

MERTON COURT

news

SPRING 2023



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MERTON COURT: AN 'EXCELLENT' SCHOOL, WHERE OPPORTUNITIES MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Sincere thanks to our whole school community, for everyone's effort, positivity and hard work in achieving 'excellent' across all areas, following our ISI inspection at the end of November '22. (A full copy of our Combined two-part Focused Compliance and Educational Quality Inspection is available via our website or from the school office.)

In our Regulatory Compliance Inspection, all compliance areas were deemed 'met'.

In the first section of the EQI, the quality of pupils' academic and other achievements was excellent, as was pupils' progress and achievement over time and pupils' attitudes towards learning, including their ability to demonstrate initiative and independence. The report highlighted that pupils here achieve at high levels in all aspects of school life and enjoy their numerous successes, pointing out that "pupils' excellent academic and extra-curricular

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achievements owe much to the proprietor's provision of excellent, much appreciated facilities which offer plentiful opportunities for pupils to develop their talents."

The report went on to say that Merton Court pupils attain highly in Mathematics, English and Science by the time they reach the top of the school, that they have an excellent, well-developed range of study skills, which they use to great effect from an early age and that their understanding of the uses of information and communication (ICT), and the application of their computing skills, are excellent.

In the second section of the EQI, inspectors judged the quality of pupils' personal development as excellent, with pupils' self-knowledge, self-esteem, self-confidence and self-discipline excellent, whilst also saying that pupils demonstrate high levels of perseverance and resilience, responding to challenges with commitment and enthusiasm. Levels of moral understanding are also extremely high in response to the high expectations of staff and effective classroom management techniques.

Furthermore, ISI reported that pupils' social development and ability to collaborate are excellent – pupils are determined to stay safe

and healthy, exhibiting excellent knowledge about what this means. Their respect for other members of the school community is also excellent.

Pupils are extremely clear about the meaning and the expression of spirituality, showing an excellent understanding of associated vocabulary. Their contributions to the school community are extensive and valued by all members of the school; they make decisions effectively and assuredly and they choose wisely when selecting the level of challenge in the extension work available to them, showing excellent understanding of decision-making.

So, all in all an 'Excellent' ISI report.

Well done everybody – pupils, staff, and parents. This report is a source of real pride, and equally, an opportunity for genuine celebration.



School Council



The School Council Reps are working hard across the school to promote healthy snacks and positive play using the play equipment. They will be asking for suggestions of other equipment that would have a positive impact on breaktimes throughout the day!

Improvements in School Spring 2023

Our New Minibus – with the reinstatement of more sports fixtures, School is delighted to have purchased a second minibus for sports and school use.

New After School Club Facility – This is now open, along with a new Parkour Area – jointly-funded by our ever supportive Friends of Merton Court.

New Staff & Visitor Toilets in School Reception are now finished and complete the refurbishment of our front reception area.

Staff News

We welcome new children and their families to School and also welcome new staff joining us this term; Mrs Faye Tyler as Music Coordinator, Mrs Hannah Berkes, as Teaching Support for J3 and Brooke Daniels as EYFS Practitioner in Early Years. We would like to wish Mrs Jahaj well now she has gone on maternity leave. Mrs Lord will be covering her role for the rest of the school year.

Tooled Up

We would like to remind parents of our fantastic platform 'Tooled Up Education', a very useful resource, to turn evidence-based research into impactful real-life tools to help children thrive. We would encourage you to access this at home to benefit from

all this has to offer, along with Dr.Kathy Weston's 'Wednesday Wisdom'.

If you have not yet registered please visit <https://www.tooledupeducation.com/register>
Our school PIN Number: MCP0809

Parking Reminder

Please may we remind all parents to be considerate when parking in our Rectory Lane car park but also when parking on Knoll Road.

