

MOOR HOUSE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER –DECEMBER 2009

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the December newsletter.

YEAR 11s VISIT GUILDFORD FOR THE FIREWORKS AND FUNFAIR - 5TH NOVEMBER 2009

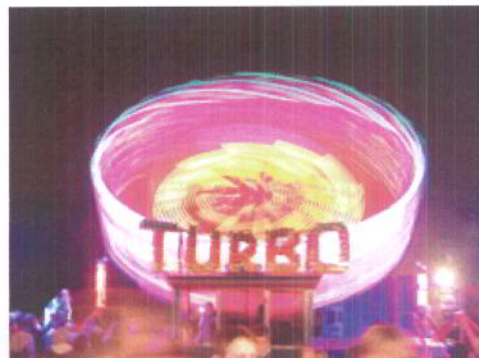
On the evening of November 5th members of Year 11 had the opportunity to go to Guildford to enjoy the Fireworks and Funfair at Stoke Park.



The weather was appropriately cold for November, and the rain did lash down at certain points, but this did not stop everyone having a good time as you can see from the photos.



Students enjoyed the Gravitron zero-gravity 'Turbo' ride, the Funhouse, the Pendulum Double-Arm Ranger and the Scrambler, amongst others, before taking a position on the hill to watch the colourful and explosive fireworks display. Can you see any of the students on the rides?



Although there was no roaring bonfire to warm everyone up - probably a casualty of health and safety, but at least Guy Fawkes managed to not be sacrificed - there was the opportunity for everyone to enjoy a mug of hot chocolate at the end of the evening, thus concluding a really fun night out.

Many thanks to Jane Vallance for co-leading this evening activity.

by Mr. Hart

MOOR HOUSE SINGERS AT THE GOLF CLUB

On Tuesday 8th December the Moor House Singers performed at the Limpsfield Golf Club. The Moorhouse Singers are, Alex Wride, Megan Nardini, Chantelle Lawton, Seb Smith, Gemma Cox and Oliver Riley. They were invited to sing as the entertainment, following the Golf Club Members' Christmas Lunch. The singers gave a fantastic performance of a variety of Seasonal songs including 'Rocking Around the Christmas Tree', 'Jingle Bell Rock' and 'Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer'. Considering that this group has only recently formed, they did remarkably well and were very enthusiastically received by the members. The members joined in the singing and a jolly time was had by all. Following the performance The Captain of the Golf Club, Richard Taylor, presented the school with a cheque for £3000. The school has been their nominated charity for the past two years. My thanks go to Mrs Newman for putting the wonderful song books together, to Miss Gerety who supported the occasion and of course the students themselves who make me very proud.

S Hardman

NESSY FINGERS TYPING PROGRAMME.

We have replaced Type 2 Learn 3 typing programme with Nessy Fingers.

Nessy is a UK based company that has been making fun educational software for children since 1999.

They work closely with Bristol Dyslexia Centre to ensure that all the Nessy titles are especially helpful for dyslexics.

It aims to increase touch typing skills and to improve accuracy and speed.

The programme is being taught to key stage 2, 3 and year 10 students.

Baseline data has been collected for each class and is being reviewed.

The students are especially enjoying the games that make learning fun.

As students complete each level, a trophy or rosette is shown on their profiles to boost incentive for learning.

TRAINING FOR LEARNING MENTORS AT MOOR HOUSE

Recently I attended a 6 day course regarding the role of a Learning Mentor. This Learning Mentor is a relatively new staff role in schools and they provide a complementary service to teachers and other staff, addressing the needs of children who require assistance in overcoming barriers to learning in order to achieve their full potential. Barriers can include bullying, challenging behaviour and loss and bereavement.

This week I attended a further two day course, which will ultimately lead to the accreditation of my previous Learning Mentor course. The course was run by two trainers from the organisation called The Place 2 Be. During the two days of training we explored many topics that will assist with my role as a Learning Mentor at Moor House School. Amongst the varied topics covered we were asked to draw upon our own personal experiences in our lives and acknowledge how these could influence the decisions we make and the work we carry out with different students.

I am now in the process of writing a 14 day reflective journal and a 1000 word essay that will be assessed by one of the trainers from the course, which will determine if I become an accredited Learning Mentor. I will meet with one of the trainers on February 4th 2010 to discuss my submitted journal and essay, to receive feedback and to ultimately gain the decision concerning my accreditation.

I am looking forward to this challenge!

Jane Vallance

FUN SCIENCE COURSE

Paul Kitchen attended a Lighthouse one day course "Science Activities To Engage And Stimulate Pupils With Special Needs" on 9 December.

This course, run by Dr Mark Biddiss www.dr-mark.co.uk was exactly as described in the title, ie. curriculum-related fun activities and demonstrations that encouraged students to observe and explain natural phenomena. All were practical but did not rely upon detailed knowledge to be able to explain; they also had the benefit of requiring little or no-cost equipment, and could be set up quickly. We were shown and took part in about 15 different activities – some of which I had seen and used, but most not.

