

# MERTON COURT

## news

AUTUMN 2022



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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)



## IMPROVEMENTS IN SCHOOL

We have been very busy over the holidays with our new after-school care project which we will hopefully be able to start using after half-term. We have also installed two new canopies in the Junior Playground and Natural Playscapes have begun work on our new parkour area.

We continue to plan and look forward to our key focus: 'Project One-Two-Five', when, in the academic year 2024-2025 we will be celebrating 125 years of Merton Court's founding in 1899.



MORE ABOUT IMPROVEMENTS NEXT PAGE ►►►

<i>New windows to front of school &amp; DP's office</i>	<i>New roof for front of school</i>	<i>New SEND room</i>	<i>'School House' accomodation: Review, clear, sort &amp; plan</i>	<i>New Art/CDT room</i>	<i>EY playground redevelop/parkour area/resurface</i>
<i>New floor in dining room</i>	<i>New children's, staff &amp; visitor's toilets</i>	<i>New Staff and admin offices</i>		<i>EYFS &amp; J1 play areas refurbish</i>	<i>Creation of new accomodation for Before &amp; After School Club</i>
<i>Aircon in school dining room</i>		<i>New 'Wellbeing' room</i>		<i>New 'village-style' signage</i>	
<i>New science room &amp; music room</i>					
<i>New MaDhouse cupboarding</i>					<i>Refurbish front (Knoll Road) gardens and car park</i>
<i>Refurbish front reception room</i>					<i>New electric car point</i>
<i>New shelter(s) in top (Junior) playground</i>					<i>New front gates &amp; fencing</i>
<i>Plan celebrations to include a 125th Dinner, parties, whole school production and alumni events</i>					<i>Update fire &amp; emergency lockdown systems</i>
<i>Roll, seed and weed Merton, Modern and School fields</i>	<i>Repair/renew top Rectory Lane car park surfacing</i>	<i>New hall lighting and sound systems</i>	<i>New refuse area</i>		<i>Resite and reuse three temporary Covid-19 tented structures for PE/Games/assembly/meetings/wet play use</i>
		<i>Complete redesign of lower Rectory Lane car park gates, flagpole and signage</i>			

**“PROJECT 125”**  
**CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF MERTON COURT PREP**  
**2021 – 2024**  
**(PHYSICAL)**

**“PROJECT 125”**

**“PROJECT 125”**  
**A CURRICULUM FOR THE FUTURE...**  
**2021 – 2024**

<i>Analysis of data post-lockdown – learning conclusions</i>	<i>Review Humanities curriculum</i>	<i>New story sacks Review</i>	<i>Review focus on reading (CLPE) and parent contribution to children's reading</i>	<i>'Pupil' Voice</i>	<i>Covid 'keepers' review: embrace new ideas and methods from Covid-19 lockdowns and remote learning</i>
<i>Review use of 'Atom Learning' on-line scheme for S4, S3 &amp; S2</i>	<i>New 3D Printer</i>	<i>Ten Town Challenge</i>	<i>Monitor/evaluate new SMSC format</i>	<i>Develop Prefect Council and School Council</i>	<i>Alumni Advisory Board</i>
<i>Develop themes: School sustainability statement</i>	<i>'Eco-school' focus post Cop 26</i>	<i>EDI Review</i>		<i>Review use of Zoom/Google drives for blended learning and parent involvement</i>	<i>Letterland &amp; Handwriting parent workshops</i>
<i>Pupil Eco-awareness</i>				<i>Technology usage review</i>	<i>Assessment review</i>
<i>'Phase' leader &amp; group review</i>				<i>Third tranche of whiteboards instal</i>	<i>Introduce 'Tooled Up' – practical help for parents</i>
<i>'Rosedale scholarships' for S1 – Spring '22/3/4</i>	<i>Review Before and After-school Club models</i>	<i>Use of Gridmaker SMSC online resource</i>		<i>S4/S3 touch typing training</i>	<i>New science room iPads &amp; for EYFS</i>
<i>Forest School development of 'Sector 4' Timetable review, CPD staff training</i>		<i>Beekeeping training for children – integrate into Science curriculum</i>		<i>Laptop/iPad review</i>	<i>Review/update curriculum on website</i>
<i>LAMDA exams</i>		<i>Update RHE/PSE on website – discuss with children &amp; parents</i>		<i>Review of homework levels</i>	<i>New prospectus and website upgrade</i>

\* Items in light grey denote project already completed

Past Events Summer 2022

► **S4 RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO SPAIN – 16TH JUNE**

This year, we were delighted to be able to reinstate the traditional S4 trip to Spain. They departed on Monday 13 returning Saturday 18 June. The destination was the lovely resort of Tossa De Mar, via Barcelona. A fantastic time was had by all – taking part in activities such as a glass-bottomed boat excursion, Flamenco dancing and a tour of Camp Nou. The trip created memories to treasure and was part of a fitting send off for the year group.



