

THE Moretonian 2024

EMBRACE | ACHIEVE | ENJOY

Moreton Hall

1913 110 2023



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Time to Celebrate

I feel very fortunate that my first year at Moreton should coincide with the school's 110th, a chance for me to meet a school reflecting fondly on its storied past, and casting hopeful, ambitious looks towards its future.

Arriving at Moreton last Summer, I was rapidly aware of the level of care and personal investment that pupils, staff, parents, governors, and OMs have in their school. Throughout the holidays and that first term, I heard again and again how important Moreton is to its community, how high are the hopes for what it could achieve, and how passionate the feeling that there truly is a Moreton Magic.

I felt that enchantment on my way up the drive the first time I visited, on a cold and misty November day back in 2023 – so misty in fact that during my twilight tour of the campus, my guides pointed in the general direction of a building that ought to have been mere feet from us and said 'you'll have to trust us that there's a computer science block there…' I have felt that enchantment every day since.

It quickly became apparent that here was a school just bursting with energy and needing not much more than to be given the opportunity to unleash it. In fact, in some quarters, such as our fabulous Moreton Enterprises, they were not going to wait for an opportunity to arrive – they would make their own. So it was that a couple of weeks in, pupils were about to change the school uniform by introducing new coats that they had designed and sourced themselves.

Wonderfully, the enthusiasm and foresight of our proprietors matched that of our pupils, with the provision of £1M in infrastructure spending that soon saw the Swimming Pool given a much deserved refurbishment, and has since seen the Sports Hall, Gym, Library, and Lloyd-Williams House similarly brought up to our high expectations.



I have said to several parents and staff, that, in my experience so far, the key job here is to let Moreton be Moreton. As you will read in my Principal's address, saying 'yes,' to things even when uncertain of the outcome creates so many unexpectedly good outcomes. At Moreton Hall, I have learned that whilst the questions might be somewhat unorthodox at times, they are guided by a collective belief in the extraordinary potential of our extraordinary school.

Saying 'yes,' is good, but saying 'yes!' is even better, and that, at the end of a year in which so much good has been achieved, is exactly how we should be ending the year.

This truly is a remarkable school; I hope you will join me in celebrating every aspect of it, as encapsulated within the Moretonian 2024.

The year began with phenomenal academic results, bucking national trends by surpassing our pre-Covid achievements. We have been nationally recognised for excellence in Music, Drama, Art, and Entrepreneurship, and National Lacrosse Champions.

I would like to thank all of my colleagues for the parts they play in making all this possible – in every aspect of school life our teaching, admin, support, site, boarding, catering, cleaning, and transport teams deliver every day for the benefit of our pupils.

I am indebted to our Board, led by Mr Murphy, and greatly supported by Ms Lu, Mrs Clacher and Mr Carrier, for working closely with our proprietors to ensure the school has the guidance and expertise to support the school's leadership and management.

My sincere thanks to the school's Senior Leadership Team, Mr McTaggart, Mrs Speakman, Ms Champion, Mrs Williams, Mrs Quantrell and Ms Conlon. And, of course, to Mrs Walker, PA. Without them, very little that is good would happen.



Our school has always espoused the values, Scholarship, Gaiety, and Humanity – which we embrace now as our mission to Embrace, Achieve, and Enjoy. At the start of this year, I said to my colleagues, and then to the pupils, that nothing matters more than finding Joy in life. If we are joyful, we will want to learn, we will be better people, and after all, what is a life without joy?

I think we can safely say that the school we saw at the end of term Promenade, flamboyantly whirling its way through 110 years of history is one that has joy at its heart.



The poet Sir Ben Okri, in his epic work Mental Fight, looked at this question on the threshold of the then-new Millennium. Part one is called Time to Be Real, in which he says we should seek:

A quality of enlightenment
A sense of the limited time we have
To be as great and happy as we can
To explore our potential to its fullest
And to lose our fear
Having gained a greater love
And reverence for life
And its incommensurable golden brevity

Incommensurable golden brevity, for me, might just be the greatest description of life that there is. Life is precious, brief, and beyond compare.

The challenge to our graduates, to us all, is what we will do with this incommensurable golden brevity.

Before you answer, let me share that one more thing. Abdula Gurnah, winner of the 2021 Noble prize for literature, and whom I was fortunate enough to have as a teacher for a while, tells us this about how we literally see the world:

I speak to maps. And sometimes they say something back to me. This is not as strange as it sounds, nor is it an unheard-of thing. Before maps the world was limitless. It was maps that gave it shape and made it seem like territory, like something that could be possessed...





So, what if we had this precious, brief, immeasurable thing, and we saw the world as Limitless?

One thing we could do is to say 'yes.' Say yes to life. Say it when you are unsure of the outcome, or your readiness for where it might take you.

Don't be reckless: 'no' is a noble word that will protect you from giving too much of yourself. But don't let that be your default.

Ask the grown-ups you know. At some point all of them said yes to something they were underqualified for – that is how you qualify – and for the most part, especially the parents here said yes to something they had absolutely no way of properly preparing for, namely being your parents! I am sure they do not regret that, too much.

Michael Brewer
Principal

News Highlights

Meeting Royalty

Pupil Aspen Radi had the opportunity to meet the King over the Easter holidays.

After the Easter Church Service the Monarch did a walk-around, shaking hands and having a chat with those waiting outside St George's Chapel. Charles told Aspen to have a good holiday whilst Camilla told him to eat lots and lots of chocolate.



Drama Dream Comes True

Moreton Hall student Holly Harney celebrated success having gained a place at the prestigious National Youth Theatre. Holly's achievement is all the more remarkable given that over 6,500 actors auditioned and just 8% of the applicants were accepted. The theatre's alumni include prolific actors such as Helen Mirren, Daniel Craig, Daniel Day-Lewis, Colin Firth, Orlando Bloom and Sheridan Smith. Holly has now been invited to a two-week acting course at The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham with one of the most prestigious youth theatre companies in the country.

On Pointe

Congratulations to Lower Five pupil Flora Owen-Sinclair who has successfully auditioned for a part in English Youth Ballet's production of *'Giselle'* in Wolverhampton, and awarded a scholarship.

Chester Festival of Performing Arts

Moreton pupils took part in the Chester Festival of Performing Arts: They performed with poise and confidence. It was heartwarming to see pupils supporting and encouraging each other from Upper Five straight down to Prep School.

- Verse Speaking Year 2 - Anna Barlow
- Prepared Reading Year 2 (Denton Cup)- Anna Barlow
- Prepared Reading Year 3 - (Chester Festival Trophy) Pip Barlow
- Spiritual Reading Year 7 & 8 - Katie Dean
- Verse Speaking Year 8 - Renee Halm
- Verse Speaking Year 7 - Thea Wilson
- Prepared Reading Years 9 & 10 (Stuart Lunn Trophy) - Felicity Norton
- Verse Speaking Years 9 & 10 - Hannah Macphail
- Verse Speaking Year 11 - Jess Blackwood



Moreton Changes Gear for Eco Day

Eco Day this year was bicycle themed. Moreton's Eco Team created a full programme of events to bring awareness to the environmental and health benefits of cycling.

News Highlights

Bust a Move for Charity

For the Autumn term, the Charities team fundraised for Hope House, a hospice that provides essential care and support for children with life-limiting conditions and their families. Through various fundraising activities, including bake sales, home clothes days and selling of refreshments, Charities raised over £3,058. This contribution will assist in providing crucial services and support to the families in their care. A special mention goes to Mrs McDonald for her excellent performance in Strictly Shropshire, which significantly contributed to fundraising efforts.

Horse Around

Pupil Penny Lea has continued with her equestrian pursuits. She travelled to Vale View Equestrian, Melton Mowbray to compete in the SEIB 'Search for a Star' Showing Series in Class 12, Pony Club Open Horse and Pony. Penny represented North Shropshire Pony Club where she has been a member for over eight years. She demonstrated to the judges the different gaits of the horse, rider control and composure and also technical riding skills. The horse's temperament and behaviour were also assessed.



Moreton Goes Green

Moreton Hall's Eco Team won the prestigious Jane Goodall Roots & Shoots Gold Award. The aim of Roots & Shoots is to bring together young people from preschool to university age to work on environmental, conservation, and humanitarian issues. Moreton pupils do this with aplomb!

Cracking Time!

As part of Moreton's Easter celebrations, Stables took part in a whole house Easter Egg Hunt. Pupils had to find a clue which rewarded them an egg. The clues were hidden around Stables and, once found, rewarded the pupil with an egg of their choice! An egg-cellent way to celebrate Easter.



Mother Languages Day

To celebrate International Mother Language Day, Moreton's pupils came together to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversities.

Staff and pupils gathered in the Halsall-Williams Library to support Moreton's international pupils and learn about their different languages. Pupils gave presentations on their native language, explaining its origin, the alphabet and how it may have changed over time.

Pupils also taught their audience new words and phrases, including how to say 'hello' and 'goodbye'.

I've Got a Golden Ticket!

This year saw the launch of Moreton's inaugural Golden Ticket event. Over 60 pupils spent the night at Stables for Moreton's biggest sleepover.

Children spent the evening playing rounders in the May sunshine, meeting the older year groups and Prefects and eating lots of ice cream. The morning after they took part in a jam-packed Sports morning.

News Highlights

Confirmation Celebration

Six members of Lower Five were confirmed by the Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave, Bishop of Lichfield. The joyous occasion marked a significant milestone in the spiritual journeys of the girls as they deepened their commitment to their faith and strengthened their connection to the church community.

The confirmation ceremony was held at St Oswald's Parish Church in Oswestry. The congregation, which included friends and families, witnessed Bishop Michael bestowing his blessing upon the confirmed pupils. The confirmed pupils, who have participated in a series of comprehensive preparation classes, exhibited remarkable maturity, knowledge, and resolve during the confirmation process.



Future Women in Politics

Moreton girls from the Model United Nations (MUN) club enjoyed an exhilarating MUN conference at Manchester High School for Girls. For many of the team members, this was their first foray into Model UN.

Moreton Hall's delegation was honoured to represent India, a country with a rich history, diverse culture, and significant global influence. Our delegates were eager to advocate for India's positions on a wide range of issues, from the political world and disarmament, to human rights both past and present, with the special committee focusing on the safety of AI.

One of Moreton's delegates, Mariia in Upper Sixth, was awarded the Commended Delegate award for her contribution to the debates in the Economics and Finance committee.

Moreton Mini Model UN

Moreton Hall hosted its fourth annual Mini Model UN conference, welcoming over 100 pupils from seven different schools. This year, delegates took on the challenge of finding a global solution to the rising prevalence of natural disasters, AI use in education and the restrictions on the democratic right to protest.

Seven Young Women Conquer the Lake District

This year saw the Lower Sixth Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award students completing their expedition, taking them from the heart of the Lake District to the sea. Rebecca, Cathy, Grace, Hermione, Chloe, Ruby and Sophie's journey took them from Grasmere to the coastal hamlet of Ravenglass, passing through Windermere, Coniston, and Eskdale.

Moreton's Best in Show

Moreton Hall had a fantastic two days at the Royal Cheshire County Show. From seed planting to vegetable instruments - Moreton had a variety of 'Farm to Fork' activities to get involved with. Moreton was awarded 'Schools Out' Best Exhibit, Best in Show 2024 and Most Attractive Display 2024.



News Highlights

Stem-Tastic

Once again Moreton Hall has achieved impressive STEM challenge results.

The Biology Challenge rewards pupils whose knowledge of the subjects has been increased by being involved in extracurricular research, and this year, eighteen of Moreton's pupils came away with awards, Lower Five pupil Matilda gained a Silver medal, Debbie, Ffion, Saranya, Jessica in Lower Five and Esther in Upper Four were awarded a Bronze medal whilst twelve pupils were Highly Commended or Commended.

In further celebrations pupil Debbie placed in the top 10% of pupils in the country after winning a Gold award in the University of Warwick's prestigious National Scientific Thinking Challenge. Taking part in the same competition, Hazel, Ellie and Evon achieved a Silver award, putting them in the top 25% of pupils whilst Lilly, Harriet, Naana and Lynn all achieved a Bronze award putting them in the top 40%.

Wellbeing

Throughout the year, there have been Wellbeing Workshops taking place to educate pupils on a vast array of issues. Pupils from Remove to Lower Sixth attended a workshop about emotional awareness whilst Lower Sixth students and their parents attended a workshop run by Cai Graham who spoke about anxiety and appropriate coping strategies.



Moreton Breaks the Mould

Moreton Hall became the only school in the North to offer the Leiths School of Food cooking course to Remove classes.

Moreton Hall is one of a limited number of approved centres across the UK to deliver the professional Leiths Certificate in Food and Wine course which challenges practical cookery lessons and runs alongside students' A Level choices, equipping individuals with a lifelong skill and supporting their university applications.

This year's Remove class are the first at Moreton Hall to follow the brand new and innovative Leiths cook-along course, called Leiths Academy Kitchen. Leiths Academy Kitchen has taken the admin out of traditional cooking classes by delivering step-by-step cookery videos led by Leiths teachers.



Sprouting Knowledge

Moreton Hall's own Cornflower Farm has joined The Royal Horticultural Society's (RHS) programme 'Grow With It.' The programme is designed to support school and community gardeners to grow, connect with others and share knowledge and resources.

In the Bag

Lower Five pupils had the exciting opportunity to take part in a virtual work experience day run by Unifrog and Tesco.

Pupils got hands-on product design and marketing experience by designing a promotional offer and crafting a social media post. They also developed their pitch skills.

A message from our Chair

The Future's Moreton

The integrity of Moreton's ethos and values has long been a quintessential foundation of the school's rich heritage.

