

MERTON COURT news

AUTUMN 2025



Omnia Strenue

IN THIS ISSUE

- 125 Years in Pictures
- 'The Best days of Our Lives'
- Prom on The Pitch
- Summer Prizegiving
- Sports Day
- Black Tie Ball
- Improvements in School
- Past Events
- School Events Autumn 2025
- FOMC News
- Old Mertonians News

Merton Court School
38 Knoll Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 4QU
Telephone: 020 8300 2112
Email: office@mertoncourtprep.co.uk
www.mertoncourtprep.co.uk



WHAT A ONE-DERFUL ONE TWO FIVE!

Who said we were mad to book the O2 Indigo for our end of year 125 production? What a fabulous event it was with all our children from Early Years to Year 6 raising

the roof! A huge thank you to Merton Court pupils, staff & families for their energy and enthusiasm, making it one of the best days of our lives...

Celebrating 125 years of experience, expertise & excellence!



Here is our amazing '125' year in pictures:

Starting with our tree planting ceremony in September and finishing with our whole school mosaic unveiling, we now have a chance to look back and celebrate a glorious 125th year!



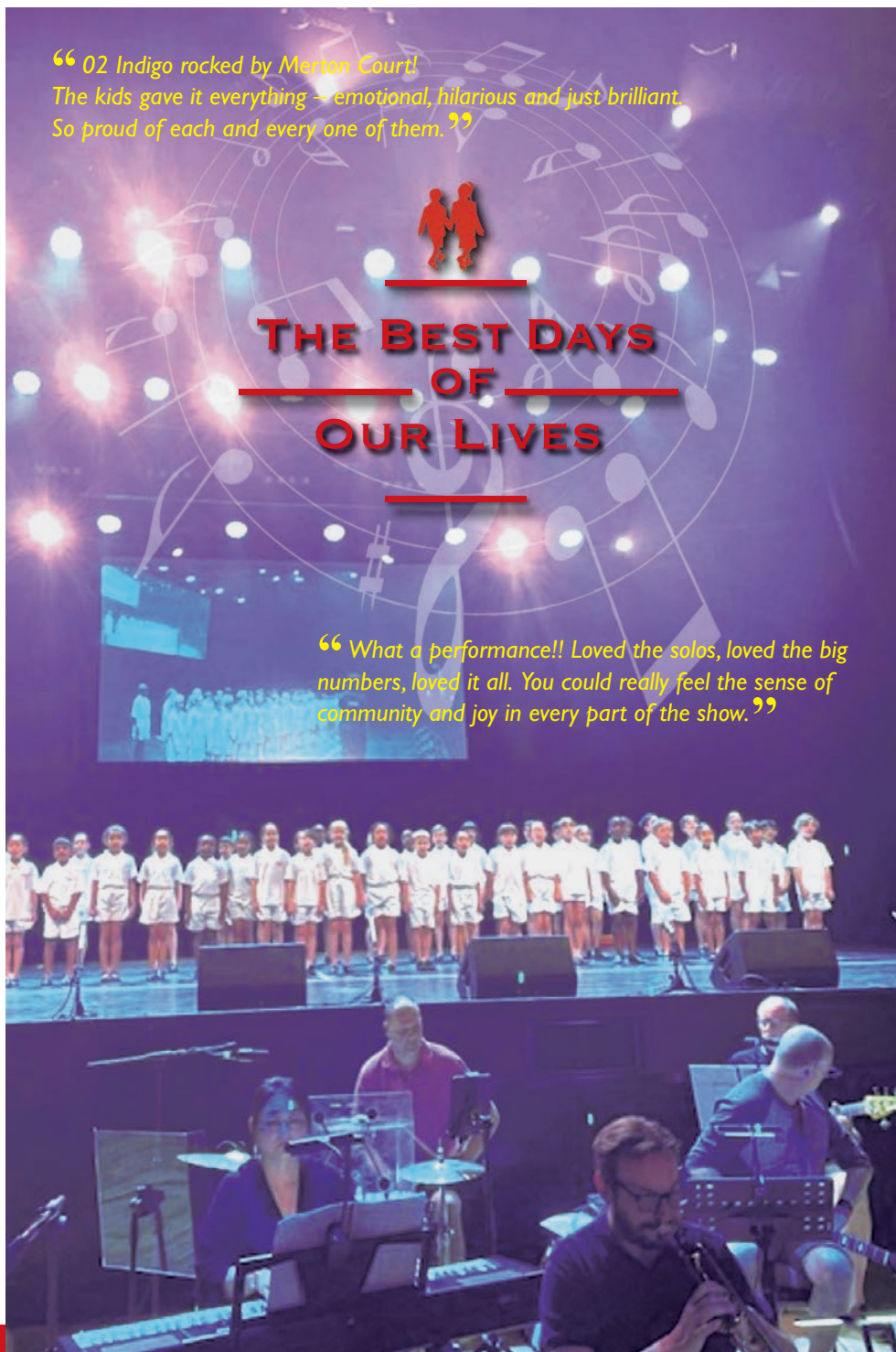


END OF TERM TREE PLANTING, TIME CAPSULE BURYING, FLAG CHANGING AND UNVEILING OF '125' MOSAIC

What a beautiful day to finish our 125th foundation year, with such a flourish. Our Head Boy, Head Girl & Senior Prefects made sure our '125' flag was exchanged for a new 1899 flag. Our Time Capsule Committee, following much thought, buried our time capsule (which is now one of three around the school) and we were delighted to receive two S4 leavers' gifts – a beautiful sundial and a magnolia stellata (meaning 'star') and what stars S4 have been this year! As a lovely surprise, the whole school had prepared a picture they had made for Mr Price to put on his wall following such a fabulous and successful year. Finally, our '125' mosaic was unveiled by the joint-chairs of our PTA (Friends of Merton Court) with every tile having been made and prepared by our children here in school.

WHOLE SCHOOL PRODUCTION 'THE BEST DAYS OF OUR LIVES' AT THE INDIGO, O2

Was booking Indigo O2 too ambitious for a primary school production? Absolutely not! A huge well done and thank you to our whole community for absolutely smashing it. Both performances were unique in different ways but what a fabulous way of celebrating the 125th anniversary of the school's foundation in 1899.



*“O2 Indigo rocked by Merton Court!
The kids gave it everything – emotional, hilarious and just brilliant.
So proud of each and every one of them.”*



THE BEST DAYS OF OUR LIVES

“What a performance!! Loved the solos, loved the big numbers, loved it all. You could really feel the sense of community and joy in every part of the show.”



