



Spring 2020

# THE CASTLE



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## MATHS SUCCESS

Competition success for Marlborough House School

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## WORLD BOOK DAY

Another wonderful book week with a range of activities

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## MUSIC WINNERS

Junior Choir are Hastings Music Festival winners!



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HOUSE SCHOOL EST 1874

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# Note from the Head

Spring 2020

Looking back over the term's highlights I am reminded of just how much took place before the current health crisis intervened.

The Spring Term began with five new members of teaching staff and a visit from Mr Eddy Newton; our most anticipated new arrival. Whilst Mr Newton's subsequent visits were unfortunately cancelled due to the current restrictions, we have been staying in touch remotely and we look forward to welcoming him to the school again in due course.

not disappoint and our week-long celebration of books and reading culminated in a day of remarkable fancy dress from both staff and pupils.

With Government restrictions in place in the last week of term, school life went online. It was a big change for the school and everyone involved - we missed the children very much and the school was unusually quiet! Thankfully we were able to put our website to good use and used the platform of the parent portal to deliver classes temporarily.



This term has seen a raft of senior school scholarships awarded to Year 6 and Year 8 children and we congratulate each and every one of them on their achievement. Indeed to all our leavers who have already secured a place at senior school, we say very well done.

Prizes have been won elsewhere too, with MHS success at the Eastbourne College Prep Schools Public Speaking Competition, the Hastings Music Festival and UK Maths Trust Challenges.

A highlight of the Spring Term for the whole school is always World Book Day. This year did

The Summer Term will see the adoption of Microsoft Teams as the MHS Remote Learning platform. We look forward to seeing the children on there; communicating with teachers, submitting work, sharing ideas and maintaining our important sense of community.

A virtual world is not a world we want to dwell in any longer than we have to and we are counting the days until we can reunite in person and put Marlborough House School back together again.

**Vanessa Coatz**, Acting Head



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## *Hot off the press!*

### »»» Scholarship News

Congratulations to all the Year 8s who were awarded scholarships in the Spring Term.

**Alexander A, Hurst All-Rounder Award, Hurstpierpoint College**

**Emma C-B, Hurst All-Rounder Award, Hurstpierpoint College**

**Lydia Q, Drama Scholarship, Sutton Valence School**

**Matthew M, Entrance Scholarship, Cranbrook School**

**Stanley W, Academic Scholarship, Sutton Valence School**

**Tom D, Sports Scholarship, Sutton Valence School**

**Wilfie W, Academic Scholarship, Sutton Valence School**



### »»» Head Girl and Head Boy

Congratulations to Lydia Q and Alexander A, who were our Head Girl and Head Boy for the Spring Term.



## Distinctions And Merits All Round In The English Speaking Board Exams

Having attended a weekly club in the Autumn term, where the children learnt the very valuable skills of how to put together a presentation, a poetry performance and a reading, children from Years 5, 6 and 7 sat their English Speaking Board exam. This was the pinnacle of the term's work and an exciting moment for the children.

We heard some wonderful talks on a wide range of topics: Surfing, Theme Parks, Netball, Harry Potter, Swimming and Majorca. Of the six children who took part this year, we are very pleased that four gained distinctions and two gained merits. Congratulations to all involved. KA

## Congratulations To Dr Julie Speers

Huge congratulations to our very own Dr Julie Speers on gaining her Doctorate in Education.

Dr Julie Speers, is our Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator (SENDSCO) and Head of DT. Here are some highlights from her Snapshot Interview; the full version of which can be viewed on our website.

### What exciting things are happening for you at Marlborough House at the moment?

I have just taken on the role of SENDSCO, so it is a great pleasure working with children and parents closely to ensure a really good understanding of specific needs. Also, I am really enjoying teaching the Pre-Senior Baccalaureate (PSB). Design technology lends itself really well to cross curricular work as it has strands of all other subjects within it.

### What do you think makes Marlborough House stand out?

MHS gives a really individual education to our children. We really do know each child so well that we can tailor the lesson and work

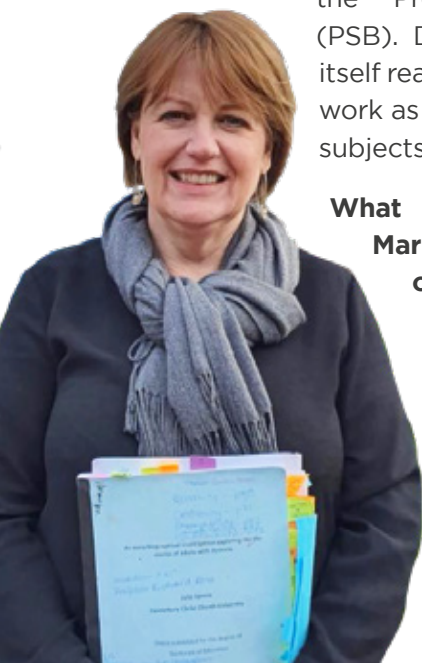
to suit them. Small classes mean that all children get specific and personal attention in classes – exactly what Human Scale Education promotes.