As we enter into what will undoubtedly be a challenging period for the independent sector at large, I feel confident that the distillation of this spirit, together with the outstanding 'value added' education that is showcased here each and every day, will stand the school in good stead.

Successful schools are ultimately predicated by the mindset of those people who live and work there. On the evidence of that criteria, I trust you will agree: Moreton is in a strong place. Furthermore, seeing the site today, boasting fresh, tangible investment such as the wonderfully refurbished Swimming Pool, to name but one example, and compounded by the pupils' successes in and out of the classroom, U18 National Lacrosse Champions being an obvious highlight, not to mention the consistently fabulous level of performing arts and enterprise, Moreton is genuinely an institution that offers a stunning setting in which to learn and still punches well above its weight in terms of all-round pupil outcomes.

I know that Michael Brewer and his team are justifiably proud of the school's achievements over the last twelve months. This does not happen by chance - it is the result of an enormous amount of hard work from a dedicated group of teaching and support staff. In my experience, that invisible tenet of discretionary effort is often a better barometer of a happy, thriving school than just about any other comparative measure.

So, thank you – thank you to each and every one of the Moreton staff team for investing your heart and soul into making a real difference for the young people in your care. It really matters - and it really shows. Thank you also, to our parents for choosing this beautiful school for your child – and, most of all, thank you to our brilliant girls, and younger boys, who are, of course, what today is about – after all, it is they who bring the 'Moreton Magic' to life.

Duncan Murphy
Chair of the Board



Didn't it Almost Seem Like Nothing's Changed At All?

The idea of promenade theatre sprung from a question asked in an otherwise normal weekly planning meeting: How to celebrate a hundred-and-ten years of Moreton Hall School? In the end, it seemed to suggest itself, so right was it for capturing Moreton's storied past: A carousel of scenes recalling memorable moments in its history.

Moreton has always been a liberal girls' boarding school: Liberal in the sense of the Liberal Arts; a school that encourages its pupils to channel their academic education to creative ends. The ethos begins with its remarkable staff, who all contributed to the eventual performance through skills for which no GCSE exists: Sewing, make-up, set design and construction, entrepreneurship, networking, direction, walkie-talkie communication strategy.

The Promenade's scenes ranged from the whimsically humorous, such as when Biology pupils realised a skull they were examining was a real human one, to proper milestones: Arrival at school for the first time from Lloran House in Oswestry; when Bron sold a horse in order to buy curtains for the school hall that would allow serious plays to go ahead; or the day that Moreton girls reopened Gobowen railway station under their own aegis.

Inspiration came from everywhere:

Michael Charlesworth's historically rigorous account of the school, anecdotes from families and members of staff; and the school's own Archive Room.







It is rightly lofty to identify two core principles underpinning the thesis of the production. Our first aim was to capture the sense of service: Service to the school through the staggering self-sacrifice of its foremothers; service to the pupils through the boundless love and forbearance given by staff; service to the community through the girls' actions themselves. The second is constancy. Though from within the school appears to be changing every day, whenever Old Moretonians, former parents or retired members of staff visit, their first remark is inevitably along the lines of,

"Well, glad to see nothing's changed".

What has remained is the overwhelming sense of camaraderie that only a girls' boarding school can achieve. Girls here celebrate, genuinely, others' efforts and achievements. Everyone – everyone! – gives of themselves for the greater good, and that is why the Promenade, calling on the collective efforts of the entire school community, became the utopian festival that it was. Floreat Moretonia.

> I enjoyed hearing tales from the past while exploring Moreton's beautiful surroundings. I felt very proud being an OM and knowing my daughters are so lucky to be part of a creative and magical environment. ❞

- Parent

> The promenade was absolutely amazing, such a beautiful display of what wonderfully talented girls Moreton Hall produce. ❞

- Parent





Special Awards 2024

Prep School

The Prep School Achievement Award
Li Yunzhen (Aurora)

The Prep School Effort Award
Isla Seabridge

The Grace Lloyd-Williams Award (for good citizenship)
Oscar Conroy

The Prep School Sports Award
Tomos Cheeney

The Prep School Music Cup
Eira Smith

The Prep School Drama Award
Henrietta Brewer

Award for Personal Development
Zac Heaton

Award for Progress
Casper Whelan-Stobie

Award for Commitment to School Life
Beatrice Durham

Scholarship Values Award
Angharad Rayner

Gaiety Values Award
Beatrice Durham

Humanity Values Award
Chen Zhiyan (Jane)

Art

The Millicent Kaye Junior Art Award
Toluwani Bodede and Isabella Jones

The Lora Gadd GCSE Art Trophy
Isabella Marsh

Excellence in Life Drawing
Evie Edensor

Lingard Research Award (Research in Fine Art)
Anya Hartwig

The Nicola Hooper Art Cup
Book Tsz Ling (Jessie)

The Prize for History of Art
Maddy Slack

Outstanding Achievement Award for Art
Holly Longfellow

Outstanding Achievement Award for Photography
Emma Barnes

Outstanding Achievement Award for Textile Design
Tayler Jefferson

Sixth Form Designer-Maker Award
Miao Zixin (Avery)

Award for Innovation in Film, Lens and Light Based Media
Molly Powell and Sophie Roberts

Commercial Photography Award
Sienna Matson

Drama

The Field Drama Cup
Arabella Paterson

Middle School Drama Award
Darcy Cooke

Senior School Drama Award
Tayler Jefferson and Libby Jones

GCSE Drama Cup (U5)
Lauren Dennis, Elizabeth Melia and Kate Reardon

The Macdonald Performing Arts Award
Mia James

The Nicholas Drama Cup (U6)
Isabelle Yates

Outstanding Contribution to Drama
Holly Harney

English

The Reakes-Williams English GCSE Cup
Isabella Marsh

The Owen Trophy for English
Pamela Cox Bradshaw and Arabella Fellows

Special Awards 2024

Languages

The Hodgkinson Prize for French
Liberty Radi

The Ollier Prize for Modern Languages
Miao Zixin (Avery)

Modern Languages Spanish Prize
Gaia Vyas-Adams

Music

The Stables Music Cup
Rebecca Allan and Renee Halm

The Middle School Music Cup
Isabella Hartridge

Laura Morris Choral Cup
Beatrice Kani, Jenabai Kassam, Holly Longfellow and Gaia Vyas-Adams

The Kenneth Brown Music Cup
Hu Shenghan (Angela)

Senior School Music Cup
Gaia Vyas-Adams

Lady Barbirolli Award (for outstanding contribution)
Gaia Vyas-Adams

Lady Barbirolli Sixth Form Recital Prize
Gaia Vyas-Adams

Spoken English

Ebun Clark Trophy
Jessica Blackwood

Halsall-Williams Spoken English Middle Trophy
Toluwani Bodede

Halsall-Williams Spoken English Senior Trophy
Flora Owen-Sinclair

The English Speaking Board Trophy
Hattie Maddocks and Cecily Penrice

Sport

The Anne Barber Trophy
Darcy Cooke and Nina Harney

The Gittins Trophy
Emma Barnes

Morgan Hockey Trophy
Karina Henshaw

Janet Norton Award for Sport
Kiara Kenney

Scott Trophy
Phoebe Jones

Prize for Outstanding Commitment to School Sport
Holly Longfellow

Tennis Champions
Shriya Shaw *(Senior School)*
Carly Steward *(Middle School)*

STEM

The Wilding School Mathematics Cup
Trixy Mo and Isla Rothera

The Pinder Mathematics Trophy (Double Maths)
Hu Ziyue (Ephelia)

Anne Lloyd Trophy for Mathematics (Single Maths)
Mariia Dmytryk

The Wilding Middle School Science Cup
Lee Lok Wun (Regina)

The Bolton Biology Trophy
Zhang Xiaoyu (Silvia)

The Bourne-Greatwood Chemistry Award
Yang Bohan (Helen)

The Faraday Physics Prize
Hu Ziyue (Ephelia)

The Piaget Psychology Prize
Shriya Shaw

The Davies Roberts Science Cup
Holly Longfellow

Jenner Award
Holly Longfellow and Shriya Shaw

Special Awards 2024

Other

Smith Cup for Economics
Mariia Dmytryk

The Litmus Prize for Contribution to Eco Team
Anya Hartwig and Holly Longfellow

Prize for Religious Studies
Sophie Roberts

The Cookson History Trophy
Arabella Fellows and Liberty Radi

Classics Award for Classical Civilisation
Anya Hartwig and Nell Pinney

Classics Award for Latin
Nell Pinney

Prize for Contribution to Moreton Enterprises
Liberty Radi

The Abiola Trophy for Business
Cheng Pui Ki (Peggy) and Miao Zixin (Avery)

Moreton Community Award
Chimamanda (Amanda) Nwolisa

M-PWR Award
Pamela Cox Bradshaw and Tiana Swift

CCF Award
Beatrice Kani

The Salter Prize (Leiths)
Catherine Beales

Leiths Practical Assessment Award
Oghenevona (Vona) Akpoteni and Amber Eke-Davies

International Student Award
Mariia Dmytryk

The Knight Cup (Duke of Edinburgh)
Evie Jenkins

Award for Progress
Caitlin Price

Selina Sasse Geography Cup
Beatrice Kani and Jenabai Kassam

Geography Prize
Emma Barnes

Prize for Academic PE
Karina Henshaw

Sixth Form Award
Tessa Evans and Ashley Mtandiro

Welsh Prize
Mia James

The Hill Trophy (for good citizenship)
Pamela Cox Bradshaw and Amber Eke-Davies

The Hebblethwaite Award
Mariia Dmytryk

France-Hayhurst Bracelet
Annie Rose Tyacke

Upper Sixth Diligence Award
Chimamanda (Amanda) Nwolisa and Eleanor Pinney

Charlesworth House Prize
Hu Shenghan (Angela) and Yang Bohan (Helen)

The Ursula Roberts Award
Isla McDonald-O'Brien and Imogen Rees

Principal's Awards
Emma Barnes
Mariia Dmytryyk
Beatrice Kani
Jenabai Kassam
Shriya Shaw
Hu Shenghan (Angela)

The Karefa-Smart Trophy
Holly Longfellow

THE KAREFA-SMART TROPHY

awarded to the girl who best exemplifies the words of Sir Frances Drake:

> There must be a beginning of any great matter, but the continuing unto the end until it be thoroughly finished yields the true glory. ❞

Scholarships

11+ Scholarships

Academic Scholarship
Etta Brewer, Leah Jones and Li Yunzhen (Aurora)
Art Scholarship
Chen Zhiyan (Jane)
All Rounder Scholarship
Beatrice Durham
Drama Scholarship
Jemima Van Rees

12+ Scholarships

Art Scholarship
Arabella Paterson

13+ Scholarships

Sport and Drama Scholarships
Georgina Welch
Sports Scholarship
Mila Wagner

16+ Scholarships

Ursula Roberts Award
Sophie Tins
Principal's Academic Scholarship
Rosie Hitchins
Academic Scholarship
Scarlett Beale, Lee Lok Wun (Regina), Trixy Mo and Wong Wai Kiu (Kelly)
All-Rounder Scholarship
Nana Barnett-Quaicoo
All-Rounder Scholarship, including Elite Sports Award
Emily Fearne
Drama Scholarship
Lauren Dennis, Holly Harney, Isabella Marsh, Elizabeth Melia and Kate Reardon
Sports Scholarship
Holly Williams
Music Scholarship
Nia Lincoln and Yip Sze Ki (Charis)

Leavers Speeches'

Read extracts from the Head Prefects' speeches from 2024.

Shriya Shaw



Moreton magic isn't just a phrase, it's a feeling that envelops you as soon as you come down the front drive for the first time.

Whether it's winning Nationals, performing west-end worthy musicals or getting involved in the weird but wonderful life at Moreton Hall in other ways, the sense of community is always present. Mr Brewer always says that Moreton is a school like no other and I can truly say that I have seen this throughout my short but busy three years here. From running the Jenner Society and working in Moreton Enterprises to singing Baby by Justin Bieber at the karaoke night and facing near concussions from saving Lacrosse balls. This environment has not only made my time here enjoyable, but has also allowed me to thrive academically and personally.

I am extremely grateful that Moreton Hall has become my home. I remember a moment, about a month into my time here, that really made this clear to me. I was on a walk with Liberty, and when it was time to head back to school, I turned to her and said, "shall we go home now?" It was in that simple moment that I realised Moreton Hall had become more than just a school to me; it had truly become my home.

> Moreton is full of endless opportunities, and we are all lucky enough to have them, so make the most of it.

Emma Barnes



For 17 years, 201 months and 6,121 days, Moreton Hall has been my second home.

Before the age of 1 in 2007, I was thrown into First Steps Nursery. Safe to say, Mum clearly couldn't wait to get rid of me. I was only meant to stay for a short time, but after entering Moreton First, I was moved up from Transition straight to Year 1, skipping out Reception. Therefore, I've always been the 'baby' of the year group.

Moving up to Year 7 from Moreton First was a big step. I remember Mr Forster once saying "Whatever it is, just try it, you might enjoy it, and you never know... you may even be good at it". From that moment on, I threw myself into everything coming in my direction and have never looked back since. From riding my pony in the circus with the help of Mr Keeley in 2018 to captaining the winning team at Nationals this year, as well as performing in many concerts and productions, Moreton has created opportunities for me that would never have been possible anywhere else.

Thank you Moreton Hall for the best 17 years of my life that I will never, ever forget; for shaping me, inspiring me, allowing me to find my talents, and empowering me to believe anything is possible if you put your mind to it.

> I genuinely believe Moreton has shaped me into the person I am today and am so grateful I've had the chance to experience being part of a school, that is more than just a school, but a family.