“Merton Court never fails to impress but this show was on another level! To see the whole school on stage together was just magical. Proud parent moment.”



PROM ON THE PITCH

What an excellent time was had by our school community at this year's FOMC Prom on the Pitch, 'Old Skool' event. An amazing night of music, bouncy inflatables, great food and plenty of dancing. A huge well done to the Friends of Merton Court, for a super-successful event! Great also, to see so many 'Old Mertonians' at 'PROM!' Just a few captured here.



Aidan



Gunit



Oliver



Ritvik, Adess, Samar, Kavan, Joshua & James



SUMMER PRIZEGIVING

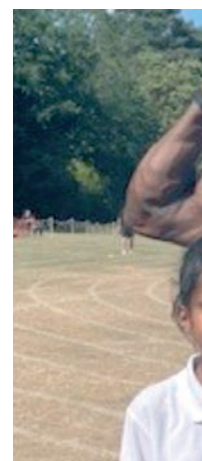
Fabulous once again to have prizegiving open-air for Juniors and Seniors. Our special guest this term was the Mayor of Bexley, Cllr Christine Catterall, who did us the honour of giving away our awards, cups and certificates to celebrate another very successful end to the year. We received a special, new shield from the Uba Family. The 'Head, Hand, Heart' shield which was presented by Olivia to Nadia for her thoughtful, kind and enthusiastic contribution to school life.





SPORTS DAY

Well done to everyone who took part in our four sports days. Well done particularly to Anya & S3 who wrote to the Gladiator 'Nitro' who very kindly came and presented prizes, whilst telling the children about his amazing career in sport and now television. Harry Aikines-Aryeetey was fantastic with everyone and lots of people were able to have a 'selfie' with him! We wish Harry every success, particularly as he is in BBC's 'Strictly Come Dancing' this season.





FOUNDERS WEEK & '125' ART EXHIBITION

Sincere thanks to our fabulous Art Team! Particularly to Mrs Melia for an amazing exhibition of talent. Well done everyone!

It was lovely to see so many visitors and guests (present and past) to our Art Exhibition during this special week, including a new member to our School community, three-week old Edward.





'125' THANKSGIVING SERVICE

What a wonderful event to celebrate our 125th anniversary! School, parents and past pupils joined together for a service of thanksgiving at St John's Church, Sidcup, where S4 told the story of our unique school from 1899 to the present day. It was very moving to hear from past pupils of the school as well, about their memories and reminiscences. Thank you to everyone involved.



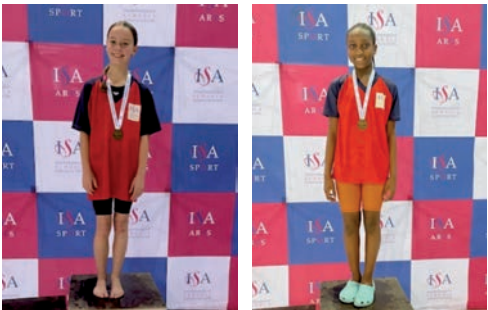
**‘125’ MERTON COURT
BLACK TIE BALL**

Thank you to everyone who came and helped us celebrate our 125th anniversary year at our Black Tie Ball on Saturday evening at the Delta Hotel in Bexleyheath. Thank you to our house band, ‘Lost in Music’ and DJ Tony for the great music that got everyone up dancing!

