



Spring 2021

THE CASTLE



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'TWO HOUSE POINTS
FOR RESILIENCE'

Lockdown well-being

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MARLBOROUGH HOUSE
GOES GREEN

Tree planting and more

PAGE 13

RED NOSE
DAY

Comic Relief fundraising



MARLBOROUGH
HOUSE SCHOOL EST 1874

ENJOYING TODAY
EDUCATING FOR TOMORROW



Note from the Head

Spring 2021

As I write, the sun is shining, spring is definitely in the air and we have almost 100 children with us in the Holiday Club which followed the end of term. There is a cheerful and bubbly mood, with staff and children enjoying their wonderful relationships in a relaxed atmosphere.

The term was not always like this! Memories will fade about remote learning and lockdown, but January and February were not easy for children, parents and staff, as we wrestled with hours of screen time and bad weather outside. At times it was relentless and undoubtedly difficult, but many positives shone through. The relationship between school and home is stronger than ever, with teachers and parents appreciating the challenges of each other's roles. Children have learnt resilience and independence, showing grit and determination as well as a pride in their work. Best of all, we have developed greater empathy for those around us, appreciating that the way we feel is as important as the things that we achieve. Will society be gentler and less frenetic as a result of this pandemic?

The children have sat entrance exams, gained scholarships, delivered informal concerts remotely and so many other "normal" events

have taken place – read on to enjoy and remember the highlights of the term. I will remember the commitment of the staff towards remote learning and their care of the keyworker children, the supportive emails and comments from the parents towards the school and the joyful return of the pupils at the beginning of March. A big thank you goes to the Testing Team who gave up so much of their time to test staff and Year 8 pupils to ensure a safe return.

And so we look back and forward. While this term was by no means insignificant, it served as an appetiser for the Summer Term, when we can emerge as a school back into the arena of sports matches and school events. I look forward to welcoming parents into the school, as touchline supporters and coffee drinkers, Sports Day attendees and car park debaters! The children will enjoy a Summer Term that they missed last year and we can all dream of a return to the halcyon days of yore!



Eddy Newton, Head





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Scholarship News

Congratulations to all the children who were awarded scholarships in the Spring Term.

Year 8

Elliot F, Nigel Wheeler Sports Scholarship, Eastbourne College

Emmy R, Performing Arts Scholarship, Claremont School

Millie M, Dance Scholarship, Brighton College

Olivia W, Nigel Wheeler Sports Scholarship, Eastbourne College

Theo C, Art Scholarship, Battle Abbey School

Ulysses P, Design and Technology Award, Brighton College

Year 6

Ellie H, Sports Scholarship, Sutton Valence School

Holly H, Sports Scholarship, Sutton Valence School

Pippa G, Music Scholarship, Mayfield School



Head Girl and Head Boy

Congratulations to Rex C and Sophie C who are our Head Boy and Head Girl for the Spring and Summer Terms. All positions of responsibility will roll over for the Summer Term to ensure children have the opportunity to fulfil their leadership roles.



A Virtual Start of Term

Children were welcomed back this term with a show of school spirit from their teachers in a fun video reminding them to be kind, to work hard, and not to worry!

Over the first national lockdown, this emotional support proved more important for children than academic progression, but it was gratifying for us to see that pupils had lost almost no technical ground; something we set out to repeat in lockdown 3.0, with a focus on well-being and the continuity of high-quality education.

Classrooms and events at Marlborough House moved online, providing remote learning and daily live link-ups for Reception to Year 8, while our Nursery remained open. In addition, we had



25 children of key workers being educated and cared for onsite.

Well done to our new starters this term who enjoyed a virtual welcome as they joined their new classes for the first time online.



MHS Testing Centre

In the first half of term we opened a testing centre onsite. Many thanks to our School Nurse, Mrs Rushton, for coordinating testing, supported by her team of school staff helpers.



CORE CHARACTER STRENGTHS:

Kindness
Resilience
Curiosity
Focus
Creativity
Confidence

Lockdown Well-Being

We are dedicated to promoting positive mental health in young people, not just as a standalone initiative tacked on to the curriculum, but as an integrated part of our daily lives at school. As our school moved online, so did this provision, with an increased emphasis on well-being across the whole school community.