It stimulated plenty of ideas and was highly motivating; 2 CD ROMs have been ordered for the school (discount cost £40), with over 100 more similar demos which will be used in future lessons.

Highly recommended.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

There were two sittings for Christmas lunch this year. Key Stages Two and Three had their lunch on Monday 14th December and Key Stage Four on Tuesday 15th December. Following the lunch the traditional raffle caused great excitement and anticipation and some lucky students won prizes. Guests included former members of staff and Trustees and Governors. A jolly good time was had by all.



NEW NAMES FOR HOUSES

Students have voted through their School Council representatives to change the names of the houses.

From now on

Red House will be known as **Obama** House, Yellow will be **Mandela** House, Green will be **Churchill** House and Blue will be **Nelson** House.

We hope the choice of names of such inspirational leaders will encourage all students to strive to achieve their full potential.

Already the inert house rivalry has become apparent.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

This term the new School Council was formed. In an election day run as a true to life experience for the students, all class representatives and Chair were voted in. Megan Nardini was voted Chair with Clark Townley as her deputy. So far both have done a brilliant job of chairing the meetings. Clark has especially risen to the challenge and takes his duties very seriously.

The School Council aims to meet every other week and hold a 30 minute meeting to talk through a pre agreed agenda. This seems to be working well. So far they have agreed the following:

- Name for outdoor learning area as the shed.
- New names for all houses as Nelson, Obama, Mandela and Churchill.
- They have voted for a pool tournament.
- Worked with residential to produce an After School Club Leaflet.
- Produced a T Towel to sell and raise funds.
- Run a mufti day and raised £93 for the British Red Cross.
- Supported a national anti- bullying day by wearing blue.
- Agreed a time for lower school to play football in the cage on their own (Monday and Thursday).
- Produced invitations for Christmas Lunch.

- Launched an email address.
- Attended the Local Federation meeting

In addition they have worked with the PSA to choose a snakes and ladders game to be painted onto the playground for the whole school use. This was agreed with the last school council. Many thanks to the PSA for their generosity.

Other projects we are still working on include:

- Working with residential to possibly provide privacy curtains for all students that want them.
- Meeting with Terry to discuss possible changes or improvements to food provided.
- Discussion on a possible Winter sports day.
- Providing each class with a box for suggestions or ideas to be put in. (ready for Spring term).
- Possibility of running a regular movie night for KS2/3 in the conference room.

It has been a pleasure working with the group. They are a very positive and upbeat group who consider the good of all the students at school and not just their own personal views.

COME DINE WITH ME

This term saw the launch of the school's very own Come Dine With Me competition to find the best cook in each year group. Last half term the Year 11 students took part and Tom Gerrard won with a fantastic cheesecake. This term the Year 10 students took part. The task for all students is to cook a meal/ dish for under £5 that will feed 4 people. Entries have included some festive mince pies and spicy hot curries. The winner for the year 10s was Jon Haslett who made a chicken curry from scratch. All adults working with these students have found their enthusiasm a delight and the dishes produced are at a very high standard. Well done! Good luck to the Year 9 and 8s who will have a chance to take part next term.

Mrs Laki Lee

Year 11 Educational Visit to the Anish Kapoor Exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts

On Thursdays the students in Key Stage 4 have 'Flexible Learning Day'. For Year 11s this normally means going to East Surrey College where students have been taking part in a range of courses including Media Studies, Floristry and Catering.

Thursday 10th December started off as normal with students going to East Surrey College for the last week of college of the term; the Floristry Group made table decorations using Christmas foliage, while the Catering Group made Christmas Chocolate Logs (which were absolutely delicious).

However for the afternoon session everyone headed into London to an exhibition by the internationally acclaimed artist Anish Kapoor, winner of the 1991 Turner Prize and hailed as one of the most influential and pioneering sculptors of his generation.



This exhibition was being held at the Royal Academy of Arts, and the first amazing exhibit was on show in the courtyard outside. As you can see above it was made from hundreds of highly polished mirrored spheres (balls) that interlink and rise up into the sky, infinitely reflecting and repeating the surroundings while disorientating and distorting the viewer. The name of the piece - 'Tall Tree and The Eye' - felt very appropriate.

On entry into the main exhibition we came across an enormous sculpture made of metal with a cavernous opening, which boggled the mind because it seemed enormous from one angle, but when moving around the side it seemed impossibly narrower. It made you want to climb inside to see what it would be like within it!





Following on from that we came across possibly the most famous piece in the exhibition, called 'Shooting Into The Corner'. This installation had a metal cannon as its centrepiece, and every 20 minutes a block of red wax would be loaded into it and then fired out of it with an explosive BOOM... the wax would spatter against the wall and fall into a sea of red created from the earlier firings. As much a piece of theatre as a piece of art, this was violent and shocking but somehow simultaneously enjoyable and fun.

