and their Coronation



Lunch, complete with the Coronation Quiche (thank you to Holly in the Catering Team). Pupils from Nursery to Year 5 had made colourful crowns to wear at the lunch (not to mention a crown for the Nursery chickens!) and it was a spectacular sight, especially as they paraded to the Dining Room. Some of their creations even made the BBC South East News, along





with coverage of the Art Club's miniature Highgrove, created in collaboration with local schools for the Church of St Laurence Coronation Flower Festival.

Some of our older pupils in Years 6 to 8 sowed wildflower seeds which are starting off in the polytunnel before being planted out in our Coronation Meadow. The meadow will be located under the cherry trees and there will be a commemorative bench in pride of place, as two lasting memories of the occasion.

We must also mention the wonderful musical contributions, especially from the Year 5 Samba Band with their own version of 'God Save the King', the Year 6 Stomp Band who composed coronation themed pieces, the String Group's performance of the National Anthem and the Pre-Prep Singing Club, who performed their 'Coronation Song' at the Pre-Prep Assembly.

The School has also written to Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla to congratulate them on their coronation and to share a special poem Coronation Poem penned by Year 3.



SCAN ME

Watch our Coronation Round Up presented by the Head Boy and Girl:





Year 3 Forest School Day

"Oh my, my mouth is watering"

"I did not know I liked guacamole"

"I like Mr Lynch's secret recipe for bean stew"

- all overheard at the campfire lunch on the Year 3 Forest School Day.

The children had glorious sunshine for their Forest School Day in early May; spirits were high, and it was lovely to see them all enjoying spending time in nature.

They prepared a delicious lunch and cooked it on the fire, made elaborate dens, sung campfire songs and even wrote some poetry for the Coronation.



As they wearily headed back to their classrooms, it was wonderful to overhear them saying, "that was the best day ever!"

Outdoor Learning is an important feature of School life at Marlborough House; supporting the development of character strengths and transferrable skills. Our weekly Forest School sessions (for Nursery through to Year 4) and dedicated Forest School Days, provide the perfect opportunities to deliver these experiences. Classes across the curriculum are also encouraged to use the great outdoors to inspire learning.

Mrs Henderson, Year 3 Form Teacher





Pre-Prep's Sensational Science Morning

Flying, bubbles, bugs and magnets - these were just some of the wonderful activities on Sensational Science Morning!

May the force be with you! We experimented with paper aeroplanes and learnt that gravity, thrust, lift and drag were the forces at play. When we made simple tweaks, like wing size and throw power, we could significantly alter the force that our planes experienced. There was lots of laughter, learning and mid-air collisions now where are those black boxes...

Using water, detergent and our secret ingredient of sugar we made different bubbles. We tried to make the biggest bubble we could, this required teamwork to raise the hoop. We also tried to blow bubbles within bubbles - five inside the other was the top score! Bubble fountains were created with along with continuous bubbles. All in all a lot of bubble fun.



Magic mazes were made using magnets, paper clips and pictures! Were they magnetic or not? The children enjoyed exploring different materials and finding out which ones would attract to a magnet.



We also went on a bug hunt! Bug boxes and magnifying glasses were used to explore the playground - ants, centipedes and woodlice were discovered.

Mrs Pay, Year 2 Form Teacher



Owlets visit Nursery

What a hoot...two beautiful tawny owlets visit the Nursery!

The children were fascinated by the baby birds and very careful with them. In Nursery, the children have lots of opportunities to spend time with and care for animals with their resident guinea pigs, tortoises and chickens. The chance to interact with a baby owl is very special though and a huge thank you to Nursery's Miss Edwards for bringing them in.

Watch the video on instagram



SCAN ME



Year 5 Viking Workshop

Watch out, Vikings about!

The Year 5s took part in a very entertaining and interactive history performance with a theatre company before half term. The pupils were able to use various props which modelled Viking weapons and clothing, and learn all about longboats, typical Viking entertainment and the Norse Gods; all in a really engaging format. It was a fantastic morning and the Year 5 certainly enjoyed the performance.

Miss Chick, Junior Teacher



Cake Sale for Sudan

Watch the video
on instagram



SCAN ME

An impressive pop-up cake sale was held outside the Harrison Building to raise money for Sudan. Even more remarkable was that it was all organised by Freya B in Year 4, who decided that she wanted to do something to help the people of Sudan, after learning about the ongoing situation from Newsround.

Freya promoted her event, speaking to her class, visiting other classrooms and putting up posters around School. A wonderful array of delicious looking cakes, cupcakes and goodies were then baked with the wonderful support of her year group, teachers and other pupils in the Prep School.

There was huge support for Freya at the event which raised £133.81 for the British Red Cross' Emergencies Fund for Sudan.

We are very proud of Freya's achievement - what a wonderful ambassador for our values at Marlborough House.



U13 and U12 Maths Challenge

In May, selected pupils represented MHS in the U13 & U12 SVPS Mathematics Competition.

We sent two teams of four pupils who needed to work together to answer maths related questions.

Time was the all-important factor with only 30 minutes allowed and a maximum of 20 questions to be answered, with each team having a runner who was responsible for getting their answers checked. The children worked tirelessly as a team and had a fantastic afternoon putting their problem-solving skills to the test.

Well done to Isabella B, Rosie C, Zoe C and Ruby C (U12) and Dexter H, Joel L, Benjamin L and Barnaby R (U13), both teams finished mid-table in a very competitive competition.

Miss Jones, Head of Maths

Animation Workshop



In mid May, we were very fortunate to have the senior model maker from Aardman Animations (***the creators of Wallace and Gromit***) at School to teach three fantastic workshops to all of our Prep School children.

The day started with all the Prep School pupils in the Hopkins Hall watching a screening of A Close Shave, which was enjoyed by all. There was much laughter heard from the children and teachers.

During the workshops, the children were taught the art of playing with clay and moulding it into several different characters. Years 3 and 4 created Morph, Year 5 and 6 created Gromit and Year 7 and 8 created Shaun the Sheep. The workshops consisted of Jim the senior model maker sharing his vast years of expertise and the children followed the step-by-step advice and then added their own take on their characters if they wanted to.

They absolutely loved the experience and everyone took their model home with them as a wonderful reminder of this fabulous day.

Mrs Reeve, Head of IT



Year 4's French Breakfast

On a sunny Tuesday morning in mid May, our Year 4 children invited their parents to School to share a French breakfast.

What better excuse to have a café and croissant than to come into your child's classroom to check out their French work? From my point of view, it was lovely to speak with parents and children about their experience of learning French with Mr Priddin. We agreed on one thing: there is nothing Mr Priddin cannot do to enthuse the children. Year 4 chanted the names of animals and music instruments with the most beautiful pronunciation and a big smile on their faces: what a treat.

I am delighted that languages are accessible to all pupils at MHS and that they enjoy learning them: maybe we can break the trend of the decline of MFLs at GCSE level? Thank you to Year 4 parents for coming in to support their child's learning.

Mme De Haan, Head of MFL





MHS Summer Festival

After months of preparation the MHS Summer Festival took place on a beautiful Friday evening in May - and what a success it was!

The Year 8 pupils had organised their own stalls and activities which included a pop-up Cake Stall, Tombola, Glitter Tattoos, Soak the Teacher, Beat the Goalie and Quoits. This was supported by the Friends' stalls which ranged from Welly Wanging to Guess the Teacher, with the backdrop of the inflatable assault course and giant slide. We had a truly amazing turn out and the Colts cricket pitch was buzzing with children, parents and teachers trying out all the activities. The Year 8s raised an amazing £679.60, which is going towards the Year 8 Leavers' gift of an Outdoor Stage.