Safeguarding Social Media

We are experiencing increasing instances of children getting themselves into a 'pickle' using social media sites. More recently, these have involved TikTok. We thought it would be a good idea to present some facts about TikTok, in particular:

- **The minimum age for a TikTok account is 13. Users under 13 cannot post videos or comment.** Until the age of 16, an account needs to be set up with 'family pairing', which provides the parent with visibility into the activity of the child account. It is the parent's responsibility to monitor anything posted online
- TikTok will ban anyone they suspect of being under 13 in the UK. Some parents may not be aware of the rules stipulated by the platform on: **Why it's important your teen provides their real date of birth** <https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide/>
- Another (perhaps more widely read) publication states: **In order for users to sign up for an account, they must be 13 years old or older** <https://www.the-sun.co.uk/news/16592993/why-is-tiktok-13-plus/>

The main social media sites all have an age-related restriction of 13+. We believe that, whilst our primary-aged children are technologically adept, they lack the emotional resilience to deal with the issues that frequently occur.

We would highly recommend reading the NSPCC guidance and, as a minimum, know who your children communicate with online. School is always here to help, if you need further guidance. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Past Events Autumn 2022

► **ACADEMIC SUCCESS**



We are very proud of our Year 6 (S4) children and for their effort and hard work, with very strong academic results so far this year, and who continue to sit assessments for secondary transfer. Well done particularly to three of our S4/Year 6 children gaining a 'Top 180' score in the Bexley Test. At the end of last term, we awarded a total of 22 scholar's ties (for academic, drama & sports scholarships or awards) in recognition of success in Independent School assessments and also for strong success in the Bexley & Kent Selective and Bromley Super-selective procedures.

► **SPORTING SUCCESS**

Our U11 mixed netball team took part in a tournament at Farringtons, along with seven other schools. Congratulations to Louie, Olivia, Latika, Gretchen, Isaac, Noah, Layla, Rafi and Ava for winning gold.



The S1/S2 (Years 3/4) Cross-country event at Babington House was also a success with Anushree, Maxim and Georgia all Gold Medal winners.

In October our annual, very popular inter-schools Cross-country Relays event was attended by twelve schools. Congratulations to S3 Boys: Luca, James, Adess and Callum, winning runners-up medals. S4 Boys also finished 2nd: Louie, Isaac, Ashley and Rafi, all winning silver medals.

At Farringtons Cross-country event School had three podium places:

U8 Girls Race

Anushree Kominek – Silver Medal

U9 Girls Race

Georgia Collings – Gold Medal

U11 Boys Race

Rafi Smith – Silver Medal



Our school ski team – Noah (captain), Max, Rafi & Isaac competed in the ISA National Schools Indoor Ski Championships at The Snow Centre in Hemel Hempstead. The team narrowly missed out on a trophy but Noah managed to achieve national runner-up overall – a fantastic achievement!

Well done also, to House Cross-country winners in school:

S1 Maxim Agapov, Anushree Kominek

S2 Billy Corrigan, Georgia Collings

S3 James Mott, Jessie Gayler

S4 Ashley Michelli (Pochin Cup Winner) and Gretchen Cheung (Pochin Plate Winner)

Danny Gannon won the St Ledger Most Improved Rugby Award.

Well done to everyone who took part in the Merton Court Swimming Championships.

An excellent turn-out with 332 entries from 81 children, achieving 271 Personal Best times.

TROPHIES AWARDED TO:

- Senior Boys Champion (Trophy)** Callum White
- Senior Girls Champion (Trophy)** Jessie Gayler
- Junior Champion (Trophy)** Georgia Collings
- Most Improved Swimmer** Samarah Harunani



Also a huge well done to all who attended the ISA London South Area Regional Swimming Competition and those that made it to the finals.

