



Spring 2023

THE CASTLE



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‘EXCELLENT’ NEWS

Our ISI Result

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BOOK WEEK 2023

A celebration of books
and reading

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MHS HAS GOT TALENT

What a show!



ENJOYING TODAY
EDUCATING FOR TOMORROW



Note from the Head

Spring 2023

Inspections loom over a school, creating a sense of trepidation; they are also an opportunity, a chance to have an independent judgement and validation of all that you, as a Head, believe your school to be. An Inspection seeks to get under the skin of a school, checking that the technical side is compliant but more importantly getting to the heart of the school's educational philosophy and delivery.

I was so pleased that the Inspection team "understood" Marlborough House. Of course, receiving Excellent as a grade was massively important and satisfying, but I was particularly delighted that they appreciated the sort of school that we are trying to be and were impressed with how we were delivering on our philosophy. In attempting to have each child at the centre of our teaching and care, we have chosen a less rigid and predictable style of education, based more on developing each child's character and range of skills rather than focussing solely on academic exam preparation. At the same time, academic rigour is essential within our school and we wanted the Inspectors to see that these two ambitions can go hand in hand. Marlborough House is trying to be modern, dynamic and individually focussed, and the Inspection Report states that we are successful in this aim.



I was so proud of the way that the children came across as eager and articulate, committed to their learning and to being kind, thoughtful and confident individuals. Thank you, parents, for your overwhelming support, both in the positive comments in the survey and also with your expressions of encouragement before, during and after. Well done to the staff who came across so professionally in interviews and in the classroom, impressing the Inspection team with their commitment to the academic and pastoral welfare of the children. This Inspection Report was a massive thumbs up for Marlborough House and will sit as evidence of our excellence for many years to come.

Quite a lot else happened this term, as the contents of this magazine will clearly show! A modern education needs variety and excitement, and we are determined to ensure that Marlborough House delivers emphatically in both these areas.

Eddy Newton, Head

Heads of School

Congratulations to our new Head Boy and Head Girl for the Summer Term:

- Benjamin Loetz
- Gracie Greig

Follow us on social media:

- @marlboroughhouse.school
- /marlboroughhouseschool

Private accounts for parents:

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



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'Excellent' in all areas

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE, JANUARY 2023

ISI Inspection Result

We are delighted to announce that Marlborough House School was rated as 'Excellent' in all areas in our recent ISI Inspection Report. This is the highest rating that a school can achieve. The Educational Quality Inspection is a rigorous three-day review, assessing both pupils' achievements and pupils' personal development.

The results were as follows:

Our Pupils' Achievements were rated as 'Excellent'

'Pupils of all abilities make fast progress from their individual starting points and achieve high academic standards'

Our Pupils' Personal Development was rated as 'Excellent'

'Pupils of all ages show high levels of self-knowledge, self-confidence, determination and resilience.'

Watch our
'Excellent' video



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Read the report
on our website



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MHS Ski Trip

Sixteen of our pupils enjoyed an early season ski holiday to Crans Montana in Switzerland with a wonderful week of activities and six hours of skiing each day for the six days on the slopes.

The group learnt a huge amount and there was snow on the higher reaches with plenty of mid-mountain ski terrain to test everyone. Special activities took place in the evenings with bowling, ice skating, a trip to watch the latest Avatar movie, a music quiz night and a great evening snow shoeing and eating marshmallows over an open fire in the woods was truly memorable. Added to these were brilliant art evenings and cooking sessions;

all in all a very busy and exciting week! As always, the instructors and staff at Les Elfes in Crans Montana were outstanding, with brilliant lessons for all the skiers from beginners to advanced taking place each day and the whole mountain being used to encourage the children at all levels. Thank you to Mrs Townsend and Mr Little who helped make the week run so smoothly.

Mr Mathers, Director of Sport

View our video
on instagram



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Year 7 Nativity



It was a strange event that took place in the Old Gym on the morning of 11th January, because, if you listened carefully at the door, you could hear sleigh bells ringing and the sound of Christmas Carols.

Yes, the Year 7 pupils finally had the chance to put on their Nativity show, a month

after it was due to be performed (the production was postponed due to illness within the year group). Throughout the Autumn term, in Drama lessons and Activities, the girls of Year 7 devised, improvised, wrote and rehearsed a comical re-imagining of the Christmas Nativity. The play included audition scenes, a fraught rehearsal, a desperate drama teacher praying for divine intervention and the Nativity itself with its usual cast of farmyard animals, stable doors and wise men a-plenty (even Santa turned up!).

