

MERTON COURT

news

AUTUMN 2024

1899



2024

125

Omnia Strenue

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'One generation plants the tree – the next generation benefits from its shade...'

S4 Leavers kindly donated a beautiful magnolia at the end of last term, a Magnolia Grandiflora with a beautiful sign reading: 'Thank you for our strong roots'. This has now been joined by a lovely variegated River Birch, along with a third Lutyens bench to complete the renovation of our front lawn area.

Continuing this tree 'metaphor' Dominic Price used this theme at the start of this term as part of his speech at our tree planting and cake cutting, to commemorate the School's foundation in 1899, by the renowned latinist, academic and numismatist (coin collector), JWE Pearce.

It was a very moving occasion – sincere thanks to all parents, guests and dignitaries who managed to attend. Particular thanks to all our children for singing our School song 'Omnia Strenue' so well and to Miss Cathy, our Head Cook, and her team for the beautiful cake and cupcakes we all enjoyed.

Celebrating 125 years of experience, expertise & excellence!



The '125' is here!



One hundred and twenty-five years since the school's foundation in 1899...

Would JWE Pierce, our founding headmaster, who looks enigmatically at us every day from his portrait in front reception, really have believed that his school, our school, would achieve such an amazing milestone? Pierce, Lord, Blakeney, Davies, Buckley – all these past proprietors of Merton Court have left their lasting legacies to the school. However, who would have thought when the Price family took stewardship of the school in 1978, that Merton Court's life story would continue to deepen and widen in such an amazing way over those 46 years to now?

Unwavering optimism and powerful ambition embody the Price family's long-term approach. It is what keeps our school vibrant and exciting.

That continuity of purpose, that stability, that longevity and consistency, is what has really made a difference over time.

Strong leadership remains a significant strength at Merton Court. So too, are the extraordinary strengths of our loyal, dedicated and long-serving teaching, estates and kitchen staff, alongside our hardworking, enthusiastic children, strongly supported by motivated parents.

What we have today, is a school rich in tradition, built on firm foundations, with integrity, by successive proprietors over the past 125 years, dedicated to providing a transformative, independent alternative.

What we have today is unique.

It is incredible to think that Sarah Price and I began teaching at the school in 1988 – one hundred and ten terms ago...

Since our School Centenary in 1999, we continue to be struck by the ongoing physical improvements to our school; the swimming pool, more playing fields, our woodland and wildlife areas, our astros, the Elizabeth Price teaching block, our dance studio and after school club and our new outdoor play areas.

So continues our quiet, effective evolution.

Change also means moving on. And how rewarding it is, to see our pupils moving on to their Secondary schools with such success, having that same unwavering optimism, whilst striving for excellence. Rewarding too, to hear news from past pupils (and staff) who continue to visit us and tell us of their personal achievements.

This moment is a perfect opportunity for self-reflection.

Looking back, I do so with immense pride and a sense of shared achievement, owing a tremendous debt of gratitude to all the individuals, past and present, who have touched the school with their gifts and talents.

I am equally delighted in seeing our school looking forward, with confidence and direction, celebrating 125 years of experience, expertise and excellence.

I sincerely hope you are able to join us for our planned events and celebrations, to help make this special academic year truly memorable, as our journey continues...

Kindest regards,

Dominic Price

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'One Two Five' Celebrations Calendar of Events 2024/2025



SEPTEMBER

6th – 125 Flag Raising and Tree Planting Ceremony followed by 125 Celebratory Cake Cutting (front of school) at 3.15pm

27th (9am) – Harvest Festival Service
St. John's Church, Sidcup

OCTOBER

3rd & 4th – Festival of Speech

7th-11th – English Week

17th & 18th – 'Dancing towards Diwali' Workshop

NOVEMBER

8th (10am) – School Remembrance Service. Publication of 'The Lost Boys, the Second World War'