During online learning, teachers' daily live link-ups with children enabled them to continue to offer emotional support to even our youngest pupils. One size did not fit all, but communication was key, as was resilience and independence from the children.

In addition, live PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) lessons, for Reception to Year 8, provided an established framework for growing the children's characters and delivering skills to support good mental health.

In Pre-Prep PSHE lessons, Mrs Reid, Head of Pre-Prep, talked about the core character strengths. When discussing resilience in Year 2 PSHE, they looked at how Anna (Frozen), Woody (Toy Story) and Merida (Brave) all show 'stickability' and keep going when things get tough. Children were rewarded for showing they were able to resist something or for persevering when they found something hard - "two house points for showing resilience and self-control"! They also reflected on 'Valuing Self and Others' - being kind to yourself and other people, with wristbands

being posted to those who had helped out at home.

In the Prep School, we follow the Jigsaw PHSE scheme of work. This is a mindful

approach to PHSE, to encourage independence of thought and appreciation of contemplation. This term children were reflecting on 'Celebrating Difference', in live lessons with Mrs Walker, Head of PSHE; providing further opportunity to talk about how everyone was coping with lockdown life.



Children across the school were encouraged to stay active. Pre-Prep to Year 4 continued their focus on outdoor learning, with optional Forest School activities for families to participate in - providing another notable reminder of the positive effects of the great outdoors on

our mental health and well-being. In the Prep School, live workout classes from the Sports department were a great success, ensuring children enjoyed the benefits of exercise during a winter lockdown. *RR & CW*



Pre-Prep Poem of the Month



The teachers in Pre-Prep are sharing a poem for every month of 2021; a collection designed to create memories of the children's school days and friends, wherever they are.

January

January's poem was about being able to find time and space for you and your thoughts. Please enjoy 'Halfway Down' by A.A. Milne, read by 1W Teacher, Mrs Willett.



February

February, Mrs Bailey, Deputy Head of Pre-Prep, read a light-hearted poem called 'Please Mrs Butler', by Allan Ahlberg, all about a rather unusual teacher...

Don't miss the children's beautiful posters with messages about their teachers at the end - the Pre-Prep team loved receiving them.



March

The Pre-Prep Poem of the Month for March was 'On the Ning Nang Nong' by Spike Milligan and is read here by the wonderful Mrs Atkins, Head of English.





Sports Hall Redecoration

We were delighted to kick off the second half of term with news of our redecorated Sports Hall, which is looking very smart! Thank you to our Grounds and Maintenance team for all their hard work.



Three Little Birds

During the first half of term, children in the Prep School took up the challenge of learning to sign a song, culminating in Year 3's uplifting version of Three Little Birds.



Children's Mental Health Week

We celebrated Children's Mental Health Week with activities across the school.

This year the theme was 'Express Yourself' and children took part in a 'Dress to Express Day'. Everyone embraced the opportunity to show their individuality and share their characters with each other... and what a collection of great characters we have - there were animals, superheroes, colours, party goers and skiers to name a few.

PSHE lessons and Form Time in the Pre-Prep and Prep school also provided a great opportunity to discuss these topics.



Year 3's Ancient Greek Day

Following on from their learning all about the Ancient Greeks, Year 3 spent the week leading up to half term completing a range of tasks to prepare for their Greek feast.

The children selected their own menu, wrote a shopping list, invites and even created place names using the Ancient Greek alphabet. This became a half term highlight for many and really brought the topic of the Ancient Greeks to life for them. Excellent work Year 3. *EC*



Prep School Informal Music Concerts



Music at MHS has continued to thrive throughout lockdown via remote lessons.

After a term of singing and playing whilst muted or watching recorded performances it was truly wonderful to create 'live' events together online in February and March. Our performers ranged from beginners who only started learning during the September term through to some of our more experienced instrumentalists. Solo performances, duets and ensembles provided us with two thoroughly entertaining evenings.

