



Autumn 2021

# THE CASTLE



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### OUR NATIVITIES

Magical Pre-Prep performances



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EDUCATING FOR TOMORROW





# Note from the Head

Autumn 2021



You know that you're up against it when there's a week to go until the Nativity Plays and the call goes out "Mary and Joseph are isolating!" The final three weeks of the term were very challenging and my most important thought is to wish everybody well and hope that, if you did catch the dreaded virus, you were not too ill. It has been that kind of term.

At the same time we have enjoyed sports matches, Carol Services and many other events, as well as finding our rhythm with hybrid teaching. Microsoft Teams has been dusted off once more and online Parents' Evenings continue to prove their value. For the first time in two years we have enjoyed the mighty Fireworks and Christmas Fair - at this point it seems right to offer a huge word of thanks to the committee of the Friends of MHS. Under Rachel Bennett's leadership, they have achieved a huge amount this term and I hope that more of the parent body will come forward in the New Year to take on a role in some form or other. Next term will start to see the fruition of all those efforts as enhancements to the Pre-Prep playground and Forest School begin to appear, confirming the importance of the Great Outdoors to MHS.

The children have made good progress in the classroom this term with lots of excellent work to report on, and it has been most enjoyable beginning the two-year PSB course with another Year 7. As the Art and DT building takes shape, it is worth remembering that schools must continue to change and evolve, not just in the physical delivery of new projects, but also with the evolution of curriculum and teaching ideas.

I would like to finish by thanking the staff for their wholehearted efforts this term. At all times and under difficult circumstances, the staff have been positive and energetic, rising to whatever challenges have come their way.

Enjoy The Castle - so many articles will bring back memories of exciting and entertaining events from the past few months.

**Eddy Newton, Head**









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## MHS wins Gold for going Green



**We are delighted to have received a gold award from the Woodland Trust for getting involved in green activities including tree planting, visiting local woodlands, reducing carbon emissions and recycling.**

The Green Tree Schools initiative offers the opportunity to bring the great outdoors, wildlife and green issues into the classroom. Schools can win awards for taking part in a range of green activities.

We have participated in Green Tree Schools activities for many years, achieving our bronze and silver awards and working towards gold. In 2021, we planted over 200 new trees, creating a woodland walk in our school grounds and securing a gold award. The new trees have been planted to create microforest of dense fast-growing native woodland, designed to support carbon capture, local wildlife and provide an additional outdoor learning environment for pupils.

Mrs Lowe, Head of Eco and Year 1 Teacher said: "As a school we are so proud to see the accumulation of all our hard work and we look forward to watching the development of our microforest."

We received congratulations from Karen Letten, Woodland Trust Schools and Communities Engagement Manager, who said: "The scheme promotes a range of opportunities, each designed to stimulate a child's imagination and sustain their interest in woods and trees. Having achieved the environmental accolade of a gold award, I hope Marlborough House School will now consider going for our next accolade, the prestigious platinum award."



# Macmillan Cake Sale and European Day of Languages

## Who doesn't love cakes?

Every country in the world has special cakes that represent their culture, all different from each other and yet, or because of their difference, we appreciate them all.

Thank you to everyone who supported the European Day of Languages Bake-Off and Macmillan Coffee Morning, raising over £600 for the charity. We had a huge number of Europe-inspired bake-off entries and twelve wonderful winners who were each awarded a rainbow whisk.

The winners were: Florence B (R), Rory (Y4), Iona and James G (Y2), Emilia C (Y4), Molly S (Y4), Charlotte B (Y4), Isabella B (Y6), Cleo (6) and Suki M-C (PN) and Zoe (Y6) and Erin C (Y4). Very well done to them all.



## Year 7 Activity Trip

**The Year 7s had an excellent two days of adventure and team building activities at PGL, Windmill Hill.**

The purpose of the trip was to give the pupils of Year 7 the opportunity to experience an overnight residential stay, where they would have the chance to bond as a year group through taking part in team building activities. The children certainly achieved this and had a great time learning to work collaboratively throughout the day, before relaxing together during the evening and downtime activities.

The year group took part in lots of exciting activities, including a zip wire, challenge course, raft building, the 'big swing' and archery.

The pupils have definitely shown many of the core PSB skills we work towards here at MHS. Seeing the children communicate clearly and respectfully with each other to successfully complete the challenge course and giving motivational chats to each other when the nerves kicked in at the big swing was heart-warming to see. They all showed exemplary behaviour, with the centre's staff commenting on how they were the most polite, well-behaved and fun group they have had in ages!

*Mrs Lelliott, Head of Girls' Games*



# Learning Matters

The launch of the new co-curricular afternoons in Pre-Prep has allowed the whole timetable in Pre-Prep to really expand and finally, come into its own. The focus on the head, heart, hand (or mind, body and soul – depending on the day and the activity!) timetable now fully capitalises on the limited resource of time that perplexes every school. Our aim, however, was never to just maximize the time available but make sure the timetable follows the ebb and flow of the children's energy and focus. By doing this we knew we would really be able to help children learn in a way that empowers them for their future.

The mornings in Pre-Prep are the cornerstone to educating each child and it is where the building of foundations in English and Maths takes place. We have invested a lot in effective schemes of work to ensure that all children are given the attention and dedicated focus needed. The middle of the day gives way to assembly and PSHE time where the children have a voice in their school and life ahead. It is a time when we can be instrumental in allowing them to think about themselves, value themselves and value others. Children are able to be mindful and develop a sense of who they are.