[You can see a video clip of 'Shooting Into the Corner' by clicking here.](#)



Also in the exhibition we saw the enormous work Svayambh, which is a word from the Sanskrit language which means 'Self Generated'. A massive block of red pigment travelled on an invisible conveyer belt as it passed through intricate archways on its journey through five separate rooms. Each time the block passed through an archway it was sculpted by the archway, with bits of red wax sloughing off and landing on the floor... a bit like the biggest Play-Doh set you have ever seen!



On top of all this was a giant yellow work which literally caved into the wall, and a number of curved mirrored surfaces, all of which distorted the viewer's notion of form and space - a hallmark of Kapoor's work.

While a lot of modern art can seem pointless, nobody could deny that the sculptures in this exhibition were fun, unique and interesting, and it shows that art is something that anybody can enjoy and take an interest in.

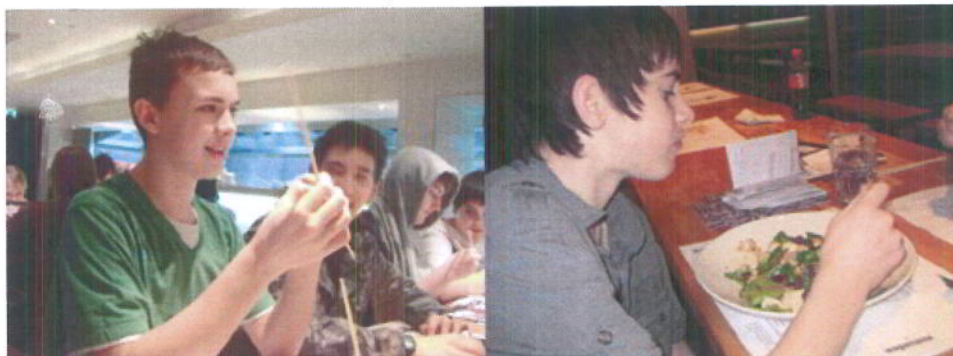


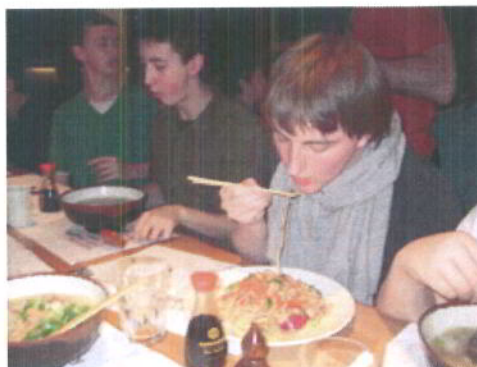
After the exhibition we travelled on the London Underground to Tower Hill where we went ice-skating outside The Tower of London. This was an ASDAN Challenge

to try a new sport, and even the most nervous of ice-skaters gave it a go and realised that they could do it! Mrs. Greig displayed acrobatic finesse and impressed everyone with her ability to skate backwards as well as forwards, while Mr. Hart showed very limited ability and will clearly have to keep practising if he hopes to join Team GB in 2012.



As the sun set and the evening became chilly we headed off to our final activity for the evening - a meal out at nearby restaurant Wagamama, which serves pan-Asian food in the style of a Japanese Ramen Noodle bar. Students behaviour was impeccable and everybody was enthusiastic to try different and new kinds of food - especially the side dishes which were provided 'on the house' - thanks Wagamama!





The general consensus was that the food was delicious; although Hong did point out that the reason they offer Green Tea for free is probably because it's just 'crushed up leaves in some hot water'. On this he is absolutely correct! Tom B. also made the point that smaller people can have huge appetites, putting away enough food to feed a small army!

All in all this was a thoroughly interesting and enjoyable day out and marked a very positive end to the Autumn Term for the Year 11s. This activity would not have been possible without the dedication and support of the Year 11 Staff who worked extended hours to make it happen, so thanks are due to Mrs. Greig, Mrs. Vallance, Miss Gerety, Miss Campbell and Miss Murphy.

Report by Mr. Hart

The Royal Opera House

On the 11th December 2MP 3O and 3H and their class teams attended a performance of two ballets, Les Patineurs and The Tales of Beatrix Potter. This was performed by the Royal Ballet.

We travelled up to Charing Cross by train to give the students an opportunity to practice their travel skills. There were many games of "who can find the Way Out sign?" After a short walk to Covent Garden we arrived at the Opera House and we ate our lunch in the Floral Hall. This in it's self is a very impressive venue to eat your packed lunch.

As we entered the auditorium there were many ooohs and aaaahs as the students took in the impressive scene. They were completely entranced for the next two hours! It was a joy to watch their faces both students and staff!

This was a large group of students at the younger end of the school and I was particularly impressed with their conduct both around London and in the Opera House. As usual they were a pleasure to take out and true ambassadors of the school. Many staff were involved in this trip and that is what made it a most successful outing. I would like to thank them for their continued support.

S Hardman