**Unusual fact:** I used to be a trainee fire stoker on the Kent and East Sussex Railway.

## JUST IN!

### »»» PPE For The NHS

**It has been a busy term for Dr Speers! In the last week of term, MHS donated protective equipment to local GP surgeries to help NHS health workers. In addition, Dr Speers started ordering in materials to make protective visors for the NHS. Using the school's laser cutter and 3D printer, and in collaboration with her talented son Rowan, Dr Speers has started an MHS visor production line of which we are all incredibly proud. The visors will be distributed to local NHS network, Weald Primary Care, and our own School Nurse, Mrs Rushton, who is supporting a local care home. A big MHS thank you to Dr Speers!**





# Public Speaking Competition Success



Six children from Year 6 participated in the Eastbourne College Prep Schools' Public Speaking Event.

This was a great opportunity for our young people to practice an essential life skill. The children from Marlborough House showed great courage and confidence as they delivered their presentations on some hard-hitting subjects.

Our first team highlighted the dangers of addiction to online gaming with some well-delivered facts and some advice on how to manage the obsession. Team two chose Global warming and the melting polar ice caps as their subject.

The children received excellent, critical feedback from the panel and were correctly praised for their commitment and confidence, very well done to them all.

Marlborough House won the prize of Best Researched Presentation and Best Concluding Speaker. It was a great afternoon and we would like to extend our thanks to Eastbourne College for their warm hospitality. Another memorable MHS moment! *SL*



## Pre-Prep's Marvellous Maths Morning

Reception, Year 1 and 2 were mixed up into groups with a Year 2 leader to direct them around their marvellous Maths morning.

Activities ranged from a human bar graph to a timed obstacle course and Pre-Prep certainly surprised us with the amount of learning they achieved.

There were many highlights including William P's tangram spider and 1P telling Mrs Playfoot that they didn't realise they had been doing Maths all morning; Alex G said "I thought it was just playtime!" *KB*





## Pre-Prep Tuesday Teach-Ins

This term Pre-Prep introduced Teach-Ins. The aim of our Teach-Ins is simple - to give parents time to learn about different aspects of life in Pre-Prep from Maths to Assemblies and PE to Playtime. These sessions are a product of pride in the input and deliberation that all the staff (and children) put into each area of the school. It is an opportunity to come together to share, discuss and learn. Not a bad way to start a Tuesday morning! *RR*



### Phonics Teach-In

Phonics is a method for teaching reading and writing by developing learners' phonemic awareness - the ability to hear, identify, and manipulate phonemes - in order to teach the correspondence between these sounds and the spelling patterns (graphemes) that represent them. Our fabulous Pre-Preppers make it look easy, but phonics is a tricky business. So, back at the teach-in, we whipped through some sound cards and deciphered the word GHOTI which is 'fish' for the uninitiated:

**Enough (gh sound: f), Women (o sound: i) and Station (ti sound: sh) = f-i-sh**

The parents demonstrated some great 'have a go' attitudes as we tried to write phonetically plausible, but incorrectly spelt, words with our non-dominant hands - all in an attempt to see life from a young child's perspective as they begin their reading journey. I think we all felt reassured not just by how thoroughly the reading process is taught here in Pre-Prep, but also how fun it is and how brilliant our children are. *SW*



## MHS Pupils Enter Bede's Galactic Challenge!

Twelve children from Marlborough House participated in the 5th annual Bede's Galactic challenge!

Year 7 and Year 8 MHS Challengers were distributed into two 'companies' of about 25 children, each competing with three other companies to pitch their plans, ideas and designs for a Holiday Resort on the surface of the Moon, set in 2069 to commemorate the centenary of the Apollo moon landings.



Four of our children were involved in presenting to a large audience and they projected and articulated their ideas clearly. In the engine rooms of both companies, Astrodyne Delta and Infinity Aerospace, their mathematical ability, scientific knowledge and design skills came to the fore but it was their skills of collaboration, communication and creativity which really mattered.

It was a great, long and inspirational day out. Well done to Sophia, Olivia, Emma, Felix, Theo, Ben, Wilfie, Maddie, Millie, Olivia, Theo and Uly for their astronomic effort! *TPC*





## PSB Tutoring Seminar

Representatives from the PSB and local PSB schools gathered at Marlborough House for an all-day seminar in January.

The seminar focused on developing academic tutoring, mentoring and skill development. We also hosted a pH+ architects workshop to model how we could develop and practice collaborative, communicative and leadership skills in tutorials or mentoring sessions. *TPC*



## Theatre Company Bring Ancient Greece To Year 3

On Tuesday 28th January, the Old Gym was transformed as Year 3 took part in Ancient Greek market trading, voting, a procession, augury, a mini Olympics and a Greek play. The visiting theatre company was interactive and really brought Ancient Greece to life.

The children had the opportunity to look at historical artefacts, try on armour and carve out their own mini versions of the 'Elgin Marbles'.



Sophie P in 3C commented, *'It was great. The bit I liked most was when we dressed up and had to haggle with each other at the stalls!'* The children had a fabulous time, learning through first hand experiences. A day to remember! *EC*



## Australia Day Service

Years 7 and 8 attended a service for Australia Day in the School Chapel, led by Form 7A who reflected on the bushfires which started in September 2019 and the impact that they have had.