► **WELL DONE TO Luca (S3)** who came 5th in the last round of the British Championships and 2nd in a major club race for Motorsports UK. Also congratulations to **Olivia (S2)** and her team who qualified for the English Rhythmic Gymnastics finals in Bath back in May.



► **BEE KEEPING – HONEY, HONEY, HONEY!**

It has been a difficult time for beekeepers due to the dramatic changes in weather over the year. Tragedy struck when one of our hives died. However, we were incredibly lucky to be gifted a new swarm that took up residence in our second hive very successfully. As it turns out, it has been an excellent year for honey and we are delighted that we have been collecting our first Merton Court honey from our hives over the summer.

► **S4 LEADERSHIP AND TEAMWORK CHALLENGE**



Towards the end of the Summer term, we held our ever-popular and exciting two-week Year 6 Leadership and Challenge event. S4 took part in all challenges including; 'Dragon's Den' Business/Charity Challenge; building bridges DT Challenge; robotic LEGO Challenge; Environmental Challenge; Business video advert Challenge; Rifle/Pistol Shooting Challenge; Home skills and cookery skills challenge; First-aid/ Water safety and resuscitation and finally our legendary 'I'm a Yr6 – Get Me Out of Here!' which involved as usual a 'Bush Tucker Trial'.



## Past Events Summer 2022



### ► MERTON COURT: ACTION FOR UKRAINE

A huge Thank You to everyone who supported last term's charity and particularly our vibrant whole-school Art Exhibition. The proceeds from our fundraising which was an incredible **£5,697.12** are going to support Dnepr Children's City Hospital No3 in Ukraine, for the Intensive Care Baby Unit. We have been helping with oxygen for the incubators and petrol for their generators but are delighted to announce that, with funds already sent, they have purchased a respirator, which is fantastic.



### ► PROM ON THE PITCH – 14TH JULY

Wow! A huge Thank You to all the Seniors who took part in our fabulous Prom entertainment and also to Mrs Roots and Mr Reece. This was an amazing Friends of Merton Court community event for friends, family and past pupils, topping out an incredibly successful year. The huge sound stage and big screen made it feel like a real festival.



► **SCIENCE TERM**

Last term was Science Term with a focus on ‘Sustainability & Growth’.

Why is it important to look after the earth? There is only one earth – there is no Planet B. The decisions we make every day can impact people in every part of the world. By reducing our impact on the planet we can help make the planet a little bit better for other people. There are many ways we can become more eco in school. During assemblies last term, each year group explored the various aspects of sustainability and reflected on the different ways we could contribute to help our planet. We addressed issues relating to wildlife, energy, transport, recycling, food, water and energy. The hall displays show the detailed, scientific work each year group carried out during their investigations. With the motto of ‘Think Globally – Act Locally’ in mind, we planned a wide range of activities for the term. Each class planted vegetables, fruit and flowers in the allotment. The seniors took part in a creative and inspiring workshop called ‘OUR WORLD – OUR FUTURE’, which was a Climate Change workshop delivered by a company called ‘West-End-in-Schools’. They investigated one of the most important issues in the world today from an interactive, drama-based perspective. We held a poster competition on ‘Growth’, in line with British Science Week, and displayed more than two hundred entries in our hall. It was a creative way to reflect on the different interpretations of growth. Our school also organised a Sponsored Litter Pick – fundraising for Ukraine. The children did some litter picking in their own neighbourhood whilst raising money for a good cause. The **£3,300** raised went towards our chosen charity, Dnepr Children’s City Hospital No. 3 in Ukraine. We held ‘**House Science**’ and ‘**Spelling Bee**’ competitions in year groups and the winners collected their awards at prize giving.

**Science Spelling Bee Results:**

- S4 – Ryan Yuan
- S3 – Adam Nolan
- S2 – Kayla Feyita
- S1 – Michael Mitev-Rathnayake
- J3 – Anushree Kominek
- J2 – Sheen Yang

► **SPORTS DAY**

Again, a huge Thank You to all parents and families who came along to cheer on their children at our incredibly well attended Sports Days during the beautiful weather.