Thank you to all of the music teachers who have worked so hard to keep music going through these times. Listening and playing music is so important to our mental health, more now than ever. Well done to our amazing performers! *AP*



MHS Virtual Kitchen

From French cooking to Anglo-Saxon baking - the MHS Virtual Kitchen has been great fun for all involved.

Children in Years 3 and 5 were busy making galettes and home-made crowns (French tradition) and roscón (Spanish tradition) in the first weeks of term. They were learning about French and Spanish culture where these wonderful looking pastries are made to celebrate Epiphany on 6th January, remembering the visit of the three kings to the baby Jesus. The Galette des Rois (King's cake) was a particular success, with children across the school having a go at baking a crown and hiding a charm inside the pastry - whoever finds the charm is crowned King or Queen!



Next up were crepes, to celebrate the Christian feast of Candlemas or Chandeleur. Year 8 led the way and the whole school had the opportunity to cook along with Mme De Haan's cooking demonstration. With Pancake Day around the corner, this was a great opportunity to perfect those pancake making skills.



Our virtual kitchen then went back in time with Year 5 as they tried their hand at Anglo-Saxon bread in History with a live demonstration from Miss Lelliott. Well done to all our fantastic chefs - see the magazine's back cover for photos!



Marlborough Must-Reads

The English Department marked World Book Day 2021 by releasing the **Marlborough Must-Reads**; 18 personally recommended books to delight and inspire a new generation of readers. Predominantly aimed at children in the Prep School (Years 3-8), there is a selection of fiction and non-fiction, and a collection of poems.

- **The Book Thief by Markus Zusak**

- **Astrosaurus by Steve Cole**

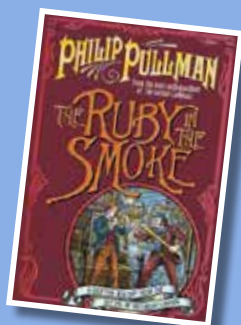
- **The Parent Agency by David Baddiel**



- **Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer**

- **The Subtle Knife from His Dark Materials Trilogy by Philip Pullman**

- **The Ruby in the Smoke by Philip Pullman**



- **Wonder by R.J. Palacio**

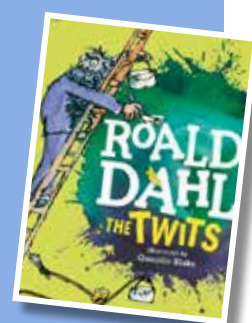
- **Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman**

- **The Thirty-Nine Steps by John Buchan**

- **The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman**

- **The Hamlyn Guide to Birds of Britain and Europe by Bertel Bruun**

- **The Twits by Roald Dahl**



- **Mortal Engines by Philip Reeve**

- **How to Train your Dragon by Cressida Cowell**

- **Matilda by Roald Dahl**

- **Struwwelpeter by Heinrich Hoffman**

- **Some Dogs Do by Jez Alborough**



- **The Chimpanzees of Happy Town by Giles Andreae and Guy Parker-Rees**



SCAN ME



Whilst Years 6-8 were able to participate in their Young Shakespeare Company workshop virtually, children will take part in their full World Book Week experience in the Summer Term, when the carousel of visiting authors, books fairs and fancy dress will descend for an inspiring week dedicated to books and reading.



Young Shakespeare Company Workshop

We will probably all agree that we have been truly challenged by the various slings and arrows of outrageous fortune this year, but, in true thespian style, the English Department, having debated the time-honoured question “To be or not to be?” was determined that it would be. The show must go on! And so we approached our first ever Zoom “workshop” with a mixture of excitement and some trepidation. A Zooming Hamlet?

However, any doubts we had were soon cast aside by the incredible Young Shakespeare Company, who, as always, managed to deliver a wonderful theatrical experience to our Year 6 and 8 children. This storytelling workshop involved and engaged the children in so many ways - we had children acting the roles of the main characters, providing sound effects and responses and creating the atmosphere of mystery and intrigue. The children played their parts brilliantly and participated with great energy, enthusiasm and enjoyment. They have become so adept at online learning that this medium proved no barrier to their engagement.