With 10 million hectares affected by bushfires, almost the same as the size of the UK, 7A discussed the causes, the impact (it is estimated that 1 billion animals have been killed so far by the fires) and the response by individuals, organisations and countries. They asked us all to consider what we might do personally, especially in light of our School Virtue for this half of term: Kindness. *KA*

### Poems written by 7A pupils for the Australia Day Service:

*Dear God who art in heaven  
Make us thankful for being safe, away from bushfires. Help us to show empathy for those who have suffered in the fire. For those humans and creatures who have fought through, hopeful of the fires decreasing. Make us thankful for the firefighters who have risked their lives for the safety of Australia. Amen (Dasia R)*

*Dear God  
May we think about Australia's bush fires. Help us to be grateful for having safe homes and let us think about the incredible acts of kindness, which people are showing all over the world. Help us to be kind in our every day school life. Amen (Millie M)*



# Informal Drama Presentation

Our five Year 8 Drama Scholars treated their audience to an evening of fine acting and entertainment at our annual Informal Drama Presentation Event.

The students were preparing for Drama Scholarships at a variety of schools. As part of the selection process the children have to learn and perform monologues from published plays. Therefore, this evening was the perfect opportunity for the students to 'test-drive' their work. And they did not disappoint.

Emma C-B started the evening with a committed performance from Alan Ayckbourn where she convincingly shared the stage with her imaginary friend. Isabella R then ably tackled George Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion, giving a passionate interpretation of the distraught Eliza Doolittle. Corey L performed next with a very amusing monologue by Anne Odden, where the main character unwittingly sets his sister up on a date with his... English Teacher! Pippa J then powerfully performed a bitter sweet piece about the pain, denial and gallows humour in separation called, I ate the divorce papers.

Finally, our evening came to a close with Lydia Q showing great character and contrast as she performed Under Hypnosis, where her character is hypnotised and reveals more than she intends to about a secret indiscretion.

The children were simply brilliant and showed great commitment, confidence and ability. *SL*



## Great Season For Undefeated U9 Boys

Congratulations to the U9 boys for an unbeaten football season and an unbeaten rugby season!

The U9 boys have proved a great bunch out on the rugby pitch. Having played a variety of matches (touch, full contact, 5 a side and 7 a side), they have come out on top in all of their 11 matches. A great season for them and they played with increased confidence and technique.

This is following an unbeaten football season in normal school matches. A great year for them so far! *RM*



## Kung Hei Fat Choy

Our Nursery children enjoyed a week of celebrations for Chinese New Year. Complete with dragons, oriental dress, hanging lanterns and delicious noodles, Nursery welcomed in the Year of the Rat in style.





## The Great House Concert And Dinner

The Great House Pub provided an atmospheric venue for our first Informal Concert of 2020.

22 performers from Years 5 - 8 took part and well over forty parents enjoyed dinner whilst listening to their own children perform. Martin Byatt, a professional guitarist played superb background music and joined in accompanying many of the songs.



The children performed in three different sets in-between the courses, and we had music from Flash Bang Wallop to Schubert's Trout, All is Found from Frozen 2 to a Giga by Seixas and Pretty Polly Oliver to Mercy Mercy. Bravo to all



the children, but especially to those for whom performing is more than a challenge. Everybody gathered up all their courage, stood in the spotlight and went for it.

I think that this event shows MHS at its best; a celebration of the individual and support like no other. *DD*



## The Hands of Hope – School Charity

The Friends Committee were delighted to announce that the amount raised for The Hands of Hope Charity from the Christmas Shopping Event and the Christmas Fair is a magnificent £1,375.00. Many thanks to everyone who donated to these events and helped in any way.

Having enjoyed a morning learning about traditional hedgelaying with Hands of Hope last term, our Year 8s are looking forward to their next local outing with the charity – tree planting.





## MHS DT Instagram Account Launches



## Pre-Prep French Day

What is the link between colourful dance scarves, band wrist bells, egg shakers, a 50 metre writing paper roll and Camille Saint-Saens? Music and French of course!

Pupils in Pre-Prep enjoyed a beautiful French day, starting with sensory activities on the music of the Carnival of the Animals by Saint-Saens where they danced and worked out which instruments were describing which animals. They were then treated to a theatre performance in French which, given the noise and laughter level, they thoroughly enjoyed. I was very impressed with how Years 1 and 2 coped with one solid hour of French only!

Equally impressive were Reception pupils who joined in Goldilocks and the three bears with great enthusiasm. They then had some time back in the classroom doing activities in French on parts of the body.

Thank you to the Friends of MHS for sponsoring the theatre company. *EDH*

## Antarctica Talk

Year 2 have been busy learning more about their topic of 'Frozen' and last week Mr Goodburn (father of three children in Pre-Prep) kindly came to talk to them about his trip to Antarctica. They learnt about the Antarctic terrain, watched penguins singing a song and heard about how Mr Goodburn ran the first of seven marathons in seven continents, in Antarctica. An intrepid and chilly start to his challenge! Year 2 have also made non-fiction books about Polar Bears and Penguins and spent a great session with Reception sharing facts about the animals. They certainly enjoyed this topic. *RP*







## Sussex Hockey Selection

We are very proud of Olivia W who has been selected to play in the Sussex Development Squad for U13 Girls Hockey for the Southern Region County Championships.