In the afternoon, children in Year 1 and 2 are given the freedom and time to explore learning in Music, Art, Drama, Eco School, Forest School, STEM, IT – indoors and out. We have seen the children flourish

and relish in the open question approach and the theories they develop. We have seen brave thinkers and innovators. We have seen children with an inner confidence and self-assurance. We have seen children embark on that wonderful journey as they discover what they are passionate about.

The pandemic and COP 26 have rightly shown us that being outdoors and learning in harmony with nature is paramount to us all - mentally, emotionally and academically. Building our co-curricular afternoons ensures that this important part of the 'hidden' curriculum takes centre stage.



Despite all that has happened this term we have seen a huge success in putting the 'cherry on the cake'. By manipulating the afternoons, we can allow the children a space to apply all they have learnt in the mornings. They can have the satisfaction of returning to unfinished projects, working and negotiating with others, problem solving and above all, leading their own learning. Children are learning how to learn. We know that the future place of work demands this and we know that children need this in order to prosper and develop their thinking. Ultimately, we know that learning matters not just the content but the context. It is thinking about the when, how and who that takes learning to the next level. We are proud to say it is 'game on' in Pre-Prep!

*Mrs Reid, Head of Pre-Prep*







## Anyone for Golf?

School life extends well beyond the classroom at Marlborough House, where co-curricular opportunities now include golf on the new pitch and putt course, set in the school grounds. The course is complete with a driving range area and practice green, making golf a popular choice for the new activity afternoons; aimed at increasing the enrichment opportunities available within the school day. Mr Newton said: "activity afternoons provide pupils with the opportunity to develop different skills, boost confidence and ignite a love of learning through a new hobby".

In addition to their extra-curricular clubs, pupils in the Prep School can take part in termly activities such as trampolining, sign language, coding and well-being, all within the school day. Riding has been another welcome addition to the activity list and the school riding team has benefitted, with recent individual and team wins, qualifying them for the Grass Roots Regional Championships.

A huge thanks to Mr Kent for setting up the golf course, to all the staff who lead these sessions (particularly those which take place offsite) and last but not least, to the parents who have kindly given up their Friday afternoons to deliver horses and riders to their sessions.

## Snapshot Interviews

This term another group of our wonderful teachers and support staff participated in a snapshot interview as follows:

- Mrs Atkins, Head of English
- Mrs Walker, Head of RS & PSHE
- Mr Keates, Head of Housekeeping
- Mrs Boyd, Reception Teacher
- Ms Coatz, Deputy Head
- Miss Edwards, Early Years Practitioner
- Miss Davis, Year 4 Teacher
- Mrs Robinson, KS2 Teaching Assistant
- Mrs Houchin, Registrar

To read their interviews, please visit the News section of our school website.





# Harvest Festival



**Pre-Prep:** Pre-Prep celebrated Harvest Festival week with all sorts of activities to support learning about the harvest and farm produce. We were delighted to welcome MHS parent and local farmer, Mr Budd, to talk to the children about farming. The children were delighted by the pictures of farm machinery and were all given an apple that had been freshly picked from the orchard that day.

The week culminated in the EYFS Harvest Festival for Nursery and Reception, while Years 1 and 2 joined the Prep School for their event. Our EYFS event was full of music and discovery as the children sang along to harvest songs, helped Mrs Edmondson work out what was growing on a very tall plant from her garden and learnt all about the cattle on Mrs Boyd's farm.

Well done to all the children for their work during the week - vegetable paintings, bread baking, Nursery's farm shop, 'funny fruit and veg harvest characters', harvest donations and more.

*Mrs Reid, Head of Pre-Prep*

**Prep:** The Prep School Harvest Festival was a wonderful opportunity for children across the school to be together to celebrate this special time of year and we were delighted that lots of parents were able to join us for the event.

We were joined by a representative from Nourish Foodbank, who spoke to the children about their important work delivering food parcels for those in need in the Tunbridge Wells area, and thanked them for the food donations that had been piled high on the four House tables.

Years 3 and 4 kicked off the performances with Autumn Days, followed by Years 1 and 2 who sang another Harvest favourite, Paint Box. Years 5 and 6 delighted us with their rendition of Harvest Tango and Year 7 closed the event with their beautiful poems and prayers.

*Ms Coatz, Deputy Head*



## Sing!

**11 girls from the Senior Choir spent a day at Eastbourne College for Sing!**

They joined other Prep Schools to learn five completely new songs throughout the day for a concert in the afternoon. The Director of Music from Eastbourne College really challenged them with some tricky harmonies and rhythms. The concert was incredible with the most amazing singing and harmonies. It started with an eight part canon by Tallis. Then a beautiful rendition of Danny Boy followed by a fun spiritual called L'il David. The next one was a strong favourite, Hallelujah, and finally we were fortunate to be joined by some of the Eastbourne College choir, including at least one ex MHS pupil, and a small band for the final song, Fix You by Coldplay. A wonderful experience enjoyed by all.

*Miss Philip, Director of Music*







## Short Story Competition Winners

**Congratulations to Nel (Year 6) and Emil D (Year 3) on winning prizes in the Cranbrook Literature festival in the short story competition.**

They entered a poem and story into their year group categories, with Emil coming first in his and Nel coming second in hers and both children were awarded book tokens. Congratulations to them on their achievement.

