



Spring 2022

THE CASTLE



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Fun in snowy Switzerland



ENJOYING TODAY
EDUCATING FOR TOMORROW



Note from the Head

Spring 2022

It's the last day of term, the sun is shining and we've just planted the Jubilee tree near the Pre-Prep playground – everything feels rosy! Holiday Club is round the corner, the school ski trip is finally on its way to the Alps and a lovely Year 4 Easter Service has sent us on our way in just the right spirits. It hasn't always been like that this term, but the cheerful and energetic feel of the school has maintained superiority over the uncertainty that COVID has provided. The children have made good progress in the classroom, the staff have rallied all the way to the finish line and everyone can take a few deep breaths and relax - another term is over!

In February we were audited by a team from the PSB, the Pre-Senior Bacculaureate, which we use as our teaching philosophy and structure in Years 7 and 8. Fundamentally the PSB advocates that you should cover the same material as any other school but simultaneously develop a wide range of skills as you do so – collaboration, research and independent project work for instance. The audit gave us confidence that not only are we doing this well in Year 7, but that the spirit of independence and skills-based learning is alive and well throughout the school. Their visit provided positive affirmation

that the way we are teaching your children and the skills that we are instilling in them is the right way - and delivered to a high standard.

Next term we will walk proudly into our new Art and DT building, a superb improvement to our existing facilities that is so nearly finished. A huge thank you to Mrs Fields, Mrs Robinson and the children for coping so well in such a small temporary space – the new building will dazzle, I promise! At the same time, other small additions and improvements are underway, as we seek to enhance the wonderful environment that the school grounds already provide.

Finally, from me a heartfelt thank you to all the staff, parents and children who help to make the Marlborough House community so warm and special. At times it has been challenging, but the teamwork and understanding shown by all have been outstanding. Enjoy the contents of this magazine and here's looking forward to the Summer Term.

Eddy Newton, Head







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Pre-Prep's Mathematical Monday

Magical Maths sparkled all around Pre-Prep on Mathematical Monday. There was a real buzz around the building as the children took part in an exciting carousel of activities. They were in mixed year groups and loved solving problems together and were immersed in Maths for the whole morning.



They made tangram pictures with 2D shapes in RBY, built the tallest tower possible in RBD, measured parts of the body in 1W, played a beetle game involving throwing a dice and drawing parts of a beetle in 1L, used real money in 2C and created 3D shapes from cocktail sticks and mini marshmallows in 2P.

It was wonderful to see every child experiencing the joy of Maths and realising how fun it can be.

Mrs Bailey, Head of Pre-Prep Maths



SCAN ME

Scan to view the photos on the Parent Portal

Year 6 Geography virtual workshop with the Natural History Museum

Year 6 were fortunate to enjoy a visit from the Natural History Museum (NHM) this term.

With the wonders of technology that we have all become so accustomed to using, pupils gathered in the Hopkins Hall and enjoyed a 'virtual' workshop on earthquakes and volcanoes, their current topic in Geography.

In addition to revising some of their geographical knowledge, pupils explored the structure of the earth, including tectonic plates and how their movements can lead to earthquakes. With the assistance of models at the NHM, the class created an earthquake of their own and learnt of the damage earthquakes can cause, how scientists record this data and the equipment they use.

They also studied how igneous rock is formed and discovered the power of explosive eruptions. They learnt about the clues and evidence scientists look for when identifying these types of volcanoes and the dangers they can pose. In the final section of the workshop, the class were called upon to decide the fate of 'Volcano Town'; using their newly gained knowledge to gather data, make predictions on the volcano in question and correctly decided to evacuate the town, just in time.

Mr Kimber, Head of Geography





Living Willow Homestead

Welcome to our living willow homestead!

The new dome and connecting tunnel complement our existing willow structures, creating a magical area for imaginations to run wild in. Year 1 were already identifying a 'home' and 'garden' area as they gleefully explored the new structures for the first time.

A huge thank you to Middle School's wonderful Mrs Robinson and her husband for all their hard work planting and building the living willow creations. We can't wait to watch them all grow.



Roman Fort Competition

As part of their history topic of Romans and following their visit to Richborough Roman Museum last term, the Year 5 children created Roman fort models and did a presentation to their classes.

The winners were Camilla L, Bea T, Reuben N, Theo N and Emma E for their fantastic fort and their very detailed presentation, spoken with confidence and presenting skills well above their age. These children received a £5 Amazon voucher for winning the competition.

Second place went to Olivia J, Isaac G and Annabel J for a confident, informative presentation and a great fort.

Special mention goes to: Charlotte B, Rafferty P, Freddie C and Poppy H-B for the most detailed fort model, which included an amphitheatre with animals, blood and people.

Mrs Lelliott, Year 5 History Teacher



Chinese New Year

Kung Hei Fat Choi!

We enjoyed celebrating the Chinese New Year of the Tiger. Nursery led the way and learnt all about the race that the Jade Emperor set for the animals, helping them to understand ordinal numbers and how each animal fared.