Leavers' Ball




























Educate
Enrich

Paving the Way for the Next Steps!

With over 60 exhibitors including universities from all corners of the UK, as well as representatives from a diverse variety of professions, industries and gap years, there was something for every taste, talent and aspiration at Moreton Hall's annual Universities and Careers Fair.

Pupils were joined by Ysgol Dinas Bran, The Marches and the Maelor School, Penley and Moreton Hall's Sports Hall buzzed with the sound of young people exploring how to start their career journey and realise their dreams.

The school's own alumni are always a key part of this highlight of the school calendar. Old Moretonian Georgie Lang (OM 2018), led a well-attended Oxbridge application talk and was joined on the Oxbridge stand by Ellen Rowlands (OM 2019), Alura Bather (OM 2018) and Emily Edwards (OM 2016), took a busman's holiday from their day jobs to talk about their work as a Criminal Barrister and Architect respectively. Jessica Hatcher-Moore (OM 2000) hosted a popular stand on careers in journalism, whilst Jo Chavasse (OM 2009) was a must-visit opportunity for pupils interested in nannying as part of a gap year.

Seminars including Oxford Brookes, 'How to Choose the Right University and Course', Imperial College on 'How to Make an Effective Competitive Application', Aston University on 'The UK University Experience for International Students' and 'Study Abroad' with Burnett Global and our USA University specialist Phil Garner, were well attended and lively, with many questions answered. Equally buzzing and busy were the representatives of the many universities attending, keen to meet this exciting cohort of young people.

Lower Sixth student, Hattie, said: "The Careers Fair was the perfect opportunity to find out more about each university and to give me the information to narrow down my options to ensure I find the perfect course and university for me. The seminars were particularly helpful in giving an in-depth insight into programmes such as Oxbridge, as well as companies giving us advice on work experience, apprenticeships, graduate programmes and life after university."









Parent of Moreton student Sasha Kenney, said:

> A great event! Fantastic atmosphere and very informative. Thank you to everyone at Moreton Hall for organising.

Reflecting on the day, Head of Next Steps Catherine Ashworth commented: "It was wonderful to hear the buzz of so many excited young people engaging with the exhibitors to discover more about the array of opportunities available to them. The university representatives were all impressed by the calibre of questions the pupils were asking and despite being thoroughly exhausted by the end of the morning, will definitely be back again next year."

Visiting the Moreton Hall Careers Fair for the first time, Principal Michael Brewer said:

> The Moreton Hall Careers Fair is like nothing I have seen in nearly twenty years of working in independent schools. It is simply not normal for schools to host something approaching the scope and success of this event. Unsurprisingly, the exceptional benefits extend far beyond our grounds into the wider community; so many young people will have been excited and inspired today.

Watch our Careers Fair video here!



Moreton Enterprises

Enterprising Entrepreneurs

This year in Moreton Enterprises has been nothing short of a whirlwind!

We were handed the keys to the building back in September with the goal of building upon THE school business. I am happy to announce we did just that!

Our corporate objectives were to: Increase our product portfolio, focusing on our Moreton Hall brand, to maximise our revenue and to increase our net profit. And, to freshen up the Enterprises Centre with a repaint and some new decor. So, thank you to the Maintenance team for making the redecoration possible.

Financially speaking, putting the success of this year in numbers, we have increased sales turnover by 12% and made a net profit margin of 27%.

Rebecca Earl
Lower Sixth, Managing Director

Anna Ng
Lower Sixth, Assistant Managing Director

Elements

Pupils have made great use of Elements - lever arch files, and claw clips being amongst the most popular products this year. We are also proud to have supported a local artisan business, Cuppa, stocking colourful, playful mugs.

Helena Sheppard
Lower Sixth, Elements Director



Tuck

Tuck continues to lead the way in being the most popular destination for our pupils. The Pick 'n' Mix section is ever popular with Flying Saucers and Rainbow Strips being our best-sellers. We introduced American Sweets such as: Sour Patch Kids, Nerds and Takis during the Spring term. They were so popular that we had to restock a week later! We also supported the motherhood community by partnering with Tired Moms Coffee Ltd, selling bags of quality coffee, popular among teachers, and also donating 1% of revenue to charities that support Mums.

Didi Mo
Lower Sixth, Tuck Director

Boost

In Boost, we have enjoyed exploring a wide range of new drinks and ice cream such as: Pumpkin spice coffee in the Autumn term for Halloween, chocolate strawberry milkshake for Valentine's Day and a Solero smoothie for the Summer term. Along with our regular favourites, Oreo milkshakes and Tropical smoothies, which have always been our best sellers.

Chloe Chan
Lower Sixth, Boost Director

Innovations

This year has been a huge success story for the Innovations team. Our plan was to build on the foundations of the ever popular Moreton trackies and Divisional hoodies (Autumn term), together with our leavers' hoodies (Summer term). And, then to introduce new products, such as a quality Moreton puffer jacket (Spring term) along with some long anticipated Moreton pajamas (Summer term). Puffer jackets are now placed on the optional uniform list, and so can be worn around school and Divisional hoodies and trackies can also both be worn for sports lessons.

Hattie Maddocks
Lower Sixth, Innovations Director

Mini ME

A new initiative this year was to open the Enterprises Centre for our Stables' pupils on Friday nights. This was a huge success as the pupils enjoyed having their 'own time' to chill out after a long week in school. Our movie nights including Tangled and The Lorax, both being very popular, were well attended events. It has been a joy getting to know the younger pupils.

Emily Borders and Mackenzie Rumble
Lower Sixth, Mini Moreton Enterprises Directors



Marketing

This has been a busy year for Marketing with the focus being on new products and promoting these within our school community. Recognising the power of social media, Instagram was used to showcase our best sellers through curated posts and engaging stories highlighting events and restocks. In addition, there has been consistent communication with our customer base through regular emails which reinforce our brand presence.

Amy Elliott
Lower Sixth, Marketing Director

Finance

Equally important is the dedication of the Finance team who track the invoices, organise payments to suppliers and manage the cash-flow (happily it's positive!). Termly stock audits, organising the spreadsheets and analysing the data help to keep everyone on their toes!

Frances Yum and Florence Drukker
Lower Sixth, Finance Directors

Adventures in the New World of Business

With the opportunity to hear from inspirational speakers, network with other entrepreneurs and business people and enjoy a delicious lunch, the Moreton Hall Business Lunch has become a highlight of the local calendar and this year was no exception.



Moneypenny co-founder, Rachel Clacher, CBE, and What If! co-founder, Dave Allan, gave an insightful talk to a packed room of business entrepreneurs, Old Moretonians, current pupils, family and friends at Moreton Hall's annual Business Lunch. The event, which was a sell-out success hosted in The Holroyd Community Theatre, was also livestreamed to businesses and schools across the county.

Rachel and Dave delivered an inspirational speech about the 'Adventures in the New World of Business.' They focused their talk on three key factors important in modern business: The new world of business, their employees and then purpose. Both speeches were filled with humorous anecdotes, including the moment Dave fell backwards off a stage whilst presenting to 250 leaders of the BBC many years ago.

Rachel, who co-founded Moneypenny with her brother, Ed, talked about how her company grew from one simple idea: Who is going to answer the phone calls for a business when there's no one in office? They discovered telephone answering services, however, Rachel and Ed asked the question: Why can't there be a telephone answering service where the person who looks after your calls is someone who you know and trust? This was the beginning of Moneypenny.





Rachel said:

> Three of my favourite things in life are family, friends and business. At Moreton's Business Lunch these three things collided. ”

"Many of you know just how important Moreton has been to my family. It's been a privilege and pleasure to be involved in the world of business."

Dave spoke of his beginnings working at Unilever, and how, since then, the world is changing. Big companies don't have monopoly over one area of business. Dave, and his business partner Matt, set up What If! in 1992 to work with businesses on their growth and innovation strategies. Most notably Dave's company helped create KFC's Popcorn Chicken and Sainsburys 'Taste The Difference' range.

Dave offered three pieces of advice on adventures into business, saying: "The world is changing, small businesses now are able to achieve the same as large conglomerates.

> Always look beyond your business and get out into the world and understand what's truly going on, and whilst this may seem scary, don't think you have to do it all at once, run experiments, take risks. ”

Something both Dave and Rachel spoke about passionately was their employees. Rachel said: "What I've learnt about humanity is that by getting together and providing each other with the human things we need, such as looking after each other and getting the small things right... that can change the world."

They emphasised the importance of treating employees fairly, stepping into their shoes and understanding their mindset. People aren't replaceable by AI or technology, they are the ones who turn up every day.

Rachel and Dave weren't the only speakers at Moreton's Business Lunch. Moreton Hall's Sixth Form students, Hattie Maddocks, Rebecca Earl and Anna Ng, opened this year's Business Lunch by talking about the way in which technology is having an impact on the business landscape, and their roles within the student led business, Moreton Enterprises and the importance of being young women who are the future of business.



International Women's Day

Moreton Hall celebrated International Women's Day with pupils from across the school gathering to explore the journey women have been on in pursuit of equal rights, the achievements so far, and the work still to be done.

Hosted by Moreton Hall's Bronwen enrichment society and M-PWR (Moreton promoting women's rights) group, Remove, Lower Four, Upper Four, Lower Five and Lower Sixth pupils were organised into cross-year group tables, each named after an inspiring woman.

Opening the event, Mrs Lang, Ms Conde and Mrs Ashworth welcomed our guests, local business woman, Alison Parr, communications specialist Flavia Paterson (OM 1995), and journalist Jessica Hatcher-Moore (OM 2000), and together they reflected on the most significant changes they have seen in women's rights and the work that still needs to happen.



Mrs Ashworth highlighted the progress women have made in accessing higher education where they are now 57% of the student population but she also demonstrated how women still predominantly focus on careers paths linked to people skills, with men still dominating in science and technology. Referring to her own time as a reporter with the British Forces, Mrs Lang took the pupils through the timeline of women's acceptance into the Military, pointing out that every pupil in the room was already born before the decision was made in 2016 to open all military roles to women. Flavia Paterson's focus was the importance of 'knowing your worth' and in highlighting the continuing gender pay gap, she encouraged the girls gathered to have the confidence to make their case for parity of pay in their future workplaces. Linked to this, Alison Parr talked about the lack of women in the top executive roles and the challenge for women accessing top jobs as well as having a family. In talking about her own experience, she reminded the audience about the success many women have in leading their own business as she and her husband have done at Stonehouse Brewery.

> Ms Conde shared some of her own experiences as a young woman which were the foundations of establishing M-PWR, encouraging our pupils to have ownership of their rights.

As our keynote speaker, Jessica Hatcher-Moore, gave a fascinating and insightful talk on her own journey from Moreton girl to an award winning journalist based in Kenya, and now as a freelance writer and podcaster juggling her professional and family commitments. She reminisced about

how Moreton Hall had encouraged her to think anything was possible and as well as talking about her successful career, she also spoke frankly about the reality of combining life as a professional woman and a mother of two little boys.



In the second half of the morning, pupils were set a task in their groups to identify a key issue which they felt was a priority in promoting women's rights and to create a project to showcase this to the visitors. This is just the kind of challenge our creative and talented pupils relish, choosing an eclectic range of issues to focus on including abortion rights, the importance of female education, the right to feel safe walking home at night, women's sport and the lack of women in construction. Projects included mini-dramas, posters, a film, a paper sculpture of a demonstration and even a re-working of a song from the Barbie movie. Reflecting on their work, Alison Parr said: "The engagement from the pupils was incredible. I am in awe of how much output the teams achieved, in a very short space of time, for their chosen presentations.

> The passion and knowledge the girls displayed across such a broad range of topics is extremely encouraging for the future progression of equality for women! ❞

Hattie (Lower Sixth) revelling in the morning's activities said: "The International Women's Day event was nothing short of exceptional. It felt amazing to have the school together, supporting women's rights, and discussing what we can do to make the world a better place for women. I especially enjoyed presenting our projects in inter year groups, expressing what we find the most frustrating about the gender gap. The speakers were so interesting, and gave us superb advice on life in the workplace as women." Amy (Lower Sixth) added: "I truly felt like Moreton celebrated International Women's Day and inspired inclusion across the whole school. The guest speakers were amazing. The advice they provided such as prioritising yourself and your ambitions and holding yourself with confidence in the workforce and life are things I will take with me as I continue on my academic and eventually career journey." Anna (Lower Sixth) added: "Women are still paid 14% less than men in any work industry. This gap is still very real. We've learnt to not be afraid to negotiate equal pay for our future jobs." While for Rovian, (Lower Sixth) the takeaway from the morning was:

> You have a voice so feel empowered to use it because without knowing it you are standing up for all the other women. ❞

Remembering her own time at Moreton, Jessica commented: "I love that we are talking about so much more now than we ever did when I was a teenager. And I'm genuinely excited to see what this next generation of women will achieve – especially having seen how creative and confident the Moreton girls are today. As women we exist on a continuum and for me it was really moving to see the change that has taken place since I was at school. The M-PWR programme is clearly having a huge impact and I really enjoyed being a part of the conversation and listening to the girls' presentations, which were all outstanding." Ms Conde agreed: "The pride I felt during this event was overwhelming. To see a group of young people working together to discuss matters impacting women's rights along with incredible guest speakers was fantastic, but actually having the opportunity to do this within the school – supported both by the well-established Bronwen Society and our newly formed M-PWR group – is nothing short of extraordinary. I look forward to seeing this successful event continue for years to come."

Caroline Lang
Senior Tutor, Moreton Sixth



Senior School Production

Grease IS the Word!

Oh, what a night (or a week of nights) in The Holroyd Community Theatre as the cast of Grease took to the stage and blew audiences away with their exuberant show.