The pupils were excellent in their attitude and commitment to putting on this show and the audience were thoroughly engaged and entertained by the slapstick comedy and poignant moments within the piece. As with all projects at MHS, it was a team effort, and many thanks go to Mrs Townsend for her piano accompaniment, the Pre-Prep team who provided excellent costumes and props and the Prep school teachers who gave up valuable time to allow for rehearsals for their performance. A festive treat that kept the magic of Christmas alive for a little while longer. Well done Year 7!

Mr Little, Head of Drama





Lunar New Year

Monday 23rd January saw the start of the Year of the Rabbit'.

Our Reception and Nursery children had a wonderful time dressing up, creating Chinese inspired art, attempting to eat with chopsticks and listening to stories about the animals of the Chinese Zodiac.

The Rabbit signifies kindness, creativity and compassion and, despite their quiet personality, they have an inner confidence - a fitting ambassador for our School values and a topic which the Prep School explored in Chapel.

Many thanks go to the Catering Team for the wonderful selection of Chinese dishes that the whole school enjoyed for lunch!



Pre-Prep's Mathematical Monday



In January, an action-packed Mathematical Monday caused great excitement in Pre-Prep. The children met up in their Houses (Egan, Dunbar, Awdry and Hawkings) to engage in some fantastic fun challenges linking to maths. Two Year 2 children in each House took responsibility for helping the younger children, whilst Maths Ambassadors from Year 7 supported some of the activities for the Pre-Prep children to engage in.

From using Bee-Bots to learn about positional language to measuring how tall they are using metre tapes, a 2D shape hunt involving our wonderful grounds and learning more about capacity when filling up containers using coloured water, it was an exciting and action-packed morning for Pre-Prep!

Mrs Pay, Year 2 Teacher

U13 Boys' Football Team 2nd in IAPS Tournament

Congratulations to our U13 7-a-side boys' football team who were second in the IAPS National Small Schools Tournament. Very well done to our squad of nine boys who travelled to Bedales School in Hampshire and came away runners-up in this national tournament, losing by just one goal to the eventual winners. The boys played extremely well over the course of the afternoon, scoring 13 goals and only conceding 4. Congratulations to Vinnie C-H, Oliver D, Dexter H, Henry Le B, Joel L, Benjamin L, Robert M, Barnaby R and Lexy T.

Mr Mathers, Director of Sport

Informal Drama Presentation Evening

On a January evening in the Old Gym, five Year 8 Drama Scholarship candidates performed the monologues they had prepared for their scholarship interviews as part of an Informal Drama Presentation Evening.

They were joined by some Year 7 pupils who also had monologues ready to show. The standard was very high and it was clear that many hours of work had gone in to learning lines and polishing performances. There was a terrific variety in the speeches that were performed; a good mix of comedy and tension (sometimes in the same speech), with a little Shakespeare too.

Very well done to: Eliza F, Florence K, Phoebe M, Gracie G and Mya V (Year 8) and Phoebe H and Emilia M (Year 7).

Mr Little, Head of Drama



Year 2 Drusillas trip

Year 2 enjoyed an action-packed trip to Drusillas at the end of January. The day began with an educational talk about penguins and then the children had a chance to touch and meet a milk snake and a chinchilla.

Next it was the penguins' feeding time so the pupils went to watch them being fed and learnt new facts about what they eat. After this we looked around the rest of the zoo and revelled in the opportunity to observe meerkats, anteaters, beavers and porcupines. A wonderful day for all!

Mrs Pay, Year 2 Teacher



Inter-House Chess Tournament

The Inter-House Chess Tournament was a huge success with competitors from Year 2 to Year 8 playing some exciting games against friends from different year groups. 165 games of chess were played in the competition, which was split into a junior and senior round-robin.

Congratulations to the House winners who were selected based on the number of wins they achieved:

Verity P, Year 3, in Egan with three wins

Oliver D, Year 8, in Hawkings with four wins

Arthur C, Year 5, in Dunbar with four wins

Rafferty P, Year 6, in Awdry with five wins

Player of the competition:

Head Boy Dexter H, Year 8, in Dunbar with six wins

House points were awarded for all winning games and the Inter-House Chess Trophy now has the overall winners, 'Dunbar 2023', proudly engraved on it!