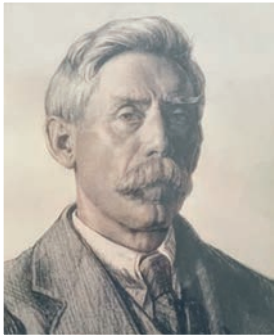
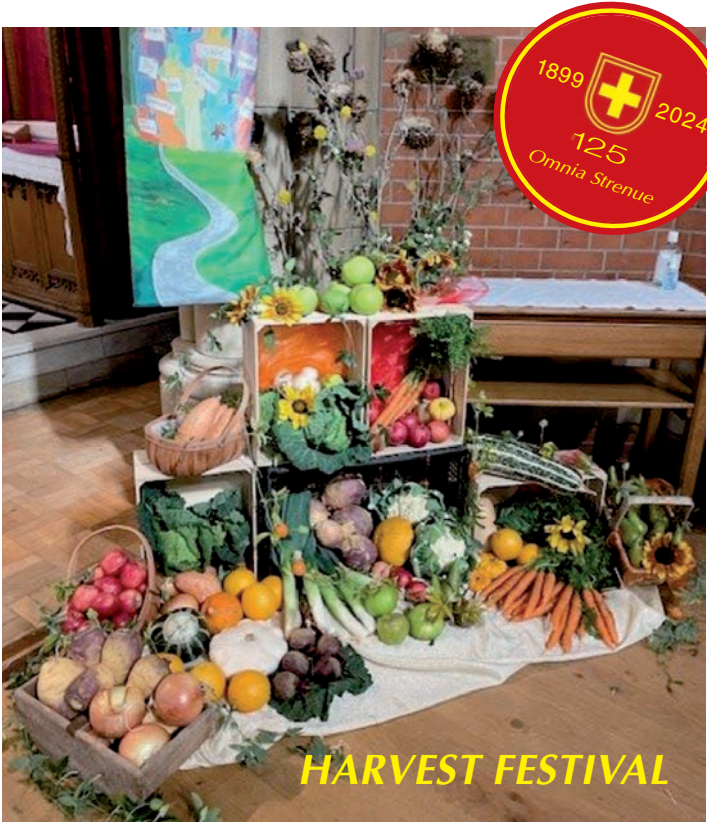




SPORTS ACHIEVEMENTS









We have had a remarkable academic year celebrating 125 years of experience, expertise & excellence!

The two pictures featured here serve to remind us how from passion, enthusiasm and dedication to excellence over 125 years, Merton Court School and it's pupils have flourished in a caring environment and continue to strive to achieve every pupil's full potential. And so the story continues...



IMPROVEMENTS IN SCHOOL

In preparation for our annual Remembrance Service in November, we have refurbished the Memorial Garden adjacent to the Science Room. Thank you particularly to 'Mr Phil', our school gardener, for his inspiring plant choices. This gives us yet more covered spaces and hard landscaping areas to use both in sunshine and in rain.

Tooled Up

We are delighted to remind you that Merton Court subscribes to 'Tooled Up Education'. This gives our families and our staff privileged access to a digital platform that ensures you are staying up-to-date with contemporary issues related to modern-day parenting and that you have access to actionable ideas derived from the highest quality research evidence. 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, visit the secure 'Parents' section. Please call the School Office for password information.

Parking Notice

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. The intention of our 'drop-off zone' is just that; to drop off children in a safe zone where they can be

received by duty staff, using a 'conveyor belt' style of drop-off, to ensure that children can be handed over quickly and efficiently. Please DO NOT park on the right side of the roadway as this blocks the access to the 'drop-off' facility.



For the safety of everyone, please maintain a maximum speed 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.

Dogs *On School Grounds*

Just a reminder that whilst we love our family friends, dogs should be kept on leads at all times on our school fields. Children here should be familiar and comfortable with dogs, as we have

'Buddy' & 'Bonnie', our School dogs, in school (with 'Dug' Mr & Mrs Price's dog also a frequent visitor). However, not everyone is a fan, so please do be mindful of this.

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 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 **cannot** 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. 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' using a mobile phone along with and videoing or photographing inside school grounds at any time is **prohibited**. This also includes 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 & Child Protection 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.

EDI

Our school is committed to creating an environment where everyone feels valued, respected and included. We strive to build a community where differences are celebrated, stereotypes are challenged, and equity is at the heart of everything we do. When your child brings home our newly updated 'B.R.I.D.G.E' SMSC card, please do talk about it. Equally, they will be bringing home a 'Habits of Mind' card (J3-S4). Please put this somewhere at home (on the fridge or the wardrobe?) to talk through the importance of these 'Habits', so School and Home are on the 'same page'...

