



Autumn 2022

THE CASTLE



PAGE 6

THE SECRET
GARDEN

...comes to life!

PAGE 10-11

HARVEST
FESTIVAL

A week of celebrations

PAGE 15

VERY ROYAL
MAIL

From King Charles III

PAGE 23

PRE-PREP
NATIVITIES

Heavenly productions



ENJOYING TODAY
EDUCATING FOR TOMORROW



Note from the Head

Autumn 2022

Rain and snow have dominated the second half of this term, but they have not dampened our spirits! Cheerful stoicism and a willingness to rise above adversity are great strengths at Marlborough House, and I can honestly say that the mood was fantastic as we built up towards Christmas. Helped by the never-ending generosity of the Friends, we celebrated a memorable Christmas Fair and Christmas Shopping Day, while the Nativity performances from Pre-Prep, the Year 3 Victorian Christmas Play and the two Carol Services were all heart-warming and ambitious in scope and delivery. The MHS ski party are on the slopes in Switzerland as I write – I don't think we could have fitted anything else in!

Back in September we had balmy early autumn days and welcomed many new children and members of staff – everybody settled in quickly and we were soon back to the rhythm of lessons, fixtures and trips. The Holy Grail of Prep School life is to have the children working hard while enjoying their lessons, coping with everything that comes their way and staying busy and engaged through the range of extra-curricular opportunities; I'd like to think that we do that pretty well at MHS.

In a time of seemingly unrelenting bad news from the outside – the death of our late Queen, the energy

crisis, Ukraine, the cost of living, and the low standard of political decision making, for example – it has been a challenge

to find the balance between informing the children about what is going on, while keeping them cheerful and cocooned in the prep school bubble that is MHS. Children are naturally curious and so we have tried to involve them in debate about the news in an age-appropriate manner, whilst remaining buoyant and prioritising their enjoyment of each day at School.

I am sometimes asked if I ever get bored being a Headmaster and I always reply that things are never the same, therefore I can't get bored. Last week, as I shovelled snow, practised the staff carol, taught a Latin lesson, wrote a reference for a senior school and reorganised the last three days of term – all before 11.15am – I realised that boredom will never be a problem while I continue to lead this wonderful (and spirited!) school.



Eddy Newton, Head





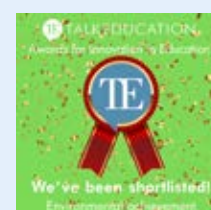
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Schools Awards

We were delighted to be shortlisted for four school awards in 2022. The awards are as follows:

- **Pre-Prep School of the Year -** Independent Schools Awards of the Year, Shortlisted
- **The Innovation Award for an Outstanding New Initiative** for 'The Great Outdoors' - Independent Schools Awards of the Year, Shortlisted
- **Environmental Achievement** Talk Education Awards for Innovation in Education, Shortlisted
- **Most Creative Learning Through Play -** Muddy Stilettos' Best Schools Awards, Highly Commended



Thank you to all our wonderful, creative and dedicated teachers across the School who have contributed to this success and been recognised through these awards.

Follow us on social media:

- @marlboroughhouse.school
- /marlboroughhouseschool

Private accounts for parents:

- Boarding: @marlboroughhouse.boarding
- Reception: @marlboroughhouse.reception
- Nursery: @marlboroughhouse.nursery



New School Review: Muddy Stilettos

Thank you to Muddy Stilettos for their lovely review of Marlborough House, following their visit last term.

"MHS has a well-earned reputation for pastoral care along with its academic and extra-curricular success. Parents praise how the school helps each child reach their potential"

Muddy Stilettos, 2022



Scan the QR code to read the review.



Year 8 Geography Field Trip

With just a single day of school under their belts, Year 8 headed off to Juniper Hall on a two-day residential fieldwork trip.

This new piece of fieldwork drew upon their knowledge gained in the summer term and it wasn't long before Year 8 were getting stuck in and getting their feet wet... and that was before they got in the river! Despite the torrential downpours, the children kept their spirits high and much fun was had collecting data on the width, depth, velocity and speed of the river.

Following such heavy rain, the river was much higher and deeper than usual which posed a challenge to the children, but they overcame it with enthusiasm. They were keen to get in and get wet, great attributes for budding geographers. Once the data had been collected and children had dried off, they set about writing up their findings. It was two days of hard work, but they made excellent progress with their projects and they should be applauded for keeping spirits high under such challenging circumstances.

Mr Kimber, Head of Geography

Snapshot Interviews

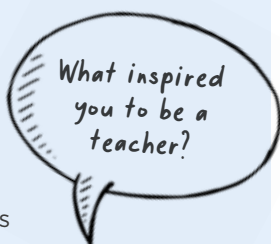
With nine new members of teaching staff starting at MHS in September, we decided to roll out the snapshot interviews across our termly magazines. First up were:

Mrs McEwan, Head of Music

Miss Turner, Games Coach

Mr Trachonitis (Mr T), Games Coach

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





Year 6 Science Trip

Our Year 6 pupils enjoyed a Science trip to the kitchen garden at the Hunter family's Oak and Ivy pub and the grain stores and seed cleaning and treating machine at the Budd family's Stevens Farm

These visits were a great kick-start to their seed dispersal and germination topic in class and it was fascinating to find out more about how farmers, gardeners and restaurateurs work closely with nature and biology to produce our food. They learnt about no till or regenerative agriculture, preserving soil health and producing food in a greener, more sustainable way.

Many thanks to the Hunter and Budd families for hosting the children.

Mr Payne-Cook, Head of Science

The Queen Elizabeth II Commemorative Display

Thank you to everyone across the MHS community who contributed to our Commemorative Display for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

We were delighted to receive pieces from Nursery through to Year 8, from our alumni and from our staff. Having been displayed in the Gallery, the wonderful poems, artwork, photos and memories from the School's Book of Condolences.



Welcome to Paddy the Reading Dog

There was an extra special Taster Day at the start of term for a new member of Pre-Prep!

