

# MERTON COURT

## news

SUMMER 2019



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Merton Court School

38 Knoll Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 4QU

Telephone: 020 8300 2112

Email: [office@mertoncourtprep.co.uk](mailto:office@mertoncourtprep.co.uk)

[www.mertoncourtprep.co.uk](http://www.mertoncourtprep.co.uk)



## THE WINNING FORMULA!

### **BROMLEY FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND SPEECH – WINNERS**

Both our Junior and Senior choirs participated as usual in March in the Bromley Festival of Music, Speech and Drama. We were delighted when the Junior choir won their category followed later by the Senior choir winning their category. The Senior choir went on to win the overall school choirs event winning the prestigious Smith Isard Bowl at the end of the competition.

### **U11 NETBALL SOUTH EAST LONDON SCHOOLS LEAGUE WINNERS**

The girls played eight matches and they were undefeated. They have won every single match to end an amazing season. Well done to: Amber Moore, Alyssa Casey, Ashiya Amin, Cliona Hadland, Chase Collard, Chloe Samuel, Emily Summers, Kiana Patel and Maisie Chambers.

*More sporting success on page 2 ►►*

## Past Events Spring 2019

### U9 NETBALL TOURNAMENT AT BLACKHEATH PREP SCHOOL

– Tuesday 19th March

S2 Girls were runners-up from nine schools: Daphne Postlethwaite, Emma Eletsikh, Eva Stupart, Gianna Cheung, Hannah Da Costa, Naiya Patel, Ruby Blanks and Zahra Sameen.



### CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS

At the St Dunstan's Cross Country event for Years 3 (S1) and 4 (S2), our S1 and S2 boys won the event and our S2 girls were runners up.



At the Farrington's Duathlon, Harrison Brookes, Max Postlethwaite, Maisie Chambers and Emily Summers won their Yr 6 events and James Belton and Oliver Delamain won their Yr 5 event.

At the ISA Regional Cross Country Championships, fourteen children represented Merton Court. Our Yr 4 girls, Summer Cambden, Hannah Da Costa, Daphne Postlethwaite and Zahra Sameen won their event and Summer Cambden (S2) and Emily Summers (S4) were runners up in their individual events.

### Well done also to...

the 'Most improved swimmer' at last term's prizegiving was Oliver Steel-Squires (S1T).

Hockey League Top Scorer	Joe Brady
'Passmore' Hockey Shield	George Piper
Most Improved Hockey Player	Emily Summers
Hockey Player of the Season	Max Postlethwaite

### FOOTBALL ACHIEVEMENT

Well done to Joseph Costello who attended the Easter Open International Youth Tournament in Holland, playing against sixteen U9 teams. Joseph won the trophy for the top goal scorer, scoring 12 goals!



### SWIMMING NEWS

At the Kent School's event, Max Postlethwaite and Brandon Nathan were awarded medals, along with our Boys Medley and Boys Freestyle Relay Teams, who are through to the Regional finals for qualification to the Nationals.

HOUSE EVENT WINNERS			
ENGLISH	MERTON	SWIMMING	SCHOOL
FOOTBALL	MERTON	HOCKEY	MERTON
NETBALL	MERTON	MERIT SHIELD	SCHOOL



We were delighted that the Mayor of the London Borough of Bexley Brian Bishop, along with his wife Chris, were able to give away our prizes, awards and cups at last term's prizegiving.



► **CYCLING PROFICIENCY**

Well done to S4 who completed their cycling proficiency in preparation for Secondary School and gain cycle confidence.



► **MERTON COURT SCHOOL EASTER SKI TRIP**

Fifty-eight children and parents attended this year's ski trip to the French resort of Les Deux-Alpes.

We had good skiing conditions with fresh snow and sunshine during the week – but also a couple of foggy days which made the skiing challenging!

The children and adult learners made great progress and by the end of the week everyone was skiing blues, reds and even black runs!

Apres-ski events included swimming, 10-pin bowling, movie night, a ladies' cocktail soiree, dinner at a local pizzeria, bingo and quiz night.

It was a fabulous trip – with great food in an excellent hotel, which we will return to in the future.

Options for next year's trip are being finalised – with some exciting new venues to consider. Booking forms will be available from Mr Brady and numbers will be limited so please book early!