Individual Winners

Georgia Collings	Y4 Girls 50m Freestyle	1st Medal
Olivia Uba	Y4 Girls 50m Backstroke	1st Medal
Billy Corrigan	Y4 Boys 50m Backstroke	1st Medal
James Mott	Y5 Boys 50m Freestyle	1st Medal
Ella Mott	Y5 Girls 50m Backstroke	1st Medal
Amrit Lalli	Y5 Boys 50m Backstroke	1st Medal
Callum White	Y5 Boys 50m Breaststroke	1st Medal
Louie Pompei	Y6 Boys 50m Backstroke	1st Medal
Georgia Collings	Y4 Girls 50m Breaststroke	2nd Medal
Jessie Galyer	Y5 Girls 50m Freestyle	2nd Medal
Callum White	Y5 Boys 50m Freestyle	2nd Medal
James Mott	Y5 Boys 50m backstroke	2nd Medal
Jessie Gayler	Y5 Girls 50m Breaststroke	2nd Medal
Amrit Lalli	Y5 Boys 50m Breaststroke	2nd Medal
Isaac Fitzsimmons	Y6 Boys 50m Butterfly	2nd Medal
Billy Corrigan	Y4 Boys 50m Freestyle	3rd Medal

Emily Stupart	Y5 Girls 50m Backstroke	3rd Medal
Danny Gannon	Y6 Boys 50m Freestyle	3rd Medal
Isaac Fitzsimmons	Y6 Boys Breaststroke	3rd Medal

ISA NATIONAL FINALS

Individual Medals:

Georgia Collings	Y4 Girls 50m Freestyle	2nd Medal
Callum White	Y5 Boys 50m Breaststroke	2nd Medal

Team Medals:

Georgia Collings	Y4 Girls 200m Freestyle Relay	2nd Medal
Billy Corrigan	Y4 Boys 200m Freestyle Relay	3rd Medal



Well done to our yeargroup Chess Winners:

J3/Yr 2	<i>Sheen Yang</i>
S1/Yr 3	<i>Maksim Agapov</i>
S2/Yr 4	<i>Eason Li</i>
S3/Yr 5	<i>Savva Malkov</i>
S4/Yr 6	<i>Rafi Smith</i>

HOUSE EVENTS WINNERS

Maths:	School
Cross-country:	School
Rugby:	School
Merit Shield:	School
Chess:	Modern

Past Events Autumn 2022



ISABELLA



ADRIAN



JESSIE



MICHAEL

► MERTON COURT PUPILS' EXTRA-CURRICULAR SUCCESS

A big well done to **Isabella (S3P)** who performed in Moana at the Bob Hope Theatre as a Villager with the British Theatre Academy and in The Little Mermaid at Towngate Theatre in Basildon as part of the chorus. Well done also to **Michael (S2B)** who appeared on BBC's Saturday Mash Up Show in December as a presenter. This is now his second TV appearance! Congratulations also to **Adrian (S2T)** who won gold at the Boys' Year 4 event at the Europa Centre Gymnastics Championship and well done to **Jessie (S3P)** who received four silver medals for gymnastics at Crystal Palace in floor, beams, bars and vault where she was selected to represent her gymnastic squad.

► NEW RESPONSIBILITIES IN SCHOOL

Head Boy and Head Girl are **Edward** and **Ava**
 Senior Prefects are **Louie** and **Latika**
 Football Captains are **Max** and **Evie**,
 Hockey Captains are **Ashley** and **Latika**
 S2 Badges for sporting excellence were awarded at prizegiving to:
Adrian and **Olivia** – Cross Country
Poppy and **Sophie** – Netball
Oscar and **Charlie** – Rugby
Billy and **Georgia** – Swimming





► CHARITIES

Our charities for the Autumn Term included Ukraine, DEC Pakistan Flood Relief and The Wooden Spoon (a local Kent-based sporting charity).

We were delighted to have received confirmation our money raised has been put to such good use in Dnepr Children’s Hospital №3 in Ukraine for temperature sensors and reusable skin probes. “Big thank you to Merton Court!”