Mrs Reid, staff and children were delighted to meet Paddy, our new Reading Dog, and his owner Mrs Sue Firth. Paddy has been trained with the Pets as Therapy Charity and soon fitted in to Pre-Prep life, showing great calm and patience as he visited each classroom.

Paddy will join us every Tuesday morning with Mrs Firth and spend time listening to readers and adding an extra level of support, comfort and smiles to those in need.

View our video on instagram



SCAN ME

Sing!

Our Year 6 singers had a wonderful time at Sing! at Eastbourne College.



The day started with some energetic warm ups, followed by working on singing in harmony. We then launched into our concert pieces including Somewhere Only We Know, The Wellerman and Oh Taste and See, which was commissioned especially for the Queen's coronation and performed again at her funeral last week.

Our children certainly did Marlborough House proud, they were polite, enthusiastic and sang beautifully. To learn five pieces from scratch and perform to an audience at the end of the day was no easy feat, but one that triumphed! A great time was had by all.

Mrs McEwan, Director of Music



The Secret Garden at Marlborough House

As part of 'The Great Outdoors' initiative, we now have a large polytunnel up and running, kindly donated by the Friends of MHS.

The Autumn weather has brought with it a flurry of excitement of what is to come and we are thrilled with all the learning that will accompany such project management (from high dreams to implementation and celebrations). The children in Prep have aptly named the space as 'The Secret Garden', which reflects the special place it has already become.

Years 3 and 4 will use the area as an extension of their Forest School time and their previous learning in Pre-Prep, as they progress to understand the importance of stewardship and care for our environment. The Prep School and Pre-Prep gardening clubs will also utilise

the area (in addition to their outdoor beds) to develop their skills, and the rest of the School will begin to use the polytunnel as a science space to observe growing and development in real time.

This term we have seen the space come alive! The wormery has arrived and is being fed by our Worm Monitors. A compost bin has also been installed and is being slowly filled. The polytunnel has had a path, raised beds and work tables installed, and our gardeners from across the School are getting to work on their first projects.

We will continue to keep you informed of all the activities and development as we plan through Autumn, dig through Winter and grow into Spring.

Mrs Reid, Head of Pre-Prep and Forest School Leader





Year 6s History Trip to Battle Abbey

A truly unique visit on many levels!

Our day started with a very informative and entertaining tour and talk by the Abbot of Battle Abbey (alias James Dennett). He was truly amazing and kept the children hanging on his every word – he really made History come alive. Year 6 asked excellent questions and made impressive responses throughout this session. He then shocked them by asking for their participation in Harold's shield wall enactment, some were not impressed by their lack of weaponry and armour! Hopefully, he will send us the pictures of the Battle Abbey ghosts as they are eagerly awaited.

We said goodbye and then made our way to the wider site. We enjoyed the well laid out modern museum and weaponry display which ended in a long debate on the relative merits of chain mail v solid armour. The film was most useful and just the right length. The trip ended with lunch in the medieval refectory – authentic with the driving wind and rain coming in through the unglazed windows.

Many thanks to Mrs Potter and Mr Little for their help in atrocious weather.; most of all thanks to Year 6 for their interest and enthusiasm.

Mrs Budd, Head of History and Latin



This Is Me

Introducing TIM Talks

As you know, our Show and Tell Assemblies are a highlight of the children's week! It is a time when they have a voice and can share all their enthusiasm and interests from home with School. I am therefore pleased to be giving the assembly an 'upgrade' to reflect the importance it has. The assemblies will now be referred to as TIM (THIS IS ME) Talks; consider them as Marlborough House's very own TED Talks!

The ethos and aim of the sessions is to give the children time to discuss anything about themselves – achievements, interests, activities. It is a lovely chance for us to learn how different we are as individuals and an important part of our Character Education delivery. All the sessions are in the Hopkins Hall and so we have use of the big screen. This is a fantastic opportunity for children to improve their presentation skills and build their confidence in this type of environment. We look forward to introducing it to the children this term.

Mrs Reid, Head of Pre-Prep

Years 7 & 8 Trip to Shakespeare's Globe at Haver Castle

Towards the start of term, Years 7 and 8 had the pleasure of a trip to the beautiful Haver Castle to see the Shakespeare's Globe production of Julius Caesar.

The venue is set in the most idyllic spot, surrounded by the gorgeous gardens with the castle in the background and we were able to enjoy our picnic lunch in the grounds thanks to the lovely weather. Soon we were seated in the delightful Festival Theatre and were immediately thrown into the action with the troupe of actors inviting audience participation from the start. We cheered and booed as commanded and thoroughly enjoyed this part.

At times, the show was quite challenging for many of us to follow, as it is one which heavily relies on dialogue, but the intrigue and conspiracy and the more blood thirsty moments provided great entertainment for us all. The trip was a lovely way to enjoy the experience of live theatre again.

Mrs Atkins, Head of English



European Day of Languages



To celebrate our annual European Day of Languages, we tried to promote diversity through exposing children to different cultures and languages.

Activities took place across the School including a memorable Junior Chapel where we celebrated all the different languages that our children speak at home. This was followed by a sing along to 'Let it Go' (Frozen) sung in 25 different languages!

To celebrate the day and its theme of 'Diversity', we also created a fun list of secret language and country facts about the staff at MHS – have a go!

European Day of Languages Bake-Off and Macmillan Coffee Morning

This year marks the fourth year that we have celebrated the European Day of Languages with a Bake-Off Competition, with all the cakes being sold at the Macmillan Coffee Morning.

This shows not only the love for competition (there were some fantastic, original and diverse entries again this year, thank you to all who baked!) but also the love for fundraising which ultimately is a sign of caring

for others. The theme of 'Diversity' was explored in lessons throughout the day and it encouraged us to recognise our differences, but most importantly to accept and celebrate these differences.

Thank you to all who baked and to those who bought cakes. The wonderful sum of £537.70 was raised for Macmillan. The winners of the Bake-Off competition are listed below, in no particular order and based on best representing the theme of Diversity. Congratulations to:

Prep:

Nata (4P) and Raffey P (6dH), Freya (4M) and Charlie B (6dH), Agnes (3L) and Anna P (6dH) Eleanor T (4P)

Pre-Prep:

Zac P (2P), Tilly R (1C), Jack (Nursery) and Florence B (1W)

Madame De Haan, Head of MFL





Language Fact Challenge

Match the fact with the correct member of staff.