8th – FOMC Bonfire Night

29th – FOMC Christmas Bazaar

DECEMBER

5th (9am) & 6th (9am & 2pm) – EY & Junior Christmas Productions

11th – Christmas Lunches

13th – Christmas Jumper Day & House Chess

16th – Christmas Parties

17th (6pm-7pm) – School Carol Service at St. John's Church, Sidcup

JANUARY

23rd (9.15am) & 24th (9.15am & 11am) – A 'Burns Breakfast' (charity event in aid of MND/'My Name is Doddy')

FEBRUARY

24th – 28th – Science Week

28th – Merton Court Pet Day

MARCH

7th – FOMC Comedy Night

14th – S4 Bring & Buy Fundraising Sale

17th – St Patrick's Day Lunch

21st (7pm) – S4 'Strictly St Patrick's Spectacular' (S4 fundraiser)

APRIL

23rd – St. George's Day Lunch, followed by an end of school 'Cuppa & Cake Celebration' from 3pm (for children and parents)

MAY

10th (7pm – midnight) – '125' Merton Court Black Tie Ball at the Delta Hotel, Bexleyheath

13th – Whole School Commemorative Photo

16th (2.15pm) – '125' Thanksgiving Service at St. John's Church, Sidcup

JUNE

24th – 27th – Founders' Week & '125' Art Exhibition

26th – Junior Sports Day
(EY/J1: 9.15am & J2/J3: 11am)

27th – Senior Sports Days
(S1/S2: 9.15am & S3/S4: 1.30pm)

JULY

4th (2pm & 7pm) – Whole School Production at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford

9th – End of Year Prizegivings – Juniors 2pm & Seniors 7pm

10th (5pm – 9pm) – 'Old Skool Disco' Prom

11th (11am) – Tree Planting & Flag Changing (Front of School) and unveiling of the '125 Mosaic'

Celebrating 125 years of experience, expertise & excellence!



FOMC Joint Chairs, Mrs Copus & Mrs Hammerton



Improvements In School

Thank you so much to our fabulous PTA, Friends of Merton Court who have used their funds to present two new benches and a shelter at the front of the school for parents to use, when waiting at pick-up times. FOMC has also purchased an excellent covered tent for our After School Club.

Tooled Up

We recently sent a ParentMail to all parents, new and existing, with the details of our fantastic platform 'Tooled Up Education', which is a very useful resource. If you have not registered please visit <https://www.tooledupeducation.com/register> School's unique PIN can be obtained from the School Office.

Also please remember to visit our very informative website www.mertoncourtprep.co.uk. If you wish to access some great photos of last term's events, please call the school office for the password to our secure Parent's section.

Girls On Board

This term, we were privileged to have staff development delivered by 'Girls on Board' founder, Andrew Hampton. We will be sharing his resources with parents, including a zoominar later in the year. 'Girls on Board' is an excellent, pragmatic approach to empowering girls to resolve their friendship issues for themselves, when turbulence occurs. We also received training on Andrew Hampton's 'Working With Boys' approach which we will also be sharing with parents.

Parking Reminder

Extensive parking is available in our Rectory Lane Car Park. Please remember our peak-time one-way system, as well as our 'drop-off' zones. For the safety of everyone, try to maintain a maximum limit of 10 mph when using the car park and where possible please turn off car engines when parked. We have already had a written complaint from a Knoll Road resident this term about parent parking.

Please do respect residents and avoid blocking driveways wherever possible.

The front of school car park is exclusively for staff and delivery vehicles. Please ensure children do not play in the front school car park. Children should be under supervision at all times when collected from the Knoll Road gate and parents should use the single pedestrian gate as access.

Uniform *Reminder*

Please ensure your children come to school in the correct uniform. Blazers, caps and hats must be worn every day. Sports kits will be worn on particular days for Early Years and Juniors. Please see timetables on the 'Parents' section of our website. Seniors should come to school with their kits in their bags on PE & Games lessons days, remembering swimming kits on their designated swimming days and in case of wet games.