Not only did we support our own Ukraine charity, but also through St John’s Church we sent over 100 shoeboxes filled with Christmas gifts, along with tinned food, medical supplies and other items.

We raised an amazing **£1,703.80** for DEC Pakistan Flood Relief, with proceeds from Shaheer’s (S4) Christmas Bazaar stall, Christmas Jumper Day and Production donations.

Lastly, we also raised **£359.61** on our ‘Favourite Sports Personality Dressing Up Day’ for The Wooden Spoon.



► HARVEST FESTIVAL

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our lovely Harvest Festival with donations going to the Manna Project and our local foodbank. S4 led our service in St. John’s Church, Sidcup.



Past Events Autumn 2022





Past Events Autumn 2022



► **REMEMBRANCE**

Our Annual Remembrance Service was led by S3 (Yr 5), in a thoughtful and poignant way in order to help our school community better understand why we wear our poppies on Poppy Day.

Following the service, Amelia King was awarded the Royal Naval Association ‘Shipmates’ Cup for her contribution to the Remembrance Service and William Chislett was awarded the British Legion Diamond Jubilee Poppy Project Award for his beautiful poppy project.

Thank you once again for your kind donations to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal totalling a fantastic £359.61.

► **FESTIVAL OF SPEECH, DRAMA AND MIME**

Well done and thank you to all of the children who took part in the first of our termly festivals for the year. Dominic Davies & Ethan Truong were joint winners of the Massey Mime Cup. Yunshu Yang was the winner of the Original Verse Cup and Honor Hastings was awarded ‘Best of Festival’. Also particular commendations to the winners of the Form Poem Sections – S2T and J3H.

► **S3 RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO FRANCE**



At the beginning of the Autumn Term, S3 embarked on their residential trip to France staying at Chateau d’Eblinghem. We visited many interesting places such as the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing (a war memorial in Ypres) and the Bayernwald Trenches, which are a restored section of an original German trench system dating from 1916. We also paid our respects particularly to two past pupils, laying wreaths. We ended our trip with an exciting visit to Nausicaá Sea Life Centre where everyone saw some amazing sea creatures.



The winners were:

J2 Alisha Manandhar	S2 Olivia Uba
J3 Samar Jain	S3 Safia Shiraaz
S1 Anushree Kominek	S4 Prisha Benadikar

A big thank you goes out to all those who took part in the Maths Hat Day – there were some fantastic hats on show!

► **SPORTS & MATHS WEEK**

We held our Sports Week before October's half-term break and children had a great time trying out a range of new sports, completing a week-long physical activity "clicker challenge", and competing against staff both in the classroom and on the sports field.

Our Maths focus took place during the first term of the school year and it didn't disappoint. The children enjoyed our traditional House Maths competition and Spelling Bee where the children were tested on maths vocabulary used in their everyday work.



► **FRIENDS OF MERTON COURT**

Sincere thanks to FOMC for a wonderful evening of fun and fireworks at our annual Bonfire Night. Equally our FOMC Christmas Bazaar was thoroughly enjoyed by the children and parents.

Some further dates for FOMC events this year:

Friday 3 February – Family Disco

Friday 3 March – Comedy Night

Saturday 20 May – May Ball

School Events *Spring 2023*

Prospective Parents' Open Opportunities 2023

– *Open Evening:*

Wednesday 3 May 5pm – 7.30pm

– *Open Morning:*

Saturday 23 September 9.15am – 12noon

A reminder that any parents wishing to look round the school with a view to sending their child here will be able to do so – shown around by a member of the School staff. Anyone wishing to look round the school is welcome to make an individual appointment with Mrs Langton or the Admissions Team followed by an individual chat with Mr Price our Headmaster.

Coffee Mornings

We look forward to welcoming parents/carers to coffee mornings this term to watch children's assembly presentations.