Mrs McEwan	Mrs Mathers	Mrs Henderson	Mr Townsend
Mrs Chapman	Mr Trachonitis	Mr Little	Mrs Coombs
Mme De Haan	Mrs Alfrey	Mrs Wells	Nurse Izzie
Mrs Houchin	Mrs Boyd	Mrs Budd	Mr Newton
Mrs Taylor	Mr Payne-Cook	Mrs Archer	
Mrs Atkins	Mr Priddin	Mr Kimber	

- "I learnt to speak German when I was 25, at night school."
- "I stayed with my Godfather, the British Ambassador, in Prague and once had a conversation that went from English to French, Russian, German, Portuguese and Czech!"
- "I took GCSE Russian."
- "I lived in Saudia Arabia when I was younger."
- "I lived in the Canaries Islands and taught in a British School."
- "I lived in Norway from the age of 4-6 and spoke Norwegian."
- "I have travelled to over 40 different countries and visited 6 out of the 7 continents."
- "My grandmother was Serbian and married my English grandfather in Venice, Italy. Neither spoke each other's language so they used Italian!"
- "I am Polish but have Argentinian and American genes. I lived in Germany for many years."
- "I have travelled a lot to France, Brussels and Italy because my family lived there. I lived and worked in New York for 7 years. I learnt Spanish and Italian and speak very good French."
- "I speak 3 languages: English, Zulu and Afrikaans. My great, great grand-mother was Israeli, I have lived on 3 different continents in my life."
- "I was born in Paphos, Cyprus, and lived there until I was 5 years old."
- "I have lived in Japan, Hong Kong and the USA."
- "I am half Dutch."
- "I lived on a farm in France until I was 9 years old."
- "I lived in Malaysia for 2 years."
- "I lived in rural Japan for a year so I learnt to speak Japanese to get by."
- "My mother is French. My grandparents are South African. My accordion is Italian!"
- "I lived in Barcelona for a year and I can speak Catalan."
- "My father spoke fluent French, German and Italian."
- "I camped on a remote estancia (farm) in Chile for 3 months on an environmental project to help pumas."
- "My great grandparents were German and Italian."

Answers 1 Mr Townsend 2 Mr Payne-Cook 3 Mrs Coombs 4 Mr Little 5 Mrs Mathers 6 Mrs Boyd 7 Mrs Alfrey 8 Mrs Wells 9 Nurse Izzie 10 Mrs Atkins 11 Mrs Chapman 12 Mr Trachonitis 13 Mrs Houchin 14 Mr Newton 15 Mrs Archer 16 Mrs McEwan 17 Mrs Henderson 18 Mrs Taylor 19 Mr Priddin 20 Mrs Budd 21 Mr Kimber 22 Mme De Haan



Pre-Prep Harvest Festival Week



We had a wonderful week celebrating Harvest Festival in Pre-Prep.

Our Events

The week got underway with a wonderful talk from local farmer and MHS parent Mr Budd. Pre-Prep learnt all about growing and harvesting apples and the importance of buying local produce. There were lots of tractor photos and videos too! At the end, everyone was able to say a personal 'thank you' to Mr Budd as they chose a freshly picked apple from the farm.

Years 1 and 2 then joined the Prep School Harvest Festival event and sang their harvest songs beautifully, including Big Red Combine Harvester and Autumn Leaves (complete with a fun kazoo accompaniment).

Meanwhile, Nursery and Reception came together in the Hopkins Hall to celebrate all that is harvest festival. With songs and prayers and celebration for the farmers, the weather, the harvest and the bountiful produce that was brought in by the children. The children guessed the vegetables in Mrs Edmondson's shopping bag and listen to Mrs Boyd talk about life on her farm and then enjoyed dancing and singing along to our harvest songs.

Thank you to all those who brought in food donations for Nourish Foodbank; the House tables and display in



the Hopkins Hall looked wonderful and the items were gratefully received.

Harvest in the School Orchard

The Pre-Prep Gardening Club got into the spirit of harvest by picking apples and pears in the School Orchard. They filled several boxes with fruit for home and the school kitchen. Please click on the link below to watch a little video of their harvest.



Scan the QR code to watch the video



SCAN ME

Funny Fruit and Veg

During the week, everyone in Pre-Prep was invited to take part in a Funny Fruit and Veg activity at home. Mrs Reid had some very creative and very funny contributions, so well done to you all.



Henry's Pumpkin

Finally, we had many Harvest related items brought in for the week's TIM Talks, but none quite like Henry in 1C's pumpkin. Henry grew the 11 stone pumpkin with his grandfather and we are very grateful to him



and his family for bringing it in to show to everyone. What a wonderful way to end a busy week of harvest excitement!



Harvest Festival

We were delighted to welcome children from Years 1-8 and their parents to our annual Harvest Festival event.

We also welcomed back the team from Nourish Food Bank in Tunbridge Wells who delivered a moving message including a letter of thanks from a recipient of their food parcels. The House tables had a wonderful display of food donations which were gratefully received by Nourish after the event, so thank you to all those who contributed.

The Music

We had a very energetic musical element at the Harvest Festival, enabling us to celebrate this special time of year. Every child was given the chance to perform and should feel tremendously proud of their efforts.

Year 3 and 4 kicked off proceedings with “Sing a Song of Harvest” which incorporated a complex dance routine to really allow them to shine. This was followed by a classic favourite from Year 1 and 2: Big Red Combine Harvester. Year 1 and 2 returned later in the programme to perform “Autumn Leaves” with tuneful singing and they showed their sense of fun with the kazoo verse. Year 5 and 6 treated us to a Coldplay-esque song called Harvest Time by Luke Bryan. The finale, and perhaps, loudest contribution, was given by our Year 7 and 8 children who performed their very own “We Will Grow You” having written the lyrics themselves. A very enjoyable morning was had by all.