Olivia W has been training with the U13 Sussex Academy Centre since October 2019, having been initially selected following trials in June and September.

We wish her the best of luck in the Sussex Squad. *JL*

## Rugby Tournament Success For Colts

Our Colts (U11) boys were equal first on points in this competitive tournament, held by Solefield School. With strong performances against St Ronan's, Belmont, Dulwich Prep and King's Rochester, our boys went through to the top of the Group with Yardley Court. Although equal on points, Yardley Court were ahead on matches won, which left Marlborough House as solid and worthy runners up.

Well done boys, a fantastic display of hard work and skill. Congratulations to: Charlie A, Max B, George C, Theo C, Jack D, Bertie H, Ollie J, Miles W, and Otto R.

This season has been an excellent one for the Colts, who have won all their fixtures bar one. *TR*.



## Little Sessele Playhouse

Our Nursery children are delighted with their 'Little Sessele' playhouse, which was installed this term! The playhouse was kindly donated by the Ward family. We are sure that it will provide many learning opportunities for children for many years to come and are very grateful for the gift.





# Safer Internet Day 2020

For Safer Internet Day 2020 we have been talking with the children about the different ways to keep safe whilst playing games and using social media.

Year 1 focused on the importance of asking an adult for permission before using the internet, and telling a grown up if something feels wrong.

Year 2 discussed the importance of keeping personal information private and producing posters. They talked about their posters and performed a safety song in their House Assemblies.

Lessons in the Prep school were delivered to help the pupils understand the concept of on-line identity. They explored the boundaries of freedom of expression online and understand the importance of respect and reputation when navigating the digital world. Years 7 and 8 made a pledge of one small thing they will do to help make the internet more inclusive for everyone. Years 3 - 6 created an online identity via images.

Please do speak to your child about their internet use and the variety of apps that they use, to ensure all is well and have a look at the 'Safer Internet Day' website for further ideas. The internet is a wonderful resource, we just need to keep working together to keep ourselves and others safe. VC



## Rubik's Cube Craze

William S and Ralph H in 3L have started a run on Rubik's cubes at MHS.

When Year 3 were talking about what they might like to do in break time, William S, a keen chess player, suggested Rubik's cubes. They were duly ordered in a fantastic array of shapes and colours. Ralph H soon took up the opportunity to join William S in playing with them and soon the boys were established pros. Break time now regularly sees children from across the Prep School twiddling a Rubik's cube, with the older children helping the younger ones with particularly tricky cubes.

We are thrilled that one boy's interest has sparked a trend across the school and are proud to offer a range of activities to children in their break times. CW

### ***Year 6 French use Rubik's cubes***

Rubik's cubes are such a trend at the moment that I decided to use them as a tool in my French lessons. All it took was a good idea (borrowed from a colleague), some padlocks and a translation activity!

Pupils translated sentences to work out the codes in order to open the padlocks and free the Rubik's cubes: Year 6 enjoyed the activity very much. I loved seeing these little colourful cubes trapped and confiscated for a little while! EDH







# Maths Competition Success

## ...at Mayfield School

Very well done to the four pupils who took part in the Inter-School Maths Competition at Mayfield School. The children were given various mathematical tasks to do during the day, including logic, a speed round and finishing on a mathematical relay. They came 6th out of 12 schools and won the Logic round! Well done to: Oscar W, Seamus G, Dexter H and Edward F. *CrW*



## ...at the Team Maths Challenge Regional Finals

We had a fabulous time at the Team Maths Challenge Regional Finals.

Four children from Years 7 and 8, Ralph E, Maddie L, Matthew M and Rex C, went to the regional final for the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust's 'Team Maths Challenge'.

We were the youngest of around 20 teams and indeed the only all Prep School team, competing against much older children. We finished a very creditable 5th, only beaten by Senior Schools (1st Judd, 2nd Tonbridge, 3rd Sevenoaks).

The competition is an all-day event with a variety of tasks either done as a group or in pairs finishing with a mathematical relay.

We are not allowed to share a question from this year, but to give you an idea here is one from last year. Any answers?

**$x\%$  of  $y$  is  $(y-15)$  and  $y\%$  of  $(x+30)$  is 50.  
What is the value of  $x+y$ ?**

*CrW*



**United Kingdom  
Mathematics Trust**



## ...at the UK Mathematics Olympiad Qualifier

Congratulations to Ralph E in Year 8 for qualifying for the Mathematics Olympiad after taking the Intermediate Mathematical Challenge before half-term.

Ralph was one of the top 500 (or so) children in his age group, with around 300,000 taking the original challenge. Ralph was competing with children from Year 11 and below so he has done fantastically well to qualify in this age range.

He sits the Olympiad next month, and we wish him luck! *CrW*



# World Book Day

We have had another wonderful Book Week with a fabulous range of events and activities for the children to enjoy and to celebrate the joy of reading.

We started with our annual Book Fair in the Harrison building and children across the school had a wonderful time recommending, discussing and selecting books, earning the school some lovely commission with which to buy.... more books!