**Cups and Trophies Awarded:**

Pilgrim 100m Sprint	<b>Elijah Mweyna</b>
400m Open (boys)	<b>Elijah Mwenya</b>
800m Open (boys)	<b>Charlie Wilson</b>
Morgan Shield Girl 800m	<b>Joslyn Tang</b>
(S2) Junior Victor Ludorum	<b>James Mott</b>
Senior Victor Ludorum	<b>Charlie Wilson</b>

► **SUMMER PRIZEGIVING 2022**

Well done indeed to everyone for two very successful outdoor prizegivings in beautiful summer weather. A big Thank You to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Bexley for helping to give away our cups, awards, certificates and prizes at our Junior and Senior Prizegivings respectively.

► **HOUSE EVENT WINNERS**

Ellingham Inter House Athletics (Senior): **SCHOOL**  
 Davies Inter-House Athletic (Junior): **MODERN**  
 Merit Shield: **SCHOOL**

► **HEADMASTER’S AWARD WINNERS**

Junior: **J3J/L** and Senior: **S1B**



Past Events Summer 2022

► THE QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS AT MERTON COURT – 30TH MAY







## Past Events Summer 2022

### ► ACADEMIC SUCCESS

A big well done to our class of 21/22 for their many successes at Secondary transfer this year and their continued focus and hard work despite everything. Nineteen Scholar's ties were awarded across the yeargroup in recognition of outstanding academic, dramatic and sporting achievement in external Secondary transfer examinations and Independent School entrance procedures, representing continuing excellent results for the School.

### ► S4 LEGACY GIFT

Goodbye and good luck to our S4 who have now moved on. Sincere thanks to them, and their families, gifting the School a lovely 'Buddy Bench' which is now in perfect position on the covered decking overlooking the Senior Astro.



#### Abbreviations – places achieved but not taken:

Ba H	Babington House School	K	Kent Selective Place
B	Bexley Selective Place	M	Medway Selective Place
B-Top	Bexley Top 180	N	Newstead Wood School
BHS	Bromley High	RH	Radnor House
CH	Cobham Hall	Sev	Sevenoaks
C	Cofe's School	STO	St Olave's & St Saviour's Grammar School
EC	Eltham College	WH	Walthamstow Hall
F	Farringtons		

### ► LEAVERS 2022

This is a list of all our Year 6/S4 children in the academic year 2021/2022

AIYEOLA	Nininola	Walthamstow Hall School (B, K).
BODIE	Carys	Chislehurst School for Girls.
CHAN	Aiden	St Olave's & St Saviour's Grammar School (B, K).
CORMACK	Daisy	Bullers Wood School for Girls.
DATEMA	Christiaan	Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School (B, K).
DHESI	Satara	Newstead Wood School (B, K).
ENVER	Zara	Farringtons School.
ETEMI	Tommaso	Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School (B, K).
HABAROVA	Alisa	Wilmington Grammar School for Girls (K).
HILL	Phoebe	Radnor House School.
HORDIYCHUK	Artemis	BETHS Grammar School (B, K).
HOWIE	James	Farringtons School.
HUMPHREYS	Fleur	Farringtons School (Creative Arts Award) (K).
ISAAC	Olivia	Knole Academy (RH Drama Award).
JAYAWARDHENA	Onali	Eltham College School (Drama Award) (B, K) (BHS & C Acad Awards).
KETENCI	Tuana	Darrick Wood School.
KHOSLA	Rishi	Cofe's School (K).
KITE	Freddie	Wilmington Grammar School for Boys (K).
LALL	Priyanka	Chislehurst School for Girls.
LEE	Jamie	Radnor House School.
MCCARTHY	Luke	Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School (B, K).
MEHMET	Dilan	Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School (B, K).
MELITI	Alessandro	Babington House School (K).
MICKLEFIELD	Elinor	Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School (B-Top, K).
MWENYA	Elijah	Babington House School (K).
NAGASUNDHAR	Vishal	Dartford Grammar School (B, K).
PATEL	Aariya	Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School (B, K).
PEARCE	Ethan	Meopham School.
PINDORIA	Keeya	Blackfen School for Girls.
SARVESTANI	Sofia	Bromley High School (F Art Award) (K).
SINNOTT	Sienna	Cobham Hall School.
STEEL SQUIRES	Oliver	Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School (B, K).
STIEPIEN	Marcel	Dartford Grammar School (B, K).
TANG	Joslyn	City Of London School for Girls (B-Top, K) EC Award (Acad) JAGS.
UBA	Isaac	Dartford Grammar School (B, K).
WARNER	Lucy	Chislehurst School of Girls.
WHITE	Lilia	Bromley High School (R Sports Award).
WILSON	Charlie	The Skinner's School, Tunbridge (B-Top, K).
WONG	Joachim	St Olave's & St Saviour's Grammar School (B-Top, K).
YUAN	Ryan	St Paul's School, London (B-Top, K) C, EC & Trinity (Acad Awards).