► **AUTHOR VISIT**

On Wednesday 27th March we were visited by award-winning author Onjali Q. Rauf. Onjali is the author of 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' which is a child's perspective on the refugee crisis, highlighting the importance of friendship and kindness in a world that doesn't always make sense.

She spoke to the children about her writing and about her charity which works with refugees.

► **YOUNG VOICES AT THE O2**

Thirty children from our Senior choir in S3 and S4, accompanied by Mr Reece, Mr Price and Mrs Jones, joined more than 8,000 children at the O2 in January and participated in Young Voices. The afternoon was spent rehearsing the songs which culminated in a fantastic concert attended by thousands of parents. For the accompanying mums the highlight of the evening was Tony Hadley from Spandau Ballet singing some of the bands iconic hits from the 80's. A great time was had by all.





## Past Events Spring 2019

### ► NEW SCHOOL KIT

Courtesy of 'Oz' Schoolwear, we have a fabulous new kit for our teams and squads to wear at competitive events.



### ► AQUABUBBLER

Have you seen the latest design in water fountains all the way from Australia? Our Aquabubbler enables the children, not only to quench their thirst but also refill their Merton Court bottles safely and hygienically.



### ► VICTORIA COLLEGE

Congratulations to all ninety children from J2 – S4 who sat exams this year.

The examiners were extremely complimentary about how the children conducted themselves during their exam session. The standards remain high and it is important for children to follow this through each year. Thank you to all staff and parents for working so hard with the children to achieve such impressive results again.

### ► PERSIAN LUNCH

The 'Food Committee' organised a Persian day School lunch for everyone. Yum! Special thanks to Miss Cathy and the kitchen staff along with chefs for the day Mr Shaffie and Mr Sarvestani.



### ► CHARITIES

Sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to our Spring Term charity – The NSPCC. We raised an incredible **£6,417.93** from proceeds from the Danceathon along with our '**Charities Day**' which included '**Harry Potter Dressing-up Day**', a cake sale and sponsored 'no homework'.



Our charity for the Summer term is London Air Ambulance. They are visiting school to talk to the children about their important work, as well as bringing a helicopter ambulance simulator into school.



► **43RD COMPETITION OF YOUNG ART IN BEXLEY 2019**

Emily Tang, Alex Greenslade, Georgia Collings, Zachary Obasohan, Eva Lawrence, Alina Habarova, Alexa James, Olivia Uba and Charlie Darsey from J1 were awarded a 3D Group Certificate of Merit (3rd Place) for their mobile of 'A Star is Born'.

Sofeen Siddiqui, Claudia Shaffie, Ayo Ogunremi, Aoife O'Mahoney, Isabella Wright, Derin Mehmet, Ethan Tandau, Samuel Pang, Isabel Fung, Amber Moore, Lyra Danful and Maisie Chambers from S4 were awarded Group Prize (1ST place) for their 'Tudor Court Tapestry'.



Lyra Danful, Maisie Chambers, Chase Collard and Cliona Hadland from S4 were awarded a Highly Commended Certificate of Merit (2nd place) for their 'Pop Art Plane Paintings'.

Isabella Wright (S4Ba) was awarded a Certificate of Merit (3rd place) for her 'Pet Collage'.

Amy Casey, Evie Gannon and Oliver McAnallen from S3 were awarded a Group Highly Commended Certificate of Merit (2nd place) for their projects of 'They be not Forgotten' and Peter Chupakhin from S3S was awarded a Highly Commended Certificate of Merit (2nd place) for his 'War Painting'.

We would like to congratulate all the children who participated for their efforts and all teachers involved, for their support.

► **SCHOOL SPELLING BEE FOR ENGLISH TERM**

A big well done to our Spelling Bee champions last term, Anay Banerjee(J2), Aryan Shaikh(J3), Alessandro Meliti (S1), Lenny Shortt (S2), Zain Pala (S3) and Sofeen Siddiqui (S4).

► **FESTIVAL OF DANCE**

This was another great Festival of Dance, with over ninety entrants and with a very high standard of performance, particularly in J3 and S2. Congratulations to all of those who took part, particularly the category winners.