They were answering thought-provoking questions with ease - typing in responses into the chat option, putting up their “virtual” and real hands and contributing in so many ways in this tale of murder, madness and mayhem.

Congratulations to all the children for their great participation and especially to the key actors.

In Year 6: Tom (Old King Hamlet), Eliza F (Gertrude), Benji (Prince Hamlet), Dexter (Claudius), Zac (Rosencrantz), Eliza B (Guildenstern), Joel (Polonius), Gracie (Ophelia), Barney (Laertes) and Phoebe (Horatio)

In Year 8: Oliver V (Old King Hamlet), Dasia (Gertrude), Henry (Prince Hamlet), Emmy (Claudius), Maddie (Rosencrantz), Uly (Guildenstern), Isabelle (Polonius), Millie (Ophelia), Hermione (Laertes) and George (Horatio).

And many thanks to the colleagues who also participated in this very enjoyable event. KA



Back to School

We were all delighted to learn that school would be reopening in March and began counting down the days. 6DH celebrated the end of lockdown in style with an online disco! Then, on 8th March, we were jumping for joy to welcome all our pupils back to school.



Marlborough House Goes Green

This term I wrote to parents about our commitment to the environment. As an Eco School, our school is now part of a global community, working to raise environmental awareness amongst young people and to create environmental change for the benefit of our children and future generations.

We are also introducing projects to transform our environment, kicking this off by planting over 200 native trees at school this Spring. Well done to all the children who took part in our March tree planting day. We have more trees arriving at the end of April so everyone will have an opportunity to plant a tree. These will mainly be located around our Forest School and to create a Woodland Walk adjacent to this area.

We have invited participation in our Eco-Committee from across the school community, including children, parents, staff and governors, and have also started an Eco Board to keep everyone updated on all the work.

We hope you are as excited about our eco-journey as we are.
EN



SCAN ME



The Great Fire of London

Year 2 have been learning about the Great Fire of London this term and made Tudor buildings to complete the topic. They took their houses outside and set up a street scene as in London Town in 1666. Then the children watched with anticipation as the fire spread from house to house. They felt empathy for the people who lost their houses in the fire as they had put so much work into building their own. *RP*





Red Nose Day

Our aim was to fill the donations tube and in the end it was overflowing from Red Nose sales, Change for Chores and the Cake Raffle. Well done everyone, we did it!

What a fantastic day of fun too, with the children taking part in all sorts of Red Nose Day activities including the Red Nose and Spoon Assault Course, cupcake decorating in Pre-Prep, share a smile (well done to 5J who won the form competition), a Red Nose Day Maths Challenge, a Red-themed lunch and last but not least, the McTrusty Cake Raffle.

A huge thank you to all the staff who came together to organise events and fundraising activities. With a special mention to the catering team for making all the beautiful cupcakes for break (and an additional 300 cupcakes for the Pre-Prep children to decorate and take home).





Music Round-Up and Exam Success

Music through lockdown has presented us with some unique challenges but lessons have continued remotely, as have some instrumental groups and choirs. Everyone at MHS has really stepped up to keep the music playing.

We have even had a few exams, trialling the recorded ABRSM performance exams. We are thrilled that all the children who have taken a music exam received a Merit or Distinction.

Congratulations go to:

- Hermione SJP, Grade 3 Flute with Merit
- Gracie G, Grade 4 singing with Merit
- Isobel B, Grade 4 singing with Distinction

- Rose BP took her Grade 1 piano with Trinity and achieved a Distinction

Olivia S and Elina S in Year 3 have taken their piano exams and are waiting for their results. Good luck to them both.

The return to school has come with a real focus on instrumental work in all year groups. Classes have been learning to play glockenspiels and djembe drums as well as using instruments to create their own arrangements of the Drunken Sailor Sea Shanty in Year 6 and the different planets based on the Planet Suite by Gustav Holst in Year 4.