Bees News

Every cloud has a silver lining....we managed to cultivate three hives last year, but sadly, due to the hot/cold, wet/dry nature of the weather this



year, we lost two hives. Our remaining hive is very healthy though, has got through swarming season, produced a new queen and seems very healthy. We were however, able to 'melt and mash' the comb from the two lost hives making, lots of lovely-tasting honey...

Food & Nutrition

Following on from our Parentmail of 1st September, a gentle reminder that items brought in to celebrate birthdays/religious festivals must be non-edible treats only to share with their classmates. Thank you for your continued support.

Music Department News

We are delighted to be able to offer your child the opportunity to learn a musical instrument at Merton Court. Lessons are available on the following instruments;

- **From J2:** Piano & Strings (violin & cello)
- **From J3:** Guitar & Ukulele, Percussion (drum kit), Woodwind (flute, clarinet, saxophone), Brass (trumpet, trombone, horn) & Singing.

If you would like to request musical instrument lessons, please contact Mrs Faye Tyler via f.tyler@mertoncourtprep.co.uk.

SUMMER TERM AWARDS 2025

Headmaster’s Award Winners:

Junior J1H and Senior S2B & S3P

House Event Winners:

House Rounders	SCHOOL
House Cricket	SCHOOL
House Tug of War	MODERN
House Relay	MERTON
Ellingham Inter House Athletics (Senior)	MERTON
Davies Inter-House Athletics (Junior)	MERTON
House Dodgeball	MODERN
House Golf	MODERN
House Badminton	SCHOOL
House Maths	MERTON
Merit Shield	MERTON

Sporting Cups and Trophies:

Pilgrim 100m Sprint	Serena
400m Open (boys)	Alex
800m Open (boys)	Adrian
Morgan Shield Girl 800m	Georgia
Junior Victor Ludorum (S2)	Isaac
Senior Victor Ludorum	Georgia



NEW RESPONSIBILITIES IN SCHOOL

School Council:

Well done to our newly-elected School Councillors:

S4: Anya & Rahul	S3: Sheen & Amira
S2: Alisha & Jessica	S1: Shiyi & Ella
J3: Blake & Zahara	

House Captains & Vice Captains:

MERTON: Edith	MERTON: Oliver
MODERN: Sofia	MODERN: Millie
SCHOOL: Sienna	SCHOOL: William

Captains:

Cross Country Captains:	Maksim, Amalia
Netball Captains:	Freddie, Anushree
Rugby Captains:	Michael, Sienna
Swimming Captains:	Luka, Sophie
Skiing Captains:	Toby, Annabel-Jemima
Choir Captains:	Oscar, Sofia
Dance Captains:	Rahul, Serah-Joseph

House Badminton

Past Events Summer 2025



► **MATHS TERM**

The summer term saw our focus turn to Maths and it has been full of exciting opportunities to explore mathematics in fun and creative ways. Maths Week kicked off the term with a range of engaging activities, including House Maths, Spelling Bee and Maths Hat day. During Magic Day, a visiting magician amazed everyone while demonstrating the hidden mathematics behind magic tricks, sparking curiosity and critical thinking. Drone Day gave pupils the chance to apply mathematical skills such as measuring, estimating distances, and calculating flight paths as they observed and guided drones in action. To finish the term, the children took part in House Golf, combining teamwork with practical maths like scoring, angles, and estimation to bring the learning outdoors.



MATHS SPELLING BEE WINNERS	
S4 – Dhwani	S1 – Joshua
S3 – Anushree	J3 – Shiyi
S2 – Samar	J2 – Nasir

► S4 RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO SPAIN

Wow! What a fantastic week away to Tossa De Mar with S4 (Year 6). Memorable visits include the Dali Museum at Figueres and the mind-blowing Sagrada Familia in Barcelona. Well done, S4 for your 'Go for it' attitude!



► S4 LEADERSHIP AND TEAMWORK CHALLENGE



For S4's Citizenship Challenge, they went up to London, firstly having a private tour of the Reform Club, Pall Mall to discuss the importance of voting and democracy, then to the Houses of Parliament to have a 'Q and A' session, with our local MP Louie French, who is also Shadow Minister for Culture, Media and Sport. Past Foreign Secretary and old friend of the school, The Right Honourable Sir James Cleverley MP, was also there to chat and meet S4 (Yr6). The children also took part in a Home Skills Challenge. Under the watchful eyes of Mr Price, Mrs Clarke, Mrs Exford and Mr Barley,



Past Events Summer 2025

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 a Business Challenge – in true Dragon’s Den style, generating profit from in-school activities to support our chosen charity, Great Ormond Street Hospital, raising a grand total of £1,000 including a donation from S4 as part of their Leavers gift. Other challenges included building shelters, Forest School Challenge and rifle shooting as well as our very popular ‘I’m a Year 6 Get Me Outta Here...’ including a bush tucker trial (of course!)