The Fete was rounded off with an Inter-House tug of war competition led by Mr Payne-Cook, in which

the parents were triumphant! The afternoon drew to a close and we enjoyed a summer evening of food, drink and music from the Ceilidh band 'Rejigged'.

This was my last event as Chair of the Friends and I would like to thank the Committee and fellow parents for volunteering to help out throughout the day and evening. Thanks also goes to Mr Townsend and Mr George for setting up the marquees and Mr Gibbons and his catering team for their help with food and drink throughout the event. Without the support from parents and MHS these events would not be able to go ahead. Please continue to support your very hardworking Friends Committee.

Mrs Rachel Bennett, Chair, FoMHS

A huge thank you to Mrs Bennett, our fantastic outgoing Chair of the FoMHS, for her passion, creativity and hard work. The series of wonderful events that she has led are a testament to her success as Chair of the FoMHS.





Year 3's French Picnic

Year 3 invited their parents to a French picnic in the shade of our beautiful trees and it was delicious; someone even managed a 10th helping!

You may think that all things French are centred around food: you would be right! The children sang "Savez-vous planter les choux?" which covered the topic of body parts, "Sur le pont d'Avignon" just because we like it and it is so French. We played "le fermier dans son pré" (topic of family and playground games) and "le facteur" to practise days of the week.

I am really proud of all Year 3 for their fantastic singing and for taking part so enthusiastically. I am grateful to all parents who were able to attend: you made the hour we shared together, in our little French bubble under the trees, just special.

Mme De Haan, Head of MFL



Year 6 Plays

Just before half term, Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed performing their Informal plays to their assembled parents and Year 5 children. The remit for these plays was for the children to create their own original versions of a traditional tale – with a twist.

Children from 6DH submitted four really entertaining scripts, each with great potential, so their play was an amalgamation of all these ideas and was called: "Fairy Tale's Got Talent".



A selection of different and, occasionally quite random acts, competed to win the coveted prize at the end of the competition. We had assorted judges (also doubling as competitors) and great comperes overseeing events which included duelling fashion shows, rock concerts with dastardly deeds behind the scenes in recording studios; we had dancing piggies, a French chanteuse, Shrek and Donkey, magic displays from Mufasa and Simba, a football match between dwarves of different persuasions and nationalities, some singing mice, some intentionally bad musicians and gymnastic and dancing displays! Truly something for everyone!



The children from 6J collaborated to create the fast-paced comedy 'Race Across the Realm', based on an original

idea from Annabel J, Imogen M and Sophie P. Four teams of fairytale characters were pitted against each other in a chase across fairyland. Who would get to the finish line first? With committed performances and bags of energy, 6J created a memorable show with lots of laughter and fun for all to enjoy. Well done.

Mrs Atkins and Mr Little. Year 6 English Teachers



UKMT Maths Challenge Success

Congratulations to the twelve MHS pupils who achieved top results in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge.

Well done to the following who all sat same paper in the UKMT Challenge, special commendation goes to Theo N in Year 6 who was Best in School and received an entry for the follow-on round, the Junior Kangaroo.

Year 5: Bronze – Jesse C and Molly S

Year 6: Gold – Theo N; Bronze – Toby G, Poppy H-B and Reuben N

Year 7: Bronze – Rosie C, Zoe C (Best in Year) and Alexandra P

Year 8: Silver – Joel L; Bronze – Benjamin L and Phoebe M

Very well done to them all!

Miss Jones, Head of Maths



Weather Talks

At the end of May, Years 6 and 7 were fully immersed in the great British tradition of discussing the weather. They were treated to two afternoons of talks from weather experts, one a BBC weather forecaster and the other a Met Office civil contingency officer.

We were thrilled to welcome Sarah Keith-Lucas back to Marlborough House, as she had visited us as a schoolgirl when she played sport here. She entertained the students as they learnt about how forecasts are made and have changed over time, the major impacts of the jet stream, seasons and Coriolis



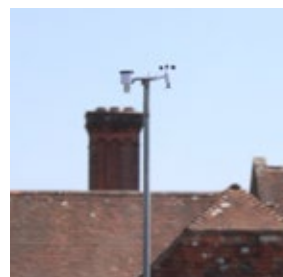
effect on our weather as well as how climate change is, and will, change our weather. Hearing about her career highlights gave a fascinating insight into the life of a TV forecaster and the varied and interesting experiences she has enjoyed, from royal weddings to the London Olympic Games. However she did highlight that it isn't all glamorous with 3am starts and 2am finishes! It was a great learning experience and lots of information was lapped up by the audience.



A few days later, Mark Rogers visited from the Met Office and he too managed to convey lots of information to the children. He has always had a fascination with the weather and his career has varied from observing the weather

for the Met Office every 30 minutes to liaising with the emergency services. It highlighted just how many areas of life are affected by the weather. He also demonstrated how a tornado can be created in a bottle and he took the children outside into the sunshine to create their own rainbows.

This fascinating 'weather week' was also topped off by the launch of the MHS Weather Station and so Mr Kimber is now busy monitoring the weather each and every day.



Following these talks, Year 6 went out and about the School grounds studying microclimates. They have been examining differences in wind speed, wind direction and temperature and investigating the causes of these differences.

Mr Kimber, Head of Geography



Year 3 trip to the Big Cat Sanctuary

On Tuesday 6th June, Year 3 went to The Big Cat Sanctuary as part of their study on the rainforest.

We were lucky enough to have the whole sanctuary to ourselves and it felt incredibly special to observe the cats without the crowds. We saw Amur leopards, the most critically endangered cat in the world, white lions, tigers, snow leopards and many other cats on our tour of the sanctuary. The children enjoyed learning about the history of each cat and the sanctuary's breeding and conservation efforts for each of them.

As part of the trip, the children also had a workshop on the rainforest, with a particular focus on deforestation and how this impacts the habitats of cats. This complimented our rainforest topic brilliantly and the children engaged enthusiastically throughout the session.

It was a wonderful trip and the children have talked about it non-stop since then!

Mrs Henderson, Year 3 Form Teacher

Year 7 Debate

On Thursday 25th May, Year 7 took part in a debate on whether transgender women should be allowed to compete in female sport.

They independently researched the topic and handled a sensitive subject matter with a mature and sensible approach. Both sides presented strong arguments and faced challenging questions from their opposing team members, which they handled in a calm and respectful manner. Great teamwork was shown by all!

Mrs Archer, Deputy Head





Wealden Times Fair

Our Year 6 and 7 singers had a wonderful time at the Wealden Times Fair. The sun shone brightly and the children sang with enthusiasm and smiles on their faces. They represented the School fantastically. Well done to all involved.

Mrs McEwan, Head of Music

New Outdoor Stage



Over half term a wonderful outdoor stage was installed at the bottom of the Colts' Pitch, a perfect position, creating a natural amphitheatre for future events.

This invaluable contribution to MHS was made possible by the donations of current Year 8 parents, fundraising by our Year 8 pupils at the Summer Festival, the FoMHS and the School. The children have already been exploring it during lessons and break times. We fully expect wonderful music, plays, dramatics and performances to be held at this exciting new location.



Reception Trip to the Rare Breeds Centre

With the smell of freshly applied suncream and a buzz of excitement in the air, Reception set off on their School trip to the Rare Breeds Centre. They had the most amazing day from seeing baby animals and insects, to exploring many different playgrounds. The children beautifully demonstrated their questioning skills and ever enquiring minds. They asked many questions and learnt about different animals and insects — the common theme they discovered was that all animals need food, shelter and water. Highlights included seeing the piglets, a tractor ride and running from the giant in the woodland walk before resting in his chair.