Both Nursery and Reception enjoyed dressing up in traditional costumes and doing some Chinese New Year inspired crafts; Nursery created beautiful pictures from red and gold paper while Reception created sock dragons. Many thanks to Kristina and Beatrice S who sent us a video of them singing a new year song in Mandarin.

The whole school enjoyed a special Chinese menu, a highlight of which was the EYFS chopstick practice - despite some training picking up toy dinosaurs with chopsticks, there were noodles everywhere!

Year 3 and 4 enjoyed an assembly on Chinese New Year discussing the traditions and different animals associated with the festival. While Years 5 and 6 took part in a tangram activity in maths; creating an imaginative range of animals and shapes out of seven piece puzzles.

Recycling Food Waste at MHS



As part of our aim to be a green school and to improve our impact on the environment, we are pleased to now be recycling all our food waste, both cooked and in its raw stage.

All food waste is placed in designated red bins which are located in the kitchen preparation and cooking area, with additional bins in the dining room. This waste is collected once a week, as part of an already established food waste collection round, and taken to a new, local anaerobic digester plant near Maidstone, where it will be converted into gas and electricity.

The biogas will be fed directly into the National Grid, as well as powering the plant itself and creating farm fertiliser.

Well done to the children who are doing a good job of minimising waste and ensuring any waste is going into the new red bins.



RHS School Gardening Award

Many congratulations to the Pre-Prep Gardening Club who have been awarded their Level 4 RHS Gardening Award.

In order to gain this next level, the children had to:

- use tools like a professional gardener to dig, rake and sow
- know how to protect their plants against the weather, pests and diseases
- to plan seasonally to harvest produce throughout the year
- to know how to use the produce from their garden (the wonderful video of their Pumpkin Harvest certainly helped with this!)

Very well done to all the children, their prize of £100 worth of seeds from the RHS has arrived in time to sow for the season ahead.

Mrs Lowe, Year 1 Teacher and Head of Eco



National Storytelling Week

Year 7 were delighted to be able to spend some magical moments down in Pre-Prep as part of our National Storytelling Week.

The older children brought in a selection of their favourite books from home to share with Pre-Prep and it was a joy to watch the enthralled faces of the little ones. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were so impressed with the younger children's attention, enthusiasm and appreciation.



In French, tales were shared across a range of books and in English, Year 5 enjoyed sharing their fables outdoors with a warming cup of hot chocolate! A lovely way to celebrate the joys of reading.

Mrs Atkins, Head of English





Year 3 Ancient Greek Day

To support their Ancient Greek topic, Year 3 had an interactive learning workshop in the Old Gym. The workshop was run by an external company with actors and a wide range of props, really bringing the topic to life for the children.

Our trainee Greeks re-enacted one of the most important events on the Athenian calendar, the Panathenaic Festival. They then became traders in the Agora, bartering and negotiating in Greek, creating a lively and authentic Greek atmosphere. In addition to this, children carved out their own piece



of the Elgin marbles, as well as being whipped into shape with a battle drill, the Athenian way.

The Ancient Greeks were famous for their love of competitions, so in the afternoon, there was a chance for everyone to take part. The finalist of the thumb war took centre stage, with Eleanor T taking the top spot. As a finale, the children had a chance to take part in the great Festival Dionysia, performing their own theatrical production. Our choral singers were superb and there must be a special mention for Ollie M, who turned into the most fantastic, fearsome hunting dog.

It was hugely entertaining, and so lovely to see everyone participating and learning together. The children were very polite and really embraced the opportunity to try new activities and extend their skills and learning beyond the boundaries of the classroom.

Mrs Coombs, Year 3 Teacher



Pre-Prep Informal Concert

There was quite the buzz in Pre-Prep as many of our youngest musicians prepared for their concert.

We had pianists, singers and violinists performing a lovely variety of pieces. The children all performed their pieces beautifully. These events are such an amazing experience for the children to share what they have achieved in their music lessons, whether they have been learning for a year or so or have only had 4 lessons. The children were so supportive of each other throughout and thank you to the parents for encouraging practice at home to prepare for the concert and coming to watch. Thank you must also go to the instrumental teachers and, of course, our performers: Agnes, Jemima, Alice, Felix, Evie, Toby, Verity, Darcey, Guy, Christabel, George, Noorie and William.

Miss Philip, Director of Music



Prep School Informal Concert

We were treated to a wonderful variety of music from pupils across the Prep School.

From beginner instrumentalists with just a handful of lessons under their belts, to more experienced players it was wonderful to see the confidence of the performers shining through. There was a great range of instruments represented, from piano to violin, saxophone to guitar, clarinets, flutes, and singers. Some of the performers are preparing for an examination, others it was their first experience of performing to an audience. These experiences are so valuable to our young musicians, providing an opportunity to perform in such a supportive environment.

Many thanks go to the parents and teachers that have supported the children with their learning and practice. Super performances from Finley, Sophie, Annabel, Florence, Grace, Louis, Zoe, Raife, Poppy, Tara, Eleanor, Emma, Sophia, Eliza, Isobel, Olivia, Fleur and Rose.