King and Queen of the Jungle



Congratulations to our **National English Schools Swimming Association (ESSA) U11 Winners:** Olivia, Serena, Eden & Georgia. This is the second time in recent years that we have been National U11 Champions, last time in 2018 with our Boys Medley Team and now it was the turn of the girls to step up. Fabulous stuff! Well done to them and also their dedicated coach, our very own Mrs Walsham!



And well done to **Kady (S2)** who received three gold medals for 60m, 200m and long jump at Bexley Athletics Club Competition in June.



► **ACADEMIC SUCCESS**

Congratulations to our Class of 24/25 for their many successes at secondary transfer this year. We awarded thirty Scholar's ties across the year-group 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.



Past Events Summer 2025

► LEAVERS 2025

This is a list of all our Year 6/S4 children in the academic year 2024/2025

ALY	Maysa	Colfe's School (B, BHS, K).
ALY	Nuralayn	Colfe's School (Ac Schol) (B, BHS Ac Schol, K, N).
ARUN	Dhwani	Bexley Grammar School (BT180, K).
CHAUDHURI	Rahul	Colfe's School (K, RH Ac Schol).
CHEN	Nadia	St Paul's Cathedral School (B, K).
CHISLETT	Oscar	Colfe's School (K).
COLLINGS	Georgia	Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School (B, K, RH Sp Schol & Ac Schol).
CONSTANTINOU	Tiago	Babington House (B Chal Art Schol).
CORMACK	Poppy	Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School (B, K).
CORRIGAN	Billy	Radnor House (Academic Scholarship) (K).
DARSEY	Charlie	Farringtons School (K).
DHESI	Chandani	Newstead Wood School (B, K).
DHILLON	Aalia	Townley Grammar School (B,K).
GREENSLADE	Alexander	BETHS Grammar School (B, K).
HABAROVA	Alina	Wilmington Grammar School for Girls (B, K).
HARGREAVES	James	Radnor House.
HOOKINGS	James	Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School (B, K).
KHUNDOEVA	Altana	Bexley Grammar School (BT180, K, N).
LAWRENCE	Eva	Newstead Wood School (BT180, K).
LEWIS	Logan	Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys (B, K).
LI	Yixiang	St Olave's & St Saviours Grammar School (B, K, QE).
LORKINS	Eden	Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School (B, K).
McCARTHY	Isabella	Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School (B, K, N).
MITEV-RATHNAYAKE	Michael	BETHS Grammar School (B, K).
OBASA	Isaiah	Bexley Grammar School (B, K).
OBASOHAN	Zachary	Bexley Grammar School (BT180, C Ac Schol, K).
ODIAH	Serena	Sevenoaks School (F Sp. Schol, K, RH Sp & Ac Schol).
PARKER	Charleigh	Chislehurst School for Girls.
POPOV	Adrian	Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School (B, K).
SMITH	Sophie	Blackfen School for Girls (K).
STOKES	Parker	Leigh Academy, Blackheath.
TANG	Emily	City of London School for Girls (BT180, K, N, JAGS).
TANG	Emma	City of London School for Girls (BT180, K, N, JAGS).
UBA	Olivia	Newstead Wood School (B, K, RH Ac Schol, Ca).
VINE	Milo	Dartford Grammar School for Boys (B, K).
YOUNG	Sammie	Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School (B, K).
YUAN	Jada	Newstead Wood School (B, K).

Abbreviations – places achieved but not taken:

B – Bexley Selective Place
BT180 – Bexley Top 180
BHS – Bromley High School

B Chal – Bishop Challoner School
C – Colfe's School
Ca – Caterham School

EC – Eltham College
F – Farringtons
JAGS – James Allen's Girl's School
K – Kent Selective Place

M – Medway Selective Place
N – Newstead Wood
QEG – Queen Elizabeth's Grammar
RH – Radnor House

Schol. – Scholarship
Sev – Sevenoaks
STO – St Olave's & St Saviour's Grammar School

School Events Autumn 2025

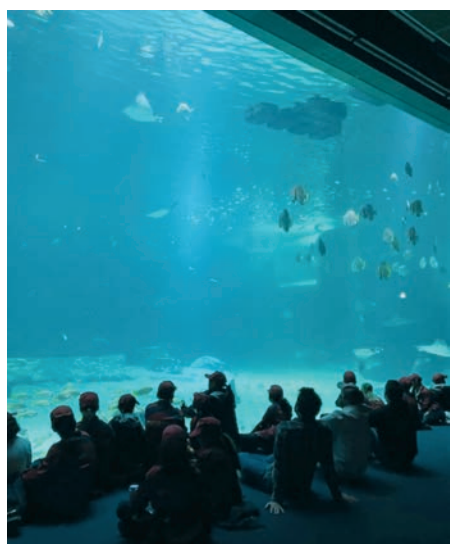
S3 French Trip to the Battlefields of France and Belgium

Wednesday 10 – Friday 12 September

S3 (Yr 5) had a super educational residential trip to Chateau d'Ebbelinghem. High points were certainly the privilege of presenting our School colours and of laying a wreath at the incredibly moving Menin Gate evening service, where we met some Canadian soldiers from the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, who had served in Afganistan and were also at Menin Gate to lay a wreath for a First World War soldier from their regiment who had at last got a headstone, as he had been identified through relatives DNA.