Medication, Medical & Pastoral *Forms*

Please remember that medication of any type **must not** be sent into school with your child. If your child is prescribed medication by a doctor or pharmacist you will need to complete an Administration of Prescription Medication Form which can be provided from the School Office or found on our Parents section of the website. We **can not** administer any unnamed medication. Please also remember to keep us updated of any changes to your child's personal details. This includes updated parent contact details,



emergency contact details and most importantly if your child has any new dietary or medical requirements that we need to be made aware of. A Health & Pastoral Care Plan Form can again be obtained from the School Office.

Absence *from School Due to Illness*

If your child is ill, you should ring the School Office by 9.00am that day. **Tel No: 0208 300 2112.** Children who are suffering from vomiting and/or diarrhoea will be excluded from school for 48 hours.

Children who have chicken pox will be excluded until the spots have crusted over. Headlice is a common complaint in young children, please let us know if your child has had headlice so we can advise other parents. Parents of children suffering from other childhood ailments should consult Form Teachers/School Office for advice as to whether they should come to school.

If Senior children cannot for medical reasons participate in Games lessons they will need to be collected from school by 2.20pm as staff are unable to supervise them due to their teaching commitments. S1/S2 have their Games lessons on Mondays and S3/S4 on a Wednesday.

No Phone *Zone*

Please may we remind all parents that school is a 'No Phone Zone' and videoing or photographing inside school grounds at any time is prohibited. This does also include off-site school occasions such as our Harvest Festival Service and Carol Service at St John's Church this term. We want parents to enjoy these events 'in the moment' and not via a screen. We have had examples of parents taking pictures of other people's children without their consent and posting these on social media. This conflicts with our Safeguarding Policy and for this reason, parents will be issued with a formal warning if found to be taking pictures or videos. Should this happen on more than one occasion, they will be unable to attend future school events.

Music Department News

Congratulations to all children taking music exams during the previous school year. Exams were taken on Piano, Violin, Guitar, Cello, Clarinet and Voice.

Back in January we held our 'Rise and Shine' music breakfast to raise money for our music department. The money raised has been used to buy two new cellos, new cymbals and a drum stool for the MAD house, a new piano stool for the After School Club room, a new curved flute head joint, new headphones for the keyboards, in addition to purchasing some new music for our Singing and Piano lessons. Thank you to everyone who supported the event.

Young Voices

We are very excited to be taking 34 children to the O2 in January to part in the 2025 Young Voices concert. This should be a fantastic experience.

Happy Bees

Well done to Mrs Harding and the Bee Committee. It has been a great year for the bees and we now have three healthy hives and lots and lots of '125' honey that we harvested in late August.

After School Club

Please note there will be NO After School Club on the following dates:

Friday 16 May 2025

Friday 4 July 2025

After School Club will be finishing at 4.30pm on Friday 8 December



Past Events Summer 2024



► **PROM ON THE PITCH**

An excellent time was had by the school community at this year's 'Prom on the Pitch', the theme this year was 'All that Jazz' with a great show called 'Jazz Junction'. There were also great sets from the Bexley Grammar Jazz Band and the Chris Ingram quintet, featuring the fabulous Joanna Eden on vocals. An amazing night of Jazz, bouncy inflatables, great food and plenty of dancing. A huge well done particularly to J3 to S4 children involved and to the Friends of Merton Court, for a hugely successful event!

More pictures on page 18 ►►►



Past Events *Summer 2024*



► **SUMMER PRIZEGIVING**

Fabulous once again to have open air prizegiving for Juniors and Seniors. Our special guest this term was the Mayor of Bexley, Sue Gower, MBE JP, who did us the honour of giving away the myriad of awards, cups and certificates to celebrate another very successful end to the year. This was especially fitting as Sue Gower has served for many years on our Advisory Board.