The children where impeccably behaved and a great day was had by all.

Mrs Boyd, Reception Teacher





Year 5 Trip to Samphire Hoe

Year 5 had a wonderful trip to the coast near Dover last Friday.

First, they learnt about how the Samphire Hoe nature reserve was opened in 1997, having been created upon the marl extracted from under the sea when the Channel Tunnel was built. The main objective was to explore a coastal habitat and the rock pools between Dover and Folkestone. The children were excellent naturalists and explorers, finding a wide array of shrimps, crabs, periwinkles, whelks, seaweed, fish and an eel. We also saw a large dogfish (a member of the shark family) swimming around in a large pool.

They listened exceptionally well to our expert conservation guide and a fabulous, exploratory, curious and sunny time was had by all.

Mr Payne-Cook, Head of Science





Year 6 Art and DT trip to the Royal Pavilion

On arrival at Brighton Pavilion, the Year 6 pupils were surprised to be introduced to 'Lady Buzzby', who was staying at the Pavilion as she had been invited to dine with King George IV that evening!

We were taught about the etiquette that would have been appropriate in the company of the King, including how to greet him (bowing and curtsying), polite conversation, how to stay healthy and clean (including making a refreshing sea-cure from our very own 'Dr Lucas'), and that on NO account must one ever excuse themselves from the table (even though banquets lasted 5-6 hours) to use the newly installed flushing lavatories!

On touring the beautiful rooms inside the building, the children were particularly drawn to the dining room where was an enormous dragon surmounting the chandelier above a well-stocked dining table. They also liked exploring the kitchen, where they could see the kinds of food that would have been prepared for a banquet. We also saw Queen Victoria's bedroom which had around 6 mattresses on the bed!

It was a hot day. So many pupils bought themselves an oriental fan before leaving to board the coach back to School!

Mrs Fields, Head of Art



Year 2 Trip to Hastings

Year 2 went to Hastings Aquarium to experience an incredible underwater journey.

The children saw seahorses, sharks and rays. They noticed exotic pufferfish, a deadly lionfish and Nemo, the colourful clownfish. Then the children enjoyed a picnic on the beach followed by shell collecting and an exploration of the pebbly beach. To end the trip, a walk accompanied by a singing practice of the songs from the Year 2 play to Di Pola's Ice Cream Parlour where an array of ice cream flavours were on offer.

Mrs Pay, Year 2 Form Teacher



As part of their seaside theme this term, the children also designed and created Victorian bathing machines.

See the machines in action



SCAN ME



Year 4 Science and Art Trip to Great Dixter

Year 4 had an amazing time on their trip to Great Dixter Gardens in June. The children were able to explore the beautiful gardens and learn about the different types of flowers and plants that were there. Around every corner was a riot of splendid colour with every sort and size of flower.

They were spoilt for choice when they had the opportunity to draw some of the plants and flowers themselves. The children were also able to participate in some hands-on activities. They created their own designs and turned them into prints. Additionally, they made a batter to create elderflower fritters that they fried over a fire they made in the woods and participated in some woodland craft activities.

It was a beautiful day and the sun was shining throughout the trip; a fantastic opportunity for Year 4 to get outside and explore nature.

Mrs Mathers, Year 4 Form Teacher



Watch Year 3's performance at the event



SCAN ME

Year 3 Grandparents' Tea

On Friday 9th June, Year 3 had the pleasure of inviting their grandparents to the School for the Grandparents' Tea Party.

They gave their grandparents a tour of the School before sitting down to a delicious afternoon tea together. It was a very special occasion, and it was wonderful to see the children talking with their grandparents and proudly telling them about School life. The highlight of the afternoon was Year 3's performance of 'Unstoppable', which really captured their energy and enthusiasm, as well as showcasing the wonderful singing voices of some brave soloists. I'm sure that this will be an afternoon that will be remembered by grandparents and grandchildren alike for many years to come.

Mrs Henderson, Year 3 Form Teacher





Year 4 Production of Robin Hood

Telling the story of Robin Hood normally involves going back in time to the 12th century, imagining Sherwood Forest in the dark ages. For Year 4's version of the tale, we decided bring Robin to the modern day for the audience to enjoy.

After an unfortunate incident with a time machine built in Forest School, our hero wakes up in 2023. Everything around him confuses him, from the strange clothes that people are wearing to the mysterious horseless carriages that line the roads. As Robin gets to grips with his new environment, he starts to gather a new merry band to join him on his quest to return to Sherwood. Unfortunately, John Little the bus driver, Alan-a-Kale the farmer and Will the Toyota Starlet driver are hardly up to the job. Lucky, then, that 'Mrs Robinson' finally intervenes to attempt to send Robin whizzing back through the centuries.



Year 4 did a wonderful job of learning all their parts for the play. As well as the many lines, there were also songs, props and positions to contend with. In a beautiful setting by the Specs Pond, the children entertained the packed audience of families. There were many laughs and quite a few frights, too – especially when the merry band charged in to do a bit of impromptu robbing! Fortunately, Robin did eventually make it back to his own time. Unfortunately, he was sentenced by Judge Porteous to wear green stockings for the rest of his life. Oh well... You can't have it all!

Mr Priddin, Year 4 Teacher

Our thanks to the multi-talented Mr Priddin for writing the play for the children and composing two of the songs.



Year 7 Staycation

Year 7 embarked on a two-day camping staycation in mid-June.



They were in great spirits on the first day, keen to get their tents up and we were impressed by how lightly they had packed! Thursday then began with a drive to Blackland Farm where the children were to take part in four activities across two days. They headed to the reservoir and the children spent time kayaking, with many of them capsizing frequently and ending up very wet! Once they had dried off, the children were to face the abseiling wall and we were very proud of them all for facing their fears and successfully completing the descent. In the evening they took part in zorbing before enjoying a BBQ whilst dancing and singing along to their favourite songs. We were amazed how quickly they all got to sleep and were well rested for another day of fun on Friday.

After breakfast, we travelled back to Blackland Farm and tackled the first activity; the gladiator challenge where the children raced each other to the top; climbing over tyres and up rope walls. Afterwards, the children got to zipwire through the forest before heading back. Once back at School and after packing away their tents, the children painted and gifted each other a pebble as a souvenir from the trip. A wonderful, fun-filled two days!



Miss Jones and Mrs Walker



Paella Evening

At the end of June, our pupils who learn Spanish had the opportunity to enjoy a fantastic evening, eating paella and playing different Spanish games by the Outdoor Classroom. The highlight of the evening was a competition to drink water from a 'botijo' - Alexandra P in Year 7 surprised everybody showing them how to do it to perfection.

Senora Sanz, Spanish Teacher



ISTD Primary Ballet Exams

Well done to our Year 2 ballerinas who successfully passed their ISTD Primary ballet Examinations with fantastic marks.

Amber P, Alice O'D, Florence H, Grace C and Arabella E-I received High Merits and both Jemima Q and Kristina S received Distinctions; the highest mark possible.

Congratulations to them for all their hard work in achieving these fabulous results.

Miss Caister, Ballet Teacher



Year 5 French Plays

On Friday 23rd June, Year 5 inaugurated the outdoor stage performing two fairy tales in French: Puss in Boots and the Wizard of Oz, both with a twist!



How very proud we were of this cohort: they really rose to the challenge. Being outside added extra pressure as they needed to project their voices more than if they had been performing inside. They took in all the stage directions given to them and flew with them! They spoke the most accurate and confident French they could and were very impressive.

A big thank you to the parents for your continued support.

