



# **Moor House School News and Events**

## **WELCOME TO THE MAY NEWSLETTER**

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## **Moor House School Buddy / Mentoring Programme**

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> of May the Moor House School Mentors and Buddies thoroughly enjoyed the inaugural 'Mentor / Buddy Programme Cricket Match'.

All students enjoyed their lunch sitting outside soaking up the English sunshine. Smiling faces and continuous chatter created a friendly, fun and supportive atmosphere.

Following lunch the Cricket Match began. Mentors were paired with their buddy and participated in fielding and batting. There was a real team spirit amongst Buddies and Mentors and the day saw bowling, batting and fielding styles that would have made the English Cricket Team Proud.

We were disappointed that Mike was unable to attend but absolutely thrilled that Harry had decided to stay for the lunch (and what a player he was).

This event truly showed that this scheme is not a one term wonder but lasts the whole academic year. It has clearly enabled buddies to settle into life at Moor House School and develop and maintain friendships with students of varying ages and also the confidence to move onto the next stage at school. It has also given the Mentors invaluable leadership skills to prepare them for their futures.

This Summer Event is sure to become an annual highlight of the school year.

The Programme welcomes Ryan and Jonathon and congratulates to Tom and Katrina for receiving 'Mentor of the Month' awards for the months April and May respectively.

We are looking forward to our End of Year Celebrations in June in which we will thank and farewell the Mentors.



Report by Lisa Campbell, Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist.

### **Residential Visit to Hindleap Warren Activity Centre - 2011**

From Monday April 4<sup>th</sup> to Friday April 8<sup>th</sup> all of our Year 9 students took part in a week of activities based at Hindleap Warren, a centre deep in the heart of Ashdown Forest. They were accompanied by members of staff: Rob Mayes, Debbie Clark, Sue Brady, Sasha Willis and Darren Heine (whole week), Natascha Hunter (Mon-Wed) and Karen Golby (Wed-Fri). We were pleased that both Hilary Nicoll and Mary Jennings were each able to spend two days with us.

We were fortunate in having a predominantly dry week with the temperature getting progressively warmer so that by Friday, shorts, T shirts and sun cream were much in evidence. The absence of April showers didn't mask the fact that there was still plenty of plenty of the black, sticky stuff much loved by Hindleap devotees to negotiate.

The students were faced with some very challenging activities during the course of the week. Many of these were physically demanding - climbing trees / walls, negotiating obstacle courses (including a number of very wet and muddy tunnels), archery and walking through large tracts of the forest. The "Forest Adventure" saw us negotiate the perils of "Drop Bears" and "Rubbicus Aloticus" and the rather more real challenge of wading through a section of the waterways that run their course through the grounds of the centre.

There were, additionally, a number of tasks that were mentally taxing: map reading and orienteering, working as a team to solve a variety of problems posed by the instructors etc. The students also learnt a great deal about the flora and fauna of the forest and sustainable development. A session of Pond Dipping enabled us to try and use our skills of identification on a range of beetles, snails and larvae – whilst the Forest Walk provided us with deer, wood ant nests and the chance to get up close to a range of animal droppings and footprints!

The response of the students to these challenges was excellent and they were complimented on many occasions by the Hindleap staff as to their spirited approach and fortitude. For much of the week, our time was spent outdoors and the combination of fresh

air and exercise fostered healthy appetites. Whilst I was a shade embarrassed at our students' ability to be first in the queue for "second helpings", it was good to see them take advantage of the excellent food on offer.

It was a super week in which the students learnt a great deal – in particular how to work together and how to overcome fears. They came back very tired but with a real sense of achievement. As for the staff, they were left to contemplate how much of the holiday it would take to recover!

Rob Mayes

## ICT EXAMINATION NEWS

We are introducing the OCR Nationals to KS3 in Year 9. This Year 9 cohort has recently started on the GCSE Equivalent ICT course. The students will benefit from having an additional term to complete the coursework-based program of study. It is hope that the Year 8's (who will be Year 9) will commence in September.

### **STA Visit to Linden Bridge**

Just over a year ago, one of our STA's went on a 10 week course to Linden Bridge School in Epsom; the Tandridge Federation funded this. The course was about supporting children with ASD and provided some excellent information and strategies that can be used in the classroom. Following on from that course, the STA has delivered her knowledge gained from that course to her colleagues not just within the STA department, but also our OT and admin departments and there are plans in place to deliver the same information to the RC department in July.

To help reinforce the information delivered, it was arranged for all STAs to visit Linden Bridge over a 4-week span and spend the day with the staff and students to gain some hands-on practical experience. The feedback received from the STAs has shown how valuable this has been. They observed how behaviour is addressed and dealt with and how the classrooms are set up with visual aids and individual schedules to support the children. The grounds are totally secure which helps when the children are feeling stressed, as they are free to go outside and cool off with the staff happy in the knowledge the students are safe and secure.

Perhaps most useful of all was visiting the further education KS4 unit especially considering MHS' plans to open a college. In this particular unit, the students run their own café where members of the public can book a table and be waited on by the students. This provides an excellent opportunity for the students to work in a real workplace setting, where they get to practise their handling of money, cooking, interaction and general life skills. On this note, I believe one of our STAs is planning to take a group of MHS students to visit the café.

Overall the STAs have found this opportunity informative, very worthwhile and believe this has enhanced their understanding of ASD. The visit to Linden Bridge has been a fantastic

way to consolidate all the information and knowledge gained which originated from one STA attending a course.

## Play Therapy Course.

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May Sara Boyhan (OTA) and Linda Henson (STA) attended a one day Introduction to Play Therapy Accredited Course.

We learnt how to communicate with others in the group without verbal communication by using musical instruments to express our feelings and emotions and through drawing. The course was very practical.

The therapy approach is non-directive and the child leads the play session not the therapist.

We felt that play could be used at Moor House to help students who are experiencing behaviour and emotional difficulties and for those who have missed out play during stages of their development. This play could be adapted for students of all ages. It would be beneficial to have an area set up for play, incorporating sand and water play, musical instruments, objects and toys for all students to access when needed.

We found the course very interesting and informative.

## **FOTBALL MATCH AGAINST MOON HALL**

**Our seniors took on the seniors from Moon hall School on a lovely sunny afternoon, this was the first time Moon hall had visited Moor House and we all made them very welcome.**

**We decided to play two matches of 6 a side football. Both matches were a fiercely fought affair with some tough tackling on both sides, The first match was won by Moor House 4-2 mainly thanks to 4 goals by Shaid .**

**The second game was played with the same vigour. Moon Hall were playing well and really pushing our defence back. They scored 2 goals before half time, even though Moor House got one goal back and hit the post in the dying seconds we couldn't force a draw. So it was honours even with one match each.**

**Well done to both of the teams for a brilliant afternoon of competitive football.**

**Many thanks to John Halliday and his team for getting the pitch ready and Darren Heine for refereeing the first game and Matt Crowhurst for taking some photos of the games.**



### **SAINSBURYS VOUCHERS**

**A big thank you to everyone who collected Sainsbury's vouchers. The school has been able to purchase the following items.**

- 1 Ball storage Trolley**
- 3 Basketballs – size 7 Tan and White**
- 1 Combined Mini football/rugby posts**
- 1 Open reel tape**
- 2 Rounder's post and base set**
- 2 soft hammers**
- 2 X 3 man tents ( D of E)**

**Congratulations and thanks once again to all who contributed.**