CUPS AND TROPHIES AWARDED

Pilgrim 100m Sprint	Joshua Okoroafor
400m Open (boys)	Callum White
800m Open (boys)	James Mott
Morgan Shield Girl 800m	Jessie Gayler
Junior Victor Ludorum (S2)	Max Gayler
Senior Victor Ludorum	William Chislett

► **SUMMER MUSICAL SHOWCASE**

On 5th July we invited parents to come along to our end of year Music Showcase. The orchestra started off the programme playing 'The Flintstones' and 'Russian dance'. We were then treated to a number of fantastic solo performances and duets from some of the children who had taken part in



our Festival of Music. There were also excellent renditions from our Junior and Senior choirs and the outstanding finale of both of our choirs singing together Symphony by Clean Bandit.

► **SPORTS DAY**

What a fabulous two days of sports. The children competed with great enthusiasm, showing their running, jumping and throwing skills. The parents skipped successfully to the finish line during parents' races. But the highlight of the day was the Tug-of-War. Well done to all of you!





NEW RESPONSIBILITIES IN SCHOOL

► **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

Well done to our newly-elected School Councillors:

- J3** – Zayd Khwaja, Arabella O’Driscoll
- S1** – Joshua Mukanda, Ella Blyth
- S2** – Rafferty Hallam, Navisha Ivaturi
- S3** – Freddie Kimsey, Samuel Ogunsakin
- S4** – Zachary Obasohan, Eva Lawrence

During our last School Council meeting at the end of the Summer Term it was decided that our chosen charity for Autumn Term 2024 would be ‘Little Miss Champion Trust’. This charity raises money to help and support families whose children are patients in children’s hospital.

► **HOUSE CAPTAINS & VICE CAPTAINS:**

- MERTON:** Olivia Uba & Edith Griffiths
- MODERN:** Jada Yuan & Sofia Sukevicius
- SCHOOL:** Alina Habarova & Sienna Michelli

► **SPORT CAPTAINS:**

- Cross Country Captains:** Adrian Popov, Georgia Collings
- Netball Captains:** Milo Vine, Eva Lawrence
- Rugby Captains:** Oscar Chislett, Maysa Aly
- Swimming Captains:** Billy Corrigan, Serena Odiah
- Skiing Captains:** Charlie Darsey, Sophie Smith
- Choir Captains:** Rahul Chaudhari, Aalia Dhillon
- Dance Captains:** Isaiah Obasa, Isabella McCarthy

► **HOUSE EVENT WINNERS:**

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

HEADMASTER’S AWARD WINNERS

Junior J1T and Senior S1M

► **MATHS TERM**

This Summer Term our focus at school has been Maths and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). Events such as House Maths, Maths Spelling Bee and Maths hat competition were all hotly contested as was the Weekly Maths challenge; thank you to everyone who took part. A new event for Maths Term was the Rubik’s Cube Challenge. This really showed the practice children had put in with some really quick times being recorded.

We look forward to making next year’s Maths Term bigger and better!



Eamonn and Maksim

Maths Spelling Bee Winners:

- S4** – Safia Shiraaz
- S3** – Zachary Obasohan
- S2** – Anushree Kominek
- S1** – Samar Jain
- J3** – Owen Tobbell
- J2** – Darshan Patel

Past Events *Summer 2024*



► **S4 RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO SPAIN**

The traditional S4 trip to Spain departed on Monday 10 returning Saturday 15 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 the wonderful Sagrada Familia. The trip created memories to treasure and was part of a fitting send off for the year group.

► FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

Congratulations to everyone who took part in Festival of Music this term. We had a record number of children entering individual categories, which was amazing.

Our class performances took place on Friday with 'Disney' being this term's theme. Well done to all the children for their fantastic performances.



► S4 S1 VISIT TO THE NATIONAL GALLERY, LONDON

S1 had a fantastic day out at the National Gallery in London where they explored the work of Georges Seurat and other post-impressionist artists, favourites including discovering Miss La La by Edgar Degas and Water Lilies by Monet. The highlight was a workshop led by the gallery educators where the children (and adults) learned so much about the paintings.