Mr Little and Mme De Haan



Enviro Maths Day

Led by Head of Maths, Miss Jones, our inaugural Enviro-Maths Day saw Reception to Year 7 take part in Maths activities that enabled them to interact with the natural environment.

The grounds were full of busy pupils collating data, launching boats, following treasure maps and more. For the Year 5 activity, they carried out a survey to evaluate how pupils get to School. Having discovered that 89% of pupils arrive by car, the children created posters to promote other more eco-friendly means of transport.

Thank you to Year 7 for presenting a special news review of the day, which is available to watch via the QR code below.



View our video



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Year 6 Staycation

Year 6 had a wonderful Staycation at the end of June.

It started with a great pool party and cosy pampering session on first night in the boarding house. Our first day out was invigorating as the drizzle and wind kept going whilst we were doing kayaking, windsurfing and sailing at Rye Watersports! Pupils showed resilience and perseverance in spite of the challenging elements. This was followed by a karaoke night in the boarding house which was very welcome and enjoyed by all.

On day two, we went to Leeds Castle and had such a wonderful time in the trees: Go Ape offered the right balance of adrenaline, fun and release of energy. We finished the outing with two engaging team building activities. I am very grateful to Mrs Potter, Miss Jones and Mr Little for their support and extremely proud of our pupils' impeccable behaviour.

Mme De Haan, Year 6 Form Teacher

Pupils' Articles Printed in Mind's Eye Magazine

We were delighted to hear that five of our Year 8 pupils were selected for publication in the prestigious Mind's Eye Magazine which is an initiative of The King's School, Canterbury.

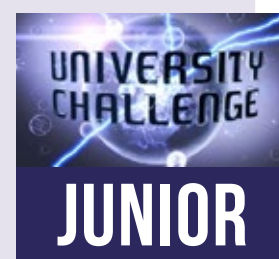


Having worked hard on their pieces last term, we were thrilled that the following pupils' work was selected: Isobel B with an article on Osteogenesis; Sophie C who wrote about sustainable fashion; Robert McP who based his piece on his love of climbing; Phoebe M with an article about the Kindertransport and her family's role in this; and Sophia S who wrote about the Philippines. It is a great achievement to see their work in such a high-quality publication and we are proud and delighted for the children.

Mrs Atkins, Head of English

Junior University Challenge

Selected Year 3, 4 and 5 pupils took part in our very first University Challenge Junior, whilst the rest of the School cheered them on. Hosted by Mr Priddin, pupils answered all sorts of challenging questions on science, maths, geography, cooking, languages etc... The orange team won but the green team offered strong opposition. Those who enjoyed this might like our 'Ideas Factory club', where pupils from Years 3 to 8 can come and think together in order to make a 'Rube Goldberg' machine. If you would like to join this club, please sign up with Mr Robson, Head of Clubs.





Sports Day Events

Prep School

Congratulations to the winners of the Inter-House Sports Day for the Prep School: Awdry!

Well done to all the pupils and their supporters for a fantastic day of sporting competition, despite the hot weather. Special congratulations to our 14 School record breakers and our leading Year 8 athletes: Victrix Ludorum Florence K and Victor Ludorum Benji L.





Nursey and Reception

The Pre-Prep Sports Days were wonderful events for all involved. Well done to our youngest budding athletes for taking part in the very special Nursery and Reception Sports Day event.

They raced, they waved, they negotiated obstacles such as hoops and scoops with ease, and they made everyone watching very proud.



Years 1 and 2

For Years 1 and 2, track events included sprint races, obstacle races, water races and relays, with all the children also competing in two field events: long jump and ball throw. There were smiles all round throughout the afternoon and lots of cheering for the winning House: Hawkings!

Congratulations also went to Grace C, Henry M and George T in Year 2 who received the sports prizes, awarded by our Pre-Prep Governor, Mrs Jenny Webb.

Mr Mathers, Director of Sport





Year 1 visit The Big Cat Sanctuary

A great day out and the Year 1 children did their parents proud. To be honest, our cup overfloweth before we even arrived. The backpack wearing, the perfect coach seats, the exciting hi viz jackets, the oohs and aaahs of 'I know this place' and 'I've been here' as we drove through the exotic suburbs of Hawkhurst...

I know every day's a school day but we all learnt such a lot (and indeed Gill, our guide, was equally impressed by how much we already knew.) The lions roared for us, the weather was kind and we had brilliant interactive classroom-based learning where we handled animal skulls and claws, looked at items seized from customs and dipped our hands into bags of hair dropped by the big cats. By the way, there are 40 species of wild cat, spots and stripes on cat fur is as unique as our fingerprints and you can hear a lion's roar from 5 miles away! Well done Year 1!

Mrs Willett, Year 1 Form Teacher



Ready for Reception Tea Party



"Goodbye Nursery we're moving on and this is our goodbye song"

The Ready for Reception Tea Party was a lovely send off for the Nursery children who will be moving up to Reception in September. The children performed a goodbye song for their parents that Mrs Edmondson, Head of Nursery, had written for them and everyone enjoyed a piece or two of the huge 'Nursery Leavers' 2023' cake (thank you to Amelia in the Catering Team!).



Junior and Senior Swimming Galas

We had a thrilling Senior Inter-house Swimming Gala, which was so closely competed that there were joint winners on 205 points - congratulations to Awdry and Egan!

Special mention goes to William P who broke a 2015 School record by two seconds in the 4x1 Individual Medley for Year 5 boys. Also going into the MHS record book are the first recorded times for our new mixed races - the Freestyle Mixed and Medley Mixed.

The Junior Swimming Gala was also very close contest, with Dunbar's green hatted swimmers emerging victorious.

Well done all the competitors, especially to Emil D who broke the longstanding Year 4 boys' backstroke record with a time of 28.74, beating T Dyas' existing record of 29.87 with an excellent swim.

Mr Mathers, Director of Sport





Real World Workshops

The Real World Workshops fused aspects of The Apprentice with Dragons' Den and the Year 6 and 7 children embraced the spirit of the task very well, taking the opportunity to show off and develop their leadership, collaboration, communication and creative thinking skills.

First up in the den were Firefly with their SightSport smart glasses, an excellent pitch secured the investment of £150k from property magnate Lord Little of Goudhurst for 10% of their company. An ingenious (don't throw it, grow it) green packaging idea from Evergreen with a slightly confused pitch, secured a combined investment of £125k each from fashion and textiles icon Dr Elodinia Duharn and Design guru Dame Natalia Cameroni for 20% of their business, as opposed to the 5% they asked for. Mad inventor and lapsed hippy, Professor Sir Tobin Paynesmithers offered £200k to The Cookery for their one stop wonder combo kitchen facility for 10% of the business, being beaten down to 8% after two years by a shrewd and dynamic team. Finally, in a first within the den, two dragons threw money at Plasteco's bespoke cutlery and crockery made from Pacific Ocean reprocessed plastic waste, offering them twice the money they asked for, but for 60% equity in their slightly bizarre business model.

A brilliant time was had by all, and the children learnt a lot about the real word of business, design, raw materials and supply chains, while developing skills which will serve them well in the future.

Mr Payne-Cook, PSB Leader



Eric and The Penguins Save the World



Eric and the Penguins Save The World was performed by Year 2 to parents and siblings on the last day of term. A group of singing penguins, led by Eric, met great big Polar Bears who sang about saving the ice. Then travelling to the UK, the penguins met school children and parents who were taught to walk, scoot or cycle to school. Next stop was America, where the penguins met DJ Henry and sang about how to save energy. Then on to the Amazon rainforest, where the penguins encouraged others to save trees - the children all joined in beautifully with this song. Last stop was Australia where the penguins met the Prime Minister and, with some eager refuse collectors, sang all about recycling. To end the play, the children all sang 'One World', encouraging everyone to care for the world they live in.