Mrs Taylor, Year 5 Form Tutor





Children's Mental Health Week

'Mr Newton, a flower for your feelings. By Gardening Club.' - hyacinths appeared around the School with personalised messages as part of Children's Mental Health Week.

The hyacinths, which were grown in the polytunnel during Gardening Activity, were placed in classrooms and offices around the School. The children had decorated each flowerpot with a lovely message, designed to lift the spirits of pupils and staff as they enjoyed and nurtured their new plants.

During Children's Mental Health Week, we also took more traditional lessons into the great outdoors, both for a wellbeing boost and to inspire learning. For example, Year 3 took their maths lesson on decimals outdoors; carefully measuring the exact length of things found in nature, before drawing and recording them in their books, and finally adding them together in different combinations.



Prof. P-C's Travelling Science Lab

Professor Erasmus P-C's Travelling Science Lab visited Year 1 for an exciting workshop based around the science waiting to be discovered in everyday household items.

We learnt all about liquids with lots of WOW, laughter and handwashing! It was based around kitchen 'ingredients' we have at home. For example, did you know that there is nothing white about milk?

A huge thank you to the workshop leader, who was of course our very own Head of Science, Mr P-C.

Mrs Willett, Year 1 Teacher

View our video on instagram



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Year 5 Rocket Science

View our video on instagram



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3, 2, 1, Blast Off! Using just coke and mentos, Year 5 tried to create enough power to move a rocket as part of a STEM lesson. After an exciting series of rocket launches, they considered the forces and reactions that they had seen at work and the factors that had affected the success of their rockets. The empty bottles are now off to the polytunnel to be reused by our gardening clubs and forest school.

Mrs Taylor, Year 5 Form Tutor





Music Concerts

We started with the Prep School Informal Concert and were treated to an array of musical talents. Phoebe M kicked off proceedings with a rendition of 'Pomp and Circumstance', before welcoming many of our younger musicians to the stage; some were up there for the very first time. All the children announced their pieces clearly and loudly to the back of the room and should feel very pleased with their efforts.

This was followed a few days later by the Pre-Prep's Informal Concert and our young musicians treated us to a super morning. It began with Singing Club's rousing "Start the day in a brilliant way" we then enjoyed fourteen individual performances, with each child introducing their piece clearly and playing beautifully. A really brilliant way to start our day! Well done to all involved.

Mrs McEwan, Director of Music



Year 2 and Year 4 Passover Talk

Year 2 and Year 4 were very fortunate to have Mrs Burley come in to School to deliver a series of very special presentations based on Pesach (Passover). This connected with Year 2's Judaism religious studies in the first half of term and Year 4's theme of Easter, which culminated in their Easter Service.

The children had many important questions which Mrs Burley answered, satisfying their curiosity. The children delighted in her knowledge and personal experiences as well as her special items such as a Seder plate and an Elijah cup. The children even got to experience some of the traditions such as hunting for the dessert Matzah before being allowed to taste the Matzah. What a wonderful experience!

Mrs Chapman, Year 2 Teacher

A new entrance for Forest School

The personalised arch was beautifully made by Cranbrook Iron, Groundsman Mr George meticulously cut logs to exact lengths and our wonderful Year 4 TA Mrs Robinson and her husband, Mr Robinson, created the remarkable log archway.

This is a fantastic addition to our Forest School; an invigorating woodland setting providing the perfect stimulus for creative and self-motivated learning, as the children develop confidence in their ability to overcome natural obstacles and tinker towards solutions. Forest School at Marlborough House forms part of the curriculum for pupils from Nursery through to Year 4. We also offer a range of activities both during and after the School day, for pupils across the School to engage with the natural world and to enjoy the physical and mental health benefits of being out in the fresh air.



Year 8 Mental Health Champions

As part of our continuing commitment to the wellbeing of the children, our Year 8s received mental health training last year. From this cohort, we appointed eight Mental Health Champions who will support positive mental health across the Prep School as peer mentors. Pupils from Year 3 upwards are invited to put their name in the designated jar in their classrooms if they would like to chat to a Mental Health Champion.