► S4 LEADERSHIP AND TEAMWORK CHALLENGE

As part of S4 Leadership & Challenge Weeks the children took part in a Home Skills morning. Under the watchful eyes of Mr Price, Mrs Clarke, Mrs Magill and Mr Barley, they had to prepare a three-course meal that they would later eat for lunch. The children were also taught how to iron and sew – valuable skills which all the children really enjoyed. Many thanks to the parents who came in to help out. S4 also completed the Business Challenge – generating profit from in-school activities to support our chosen charity last term. Other challenges included building shelters in Forest School, photography (thank you Mrs Cuervo!), and rifle shooting. Two weeks of real enrichment.



Past Events Summer 2024

► S4 LEGACY GIFT

Thank you so much to our S4 (Yr6) Leavers and their families, for choosing a Magnolia Grandiflora to plant in the newly refurbished front lawn to celebrate the 'strong roots' they have grown during their successful time at Merton.



Abbreviations – places achieved but not taken:

B Bexley Selective Place B-Top Bexley Top 180
 K Kent Selective Place Schol. Scholarship

► LEAVERS 2024

This is a list of all our Year 6/S4 children in the academic year 2023/2024

AGAPOV	Mikhail	Colfe's School (B,K).
AMIN	Shaylan	Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys (K).
ANDERSON	Indy	Wilmington Grammar School for Girls (B,K).
BALNAVES	Nancy	Bromley High School, Farringtons Headmaster's Award, Radnor House Academic Scholarship.
BANERJEE	Anay	Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Barnet (BTop180, K).
CAREW	Tomi	Dartford Grammar School for Girls, Eltham College Scholarship, Farringtons Academic Scholarship, Farringtons Sports Award (BTop180, K).
CHISLETT	William	Colfe's School (K).
COLE	Annie	Cooper's School (K).
COPUS	Oliver	Farringtons School.
EMEZIE	Chinweoke	The Duke of York's Royal Military School (B,K).
FEYITA	Kayla	Cheltenham Ladies College Academic Scholarship, Wycombe Abbey, Benenden School (B,K).
GAYLER	Jessie	Farringtons School Sports Award, Bromley High Sports Scholarship (K).
GRANT	Ivy-Rose	Chislehurst School for Girls.
GRIFFITHS	Molly	Chislehurst School for Girls.
HAMMERTON	Eleanor-Marie	Farringtons School (K).
HARUNANI	Samarah	Townley Grammar School (B,K).
KING	Amelia	Townley Grammar School (B,K).
KUNDI	Kabir	Wilmington Grammar School for Boys (K).
LALL	Sanaya	Weald of Kent Grammar School (K).
LALLI	Amrit	Bexley Grammar School (B,K).
LIU	Ava	Newstead Wood School (BTop180, K).
MALKOV	Savva	St Olave's & St Saviours Grammar School, Savoy Chapel Choristership B,K.
MANANDHAR	Trisha	Townley Grammar School (BTop180, K).
MOTT	Ella	Wilmington Grammar School for Girls (B,K).
MOTT	James	Wilmington Grammar School for Boys (K).
NI	Sophia	Newstead Wood School (B,K).
OKOROAFOR	Joshua	Dartford Grammar School (B,K).
OLUPITAN	Timi	New Beacon School (K).
PAMNANI	Siyena	Chislehurst School for Girls.
RANA	Kavan	Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School (B,K).
RATHORE	Ritvik	Dartford Grammar School (B,K).
SAHOTA	Adess	Colfe's School (K).
SARVESTANI	Alexander	Wilmington Grammar School for Boys, Farringtons Art scholarship (K).
SHIRAAZ	Safia	Bexley Grammar School (B,K).
SINGH	Samar	Wilmington Grammar School for Boys (B,K).
STUPART	Emily	Chislehurst School for Girls.
SUKEVICIUS	Lucas	Sevenoaks School, Eltham College Academic Scholarship (B,K).
WHITE	Callum	Eltham College (B,K).



