

MOOR HOUSE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER –NOVEMBER 2009

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the November newsletter.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR JO BAXTER

On Wednesday 18th November the school held a memorial service for Jo Baxter, who died so tragically in July of this year.

Members of Jo's family attended a celebration of Jo's life which was conceived and presented by students and staff of Moor House School.

The event consisted of poetry reading, songs and personal memories from those children and adults who knew Jo and remembered her so fondly.

The day was an intensely emotional one but charged with a warmth and love for a colleague and friend who will be so sorely missed by us all.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

On 14th October, the whole school attended our annual Harvest Festival service at Hurst Green Methodist Church. The service was lovely and many students brought gifts for the homeless charity the Church supports in Croydon.

Our thanks go to Reverend Deigh for the service and his hospitality.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

At this time of year we remember the fallen of two World Wars and the many conflicts around the world that sadly still take the lives of service men and women of our armed forces.

On Wednesday 11th November Mrs Hilary Dobbie, Principal of Moor House School attended the Remembrance Day ceremony in Oxted accompanied by Ken Suzuki-Layhe and Shaid Coventon_Webb, two of our senior students who are members of the army cadet force. The boys, looking very smart in their uniforms, laid the Moor House wreath at the memorial adjacent to Master Park. Before and after the ceremony the party were treated to the typically warm hospitality of the Oxted branch of the British Legion and our thanks go to them for their wonderful welcome.

Back at school Mr Bathe led staff and students in the two minutes silence. Kane Burns, Captain of Red House, laid a wreath at the base of the flagpole and senior students laid remembrance posies.

Once again, Laurence Binyon's words, read by Mr Bathe, echoed the thoughts and sentiments of the school community.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.



Mr Derek Leaman, from the Maintenance Department, carried the standard.

POPPY APPEAL

The traditional poppy appeal raised £179.50, of which £136.67 alone was raised by Mr James 'Jocky' Grant in the Maintenance Department. Our thanks go to Jock and all students, staff and friends of Moor House School for your kind support.

TRIP TO THE ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

On the 11th November the Key Stage 4 music option groups and 3L and 3M went to The Royal Festival Hall to see a concert given by the London Philharmonic Orchestra. We went up to London on the train in order to give the students some opportunity to put into practice the life skills training that they have undertaken.

Once we had enjoyed our packed lunch – thank you Terry – we made our way into the concert hall. For some students, it was their first visit to a large scale concert hall. The theme of the concert was 'Composers Transposed'. All the music being performed was written by composers who had composed their music away from their homeland.

The concert opened with a fanfare written by a very young composer called Oliver Weeks. It was written especially for the concert and was a world premier performance. The composer was in the concert hall to receive the applause. The concert continued with 'An American in Paris' – Gershwin and the Largo from 'New World Symphony' – Dvorak.

The audience then participated in the song that they learnt in the classroom. This was 'An Englishman In New York' – Sting. Usually the composer of the song attends the concert so Mrs Hardman was looking forward to this performance.

Unfortunately Sting was unable to attend. That didn't stop Moor House School from giving a rousing performance!

The concert concluded with extracts taken from 'Concerto for Orchestra' – Bartok. It was very much enjoyed by students and staff alike. As usual the students were great ambassadors for the school and their behaviour was exemplary. Many thanks to all the staff that supported the trip and made it such an enjoyable day.

S Hardman

TRIP TO STAMFORD BRIDGE

On 12th November Mr Drew and five staff took 16 students to Stamford Bridge Stadium, the home of Chelsea Football Club.

Traveling by train, the students on arrival were shown to a suite of offices usually reserved for special guests of Chelsea Football Club.

Students were given food and coffee, which was followed by a tour of the stadium. This included a visit to the visitors and Chelsea's changing rooms, a visit to the Journalists' room where news and events of games at the stadium are televised to the public. We then toured the stands, and were given an opportunity to stand next to the pitch.