## School Events Autumn 2022

### *Pupils New Responsibilities in School This Term*

<b>House Captains:</b>	Aryan Shaikh (Merton), Dominic Davies and Imani Ogboli (Modern) Noah Grecula (School)
<b>Vice Captains:</b>	Oliver Copus (Merton) Indy Anderson (Modern) William Chislett (School)
<b>Swimming Captains:</b>	Louie Pompei and Ava Willoughby
<b>Rugby Captain:</b>	Isaac Fitzsimmons
<b>Netball Captain:</b>	Gretchen Cheung
<b>Cross Country Captains:</b>	Olivia Byrne and Rafi Smith
<b>Skiing Captain:</b>	Noah Grecula

### **Well done to our newly-elected School Councillors:**

J3 – Evie & Samar, S1 – Maksim & Oscar, S2 – Billy & Aalia, S3 – Amrit & Chinwe, S4 – Adrian & Ava.



### *Prospective Parents' Open Opportunities*

**Open Morning** – Saturday 24 September 2022  
(9.15am-12noon)

**Open Day** – Wednesday 16 November 2022  
(9am-2pm)

**Open Morning** – Saturday 21 January 2023  
(9.15am – 12noon)

A reminder that any new parents wishing to look around the school with a view to sending their child here will be able to do so – shown round by members of School staff. Anyone wishing to look around the school is welcome to make an individual appointment with Mr Price, via the Admissions Team.

### *Merton Court Family Ski Trip 2023*

The 2023 Merton Court School family ski trip will be to Pfunds, Austria – with skiing at Nauders (Austria) for 3 days and Samnaun/Ischgl (Switzerland/Austria) for 3 days.

We will be using True North, a British company with a good reputation, which has a base in Austria.

We'll be staying (half-board) at the excellent PostHotel in Pfunds. Pfunds is a pretty Tyrolean village, close to the Swiss and Italian borders. The PostHotel has its own swimming pool, 2 bars, sauna and a Lego room.

Nauders is a good resort with facilities for our beginners. Samnaun is one of Europe's 3 duty-free ski resorts with cross-border skiing into Ischgl, famous for its high altitude concerts (Kings of Leon played recently). It is 'snow sure' until May.

Evening events will include an Easter egg-hunt, quiz, games night, ski school presentations and Frau Shouty's raucous bingo. We will have a couple of meet-ups at the snowcentre in Hemel Hempstead prior to the trip for some valuable practice.

### *Staff Matters*

Farewell to Mr Afzal Sadikali, S3 Teacher, who has left us for the sunnier climate of Malaysia. We wish him and his family all the very best on their exciting new adventure.

Welcome to Mrs Vicki Waving, our new HLTA, who will be assisting teaching staff in Key Stage 2 (S3 and S4).

We would also like to welcome back Miss Jane Amphlett and Miss Amber Downs after their maternity leave.

### *S3 French Trip to the Battlefields of France and Belgium – Weds 14 – Fri 16 September*

S3 are very much looking forward to their three-day residential stay at Chateau d'Ebblinghem,

## School Events Autumn 2022

visiting the Menin Gate, Wellington Quarry and also laying wreaths at the graves of past pupils.

### **Tiny Tots & Toddlers**

Commencing on Thursday 22 September – 1.30 – 2.30pm. These sessions will be held in our EY classroom.

### **Harvest Festival – St John's Church, Sidcup – Friday 30 September, 9am**

Harvest festival will take place at St John's Church. Once again, we will be asking for donations of dried and tinned food, which the children should bring into school, to be transported onwards to 'The Simon Community', a charity for the homeless, based in London and to local foodbanks, via St John's Church, Sidcup. Please bring your offerings to St John's on the morning of Harvest Festival.

### **Maths & Sports Week – Monday 10 October – Friday 14 October**

Our focus for this year's Maths Term is "problem solving". A good understanding of how to solve problems is vital in primary school Maths and helps to develop your child's ability to call upon their vast mathematical knowledge to break problems they might face.

Children from J3 – S4 will once again take part in the weekly problem-solving competition. This weekly problem will be handed to your child every Monday (starting Monday 12th September) and returned to their class teacher by the Thursday of the same week. Correct entries will be put into a prize-draw and the lucky winner will receive a "maths-based prize". We look forward to seeing all of the work you undertake.