Miss Philip, Director of Music





Young Shakespeare Company



How wonderful it was to welcome back into school the superb Young Shakespeare Company!

Last year, whilst we were still able to enjoy an online workshop due to lockdown restrictions, having the troupe in “live” this year reminded us all of the joy of live performances!

Their light-hearted, fun-filled, and action-packed interpretation of the perennially popular “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” brought tears of laughter to us all as they brought to life the comic confusion of the ill-fated lovers, the magical mayhem and Puckish pranks.

Our own Year 7 and Year 6 children played a range

of roles and threw themselves into creating the atmosphere of an enchanted forest. Duke Theseus was played by Barnaby, Hippolyta by Phoebe, and Egeus by Benji. The “Lovers” were played by Joel as Demetrius, Cleo as his mistreated love, Helena, while Matilda was the diminutive Hermia and Barnaby the charming and debonair heart-throb, Lysander. Our fairy troupe comprised Annabel, Eliza, Dexter and Zoe.

It was a performance full of authentic Shakespearean language, music and humour and one which will live on in our memories.

Mrs Atkins, Head of English

Nursery Chicks



There was huge egg excitement in Nursery when the children arrived after half term to find that their eggs were starting to hatch. Reception visited Nursery to see the baby chicks too and everyone had a chance to stroke them. The Nursery children are enjoying spending time with their growing chicks who now have their first feathers and are installed in an outdoor coop in the walled garden.



SCAN ME

Scan the QR code to watch our video on Instagram.



Children's Mental Health Week

During Children's Mental Health Week we spent time talking about how we were feeling, alongside thinking about the different ways that we can make ourselves feel emotionally better.

Prep School

All assemblies, chapels and PSHE lessons gave the children the opportunity to consider their own mental health with many taking part in Drama Workshops run by Perform to explore this theme. One of the activities included working together to create frozen pictures of stressful moments which we then examined in greater depth.

'Growing together' was the theme this year and everyone was encouraged to try something new and record their efforts on a card. These have ranged from 'trying the new stroganoff on the menu' to 'telling my friend how I really feel'.

The Harbour, a quiet place to spend break times, has seen many occupants who have chosen to do some mindful art activities, read and play chess.

The Sleep Clinic gave the children the opportunity to talk about their struggles with sleep. They experienced some guided meditation and went away with sleep



strategies and advice on how to create a restful environment.

Year 7 finished our week with Dress to Express where, instead of wearing uniform, they could show their individualism and personality through their own choice of clothes.

Finally, we were delighted to introduce two Friendship Benches, located under trees in Pre-Prep and the Prep School.

Ms Coatz, Deputy Head

Pre-Prep

Children in Pre-Prep enjoyed taking time throughout the week to find out what keeps us healthy mentally, emotionally and physically. Activities ranged from Mindful Monday, full of yoga and meditation to a wellie wellbeing walk on Friday. At playtime, we introduced a friendship bench where children could go to meet new friends or have a bit of quiet time.

The theme of 'Growing together' ran through the week with everyone sharing their achievements and new ventures with Mrs Reid in Show and Tell assemblies. We were amazed with what we can do with the support of friends, family and teachers. Children are learning to try new foods, ride bikes without stabilisers, swim further and learn new skills such as yo-yoing and skateboarding. There is no stopping us now and S Club 7's 'Reach for the Stars' is fast becoming the Pre-Prep anthem!

Thank you to all the families for supporting the message at home.

Mrs Reid, Head of Pre-Prep



Equine Therapy

Life extends well beyond the classroom at Marlborough House School where, as part of Children's Mental Health Week, Rocket the pony visited pupils for some equine therapy.

Through our weekly enrichment opportunities within the school day, we have already seen how beneficial riding lessons have been for pupils across the Prep School and the happiness and confidence these sessions bring. As a school which aims to educate characters, as well as minds, we wanted to build upon this and extend the experience so that it was accessible to more children.

One aspect we explored in the session was that animals and humans don't require words to communicate. The communication that we saw was solely on an emotional level, allowing the children to be more vulnerable around animals than they may be with other people. It was both fascinating and hugely rewarding to see this personal development being modelled by the children in Year 3 during the outdoor learning session with Rocket.

Being around horses also helps to open up a non-judgmental and unbiased relationship in which a person can learn to express and understand



themselves better. The horse will intuitively mirror feelings, making them very empathetic. Again, Rocket was a superstar in mirroring curiosity as he stopped by the Prep School classrooms, and then calmness and enjoyment when he was out at Forest School.

It was a hugely successful visit and a lovely addition to the multiple activities that took place during Children's Mental Health Week.

The children were a delight as ever, and Rocket thoroughly enjoyed his day out!

Mrs Coombs, Year 3 Teacher



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Scan the QR code
to watch our video.



RSPB's Big Schools Birdwatch

The Outdoor Classroom made the perfect hide for some bird watching as part of the RSPB's Big Schools Birdwatch in February.