This year, as well as Hill 62 and Bayenwald, we also visited Essex Farm Cemetery, probably the most visited WW1 Cemetery as it contains the youngest British casualty, Valentine Joe Strudwick, who died in the trenches at the age of 15. Next to Essex Farm is the Medical Triage Post where Dr John McCrae served. He wrote the famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

Well done to S3, particularly for a poignant reading aloud of this famous poem actually at Essex Farm as was first done in 1915. We also managed to visit the beautiful Cathedral of St Omer and the fascinating Nausicaa Sea Life Centre in Boulogne, as well as the awesome Vimy Ridge Canadian Memorial.



School Events Autumn 2025

Prospective Parents' Open Opportunities **Open Day – Wednesday 19 November** **(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.

Staff Matters

A big welcome back to Mrs Jo Tatum who has now returned from maternity leave, and is providing teaching support in S1.

Parent Zoom – ISI Inspection **Wednesday 24 September at 7pm**

Mr Price and our Leadership Team will be talking through the process of ISI inspection and the importance of parent support with this, in preparation for our regular three year ISI inspection that is due later in the term. Please do join the Zoom.

EY – S1 'How's It Going?' coffee & a chat in After School Club

We will be holding these sessions for each year-group. The dates are as follows:

S1: Tuesday 30 September at 9.00am

EY: Wednesday 1 October at 8.45am

J3: Tuesday 7 October at 9am

J1: Wednesday 8 October at 9am

J2: Tuesday 14 October at 9am

Grab a coffee from the tuck shop and come and join us!

Harvest Festival – St John's Church, Sidcup **Friday 26 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 2 & Friday 3 October**

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 Fiona Mephram. Class Performances will be on Friday 3 October – Junior Performances at 1.40pm and Senior Performances at 2.30pm. Please do come along and support the children!

English Week

Monday 6 October – Friday 10 October

This term our English week is all about 'Oracy, Articulacy and Vocabulary Development.' We have a variety of events happening this week including:

- Monday 6 October – House English & MFL Quiz. J2/J3 9.00am S1/2 9.30am, S3/4 10.00am.
- Tuesday 7 October – Spelling Bee; a mega spelling test to establish a yeargroup spelling champion.
- Wednesday 8 October – This is our 'Donate a Book Day'. We would ask you & your child to select a favourite book that you would like to share with others. Try to do something really difficult – part with a book that you genuinely cherish. Please feel free to write a note to the new reader of the book. Spread the love!
- Thursday 9 October – 'Speak-up day' A chance for the children to have a debate, show & tell or to hear from the class experts.

- Friday 10 October – Harry Potter dressing-up day – the children should come to school dressed as one of their favourite characters, preferably with a copy of the book too! A £2 donation please, to go to this term's charity Sarcoma UK (<https://sarcoma.org.uk>)

Reading Ambassadors

We have recently introduced Reading Ambassadors to the school.

The children have been chosen for their love of reading, their willingness to share this passion with others and their enthusiasm to promote reading throughout the school.

Responsibilities will include:

- Promote a love of reading across the school.
- Recommend books to others and talk about their favourite authors.
- Demonstrate exemplary reading behaviours and be an excellent role model for others.
- Support pupils with reading at suitable times.

Library Book Boxes

To further promote reading in school, every class now has a portable library book box. This is a fantastic new resource that will help to encourage reading throughout the school and can be used both inside and outside the classroom. We would like to thank the FOMC for providing the funds allowing us to purchase new books for these boxes as well as new stock for the school library.



Remembrance Service

Friday 7 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 'VE & VJ Day'.



FOMC Bonfire Night

Friday 7 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 14 & Friday 21 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 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 10 November

– EY, J2MS, J3C, S1A, S2B & S3B

Tuesday 11 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 4 (9.15am) and

Friday 5 December (9.15am & 2pm)

School Events Autumn 2025

Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 10 December

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

Christmas Jumper Day, House Chess and Santa Fun Run

Friday 12 December

After last year's successful Santa Fun Run we have decided to do it all again! Sponsorship forms will be sent out after half term and proceeds will go to this term's chosen charity, Sarcoma (UK).

Carol Service

*Tuesday 16 December – 6pm-7pm
at St John's Church, Sidcup*

This compulsory event for J1 to S4 children to enjoy is always a lovely way to bring our Autumn Term to an end. We look forward to you sharing this special family event with us, in preparation for a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Prizegivings

*Wednesday 17 December
in the School Hall – Juniors 09.15am
– Seniors 10.45am*



The FOMC welcome everyone to their Parent Hub, a great addition to their pre-loved uniform shop, which also hosts a tuck shop on a Friday after school.