*Mrs Atkins, Head of English*



## Conference Season for Mr Payne-Cook

Mr Payne-Cook attended the PSB Leaders' conference in September, along with nearly 40 other member schools. After 18 months of zoom meetings, like-minded and experienced Prep and Senior School educators re-connected face to face, discussing the PSB skills framework and sharing best practice in our schools. A PSB Research group was formed, with the intent of disseminating the latest educational academic research into Teaching and Learning, as applied to the PSB skills framework. Mr P-C will be on that team, he is also the Science subject co-ordinator across all PSB schools, working closely with their Director of Education to discuss and develop the best approaches to the assessment of Science knowledge, understanding and skills.

Mr P-C also spoke at an educational conference called New Voices in London on Saturday 2nd October. He presented a provocative thought piece titled "From Wonder to Whatever: has England got science education completely wrong?" which considered the mismatch between joyful, curious science up to Year 6 or 7 in the National Curriculum and then becoming bogged down by too much highly specific, fundamental and challenging scientific concepts in the GCSE exam specifications, thus losing too many creatives and late developers from the Science bus for life. A thought-provoking topic!





## Year 6 Discovery Day



In October, we held an exciting cross-curricular Discovery Day for our Year 6 cohort, specialising in Science, Sport and the Performing Arts. We were delighted to be joined for the day by Year 6 pupils from some local Primary Schools.

The children took part in various workshops. In Science, the workshop was linked to fitness, heart rate and recovery in sport. The pupils looked at muscle tissue and red blood cells down the microscope, explored the essential life process of respiration, considering diet and healthy living including the causes and potential impact of obesity. The children had the opportunity to use Bunsen Burners, developing their practical and

scientific thinking skills along the way with an experiment to study the amount of energy that is stored in a variety of crisps and snacks. In the Sport session, the pupils had a fitness assessment to look at how muscle type and physical traits help enable speed and power and endurance events. They also learnt some basketball skills culminating in a short game. Lastly, but by no means least, during the Performing Arts Session, the children performed a song from the musical *Beauty and the Beast*, and learnt some dramatic fighting moves.

All the pupils were enthusiastic, collaborative, polite and very much enjoyed the occasion. We hope to organise more of these days in the future, giving children the opportunity to have more co-curricular experiences and to develop a range of skills. Grateful thanks to Mr Payne-Cook, Mr Mathers, Mrs Lelliott, Mr Little and Miss Philip for leading these sessions.



## Prep School Poetry Celebration



What a joy it was to see so many parents and siblings, albeit many behind masks, filling our Old Gym for the return of our “live” Poetry Celebration.

This is such a wonderful opportunity for the children and we are always full of admiration for the courage they show in embracing this challenge. Nerves were understandably running high, it has been a long time since many have had the opportunity to perform in front of a live audience - but they all did so well. There were moments of high drama and some very heart-warming performances.

As ever, we had a wonderful selection of poems: some delightful and perennial favourites from A A

Milne, William Blake and J K Rowling, interspersed with light-hearted and entertaining ditties by Janet and Alan Ahlberg, Kev Payne and Jack Prelutsky together with some true classics performed with energy and enthusiasm by the whole Year groups in both Year 4 and Year 6. It was also wonderful to hear the children performing poems in both Spanish and French: a real achievement!

It is impossible to single any one performance out – they all deserve huge congratulations. Many thanks must go to many of our teachers and to the parents too for all the support they gave in learning and practising their poems. We hope to see many of them back again next year!

*Mrs Atkins, Head of English*





## From Patch to Plate

**Our Pre-Prep Gardening Club have been growing vegetables for the school kitchen.**

Back in May they planted their pumpkins with seeds harvested from the previous year. The Gardening Club children carefully weeded and watered these plants throughout the year, adding organic matter to the beds as feed. The pumpkin patch was a great success for our green-fingered pupils and last week, they harvested their glut of pumpkins. The children proudly delivered them to the catering team, who were challenged to put some pumpkin surprises on the menu. This turned out to be pumpkin soup, pumpkin and cauliflower salad, and pumpkin cake - which made for a very popular option at morning break. The children really enjoyed tasting these delicious items and they were so proud to know that they had grown the food themselves.

The Pre-Prep Garden itself is a magical mixture of wildlife and tranquillity; a peaceful space in which our younger pupils can enjoy nature and experience growing their own food and flowers. It is a peat-free garden that does not use pesticides



and uses only organic matter to feed the plants. The children are responsible for all aspects of the gardening: using tools safely, mulching the beds to keep weeds at bay, watering, planting, sowing and collecting the seeds for next year.

Next term the Pre-Prep Gardening Club, who are working towards their Level 4 RHS School Gardening Award, are hoping to grow spring salads and aim to produce something for the school kitchen each term.

As a school, we launched 'The Great Outdoors' earlier this year to link our focus on outdoor learning, well-being and all things eco. Pupils across the school can also now enjoy many more outdoor learning opportunities following the installation of our outdoor classroom in the summer term.

*Mrs Lowe, Year 1 Teacher and Head of Eco*



## Reception and Year 2 Buddy-Up

Our Reception children have been introduced to their Year 2 buddies. The Year 2 children had written a special adaptation of Goldilocks and the Three Bears which they read to their Reception buddies. It was a great opportunity for Year 2 to take responsibility for a younger child and for Reception children to make an older friend to look up and talk to.