Our visiting authors on Tuesday were very well received too. GP Taylor kept the older children entertained with his masterful storytelling, his humorous and perceptive reading of personality and character and his whacky anecdotes. Kev Payne, an illustrator and story teller, spoke to Reception to Year 4 who all took part in an engaging Assembly. Together they wiggled, giggled and hopped



their way through a physical poem and created their very own 'Cucumber' poem. The children were inspired to take part, with lots of fun and creative rhymes from all Year Groups.

Throughout the week, each year group has received a visit from a "Mystery Reader" from across the school. Staff from across the school have "popped" up in classrooms to share a tale or a much-loved book of their own and to talk about why they love reading; providing fabulous role models for our children in the process.

William Shakespeare also featured in our celebrations on Wednesday, with the annual visit of the Young Shakespeare Company whose highly original, humorous and interactive performance of The Tempest kept children in Year 6 and 7 enthralled. This was the highlight of the week for many of the children and as ever, the group of professional actors were inspirational.





During the week some of the children in Year 8 enjoyed a spot of “speed-dating” – of the Literary kind! Children had 3 minutes in which to “sell” their chosen book to each partner. A very entertaining way of sharing a favourite book!

Dressing up for World Book Day on Thursday again saw a wonderful turn out of costumes and characters!



It is always a treat to see the enjoyment in the children’s faces and to chat to them about their chosen character.

What a great way to end our busy week and head towards the weekend and hopefully.... the chance for some quiet reading! KA



## Year 7 PSB Art

Our Year 7 pupils have been producing some wonderful porcelain pieces for one of their PSB art projects.

This term the topic for STEAM is 'Discoveries and Ideas'. Year 7 made drawings and coloured studies of pollen spores, fungi and viruses, as seen under a modern electron microscope. They have looked at the patterns and surface textures carefully and introduced these to their porcelain spheres. They have been painted in a traditional blue and white style; a juxtaposition with the biological shapes. The results are simply stunning!

Millie M's porcelain piece was our Artist of the Week. This beautiful porcelain ceramic piece was inspired by a pollen molecule. SF



## Chick Excitement

Our chicks hatched!

Nursery have been eagerly awaiting the arrival of their quail chicks which finally hatched 'on day 19 in the afternoon' (according to one child!). The children are enjoying looking after their adorable fluffy friends.

Year 1 have also been on chick watch and there was great excitement when their first chick (a cream legbar) hatched. They named it Pippa as it hatched on Pippa S' birthday!



## FoMHS Comedy Night

For one night only, the Old Gym was transformed into the 'MHS Comedy Club'.

The evening started with the hilarious Jon Long, who sang to us about the joys of recycling and also showed us some interesting new sign language!

Following a brief interlude to refill the glasses the comedy continued with Shirley and Shirley, regaling us with anecdotes and sketches of their rather complicated lives. Audience participation was required, and some interesting discussions were had with parents and teachers!

With a slightly longer programme everyone was ready for MHS Catering's legendary chilli. Mrs McTrusty and Kelly Selley were absolutely amazing at serving the hungry hoards. Thank you to everyone that came and supported the event, especially the MHS staff. I would like to especially thank Fiona Locke for taking the lead and organising us all and also to Dan Lowe. Rachel Bennett,

*Chair of FoMHS*





# Reflecting On Boarding

Boarding offers experiences and opportunities that enhance the lives of the pupils during their years at school.

There are no qualifications gained from the education of boarding but it can equip children with the necessary character experiences and life skills, and help prepare them for their future life at secondary school and beyond. As well as being part of a close family community in the boarding house, they are given independence, enabling them to make choices for themselves and their friends.

Friendships are made at school every day but with boarding, this precious time with friends is extended and real - not virtual. Their friendships have deeper foundations and are



made for life. Nowadays parents do not want to “send their children away to school”. Flexi-boarding works for families for many reasons and does not bring on the emotions of full time boarding for parents and children. The balance between school and home life, aims to enhance family life together.

Beyond the classroom, the continuity of care and education that boarding can offer is a



stable platform for children’s development, with lots of free time to enjoy each other’s company, play games, watch movies, enjoy creative arts, listen to music, etc. Boarding opportunities give the children time to discover their talents and passions and build confidence to try new opportunities they are presented with. We want parents to be confident that their children are in an environment which is warm and caring and where their children can continue to develop and are individually valued.

Highlights from the Spring term include a Valentines Disco, a spa night, swimming, bowling and a whole host of other great activities.

The boarding house team are looking forward to a fun-packed Summer term when school life returns to normal. Summer term evenings are usually spent outside in the beautiful school grounds, providing important experiences for all our Prep School children, particularly those children who are preparing for Senior School life. SR





## New Books For Middle School

The children in the Middle School were delighted to see such a huge selection of new books arriving for their classroom libraries this week.

Year 4 did the honours of unwrapping each book from its protective wrapping and it was lovely to witness how excited they were to receive each precious volume. From old favourites such as the Famous Five to a David Walliams collection, a Classics selection including literary gold such as Macbeth, Pride and Prejudice and Little Women, and non-fiction books with titles about Ancient Egypt, different cultures and looking after a

variety of pets! There is literally a book to suit everyone.