'Best of Festival' was Cliona Hadland (S4B). 'Best Class Dance' were (Juniors) J3M/W and (Seniors) S4B.

► **ST PATRICK'S DAY DANCERS**

As a special "Paddy's Day" treat, the whole school was given a demonstration of Irish Dancing, from existing pupils and dancers from the Hackett-Kyne Irish Dancing School, exhibiting hard shoe and soft shoe dances whilst showing off their beautiful costumes.



## Past Events Spring 2019

### ► PRIMARY MATHS CHALLENGE

As a result of last term's Primary Maths Challenge taken by S4, children were selected by The Mathematics Association to sit the Bonus round in February. Alyssa Casey and Sofeen Siddiqui were awarded a participation Certificate and Sam Pang was awarded a Gold Award.

### ► GROVES PUBLIC SPEAKING TROPHY

Sincere thanks to all the S4 finalists in this most enjoyable annual school competition – this year won by Maisie Chambers with a great talk on 'Alcatraz'. Runner-up was Talia Moore for an interesting talk about 'Japanese Spider Crabs'. We had a very wide variety of prepared talks, including subjects such as Rainbows, Octopodes, Turkey, AI, The Red Arrows and Time Travel.

### ► ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Well done to S4 (Yr 6) for their particular successes at Secondary transfer this year and their continued hard work. Eighteen Scholars' ties last term were awarded in recognition of outstanding academic and sporting achievement in external Secondary Transfer examinations and we now also have the final outcomes of Independent School entrance examinations. We are particularly proud of our S4 pupils gaining scholarships at the following: Sevenoaks School, Colfes, Bromley High, Farringtons, Babington House and Cobham Hall.

*Don't forget to log on and have a good look at our up-to-date website on [www.mertoncourtprep.co.uk](http://www.mertoncourtprep.co.uk) If you wish to access some great photos of last term's events, visit the secure parents' section. Please email [office@mertoncourtprep.co.uk](mailto:office@mertoncourtprep.co.uk) for the password, if required.*





School Events Summer 2019



**NEW RESPONSIBILITIES IN SCHOOL THIS TERM**

**Athletics Captain:** George Piper and Amber Moore  
**Cricket Captain:** Mahaan Lidder  
**Rounders Captain:** Sam Cross and Chloe Samuel

▶ **SCIENCE TERM**

This term is Science/STEM Term and our theme is engineering. In our class assemblies we will be taking a closer look at either a famous engineer or an amazing engineering project. **Science week Monday 20 – Friday 24 May** will include the House Science Quiz, the Spelling Bee, Orienteering and we will end the week with Pet Day on Friday. There is also a competition running for children to create their own Lego animal, real or imaginary, a winner will be chosen from each class and then in a special assembly on Thursday of Science Week, a junior and senior winner will be selected. We look forward to a busy, fun-filled week!

**Parents/carers are most welcome to come along to coffee mornings** and watch children’s assembly presentations in the School Hall. It is also a great forum for lively discussion on related Academic and Pastoral issues.



**Form coffee mornings are as follows:**

S3	Friday 3 May	S4	Friday 14 June
S1	Friday 17 May	S2	Friday 21 June
J2	Friday 24 May	J1	Friday 5 July
J3	Friday 7 June		

▶ **FESTIVAL OF MUSIC (INDIVIDUAL)**

– Thursday 9 May (9am onwards)

Children will have the chance to perform solo or duet in their chosen category to show off their music skills. Categories and further details will be given out later this term.

▶ **FESTIVAL OF MUSIC (FORM)**

– Friday 10 May (Juniors 1.40pm & Seniors 2.30pm)

Come along to watch and support Junior and Senior forms compete with each other in friendly rivalry.

▶ **S2 OUTWARD BOUND TRIP TO DOWNE ACTIVITY CENTRE**

– Thursday 16 May – Friday 17 May

S2 will be experiencing archery, zipwire, top roping, crate climbing and other outdoor activities, including forest school with Mrs Saunders, whilst also sleeping the night at Downe Activity Centre. An excellent, fun residential to look forward to!

▶ **POSITIVE PARENTING WORKSHOP EY/J1**

– Tuesday 4 June (8.00)

**“Building Positive Behaviour”** – Are you looking for new strategies and ideas on how to manage your child’s behaviour? We are delighted to invite you to this informative, supportive and age-appropriate workshop for parents and carers of children in EY and J1.