### **Festival of Speech & Drama – Thursday 6 & Friday 7 October**

We welcome parents into school for individual entries on the Thursday and the Senior and Junior Form events on the Friday afternoon. We encourage

all children to 'have a go' – you never know how good you are if you don't try. Categories will be sent in a 'parentmail' with details of entry requirements. Any questions, please ask Mrs F Mepham.

### **FOMC Bonfire Night – Friday 4 November**

We have a large bonfire, the fireworks are all booked, so all we need is you for an audience... Details of tickets to follow soon.

### **Remembrance – Friday 11 November**

Parents and family are most welcome to this annual event, where we will be conducting our usual poignant School Service. S3 parents, however, will be particularly welcome to attend, to watch their children lead this special service of remembrance.

### **Swimming Championships (S1-S4) – Friday 11 & Friday 18 November**

All Senior children will have a chance of winning a medal at our popular swimming event. Enter as many events as you like in your year group categories to be in with a chance of a medal and maybe a new school record. Top three boys and top three girls in each event, in each year group win. Even if you don't get a medal, you might get a new PB. So come along and get involved in a fun couple of afternoons.

Remember, you have to be in it, to win it! Parents welcome to support.

Entry forms out soon.

### **Parents Evenings:**

#### **Monday 21 & Tuesday 22 November**

#### **Monday 21 November – J1, J2, S2**

#### **Tuesday 22 November – EY, J3, S1, S3**

These will be conducted face to face. For times and an appointment please contact form teachers.

### **Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 7 December**

Remember to attend suitably attired – usual Christmas lunch rules; No hat-No lunch!

**Christmas Jumper Day & House Chess – Friday 9 December**

Please send in £2 with your child/ren, which will be donated to this term’s nominated charity, so plan your outfit early!

**Carol Service – Tuesday 13 December – 6-7pm at St John’s Church, Sidcup**

We look forward to you sharing this family event with us, in preparation for a happy and peaceful Christmas.

**Prizegivings – Wednesday 14 December in the School Hall:**

- Juniors 09.15am
- Seniors 11.00am

Please do come along to enjoy our termly presentation of cups, medals, awards and certificates.

**SAFEGUARDING Parents’ Forum and ‘Tooled Up’**

Positive parenting – what does that mean? Have you ever wondered when you come across a parenting dilemma how to best deal with it? In some instances, we ask our mums, we ask our friends and get a thousand different answers or worse still, we Google it... ‘Tooled Up’ will empower you as parents and carers together with our staff, to access a plethora of resources in our new ‘Tooled Up’ library where everything you need is at your fingertips. To this end, we have organised a Zoom meeting which will be delivered by the ‘Tooled Up’ CEO Kathy Weston on Wednesday 12th October from 7.30-8.30pm. Don’t miss out on this wonderful opportunity; let’s face it, we all need a little support from time to time with helping our children as they write their own life story.

**Old Mertonians news**

Well Done to **Scarlett Brady (OM ‘08-‘16)** who has moved from Weald of Kent Grammar School for Girls in Tonbridge to start her A levels at Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys and Girls 6th Form, where she has been elected Deputy Head Girl. Scarlett is also Vice-captain of Sevenoaks Swimming Club.

Thank you to **Michael Martin (OM ‘57-‘61)** who by chance was at St George’s Church in Ypres, Belgium where he saw our School’s memorial brass plaque to those Old Mertonians who gave their lives during the Great War. It was lovely to hear his memories of the late fifties/early sixties here at Merton Court, during the Headships of Mr Blakeney and Mr Davies. He remembers the old fives court, the corrugated-iron gym and ‘the glorious playing fields’; also mentioning Mr Terry, Mr Bentley, Mr Edwards, Mr Dyson and Colonel James, before going on to join the Elder Dempster Lines as a Midshipman, eventually becoming a Senior Ship’s Captain before retirement.

Well done also to **Josh Solly (OM ‘14-‘15)** who has qualified for the U18 England National Swim Squad.

And congratulations to **Adam Ferris (OM ‘95-‘03)** who is Head of PE at an Independent School in Abu Dhabi who says he was definitely inspired to follow this career path from his experiences at Merton Court (Adam was an awesome swimmer – you can still see some of his school records on our swimming board!)







HM Queen Elizabeth II  
1926-2022

*We salute a lifetime of selfless service,  
devotion and humility representing decency,  
continuity, stability and unity.*

*Loved, cherished, remembered.*