The buddy system, which connects Reception with Year 2, and Year 1 with Year 3, gives the children a familiar face in the playground and, during the term, they come together to share a story or play a game. Very often the children become good friends and they've been known to keep in touch for many years.

*Mrs Boyd, Reception Teacher*



## Life without CE: a Geographical Perspective

Our Head of Geography, Mr Kimber was asked to contribute to the prep school industry magazine SATIPS, in his capacity as IAPS Subject Advisor for Geography. Mr Kimber shares an insight into the implications of 'Life Without CE' for the subject of geography.



To read the article,  
please scan the  
QR code.

SCAN ME





## Success for the MHS Riding Teams

The children's Friday afternoon activity training sessions have paid off with a very successful day at an Inter-School Show Jumping Competition during Half Term.

The eight children who competed for the school in the competition at Duckhurst Farm had a very successful day, with teams coming 1st, 2nd and 3rd in different classes!

Their day started with the 40cm class and well done to Jack G and Eliza F who were 4th and 6th individually and our team of Jack, Eliza, Erin C and Tara B was third overall.

We then fielded two teams in the 50cm class and came first and second! The MHS Red team of Emma G, Eliza B, Eliza F and Zoe C WON and the MHS Blue team of Tara B, Erin C, Jack G and Annabel G were second. Some amazing riding was seen and individual rosettes went to Emma who won the class overall and to Tara (3rd), Eliza B (4th) and Eliza F (6th).

Finally, it was the 60cm class and our team was second! All rode very well once again, well done to Emma, Annabel, Zoe and Eliza B. Once again Emma was placed individually, this time in 4th place.



The children all had a thoroughly enjoyable day competing with their friends and all the MHS teams and placed individuals qualified for the Grass Roots Regional Championships. All the training in the Friday afternoon activity session is certainly paying off.

Very well done to them all and thank you to former MHS pupil, Hattie J, who came along to support and to help hand out the prizes.

*Mrs Dipper, Equestrian Team Manager*





## Year 5 Trip to Richborough Roman Fort

**On the last Friday before half term, our Year 5 children headed off to Richborough Roman Fort near Sandwich in East Kent as part of their History topic.**

This trip was to support the children's learning in the classroom. As they entered the site they gasped at what they saw, especially the high walls and they couldn't believe they were seeing something over 2000 years old.

After an excellent introduction and brief history of the site by our very own Mrs Budd, the pupils settled straight to their main tasks; learning as much detail as possible of what is included in a Roman fort and then designing their own in their small groups. In the second half of term they made models of their forts at school.

*Mrs Lelliott, Year 5 History Teacher*

## Children in Need

**At MHS, we celebrated Children In Need 2021 with a school ramble around the grounds.**

Prep School and Pre-Prep children buddied up for a family-style walk, accompanied by lots of chatter, smiles and encouragement as everyone made a new friend.

The annual addition of spots to the uniform added a fun element to the day, with children (and teachers!) coming into school wearing something spotty with their uniform, raising over £400 for charity.

A great day all round, topped off with some beautifully decorated spotty biscuits for break.



## Armistice Day

The whole school gathered on the terrace for our Act of Remembrance on Armistice Day. Mr Newton read a poem which was followed by a two-minute silence. Very well done to all the children who stood respectfully, remembering those who had fallen. Eliza F and Benjamin L laid a wreath at school, while Phoebe M and Robert M laid a wreath at the Hawkhurst War Memorial on behalf of Marlborough House.





## Bonfire Night

**It was perfect weather for this year's MHS Bonfire Night.**

The tickets sold out and extra mulled wine was ordered in ahead of the annual MHS Bonfire Night. The evening started with the lighting of the bonfire topped off by the Guy made by the MHS boarders, Year 4 and Mr George from the Maintenance Team. As usual the LED items were a huge hit and sold out as did this year's addition of the triple chocolate brownies, thank you to Mr Gibson and the Catering Team for baking such delicious treats for us. The fireworks lit up the night sky to cheers from the spectators., it was a truly amazing display and seemed to last for ages.

*Mrs Bennett, Chair, Friends of MHS*



## Polar Express Experience

**All aboard the Polar Express, travelling to the North Pole!**

The Year 2 children all took part in a morning workshop as part of their introduction to The Polar Express - their new book for the second half of term.

They dressed up in pyjamas, followed snowy footprints to our train station (The Old Gym), proudly presented their tickets and then boarded the Polar Express. Once on the train, they read Christmas stories, sang Christmas songs and enjoyed delicious hot chocolate. The children then set about documenting their own Polar Express Experience.

*Mrs Pay, Year 2 Teacher*





## New Art and DT Building takes shape



**It was an exciting day in mid-November when the steel frames for the new Art and DT Building were fitted, courtesy of a very large crane.**

Nursery had a great view of the proceedings from the Nursery Garden and were fascinated by the sudden appearance of a crane amongst the trees on their skyline.

The building, which is due to be completed in April 2022, will nearly double the building's existing footprint and house our Art and DT classrooms, equipment, machinery (including the school's laser cutter and 3D printer) and pottery kiln. Work has already taken place to upgrade the windows and roof of the adjacent staff room, to bring it in-line with the planned architecture of the new Art and DT Building.



### Senior Choir Performs at the Wealden Times Fair

The senior choir had great fun singing at the Wealden Times Midwinter Fair on Friday afternoon.