In the afternoon sunshine, pupils from across the Prep School spent some quiet moments identifying and counting the birds which landed in the wooded areas around the Specs Pond and on the bird feeders they had made.

The birdwatch took place as part of the Prep School's new 'Great Outdoors' activity. So far this term, pupils have been exploring the grounds and enjoying seasonal fun including collecting ice sheets from the pond, counting tree age rings, writing descriptive alliteration poems inspired by nature, den building and checking the egg box bug hotels for new guests.

Mrs De Haan, 'The Great Outdoors' Activity Lead



Year 5 Farm Trip

Year 5 battled the cold, wet elements in February to visit Stevens Farm, the wonderful home to our very own Mrs Budd.

The children were shown the orchards, including apple trees recently planted with geographical satellite information alone, saving numerous man-hours. They followed the path of a commercial apple, from the tree to the packing house, through the sorting process and into cold storage. To enjoy apples at their best, did you know that you should keep apples in the fridge and only bring them out a couple at a time to bring them back to room temperature?



The damaging environmental impact of the packaging was discussed, as were the efforts that go into using technology to minimise wasteful fertiliser. The size and expense of the machinery was mind-blowing, as was the technology that goes into a supermarket staple. The children were encouraged not to buy fruit packed in 'crunchy plastic', as it cannot be recycled, or fruit from abroad as it adds to food miles. It was a cold and damp visit but full of interest and insight... and it made their apples taste even better at the end!

Huge thanks to MHS parent Mr Budd (Junior) and Mr Budd (Senior) for taking the time to show Year 5 around their farm and sharing their knowledge to inspire the children to think more carefully next time they bite into a crunchy apple.

Mr Kimber, Head of Geography



Book Week



The whole school celebrated their favourite books and characters, were inspired by visiting authors, entertained by a visiting theatre company and more - a fantastic carousel of activities that make up our annual Book Week at MHS.

We started the week with an entertaining and enjoyable visit from Hobgoblin Theatre Company who gave children from Year 3-6 a humorous, light-hearted and fun-filled introduction to the Tales of King Arthur.

Our visiting authors this year were Perter Bunzl of "Cogheart" fame and Sarah Roberts, who is an Eco-expert having worked in conservation all around the world. She now visits schools with her picture books to promote environmental awareness.

Peter introduced Years 4-7 to his wonderful series of books and talked about his journey from art student to animator to author as well as holding animation and short story workshops.

Sarah Roberts came in to talk to the younger children about environmental issues and share some of her books: "Somebody Swallowed Stanley" and "Somebody Crunched Colin". Year 6 also had a super special session with Sarah to link with their Geography work on Iceland, where she showed them how technology is used to help with environmental conservation.



Pre-Prep also enjoyed a full and colourful range of activities during their English Extravaganza. Following their group leaders, (thank you Year 2) the children brushed off their drama skills in We're Going on a Bear Hunt, complete with percussive

props, and honed their phonic skills with a phoneme-based game of giant snakes and ladders. There was a book quiz to get their teeth into, comic strips to design, board game to play and puppets brought to life with nursery rhyme recitals.

Year 4 immersed themselves wholeheartedly into their Books and Branches Outdoor learning day. Seated on the benches with views over the water, the children listened intently to the mythical story of The Green Man. The finished display of Green Men with their benevolent faces gazing out across our wonderful school grounds was very effective indeed.

The highlight of the week for many came on Thursday when all the children in the school came dressed as a character from a book. You will have seen the many wonderful photographs of the children and many of the staff too, whose creations were imaginative, inspired and, at times, intriguing!

We had visits from many 'mystery readers' popping in across the whole school to share a good tale with the children, our wonderful book fair, book quizzes, competitions to design book covers and bookmarks and on Thursday and Friday a Treasure Hunt around the grounds to discover hidden gems in the form of book covers. All in all, it was a fun filled and inspiring week celebrating our mutual love of books and reading.

Mrs Atkins, Head of English



Scan the QR code to view the photos on the Parent Portal





House Chess Competition

The School Houses went head to head in a battle of the brains: The MHS House Chess Competition! Chess players from each House volunteered to be part of the event, spending the afternoon fine-tuning their skills followed by a nail-biting tournament. Each of our chess players fought another on the black and white board for House Points. Meanwhile each House selected a Champion to compete for the grand prize. The Houses were pulled from a hat to determine the semi-final matches. Reuben N from Egan proceeded to checkmate Toby L from Hawkings, a swift ascent for the yellow house to the final. Dexter H (Dunbar) and Josh C (Awdry) contested a gripping two games before the deciding checkmate from Dexter placed him against Reuben in the final. The Dunbar and Egan champions played two games both resulting in a draw! The third and final game saw Dexter deliver his victorious check-mate to Reuben, making Dunbar the winning House!

Throughout the tournament, all the participants showed incredible resilience and sportsmanship as well as brain power. With friends cheering each other on and spectators watching entranced as the finalists played, it has been a brilliant celebration of the game and a wonderful achievement for all.