In a musical made famous by the 1978 film version starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John, this American high school drama was the perfect choice to showcase the plethora of acting, singing and dancing talent that usually resides in the Senior School boarding houses but was now transported to Rydell High. With a cast of over 40 pupils from Lower Five to Upper Sixth, Grease was truly an ensemble show and Producer and Director Michael Jenkins, Choreographer Grace Young, and Musical Director Eleanor Diack worked production magic to create ensemble numbers bursting with energy and movement, but in which every cast member's individual character's personality was on show.



The exuberance was tangible and at times, as an audience, we struggled to stay put in our seats as 'Let's Do the Hand Jive' and 'We Go Together' filled the theatre with energy and joy.



As with any High School, distinct friendship groups form and at Rydell High, the T Birds and the Pink Ladies, are the coolest kids on the block. Gorgeous in their fabulous authentic costumes, Marty, Frenchy and Jan played by Eliza, Kate and Lizzie, perfectly captured the zeitgeist of the era and joined by Mia as Sandy encapsulated the hopes and dreams of the teenage girls. A pink wigged Kate, caught perfectly the vulnerability of Frenchy whose beauty school dreams briefly realised were so quickly dashed. Izzy's stunning rendition of Beauty School Drop Out, was the perfect soundtrack for Frenchy's pain. Betty Rizzo, played by Beatrice L, beautifully portrayed the secret fragility of this apparently too cool for school young woman. Whilst Gaia as Patty, was a wonderful contrast with her enthusiastic excitement for all things school.

As the T Birds Danny, Kenickie, Sonny, Roger and Doody, the perfectly cast Isabella, Romilly, Holly, Jenna and Libby were a revelation.

From the moment they arrived on stage, all signs of the girls beneath the wigs vanished as they sauntered and bantered and jested with each other as the most convincing high school boys.

As nerdy Eugene, Lauren was an hilarious foil for the T Birds. The Greased Lightening number, with Romilly looking totally at home astride the bonnet of the fully realised red car was a scene stealing moment!





In a production of so many outstanding performances, everyone deserves a plaudit and special mentions must go too to Sophie as a wonderful Cha Cha, Taylor and Beatrice K as Vince and Johnny Casino, and MacKenzie as Miss Lynch. But front and centre of the plot of 'Grease' are Danny and Sandy and as the romantic leads, Isabella and Mia were quite simply outstanding.

Writing of the show as an ensemble, it's important to also pay tribute to the backstage crew who worked speedy wonders with the impressive set, transporting the audience from the bleachers of the baseball field, to an American teen bedroom in the blink of the eye, to say nothing of navigating a car around the Holroyd!

Middle School Show

Annie Jr. Brings Tomorrow to The Holroyd Theatre!

Any Middle School show staged at Moreton Hall is always going to be a hard act to follow, and this year the formidable task fell to Mrs Macdonald. Only recently appointed in the Drama department, she decided on a production of Annie Jr. for her own debut and to showcase the talents of the Middle School - Remove to Upper Four.

The Musical Director, Mrs Lott, worked her magic on ensemble pieces such as the knock-out song 'Hard Knock Life', which beautifully captures the determined spirit of the orphanage girls, and the optimistic ballad 'Tomorrow', transporting audiences into a world of hope and resilience.

Staying true to the essence of Annie, the cast brings each character to life with exceptional performances.









Hannah is sheer brilliance, embodying Annie's tenacity and positivity. Rising to the challenge of portraying the cantankerous Miss Hannigan, Nina skilfully channels the character's comedic edge with aplomb. Philippa bringing charisma and gentleness to the role of Warbucks, further enhances the show's dynamic.

Special commendations go to Arabella and Haddie for their exceptional abilities in weaving poignancy and comedy into the narrative. Arabella, with her heartfelt portrayal of Molly, adds a poignant depth to the storyline. Meanwhile, Haddie, playing Bundles, tickles the funniest bones in the theatre with a masterful comedic performance.

This musical, however, is not just about individual excellence.

Echoing the unity in an orphanage under Miss Hannigan's reign, this show is a testament to the strength of ensemble work.

From the resonant rendition of 'Hard Knock Life' to the expressive scenes at Warbucks' mansion - there is a palpable synergy among the cast that filled the theatre with joy and camaraderie. The exquisite voice and dramatic panache of Isobel as Grace, Warbucks' secretary, further heightened the proceedings.

Whether it's the nuanced performances of the main cast or the seamless work of the backstage crew, every element of 'Annie Jr.' contributes to this unforgettable theatrical journey for the audience.

In the annals of Moreton Magic, this version of 'Annie Jr.' will certainly be remembered as an exemplary blend of teamwork, skill, and sheer love for theatre.

All three performances finished with The Holroyd Community Theatre shaking to a rapturous standing ovation and an encore of 'Hard Knock Life' that will have without doubt put this performance firmly in Moreton's Hall of Fame. A special mention must go to Mr Jenkins, Mrs Lott and Mrs Diack for all their input. Staging a show that is compulsory for nearly sixty children is no mean feat, and scheduling rehearsals around sporting fixtures and lessons is probably a task that should be nearly impossible, but yet again Moreton seemed to have pulled it off!

David and Rebecca Macphail and Zoe Harney
Parents

Springing into Elegance

On the evening of Friday, 9 February 2024, the air was filled with excitement and anticipation as the Moreton Sixth community gathered for the Spring Ball.

Dressed to the nines, the girls embarked on a night filled with glamour, laughter, and unforgettable moments.

The festivities kicked off in style with a pamper and prosecco party in The Link, where canapés flowed along with a glass of bubbly. The ambience was enchanting, with fairy lights twinkling above and a picture-perfect photo backdrop setting the scene for countless snapshots of joy and friendship. From there, the girls were whisked away to the Lion Quays Hotel for a prosecco and mocktail reception, where they were joined by their 'plus one' guests, adding an extra layer of warmth and camaraderie to the evening.

Stepping into the Lion Quays ballroom was like entering a fairy tale. Golden candelabra cast a soft glow over the room, and the flickering candlelight added a touch of drama to the atmosphere. And let's not forget the magical private garden, providing a tranquil retreat for those seeking a moment of quiet reflection amidst the revelry.

The culinary delights continued with a delectable two-course meal, setting the stage for an evening of indulgence and delight. But it was the music that truly stole the show, with a stellar line up including hits from ABBA, Sophie Ellis-Bextor, The Killers, and more. The dance floor was a whirlwind of energy and excitement as attendees danced the night away, creating memories that would last a lifetime.







Annie, a member of the Upper Sixth, shared:

> It was a wonderful evening filled with food, dancing and laughter, thoroughly enjoyed by all.”

Grace, from Lower Sixth, added: “It really was ‘Murder on the Dance Floor’! I don’t think I’ve ever danced so much in my life!”

Reflecting on the evening, Principal Michael Brewer remarked: “The Sixth Form Spring Ball was such a success. The girls and their guests were a credit to the school and to our Moreton Sixth. It’s clear that they value and celebrate belonging to our community.”

Cecily, of the Lower Sixth, echoed this sentiment, saying: “Everlasting memories were made that night.”

Holly, from the Upper Sixth, summed up the sentiment perfectly:

> The Spring Ball was a truly unforgettable night full of music, dancing, and of course, beautiful dresses! This was a completely unique experience for many of us, and we are so grateful to everyone who helped make it possible.”

As the echoes of laughter and the rhythm of the music linger in our memories, we look forward to more magical moments together as Moreton Sixth.

Here’s to the success of the inaugural Spring Ball and the countless memories yet to be made!





The Jenner Society

2023 and 2024 have been insightful for the Jenner Society. This is the thirteenth year of the society, and it has been led by Shriya and Holly who have presented some very interesting talks.

The Autumn term began with a talk given by Old Moretonian Georgia Turnbull (OM 2021). Her talk titled "You're Fine" was focused on her experience battling endometriosis. She shared how she felt and coped with this condition. Georgia mentioned how it had taken her six years to get diagnosed and since then, she has had surgery to alleviate the symptoms. At the end of the talk, Georgia showed us her university project, which was a gallery of pictures which conveyed her journey through this condition. It was a truly inspiring talk to start the year off with.

This talk was followed by Maddie Rouse's talk on Optometry and the project she had been part of in Malawi. She is a current Optometry student at Cardiff University and during the summer, she travelled to Malawi to conduct eye tests (around 1,500), donated over 600 pairs of spectacles and funded 200 cataract surgeries. Maddie presented us with a prescription and explained the meaning of everything on it.



Maddie's talk was followed by OM Joanna Holwill (2018) who is studying Nursing at the University of Manchester. Joanna talked about her journey in the front line during Covid. She was in her first year at university when Covid hit, and she feared she wouldn't finish her degree or do her placements. Her placements ended up being on the front-line helping patients. Then, she went on to explain cancer and the different treatments available, especially Car-T, a new cancer treatment with different side effects. She ended by giving us an insight into a day of a nurse.

In October, we welcomed Benno Veenstra who works as a farm vet and currently owns his own practice called Stapeley Vets. He started off by explaining what farm vetting is and the role it plays in society. Benno mentioned how tough it can be especially if you get called at 2am due to a cow in labour. He finished by explaining the pathway to get into farm vetting.



Following Benno's talk, we had a talk from Dr Monica Handa-Henshaw titled "How Healthy Are You?" Dr Handa-Henshaw currently works as a chiropractor and runs one of the busiest chiropractic practices in the UK. Monica started by explaining her role as a chiropractor and defining health. She explained that patients don't only go once to the chiropractor as the problem isn't fixed if habits aren't changed. Her talk was engaging by asking us questions and using a skeleton to point out the areas she was referring to.



Our annual MMI Event took place at The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital in November. 48 students from 19 local schools had a day in which they could practise their interview skills in preparation for medical school interviews. The term ended Dr Jane Gray's talk on General Practice. She described the pathway into becoming a GP and said that the best thing about it is the variety: No patient is the same. We learnt that there are different types of GPs, and she explained her work as a locum doctor.

In the Spring term, we started off with a webinar delivered by Emma Turner and two students at Swansea University. The talk explained alternative pathways into medicine. Graduate entry was the main focus and Emma explained that many students choose to do graduate entry as it isn't as competitive as undergraduate entry. Swansea University offers a three year course tailored to medicine in order to then complete graduate entry medicine.

It was a great talk as it showed the alternative paths to get into medicine.

We welcomed Dr Georgia Parry to deliver her talk on her medical journey. She first touched on interviews for medicine and how you always get asked "Why Medicine?". Dr Parry then went on to explain her daily life as a F2 doctor (Foundation Year 2) and how she aspires to become a paediatrician. She also went through the application process for medical school and finished off by giving us advice on our applications.

In February, we welcomed our own teacher Mr Tim Keeley who spoke about his experience with horses and their behaviour. We started off with videos that showed the behaviour of horses. We learnt that when horses sway their heads, they are bored and this causes wear and tear of the muscles in the neck. He talked us through the stages of training a horse.

We had interactive activities which made the talk very interesting and engaging.

After half term, The Jenner Society welcomed OM Hannah Rowson (2009) who studied Veterinary Medicine and is currently working at Stapeley Vets. Soon, she will start her Masters degree. She explained the process of becoming a vet and the EMS work you need to do over your holidays. Hannah described her day and mentioned how every day was different and that was the beauty of the job. She finished off by talking about her experience of going to New Zealand to work as a vet.

We finished off the year with a talk on Pharmacy, delivered by Caroline Jenkins. She explained her pathway into Pharmacy and mentioned her experience in New Zealand. She went through the process of prescribing patients with medicines, and she showed how AI plays a role in pharmacy. This was an amazing talk to finish off the term.

Cara Puvogel
Lower Sixth

The Bronwen Society

The Bronwen Society prides itself on offering an eclectic programme of talks and lectures to provide our pupils with enrichment and academic stimulation and this year has been no exception. We have been delighted to welcome a mix of home team and visiting speakers who have each shared a personal passion, inspiring us with their lectures.

Our first speaker of the year had flown in from Kenya to share the story of the Restart Africa charity. Mary Coulson held her audience transfixed as she talked about the abandoned children she first rescued on Gilgil in Kenya in 2008. Mary exuded compassion, energy and determination as she explained how the charity now supports over 100 children, offering them a haven from homelessness, violence and drugs and offering them food, shelter and education.

Much of Restart Africa's success depends on the contributions of volunteers, including students and young adults who choose to spend time volunteering with the charity during a long school holiday or gap year. Inspired by Mary's story, a number of our Sixth Formers remained behind to talk about how they might get involved and perhaps one of their stories will be a future Bronwen!



Our next speaker to take to the Bronwen Society floor was Art Historian, Dr Ann Haughton with her talk: 'Transforming Stereotypes'. Reorganising Gender, Class and Race in Art History. In her talk Dr Haughton first took us on a journey from the portraits of submissive women of the 15th and 17th centuries to the work of modern feminist artists as she explored how women are depicted in visual culture. She then turned her attention to race, with fascinating insights into how artists including JMW Turner, highlighted their criticism of the Slave Trade literally within the waves of a seascape.

It was an inspiring evening from a brilliant Art Historian and Moreton Hall teacher.

Next, it was the turn of our Head of Economics, Alison Matthew who reflected on her experience as a city Economist. Mrs Matthews shared her memories of the long hours and pressurised environment of City life and reminisced about the buzz of being part of this fast changing and fluid world.

It was a wonderful insight into that world and left at least two girls in the audience already determined that Economics would be on their A Level choices list!

In November, we marked Armistice weekend with a very special talk from Moreton Hall Classics teacher, Mr Bill Inge: 'World War II, My Father's Story'. When in January 1942 the troopship Llangibby Castle was attacked by a German U-Boat on its way to Japan, one of those aboard was William Walter Inge. Censorship during the war prevented him writing explicitly to his family about what had happened or his location, so this was the story of what he experienced and how he beat the censors to reassure his sister in Oxford.