This term we have also held two successful informal concerts online (see earlier write up).
AP & RB

Congratulations Amanda Philip, Director of Music

Miss Philip joined Marlborough House in September 2020 as a Music Teacher and I am delighted to confirm her position as Director of Music with effect from the beginning of the Summer Term. *EN*



Clubs Round-Up

From Dance to Philosophy it was fantastic to see the return of clubs for the last three weeks of term with all the opportunities that extra-curricular activities provide. We look forward to our Summer Term Clubs Programme which includes Roller Skating, Debating, Photography, Gardening and a range of Summer sports. *TR*





End of Term Inter-House Matches

The final Games session of term saw children in the Prep School take part in inter-house tournaments.

In Years 5 - 8, the girls competed in netball and the boys in hockey.

Girls results: 1st Dunbar, 2nd Egan, 3rd Awdry, 4th Hawkings

Boys results: 1st Dunbar, 2nd Hawkings, 3rd Egan, 4th Awdry

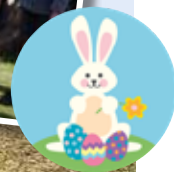
In Years 3 and 4, the children played fun mixed hockey; some great opportunities for friendly competition.

We very much look forward to the return of inter-school matches in the Summer Term. *RM*



Year 4's Easter Service

While we would have loved to have been able to invite parents to watch the Easter Service at school, the children had the opportunity to do things a little differently, and they enjoyed being part of this project. *ED & MM*



Year 4 took on the Jerusalem Dance Challenge to open their Easter Service! Scan the QR code using your phone's camera.



SCAN ME



Holiday Club

What a great few days! Fun in the sun was had by all as the children and staff returned to school for some pre-Easter games and activities.





Valete

Dominic St John Parker, Bursar

Dominic St John Parker leaves his role as Bursar at MHS after nine years to take up a similar position at The Hawthorns Prep School in Surrey. He has worked alongside four Heads and countless members of staff over the years and carried out the many aspects of his job with cheerful commitment. A Bursar's role is hugely varied and Dominic has overseen property development (including the Sports Hall extension and completion of the Hopkins Hall), fees, general finance and governance, and many other areas of the school besides. Dominic's understated yet passionate approach to the job has been hugely appreciated and he leaves with our best wishes for his new post. *EN*

Sally Reeves, French Teacher

Madame Reeves has a dedicated and conscientious approach to her teaching. She is proud of her profession and cares passionately about her colleagues in the teaching community beyond the walls of MHS. As an MFL teacher, she believes in the value and benefit of her subject for the development of children and their education enormously. A pupil telling her that they love French brings a lot of joy to her!

Many French scholars at MHS blossomed under her guidance and achieved great results. She also put her linguistic skills to good use on European trips and her negotiating skills in Italian with grumpy coach drivers will be remembered for a long time!

We thank you Mme Reeves for your commitment to the school over the past twelve years and wish you the best for the future. *EDH*

Julie Speers, Head of Design and Technology

Dr Speers joined Marlborough House in September 2015 as Head of Design Technology and more recently took on the role of Head of Learning Support. Julie Speers was an active member of the Forest School Team, happily spending many a morning delivering creative and imaginative sessions within our wonderful School grounds. It was during the first lockdown that we really saw Julie's creativity take on a very important role, as she used the School's DT equipment to create over 500 visors for the local healthcare professionals. We wish her all the best in the future.

Christopher Walker, Head of Maths

Christopher Walker has been an enthusiastic and very knowledgeable Head of Maths, with us for two years. I greatly enjoyed learning about the Babylonian number system and discussing the relative merits of algebra and probability with him! Beyond mathematics, Mr Walker has been involved on the games field and an entertaining Form Tutor. He is also quite the magician, running a magic club; the children marvelling at his sleight of hand. We will miss his sartorial style, especially the waistcoats and wish him well for the future. *TP-C*



1960s Cricket Team Photo

Thank you to Mr Hodson, Chair of Governors, for sharing his MHS Cricket Team photo from the 1960s, featuring England Cricketer David Gower (middle left) and Actor David Haig (back left) – quite the line-up!

New Alumni Area Online

We were pleased to launch the new online home for the Marlborough House Society this term; a great online area for sharing news, events and updates from our alumni community and the school.



Spring 2021

THE CASTLE

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