Well done to Year 2 for such an amazing production, a wonderful way to complete their time in Pre-Prep.

Mrs Pay, Year 2 Form Teacher





The Summer Concert and Art Show

On the last Monday of term, we celebrated our Music and Art in a wonderful Summer Concert and Art Show.

The evening started with parents viewing the wonderful Art Trail which was a colourful and joyful celebration of all the artwork completed this term. This occasion enabled the children to take pride in everything they have learned and achieved over the year, and looking at the progression in the children's work is always hugely gratifying.

Highlights were the Year 3 ceramic rainforest frogs with their colourful patterns, Year 4's highly convincing settlement village, Year 5's still-life paintings, Year 6's Matisse interiors, Year 7's land art wildlife and finally Year 8's perspective drawings. Huge congratulations to everyone for another year of superb creativity!

Sadly, the heavens then opened but, after a real team effort moving all the equipment for the Summer Concert to the Sports Hall, our pupil performers were met with rapturous applause and a very supportive audience. The School Orchestra kicked off proceedings with the James Bond Theme Tune before a range of soloists and ensembles took to the stage.

Our Year 8 Leavers' did us proud with their individual efforts before all coming together at the end for Bohemian Rhapsody, featuring a live band made up of teachers and Zac B. Isobel B wowed the audience when playing the incredibly challenging guitar solo. A huge well done to all involved.

Mrs Fields, Head of Art, Mrs McEwan, Director of Music



The Art Show montage

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Summer Concert montage

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Year 8 perform - Summer Concert

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A Midsummer Night's Dream

An epic production hit the stage in the last week of term as Year 8 performed 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', with a twist...



Head of Drama, Mr Little's comedic adaption this classic tale, complete with modern songs, saw the iconic characters of feuding Oberon and Titania, the four young lovers and Bottom, Quince and their actor friends become wonderfully entangled in an enchanted forest. Chief mischief-maker Puck was



on-hand to ensure that the course of true love was anything but smooth, with some fantastic 'had to be there' audience participation moments.

Congratulations to the whole year group and Mr Little on a spectacular performance.

The production was of course a huge team effort and in the words of Mr Little, "Thank you to all the MHS staff who support and encourage the Performing Arts in our School."



Behind the scenes video:



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Sports Teams Round Up

Senior Boys' Cricket

The Senior Boys have had a mixed year with some excellent performances, together with a few which they would be honest to say they let slip from their grasp. They had a strong performance against Vinehall and also a brilliantly exciting draw against Wellesley House to finish the season. Dexter H has captained well, while Barney R, Oliver D, Lexy T and Benji L have been key supporting players. In the mixed matches the boys worked well with the girls and had some excellent games.

I look forward to seeing the stronger players continue with their cricket at senior school and wish them luck.

Senior Girls' Cricket

The Senior Girls had a lot of talented girls, several of whom have played cricket in both the winter and summer over the last seasons. The result was a team of genuinely capable bowlers and batters, and confident fielders. Gracie G and Gabriella S captained the side together with thought and care, both bowled with pace and accuracy. They were ably supported by the hard-hitting Phoebe M, the very fast bowling of Mya V, the excellent accuracy of Elize B and Flo K and Eliza F who kept wicket with huge skill and bravery. It was always going to be only a very good side who would beat them.

When playing only other all-girls sides, they beat all-comers with matches against Saint Ronan's, Dulwich, Ashford, Bethany and Skippers Hill all resulting in good wins. When playing mixed, they also beat Claremont with 5 girls in the side. The team was helped by some excellent Year 7 girls: Millie M, Cleo M-C, Alex P and Ruby C all performed well, especially with ball in hand.

I was delighted to see all the girls take on the season with such positivity and a huge desire to learn new skills. It is great to see the game thrive and the girls enjoy playing their mixed matches along with their girls' matches. Sport at its best!

Junior and Middles Cricket

The Colts U11 boys' matches were tight competitions for the most part this year with Josh C, Freddie K, Ralph H and Toby G playing leading roles with the bat and ball. The most exciting game was a good win over the Wellesley House side after the long 1 hour and 40 minute drive! The young players coming through are William P, George M and Rory G with the ball, and Harry A with the bat. Winter nets for these boys will set them up well for next season.

The Middles Girls fared less well than the Senior Girls, but with a few strong individuals in the teams they competed in all their matches and came away with some solid wins over Ashford, Claremont and Skippers Hill. Emma E, Mila W and Poppy H-B are strong future players, so next year the senior side will have some depth to it.

The Junior Boys and Girls had some excellent matches with Milla H-B and Toby M, William E and Lilla C being strong players who will develop well in the coming seasons. Good matches and wins over Skippers Hill, Wellesley House and Vinehall set the tone of the season and a tight loss to Holmewood House was a very exciting match for all. MHS also hosted a Junior Cricket Triangular with good wins against both local schools and a fun afternoon was had by all the boys the girls involved.

The coming years for junior cricket look very strong with some excellent young players coming up from Year 2 next year.

Well played to all the boys and the girls.

Mr Mathers, Director of Sport





Equestrian Team Round Up

The summer term Inter-School competitions couldn't have started any better, with Eliza B, Eliza F, Emma G and Annabel J competing at Felbridge and winning the 70/75cm JWS (Jumping with Style - a mix of show jumps and cross-country fences in an arena) and the 70/75cm Show Jumping classes giving them highly sought after qualifications for the National Championships in Buckinghamshire in October! Eliza B also qualified as an individual.

We were delighted to gain three new members this term with Thea A, Wilbur C and Barnaby C joining the squad. Their first competition was at Duckhurst Farm in the Easter holidays when they joined seven other MHS riders to compete for the School. We had wins

for our 60cm and 70cm teams, as well as individual wins for Emma G and Eliza B. It was lovely to see the older children looking after and helping the younger children in true MHS spirit. In June seven members (of our now 13 member squad) headed to Felbridge for another great day for MHS. We had a team win in the 40cm and 50cm as well as Tara B winning the 50cm individually and several other placings for others.

We are very proud of the children who always show great sporting behaviour and a lovely attitude to their teammates and ponies - what a lovely bunch they are!

Mrs Dipper, Equestrian Team Manager





Clubs Highlights

Ballet

Dance has finished for the term with a wonderful Watch Week, with students sharing their hard work from over the past term for all to enjoy. Ballet students from Nursery upwards shared class and examination work, along with a Lion King themed dance.

In acrodance, we have been working on improving our foundation skills and enjoyed sharing these along with routines incorporating partner and group work.

We are especially proud of our examination students this term and very much look forward now to returning in September to continue with classes including ballet, acrodance and senior dance group.

Miss Caister, Dance Teacher

The Castle Junior

Very well done to Max V, Orla D and Harriet M who worked really hard during their Tuesday evening Club to produce The Castle Junior, Summer 2023. Their aim was to produce something that they felt children of their age would enjoy and we think they definitely succeeded. They used their own artwork, written pieces and IT skills to bring together an online version to be more eco and to help save the trees!

Mr Little, Club Leader

Scan to read The Castle Junior



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Goblin Car

The last Sunday of term saw a glorious day of racing at Goodwood Circuit and the culmination of the Goblin Car Club's hard work building an electric kit car. The three members of the team in attendance took part in a drag race event, a slalom event, a chicane sprint, a pit stop challenge and the race of champions (a full lap of the Goodwood Circuit with all the other entrants). Some running repairs were needed and many safety cones went flying, but the team of Isabella B, Nathaniel P and Rafferty P successfully completed all the challenges with flying colours and demonstrated fearless and skilled driving.