Mrs McEwan, Director of Music

The Readings

Year 8 read 2 poems – one “The Harvest Moon” by Ted Hughes and the other “The Day That Summer Died” by Vernon Scannell. Both poems consider different themes to do with Autumn.

The Harvest Moon features the ripening crops and farm animals quaking beneath the powerful Harvest Moon whilst “The Day that Summer Died” presents the changing leaves and berries in their autumn colours as a celebration of the end of Summer- something to be enjoyed rather than mourned over.

The readings encouraged us to think about the people involved in providing our food and giving thanks for all that we have whilst also considering those around the world who do not have enough to eat due to drought, floods or poverty.

Mrs Atkins, Head of English





Year 6 Discovery Day



We held another successful Discovery Day for our Year 6 cohort specialising in Art, DT, Science and Sport. Our pupils were joined by other Year 6s from local primary schools and all took part in a series of 'energy' themed workshops.

Art took a seasonal approach to the concept of energy, drawing on natural inspiration in the form of a beautiful selection of seed heads that Mrs Fields had gathered for the session. The children reimagined the seed heads in clay, putting their own twists on them. The finished items will be glazed and fired for the children to take home after half term.

DT saw Year 6 design, build and send air rockets flying. There was a fun competitive element as the children took it in turns to see whose rocket would go furthest, adapting their designs to create the most aerodynamic shape possible (watch the video below).



Rescue Swimmer Training

In October, we hosted a Rescue Swimmer training session in the pool for our Seniors. It was a great introduction to water rescue and lifesaving skills (and they were delighted to be able to jump into the pool fully dressed!).

Mr Mathers, Director of Sport

Science considered energy in the body, involving both microscope and Bunsen burner work. The highlight was the opportunity to set fire to different types of crisps and measure the energy released from the crisp in the form of heat. The prawn crackers were a particular success.

In sport the focus was on rugby, breaking down the concept of the game before putting it back together, culminating in a mixed tag rugby match.

The day was a great blend of disciplines with lots of engaging learning opportunities. MHS pupils were very enthusiastic, polite and welcoming to our visiting pupils.

View our video
on instagram



SCAN ME





Poetry Celebration

On the Thursday before half term, the Old Gym was packed to the rafters with excited children and expectant parents and staff; a hush descended as Isobel B took to the stage with her beautiful singing and guitar playing providing a delightful musical introduction to our annual Poetry Celebration.

It is always a joy to see the children in action and it is heart-warming and awe inspiring to witness performers supporting each other, overcoming their nerves and the resulting sense of achievement they experience at having done so.

Well done to all the children and thank you to parents and staff for all their support and encouragement. Particular thanks must also go to the wonderful MHS team who organised the group and class poems: Mrs Mathers, Mr Priddin, Ms Coatz, Mr Little and Mme de Haan.

Mrs Atkins, Head of English



Year 3s Victorian History Trip



On Friday 14th October, Year 3 donned their best Victorian costumes for our trip to Kent Life.

The children spent the day taking part in a range of interactive activities to learn about Victorian life, ranging from a Victorian shopping experience to rug making. A particular favourite was the 'Victorian Classroom', in which the children came face-to-face with a stern schoolmaster, who quickly had them sitting in silence, reciting the alphabet and using a slate and chalk. Evie N in 3H said, 'it made me realise how nice all our teachers are!' Year 3 also enjoyed learning about the different jobs they might have had if they were born in the Victorian era; although some of them quite liked the idea of being chimney sweeps, they decided they'd probably prefer to stay at MHS!

The day was a brilliant way to bring the children's learning to life and a great start to our new topic.

Mrs Henderson, Year 3 Teacher



Young Author Award 2022

Congratulations to Bea T in Year 6 who achieved Highly Commended in the Atom Learning Young Author Award 2022. Inspired by the Lionesses, Bea wrote a glorious story of equality that finished with the line, "That was how one girl and one ball changed the world by starting women's football." Well done Bea.



Year 5 Space Exploration Trip

At the beginning of November, our Year 5 pupils visited the Science Museum in London to begin their topic all about Space Exploration and the Solar System!

A new Exhibit called “Science Fiction: Voyage to Imagination” was our first stop once inside. An Artificial Intelligence from another planet known as A.L.A.N.N. greeted us and took us on a journey into our imaginations building on some of the greatest works of science fiction and showing us how these have helped shape our past and how they might shape the future.

The children then visited the Explore Space Gallery; they were able to see some fascinating artefacts including moon rock, Tim Peake’s Soyuz capsule and (most exciting!) Steven Hawking’s spectacles. They enjoyed trying to perform experiments with space gloves on and learning how astronauts went to the loo in space. They completed a scavenger

hunt spotting specific items of interest as we walked around the galleries. A popular part of the visit was the Wonderlab! The group immersed themselves in the interactive and investigative elements, the friction slides and pulley chairs, they had the opportunity to see the Tesla coil in action and visit the chemical reactions bar.

Huge thanks to Miss Allfrey and Mr Little for accompanying and Mr Payne-Cook for his knowledge and enthusiasm! Lastly a special thank you goes to the Year 5 cohort for being patient on the coach, keeping interested in the content, asking great questions, and exploring. We all had a memorable experience.

Mrs Taylor, Year 5 Form Teacher

View our video
on Instagram



SCAN ME



Year 4 WWII History Trip

In November, Year 4 were lucky enough to travel back to 1940.

We were evacuated to Horton Kirby on a rather new-fangled motor coach before being met by our teacher for the day, Mr Tanner. Our wartime experience started with a walk around the village, taking in the locations of anti-aircraft defences and ARP stations, whilst zapping away any anachronisms. During our stroll, Mr Tanner entertained us with gruesome tales, such as the story of the German bomber's foot (what happened to the rest of the poor chap remained a mystery), and we were lucky enough to make it back to the village school without hearing any air-raid warning sirens.