S4 Friday 13 January

J3 Friday 24 February

S3 Friday 20 January

J2 Friday 10 March

S2 Friday 3 February

J1 Friday 17 March

S1 Friday 10 February

MFL Week

Monday 27 February – Friday 3 March

This term we want to celebrate how multilingual and multicultural our school is and reflect on the world of languages and the languages of the world. The first occasion will be on 26th and 27th January for the MFL Breakfast hosted by S4, entitled 'The World on a Plate'. Guests will be entertained by performances from all the children whilst enjoying a French breakfast.

Monday 27th February to Friday 3rd March will be MFL Week when we celebrate French and Spanish as well as other home-spoken languages. It is an opportunity for all the children to display their language skills and appreciate other languages. During the week there will be an MFL Quiz, House

English for S1 to S4 and a Spanish Spelling Bee for J3 to S4. We will also welcome parents who are native speakers of other languages to share some of their traditions with us and teach their language too. It will end with a dressing-up day for our chosen charity this term, 'Round Table Children's Wish', on **Friday 3rd March**, when children are invited to dress up in international attire for a donation of £2.

S4 Cycling Proficiency Week

Monday 6 – 10 March

A great opportunity for S4 to prepare for Secondary School and gain cycle confidence.

S4 Bring and Buy Sale – Friday 17 March

Do you have any unwanted Christmas presents or have you had a spring clean over the holidays? If so, S4 would welcome your donations. We suggest all children bring in no more than £10 (in change) to spend at the Sale (Juniors especially, please keep it safe in a named purse or wallet). This is a S4 'Fundraiser' in preparation for their Spanish residential trip to Tossa de Mar in June.

Festival of Dance (Individual & Choreographic)

Thursday 23 March – 9.00am onwards

Festival of Dance (Form) – Friday 24 March

Why not enter this very popular event?

Children will have the chance to perform solos, duets, trios or in groups in their chosen category to show off their skills. Categories will be given out later this term.



Groves Public Speaking Competition

Tuesday 28 March

S4 battle it out for the coveted Groves Public Speaking Trophy, with a wide variety of chosen topics that they will present to S3.

S1-S4 Breaktime Hockey League

The finals will be on **Wednesday 29 March**. Personal sticks should be clearly named, and may be kept in school. Our uniform suppliers 'Oz' also stock hockey sticks. Please remember to wear appropriate footwear. Here's to a great competition!

Prizgiving

**Friday 31 March Juniors – 9.15am
Seniors – 11am**

Please do remember that all children must be wearing their full winter uniform for prizegiving, including blazers!

Playscheme 2023

Easter Playscheme 2023

Monday 3 April – Thursday 6 April

Summer Playscheme 2023

Monday 17 July – Friday 11 August

Booking forms will be sent out the week after February half-term for Easter playscheme and the week after May half-term for the Summer playscheme. 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 Easter and also during the Summer holidays.

Future Spring Term Dates for Your Diary:

MFL Breakfast – 'World on a Plate'

Thursday 26 (8.45am) & Friday 27 January (8.45am & 11am)

FOMC School Disco – Friday 3 February

Parents' Forum – Led by Mr Price

'Threats to the Private Education Sector'

Zoom – Wednesday 8 February at 7.30pm

February Half-Term

Saturday 11 February – Sunday 19 February (inc.)

FOMC Comedy Night – Friday 3 March

S4 Cycling Proficiency Week

Monday 6 March

S3 Parents' Evening

Monday 6 & Wednesday 8 March

EY Parents' Evening – Wednesday 8 March

S2 Parents' Evening

Monday 13 & Tuesday 14 March

S4 SATS Prediction Evening

Tuesday 14 March

Festival of Dance Individual & Form

Thursday 23 March (Individual)

Friday 24 March (Form)

Prizegiving

Friday 31 March

(Juniors 9.15am & Seniors 11am)





Old Mertonians news • Old Mertonians news • Old Mertonians news



Arjun Sharma (OM 1997 – 2006) it was great to see Arjun who is now coaching cricket and represents Kent professionally – we always knew he would somehow!