As you know at Marlborough House we truly value children's learning and these amazing books will give every child the opportunity to escape to a different world or explore a new country whilst developing their reading skills even further.

We are very grateful to the Friends of MHS for their generous donation which is being spent on books across the school. *MM*

## Grammar School Entry Achievements

Congratulations to our Year 8 and Year 6 pupils who have gained Grammar Schools places for September 2020:

**Cranbrook School:** Claudia M, Daniel H, Hal B-G, Heidi E, Matthew M (Cranbrook Entrance Scholarship), Max B, Miles W, Sophia R, Ted H, Theo J

**Highworth Grammar:** Alice E

Very well done to all children who have shown great determination and worked exceptionally hard to secure their Senior School places for September. *PA*





# Junior Choir Are Hastings Music Festival Winners!

Junior Choir are Hastings Music Festival winners!

Very well done to Junior Choir for winning **The Sir Henry Coward Shield** (for any number of voices up to and including Year 4) at the Hastings Music Festival.

I knew we were busy with the Year 3 Production, the Year 4 Easter Service and repertoire for Barnardo's, but for some reason decided to teach Junior Choir a Russian song! They absolutely rose to the challenge. The 'Fountain Statue at Tsarskoye Selo' is a beautiful song, but it was definitely down to a very dedicated group of young singers that they did so well.



Just to add to the excitement we asked Mrs Jones to put a few actions in to our second song, 'It's a long way to Tipperary'.

Bravo! to all who took part. There was a lot of excitement when we won the class. DD

## Sport Relief 2020

The whole school enjoyed an afternoon of Sport Relief fun!

Pupils were in teams and had an array of sporting challenges to complete alongside a sport relief treasure hunt. Reception, Year 1 and 2 worked alongside the games staff to complete the tasks and showed great determination and joy in completing them all.

Year 3 & 4, 5 & 6, and 7 & 8 were in House teams and had to work together to complete all of the tasks in the quickest time. It was an excellent afternoon with the pupils putting in 100% effort and showing great competitive spirit. JL







# The Great Fire Of London

London's Burning! London's Burning!

It was with great excitement that the Year 2 children carefully carried their Tudor houses outside last Thursday. The buildings were set up with the bakery in Pudding Lane in the centre of the street. The children watched with trepidation as the maintenance team lit a fire in the bakery.

The children watched in awe as their buildings went up in smoke, the wind helping to spread the fire as it did in 1666. The children offered ideas as to how the fire spread and discussions about fire safety were had in earnest. An exciting afternoon was had by all our Year 2 house builders. *RP*







## Inter-School Debate

Our four keen Year 8 Debaters set off to Vinehall School to participate in the next round of our termly Inter-School Debating competition.

The four intrepid chaps were: Felix H, Ben W, Stanley W and Matthew M and they certainly needed nerves of steel for some of the topics with which they were faced!

They had only seven minutes in which to work with their partner to prepare their arguments on one of these topics and then three minutes each to present their arguments, backed by evidence

and explanation. They faced interruptions and questions for the majority of that time and needed to stay calm and cool under the considerable pressure which this poses.

As ever, Team MHS were fantastic ambassadors for the school, winning their debates on a couple of occasions and they were warmly praised for their efforts. Holmewood House won the final, snatching victory in a very challenging debate. Congratulations to all the boys for their enthusiasm and commitment to the process! It was great fun. KA

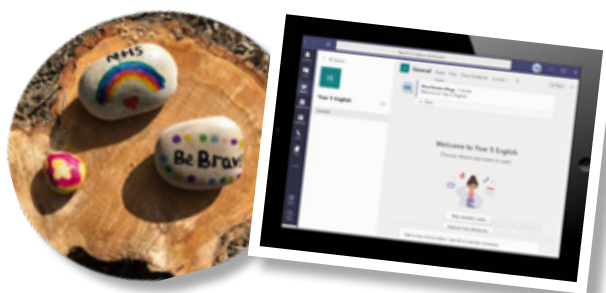
## MHS Remote Learning

In the wake of the health crisis, the decision was made to close schools nationwide. As imminent as it had been, it was still a shock to hear that we were to be closed until further notice and difficult for all of us to comprehend.

The last day at school was a strange day for all in the knowledge that face to face contact with our pupils had come to an end for an indefinite period. The children in school made the most of their time together and we know that things will go back to normal in time, we just have to see it through.

So a new chapter began for Marlborough House in the last week of the Spring Term, with lessons shared on the online Parent Portal. Things were a little different but everyone got stuck in and teachers were available online to support families along the way.

With things set to be a little different for some time to come, MHS is embracing remote teaching with the switch to an interactive platform, Microsoft Teams. This will enable teachers to communicate directly with pupils on a daily basis in a secure, shared space.



So what does this mean for our children? This unprecedented situation has placed many restrictions on our society, but I hope that it will also provide our pupils with new ways to grow and learn, safe in the knowledge that they are supported by their familiar network of teachers. An easy and open flow of information between the teachers and their pupils is so important, which is why we are so excited about adopting this new interactive online platform.