We ended the term by marking the 75th Anniversary of the NHS, with Professor of Health, History and Policy at the University of Manchester, Professor Stephanie Snow who talked about her book: 'Our Stories: 75 Years of the NHS from the People Who Built It, Lived It and Love It' and shared some of the stories gathering in this citizen's history of the NHS.

Our Spring programme opened with a step back in time to the Middle Ages as Medievalist and Writer, Madeleine Killacky gave a fascinating talk on the doodles which dot the margins of Mediaeval manuscripts. Miss Killacky's PhD focuses on the intersection of manuscript studies and literature and her audience were entranced at the intricacies of these stunning Mediaeval works of Art and Literature.

A seminal literary text was also the theme of Head of English Phil Reynolds' well-attended talk. Marking the 400th anniversary of the publication of Shakespeare's First Folio, Mr Reynolds told the story of Thomas Killigrew who in pursuit of plays to put in in his new post-interregnum playhouse, turned the compendium of the late Shakespeare's plays gathered by John Heminges and Henry Condell into what we now know as the First Folio: A ground-breaking moment in our literary heritage.

For our final enrichment event of the academic year we welcomed Head of History, Mrs Clare Wagner for a fascinating talk on the History of the Scientific Revolution. Focusing on the 17th Century, a period which Mrs Wagner highlighted as a century of extraordinary change, we were introduced to some of the key characters of the period, including Robert Boyle, Sir Christopher Wren, and her personal hero, Robert Hooke. We heard about Boyle's law, the influence of Sir Christopher Wren, the impact of the Great Fire of London and the founding of the Royal Society, still the birthplace and home of new ideas and ground breaking research. We learned about the polymath, Robert Hooke who as a scientist, astronomer, philosopher, architect and inventor was an exceptional man who helped shape the age. Mrs Wagner ended her talk by reminding us all of the motto of the Royal Society;

'Nullius in verba' meaning 'take nobody's word for it'.

It is an expression of the determination which Boyle, Wren and Hooke all espoused and one which she encouraged the Bronwen Society to embrace and perpetuate - our intention is to do just that!

Caroline Lang
Senior Tutor, Moreton Sixth



In Full Swing...

The Lady Barbirolli Society

This year marks the seventh year of the Lady Barbirolli Society. Each year has brought, and will continue to bring, joy to the Music department and to pupils and staff alike.

It is a privilege to be able to provide musical opportunities for pupils at every stage of their journey, allowing them to excel in their music making outside the classroom. This year's Upper Sixth musicians embody the spirit of Moreton music, as so many do across the school, of joy, participation and excellence. The Spring term Sixth Form Recital Prize showcased that, with a record number of pupils competing, along with numerous other events throughout the year.

Organising masterclasses, performance opportunities, concerts and recital prizes is rewarding in itself but can only be as successful as the pupils who participate in them. Here, at Moreton, we are never short of willing musicians. Whether it is our music scholars, occasional musicians or those who just love music, everyone gives 100% support and commitment to the events that the Lady Barbirolli Society puts on.

Without a doubt, the pupils are what make these events the success they are. Over the past seven years, our visiting professionals who deliver the masterclasses are, without fail, so complementary of our pupils with their curiosity, courtesy and confidence. These wonderful attributes allow them to really make the most of any opportunities that come their way and to succeed in whatever they do.

The success of the Society is a mark of the character of Moreton's pupils and musicians.

The 2023-24 academic year has been no exception, with an array of opportunities across all ages of the school.

In the Prep School there are now twice-termly performances: An Informal Performance, with no audience, in the first half of each term followed by a Prep Recital in the second half of each term. These events are helping to raise the next generation of Moreton musicians who are confident and experienced performers. These events have proven so popular that we often have around twenty pupils from Years 1 to 6 performing and they are always oversubscribed.

Masterclasses have continued to offer our intermediate and advanced instrumentalists and singers the opportunity to work one-to-one with professionals at the top of their field.

This year we welcomed professional classical and musical theatre singer James Llewelyn Jones, RNCM, Manchester University tutor and concert pianist John Gough and CBSO Violinist Bethan Allman. These visits maintain the high calibre of our visiting masterclass series. Pupils from across the Senior School participated in these classes, having been selected by our team of specialist visiting music staff, all of whom play a vital role in the development and support of our musicians.

Aled Philips, director of Johns' Boys Male Chorus, who reached the semi-finals of Britain's Got Talent, returned to Moreton this year to adjudicate the Sixth Form Recital. This year, Cathy, Yasmin, Helena, Eliza, Romily, Holly, Angela and Gaia all gave outstanding performances on piano, violin and voice, with Gaia being crowned as this year's winner with her wonderful performance of Cabaret.



Moreton's musicians are very giving of their time and they will have been spotted at Open Days, the FAM agency visit, and are a part of all the school services and events. Our soloists, orchestra and choir are very much at the heart of what we do and it was wonderful to be able to showcase Moretonians past and present in the Soirée in the Spring term, demonstrating what a wealth of talent we have at Moreton and will continue to nurture for generations to come.

Clare Cocks
Music Teacher



What if My Child Just Won't Read?

I'm going to let you into a little secret: Giving girls celebrity autobiographies is not going to magically turn them into readers.

The go-to solution for parents and teachers everywhere often comes up short when pitted against watching actual celebrities in the jungle on the TV and don't get me started on Snapchat, Netflix and the other plethora of distractions available to the modern teenager which all push reading books down the priority list for most!

So what can we do when they just stubbornly refuse to read books? Well, firstly, make sure that they do have access to lots of different books; including some about celebrities if that's their thing! The days of teachers and parents believing that the only books worth reading are those written by Jane Austen or the Brontë sisters are hopefully long behind us. Visit libraries and book shops and let your child choose whatever books they want: The bigger the range and selection the better so that when they get home they have as many options as possible. That way if they don't like something then they can easily move on to something else. After all, if you started watching a TV series and you didn't enjoy episode one you wouldn't force yourself to watch the whole thing. So let them read whatever interests them: Manga books are often a brilliant way into reading for pupils who feel overwhelmed by a lot of text, non-fiction books can be fascinating and there are worse things they could be doing with their time than reading Guinness World Records! Just celebrate the fact that they are reading even if it isn't something you might have chosen yourself.

But reading doesn't have to mean books. Sometimes news articles or magazines can seem a little more manageable and it's still reading and just as beneficial.



Shropshire library has online content available with over a hundred current magazine titles available to download for free at home plus daily newspapers. There's academic material such as New Scientist, The Economist and National Geographic but there are also a range of popular titles covering the worlds of sport, cinema, cookery and much more. Additionally, there are some fantastic daily news digests that deliver the news in manageable chunks which drop daily into your inbox and can then be read on a phone. I particularly like 'The Knowledge' which has serious stories alongside more humorous ones and ranges from showbiz to politics and even property.



If they won't give articles a go either then we might need to become somewhat more stealthy to get our teens reading!

One of the most innovative literacy campaigns that I have come across is the Turn On The Subtitles campaign. Backed by Stephen Fry, Sandi Toksvig and a host of other big names, this is the result of research into eye tracking. Research suggests that your eyes cannot help but follow along when there are subtitles on the TV and this has a powerful effect on children's literacy as it improves their automatic word recognition. This research is considered so important in its potential to transform literacy that Netflix are



currently considering turning on the subtitles automatically on all their shows aimed at children and teens and the Indian government has already implemented legislation to turn on the subtitles automatically on mainstream TV programming in India.

This is an easy win with your teens: I'm sure they'll be delighted when you start encouraging them to watch TV (with the subtitles on, of course)!

I love books. I love delving into other worlds and forming connections with complex characters but I know that many of our teens don't feel that way and it's a cruel paradox that you often have to be good at reading in order to enjoy reading books and so the best readers read the most and so become even better readers. Therefore, if we really want to improve our teens' literacy we need to move away from thinking that lengthy novels are the gold standard in reading or the only thing worth reading. Celebrate that your child is reading anything at all: Start small, try some of these ways to sneak reading into their lives and just maybe they will find their way towards books independently anyway.

Victoria Little
English Teacher

The Risk

A city break was the best type of break, in Nigel's opinion. He'd been coming to Paris every Easter since he was ten.

Now, four times the age he'd been when he first stepped off the plane at Charles De Gaulle, he found himself retracing his steps like one traces a route on a map. Round each narrowed street bend, channelled by the encasing rows of limestone buildings, Nigel marched. Set route to: Eiffel Tower. Pace: Two strides per second. ETA: 12.43pm.

Paris, Nigel thought, was very relaxed: Too relaxed. Nigel liked organisation. He had won the prestigious OOA (Office Organisation Award) in 2013 and dined out on it ever since; now it was his go-to small-talk conversation starter. Here he saw people lazily leaning against lamp-posts, taking occasional drags of their cigarettes, ambling aimlessly, simply taking in the atmosphere.

"No time for that!" Nigel muttered, his mouth opened only slightly to avoid inhaling those cigarette fumes. (Messes with the mind, his mother had said.)

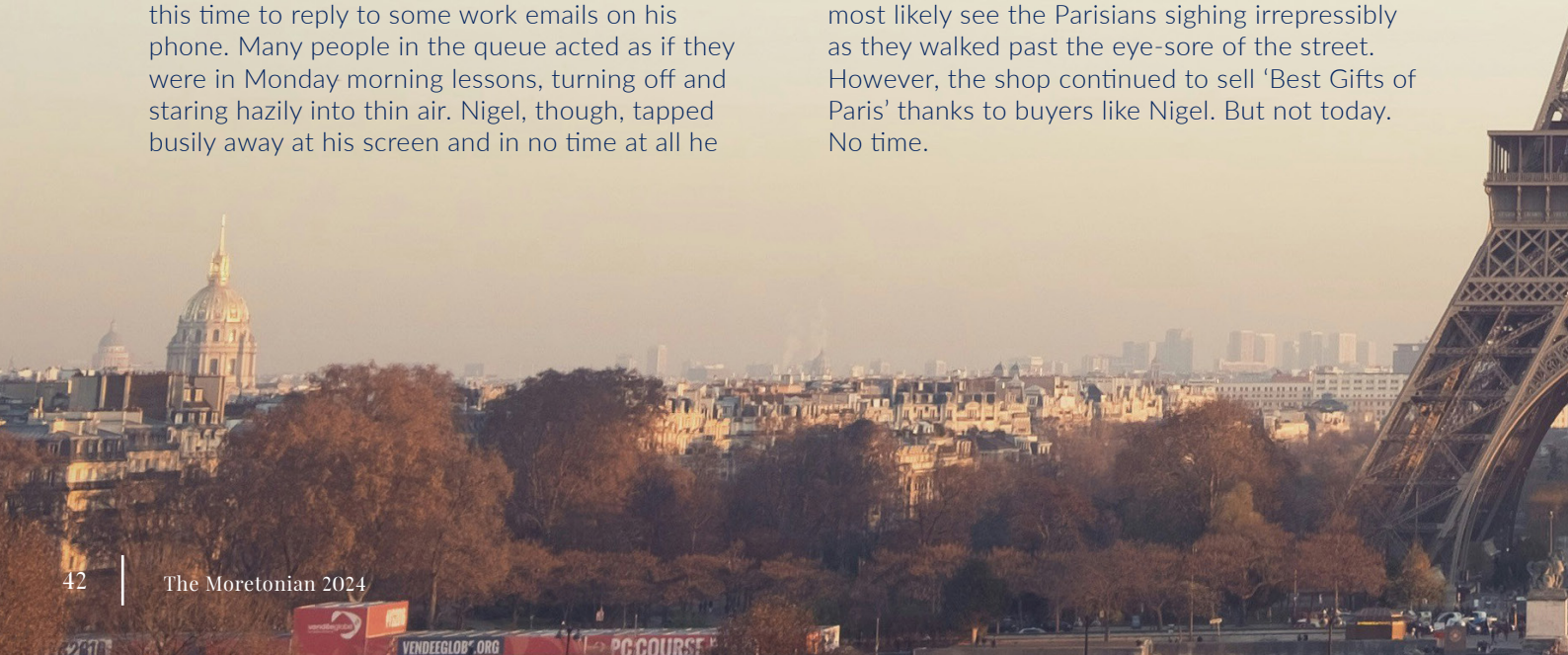
On arrival, Nigel saw a long queue snaking round the corner of the Eiffel Tower.