After a lunch that was heartier than a ration book would usually allow, it was time to make our way to class. We had lessons in composition, arithmetic and nature, to name but a few. Most pupils showed a sound ability to add up shopping bills in pounds, shillings and pence, and only one poor soul felt the rap of Mr Tanner's ruler across his knuckles. Sadly, the peace could not last and our education was interrupted by the chilling sound of the siren. We made our way into the shelter, hunkering down in the cramped space whilst Mr Tanner did his best to continue our lessons by torchlight. When the 'all clear' sounded, class was over and it was time to play. We enjoyed favourites such as skittles, skipping and hopscotch.

Before long, the home time bell sounded and we made our way back to Marlborough House with a real appreciation for what life must have been like for wartime children. We reflected that we might have enjoyed the soldiers allowing us to ride up in barrage balloons, but we probably would not have been so keen on running down to the Anderson shelter on a cold winter's night. Perhaps 2022 isn't so bad after all!

Mr Priddin, Year 4 Teacher

View our video on instagram



SCAN ME

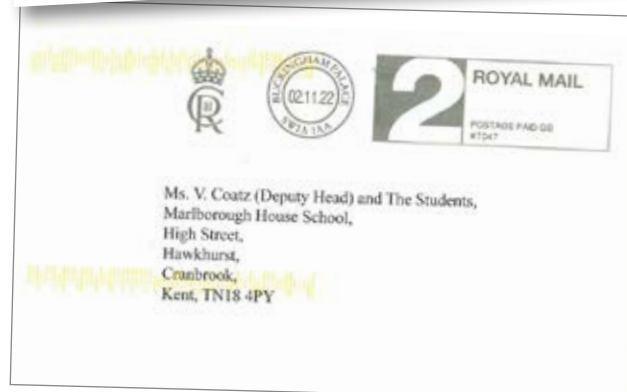


A letter from the Palace



His Majesty King Charles III writes to pupils at Marlborough House.

6DH and Ms Coatz were very excited when an envelope marked 'Buckingham Palace' and featuring the new royal cypher arrived for them. Enclosed was a card from His Majesty King Charles III, thanking them for the letters of condolence that they had sent following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.





Have you filled a bucket today?

If you are not sure ask Pre-Prep, as this heart-warming guide to daily happiness has captured their imagination and every class now has a bucket that they can add to when they see or do an act of kindness. The book is just one of the stories in their new character education bookcases; the latest addition to the cosy reading area in every Pre-Prep classroom.

The new bookcases are filled with inspiring stories, perfect for developing young characters as well as young minds. Each class also takes part in a weekly worry monster check in and mental health check ins.

Character Education in Pre-Prep continues to build with these thoughtful classroom touchpoints, delivered alongside each year group's weekly Jigsaw PSHE sessions, TIM Talks and Assemblies. It's safe to say that in Pre-Prep, taking the time and space to allow the children to develop and flourish as individuals, whilst feeling happy and secure, is something that we value very highly.

Mrs Reid, Head of Pre-Prep



Bonfire Night

The night of the FoMHS Bonfire and Fireworks proved to be the perfect weather for this year's event!

This is always a popular evening, and this year was no exception. Why change a proven and popular format?! We had Cellar Head beer, hot food, mulled wine and a glow shop but this year we introduced our newly purchased candy floss machine – whilst many volunteers had never flossed before, they took up the challenge with gusto and, before you knew it, were experts.

The Guy had been created by the MHS boarders (thank you to them and Mrs Archer) and nestled atop the huge bonfire, whilst slightly smoky to start it soon started to blaze and lit up the darkening autumn evening. At 5.30pm promptly the fireworks display began and did not disappoint, ten minutes of light, colour and sound covering the horizon.

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped with this event. A big thank you to Mr Townsend and Mr George for all their hard work and to Mr Gibbons and his wonderful catering team who worked alongside us on the night.

Mrs Rachel Bennett, Chair FoMHS



Remembrance Day

All the pupils and staff of Marlborough House assembled on the terrace for our Act of Remembrance

Mr Newton reflected on the significance of Remembrance and read 'In Gratitude of Silence' by Debbie Holick, which was followed by a two-minute silence. Thank you to Phoebe M who played The Last Post beautifully and to our Heads of Houses who laid a wreath and our memorial plaque in the Chapel Garden. Our Head Girl and Head Boy, Eliza B and Henry L B, represented MHS at the Remembrance Ceremony in Hawkhurst, where they laid a wreath at the War Memorial on behalf of the School. In Pre-Prep, colour abounded with poppy inspired art and biscuits to mark the day.





Year 2 French Performance

You might have thought we were in France when Year 2 performed in French to their parents in the Hopkins Hall. The children sang beautifully, danced, played Simon Says and took part in a game of bingo with the audience, using cards they had prepared. The enjoyment was palpable and the quality of the children's French was impressive. To top it all, there was a lovely French breakfast.

A big thank you to the parents for taking the time to make this hour so enjoyable and to the children for their joie de vivre.

Mme De Haan, Head of MFL

Prep School Informal Concert

We were treated to a range of musical styles from our Prep School pupils in the first Informal Concert of this academic year.

All the children announced their pieces clearly and performed with much enthusiasm, really showing off what hard work and dedication they had put into their music making over the last few weeks. It was lovely to see the Year 3 pupils looking up to our Year 8 performers and seeing where their musical journey could take them in the next few years.

All our performers should feel very proud of themselves, it was a brilliant evening. Well done.

Mrs McEwan, Director of Music



Maths Ambassadors

At MHS our subject leadership positions provide older pupils with opportunities to fly the flag for a particular subject and encourage younger pupils in their learning. Year 7 have taken on responsibility for Maths and paid Year 3 a visit in the second half of term, led by our first ambassadors: Emma G and Sophie W. It was a great, confidence-boosting maths lesson for Year 3 and allowed Year 7 to develop their leadership and communication skills; key areas of the Pre-Senior Baccalaureate.





MHS Geography World Wise Quiz

In November some of the finest young geographers in the local area came together to battle it out for the MHS Geography World Wise Quiz. Teams from St Ronan's, Dulwich and Vinehall were hosted by a selection of our Year 8 students. It was the first time that the quiz has been held and it was friendly, informal and a lot of fun... but like any good 'pub quiz', highly competitive too.