In the face of the fast-changing global situation, I have been reflecting on our aim to equip children with the character attributes and life skills that will prepare them for the next steps in their educational journey and beyond. Indeed it is part of our ethos: Enjoying Today. Educating for Tomorrow. This ethos seems particularly important in light of the current challenging situation. We look forward to taking on these challenges together, apart. VC



# Sports Round-Up



## Rugby Season & Final Fixture Round-Up

The boys were unbeaten in their final block of rugby matches against the all-boys school, Solefields. It was an excellent afternoon in both weather and performances with no losses from the six games.

The U10A and B teams both had close exciting wins. The U11A and B teams also won their matches with very convincing wins, as did our U12's. The U13's, for whom size has been against them this season, played as a ten a side team against some big boys, but our footwork and handing skills kept

us in the game and a 20-20 draw was a great result for them against the lads from Solefields.

Overall the season has seen MHS produce 10 rugby sides and we have played 51 matches. We won 31, drew 7 and lost in 13 games. Another strong season! A huge thank you to all the boys who have put in so much effort and to the staff who have coached the open flowing running rugby that MHS is renowned for. *RM*

## Netball Season Round-Up

Congratulations to all of the girls on a great netball season. We have notable success in our U11A team who have only lost two games all season and have been improving week on week. Our biggest success story goes to the U10A team who have been unbeaten for the whole netball season. They have worked exceptionally well as a team and each week were up for the challenge to keep their unbeaten title, ending on Wednesday with a 17 - 4 win against Skipper Hills.

Well done to the U10A squad: Holly H, Ellie H, Tallulah S, Eliza F, Mya V, Eliza B, Pippa G, Gracie G, Clara E. *JL*







## Hockey Season Round-Up

The boys' hockey season has been badly disrupted with around half the fixtures cancelled due to rain or the social spacing concerns affecting all school communities. When we were able to play, the boys played some good quality hockey. Overall some 26 fixtures were played and we managed to get to three tournaments.

The senior boys achieved some hard fought draws with New Beacon and Holmewood House, and beat Sevenoaks 6-0 in a tournament game.



The U13 B side went unbeaten, winning or drawing all their matches, the C side lost only one match and the D side also did not lose.



The U11 A side played some great hockey and won all their matches. The U10 side did not lose, drawing 1-1 in a great match with SVPS and the B side won all three of their matches. The under 9s also had some good games playing against three schools and scoring some great goals. The game is a very skilful game to play and involves real demands on fitness, which the boys really enjoy challenging themselves with.

Hockey at MHS is in a very healthy state and despite fewer boys playing at Marden and Tunbridge Wells Hockey Clubs at the weekends, we competed very well with all our local opposition.

## Lacrosse Season Round-Up

The weather was against us last term for the Lacrosse season, therefore we had many of our fixtures cancelled but we persevered where we could, even if this did mean getting a bit wet and muddy! The U13 and U12s showed good progression in their skills within field lacrosse and showed some great competitive spirit at the Benenden tournament. At St Ronan's we again

battled the weather and although not coming away with a win, the girls thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon. On the pop lacrosse field we visited St Ronans again for a triangular and the girls showed determination and great teamwork to score some good goals. I'm looking forward to a less wet lacrosse season next year! JL





# Salvete

## Samantha Jones, Maths and Girls' Games Teacher

I joined Marlborough House in 2020 as a Maths Teacher after five years working in a primary school. Before beginning my career, I was always interested in working with children and spent many days supporting my mother in her own classroom, which was where my passion for teaching was initially sparked. After graduating from the University of Greenwich with a BA Hons in Primary Education, I began my career in a primary school teaching year 4 which soon progressed to also being the Leader of Computing, Sport and Mathematics.

I have worked closely alongside White Rose Maths during my time as a Maths Leader and have found their resources have transformed the teaching of maths to build on the children's confidence as well as their enjoyment and passion.

Sport has always been a love of mine, partaking in many sports from a young age.



## Jennifer Lelliott, Head of Girls Games and Humanities Teacher

I am in my 11th year of teaching, before Marlborough House School

I have worked in secondary schools in Folkestone and Hastings, the latter being at a Senior Leadership level. At university I studied Physical Education and then went on to do



a Masters in Leadership and Management in Education.

I wish to inspire pupils to have a love for sport and physical activity and be a role model for them. My main sport is Basketball and I hope to develop this through the clubs programme here at Marlborough House, alongside continuing to develop the pupils' skills and knowledge in the games afternoon sessions.

Having the opportunity to teach Humanities from year 4 – 6 is a fantastic chance to strengthen pupils' ability to communicate and work together whilst gaining knowledge of foreign cultures and the world around us, both past and present. I am thoroughly enjoying my role as Head of Girls Games and Humanities teacher.

## Andy Lynch, Year 3 Class Teacher

I have recently joined Marlborough House after teaching in a variety of different schools and have taught in schools around the country and also abroad in Slovakia for two years. Originally my passion was coaching children sport, but after travelling to many places I realised the love I had for sharing my experiences, and teaching children about so many more subjects other than sports.



## Junior Masters

### Kyle Jackson, Junior Master

I am working at Marlborough House School from January 2020 as a Gap Year Student and Junior Master in the boarding house.