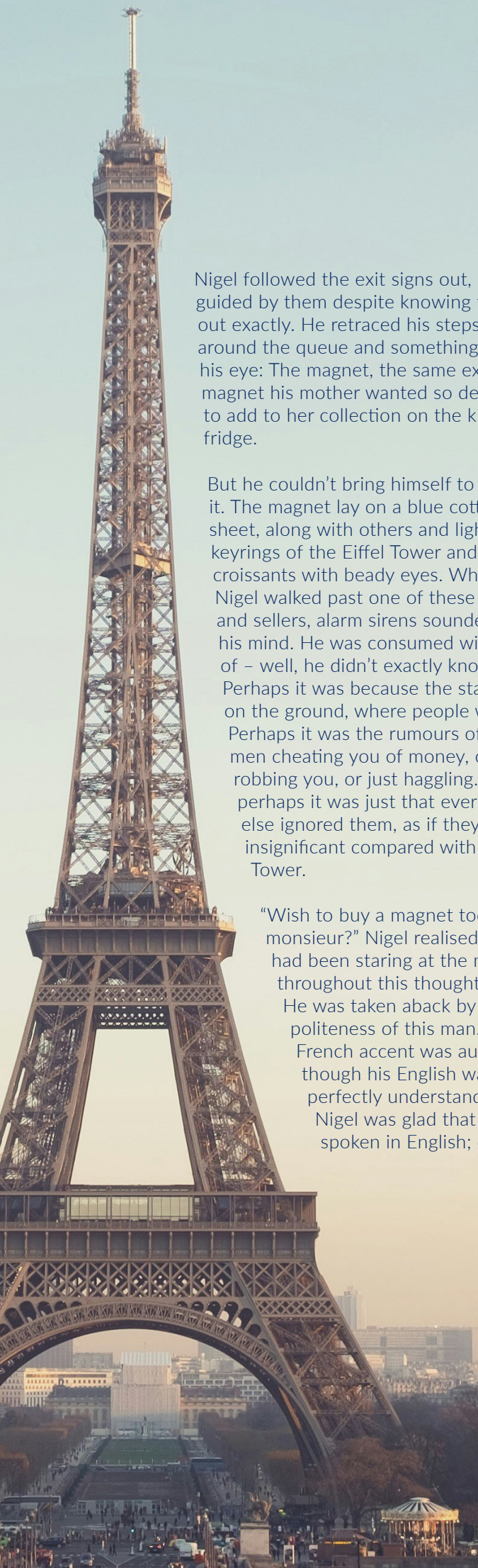
He'd anticipated this, and thus had scheduled this time to reply to some work emails on his phone. Many people in the queue acted as if they were in Monday morning lessons, turning off and staring hazily into thin air. Nigel, though, tapped busily away at his screen and in no time at all he was at the top of the Tower, staring bluntly at the linear rows of buildings and copy-and-paste parks.

"Nice," he said. The same thing he said every year. He didn't see the use of any other adjectives. Nice was nice. He looked down. The metal design of the Tower, rigid but intricately designed, satisfied him. Each iron rod was neatly organised and each had their own job to help hold up the tower. Nigel checked his watch. No. It couldn't be.

The lethal long, spidery hand on his Omega had had the audacity to make the time 1.34pm.

Punctuality was another of Nigel's obsessions, and it was too inconvenient that this time only gave him exactly twenty-four minutes to return to his flat, grab his travel briefcase and catch a pre-booked taxi from the 7th Arrondissement before heading to the airport to board his flight. Too tight to even get his mother's Eiffel Tower magnet from the usual 'Oui Oui A Paris' gift shop, which, along with magnets of all shapes and sizes, sold Manchester United playing cards (always in demand). If you were standing at the opposite end of the street from this shop, you would most likely see the Parisians sighing irrepressibly as they walked past the eye-sore of the street. However, the shop continued to sell 'Best Gifts of Paris' thanks to buyers like Nigel. But not today. No time.





Nigel followed the exit signs out, still guided by them despite knowing the way out exactly. He retraced his steps back around the queue and something caught his eye: The magnet, the same exact magnet his mother wanted so dearly to add to her collection on the kitchen fridge.

But he couldn't bring himself to buy it. The magnet lay on a blue cotton sheet, along with others and light-up keyrings of the Eiffel Tower and plush croissants with beady eyes. Whenever Nigel walked past one of these stalls and sellers, alarm sirens sounded in his mind. He was consumed with fear of – well, he didn't exactly know what. Perhaps it was because the stalls were on the ground, where people walked. Perhaps it was the rumours of these men cheating you of money, or openly robbing you, or just haggling. Or perhaps it was just that everyone else ignored them, as if they were insignificant compared with Eiffel's Tower.

"Wish to buy a magnet today, monsieur?" Nigel realised he had been staring at the magnet throughout this thought process. He was taken aback by the politeness of this man. His thick French accent was audible though his English was perfectly understandable. Nigel was glad that he had spoken in English; otherwise the excruciating pain of translating would be tiresome and draining. The suspenders that held his trousers up sagged slightly as Nigel spoke: "Uh, I don't know," he stated meekly.

The man's leathered, old dark skin connoted wisdom but his eyes were young and spirited. "Ahh well, monsieur, we never really know, do we?" As he was saying this he lifted his arm and leant it on the lamp-post next to him, as if for support.

"If we knew everything, what fun would that be?"

Nigel was dumbfounded. His toes shuffled around in his boots and his hands fidgeted in his tweed pockets, to try and think of something to say to this man, yet he could muster no words from his pursed lips. The man pulled a long, thick cigar from his patchworked pocket, lit it and took a deep drag.

"I didn't know if I should move here from Sénégal. I closed my eyes, boarded a plane and look where it got me: The city of love. I see the people who walk past me and clutch their purses tighter and avoid my eye contact. I don't care. I live my life and they live theirs."

Nigel wandered back to his flat, detouring his usual route of channelling limestone buildings towards the left bank of the Seine, the Eiffel Tower magnet in his jacket pocket.

Kate Reardon
Upper Five

All Change

Metathesiophobia, the clinical term for a fear of change; prosophobia, a fear of progress; neophobia, a fear of newness – there are so many terms borne of our innate terror of the arrow of time, of being left behind in a world changing faster than we're able to keep up, of not being in control.

Change is, after all, the antithesis of routine: and routines combat fear by taking away the role of chance or uncertainty. At school there's a timetable, but it fails to contain all the multitudinous busy-ness: rehearsals, sports practices and trips out all upset the regular pattern of lessons and prep sessions. And the compound noun 'timetable' is itself an attempt at controlling something way above our sublunary scope; so why bother when, looked at this way, routines seem at best an evasion, at worst absurdly futile? Some pupils thrive on post-exams temporal freedom, which offers room for spontaneity or sun-baked inaction. But others worry, leavers especially, about what the next academic year and (whisper it) life after Moreton will bring.

To these children, whom I see so often day-to-day in my roles as teacher and Sixth Form tutor, I ask what they want to achieve in life: and inevitably it's neither complete stasis nor an irrevocable, bridge-burning divorce from everyone and everything they hold dear. Instead, they want to build on a nascent academic or creative interest, maintain school friendships whilst making others, or gain an independent qualification that school can only prepare them for. The realisation, eventually, is that this means evolution, not revolution: change within sameness, stabilised by good foundations.

The principal source of joy in my job comes from the freedom Moreton affords teachers and pupils for newness; indeed it's the single most important lesson I've learned in my adult life, because, paradoxically, the final end-point of change is often that, on the surface at least, our lives are exactly the same: same close friends, same family, same hobbies, same job. Next year, I'm teaching John Donne for the first time, whose work offers such a potent antidote to the paralysing venom of change-fear. Take this beautifully wrought idea from A Valediction Forbidding Mourning.

The poem's beginning is conventional enough: the lovers must part, which brings 'harms and fears'. (Donne had to leave his wife Anne More for a voyage on the high seas.) But the title tells us that clichéd expressions of sorrow – 'tear-floods', 'sigh-tempests' – will not be allowed! Parted lovers, argues Donne, are like a sheet of gold stretched infinitely thin – but still attached; or a pair of compasses of which she, Anne, is the centrepoint keeping his 'circle just' while he 'run[s] obliquely' (indeed, 'must' run: he has no choice; none of us does if we desire anything new). And at the end of the poem the lovers have come full circle – literally – only to 'end where I begun'.

A contradiction indeed, but this is the nature of change: like landing among the green fields of England after a holiday somewhere hot and sparse, change means we see what we take for granted with washed eyes. To know what's important to us, we have to be temporarily wrenched from it. Change also helps us shed regressive or immature aspects of our characters: far from being unrecognisably altered, we return from change refined distillates of ourselves, concentrated, fuller of flavour and more nuanced.

And this need not happen only once in life, as with, for instance, Tom Buchanan of The Great Gatsby, who reaches 'such an acute limited excellence at twenty-one that everything afterward savours of anticlimax'; if change improves us, why not spend our whole lives seeking it? To think that if we continually refresh, renew and reinvent ourselves, the anticlimax of slow entropy might never happen – this is to recognise the word 'change' for the misnomer that it is.

So I'm going to invent a new word: metathesiomania, an unremitting obsession with change, a mindset that says, I'm not satisfied; I'm never satisfied; I crave change; I refuse to stand still – because, as TS Eliot so unforgettably tells us, self-fulfilment is only possible if exploration never ceases:

"And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time."

Philip Reynolds
Head of English

Grow Together

> Whenever you are creating beauty around you, you are restoring your own soul. ”

- Alice Walker

The power of nature has long been expounded as a way to find healing. As the Director of Wellbeing, I see it as vital that we provide young people with the opportunities to explore different ways to find peace, happiness and healing. Moreton Hall has a long standing connection with the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital and twenty-seven Lower Sixth students set off to tidy and restore two of the Hospital's green spaces.

The Hospital has a number of courtyard gardens for patients, staff and families to enjoy. These gardens were in need of some 'TLC', in particular, the memorial garden to Professor James Richardson. 'Prof', as he was known, died in February 2018, just a matter of months after a rare treatment for a type of arthritis in the knee – work which Professor Richardson had been at the forefront of – won official approval by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) to be funded by the NHS.

The Lower Sixth were inspired by the story of Professor Richardson's work and were keen to help return this garden to its former glory.

Ingrid said, "I really enjoyed clearing the garden and also planting new beautiful plants. I found the whole process deeply satisfying which really surprised me as I have never gardened before. It was rewarding because the garden looked refreshing and vibrant afterwards. I hope the patients will enjoy seeing all the new plants."

MacKenzie added, "I thought our volunteering morning was really beneficial to not just the hospital, but to everyone who took part. I really enjoyed helping my friends while knowing the space we were making is going to make a lot more people happy."

I'd like to thank everyone who took part in this event. In the words of Audrey Hepburn:

> To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow. ”

Sarah Pritchard
Life Skills Coordinator
and Director of Wellbeing



Down Under

Since 2008, Moreton Hall has run an exchange program for Upper Four pupils, with Abbotsleigh in Sydney, Australia. Having been on hold due to the global pandemic, we were delighted that our exchange programme was back up and running, and during the Spring term, three pupils from Upper Four were selected to take part.

Abbotsleigh, an independent school for girls located in New South Wales, Australia, has 1,200 pupils, and whilst it is primarily a day school, Abbotsleigh is also a boarding school. Isobel, Felicity and Hannah were all given a boarding 'buddy' who they shared a dormitory with. They also followed their buddies' school timetable, giving them the chance to experience what life in an Australian classroom is like.

Isobel said: "One of my favourite parts of Abbotsleigh was the library. We had prep sessions there each night and also our Mathematics lessons. There were also lecture studios, seminar rooms, desks and study nooks which were all available to us at any time."

During their six weeks, the girls integrated themselves into Australian life. They attended socials, went on trips to visit iconic Sydney landmarks and tried new foods.

A highlight for Felicity was the first night they arrived, she said: "I loved arriving at the boarding house and meeting our year group.

> They treated us to an Australian tea of Lamingtons and Tim Tams.

The girls also tried an Australian pie, affectionately dubbed as 'pocket warmers', and visited a 'lolly' shop where they got the chance to buy and sample different flavours.

During their third week, their Upper Four class went on a four-day trip to the Crosslands Reserve in Galston and travelled up the Berowra Waters. They camped for three nights and got involved in many activities such as canoeing, hiking and mountain biking.

Their Housemistress also took them to the Blue Mountains, a World Heritage region west of Sydney known for its stunning natural beauty and breath-taking scenery. The girls also had the opportunity to visit the Three Sisters, an unusual rock formation, the Scenic Railway, the steepest railway in the world, and Leura Village, a picturesque town with character-filled heritage homes and cool climate gardens.



Hannah said: "A highlight for all of us was when we visited 'VIVID Sydney', an annual light show which takes place every night, one month of the year. We were also incredibly lucky and were taken on an evening cruise around Darling Harbour."

Now back at Moreton, the girls have had a chance to reflect on their six-week adventure 'down under'.

Isobel said:

> One thing we all agree on is that this was a wonderful experience and we are so incredibly grateful we had this opportunity.

Time had No Beginning and will have No End

Celebrating British Science Week, Moreton Hall's Science and Mathematics teachers joined forces to deliver fascinating and original lessons on the theme of 'Time.' How is it measured? What it means for human evolution? And how can we try to reverse it?

Remove and Lower Four Chemistry and Physics pupils designed posters for entry into the national British Science Week competition. The competition required pupils to think about the concept of time in a unique way. Some pupils chose to explore the evolution of different species, such as bears and chickens, while others imagined what our world could be like in the future.

To support the GCSE topic on 'Human Evolution', Mr Keeley built a giant 'Timeline' in his lab which spans the creation of the Earth to the present day. Lower Five pupils clearly identified where key evolutionary changes took place from the appearance of starfish, to the evolution of Homo sapiens. Pupils across the school were fascinated to learn how ancient some creatures and other organisms really are and where the Science department fossils fit in. This also coincided with Round 2 of the Cambridge Biology Challenge in which Lower Sixth Biologists answered the question 'Are humans still evolving?'.

Upper Sixth A Level chemists tried to turn back time when they made their own customised cosmetics and hand creams exploring the properties of a range of oils and butters under the guidance of Mrs Turnbull. To add to their creations they blended essential oils to create a bespoke fragrance.

Prep to Upper Four mathematicians joined in the fun celebrating 'Pi day' with a Times Tables Rock Stars competition. Further celebrations took place with a 90th birthday party for the legendary Ecologist Dame Jane Goodall who has promoted nature conservation throughout her life.

An in-house 'Science Song Competition' encouraged pupils across the school to write and perform their Science themed songs to win divisional points. The Jenner Society welcomed Caroline Jenkins, Deputy Head Pharmacologist at the RJAH Hospital who reminded us how advancements in science over time have allowed us to create medicines with a specific purpose.