► **ACADEMIC SUCCESS**

Congratulations to our Class of 23/24 for their many successes at secondary transfer this year. We awarded twenty-five Scholar's ties across the yeargroup for recognition of outstanding academic, dramatic and sporting achievement in external Secondary Transfer examinations and Independent School entrance procedures, representing continued excellent results for School.

School Events Autumn 2024

S3 French Trip to the Battlefields of France and Belgium – Weds 11-Friday 13 September

S3 (Yr 5) had a great educational residential trip to Chateau d'Ebblinghem. High points were certainly the privilege of laying a wreath at the incredibly moving Menin Gate evening service.

We visited the Canadian memorial at Vimy and Wellington Quarry in Arras. This was a great experience for the children of S3 who will be leading our annual Remembrance Service in November.



***Harvest Festival – St John’s Church, Sidcup
– Friday 27 September***

Harvest festival will take place at St John’s Church at 9am. J1 – S4 will take part in the service. All are welcome! 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.

***Festival of Speech & Drama
– Thursday 3 & Friday 4 October***

This will be our only Festival this academic due to our big production in July, so please do encourage your children to ‘have a go’ – you never know how good you are if you don’t try... We welcome parents to attend individual and form performances on both dates. Categories will be sent via ParentMail with details of how to enter your child. Should you have any questions, please contact Mrs F Mepham.

***English Week
– Monday 7 October-Friday 11 October***

Our dual focuses for this term are ‘Refresh your Shelf’ and ‘Writing for Enjoyment’. Our objectives by taking reading as our focus this term are to help the children to: enjoy reading; develop life-long reading habits; enable pupils to fully access the wider curriculum and improve their performance in English, particularly in external exams. For our ‘Refresh your Shelf’ reading focus we will be looking at (relatively) new authors – i.e. from the last 10 years. The rationale behind this is that; the authors will probably have built up a body of work; most parents will not have heard of these authors yet. A recent survey showed that of the nation’s 100 favourite children’s books only five had been published since 2000... J2 will be looking at

Nathan Bryon, J3 at Bethan Woollvin, S1 at Philip Reeve, S2 at Pari Thomson, S3 at Christopher Edge and S4 at Katherine Rundell – all award winning and all brilliant! English week will be from 7th October 2024. On Monday we have our House English Quiz for Seniors, on Tuesday our annual Spelling Bee, on Wednesday we will be collecting pre loved children’s books to donate to the ‘Read for Good’ charity and on Friday we have a Book Character Dressing-Up Day!

The following activities will take place during English Week:

Monday 7th October: House English

Tuesday 8th October: Spelling Bee

***Friday 11th October: Dressing Up Day
‘Favourite Book Character’***

***Remembrance Service
– Friday 8 November at 10am***

Do please come along to our poignant Remembrance Service led by S3 (Yr 5). Parents and family members are most welcome, particularly those in S3 where this year our focus will be ‘Animals of the War’.

***FOMC Bonfire Night – Friday 8 November
– Friday 8 November (6pm-9pm)***

Fireworks are all booked and the bonfire will be ready; all we need is for you to support this ever popular event. Details of tickets sales will follow soon.

***Swimming Championships (S1-S4)
– Friday 15 & Friday 22 November***

All Senior children will have a chance of winning a medal at our popular swimming event over two Fridays. Enter as many events as you like in your yeargroup categories to be in with a chance of a medal and maybe a new school record. The top three boys and top three girls in each event in each yeargroup win. Even if you don’t get a medal, you might get a new Personal Best! Do come

School Events Autumn 2024

along and get involved in a fun couple of afternoons. Remember you have to be in it to win it! Parents are welcome to support. Entry forms out soon.

Parents Evenings

Monday 11 November

– EY, J2MS, J3C, S1A, S2B & S3B

Tuesday 12 November

– J1, J2M, J3H, S1M, S2T, & S3P

These will be conducted face-to-face. Details of times and appointments will be sent after October half term.