The questions ranged from anagrams to A-Z of locations, to University Challenge style panel questions, and of course, the obligatory OS map round. How well would you have done... have a go at some of the questions below:

1. What A hosted the first modern Olympic Games in 1896?
2. What B is the name of a scale of wind force?
3. What C is the region of France producing a sparkling wine?
4. What D is a body of water 390m below sea level between Israel and Jordan?
5. What E is the country where the Blue Nile rises?
6. In which country could you spend pesos in Buenos Aires?
7. What is the capital of Canada?
8. In which country would you find the volcano Stromboli?
9. On postage stamps, which country is Suomi?
10. Which is the odd one out? Easter Island, Tristan da Cunha, Galapagos Islands?
11. Put the following countries in order from most northerly to most southerly: Spain, Denmark, Germany, Romania

Answers: 1. Athens 2. Beaufort 3. Champagne 4. Dead Sea 5. Ethiopia 6. Argentina 7. Ottawa 8. Italy 9. Finland 10. Tristan (Atlantic) 11. Denmark, Germany, Romania, Spain

It was a very closely fought competition and after 90 minutes of intense quizzing, the teams were separated by just 7 points. Dulwich came first with MHS hot on their heels, followed by the other schools. I hope it will be the first of many opportunities to battle our wits and geographical knowledge against other local schools. Well done to all the children involved and thanks to all the visiting staff who worked hard to mark the papers and keep the score.

Mr Kimber, Head of Geography

Anti-Bullying Week



The theme this year was 'Reach Out'. So, whether it's in School, at home, in the community or online, the message is to reach out and show each other the support we need. Odd Sock Day launched Anti-Bullying Week at MHS, followed by PSHE lessons, Assemblies and Form Times on bullying in all its forms and how we can help each other and ourselves. Pupils were also invited to complete a questionnaire about how they feel at School so that we were able to hear their voice and continue to work hard to provide a safe and supportive environment for them. At the end of the week, every pupil from Reception to Year 8 was paired up with someone from a different year group and they headed off around the grounds for our annual 'Walk to Talk' to mark Anti-Bullying Week. As usual, the walk coincided with Children In Need, making it a Spotty Walk to Talk!



View our video on instagram



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MHS Polar Express Experience

Year 2 kicked off their Christmas celebrations early by having their very own MHS Polar Express experience.

Dressed in their cosy pyjamas, they received their Polar Express Ticket and boarded the MHS Polar Express. They got to enjoy a delicious hot coco, listen to Christmas songs and have a look at lots of different Christmas books before watching a very creative video clip about a train that experiences a problem on the way to the North Pole. The children then used their experience to write up a wonderful creative fictional story about getting to the North Pole to visit Father Christmas.

Mrs Chapman, Year 2 Teacher

Senior Choir sing at the Wealden Times Fair

Our Senior Choir had lots of fun spreading Christmas cheer at the Wealden Times Fair.

The event was bustling and the children sang beautifully. They performed a range of carols, sang in two-part harmony and ended with an energetic 'We Wish You A Merry Christmas!'.

Well done to all involved - a wonderful way to start the build up to Christmas.

Mrs McEwan, Director of Music



Pre-Prep Informal Concert

What a wonderful concert we enjoyed in November! We began with Singing Club and 'Lavender's Blue' followed by thirteen individual performances, all beautifully played.

The concert was rounded off with another lovely song from the Singing Club children, who led and the audience all joined in.

I was so proud of our young musicians who showed so much potential. Well done everyone!

*Mrs Townsend,
Pre-Prep Music Teacher*



Year 7 self-portraits



Year 7 have completed their self-portraits which we are sure you will agree from these examples are very impressive.



Reception Detectives

In the second half of term, Reception (and Nursery) transformed themselves into detectives. Asking some brilliant questions and working out the clues, they have been on a mission to discover more about the wonderful people who help us.

We started our mission looking around school, visiting some of the less well-known members of the MHS community.

Next we started having welcoming guests from outside school...

Captain Wells came in to tell us all about flying a helicopter ambulance. Doctor Parnell talked about how we can help to stay healthy by eating and drinking the correct foods, exercising, sleeping and smiling. Mrs Hummel told us all about being a vet, giving demonstrations on how to bandage a poorly dogs paw and letting us look at some real veterinary equipment. Our visits ended with Hannah the dentist. She taught us how to brush our teeth properly and explained how sugar is so bad for our teeth.

It has been wonderful speaking to so many different people who all happily gave up their time. A big thank you from us all.

Mrs Boyd, Reception Teacher

View our video
on instagram



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Year 3 Victorian Christmas

Early December saw our Year 3 pupils begin the MHS Christmas celebrations with a wonderful performance of 'A Victorian Christmas'.

The children took the audience on a journey back to Victorian London, where the miserly character of Scrooge was encouraged to remember the true meaning of Christmas.

After being told the Christmas story, which was acted out brilliantly on stage, Scrooge managed to realise the true spirit of Christmas once again. Year 3 all performed with great confidence and enjoyment and should be very proud of themselves.

Mrs Henderson, Year 3 Teacher



Pen Pals meet over Video Call

MHS started a link with the Collège Jean Rostand in Loon-Plage, four years ago and Year 6, 7 and 8 pupils have corresponded with their counterparts ever since.

Due to Covid, we have not been able to meet in person, however, as part of their Leavers Trip, Year 8 will visit the collège in June 2023. To get things started, on Monday 5th December, Year 8 had their first video call with their pen pals: we got to see their classroom and asked each other questions in French and English. MHS pupils sang We Wish you a Merry Christmas which delighted the French pupils. Those pupils who do not learn French are very much part of the project and were fantastic in getting involved on Monday. We look forward to more interaction with our French neighbours.

Mme De Haan, Head of MFL



MHS Christmas Fair

The Fair commenced with the arrival of Father Christmas, the distant sound of sleigh bells, reindeer landing on the roof of the Old Gym and the sound of approaching footsteps brought Father Christmas to the MHS Grotto where he was welcomed with a



song and bell ringing performed by the Pre-Prep children. The FoMHS Christmas Fair 2022 was open!