Trying to turn back time, the Eco Team drove to Aberystwyth Beach to carry out a 'Beach Clean' and return the coastline to how it was before plastic rubbish started to build up on our beaches.

All in all, we feel that the time has passed and everyone in STEM has really enjoyed our celebration of British Science Week and our investigations into 'Time.'

Hannah Peel
Head of Biology

The Power of the Female Voice

According to research published by the Speakers Trust, in 2023, "...half of 15-year-old girls in England lack the confidence to speak in public. The equivalent figure for boys is around 30%." It saddens me to read these startling statistics but it doesn't surprise me. In 2010, research published by J. A. Baxter entitled - "Teaching Girls to Speak Out: The Female Voice in Public Contexts", identified the gender gap in the public voice and the difficulties women face when they speak in formal, public or unfamiliar contexts.

I fervently believe that good communication opens every door in life. The ability to communicate effectively can determine the success or failure of politicians, business leaders and our personal relationships. If you are an 'effective communicator' your skills will be in demand.

I am fortunate enough to have benefitted from Moreton's Spoken English teaching. My time at Moreton Hall in the late 1980s provided me with the skills and confidence to use my oracy skills to be a voice for the voiceless. I spent 20 years as a barrister in the Family Courts of England and Wales ensuring that the most vulnerable in our society were heard.

I saw no barrier to my voice being heard.

This academic year, the whole of Moreton Hall Prep learnt and performed selected poems in readiness for the final of the Moreton Prep Oracy Competition. Pupils from Year 2 to Upper Five competed at the Chester Competitive Festival of Performing Arts, winning nine medals and trophies between them.





Remove and Lower Four have taken their English-Speaking Board (ESB) examinations achieving six distinctions, fifteen Merit + and six Merits between them. Thirty-seven Lower Sixth students, four Lower Five pupils and three Upper Five (EAL learners) have taken their ESB examinations. Our four Lower Five pupils achieved one Distinction and three Merit + gradings. An incredible twenty-nine Lower Sixth students achieved the highest mark, Distinction, seven achieved Merit + and one student achieved a Merit.

These are the best results we have received in the last seven years and reflect the strength of our oracy provision.

The ESB Grade 8 in Speech (the Sixth Form qualification) is one of the most effective learning assessment tools to develop oracy. Additionally, it provides valuable UCAS points for university entrance. Each student has to present a five-minute talk on a subject of their choosing utilising a PowerPoint presentation to support their talk. This talk must be evidence based and fully referenced, precisely timed and delivered with spontaneity and knowledge in front of a group of their peers. In addition, they must learn, perform and recommend a piece of literature. The final element of the assessment requires students to



host a newspaper discussion for ten minutes. This element of the assessment is challenging but it equips students to manage a boardroom discussion like nothing else! This particular learning tool is so effective that universities and employers are now using it as a method to select their candidates.

It is with gratitude and humility that I read the following words in a thank you card from one of my Lower Sixth students:

> ...you've helped me realise how powerful my voice is as a tool for myself and for others...”

Sarah Pritchard
Head of Spoken English

Tales of the Tower

Whether you prefer to describe her as a trailblazer or a shatterer of glass ceilings, there is no doubt that Moira Cameron has boldly gone where no woman has gone before!

In early 2007 Moira made national headlines with the announcement that she had been appointed as the first woman to join this world-famous team since they were formed in 1485.

Moira spent fifteen years in this role, living through some truly historic times and welcoming to the Tower of London some of the world's most famous faces, from Royalty to Presidents, with many celebrities along the way. But being a trailblazer comes at a price and during her time at Moreton Hall, Moira also highlighted the challenges for a woman moving into a traditionally male role.



Moira's visit began with a Sunday evening Bronwen Society talk where in conversation with Mrs Lang, she talked about her own journey to the Tower. Although the advertisement for new Yeomen Warders had emphasised that 'this is not a job just for the boys', Moira soon discovered that was not an opinion shared by many. Indeed, on her first look around the Tower of London she was introduced to a Beefeater who, on hearing of her interest in a position, removed his outstretched hand for a handshake announcing, "the clue is in the title, YeoMAN!"

Moira's highlights included being a part of the 2014 Field of Poppies installation, organising and appearing in the Tower's first star-studded variety show, and being introduced to Michelle Obama as the Tower of London's 'First Lady.' But Moira was frank about the challenges too: It was a decade before any more women joined her in the role and at times it was a lonely and isolating position which took its toll on her wellbeing.

Head Girl Hattie commented: "Hearing how Moira overcame so many challenges, even to get the role, and throughout the role, spread a powerful reminder of resilience. To be able to have supper with her afterwards, and ask so many different questions about her experiences, and where life had taken Moira, inspired the Prefects to believe that anything in life is possible."

After an engaging, fascinating and insightful assembly, Moira's itinerary included time with both the CCF and the M-PWR (Moreton Promoting Women's Rights) members.

Reflecting on Moira's time with the CCF cadets, Rebecca said:

> Moira was both inspiring and hard-hitting. ”

"She talked about her life in the Army, how she became the First Female Beefeater and how that affected her. Meeting her was a fantastic opportunity."

Emily is a member of M-PWR and relished her time with Moira: "The M-PWR lunch gave us all a great insight into the challenges we could face, but inspired us to pave our own trails with confidence. Now we know we are all capable of smashing our own glass ceilings."

Caroline Lang
Senior Tutor, Moreton Sixth

M-*PWR*

Moreton Promoting Women's Rights or, M-PWR, as it's affectionately known, was born out of my passion to see women and girls around the world have fair access to human rights, particularly education and safety.

I have pursued this commitment throughout my life; from working at a summer camp dedicated to allowing women and girls with disabilities to enjoy a fun and fulfilling week's break in the Surrey countryside aged sixteen, to beginning a PhD addressing the specific impacts of wartime violence on women and girls.

After joining Moreton Hall in September 2022, I saw those sparks of curiosity and wanting to change the world for the better in the pupils. So, in January 2023, M-PWR was created. We started very small, with just two original pupils for whom I am forever grateful - Aerlie Hawcroft and Francesca Porter. Over the course of the past eighteen months, however, M-PWR has blossomed into a warm and welcoming community of twenty plus members from Remove all the way up to Upper Sixth.

This academic year, M-PWR have stormed onto the scene to make a number of meaningful changes to both the lives of the girls at Moreton and the lives of women and girls in our local community.

We started by actioning the provision of sanitary products in all school toilets, meaning the pupils and staff in our school who needed them would always have easy access to them. Then in March 2024, we launched our most exciting project so far - the International Women's Day postcard competition.

Whilst the concept of the competition was simple, the impact was far from it. The girls were tasked to design a postcard which would then be printed and available to purchase for a small fee in Moreton Enterprises. Once bought, the Moreton community were encouraged to write a message of thanks to a woman in their life, with all the proceeds from the postcards going to West Mercia Women's Aid, our local domestic violence shelter. We were delighted when we learnt that we had sold over two-hundred of these fantastic postcards designed by our winner, Arabella Paterson, especially when recipients of the postcards were so overwhelmed with joy at receiving such kind messages from senders.

Our postcard launch went hand-in-hand with the new International Women's Day event, which saw pupils off timetable for half a day to learn from an inspirational panel of incredible women and explore the idea of rights which, in practice, aren't always possible - such as the right for a girl to walk home at night safely on her own. The day was incredibly meaningful and the pupils engaged wholeheartedly.

I am delighted to say that due to the success of M-PWR we will now be introducing a Student Lead, Anna Ng, who will be promoting our cause as an Upper Sixth next year. We will be working on our next project which is to make Moreton Hall a Gold UK Feminista Action Award school. Wish us luck!

Natalie Conde
Housemistress

How the Moreton Magic transcends all

Celebrating True Immersion

Immersion in its simplest terms is defined as learners being educated in whole or in a significant part through a language other than their first. However, Moreton Hall never does just simple.

We are proud to welcome around twenty-five percent of our pupils from all corners of the globe, creating a truly inclusive community whilst also retaining our quintessential British Boarding School feel.

Our Mother Tongue and Cultural Day celebrations led by our wonderful International Committee showcased how we believe that true immersion is about cultivating a sense of belonging and unity among pupils from diverse backgrounds. Moreover, we provide a space where all pupils feel able to succeed and compete on a level playing field regardless of whether they were born and bred a couple of miles away or travel thousands of miles to be with us. There is a palpable sense of camaraderie and mutual respect that permeates our school community. Our pupils are not just classmates: they are friends, mentors, and they truly champion each other.







When we consider some of our notable successes this year, it is obvious that a great barometer of Moreton's success is that no matter where our pupils come from, the equality of opportunity is tangible:

2023 GCSE and A Level grades twice as high as UK national averages. This included our international pupils where the value added at GCSE was 0.7-1 grade for international pupils. We see phenomenal Mathematicians such as Ephelia being invited to the Wise programme in London and other international pupils competing alongside their Moreton Hall peers in the Biology Olympiad as well having active roles in our highly successful student led business, Moreton Enterprises.

100% of international students achieved their first choice of University in 2024. Our international pupils also achieved 100% success rate in their IELTS results (46% achieved the highest band grade 7.5-8) which are an extra requirement for international pupils to gain entry into UK universities contributing to our outstanding school band average of 7.

National Lacrosse U19 champions in 2024. Our international pupils throw themselves into a range of sports. Cara Puvogel from Chile is on the England development pathway for Hockey and Bella from China competes in national equestrian competitions, trained locally to Moreton Hall by an Olympic equestrian.

Nomination for finalists in the Independent School of the Year for Performing Arts/Music/ Drama. International pupils also take on lead roles in our school performances and our Year 5 pupil, Sabrina achieved a grade 6 in piano this year.



The Moreton magic transcends whether it is through participating in a drama production, competing on the sports field and cheering on teammates, engaging in a lively class debate about the character flaws of Romeo, or simply chatting excitedly with classmates in the Boarding House.

We encourage all pupils to throw themselves wholeheartedly into every aspect of school life and to feel part of the same family.

As we know, members of one family are not the same: We grow and succeed by embracing differences and being enriched by them.

Elyse Conlon
International Director

Queens of the North

Months have passed and the star dust has settled, but what was achieved has not been forgotten. In fact quite the opposite: after reflection, and time to let this all sink in, it is even more special, and it will never be forgotten...

Lacrosse is long ingrained in the history of Moreton Hall and being part of the First Lacrosse team is something that many aspire to do throughout their time here. Our trophy cabinet is full, our achievements are many and our reputation in the North of the country is undeniable, but there is one title that has never been won. Until now.

Moreton Hall are U19A National Champions 2024.

It feels like this one has been a long time coming, and whilst it has often been in sight, it has always felt like a bridge too far and just out of reach. The schools that win this title don't come from the North, the teams that win this title have hundreds of girls to choose from, tens of staff to support them, they have big budgets, lots of time, incredible facilities. The teams that win this title have more than three subs! It just isn't possible, it can't be done. Well, thirteen young pupils from Shropshire with huge talent, even bigger determination, unwavering commitment and a resilience that I am in awe of, have proved everybody wrong. They did it.

The season had been one of huge highs and some lows, but the lows have never felt long lasting and we have always been able to learn from them and use them to drive us forward. At the beginning of the season I asked the girls how much they wanted this, and whilst there would be no pressure from me, if they want it, I will do all I can to support them and make it happen. If I had their commitment, they had mine. So, we committed, we went 'all in', and they have given absolutely everything they have.

Over the weekend of Nationals these girls didn't just win, they were undefeated, something that just does not happen; 'the winners of Nationals always drop a game'. Not only were they undefeated they also were the only team working their way through the knockouts without playing a single period of overtime. Even after going down on a number of occasions, they never gave up. I had told them before every game, we don't wait to warm up, we are never complacent, we play every moment and every game with a 'last game mentality', and a 'last minute mentality' and they did just that, they played every minute with passion and they never gave up.







Even with seconds on the clock against Queen Anne's, Emma won the ball, and I just knew she was going to score the winning goal to see us through to the next round. They simply could not lose!

What was also remarkable about the weekend, and the entire season, is the support the families have given this team.

Whichever pitch we went on at Nationals, whoever we faced, I knew with absolute confidence that there would be a sea of blue striped bobble hats shouting louder than anybody else, and supporting us every step of the way. If I was ever on the same side as our supporters pacing down the sidelines, barking instructions, I would feel a hand on my shoulder, or a reassuring 'they've got this Miss Walsh', and it meant the absolute world. This victory didn't just mean everything to me and the players, it meant everything to their parents, their supporters, and their school. It meant everything to every single player who has ever pulled on the Moreton Hall shirt and fallen just short at National Championships gone by. Even to the region, with other Northern Schools, coaches and parents, saying to me and to the girls 'you can do this', we felt like a Premier League football team playing at their home ground! We were playing for so much more than just the trophy. So, thank you. Thank you to everybody for your support, we simply could not have done it without you.

As well as lifting the National Trophy, we gained some individual accolades, which must be recognised. During the presentation, every award category was announced, followed by the school the winner attended, and we waited each time with bated breath until, 'Defender of the Tournament, from… Moreton Hall School', the cheering began and we all knew it could be none other than co-captain and absolute warrior, Karina! Finally, the Vivienne Jones Memorial Trophy, the biggest honour that can be bestowed upon a school Lacrosse player, the Most Valued Player (MVP) of the entire tournament, and again, it was going to a player from the Championship winning team, Moreton Hall… After an outstanding performance, culminating in a heroic effort during the final, with a match winning goal, it was no surprise when we heard Upper Sixth player Phoebe's name. Once again the Moreton fan club, and the whole team erupted; another historic moment for Phoebe, and for Moreton Hall.