Lovely to catch up with **Mickey Shortt (OM 2011 – 2015)** who is starting his training as a Quantity Surveyor & **Lenny Shortt (OM 2013 – 2021)** who is enjoying secondary school.

James Ellershaw (OM 2010 – 2018) is currently preparing for his GCSE's and just finished touring Germany with 'A Winter's Tale' and **Tom Ellershaw (OM 2013 – 2021)** is doing well, swimming for the region.

Ellie East (OM 2002 – 2010) well done to Ellie for appearing on 'Sunday Brunch'. She continues to make a real success as a 'Session' drummer.



Kieran Costello (OM 2010 – 2018) Well done to Kieran who has been made a prefect at Dartford Grammar School.

Harry Stoneham (OM 2003 – 2008) our very best wishes to Harry for a swift recovery and good health following his recent operation.

Matthew Dibble (OM 1987 – 1992) it was very sad to hear of Matt's sudden death, in the newspaper at the age of 40. He was an aspiring concert pianist described as having 'extraordinary talent'.

Great to see **Paul Chappell (OM 1991 – 2000)** who completed his PhD at Brasenose College Oxford and to hear news also of his sister **Laura (OM 1994 – 2003)** who is now an accountant.



Old Mertonians news • Old Mertonians news • Old Mertonians news

Future Summer Term Dates for Your Diary:**Summer Terms Begins** – Wednesday 26 April**Bank Holiday** – Monday 1 May**Open Evening for Prospective Parents**

Wednesday 3 May

S2 Hilltop Residential Trip

Friday 5 & Saturday 6 May

Bank Holiday – Monday 8 May**S4 SATS Week**

Tuesday 9 May – Friday 12 May

S3 Parents Information Evening

Wednesday 10 May

Book Fair – Thursday 11 – Thursday 18 May**Individual & Class Photographs**

Monday 15 May

S2 Information Evening – Tuesday 17 May**Science Week**

Monday 22 May – Friday 26 May

Pet Day – Friday 26 May**May Half Term** – 27 – 4 June (inclusive)**S4 Challenge Week 1**

Monday 5 June – Friday 9 June

J3 to S1 Transition Evening

Wednesday 7 June at 7pm

Festival of Music

Thursday 8 June & (Individual)

Friday 9 June (Form)

S4 Residential Trip to Spain

Monday 12 June – Saturday 17 June

J1 & S1 Parents' Evenings – Monday 12 June**EY, J2 & J3 Parents' Evenings**

Tuesday 13 June

S4 Challenge Week 2

Monday 19 June – Friday 23 June

S2 Parents' Evening

Monday 19 June & Tuesday 20 June

EY to J1 Transition Talk

Wednesday 21 June at 9am

S3 Parents' Evenings

Monday 26 June & Tuesday 27 June

Junior Sports Day

Thursday 29 June

(EY, J1 9.15am) & (J2, J3 11am)

Senior Sports Day

Friday 30 June

(S1, S2 9.15am) & (S3, S4 1.30pm)

School Enrichment Week

Monday 10 – Friday 14 July

EY New Parents Coffee Morning

Tuesday 11 July (9am)

Moving Up Day – Tuesday 11 July**Summer Prizegiving**

Wednesday 12 July

Junior (2pm) & Senior (7pm)

'Prom on the Pitch' (6pm-9pm)**J2 – S4 'Best of British' Production**

Thursday 13 July

End of Term – Friday 14 July at 12 noon

Please do check our up-to-date website – www.mertoncourtprep.co.uk for any dates and future events throughout 2023 and beyond. If you wish to access some great photos of last term's and this term's events, visit the secure 'Parents' section. Please email: office@mertoncourtprep.co.uk or telephone the school office if you require the password.

School Policies

Our statutory policies and a list of all our policies are on our school website – should you require a copy of any of these, please contact the school office.