They had a half hour slot to entertain the crowds in the Food Hall. The atmosphere was fantastic and the choir did themselves proud with a medley of Christmas numbers ranging from some of our favourite traditional carols such as We Three Kings and Stille Nacht, to Christmas favourites including Jingle Bell Rock and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. We came back to school feeling like Christmas has begun!

*Miss Philip, Director of Music*





## Boarding Prefects

In November, Zac B and Ruby C were named as our new Boarding Prefects. Both children are weekly boarders and have been chosen because of the role they play in supporting younger children who are new to boarding this term. They have shown kindness and empathy whilst the new boarders have become familiar with their new boarding routines, helping them to organise their belongings and helping them with the evening's activities.

*Mrs Archer, Head of Boarding*

## Year 4 Time Travellers WW2 Day at Horton Kirby



**Year 4 had a very exciting and informative trip to the village of Horton Kirby.**

Dressed as evacuee school children from the 1940s, complete with gas mask boxes, luggage labels and even a suitcase, the children travelled into the past to find out what life was really like for children evacuated out of London to the apparent safety of a north Kent village.

They were met by the strict but fair 1940s Headmaster of the school, Mr Tanner, who in the evenings, was Captain Tanner of the Home Guard. With his wonderfully vivid storytelling, the children were immersed into wartime life where barrage

balloons hung in the sky, anti-aircraft guns nestled behind the houses, allotments sprung up in every available place and ARP wardens told you to "put that light out!"

After a game of Poohsticks over the bridge, the children entered the school room where they completed a maths lesson adding up pennies, shillings and pounds, learnt how to spot enemy aircraft and did a spot of First Aid on each other. Suddenly the air raid siren sounded meaning they had to decamp to the air raid shelter where they bravely sang 'Daisy, Daisy' to keep their spirits up.

The children behaved marvellously well throughout the day as they threw themselves wholeheartedly into the experience.

Thank you to Miss Davis, Mrs Jones and Mrs Robinson for all their support and to the children for being such a joy to take back in time.

*Mrs Mathers, Year 4 Teacher*





## MHS Rugby Festival

**On 17th November we hosted a Rugby Festival for the U11 and U10 teams.**

After a 2020 season that was impacted by Covid, we were keen to get lots of rugby played early in the season this year, to get our teams off to a good start with lots of ball handling and running. As a result, MHS hosted a sizeable rugby festival with 17 teams from five schools, playing across six pitches. The groups varied based on the number of teams in that age range, with some groups being triangular, some being quads and some having five teams in their group.

Our U10's A and B and U11's were all represented and were joined by Dulwich Prep School, Ashford Prep School, Sutton Valence Prep School, Claremont Prep School for a great afternoon of rugby, with nearly 40 matches played within the groups.

Each team presented medals for passing, tackling and running to their strongest individuals, but no results were recorded as there were no overall winners or losers.

*Mr Mathers, Director of Sport*



## Anti-Bullying Week

In November we all marked National Anti-Bullying Week and the main theme of the week was 'One Kind Word'. This is particularly pertinent with the isolation of the last year, underlining how little acts of consideration can break down barriers and brighten the lives of the people around us – which sits ideally with our School ethos of Valuing Self and Others.

The children started the week wearing odd socks to school to remind us that everyone is unique and different, and that this is something to be celebrated rather than feared.

During PHSE lessons the children have been learning about the definition of bullying and how we can prevent it from happening or feel empowered to step in, if we spot any unkindness.

The children decorated a 'Tree of Kindness' outside Pre-Prep that is covered in kind words, written by all the children throughout the school.

*Mrs Walker, Head of PSHE*







## Paper Free Day at MHS

**Friday 26th November saw the launch of MHS Paper Free Day, where staff and children alike endeavoured to work all day long without using paper.**

The two aims of the day were certainly accomplished: raising awareness and starting discussions about how and why we use paper at school. Lots of buzz was heard around the corridors. Teachers felt that learning wasn't negatively impacted by the lack of paper and, in fact, found the day a great way of looking at different ways of teaching and giving feedback.

The strong message that came through from the children in Pre-Prep and Prep was the care for and wish to protect the trees around us. Through different debates, children also showed concerns about the use of batteries and plastic at school. Our next step is to put all our thoughts into action and make every day a 'near' paper free day at MHS.

A big thank you to everyone for the focus and effort they put into the event.

*Mrs Reid, Head of Pre-Prep*

## Year 3 Victorian Day

**Year 3 embraced their Victorian Day as they found out for themselves what life was like in a Victorian classroom.**

The day started with the children having a hand inspection to see if they were clean enough to start learning, before reciting the Lord's prayer. They then had a crash course in the behaviour that was expected of them and they were soon sat in silence with hands flat on their desks.



They had a go at writing lines with chalk and experienced how difficult it could be. For their arithmetic lesson they used famous dates from the Victorian period to answer questions. A terrible stench was renowned in Victorian times, so they learnt how to make a pomander to help take away the smell. Many children showed nimble fingers - and I'm sure they will soon be sent out to work in factories by their parents! The children re-enacted the famous scene from Oliver Twist and, with their wonderful costumes, were soon in character and a few of them seem a little hesitant asking for seconds at lunch!

In the afternoon they looked at L.S. Lowry's paintings and all took a section of a painting and had a go at recreating it. It was a great day which the children thoroughly embraced as they learned what life was like in a Victorian classroom.