We finally visited the Chelsea Football Club exhibition, discovering the history and successes of the club. The end of a very successful day was spent visiting the souvenir shop where students were able to buy some memorabilia of Chelsea Football Club. This was a very successful day with all students and staff enjoying themselves.





FOOTBALL MATCH AGAINST BLOSSOM HOUSE

On Thursday 19th November Moor House Year 10s and 11s played against Blossom House School from Wimbledon. With 6 players and 2 reserves each, the game consisted of four 10 minute quarters.

The game was exciting and challenging for both teams, with both being so evenly matched. Blossom House were highly organized on the pitch and presented a very real challenge to Moor House.

The game started with the initial goal being scored by Moor House, a real confidence boost for the team. However into the third quarter Moor House were losing 3-1 and the pressure was on the home team.

By half way through the fourth quarter Moor House had come back to level the score at 4-4, an amazing recovery. In the last 5 minutes Moor House scored the winning goal, sealing a 5-4 victory against Blossom House.

Both teams agreed that the match was a success and both are now eagerly awaiting a rematch next term.

ECO VISIT

On Wednesday 4th November I visited Nutfield Primary School to observe their Eco Policy. I spent the afternoon with the Assistant Head, Debbie Edwards, who has spent the last 2 years building up to applying for a Green Flag.

The school decided 2 years ago to undertake an Environmental Review in order to audit the school and see how much was to be done. It is possible to apply for a Bronze, a Silver or a Green Flag.

The school have worked hard to raise awareness and all are involved in making the school more 'eco' friendly.

A team was created this included a senior member of staff, a governor, parents and students from each year group.

The team prepared an action plan. They meet regularly to work on it and update it.

They chose 'waste' as their main theme and have spent time working on improving how they deal with the school waste.

It was very interesting to be taken on a tour of the school to see the outcomes of the plan. There were recycle bins in strategic places. Eco codes were written up on walls. There was an 'eco' board, a global board, everything recycled in the staffroom, all waste is weighed and monitored weekly in every classroom..... to name just a few of the many ideas.

It has clearly taken time and is very much a team effort, but the school was an inspiration.

Bridgette Greig

YEAR 11 FLEXIBLE LEARNING DAY

As part of their Flexible Learning Day the Year 11's have been going to East Surrey College. Five of the pupils have been working towards achieving an Entry Level Qualification in Floristry Skills which they are finding extremely interesting. They have learnt how to soak the oasis and been using fresh and dried flowers to make different arrangements ranging from making posies, bouquets, buttonholes to making an arrangement inside a pumpkin for Halloween.

The other group of Year 11's have completed a Media course which included them researching and using their own images for the work they completed. They are currently taking part in a catering course and have so far made their own pizzas and a chocolate sponge cake! The Year 11 staff have also enjoyed being able to join in with the making and the tasting!!



STAFF ON STAGE!

On 19th November some of the Year 9 and Year 10 students went to see "The Music Man" at The Barn Theatre in Oxted.

Mrs Lee was in the production, an enjoyable and entertaining evening was had by all!

Dawn Carter

SHAKESPEARE'S MACBETH WITH DEUTSCHE BANK

For the last three years Moor House has been privileged to receive free tickets for this annual event at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre on Bankside. The students from years 9, 10 & 11 who have attended have benefited from seeing Shakespeare's work come alive on stage in a way which is engaging and contemporary. This year we have been invited to participate more fully in the programme and to access the CPD training for staff as well as the wealth of online resources available to participating schools.

On Thursday 12 November, Mr Mayes and Mrs Middleton attended the CPD workshop to gain an overview of the programme and to look at ways in which we could use resources to deliver the text to the students in a dynamic way.

The training was conducted by an actor practitioner who works at The Globe. The sessions were largely practical with the opportunity for discussion with other colleagues about the ideas / activities which could become part of classroom practice. There was one session which looked at the online resources that will be released in time for the production next year.

It was a valuable training opportunity and I have no doubt that the skills learned will enrich the students' experience of Shakespeare at MHS.

H. Middleton