'Pre-loved' Uniform Sale – **Thursdays from 8.30am – 9.15am at the Pavilion.** If you are unable to make Thursdays for any reason, please send any uniform requests to the School Office.

As always, FOMC extends 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.

SOME FURTHER DATES FOR FOMC EVENTS THIS YEAR

Bonfire Night – Friday 7 November-
Christmas Bazaar – Friday 28 November
May Ball – Saturday 2 May
Prom on the Pitch – Thursday 9 July

Playscheme

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

Easter Playscheme

Tuesday 7 April – Friday 10 April 2026

Summer Playscheme

Monday 13 July – Friday 7 August 2026



Old Mertonians news • Old Mertonians news • Old Mertonians news •

It has been wonderful to see so many OM's return for our 125th anniversary events last term and hear how they are thriving at secondary school or their chosen careers. Fantastic stuff – very proud of you all!



Gianna, Layla & Ayla



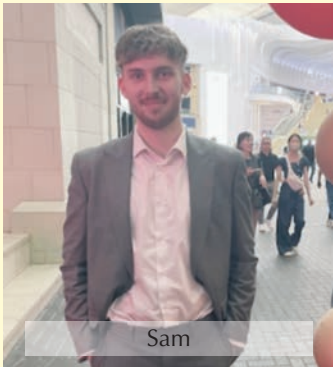
Indy, Jessie, Eleanor, Ivy-Rose, Siyena, Oliver C, Oliver S-S, Olivya & Sofia



Olivia, Luke, Isaac & George



Mrs Jean Jones and Mrs Debbie Saunders



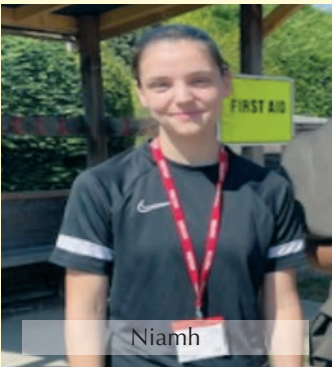
Sam



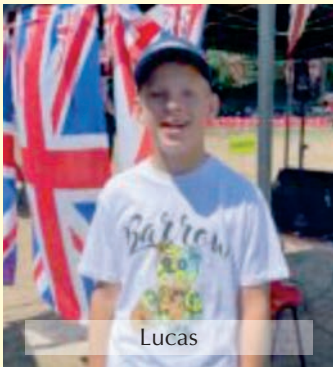
Evie



Ava & Ivy



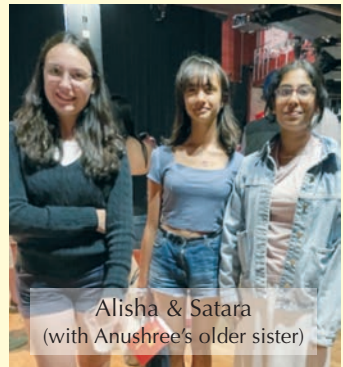
Niamh



Lucas



Alicia Keogh-Leigh and Mrs Sue Chuek



Alisha & Satara (with Anushree's older sister)



Mrs Milan Jong



Daisy



Emma



Savva

Old Mertonians news • Old Mertonians news • Old Mertonians news •

Old Mertonians news • Old Mertonians news • Old Mertonians news



Huge congratulations on three Merton Court weddings this August, **Cally Macdonald (OM 1990-1997)** and her husband Matt, **Alex Longley (OM 1995-2003)** and his wife Olivia and **Ellie Price (OM 1996-1997)** and her husband Alex.



Great to see **Adam Ferris (OM 1995-2003)** (who still holds some of our swimming records!) He popped into see us whilst he was home visiting from the UAE, where he is currently working in a

British school as Head of Sports and Sports Strategy.

Great also to see **Sammy Chappell (OM 2015-2021)** who popped in to say hello! Sammy is currently studying at Bexley Grammar.



We were thrilled to learn that **Safia Hamad (OM 2013-2021)** who went to Wilmington Grammar has been nominated for Best Supporting Actress in a TV series by The National Film Academy for her performance in



'Crongton'! It's an extraordinary achievement for her first major role, and her parents couldn't be prouder.

Great also to see Jonnie **Langton (OM 2006-2014)**, who went to BETHS and **Rob Dunk (OM 1996-2003)**



along with **Ted Burke (OM 1994-2003)** who went to St Olaves & St Saviours at Alex Longley's wedding. In true Merton Court tradition, Rob was Alex's best man at his wedding.