Christmas Junior Production

– Thursday 5th (9.15am)

– Friday 6th December (9.15am & 2pm)

Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 11 December

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

Christmas Jumper Day & House Chess

– Friday 13 December

Please send in a £2 donation with your child/ren, which will be donated to this term's nominated charity, Centre Pieces.

Carol Service – Tuesday 17 December

– 6pm-7pm at St John's Church, Sidcup

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

Prizegivings – Wednesday 18 December in the School Hall: Juniors 09.15am & Seniors 11.00am



Extra-Curricular Achievements:



Well done to **Poppy (S4)** whose football team won the Kent U10s Girls shield trophy back in June.

Also well done to **Luka (S3)** who took part in the celebration of the 70th anniversary of Bexley AC. He ran one of the 70 celebratory miles representing the year 1968 together with Paralympic 400m runner Champion Faye Olszowka.

Prospective Parents' Open Opportunities

Open Morning – Saturday 21 September 2024 (9.15am-12noon)

Open Day – Wednesday 20 November 2024 (9.15am-2pm)

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.

Staff Matters

A sad big goodbye to **Mrs Mary Magill**, who has been a cover teacher here for many years. Her versatility, positivity and great humour will be missed. **Mrs Sadie Exford**, who covered Mrs Bays' maternity leave last year, will be replacing Mrs Magill as S4's Teaching Support and Cover Teacher. A big welcome back to **Mrs Connie Bays** who has now returned from maternity leave to teach again in S3.

Playscheme

We are pleased to announce the following Playscheme dates for the academic year ahead:

Easter Playscheme

Monday 31 March - Friday 4 April 2025

Summer Playscheme

Monday 14 July – Friday 8 August 2025



Old Mertonians news

Congratulations on the birth of a new baby girl!
Madeline l'Anson (OM 1993 – 2002).

Lovely to hear of the Nathan Brother's success!



Brandon Nathan (OM 2013 – 2019) has left DGS and has joined Eltham College on a Sports Scholarship for Sixth form, doing Maths, Physics, Econ and EPQ. Whilst **Dylan (OM 2012 – 2014)** is in his

final year at Bayes Business School at City University reading actuarial Sciences.

How lovely for **Krish Rampersad (OM 2011 – 2017)** to drop in and see us. Here he is in front of our Scholars Boards and great to know that **Lara Rampersad (OM 2011 – 2017)** is doing well too.

It was great to hear from **Anthony Chapman (OM 2009 – 2016)** who continued at BETHS for sixth form. He has just finished his first year at Exeter University studying Accounting and Finance.



Fifi Sidiqi (OM 2011 – 2019) who was our Head Girl in 2019, achieved all 9's and an 8 at GCSE and an A in FSMQ. She is doing Physics, Maths and Further Maths, Econ and Latin and St Olaves for her A levels with the aim of going into Computer Engineering.

Fabulous too, to catch up with two of the Sullivan Family (**Mason OM 2005 – 2013**) and **Brandon (OM 2004 – 2011)** over the summer.



Fantastic stuff – very proud of you all!
Remember, all old Mertonians – tell us your news!

'Prom on the Pitch'



'One Two Five'





The Pre-loved Uniform Shop will be open at the Pavilion every Thursday from 8.30am – 9.30am. Its not just for uniform, just pop in for a coffee and chat, especially if you are a family new to the school. If you are unable to attend on a Thursday please email the School Office who will forward any orders to the sales team.



SOME DATES FOR FOMC EVENTS THIS YEAR
FOMC AGM – Wednesday 18 September
Bonfire Night – Friday 8 November
Christmas Bazaar – Friday 29 November
Comedy Night – Friday 7 March
Prom on the Pitch – Thursday 10 July

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.

www.mertoncourtprep.co.uk for any dates and future events throughout 2024 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.