## School Events Summer 2019

The workshop will be held on **Tuesday 4th June 2019 at 8.00am** in the library and we very much look forward to seeing you there.

### ► **BOOK FAIR – Monday 3 – Friday 7 June**

We are delighted to have the Book Fair in school this term. It will commence on Monday, 3 June and run until Friday, 7 June. The children will have the opportunity to look at the books with their form teacher. The books will be available to buy before and after school every day during the week in the School Hall. This is always an enjoyable event for all the children.

### ► **S4 LEADERSHIP AND TEAMWORK CHALLENGE**

– (Week 1) Monday 3 June – Friday 7 June

– (Week 2) Monday 10 June - Friday 14 June

A busy but exciting two weeks of enrichment for S4 with 'I'm a Year 6 Get Me Out of Here!', 'Dragon's Den' Business Challenge, Life Saving and First Aid, Rifle Shooting, Teambuilding Games, Cooking, Ironing and Sewing skills, Performing Arts Challenge, Cycling Challenge, IT and Design & Technology Challenges along with an Environmental Challenge. A lot to look forward to and a great opportunity to experience new, thought-provoking activities.

### ► **J3 TO S1 TRANSITION TALK**

– Wednesday 5 June (6.30-8pm)

J3 Parents are cordially invited to come along to talk to S1 teachers and other school staff, about their child's move from the Junior to the Senior part of the School. Refreshments will be available from 6pm.



### ► **S4 SPANISH TRIP**

– Monday 17 June – Saturday 22 June

Once again S4 will be travelling to Tossa de Mar, near Barcelona, and visiting Parc Guell, Waterworld, the Dali Museum and The Nou Camp Stadium. Will the best bit be trying out Flamenco dancing, sampling the tasty Spanish tapas or the glass-bottomed boat trip?

**NB: S4 Parents are invited to a coffee morning to discuss the forthcoming Spanish trip on Friday 14 June at 8.45am in the School Hall.**

### ► **SPORTS DAYS**

– Friday 28 June (9.15am – EY/J1) (11am - J2/J3/S1)

– Saturday 29 June (10am - S2-S4)

Please note this is a **compulsory event**. (Please note also that S1 are having their sports Day on the Friday and **NOT** the Saturday.) All children should wear the correct athletics kit. Summer athletics kit **includes** a baseball cap (to shade against sunburn) and white trainers.

Parents, relatives and friends are cordially invited to attend Sports Days and join in too - if they wish!

### ► **FATHERS' DAY FOREST SCHOOL**

EY, J1 & J2 will be holding a Fathers' day Forest School sessions for dads and grandads in June.





(girls) on Wednesdays and Thursdays; and Football J3/S1 (mixed) (with S4 as team managers, coaches and physios) on Mondays and Tuesdays. Consult the Sports Board or see Mrs Summers/Mr Woodhall for more details.

► **End of Term**

Junior and Senior Prize-givings will be at 2pm and 7pm respectively on Wednesday, 10 July. **Prom on the Pitch** Thursday, 11 July from 5-9pm, and everyone is cordially invited. It's a real Merton Court tradition and a popular event for our Merton Court family. Don't forget your BBQ, gazebo and deckchairs. Our theme this year is the music of Freddie Mercury and Queen along with the usual rides and entertainment for children. Freddie and Brian will be entertaining us so make sure you get your tickets early – **'It's a kind of Magic'**.

► **Prospective Parents' Open Opportunities**

**Open Morning**  
– Saturday 28 September 2019 (9.15am-12noon)

**Open Day**  
– Tuesday 12 November 2019 (9.15am-3pm)

► **Merton Court 'Tiny Tots & Toddlers' Club'**

Mrs Langton will continue to co-ordinate these afternoon sessions on **Wednesdays** that run from 1.30pm until 2.30pm from Wednesday, 8 May until Wednesday, 3 July.

► **EY TO J1 TRANSITION COFFEE MORNING**  
– Tuesday 2 July (9am)

We pride ourselves on strong transition from our Early Years to Reception, so please come along to ensure you are ready for the 'next step' in your child/ren's educational journey. This will take place in the School Hall.