We look forward to MHS's second Goblin car season next year.

Watch our test drives



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Scan to watch the races



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Eco Round Up

Our Eco-Committee has been established for 18 months and through this time we have developed a working model that has allowed the children to take the lead in the generation, exploration and setting up of ideas. We have had a rolling register of Eco-Committee members (elected each term) and also took the important decision to allow interested and invested children to remain onboard. This allowed them to continue with projects they set up and see them through to completion.

This pupil-led approach has been the driving force behind many different activities; focusing on waste, the School grounds and global citizenship in the curriculum. The year started with an environmental review, as set out by the Eco Schools Green Flag award.

The Eco-Committee's hard work towards different projects over the year resulted in MHS being awarded 'Distinction' in the Eco-Schools Green Flag award. Initiatives included 'turn the light off' posters, generating a School eco motto, 'field to fork', designing signs for 'no idling' in the car parks, incentives to recycle used stationery, litter-picking, fundraising, using an eco search engine and

conducting a survey of the need for more bins around the School.

The fact that we received distinction also supports the existing activities around School that have been brought in over the past few years like our approach to food waste (sent to a local anaerobic digester), paper free and outdoor learning days, our green electricity, sourcing local food products (including dairy, meat, fruit and vegetables where possible, crisps, oils, eggs and bread) and planting trees and wildflowers as well as establishing a polytunnel.

A huge thank you goes to all the pupils, teachers and parents involved in starting up our Eco-Committee and allowing us to make great strides forward in our environmental education. The quote from the judges from the Eco-Schools Awards said: 'Your Curriculum Links are terrific! We love how you've creatively layered them across your classroom studies in such interesting and complimentary ways. It shows a clear commitment to ensuring your pupils get engaging environmental education. Great work by all involved!'

Mrs Reid, Deputy Head and Eco Leader



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Watch our latest Field to Fork video



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Watch our inaugural Enviro Maths Day video



Year 8 Leavers' Programme

Year 8 enjoyed a wonderful 4 weeks for their Leavers' Programme, mixing an array of adventure, cultural exchanges, teamwork tasks, life skills, education, community service and working hard towards their play performance. What a finale it was on their penultimate night at school as 'Puck' led her peers through a magical performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream".

The Leavers' Programme started with a relaxing day at Camber, where children could let off steam, play in the sand dunes and watching them play 'duck, duck, goose' as happy, care-free children in the shallows was a real joy to be seen.

Residential trip to France

Very, very early on a Monday morning in June, the children returned to school to start their weeklong residential trip to France. Exams were over, the formalities of School were completed and it was the perfect way to relax and start the Leavers' Programme. After an exciting trip under the English Channel, we toured Boulogne and then learnt how to make croissants. The children soon learnt the French words for the ingredients under the tutelage of the slightly scary, but amusing, French baker. The week passed by very quickly, with tours to a war museum and war graves, where we traced the family of one of the children, a flying visit to the top of the Eiffel Tower, assault courses and outdoor games, visiting French



pen pals in their school and of course, the option to taste frogs legs and snails. A full write up of the trip can be found via the link below.



French Trip
video



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French Trip
Pupil Write Up



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Local trips and activities

After such an exciting week in France, the hard work began towards the play performance. Lines were learnt (or not!), dances were choreographed, and songs were perfected. Intermingled with that, the children spent time learning important life skills about first aid and the very important topic of 'consent' as they start their journey through their teenage years. They were also given tips on the transition to senior schools from an Eastbourne College teacher as well as ex-MHS students.



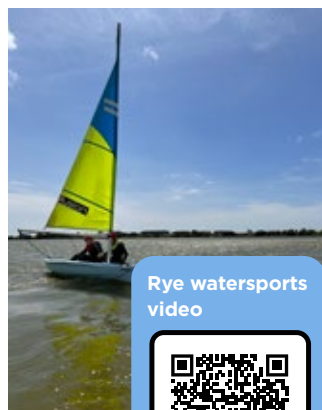


To keep spirits high and as a reward for all their efforts and contributions to MHS over the years, a variety of trips were organised including sailing, windsurfing, kayaking, hiking, bowling, laser tag and an escape room.

As they leave MHS and all the amazing opportunities that they have enjoyed, it was also important for them to realise that they have enjoyed privileges that many others don't have, and so they also visited a local charity, Hands of Hope, where they learnt about the journey from 'pollen to plate', including bee keeping, hunting and foraging, and cooking with their own ingredients, not to mention the work of the charity with local food banks. To give a little back to the community, the children also spent time collecting rubbish from sites across Hawkhurst. To say it was an eye opener for some, is an understatement! However, despite the rain, the children made the activity fun and did it in very good spirits. Amongst all these activities, there was even time to enjoy a paella evening and beat their parents in the cricket match, despite the diplomatic 'draw' on the official scoreboard!

Celebrating the Year 8 Leavers

The highlight for many though was the penultimate evening, when all of Year 8 showed their musical and performing arts talents on stage in a one-off performance of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. With so many beautiful singing voices within the year group, they really did shine on stage and the performance demonstrated the array of skills and talents within the children. They were then treated to a formal dinner



Rye watersports video



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alongside their parents, where each and every child had a speech from a member of staff. Tears were shed, smiles were shared and it was a perfect way to bring their time at MHS to an end. For some parents, it is the end of an era, having had older siblings at the School for a number of years beforehand. We are grateful to the Greigs and Le Bouëdec's for their eloquent speeches as longest serving parents.



Arena pursuits video



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To the Year 8 Leavers', well done on all that you have achieved, and thank you for your contributions to MHS. You have been given a wonderful foundation on which you should now build, taking advantage of all the amazing opportunities that will come your way. To the parents, thank you for your support and association with Marlborough House. Please do not be strangers, and we look forward to welcoming you back in the years ahead. Best wishes to you all, from all at MHS.

Mr Kimber, Year 8 Form Tutor and Leavers' Programme Coordinator



Freddie Agnew

Captain of Rugby, Boarding Prefect

Proudest achievement

Being Captain of Rugby as I love rugby.

Earliest memory

My first day in Year 2 and I was very nervous. At lunch time I saw Henry enjoying his food and I remember thinking how nice the food is as well.

MHS has taught me

To be a better person and to think first.

Future ambition

I like playing Rugby and would play Rugby all the time if I could. I would like to play for All Blacks or the Harlequins or the England team.

Destination School

Hurst



Isobel Bennett

House Captain for Awdry, Captain of Swimming, Pre-Prep Monitor, Music Leader

Proudest achievement

When I managed to win medals in the swimming gala.

Earliest memory

Dancing in the Hopkins Hall to hymns and making up our own dance moves.

MHS has taught me

To be kind to everyone and to value self and others.

What have you liked most about MHS?

Music and swimming.

Future ambition

I would like to have a career in music or be a paralympic swimmer.

Destination School

Benenden



Eliza Bellhouse

Head Girl, Captain of Tennis

Proudest achievement

Singing the 'Once in royal' solo at the carol service.

Earliest memory

In Year 3 when everyone was trying to get to the bars first at break and Holly and Ellie being the only ones to reach the top bar.

MHS has taught me

To never give up even when it gets hard.

What have you liked most about MHS?

The sport and how it is not a big school so there is always time for everyone.

Future ambition

To become a professional horse rider.

Destination School

Mayfield



Zachary Bonehill

Captain of Boys' Hockey, Boarding Prefect, Form Rep

Proudest achievement

Doing a Latin GSCE.

Earliest memory

Walking to maths and then walking into the wrong room.

MHS has taught me

To be a better person and to work hard.

What have you liked most about MHS?