To celebrate Children's Mental Health Week, we invited our eight Champions (Eliza B, Oliver D, Eliza F, Florence K, Robert McP, Phoebe M, Barnaby R and Gabriella S) to complete a Snapshot Interview, which is available to view in the News section of the School website.



Scan to read the
Snapshot interview

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View our video
on Instagram



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Cake Sale for the Red Cross Appeal

After hearing about the devastating earthquake in Syria and Turkey, our Year 3 children decided they wanted to do something to help.

On the Friday before half term, they put on a cake sale to raise money to donate to the Red Cross. The table was piled high with every cake imaginable, and a constant stream of eager customers queued up.

The children's target of £50 was quickly reached and they were thrilled with the total of £333.65!

Mrs Henderson, Year 3 Form Teacher

Year 6 trip to the BFI IMAX



What a splendid outing to the BFI-IMAX Year 6 had on Tuesday 7th February.

The content of the workshop in French was top quality and I am so proud of how well the pupils coped with it. Watching *A Cat in Paris* after lunch on such a giant screen was a real treat. Everyone was impeccably behaved travelling to and from London by train: bravo!

Mme De Haan, Head of MFL

Year 4 Chocolate Making Workshop

Whether it be dark, milk or white, most of us enjoy a cheeky chunk of chocolate from time to time. Did you know, though, that chocolate was originally consumed by the Mayans as a foaming, spicy, bitter beverage, often as part of elaborate ceremonies?

Year 4 learnt all about the history of chocolate when Coastal Cocoa (Hastings' artisan chocolatiers) came to deliver a chocolate workshop.

Whilst we loved finding out fascinating facts – such as the first chocolate to arrive on British shores being mistaken for sheep droppings – there was a far more delicious side to our day. James, our workshop leader, brought with him a selection of chocolates for us to try. We compared different single origin varieties, as well as interesting blends including 'dark milk' and 'gold' (whose recipe is a closely guarded secret).



Then, it was time for the children to get their chefs aprons on and get creative in the kitchen. They made bespoke chocolate slabs and chocolate lollipop portraits of their teachers.

All in all, it was a wonderful morning and certainly one that will remain sweet in everyone's memory. Thank-you to James and Coastal Cocoa for arranging the day for us. It really helped to bring our Ancient Civilizations topic to life.

Mr Priddin, Year 4 Form Teacher

Read Rafferty
P's write up:



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Eco Poster Competition

Congratulations to our pupil-led Eco Committee who ran a successful whole school poster competition, designed to raise awareness around saving electricity through the simple act of turning off lights.

They received lots of entries which are available to view in the gallery. Many congratulations to the winners: Emil D in Year 4 (overall winner), Rafferty G in Year 3, Kristina S in Year 2 and Daisy W in Year 3, whose prizes were, appropriately, solar-powered and wind-up torches. A big well done (and boxes of chocolates!) also went to 6J and 8K, who worked on posters in School collectively.

Emil's 'Did you turn off the lights?' poster featuring a picture of the world has now been placed next to light switches around the school as a helpful reminder.

Year 7 grow plastic-free packaging

A MHS we love growing things. In the polytunnel we grow plants, in the orchard we grow trees...and now in the DT room Year 7 are growing plastic-free packaging as part of an exciting project called 'Beyond Finite'.

They are looking at how we can generate more products using the principals of the circular economy, so everything they are making is made from natural materials and is completely biodegradable.



The plastic-like material they have grown will now be dried over the course of the week. Then they will have a go at tanning and dyeing the leathery material, ready to use it as they redesign popular packaging for food or cosmetics.

Mrs Cameron, DT Teacher

Pancake Day

Our younger children enjoyed celebrating Pancake Day!

The Nursery children made their own pancakes (there was jam and honey everywhere!), our Reception children enjoyed a pancake race and flipping competition followed by a pancake feast, while 1W made paper pancakes and stuck them to the classroom ceiling; an unusual display for parents to see!





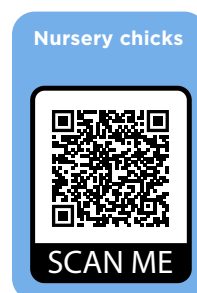
Baby Chicks hatch in Nursery and Year 1



Nursery and Year 1 were alive with the sound of cheeping as the eggs they had been incubating hatched.

1W named their chicks Betty, Popcorn and DJ Chick and enjoyed caring for their beautiful, newly hatched brood.