This year we really wanted to achieve a balance between fun and activities for the children whilst combining some retail therapy for the grown-ups. I hope you agreed that this was the case. The whole school was a hive of activity from Mr Pineapple Head in the Music Room, stall holders in the Gallery and Old Gym, inflatable assault course in the Sports Hall and the Old Gym was the epicentre with Father Christmas, sweet stall, toys, books as well as face painting and arts and crafts for the children to do.

A particular highlight was the attendance of Hawkhurst Fire Station and their fire engine, children (and adults)

were delighted to try on the equipment and tour the engine whilst learning about fire safety and potential hazards around the home.

Thank you to the Friends, Social Reps and MHS staff that came together to make this the best Christmas Fair ever!

In total we raised £4,200 to be equally shared between Nourish Foodbank and Food 4 Families.

*Mrs Rachel Bennett,
Chair of FoMHS*

View our video
on instagram



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Tree planting in the Orchard

The School Orchard has five new fruit trees courtesy of the Tree Council and these were ably planted by 1C and their team of helpers (thank you to Mr Budd, Mr Newton and Mr George).

Expanding our orchard is part of The Great Outdoors initiative launched last year - a key focus here, linking our whole school approach to outdoor learning, wellbeing and all things eco. Already a wonderful outdoor learning area, the orchard also supports our environmental education, enabling pupils to learn about, and play a role in, sustainable food production. We look forward to future harvests of cherries in July, plums in September and apples and pears in October. Delicious!



I'm Gonna Shine

Years 1 and 2 shone when performing their Nativity to the school and parents.

The story began one starry night when Gloria, the brightest star in all of heaven, sang and danced her way to Bethlehem with the help of her team of stars. She lit the way for the three wise men who performed a fantastic dance supported by the other children with their super singing.



Herod, not thrilled by the news of the new King, sang a super rendition of 'I'm the King'. Mary, Joseph and their faithful donkey made the long journey to Bethlehem, a team of local innkeepers greeted them. Hard working shepherds put their crooks to good use to dance with during their song, 'Off We Go'. A heavenly group of angels accompanied Gabriel to sing 'Don't be afraid'. The final scene saw the travellers altogether in the stable celebrating with a foot tapping finale, 'Can you hear the angels singing.'

The children all worked so hard to put their Christmas show together and were very proud of the results. Well done Pre-Prep.

Mrs Pay, Year 1 Teacher



Whoops-A-Daisy Angel

Another Christmas, another glorious nativity. For us, it is always when the magic of Christmas truly begins.

Whether your halo is wonky, your camel tail detachable, or the snowflakes go rogue, an Early Years Nativity reminds us all, not only of the Christmas story but of the joy and innocence of the youngest members of the School.

Under Mrs Townsend's gentle guidance Reception and Nursery learnt a wide range of songs and actions and performed them with great enthusiasm and energy in front of two packed houses, taking everyone with them on the well-trod path to Bethlehem.

To stand on a stage, under lights and with a sea of faces watching you is no mean feat, and we were all so proud of the children for achieving this. They wore their costumes with pride and delivered their lines beautifully, impressing everyone with their confidence and creativity. True ambassadors of our Pre-Prep values, where we celebrate every Whoops-a-Daisy angel!

Mrs Edmondson, Head of Nursery & Mrs Boyd, Reception Teacher





The Castle Junior

The School Magazine club worked very hard this term to put together a fantastic 5th edition of the Castle Junior.

In an effort to remain true to our eco values, we have decided not to print the magazine this term. There are interviews, craft activities and much more for everyone to discover: happy reading!

Mme de Haan, School Magazine Club

Scan to view
the magazine



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Year 4 table decorations and Christmas Lunches

It is traditional for Year 4 to make the table decorations for the Christmas Lunches and this year did not disappoint. All the children worked very hard and their teachers were impressed with their creative crafting skills.

The lunches were a triumph and our thanks go to the wonderful Catering Team for serving up the most delicious meals, with all the trimmings and full of festive fun. Crackers were pulled, Christmas puds devoured and songs sung.



Lists

A very enjoyable termly tradition for the Prep School, Lists celebrated an array of pupil and House achievements. Awards included Values Prizes (such as integrity, perseverance, kindness, resilience, citizenship, empathy and creativity), House Point 'Centurions' and the House Cup winners - congratulations Dunbar!

Thank you to all the pupils who have held positions of responsibility this term and now pass the baton on to our new school leaders. Best of luck to our incoming Eco Reps, Pupil Council Reps, Captains of Sport, Heads of House and Heads of School.

A particular highlight was Years 6, 7 and 8's annual rendition of 'The 12 days of Christmas' which reverberated around the Dining Room with each table attempting to outdo the last in their singing and actions!





Snow

MHS was transformed into a winter wonderland when snow fell (and stayed) in the last week of term. Fun in the snow accompanied with some warming hot chocolate was just the ticket and children from Nursery to Year 8 made the most of this opportunity to enjoy themselves outside.



Carol Services

This year the Prep School Carol Service was held across two events due to the weather, with Years 3 and 4 treating us to a musical celebration of Christmas, whilst Years 5 to 8 joined together for our traditional service in St Laurence Church, Hawkhurst. We were treated to some beautiful singing, performances and readings making for a poignant way for the Prep School to end a busy week of Christmas festivities.



Father Christmas visit

Pre-Prep welcomed some special visitors in the form of Father Christmas and his very silly helper, Billy the elf. The children were delighted to meet Father Christmas and receive a present; a wonderful way to round off a fun afternoon of Pre-Prep Christmas parties.





Boys' Sport Round-up



As a school we no longer record all of our match results, as we focus on performance and improvement, though of course we have had some notable wins during the recent boys' football season. The Senior boys had good wins over bigger schools such as Saint Ronan's, Solefields and Rose Hill, along with some excellent tournament matches. However, their best performance was their last which was against Claremont who had a very strong side and despite the 2-1 loss it was a superb game on which to end the season. The Senior boys though now enter the IAPS Small Schools Tournament and hope for another few good performances still to come.