*Mr Linch, Year 3 Teacher*





## Success at the Inter-School Show Jumping Championships

On 4th December, four children represented MHS at the NSEA Grass Roots Inter-School Show Jumping Championships. Eight of our team of riders qualified to compete but, due to Covid and other commitments, just four of our riders headed to Felbridge Showground to ride in these highly competitive Championships.

The first class was 40cm and Eliza F, Jack G and Annabel J rode some lovely rounds in the small arena and this team came 5th overall, with Eliza also being awarded 4th place individually. As this class is judged on style these were great results.

Next came the 50cm class and Emma G, Jack G and Annabel J rode very well in the big international arena. The team were unplaced, but Emma was 9th individually which was a fabulous result at this level.

Finally, it was the 60cm class and Emma G rode both her pony and her brother's pony (but not at the same time!) to make up a team of three. Annabel and Beech rode a beautiful clear over a big course, as did Emma on Honey. These were followed by a speedy round by Emma on Gatsby and this team were 6th!

Very well done to all the children for braving the cold and riding so well for their school.

*Mrs Dipper, Equestrian Team Manager*



## Christmas Shopping Event

**There was a great buzz of excitement as the children chose presents for family members.**

Difficult choices were made, with many wonderful items for the children to choose from. Some made snap decisions, others took their time choosing just the right thing!

Over £600 was raised for the local Hands of Hope charity. Many thanks to everyone who donated items, to the Friends Committee, to all who helped the children make those tricky choices and with wrapping presents. Finally, to Mrs Fi Christie for organising the event. We hope everyone liked their presents on Christmas Day.







## Year 1 and 2 Nativity



Razzle dazzle, glitz and glamour, pizazz and razzmatazz - the Year 1 and Year 2's Nativity had it all!

With a nod to a Strictly Come Dancing format, we were brilliantly entertained by Roman Legions, marching to their hit single Get on the Road, while the Nazareth Neighbours made dancing The Hustle look effortless. Hooves were tapping with the Shepherds' Conga, and Gabriel's Gospel was just ... "heavenly darling". Wisemen and their camels took on the Charleston (brilliant camel and mammal rhyme should have a special mention) with the dance of the Stars being, unsurprisingly, 'cel-es-ti-al'. All rounded up with the whole cast from 'Lights, Camel, Action 2. The Sequin!' dancing the ceilidh.

Hosts hosting, judges scoring, costumes changed, lyrics learnt, positions held, air guitars tuned, sheep baaing, pointy toes pointed, glitter glued, gold, frankincense and myrrh delivered and Baby Jesus safely in Mary's arms - so in responses to "Judges, can we have your scores please?" Yes, most definitely, 10 out of 10!

*Mrs Willett, Year 1 Teacher*

## Nursery and Reception Nativity

'Welcome to our Christmas story' was the opening song, beautifully sung, for this delightful Nativity as our youngest members of the school shone like the bright stars they are in their two performances.

It was with glad hearts and fabulous voices that once again the Reception and Nursery children took parents on a magical, musical journey to Bethlehem. The Innkeepers introduced the show, Mary and Joseph and the Angel Gabriel set the scene, soldiers marched, angels danced, the donkey brayed and shepherds, sheep and Kings were in abundance.

Under the brilliant, patient and lyrical watch of Miss Bishopp, our Pre-Prep Music Teacher, who composed and wrote the whole show, the youngest members of the school charmed, delighted and shone.

Goodness how lovely it was to be able to share this most precious of Christmas traditions with our parents.

*Mrs Edmondson, Head of Nursery*





## Year 3 Christmas Play

In December, Year 3 performed their Victorian Christmas Carol Concert, retelling parts of the Nativity and also including characters from Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'.

Despite a few delays in preparing for the play due to illness, the children managed to put on an amazing performance and did themselves credit, speaking clearly and singing beautifully.

They enjoyed portraying characters from Victorian Britain and learnt about the work Dr Barnardo started during 19th Century. Very well done to them all.

A collection was made at the end of the play and £52.50 was raised for Barnardo's, thank you to those who donated.

*Mr Linch, Year 3 Teacher*

## Prep School Carol Service

Year 7 and the Senior Choir treated us to a wonderful celebration of Christmas at the Prep School Carol Service, which was held in St Laurence Church, Hawkhurst, at the end of term. We were delighted that this special annual event was able to go ahead, albeit with a reduced capacity.

The service began with a beautiful solo of the first verse of Once in Royal David's City, sung by Eliza B, followed by the traditional congregational carols and readings. Senior Choir sung Love Shone Down and This Winter's Night and the Staff Choir treated us to a lovely arrangement of Mary, Did You Know? supported by some of Year 7 and the Senior Choir.

*Miss Philip, Director of Music*



The Carol Service is available to watch via the QR code.



SCAN ME





### What a glorious day we had for the FoMHS Christmas Fair!

The event was opened by the Pre-Prep Choir in full Christmas jumper attire and culminated in Christmas Carols and the raffle, drawn by Mr Newton, with our wonderful Registrar Mrs Houchin winning the star prize of the Fortnum & Mason Christmas hamper. In between, there was the opportunity for shopping, eating, drinking, an inflatable assault course, glitter tattoos, arts and crafts as well as a visit to see a very busy Father Christmas.