The precious and exciting moment of the first egg hatching in Nursery was caught on film and can be seen by scanning the QR codes below, along with two wonderful videos of the children holding their chicks.



Pre-Prep's English Extravaganza



Once again, there was huge excitement in Pre-Prep as the children met up in their Houses to engage in our English Extravaganza morning as part of Book Week.

With the definition of extravaganza being "elaborate and spectacular entertainment", our activities were very apt. High Frequency word water pistol targets, digraph hopscotch, word Bingo, communication games, synonym and antonym matching activities and nursery rhymes as we danced around the maypole for a bit of 'ribbon and rhyme', made for a very happy morning. It was lovely to have Mrs Webb, our Pre-Prep Governor, join in with the fun too.

Mrs Willett, Year 1 Form Teacher and Head of English for Pre-Prep

MHS celebrates Comic Relief



A day to remember!

We had a fantastic day celebrating Comic Relief, with everyone adding something red to their uniform and telling their best jokes. Thank you to all those who donated to Comic Relief, raising £466.91 for the charity.

View our video on You Tube





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Book Week 2023



With the weather seemingly set to match the old idiom “March roars in like a lion” – we certainly ended our book week feeling like we had had a rip-roaring good time!



We left the February blues behind and charged fully into our annual Book Week with a wonderful Book Fair on both Monday and Tuesday and the inspirational writer and performance poet “Kimba” on Tuesday. He was absolutely mesmerising, highly entertaining and

very engaging, teaching us all, great and small, a great deal about the craft of poetry writing. We all now know to include plenty of SHAMPOO in our writing! Confused? Just ask the children!

Dressing up day on Thursday was, as always, great fun! We were surrounded by many of the magical characters we discover in so many books – Harry

Potters, Hermiones and Witches abounded with wonderful dragons, Wallies, and some Oompa Loompas too. Quite a few Cruellas were on show and our Headmaster dressed up as Fantastic Mr Fox. This year the older children in Years 7 and 8 decided they’d also like to dress up which was lovely. Our whole Middle School teaching team embraced the theme of “Peter Pan” and we had some wonderful costumes from Peter himself, to Hook, Wendy, Michael, Smee and pirates galore, a wonderful Crocodile and the highly original “Peter’s shadow”. A wonderful team effort. It was a truly wonderful display which we showed off in our whole school gathering in the Sports Hall.

Meanwhile, Mystery Readers were popping up unannounced in classrooms across the School to share a few favourite books with the children. There were quizzes and competitions to design bookmarks and a book cover and a Treasure Hunt in the grounds.

All in all, it was a fantastic week, a huge thank you to everyone!

Mrs Atkins, Head of English





Year 5 Geography visit to Stevens Farm

With a forecast of near freezing temperatures and persistent rainfall, Year 5 bravely kitted up to visit Stevens Farm, an apple orchard owned by our very own MHS Budd family here in Hawkhurst.

Pupils were shown the process from 'farm to fork', starting in the packing house where the apples are initially washed, selected and then go through a magical machine that takes 10 photos of each apple to assess each one. They are then sorted into their sizes and quality and sent to different conveyor belts for packing. The environmental impacts of different types of packaging were discussed and the pupils identified that it is best for the environment to purchase apples loosely, rather than in plastic bags. The enormous 'fridges' where the air is closely controlled to minimise respiration and keep the apples cold were seen and then the children braved the outside weather to view the orchard. The farm machinery, otherwise known as Mr Budd's 'toys', was impressively spotless and they learnt about how GPS technology is used to minimise the use of fertiliser, which has positive economic and environmental impacts.

It was a great day out and Year 5 were a credit to the School, with excellent behaviour and interesting questions. We hope that it has given them a greater appreciation of the effort, time and passion that goes into the food on our plates and the efforts that farmers go to in order to ensure their farming practices are economically and environmentally sustainable. Huge thanks to the Budd family for hosting us so well, showing us around their farm and describing the processes within it, not to mention the box of delicious, crunchy apples that we were sent home with.

Mr Kimber, Head of Geography

Year 2 step back to 1666

It was the year 1666 in Year 2 and London was burning! The children learnt through drama, role play and hands-on activities, they didn't just hear about life in the past - they lived it.

They began their interactive learning experience by watching their very precious Tudor style houses burning in their very own London town.