Miss Davis, Year 4 Teacher



Mental Health Workshop

As part of our drive and focus on mental health, and to support leadership in the senior years, our Year 7 pupils have received training to become mental health champions for the pupil body.

The pupils participated in a Zoom launch to introduce this initiative and to give them more information. This was followed by a practical workshop to explore the skills and qualities of a Mental Health Champion.

The Year 7s have now completed the first part of their training course in becoming Mental Health Champions. This initial workshop and the ongoing lessons will support their own wellbeing and give them a deeper understanding of their own mental health whilst also empowering them to support positive mental health across the whole school as peer mentors, if they choose to take on this voluntary role.

We think and hope that this will be a positive experience for all involved and will help both the Year 7 pupils themselves, as well as others throughout the School.

Ms Coatz, Deputy Head

Tractor Time in Pre-Prep

Pre-Prep were treated to a real-life learning experience as Mr Budd's tractor rolled into school.

MHS parent and local farmer, Mr Budd, spent time telling the Year 2 children how the technology of tractors has changed to improve farming methods and help the environment. This was a wonderful follow up to Mr Budd's Harvest Festival talk on modern farming.

Reception and Year 1 also enjoyed having the opportunity see the huge tractor and ask Mr Budd their questions.

We learnt a lot and a huge thank you to Mr Budd and the team that enabled the visit to happen.

Mrs Reid, Head of Pre-Prep



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Early Civilisations Project in Year 4

History in Year 4 this term is learning about Early Civilisations. In particular the children have been discovering about the first writing systems. They learnt that the very first writing system in the world was invented by the Sumerians around 3300 BC.

This led the children to make their own clay tablets and just like the Sumerians they used a reed called a stylus to carefully mark the intricate symbols into the clay. They discovered that writing was first used by the Sumerians as a way of keeping track of goods that were traded with other people. Eventually, they used writing to record stories, poems, laws and contracts.

Year 4's clay tablets were a mixture of their own stories, quotes and sayings, and I was very impressed how they could read out their own ancient writing! Everyone worked very hard to make the ancient writing on their tablets intricate and beautiful.

Mrs Mathers, Year 4 Class Teacher



Support for Ukraine

A big thank you goes to our MHS community for coming together in the second half of term to help do what we can for Ukraine at this challenging time.

A huge amount of clothes and other goods were collected and we are very grateful to everyone who donated items and to Mrs Perry for transporting them to Chatham, to be taken on to the Poland/Ukraine border for refugees.

Several families joined our Walk for Ukraine on Monday mornings before school. Collecting tins were filled with pocket money and generous donations for the Red Cross Ukraine Appeal. Thank you to all who joined in; the walk was a chance to come together and peacefully think of those who are living through these torrid times.

Fundraising continued until the end of term, supported by our activities on Red Nose Day and by parents who contributed to the donations boxes dotted around school.



IAPS Geography Event

Our very own Mr Kimber, Head of Geography at MHS and currently the Independent Association of Prep Schools (IAPS) subject advisor for Geography, hosted the national IAPS meeting for Geography Prep School teachers at the Royal Geographical Society (RGS) in mid-March:



"Participants enjoyed talks with inspirational ideas from the Geography Association, new ideas for geography fieldwork from specialist providers, exciting suggestions on how to use digital mapping in our lessons and the importance of teaching climate change. As well as being the Course Director, I also spoke about how best to teach scholarship Geography. The delegates from across the country

enjoyed meeting face to face and sharing ideas and best practice.

As the RGS is currently hosting an exhibition on Shackleton's Antarctic expedition, it was particularly apt that it coincided to the day with the discovery of his ship, Endurance."

Mr Kimber, Head of Geography



The Great Fire of London

The Great Fire of London workshop started with Year 2 watching as their cardboard houses burned, just as they would have done in 1666. An exciting start to the morning!

The children then moved into the Hopkins Hall to continue their morning of hands on learning about life in Stuart England. Having dressed up in 1666 style clothes to fully immerse themselves in the era, the children became involved in making clothes for the poor people who had lost their belongings in the fire - trying their hand at weaving in the process. They also made little scent bags which were very common at the time and helped to keep people healthy and happy.

Next up, Year 2 were given the task of making a candleholder; an essential item to enable them to see at night. Everyone enjoyed moulding the clay candleholders, which featured wells and handles. Using a quill and ink, the children wrote letters to King Charles II or decorated their own names. Finally, ornate fire plaques were designed and made by a process of printing on to foil. An enjoyable and busy day for the children with some wonderful feedback from all involved.

Mrs Pay, Year 2 Teacher

Jubilee Tree

We were delighted to plant a large field maple (acer campestre) at MHS on the last day of term to play our part in The Queen's Green Canopy; a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee this year.

Reception to Year 4 gathered to watch the tree being planted. Three children, whose birthdays fall closest to the date of The Queen's coronation, were invited to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee" on behalf of the school.