Our huge thanks go to EVERYONE who volunteered their time, money and efforts to ensure the Fair went ahead. The Friends are very grateful.

So far, we have raised £1,500 for Nourish Food Bank and £500 for MHS Eco Committee / Forest School. A further £200 was raised by the Year 6 Object D'Art Stall, with all items made and donated by Tessa Riley (grandmother of Charlotte and Isabella B). Year 6 will be nominating their preferred charity to receive this donation.

Wishing you all a prosperous New Year.

*Mrs Bennett, Chair, Friends of MHS*



## Conkering Hero

**Congratulations to Zac H in Year 4 who won the Conkering Hero 2021 competition.**

This annual competition sees pupils in the Prep School compete in conker competitions in the Autumn term, with the winner being awarded the Conker Cup in Lists on the last day of term. Well done Zac.

*Mr Mathers,  
Director of Sport*







# Christmas Comes to MHS

Having decorated the school Christmas trees with their own creations, stirred the Christmas puddings, exchanged cards, starred in Christmas shows, performed in end of term dance and music recitals and attended the Christmas shopping events, the children were ready to relax and enjoy the final flurry of rewarding festive events in the last week of term.

Our Christmas lunches are a firm favourite and this year did not disappoint, complete with crackers, some rousing singing, a fantastic selection of Christmas jumpers and beautiful table decorations curtesy of Year 4. Next up was the Christmas entertainment, with a pantomime, parties and a visit from Father Christmas for the younger children and whilst our older pupils enjoyed a bowling trip to Tunbridge Wells.

On the last day of term, the Prep School came together to celebrate their achievements in Lists; an important moment to reflect on their endeavours and successes.

We rounded it all off with some Christmas music videos to wish our friends and families a Merry Christmas, including our whole school video, *The Twelve Days of Christmas* and MHS Glee Club's *Last Christmas* which are available to watch via the QR codes below.



**SCAN ME**

**The Twelve Days of Christmas**



**SCAN ME**

**Last Christmas**







# Sport

## Girls' Sport Round-Up

This term for girls' sport has seen some great Hockey, with the girls showing grit and determination to be successful across the board.

A real highlight for the coaches this term has been seeing the girls really putting into the practice the skills and techniques learnt in game afternoons, into the matches they play.

The team of the term goes to the U11A girls Hockey team whose hockey statistics for the term are fantastic, they have won or drawn all games, no losses!

**Won:** 5 games (against: Skippers Hill, Vinehall, Claremont, Rosehill, Ashford)

**Drawn:** 2 games (against: Holmewood, Sutton Valence)

Another team to note are the U9 Girls Netball team, although most games are not played 'competitively' these young players have shown adaptability in positions and their development within the game has been quick, this is down to their positive and enthusiastic approach to their games sessions, they are such a joy to teach!

Well done to all of the teams this season, we are already looking forward to the next!

*Mrs Lelliott, Head of Girls Games*







## Boys' Football Round-Up

The boys have had a very busy and enjoyable football season across the age groups with some notable victories.

The boys in the U12 team played up a year and competed really very well against U13 teams, especially when in the first 7-a-side tournament, where they drew with The New Beacon, a huge all boys' school and beat DPS, going on to beat Hilden Grange in the quarter-finals. In their 11-a-side matches they drew with Rose Hill and Solefields, performing well in general across the season.

The Colts had some superb wins with another young side having 5 of the 7 boys all U10's - they did very well in the IAPS Nationals - winning their group with no losses and then losing on penalties

in the quarter-finals 4-5 in a tense shoot-out. Their season included draws with DPS and wins over Rose Hill, Solefields, and The Mead. Overall, they lost only 3 from 13 fixtures! This really means next year with more experience they should compete even better. The B team fared less well, but had a notable win over The Mead in an exciting 3-2 game.

The U9 and U8's had a good year with excellent wins over Vinehall, Ashford and The Mead. The B team side had a good win over Claremont and Vinehall and excellent matches in their other three games. The U8 side showed some promise and overall worked hard in their matches. A very positive season for the teams and MHS football this Autumn.

*Mr Mathers, Director of Sport*







# Boarding House Round-Up

This term has seen a resurgence of boarding, with over two thirds of children in the Prep School taking part in the fun activities on offer. September got off to an exciting start with fun trips to Camber Sands, enjoying picnics on the beach and an incredible evening of paddle boarding and kayaking at Rye Watersports. Blessed with great weather, many evenings were spent by the pool and enjoying treasure hunts in the school grounds.

When the nights began to draw in, our activities moved indoors, with themed cinema nights, baking events and a scary Halloween party. Year 3 also joined in the Halloween fun, enjoying their first experience of boarding, staying for supper and pumpkin carving, before being picked up in their pyjamas ready for bed!

Two of our regular boarders were made Prefects after demonstrating kind and thoughtful behaviour



to the youngest members of our boarding community. Watching the older children help and support the younger children in becoming more independent has been wonderful to see.

Whilst we couldn't run the Christmas activities we had planned, we look forward to returning after the Christmas break for another action-packed term of boarding.

*Mrs Archer, Head of Boarding*





## Salvete

### Victoria Cornwall, Head's PA

I spent 15 years in the Lloyd's of London insurance industry in various underwriting and broking roles before swapping views of the City for view of the catwalk and opening a womenswear boutique. I returned to secretarial roles in 2010 after having my daughter and have worked in schools for the last eight years.