All the emotions were felt! After that, they got even more immersed in 1666 times by dressing up and experiencing what it was like to make clothes for the people who might have lost their clothes in the fire - they decided that weaving was tricky! Next, they crushed up herbs to make scent bags to help increase health and eliminate bad smells and they even made candle holders out of clay to help people see in the dark.

To end the day, they wrote letters to King Charles II on parchment paper using quill and ink and even created their very own fire plaque for insurance purposes.

*Mrs Chapman, Year 2
Teacher*

View our video
on Instagram



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Gordon - "I liked the weaving because it was tricky and I like tricky stuff"

Mika - 'This was the best day because we did lots of art.'

Jemima - 'I liked the quill writing'.

Freddie - 'I liked looking at the houses that got burnt.'

Ariana - 'I like the sewing even though it was really hard.'

Mrs Chapman, Year 2 Teacher



Tree planting in the School Orchard

A very wet tree planting session saw 3L plant 10 fruit trees in the School Orchard. The fruit trees are apple, pear and plum, and have been selected to fruit in the Autumn Term so the School can enjoy the harvest.

This is the second tree planting trip to the Orchard this year, further adding to our existing trees; old favourites which are still going strong! Thank you to our local expert, Mr Budd, for supporting us as we continue to develop our beautiful School Orchard.

This term we have also planted 30 new trees in the Woodland Walk as our microforest, adjacent to Forest School, continues to grow.

MHS Francophonie Day



Q: What do these countries have in common? France, Switzerland, Madagascar, the Ivory Coast, Haiti, New Caledonia, Canada and Belgium.

A: They are all francophone/French speaking countries!

At MHS we celebrated Francophone Day on 20th March. Pupils learnt about various aspects of these countries, researched, weaved, wrote, created, baked, danced, sang and gave presentations to other year groups.

With about 321 million French speakers on every continent of the world, the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) celebrates its cultural and linguistic diversity every year on 20th March. Recognising the potential of language and culture to unite people and foster mutual understanding is a value we hold high and aim to promote at MHS.

Mme De Haan, Head of MFL





Year 7's wonderful London Trip

In mid-March, our Year 7 pupils, accompanied by Mrs Budd, Mr Little and Mr Payne-Cook, experienced an immersive, enriching and utterly brilliant mega-trip to London.

We started doing some History source work in the Treasures Room of the Natural History Museum, choosing our top three most precious exhibits from the Museum's 22 most precious of their 80 million possessions. Not only were the treasures fascinating, but the way the pupils examined the evidence to make their decisions was both diligent and curious in equal measure.

In the Science Museum we briefly explored the Space gallery before Mr P-C gave a lecture on the structure of DNA next to the Watson & Crick model (not forgetting Rosalind Franklin) and then we explored the new Covid-19 Injection of Hope mini-gallery and the large Medicine gallery on the first floor. Then we spent an immersive, investigative and playful hour in the interactive Wonderlab, realising that Physics is absolutely brilliant in the real world (beyond a school textbook)!

From South Kensington to Covent Garden for a little bit of street theatre featuring Mr Little as a beautiful assistant to a machete juggling monocyclist! Some tasty Franco Manca pizza and onto the Cambridge Theatre for the stunning RSC production of Matilda the musical: an incredible production with great plot, acting, singing, dancing and choreography - a true feast for the senses.

The girls then came back for a late boarding night before blitzing Wednesday morning at School, bleary-eyed but culturally, intellectually and joyfully enriched by the school day trip of a lifetime.

The three teachers on the trip would like to thank the girls for being brilliant company; for being so interested and engaged with everything, and for becoming (even) more interesting and educated as a consequence of this gleefully enriching trip. We are so blessed to have London on our doorstep. Well done girls, long may you remember this fantastic day!

Mr Payne-Cook, Head of Science





Year 3's Ancient Greek Day

On Friday 17th March, Year 3 were visited by the team from 'Living History' for their Ancient Greek Day.

They were transported back to Athens, where they were guided through a range of interactive role-play activities that explored Greek life and culture. Dressed in traditional Greek clothing, they prayed to the Gods, role-played shopping at the marketplace, learnt about democracy and the voting system, put on a Greek play and created their own sculptures based on the Elgin Marbles.

It was an action-packed day and provided the perfect end to our topic on Ancient Greece.