The field maple, which is The Queen's favourite tree and is native to the British Isles, now complements the nearby copper beech; planted in 2002 to mark Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee.





Comic Relief

On Friday 18th March the School came together to support the work of Comic Relief.

With red noses all round and some superheroes thrown in, the day was filled with fun and laughter as the children took it in turns to stand on our bright red joke box to share their jokes with a gathered audience.

Across our fundraising efforts in March through the Walk for Ukraine, donations added to the pots around school and the Comic Relief appeal (which will also be shared with The Red Cross for the Ukrainian Appeal), we raised nearly £1,000. Thank you to everyone who donated.

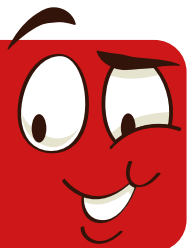
Ms Coatz, Deputy Head



Joke Box Competition Winners

Q: What do you call a line of rabbits jumping backwards?

A: A receding hareline



B Loetz, Prep School Winner



Q: Why did the octopus blush?

A: Because it saw the bottom of the ocean

I Bartley, Prep School Winner

Q: Why do giraffes have long necks?

A: Because their feet stink



C Nicolls, Pre-Prep Winner





Easter Egg Hunts

Nursery and Year 7 came together for a magical Easter egg hunt in Nursery's walled garden.

The Year 7s were wonderful with the younger children, helping them to find the painted wooden eggs before all being rewarded with a chocolatey surprise!

Nursery also shared an Easter egg hunt with Reception in the last forest school of term. Sporting bunny ears the children had a fun morning searching for the brightly coloured eggs and listening to Easter stories.

Easter Service

On the last day of term Year 4 presented the events of Holy Week in a moving and beautiful Service.

The story was told from the perspective of a Roman Centurion, Jesus' Disciples and onlookers in Jerusalem; embodying themes of friendship, loyalty, betrayal, and love. The children retold the story through poetry and song, culminating in an exuberant spirited dance to celebrate new life and the joy of Easter. The children told the story with clear and with clarity and confidence. A lovely way to end the term.

Miss Davis, Year 4 Teacher



Scan the QR code to view the performance on the Parent Portal

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Clubs Round-up

Spring term brought another exciting collection of clubs, here are some highlights.

In Pre-Prep, eco club was led by Year 2's, each being in charge of their own group and directing the research into how we can all do our bit to save the environment. Philosophy club spent time thinking about questions such as 'what makes me, me?' and 'who owns the sky?'. Through the term they had great debates about what is to be fair. The Pre-Prep fitness club tested themselves at the start and end of term to measure their progress. They counted how many burpees, star jumps and step ups they could do in a minute, with encouraging results all round.



In the Old Gym, karate grading was the focus for the term, with 12 pupils successfully gaining red belts. Keeping with the theme of grading, four pupils took their ISTD Primary Ballet, while two of our senior girls took their Grade 2 exam this term. Basketball has become a well-established club in both the Autumn and Spring terms, with a good turn out and commitment from pupils. Members of the club have made good progress with their skills, as well as their team play. In Greek club, pupils created their own Greek monsters and learnt how to describe their gruesome qualities using Greek adjectives. Magazine club have been working hard to create the 'Junior Castle' this term with each member taking on various roles to produce the magazine. Years 3 and 4 Arts and Crafts completed many projects from decorative plates to Easter baskets, as well as a collaborative project in which pupils made a model village.

Altogether, a fantastic term of clubs. Thank you to all the pupils and teachers for their efforts and commitment for what is valuable addition to school life.

Mr Robson, Head of Clubs



Holiday Club

Four fun-filled days of Holiday Club provided a great start to the Easter Holidays for many.

We had lots of arts and crafts activities where the children made some wonderful owl masks, duck callers, kites and Easter flower crowns, and tried their hand at face painting to great effect. Outdoors there were team games, hot chocolate heated over the firepit down in Forest School and lots of time spent exploring the grounds with friends. The transformation of the Hopkins Hall into a huge playroom full of toys and dressing up was great hit with the Pre-Prep, who were delighted to be joined by some Nursery children for a day. The days flew by and after a brief flurry of snow on the last day, it was time for the children to wish friends and teachers "Happy Easter", before heading off to enjoy the rest of their holidays.





Girls' Sport

Netball

It has been an exciting term of sporting fixtures in Netball and Lacrosse this term. What has stood out the most to me is the amount of progress and success the teams had as they went through the term, especially in netball. Across Years 3-7 the attitude to improving their performance has been in abundance with the girls, making matches exciting to watch as they apply all the skills and tactics learnt in games time. With that in mind, a special mention should go to the Year 7 girls netball both the A and B team, which included some of the U11 players having the opportunity to play up a year.



At the beginning of the term we suffered some big defeats, however this didn't see the girls give up, it brought out the fire in them to get better, and that they did! By the end of the term they were winning matches and were a fierce team to compete against. We finished the netball season with a high with the U10A team coming in 2nd place at the Ashford Prep tournament, the girls played brilliantly, beating Derwent Lodge, Junior Kings, Kent College and Ashford Prep. The U10s are definitely a team to watch out for in the next netball season.