I was born in Cape Town, South Africa and have lived there all my life. I have played sport from a very young age and often at a high level which, through school and excellent coaching staff, has allowed me the great opportunity to travel and meet new people.



In recent years I started to coach the younger boys at my school which made me realise how much I enjoy working with kids, especially in the coaching aspect.

Marlborough House has given me another great opportunity to travel and be in an environment where I can make an impact in younger people's lives as well as learn new skills in the process.

### Luke Derbyshire, Junior Master

I am a gap student working at Marlborough House as a Junior Master for the whole of 2020. I was born in Cape Town and now live in Pretoria (South Africa). I am strong not only in sports, but also in academics. I love all sports and enjoy teaching them, but my all-time favourite is football.

I also enjoy skiing and playing table tennis and pool. My hobbies would be gaming/working with computers and playing the guitar.

I come from a family of five, my parents and two younger brothers. Being the eldest means that I am used to being around younger children and accepting responsibility. I love working with kids and therefore I love working at Marlborough House!



## Congratulations to...

### Karen Pearce, Cook

Karen has worked at MHS for over three years and has proved herself to be a positive, productive and more than capable member of the catering team. It's wonderful that we have been able to promote to this position from within the School community. DSJP



### Tom Robson, Head of Clubs and Boys' Games Coach

Tom joined Marlborough House in September 2019 as a Boys' Games Coach and this term he has also taken on responsibility for our extra-curricular programme as the new Head of Clubs.



### Hugh Whitlock, Year 1 Teaching Assistant

Hugh joined Marlborough House School in March 2019 as a Junior House Master. In January 2020 he started his next chapter at MHS in Pre-Prep as a Teaching Assistant in Year 1.





## Valete



### James Hockley and Trudy Barnes

James and Trudy have been key members of our coaching team for many years.

James joined us in 2004 having spent some years with KCCC and after 16 years it is true to say many of our children have benefited from his watchful eye out on the pitches, wickets or in the nets. James has worked as a games coach, also as a dedicated groundsman. One year he and a junior master re-laid the whole of the cricket pitch and dedicated many hours, year after year, to produce superb wickets here at MHS. James also loves his football and took on the senior boys 1st XI team for many years. More recently, James took on responsibility for our extra-curricular programme, introducing new computer based systems to enable the development of our clubs provision.

Trudy is a netball specialist and has also helped with swimming, undertaking her qualifications, and also with Trampolining, one of her lesser known passions. Trudy worked tirelessly in the girls department and supported that team with kindness and dedication.

We wish James and Trudy well in their new adventure locally, though we will still see James in the evenings with his cricket coaching based here at MHS. *RM*

### Mr Ian Ross (MHS 1971 – 1988)

We were sorry to hear that Mr Ian Ross, who was Headmaster of MHS from 1971 to 1988, sadly died last week. Both of Ian and Jill's sons, Paul and William, attended MHS as well as three Grandsons, Kit, Rufus and Jack, so the Ross family have a long connection with the school and Ian was a much respected Headmaster.



### Congratulations to Jack Van Den Heuvel

MHS Alumnus 2009 – 2019, Jack van den Heuvel is going from strength to strength; having been awarded a Music Scholarship to Eton last year, he has gone on to achieve a Distinction in his Grade 7 Piano and Cello. In addition, Jack was awarded the best score in the country in his Singing examination (an amazing 147/150), winning the ABRSM 'Miss Edith Oulton De Pauley Prize'. This prestigious prize is offered to the candidate obtaining the highest mark in Grade 7 Voice in 2019.



We hear Jack is very happy at Eton and enjoying everything. He was highly commended in Junior Advanced Piano Competition last term and Commended in Composition. Well done Jack!





## From The Archives

**Ahead to the 75th anniversary of VE Day on 8th May 2020, we look back at the school archive of photos and memories from the Second World War.**

With the advent of the Second World War, Headmaster Arthur Harrison took the decision ‘almost overnight’ to evacuate the school to Great Bidlake in Devon. In the large threshing barn on the estate the pupils created a mural of Noah’s Ark that remains to this day.



### **Bidlake in the early 20th century**

18 past pupils are named on our memorial as casualties of the Second World War. At a time when the school was still very small (the roll was about 55 boys in 1945), it is hardly surprising that each ‘roll of honour’ included in school magazines in this period is filled with personal, poignant detail and affectionate memories of the MHS ‘old boys’ who had been lost: Peter Reading, we are told, trained as an RAF night fighter and filled his letters home from North Africa with descriptions of the vineyards, birds and flowers he found there. John Blunt and Kenneth Davis, the first and second boys to come to MHS after its move to Hawkhurst in 1930, were also both killed flying.

Davis had written regularly back to MHS and “in every letter was looking forward to seeing the school again”. Edwin Britton, (MHS 1927-33) had visited the evacuated Marlborough House in Devon and the magazine of 1945-6, in reporting his death in a flying accident, recalls “the thrill of watching his Barracuda fly over the playing field” on that occasion.

As the war drew to a close, Marlborough House returned again to Hawkhurst. Pupil Michael Bawtree remembers the ‘cloudless warm May evening’ in 1945 when the boys returned to rediscover old haunts and build new memories.





Spring 2020

THE CASTLE

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