Mrs Henderson, Year 3 Form Teacher



Year 5 Spring Assembly

Year 5 performed their own comedy sketches to their parents during their Spring Assembly.

The children took inspiration from a poem about thankfulness and came up with scenarios where things might be particularly difficult in life and how not to react or behave! The sketches were funny and insightful.

The children really enjoyed performing on stage, including their finale song to which they accompanied themselves on ukuleles, percussion, piano and guitars.

Mrs Taylor, Year 5 Teacher

View our video on Instagram



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Year 8 and Nursery's Easter Egg Hunt

Year 8 headed to Nursery's walled garden at the end of term for our annual Easter Egg Hunt, which pairs up our oldest and youngest children.

The Nursery children had made beautiful Easter Bonnets and loved dashing around with their Year 8 buddies, collecting painted eggs and enjoying some chocolate eggs as a prize at the end.



Year 4's Easter Service



After a rather damp start to the day, the sun shone through the clouds for Year 4's Easter Service. The children told the story of Easter, from Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem to his crucifixion, through a mixture of acting, song and prayer. All of Year 4's hard work rehearsing and learning lines really paid off, as they delivered a faultless performance. We are extremely proud of their wonderful talents and cannot wait for their next show!

Mr Priddin, Year 4 Form Teacher

View our video
on instagram



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on instagram



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MHS Has Got Talent

If a member of the public had walked past the doors to the Old Gym on Friday afternoon they would have thought an episode of Strictly or Britain's Got Talent was in full swing. The laughter and the applause would have been enough to draw them in because from 3.10pm MHS Has Got Talent was in full swing. To bring Red Nose Day to a close, representatives of each of the Prep School year groups took to the stage to strut their stuff - and what a potpourri of talent and ability we enjoyed.

Hosted by Mr Little, with able assistance on sound and music from Mrs Taylor, the afternoon started with a drum solo presentation from Toby M (3L). He secured riotous applause from the audience and was the first contestant to receive feedback from our invited panel of judges: Mrs Atkins 'Tonioli'; Dexter H (8K); Mya V (8R) and Mr Payne 'Cowell' Cook.

Following Toby was 6J's contribution: The California Frogs Song. A song and dance act featuring Annabel J, Olivia J, Mila W, Lily Belle D and Sophie P. Lots of energy, stylish green costumes and funky frog masks kept the audience entertained. Ella W and Tara B (both 5L) then took to the piano to share their skill (and speed) with the audience. This was quickly followed by 7L's song and dance routine to Miley Cyrus' Flowers. With great choreography from Mrs Jones, Matilda M, Lucy C, Sophie W, Ruby C, Cleo M-C, Emilia M, Rosie C, Olivia E, Isabella B and Zoe C shone, bringing energy and enthusiasm to their performance.

Phoebe M (8K) then bamboozled and amazed the crowd with a mind-bending mind-reading act followed by Vika G (8R) playing a beautiful and moving piece of music on piano. Florence R (3H) then brought the house down with her acoustic guitar version of the U2 standard Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For; her singing and playing won her four 10s from the judges!

Stylish and slick magic acts from Barnaby R (8K) and Ollie M (4M), Eleanor T (4P) and Ellie M (4P) entertained the audience. Followed by the Boots and Cats Beatboxers of 6dH, comprising of Camilla L, Sophie O, Poppy H-B, Theo N, Elspeth G and Tessa S with their high energy original rap act. George P (4P) wowed the crowd with his flamboyant and energetic dance moves to Crazy Frog and the afternoon's entertainment drew to a close with a gymnastics spectacular from 5T's Molly S, Charlotte B and George M.

The afternoon had it all; a great way to end another busy week. MHS certainly has got talent and the dedicated children who participated in the show all won house points for their efforts. Thank you so much to the Form Tutors for helping the children organise, audition and rehearse. Another memorable MHS moment!

Mr Little, Head of Drama



Boys' Sport Round Up

Rugby

The boys have had a great rugby season with some really exciting attacking rugby being played. The teams performed with determination and showed a high level of skills – especially in their support play and continuity. This is based on passing and offloading – but also understanding the breakdown skills for recycling possession.

The 1st XV had a great year playing 10 a side games. They had strong matches against six teams and won all of them, sadly they lost two fixtures due to poor conditions. Their Captain, Freddie, led by example and worked hard for his side. Dexter and Barnaby linked well and Oliver was a key defender tackling everything that came near him. The win over Brighton College was a highlight to the season in their last match.