Lacrosse

Lacrosse is a short season but there were some definite highlights. The U12s played senior lacrosse for the first time and showed true grit and determination in the matches, in what is a much more physical game than pop lacrosse, finishing the season coming second in the local triangular. The U11 girls lacrosse was a competitive field and they enjoyed playing the local schools and winning many of their matches. Highlights were Emilia M scoring many great goals and manoeuvring herself around the defence and shooting with power accurately. Rosie C was an excellent centre player and her accurate centre flick gave us many advantages in attack. The Lacrosse season ended with some fun for the U8 and U9 girls with an inter-house competition, seeing Hawkings as the winner.

Now we look forward to the cricket season!

Mrs Lelliott, Head of Girls Games





Boys' Sport

Rugby

The boys had some really excellent matches over the term, with the Rugby season being noticeable for the high level of team coordination and passing shown by all sides. The U10s were very strong with some excellent results in two large tournaments, beating much larger schools. The senior boys played an open, fast and wide style which was encouraged by the coaches to help them keep the ball away from the break downs.

The teams 'moved on a year' in the RFU continuum - due to Covid - and so the rules evolved and enabled them to play more complex games, which was great to see in the mid season and the boys adapted rapidly. Our U9s side looks to be a group who will have all the assets to succeed in our fast open style - relying on passing wide and exposing the spaces through 'fast hands'. I know all the coaches Mr Robson, Mr Kent and Mr Whitlock were as pleased with the season's progress as I was. Well done boys.



Hockey

The hockey season is always a brief flurry of sticks and mouthguards - and this year was no different - except last year the season hardly took place and so a great deal of technical development was required for all the boys. Stick control when dribbling and passing or hitting is vital for safety and the boys worked hard on these basics. Matches were played with Vinehall, DPS, St.Ronan's, Holmewood and Sutton Valence and U13, U10, and U9's tournaments were entered with the U9s and the U10s doing very well indeed

winning their groups and looking a capable set of sides in both A and B teams. The boys have worked so hard to develop their games and in particular their hitting and dribbling which is so vital to success. The senior boys were playing older, stronger lads on many occasions, but learnt a great deal and next year the experience will really help their progression. Another great season with some well constructed wins to add to the sense of positivity.

Mr Mathers, Director of Sport



Ski Trip 2022

After the difficult years of lockdowns and restrictions, Marlborough House managed to buck the trend and get a ski trip underway for the first time since our visit to Les Elfes in 2019. The centre hosted us as always with complete dedication and enthusiasm to make the children's week both extraordinary and memorable in every way possible. We arrived to bright sunshine and 16 degree temperatures, so sun cream and care on the mountain was the order of the day. However the skiing was still excellent and the children progressed rapidly in all the different ability groups. The instructors were first class and their dedication and quality teaching made a huge difference to all the pupils.

Each day the children enjoyed six hours of skiing, combined with four meals to keep them going. The food was truly wonderful, ranging from delicious fondue to brilliant puddings and huge breakfasts every morning.

Beyond the skiing, the children also visited one of the most superb indoor climbing venues in the Alps, went ten pin bowling, had an evening in the cinema, as well as a wonderful evening walk in the forest and up the mountain, with marshmallows round the fire. These activities were combined with fun and games in the centre, and competitions that kept the children entertained and active all week. Les Elfes is an organisation which we have used for nearly 20 years and it never fails to provide brilliant holidays for the children. We look forward to booking again with them for next year.

Thank you to Miss Davis and Mr Little for helping throughout the week, and of course to the children who have made it a pleasure to take them away! A huge special thank you to Mr Mathers for organising and running the whole wonderful event.

Funny falls on the mountain

When we asked the children for their funny stories on the mountain, most stories involved falling over. As all skiers know, falling over is an important part of learning. The children were so sensible on the mountain, brilliant at following their instructor's advice and listening carefully at all times. We were so impressed with their positive attitude to learning to ski. This is shown in their reaction when they fell over - which was always to get back up with a smile on their face, find lost skis in the snow and help each other get down the mountain safely. They did this with such a fantastic comradery, empathy and in excellent humour, they laughed at themselves (and us teachers) and enjoyed every minute despite occasionally ending up covered in snow!

These were their words on funniest falls on the mountain, along with some feedback for pupils thinking of coming next year:

What was your funniest moment up the mountain?

Gracie - "face planting in the snow - I was skiing down on the half pipe and I caught a hunk of snow and went flying forwards!"

Emilia - "there was this ramp and I came rolling down and lost my skis, then Zac came to help me and he lost his skis too!"

Emma - "I was so confident on the first day going down the jumps, then I skied down the wrong part, then fell and lost my skis, then ended up sliding all the way down!"

Henry - "Joel was facing up the mountain and Eliza dodged him and he said "sorry" and it made me laugh all the way down."