### Joanne Simmons, Reception Teaching Assistant

I have always had a passion for working with children and started a career in a Children's Residential Home. After 3 years, I was approached to take on the role of a Support Worker, within an Independent Fostering Agency, where I worked for 12 years. Whilst working, I completed a Psychology degree through The Open University.



I then took the opportunity to work as an Early Years Key Person/Teaching Assistant in an Independent School. I left in 2019, to enrol in school-centred initial teacher training and qualified, despite the challenges of training during a pandemic.

In September 2021, I joined Marlborough House as a Reception Teaching Assistant. I love having the opportunity to see the children grow and develop, and feel privileged to work within an amazing school, with a wonderful team.

## Valete

### Martin Carr, IT Manager

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Martin Carr our towering 6' 4" - at the very least - IT Manager. He leaves us with much praise and admiration from all of the staff at MHS for his patience and calmness when the standard cry goes out.... "Martin my screens gone blank"!

He explained; "my decision to leave is one of reluctance as I have so enjoyed being at MHS in such a friendly and welcoming atmosphere". However, he was not in a position to turn down a career enhancing move to the Harris Federation.

He has not always just been the IT Manager for us. He has often stepped out of his role to help the school in many other ways, which illustrates his kind and generous character.







We naturally wish him well in his next exciting and challenging role and he departs with our fondest best wishes and thanks for all that he has achieved whilst he has been at MHS.

## Mo Cornwall, Catering Team

Mrs Mo Cornwall started working in the MHS kitchen back in the 1960s and was here for several years before leaving to have her children. Back then it was an all-boy boarding school and she remembers that many of the women of Hawkhurst did the boys' washing and had to clean their shoes!

Luckily for us, Mo returned to the Catering Department in 2006. She's seen many changes over the years and has always been a hard-working member of the Catering team.

Mo has decided that now the time has come to retire and enjoy her time with her grandchildren and her gardening. We wish her well for her retirement.

## Margaret McTrusty, Head's PA

Margaret joined Marlborough House in September 2006 and after 15 years of dedicated service to the school, retired in September 2021. One can only describe Margaret as the most loyal and devoted member of staff who has tireless energy, even in her 70's. Margaret was often the first member of staff in school and on most occasions was the last one to leave! Nothing was ever too much trouble for Margaret thus borne the nickname Mrs McLovely. Margaret clearly enjoyed the vibrancy of working in



schools, the ever-changing jobs and roles that she undertook – school secretary, charity co-ordinator, agony aunt, nurse, laundry lady, marketeer, to name but a few – she wore many different 'hats' and loved it all!

Although officially retired, you will not be surprised to learn that her daily commitments have not lessened and she is still living life 'on full speed' with gardening, baking, charity volunteer work, uniform sales and spending time with her family.

The MHS community are so grateful to Margaret for her loyal service to the school and of course wish her well for all her future endeavours!

## Sarah Rushton, School Nurse

Sarah Rushton joined us in 2016 as our School Nurse and quickly established herself as the first port of call for many pupils regardless of their age. Always ready with a kind word and a comfy chair, there would often be a queue at the Medical Centre's door as reassurance and medical knowledge was administered.

In 2017, Sarah also took on the Head of Boarding role which saw her run active and fun sessions throughout the year - with parties, spa nights, trips to the coast and the famous inflatable water slide being firm favourites.

Mrs Rushton has been a central member of the team throughout our Covid challenges and has been integral in training our staff to be qualified first aiders at work.

We wish Sarah every success and happiness in her new role at Benenden School





## Obituary



### David Kemp 1928-2021, Governor of Marlborough House 1973 -2007

A well-attended memorial service, including the current Headmaster and his three predecessors, was held in the chapel of Tonbridge School on 20th November 2021 to celebrate the life of David Kemp. It was a service marked by respect and affection for a man who devoted 79 years to the School (with a short break for University and the Law) as pupil, master, house master, as stand in Head between two of the Heads, legendary watcher of sports matches and purveyor of wisdom. All of the stories, whatever the circumstances, included a smile.

As well as finding time for a flourishing family, he gave extraordinary service to Marlborough House.

A Governor for 34 years, he was in fact Chairman for 24 of them (1976-2000) during a period of substantial change. A boys only boarding School at the beginning, a mixed day School at the end, but with the same high standards and personal values throughout. And all done without seeking any personal recognition or praise, just pleasure being taken from the achievement of the Children (as they would then have been called). His contribution to and for us was noted in the service, and is genuinely unrepeatable.

*Mr Hodson, Chair of Governors*



### OM's start-up recognised in top 100 list

We were delighted to hear from OM James Hagerty (MHS 1999-2006), whose ethical coffee business, Presto Coffee, has just been recognised as one of the Top 100 new UK businesses by startups.co.uk.

Presto Coffee was launched by James in 2018 with the aim of shaking up the coffee market, inspired to create delicious tasting coffee that doesn't cost the earth - both in terms of cost to the consumer and to the planet. James has seen first-hand the environmental degradation caused by coffee plantations and wanted to drive change in an industry whose end product he loves.

James said: "I'm incredibly very proud that Presto has been ranked 67th in Startups.co.uk's Startups 100 list. As a countdown to the UK's most innovative, inspiring and ground-breaking companies, it's testament to the team's hard work and commitment. We're absolutely delighted to have been included!"

Congratulations James!









Autumn 2021

# THE CASTLE



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