The U11's (Colts B and C pictured) also played well



this year with some excellent matches and strong performances. The 2-0 win over a good Vinehall side was very pleasing. The U10's also look strong and next year's Colts will perform well if they continue to work hard. Their B side are all pushing the A's and the B's 4-0 win over Dulwich Prep was testament to that desire to improve and quality of performance.

The Junior boys (pictured) also did very well, with the Year 3 looking a very strong group who often played up a year and competed well with the U9 boys; a team that beat The Mead, Rose Hill, Claremont and Lorenden. A great season!

Mr Mathers, Director of Sport





Girls' Sport Round-up



An excellent term for girls' sport, starting out with our Juniors in Year 3 who have learnt and progressed well in their 5-a-side netball, playing many fun friendly matches and progressing well over the term. The Year 4's have seen great progress in their 7-a-side netball, winning their last match 10-9 against Dulwich Prep, showing that their hard work and determination pays off! We are so pleased with how the Junior girls play together as a team, supporting each other to grow and improve.

Moving onto the Seniors and Hockey, where there was notable success for both the U10a and U10b teams. The U10a girls were unbeaten in their age group for the season, a magnificent achievement! Team Captain Tara B led the team confidently, with all the girls showing skill and excellence. The U10b team led by Captain Charlotte B, only lost 1 game all season, winning 5 and drawing 3. The U10b's determination and grit to keep up the winning streak was amazing! All of the U10 girls are fantastic to coach as what they learn in training, they put into their matches; as a coach you can't ask for more than that!



The U11a team had a good season, only losing 3 out of their 10 matches, their stats were – Won 5, Drew 2, Lost 3. U11b's stats were– Won 4, drew 1, lost 5. The U11 girls (pictured) have been so determined to improve this hockey season and have seen some excellent goal scoring and attacking play, we are really pleased with their progress.

The Senior girls hockey (pictured), a mix of the U12s and U13s, played across A, B & C teams. The girls went from strength to strength in their hockey season. They improved throughout and jelled fantastically in their teams supporting one another from defence up to attack and passing to get round the opposition creating shots on goal. Great season for all the girls and they should be immensely proud of themselves, their progression and their team work.

We now look forward to the new seasons:

U8 & U9 – Hockey

U10, U11 & Seniors – Netball

After the February half term, all girls will be playing football.

Mrs Lelliott, Head of Girls' Games





Equestrian Team Round-up

Eight members of the MHS Equestrian Team did fantastically at the NSEA Grass Roots Championships at Hickstead in August. We fielded four teams and each team was placed which was no mean feat giving that this was a Championship with big competitive classes. All the children rode beautifully and were a credit to the School. Many thanks to Mr Newton and Mrs Archer who came along to support the children on a very hot and busy day.

In September, six of our riders represented MHS at an Inter-School Competition. Special congratulations must go to Emma G who won two classes, the 60/65cm JWS (Jumping with Style) and the 70/75CM JWS (Jumping with Style) qualifying classes on Ebony Lady.

In early October, six members of our Equestrian Team had a very successful day at Felbridge Showground competing for MHS in the NSEA Inter-School Show Jumping. Congratulations go to our 50cm team (Jack G, Erin C, Eliza B and Eliza F) who won the class.

Our riders competed in two Inter-School competitions over half term with huge success, notably at Duckhurst Farm in Staplehurst where our 60cm team won the class and Annabel J won the 70cm class, a great achievement!

Finally, four of our riders competed for the school at the NSEA Grass Roots Regional Final in early December. With clear rounds from all the team in the 60cm, they only missed out on first place by 2.42 seconds, securing second place.



Very well done to them all (and their parents of course) for braving both boiling and chilly days out to compete for the school and for doing so well with fabulous team spirit as always.

Mrs Dipper, Equestrian Team Manager





Clubs Round-up

With the new academic year starting, so did a new set of after school clubs. The School's club program gives pupils opportunities to try something new, supplement their curriculum as well as focus on the things they enjoy the most.

The new term brought the return of DT Club with 18 pupils taking the opportunity to make the most of the new DT room.

In Pre-Prep, Year 1 and 2 took part in Engineering Club where pupils programmed penguin robots. Also, in Pre-Prep children were able to keep active taking part in multi sports, fitness and running clubs as well as ballet and acrodance.

Staying with the active theme, Boxercise (*pictured*) packed a punch in the Hopkins Hall with a high energy mix of pad sparring and HIIT. A calmer atmosphere was found at this terms Chess and Greek Clubs. In Greek Club children made fun masks (*pictured*) based on the Theseus and Minotaur myth.

A busy and exciting term was had and we look forward to some new clubs and a new term, with pupils at MHS making the most of the opportunities given to them.

Mr Robson, Head of Clubs





Salvete

Please visit the 'Meet the Team' section of the School website to find out more about our new members of staff.

Mrs Beaman,
Pre-Prep Teaching Assistant

Mrs Cameron,
DT Teacher

Mrs Henderson,
Year 3 Teacher

Mrs Loke,
Early Years Practitioner

Mrs McEwan,
Director of Music

Mr Priddin,
Year 4 Teacher

Mr Trachonitis,
Games Coach

Mrs Townsend,
Pre-Prep Music Teacher

Miss Turner,
Games Coach

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the website



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Valete

Mr Kent, Games Coach and Boarding Tutor



Ollie Kent joined us from Tonbridge School as a specialist tennis coach. As a member of the games staff he quickly used his excellent coaching skill with other sports, expanding his repertoire to all the main games and even some Lax! He joined a school ski trip and demonstrated his super skills on the slopes too. He was also, in recent times, a Boarding Tutor running the evening activities for the last 18 months and helping boarding grow. He will be leaving us for Benenden where he will continue his coaching across the main sports. We wish him a fond fair-well and look forward to beating his teams when we play Benenden!

Miss Standen, Games Coach



Stephanie Standen arrived some seven years ago and worked with the girls' department across all sports. She was always particularly kind and gentle with the girls – especially those who found the activities demanding, and she produced some excellent teams with great team spirit and skills. She returned to MHS as a member of staff having left here as a girl herself; we wish her the very best of luck with her new position at Cranbrook School as an LSA.