► **SENIOR SCHOOL PRODUCTION**  
– Wednesday 3, Thursday 4 (7pm)  
& Friday 5 July (5pm)

Rehearsals for the Senior Production are now in progress. This year's show is entitled **"Good News Week"** and tells the story of a failing newspaper's attempts to attract more readers by focusing on environmental issues. Very topical! Tickets will be available after half term and a separate parentmail will be sent out regarding securing your tickets. We look forward to another fantastic Senior Production.

► **Whole School 'Enrichment Week' (EY-S3)**  
– Monday 8 - Thursday 11 July

In the final week of term, children will experience working with others to develop trust, communication and teambuilding skills.

► **Breaktime Leagues**

Teamwork and skills will be needed again for our Breaktime Leagues this term – Netball S1, S2, S3, S4

**PLAYSCHEME 2019**

**Summer Playscheme 2019**  
**Monday 15 July until Friday 9 August.**

*Booking forms will be sent out the week after half-term. Please try and book in good time, since it is often over-subscribed. The Playscheme Team will be ready to provide an exciting variety of themed activities over the summer holidays.*

Old Mertonians news

Great to see all three **Hawes-Gatt boys** [**Edward Hawes-Gatt (OM '91-'98)**, **Christopher Hawes-Gatt (OM '93-'00)** and **George Hawes-Gatt (OM '96-'03)**], celebrating Edward's birthday last month and also good news from **Emma Cato (OM '99-'08)** that she has just finished her degree and is now looking for a role in procurement. It was also great to hear of **Adam Thrower's (OM '89-'98)** success in Banking and Accountancy with special congratulations now that he is a proud father. By chance, when school was singing at



the 02 for 'Young Voices' Mrs Jones and Mr Price bumped into **Ellie East (OM '02-'10)** who works in Hospitality there but also continues to pursue her singing/songwriter career. Also great that **Joe Tooke (OM '92-'98)** continues his successful career in the film industry. He is currently working at Elstree on the next Marvel film. Fabulous also that **Billy Mitchell (OM '03-'12)** who is captain of Millwall U18 and has now been signed by their first team as a professional footballer. Congratulations to everyone!









## Friends of Merton Court Events Summer 2019

Thanks to everyone for your continued enthusiasm and support for our very successful Comedy Night and Family Disco last term.

### *This term's event:*

#### ► **Prom on the Pitch** – Thursday, 11 July (5-9pm).

Watch out for further information regarding this very popular annual event for all the family. Tickets will be on sale very soon.

As always, FOMC extend a warm welcome to all of our new parents who may wish to get involved. Remember, you don't need to be on the committee to help at any of these events.



## Safeguarding news

The children had a very interesting assembly from the NSPCC who brought in their mascot.

Please look in the parents' section of our website and familiarise yourselves with the very informative downloads about keeping children safe online, including social media, WhatsApp, YouTube, Fortnite, catfishing and much more.

Due to increased Government legislation and School Inspection, School now has to record and report holidays taken by pupils during term time as unauthorised absence, in accordance with Bexley Council guidelines, to our newly appointed Education Welfare Officer.

We are delighted that we have been assigned by Bexley Council a Health Visitor (0-5 year olds) which will also give us access to Bexley services for 5-11 year olds.

On Thursday 25 March the whole school took part in a 'Lockdown' practice. This was to ensure that as a School, we were prepared in the very unlikely event of a serious incident in the School.

## Parking

Extensive parking is available in our upper and lower Rectory Lane car parks. Please be prompt with 'pick-ups' and 'drop-offs' to ease congestion at busy times like the start and end of the day. Please help us by following the signs relating to passing bays, which **MUST** be kept clear at all times to help the flow of traffic. Car speed remains an issue, so please, for the safety of everyone, try and maintain a maximum limit of 20mph when using upper and lower Rectory Lane roadways. Parents – please keep a close eye on your children at all times while using the car park. Please park with consideration on Knoll Road without obstructing private driveways. Your courtesy and co-operation are greatly appreciated. Please turn off engines when parked, as fumes from exhausts may affect other people using the car park. The car park at the front of the main school building is for staff and deliveries only.