Dexter - "When Ollie was at the back and he lost control and went kamikaze and overtook everyone heading



straight parallel down the mountain"

Joel- "We were all stood in a line and I slipped and Ema (the instructor) thought I pushed Dex and he smashed into everyone and we all fell over like dominoes."

Rory - "I did a cartwheel halfway down and lost my skis!"

Zac - "On the slopes I slid all the way down with one ski and while I was sitting on my one ski I almost did a jump"

Leo- "We were going through the woods in the dark & before they warned us there were bears and then Mr Mathers ran out of the woods and scared us!"

Eliza - "I got bored on a long button lift and started weaving and then pretended I was on a horse but then I slipped and fell back down!"

Robert- "When I fell, my skis came off and I slid down the mountain and I was not expecting to overtake Ollie while sliding, because he's normally really fast!"

What would you say to people thinking of coming next year?

"It's really good, the skiing is so fun and you're always doing something - chess, activities, the sports centre"

"Before I came, I thought my friends would judge my skiing, but now I realised there is a great community of skiers and I'm good at it"

"It's a good experience for when you're older and being a bit more independent"

"The activities after skiing are really fun as well, like the cinema, bowling and rock climbing which was amazing"

"I recommend coming because you can spend time with friends and ski so it's a win win"

View our video on instagram



SCAN ME



Boarding House

This term saw the introduction of 'Boarders' Choice' evenings, which allows the children to select an activity according to the preferences of those boarding that night. Pupils have enjoyed the spontaneity of these evenings and we have witnessed the benefits of watching the children collaborate with pupils in different year groups.

The Spring Term saw a variety of activities from the MHS Olympic Games, to the very messy slime night and the super fun inflatable maze. The new Boarding Hoodies proved extremely popular and had their first outing to Hollywood Bowl as our end of term Boarding treat.

Next term we are excited to launch Tuesday nights and open Boarding to Year 3. We plan to spend the Summer evenings making the most of our wonderful grounds with cycling, swimming and campfires, plus some trips to the beach in between.

Mrs Archer, Head of Boarding





Salvete

Isabelle Jendrulek

I feel welcome and fortunate to have commenced my role at MHS. The role of a school nurse is new and exciting, and the first term has given me an insight where I can contribute and expand my role.



Driven by advocacy and promoting diversity, I have previously spent 20 years working in Sexual Health, Genetics and Research mostly at Guys and St. Thomas' Hospital. My interests in the body mind connection led me to a diploma in contemporary community dance studies at the Laban Conservatoire and a master's with a heavy focus on the ethics of consent. Teaching a movement class to 7-11-year-olds as well as recruiting little troopers into paediatric genetic studies planted a seed for today's role and formed some of my most rewarding days in the community.

To be able to continue being an advocate for the healthy development of children, promoting resilience and using evidence-based health practices are my aims for the role and I feel privileged to expand in these areas. Giving out ice packs and dressings are the perfect opportunities to check in with pupils' wellbeing, plant seeds of motivation and encouragement for healthy living.

In my spare time I involve my two children as best I can in dance, climbing, playing basketball and experimenting with ferments and good bacteria.

Valete

Philip Cornish, Bursar

In his year with us as Bursar, Phil Cornish has made a real impact, particularly on the physical look of the buildings. He has led the development of the Art and DT building and overseen the improvements to the staffroom, the swimming pool and many other areas besides. The school is certainly in far better shape than a year ago. In addition, Phil has strengthened the performance and independence of the Bursary and non-teaching team, working alongside them as well as leading them. We wish him well for the future.



Mr Hodson, Chair of Governors

Louise Bateman, Girls Games Coach

Mrs Lou Bateman is leaving the games department at MHS after 8 years of excellent service. She has had a great impact on the sports taught at MHS, especially the Hockey which is her great love. We will miss her energy, enthusiasm and subject knowledge. Lou leaves us to spend more time with her family who live in the west country making it impossible to carry on with her commitment here at MHS. Lou has been a calm, professional and a highly able coach for girls over the years and she will be missed by all the children and staff equally. We wish her the best of luck for the future.



Mrs Lelliott, Head of Girls Games



Alumni Dinner

On the last day of term we were delighted to welcome back 35 past pupils who were in the 2015, 2016 and 2017 cohort of leavers from MHS. Their parents and staff joined the alumni for drinks in the Gallery before the dinner and there was a truly lovely atmosphere. It was wonderful to see so many past pupils attend and to hear their memories of MHS and of course their future plans. Notably, the group included the current Heads of School of Bethany School, Cranbrook School, Eastbourne College and Sutton Valence School – a fantastic achievement for our 2017 cohort.



Alexandra Milne (née Muir) Receives An MBE *MHS 1987 - 1990*

Alex, who is a Staff Commander for the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry, was made an MBE for services to Emergency Incident Response and to the Covid-19 Response in London. Alex was presented her medal by HRH The Princess Royal, who is also the Commandant-in-Chief for the charity Alex works for, at Windsor Castle in February.

Congratulations to Alex for her well-deserved award.



Spring 2022

THE CASTLE



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