Great to hear news of the Griffin-Beat family, **Emma (OM 2000-2003)**, **Sam (OM 2000-2005)** and **Alice (OM 2002-2008)**

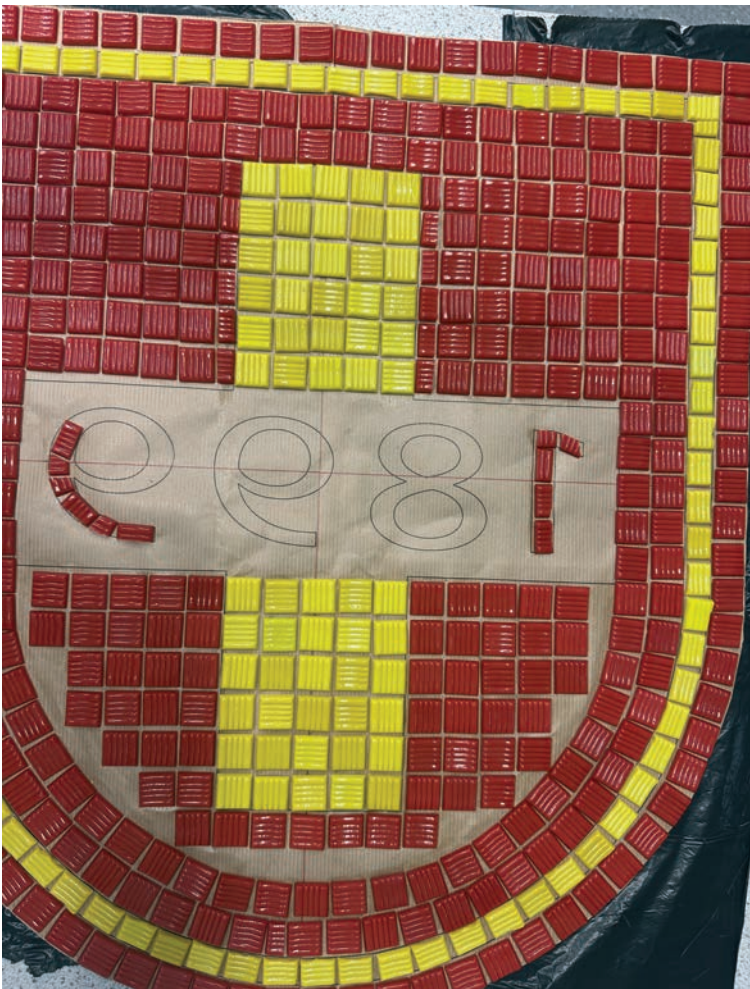
Well done to **Arnav Kadirehally (OM 2011-2018)** who since going to Dartford Grammar has now gone up to UCL to read Economics.

Sam Bowditch (OM 2020-2017) following Farringtons, had an amazing gap year, including teaching English in the Galapagos Islands, is now off to uni at Royal Holloway. Lovely to see so many OM's coming back to complete work placements here this summer: **Charlie Wilson**, **Alisa Habarova**, **Mikun Palmer**, **Joe Brady**, **Emma Eletsikh** and **Onali Jayawardhena** to help out at Summer Playscheme. Particular congratulations also to **Niamh Cartwright (OM 2016-2018)** who is off to college in Iowa on a Soccer Scholarship. Her brother **Morgan Cartwright (OM 2014-2016)** is at Durham University.

Lovely news from **James Copeland (OM 1991-1999)** that he has opened Polipo-Ristorante in Imperia in San Remo, Italy.

Old Mertonians news • Old Mertonians news • Old Mertonians news





Spring 2026 Future Dates for Your Diary:

Staff Meeting – Monday 5 January

Staff INSET – Tuesday 6 January

Spring Term Begins – Wednesday 7 January

Clubs Registration – Friday 9 January

Prospective Parents' Open Morning

Saturday 17 January (9am – 12 noon)

Half Term

14 February – 22 February (inclusive)

Science Week – Monday 23 – Friday 27 February

S3 Parents' Evenings

Tuesday 3 March & Wednesday 4 March

S2 Parents' Evenings

Monday 9 March & Tuesday 10 March

S4 Cycling Proficiency Week

Monday 9 – Friday 13 March

S1/S2 House Netball – Monday 9 March

S3/S4 House Netball – Wednesday 11 March

S4 Secondary Transfer Assess Evening

Thursday 12 March

S4 Bring and Buy – Friday 13 March

Festival of Dance (Individual) – Thursday 19 March

Festival of Dance (Individual & Class)

Friday 20 March (Juniors 1.40pm & Seniors 2.30pm)

FOMC Easter Bonnet Competition

Monday 23 March

S1 – S4 House Football – Monday 23 March

S1 – S4 House Hockey – Tuesday 24 March

6-a-side Hockey Play-offs – Wednesday 25 March

Spring Prizegiving – Friday 27 March

Juniors 9.15am

Seniors 10.45am

End of Term – Friday 27 March (12 noon)

Please do check our website www.mertoncourtprep.co.uk for any dates and future events throughout 2025 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.



Celebrating 125 years of experience, expertise & excellence!