The teachers because they have always supported me.

Future ambition

I do not know yet.

Destination School

Eastbourne College



Vincent Chewter-Heasman

House Captain of Awdry

Proudest achievement

Going to MHS.

Earliest memory

When I went into assembly and Fred asked if I liked football.

MHS has taught me

That no matter what you should always give people a second chance.

What have you liked most about MHS?

That you have many friends and there are always people to help you out if you are going down a rocky road.

Future ambition

To become a superhero.

Destination School

Mascalls Academy



Sophie Cornwall

House Captain for Egan, Eco Rep, Pre-Prep Monitor, Harbour Monitor

Proudest achievement

Having my English writing about ethical fashion and animal testing published in Mind's Eye Magazine.

Earliest memory

Printing hundreds of pictures of Hello Kitty in IT to put in my folder and having my first History lesson with Mrs Budd.

MHS has taught me

To be more confident in everything I do and that I'm not that awful at maths.

What have you liked most about MHS?

Latin and History with Mrs Budd and all the support you get from being in a small class.

Future ambition

To get into fashion journalism and go to London's fashion school.

Destination School

Dulwich, Cranbrook



Oliver Davidson

Captain of Boys' Football, Captain of Boys' Tennis

Proudest achievement

The academic improvements I have made since joining in Year 2. In cricket I also got five wickets after keeping for 11 overs.

Earliest memory

Having my first taster day in Year 1.

MHS has taught me

To be a better person.

What have you liked most about MHS?

The sport.

Future ambition

To become a rugby player for Wales.

Destination School

Eastbourne College



Eliza Freeborough

Head Girl, Captain of Girls' Hockey, House Captain for Dunbar

Proudest achievement

Becoming Head Girl.

Earliest memory

Entering the classroom in Reception and running straight out because I was too scared, but the teacher helped me to settle and I made the best friends ever.

MHS has taught me

To be kind and caring

What have you liked most about MHS?

I've really liked the sport and I've made some really good friends here

Future ambition

To earn enough money to one day own my own livery yard

Destination School Kent College



Viktorria Gerasimenya

Form Rep

Proudest achievement

To be named player of the match three times in a row

Earliest memory

Going on a three-day trip when I first joined the school

MHS has taught me

To be more independent and more confident

What have you liked most about MHS?

The teachers and the teaching

Future ambition

Designer

Destination School

Cranbrook School



Amelia Goodier

Art Leader, Eco Rep

Proudest achievement

Getting into Cranbrook School.

Earliest memory

Although I only joined at the start of Year 7, my earliest memory is boarding at Rye Watersports and being pushed into the water off my paddleboard by (my good friend) Mya.

MHS has taught me

To value my friends and prioritise my schoolwork.

What have you liked most about MHS?

How understanding the teachers are.

Future ambition

I want to work in A&E and later become a GP doctor or a psychotherapist.

Destination School

Cranbrook School



Gracie Greig

Head Girl, House Captain for Hawkings, Captain of Girls' Cricket

Proudest achievement

Being a Cricket Captain and singing in the concerts.

Earliest memory

When I was in nursery, I made a zoo out of magnetic blocks.

MHS has taught me

That you can do anything you put your heart to.

What have you liked most about MHS?

The opportunities for sports every day and the music and drama.

Future ambition

To be successful throughout life.

Destination School

Eastbourne College



Dexter Hastie

Captain of Boys' Cricket, Head Boy

Proudest achievement

Being Captain of Cricket.

Earliest memory

Getting a paper cut and thinking my arm was going to be chopped off.

MHS has taught me

To make every moment count.

What have you liked most about MHS?

I most liked the freedom I had at MHS.

Future ambition

To be a professional cricketer.

Destination School

Tonbridge School



Florence Kitching

Form Rep, House Captain for Hawkings

Proudest achievement

Winning the Victrix Ludorum at Sports Day last year.

Earliest memory

When all the girls used to play horsey games at break!

MHS has taught me

To be confident and focus on my goals.

What have you liked most about MHS?

The sport, the environment of the School and how friendly everyone is.

Future ambition

To do well in my next school and make new memories there.

Destination School

Eastbourne College



Henry Le Bouëdec

Head Boy

Proudest achievement

When I was selected as Head Boy.

Earliest memory

When we planted seeds in the School garden in Reception.

MHS has taught me

To always be kind.

What have you liked most about MHS?

How many school trips we do, especially on the Leavers" Programme.

Future ambition

To be a stockbroker but I am not sure.

Destination School

Bede's



Joel Little

House Captain for Egan

Proudest achievement

Receiving the Rugby Cup at Prize Giving.

Earliest memory

Measuring potatoes on a scale in Reception.

MHS has taught me

If you don't have something kind to say don't say it.

What have you liked most about MHS?

I really enjoyed the sport.

Future ambition

To be a lawyer or to maybe be involved with sport.

Destination School

Tonbridge School



Benjamin Loetz

Head Boy

Proudest achievement

Scoring a goal to beat Saint Ronan's

Earliest memory

Playing pinecone football with Dexter Hastie, using the bridge in the Reception playground as a goal.

MHS has taught me

To be respectful.

What have you liked most about MHS?

The friendliness of staff at MHS.

Future ambition

When I am older, I would like to be a professional footballer.

Destination School

Bede's



Robert McPherson

House Captain for Egan, Mental Health Champion, Pre-Prep Leader

Proudest achievement

Doing my Latin GCSE.

Earliest memory

Everyone arriving at Nursery.

MHS has taught me

To stand up for what is right.

What have you liked most about MHS?

I have like the sport the most.

Future ambition

To become successful and get good grades.

Destination School

Eastbourne College



Chloe Morgan

Captain of Girls' Football, Head of House for Awdry, Form Rep, Librarian

Proudest achievement

Winning the Brian Turner Cup in Year 6.

Earliest memory

Amelia and I running in the car park with umbrellas.

MHS has taught me

To be confident in everything I do.

What have you liked most about MHS?

The teachers and the friends I have made.

Future ambition

To be a vet.

Destination School

Battle Abbey



Phoebe Moser

House Captain for Hawkings, Librarian, Mental Health Champion

Proudest achievement

Having two solos in the Year 7 play as Cinderella.

Earliest memory

One twin telling me that she was way better than the other.

MHS has taught me

To take every opportunity that comes to me.

What have you liked most about MHS?

The small class sizes.

Future ambition

To become a professional cricket player.

Destination School

Benenden



Barnaby Rees

House Captain for Hawkings, Mental Health Champion

Proudest achievement

Getting six wickets against Holmewood School

Earliest memory

Playing pinecone football with Dexter.

MHS has taught me

To take every opportunity that comes your way.

What have you liked most about MHS?

I have liked the community at MHS.

Future ambition

When I am older, I would like to be happy with whatever I am doing.

Destination School

Hurst



Gabriella Sabbage

Captain of Girls' Cricket, Boarding Prefect

Proudest achievement

When I won a big trophy in Year 7 for respecting all the rules and being respectful to the School.

Earliest memory

When Gracie and I were dancing in Reception for the Red Nose Day film.

MHS has taught me

To be confident and kind.

What have you liked most about MHS?

The people here and all the memories that I have made.

Future ambition

To be a professional musician

Destination School

Claremont School



Sophia Sells

House Captain for Dunbar

Proudest achievement

When my team won the Galactic Challenge in Year 7.

Earliest memory

In Year 7 when myself, Gabby, Eliza F, Eliza B, Millie, Mya, Gracie and Flo were playing horses during break time.

MHS has taught me

To believe in myself and to be more confident in what I do.

What have you liked most about MHS?

The friendly people and how everyone is friends with everyone.