The U11s performed well winning five of seven games and the U10's also had a winning season with some great performances- showing that next year's Colts side have both attacking pace and some key defenders who love to tackle. Our U8 As are also a very strong side with the boys showing ability with the ball in hand and confidence to use the space out wide by passing.

Hockey

The senior boys worked hard to build their confidence this year after a demanding season last year, but their effort was rewarded by an excellent season with some very good performances. The highlights were another superb day at a local tournament where they beat three sides to be top of their group – only losing in the semi to SVS who were a very good team. They had wins over Vinehall, DPS, Claremont, Cranbrook and Holmewood House – which was a 4-0 win and a very good team performance. The boys learnt to pass with better speed and shooting really improved. Zac was strong on the ball and Dexter tigerish in the middle pressing opposition at every occasion.

The U11s and U10s also performed well. The U11s had a young side and so this season's experience will really help next year. Harry and Rory are already combining well upfront. They had some great wins and a strong performance on the final match of the season with three wins and a draw v Radnor House. The U9's also performed well, again with a young side and they had some great wins too. Another excellent season across all years with skills being confidently displayed.

Mr Mathers, Director of Sport





Girls' Sport Round Up

It has been an exciting and successful term of netball and football for the Years 5-8 girls and hockey and football for Years 3 and 4. A really big well done to all of the girls from Year 3 to Year 8; all of the girls games staff ended the term saying how delightful you all are to coach and how pleased we are with your progress. The U8 and U9 teams focus on developing and playing for fun, not competition, and have certainly done that across both hockey and football and all should be proud of their progress and performance.

Starting with the netball, notable success goes to the U11A team who won 7 out of 8 games and developed excellently as a team. The U13 teams went from strength to strength, week on week, really putting into practice what they had learnt in their lessons.

We then went on to our first ever football season and what fun we had! Although we all got very muddy and wet, that just added to the enjoyment. All girls took to football with excellent attitudes and wanted to be the 'teams to beat' right from the start. As coaches we have all agreed that football has definitely been a success and are already looking forward to next year and developing the girls' skills even further. Congratulations to all the teams, especially the following who were all undefeated: U10A, U11A, U11B, U13B and the U13Cs.

Mrs Lelliott, Head of Girls' Games





Equestrian Team Round Up

The Equestrian team have enjoyed another very successful term and we were delighted to welcome another rider to the squad when Matilda M (Year 1) competed for the School for the first time.

Another highlight of the term was Eliza B qualifying for the Eventers' Challenge Championships at Hickstead in May when she won the very competitive 75cm qualifying class at Golden Cross in February. Valentine's Day saw seven members of the squad compete at Duckhurst and Eliza F won the 60cm class and we had individual placings for Jack G, Erin C, Emma G, Emma E and Zoe C, all of which earned them qualifications for the next Grass Roots Championships. The Friday Activity Afternoon training sessions are very popular and really help the children keep riding and jumping through the winter months so they are suitably prepared for the competitions.

Mrs Dipper, Equestrian Team Manager



Alumni Dinner

At the end of term, we were delighted to welcome back our 2018 and 2019 alumni for the Alumni Dinner. Parents and staff joined pre-dinner drinks in The Gallery which was packed and had a great atmosphere. The reunion dinner itself was a huge success; a great opportunity for returning year groups to enjoy catching up with old friends and revisit MHS before they leave their senior schools for pastures new.



Salvete



A very warm welcome to:
Amy Chick, Teaching Assistant, Jonathan Bickersteth, Junior Master,
Alice Richardson, Girls' Games Coach.

Valete

Vanessa Coatz, Deputy Head

For more than a decade, Vanessa Coatz has served MHS with distinction in a variety of leadership roles – Head of Pre-Prep, Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Head. Her quiet humour and calm demeanour allowed her to win the respect of pupils and colleagues alike, as she oversaw the pastoral side of the School and so much more besides. Her love of English came through in her teaching, while her background in drama led to many contributions in this area, not least in her fantastic array of costumes on dressing up days! Highly capable and utterly professional, Vanessa was always fair and thoughtful in her dealings with the children – her performance as Safeguarding Lead was exemplary. We wish her all the best in the future.





Spring 2023

THE CASTLE



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INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE, JANUARY 2023

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