Future ambition

To become an architect

Destination School

Dulwich, Cranbrook



Lexy Tuddenham

House Captain for Dunbar, Eco Rep, Pre-Prep Leader

Proudest achievement

Three wickets on my debut against Claremont in cricket.

Earliest memory

Playing in the cricket nets at break with Ollie.

MHS has taught me

That you should always fight for what you believe in no matter what.

What have you liked most about MHS?

The friends I have made and the environment I learnt in.

Future ambition

To play cricket for a living or be a presenter on Top Gear.

Destination School

Cranbrook School



Mya Vowls

Captain of Netball, Drama Leader, House Captain of Awdry

Proudest achievement

Winning a Drama Scholarship.

Earliest memory

Making fajitas in Reception.

MHS has taught me

To value myself and others.

What have you liked most about MHS?

I've really liked the sports.

Future ambition

To get a good job so I can earn lots of money.

Destination School

Hurst



Valete

Katrina Atkins, Head of English

After 16 years at Marlborough House, Katrina Atkins retires as Head of English, having also been Head of Drama and Seniors. She leaves us having organised countless World Book Days, visiting authors and theatre companies, Poetry recitals and informal plays with great success. Katrina is a loyal colleague described by the staff room as 'professional' and 'detailed'. Many children have benefited from her teaching, her theatrical flair and her love of books over the years and we wish her every happiness whilst she enjoys spending more time with her new grandchild.



Liz Butler-Graham, Pre-Prep Secretary

Legend of the Pre-Prep, the most sociable and helpful person on the planet, Mrs B-G was always there with the answer, cheerful and bubbly, organised and efficient. After nine years at MHS, Liz is now off to pursue a career in law. We wish her the very best of luck in her new profession and thank her for all that she has done for the children, the parents and her colleagues in Pre-Prep.



Steve Little, Head of Drama

After eight years, Steve Little is moving on to run the Drama Department at Somerhill, a job he will be wonderfully suited to. An enthusiastic English and Form Teacher with a love of books and storytelling, Steve was in his element inspiring and cajoling children to perform at their very best on stage. Many a pupil surprised themselves by enjoying their roles and excelling in productions, and he was particularly adept at getting children to leave their comfort zones.

Warm-hearted and engaging company, Steve will be missed in the staffroom and around the School – most of all, he will be remembered for the quality of the Year 8 Shakespeare productions which he wrote and directed at the end of each year.



Toby Payne-Cook, Head of Science

A whirlwind of passion and creativity, after nine years, Toby Payne-Cook is furthering his teaching career in teaching by moving onto Sutton Valence Senior School. A friend to many, his colleagues describe him as 'loyal', 'genuine', 'generous'...and 'verbose'. A big character in every sense of the word, Toby is kind, thoughtful, passionate, inspirational in the science lab and he makes us think – makes us realise that there's more to life than just the next test. Toby has been an enthusiastic Head of Science and has been instrumental in the development of the PSB over the last five years. We will miss his keen interest in running thought-provoking and varied activities, leading trips and planning cross curricular days for the Senior pupils.



Felicity Robinson, Year 4 Teaching Assistant

Year 4 TA and legend of the Art Department and Forest School, Felicity retires with 22 years of service to Marlborough House under her belt. Fantastically creative and innovative, Felicity has the ability to inspire children both in the classroom and in our outdoor settings; from forest crafts and cookouts to bringing the polytunnel, wormery and Secret Garden to life. So talented, so generous with her time and quite simply, so lovely – only in September will we realise how much Mrs Robinson really does around the place as we scramble to fill all of her roles. A huge thank you to this quiet, understated and wonderful lady – Mrs Robinson, we will miss you more than you know.



SELECTED OTHER LEAVERS

Sarah Turner, Girls' Games Coach

A former pupil, Sarah Turner has been a great asset out on the games field over the past year. She has provided maternity cover for Mrs Lelliott and done a sterling job organising and leading the Girls' Games Department. Sarah has used her excellent hockey skills and knowledge to help the pupils achieve a great standard, with the boys' 1st VII going unbeaten in all bar one match. She is leaving to get married this summer and work in industry as an EA to a CEO. We thank her for her time, focus and effort, and wish her the very best of luck.

JJ Bickersteth, Junior Master

Our Junior Master returned to MHS, his old Prep School, for a gap year placement. He quickly settled into life at MHS, calling members of staff by their first name when he used to call them 'sir'. His help and hard work on the sports field, in Pre-Prep and in the Boarding House was invaluable. We wish Mr B the very best of luck at Manchester University next year.

Natalie Cameron, DT Teacher

Mrs Cameron arrived from a London secondary school and returns to the capital with our best wishes after one year re-establishing the DT department. Knowledgeable and thoughtful, she challenged the children to think about design in a variety of ways, pushing them to improve their design work rather than be satisfied with their first attempt. Memorably, Natalie finished her year with the racing car that she and her pupil team had built, racing around Goodwood Circuit with huge enthusiasm and excitement.

Amy Chick, Junior Teacher

Miss Chick leaves to complete her teacher training in London in a senior academy. Her enthusiasm and knowledge have been a huge asset in both the History and Sports Departments where she has worked tirelessly to animate the sessions she has led. The swimming groups in Reception to Year 2 have benefitted from her excellent skills in the water and her huge desire to see the children progress rapidly. Amy will go on to be an outstanding teacher who will thrive in the classrooms of many lucky children.



MHS Society

We were delighted to welcome two past pupils back to MHS this term.

Anthony Spencer was an MHS pupil from 1954 to 1959. On his visit, Anthony enjoyed looking around the School and reminiscing. He particularly remembers being pushed into the swimming pool by the then Headmaster, Geoffrey Martin, to help him learn to swim! Luckily Anthony did swim and enjoyed his time here at MHS.



Richard McLaughlin (MHS 1952 - 1955) visited with Elizabeth, his wife, and he also enjoyed his trip down memory lane: "It was great to see how the School has flourished and expanded since my day, and to have so many memories refreshed and extended".





MHS Society



Boxing Day Football Match at MHS

Throughout my childhood and well into my early teens, Boxing Day meant one thing: the annual Fathers and Sons Football Match. Each year, a festive kick around between 22 of the Marlborough House faithful was organised by my Dad and James Stewart. It was always an occasion full of family rivalries, rusty footwork and laughter.

As time went on, the tradition was lost somewhere and a hole was left in the Christmas festivities. Looking back on those times with fondness, I felt this year was the time to bring it back. Two teams of MHS old boys showed out just like old times, only with a few less

dads this time around. Richard Meddings and Julian Houchin dusted off their boots to proudly represent the over 50 demographic and the game, bursting with (somewhat surprising) moments of quality, ended an 8-5 thriller which spectators were calling 'a game for the ages'. The focus now switches to next year and the highly anticipated return of Ed Down to the fixture.

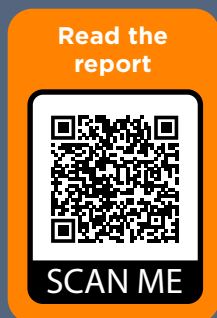
A huge thanks to Emma Houchin and Rob Mathers for their help in organising, and for the School for letting us use their hallowed turf. Roll on 2023!

Charlie Hunter Blair, OM (MHS 2000-2010)



Celebrating 150 years

2024 is Marlborough House's 150th anniversary since its founding in 1874. To celebrate this important milestone, there will be a series of events and we are looking forward to coming together as a School community, both past and present, to mark this special year. Details of our programme of events will be shared nearer the time.



‘Excellent’ in all areas

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE, JANUARY 2023

NURSERY | PRE-PREP | PREP