> I would like to thank every player and every coach who has gone before, paving the way for me, and for this group of 13 girls, who dreamt big, and have been inspired to go all the way. ”

This title is for all of you. Finally, as a small school with fewer staff than most it is often the case that we coach alone, but having Mrs Sanderson and Mrs Lewin on our bench for the final made it even more special. Mrs Sanderson was the calm reassurance by my side at nearly every game, her presence ever felt and so special given her long standing history with the school, having been the one to put Moreton Hall Lacrosse on the map at the beginning of all of this. And Mrs Lewin… Where would Moreton Hall be without Mrs Lewin? After all the decades of dedication, commitment, selflessness, support, guidance and true Moretonian magic, what better gift could we give her, than finally making us National Champions! We did it!

Carina Walsh
Lacrosse Coach

Sport Highlights

Another year providing a medley of Lacrosse, Tennis, Athletics, Cricket, Netball, Hockey, Fencing and Motocross. A huge congratulations is owed to all those to have participated in all of the many sports that have taken place - Moreton has been proudly represented by pupils' grit, courage and resilience.

Athletics

The Athletics teams have enjoyed a very successful season.

- Junior and Intermediate teams competed in the ESAA Athletics Competition, Oakengates. The Intermediate team won Round One of the competition, making a fantastic start to the season.
- The Intermediate team won the semi-finals in the County Cup, Oakengates and a commendable second place in the finals.
- Junior and Intermediate teams participated against eight schools in the North Shropshire Athletics Competition, Queensway stadium run by Moreton Hall. After a great season the Juniors finished fourth in their category and the Intermediates achieved an impressive second place.

Special mentions go to;
- Emily, 800m winner
- Nina, 1,500m winner
- Matilda, 300m winner





Cricket

The Summer term at Moreton Hall saw a significant growth in hardball Cricket, reflecting the enthusiasm of the budding Cricketers and providing a blend of tradition, innovation, and mentorship, shaping well-rounded individuals both on and off the field.

- Each age group fielded strong, competitive, and skilled teams competing with the very best schools in the region.
- The Women and Girls' Softball Tournament played a crucial role in laying down clear pathways from school Cricket to club and county levels.
- Introduction of both hardball and softball teams in each year group has proven to be a huge positive in providing equal opportunities for players of all levels to engage in and access the sport.
- Senior players have provided an inspiration for the younger age groups. Their mentorship and guidance have not only enhanced skills but have also instilled confidence, sportsmanship, and camaraderie.

Sport Highlights



Fencing

Fencing at Moreton continues to evolve not only internally but into the wider community through our performance hub - with Moreton affiliated Fencers training and competing nationally and internationally.

- British Public Schools Championships welcomes the biggest and best Fencers from across the country to compete for the title. The Moreton delegation of Carly, Haddie and Lillia put in a fantastic performance, with Haddie securing Moreton's third ever podium finish.
- Fencers have continued their ever popular series against our local partners, Wrexham Fencing Club.
- North Shropshire Fencing Hub welcomed local partner schools to train and compete together to drive exposure and standards of Fencing across the region.
- Moreton's ACE Performance Hub has continued to offer competition focused training to Fencers across the region culminating in multiple podiums, series wins and top eight national ranking positions.
- Hub fencer and OM Oliver Hewitt achieved a very strong finish at Challenge Wratislavia in Poland and a bronze medal at the British Championships.

Hockey

The Autumn term saw some remarkable achievements and developments within our Hockey programme at Moreton across all age groups.

- U14, U16, and U18 teams have shown exceptional skill and dedication, securing qualification for the prestigious Midlands Finals of the National England Hockey Schools Tournament. Each group has also been crowned Shropshire County Champions at their respective tier level.
- U13s continue in their upward trajectory, with each pupil playing in multiple fixtures.
- A record number of girls attended county training and after school training sessions. This highlights the growing interest and participation of female pupils in our Hockey programme, and actively engaged in the sport.

A highlight of the Hockey term, apart from the qualification successes, has to be the sheer number of senior girls looking to play and participate at a second team level. The positive culture that surrounds the second team is delightful to see and a natural progression of the sport from Lower School to Senior School. A huge thanks to second team captain Ruby for being so supportive to all the girls.

Special mentions go to;

- Cara, who has exemplified talent and dedication by representing Moreton Hall at the England Hockey's Talent Academy. Her dedication serves as an inspiration to her peers and reinforces our commitment to nurturing and supporting the talents of our students.
- Phoebe, who did an excellent job as First XI Hockey Captain this year, and along with her fellow Upper Sixth students, she was able to inspire her team to some excellent results and performances.



Sport Highlights

Netball

This year's Netball saw our girls progress both technically and tactically. All pupils were energetic and trained wholeheartedly throughout the term. Each fixture we played was tightly contested, and even if the results didn't always go our way, the girls togetherness remained evident.



Squash

It has been fantastic to see so many pupils have the opportunity to play Squash and participate in the game, and for that, we thank Mr Davies, whose dedication and enthusiasm have been inspirational.

- Our pupils have showcased remarkable talent by reaching the last sixteen of the U17 National School Squash Tournament.





Tennis

Tennis at Moreton has consistently grown stronger every year. Pupils have the opportunity to take Tennis lessons year-round with experienced LTA Tennis coaches; Cheryl Evans and Pete Brown. They can choose from private, pairs, or group coaching sessions. Additionally, pupils participate through both the curriculum and activities programme.

- Moreton's ACE Tennis program is establishing a centre of excellence encouraging players from Moreton and outside the school to participate.
- Pupils from Year 3 through to Upper Sixth have the opportunity to play matches for the school. These include LTA Divisional matches for those taking Tennis and the more serious approach as well as friendlies, which provide opportunities for lower-seeded players.
- The Lower Sixth social event encourages girls to play Tennis and meet new people in a non competitive atmosphere.
- Introduction of the school's own singles championship for Middle and Senior School.
- A new U12 open doubles event was held, attracting players from around the area and proving to be very successful.
- Congratulations to U13 and U15 teams for winning their LTA divisions competition, triumphing over schools such as Oswestry, Wrekin, Newport Girls High, and Thomas Telford.
- U15 team won the North Shropshire Pairs event.

Special mentions go to;

- Carly (Remove) who has made the U12 Shropshire Tennis team, captained by Moreton PE teacher, Mrs Evans.

Sport Highlights

Golfing Success

17-year-old Isla boasts a decorated resume, having gained plenty of golfing experience at a national and international level, over her 12 years of play.

- 2021 - achieved a place in the National Girls Under 18 programme 2024.
- At 17 offered a place in the England Women's National Programme.
- Isla has travelled across Europe, representing England Golf, gaining international caps at under 18 level and also at home.
- Competed in the World Junior Championships in Canada, representing England Golf and finished in the top ten.
- Played in the Justin Rose Telegraph Finals in Portugal, where she met professional Golfer Justin Rose MBE.
- Isla's European ranking for England, under the age of 18, is one.
- European ranking overall, across all European nations, under the age of 18, is 17.



- Isla's world ranking is 535 at women's level.
- A handicap of +5,2 (a Golf handicap is a numerical score that measures a Golfer's ability based on their previous Golf round's scores. It is the suspected number of strokes that a player is expected to take above or below the course's par score).
- Secured a fully funded scholarship at Arizona State, which has the best Golf facility in the United States of America, and boasts many impressive alumni. Isla will join Sun Devil Women's Golf in the Autumn of 2024.



Photo: Carts Captures

MotoCross: Getting into Gear

Upper Five pupil Holly has continued to excel at MotoCross.

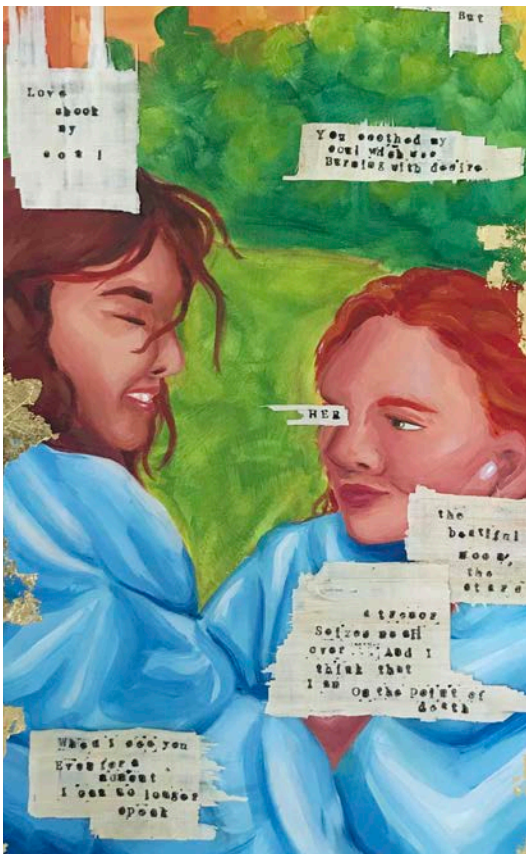
This is her first rookie season on a 125cc bike having moved up from her 85cc. One of Holly's main goals for the season was to build up speed and confidence in order to prepare and be stronger for the next season. One of Holly's other goals is to be in the top ten British and European (EMX) races.

Holly completed pre-season races that went incredibly well and gave her confidence going into the first round of the British race. The first few rounds went really well and she was gaining experience competing in bigger European races against GP riders. These tracks were much tougher and also much longer than what Holly was used to.

Unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances, Holly had to miss two rounds of the British Motocross. However, she is planning to be back on her bike for the last round of the British and EMX in Germany.

Holly is working hard preparing for her 2025 season.





The Art Gallery

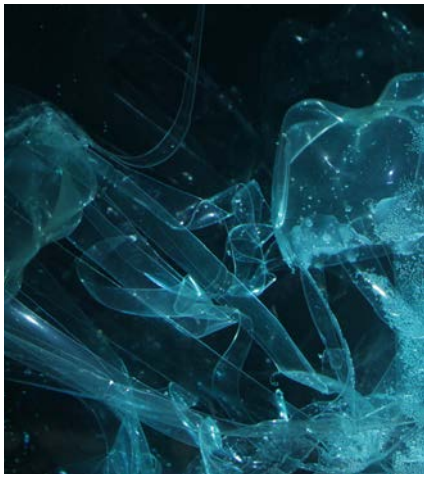








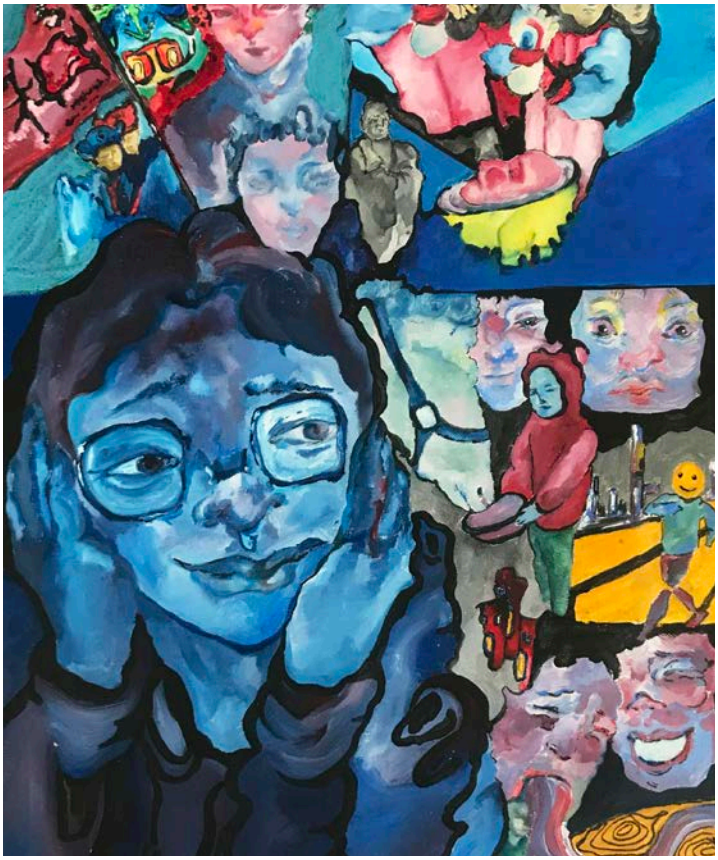












The Next Chapter

After an incredibly busy 2023, The Holroyd Community Theatre, at Moreton Hall School, and Booka Bookshop announced their partnership in February of this year. The partnership celebrates their working relationship and has allowed for a multitude of celebrities to visit Oswestry.

Since the partnership, 2024 has seen personalities including Fearne Cotton, Liz Earle, Paul Sinha, Caroline Quentin, Rob Rinder, Louise Minchin and Christian Lewis to name just a few. Following the much-loved 'in-conversation' format, these world-class authors discuss their latest books and take questions from the audience. Every talk is followed by a meet and greet with the author, in the theatre's beautiful foyer, which allows each audience member a few minutes with them.

Michael Jenkins, Creative Director at The Holroyd Community Theatre, said: "It was wonderful that we could cement our relationship with our local independent bookshop, Booka Bookshop. Every author so far has been humble and friendly, and it is wonderful to see our audience leaving excited and inspired with a personalised signed copy of their new book. We are already seeing the benefit within our local community."

He continued, saying: "The 'in-conversation' events enhance our seasonal programs, adding a diverse range to our stage. There have been instances where a celebrity author entertained the audience, a community baby-group gathered in our foyer, and our Performance Academy held rehearsals all on the same day. It's during days like these that we take great pride in The Holroyd and our community partnerships."

Michael Brewer, Principal at Moreton Hall School, said: "At Moreton Hall School we are privileged to have The Holroyd Community Theatre space not just a classroom, but as a space for the community to explore the arts.

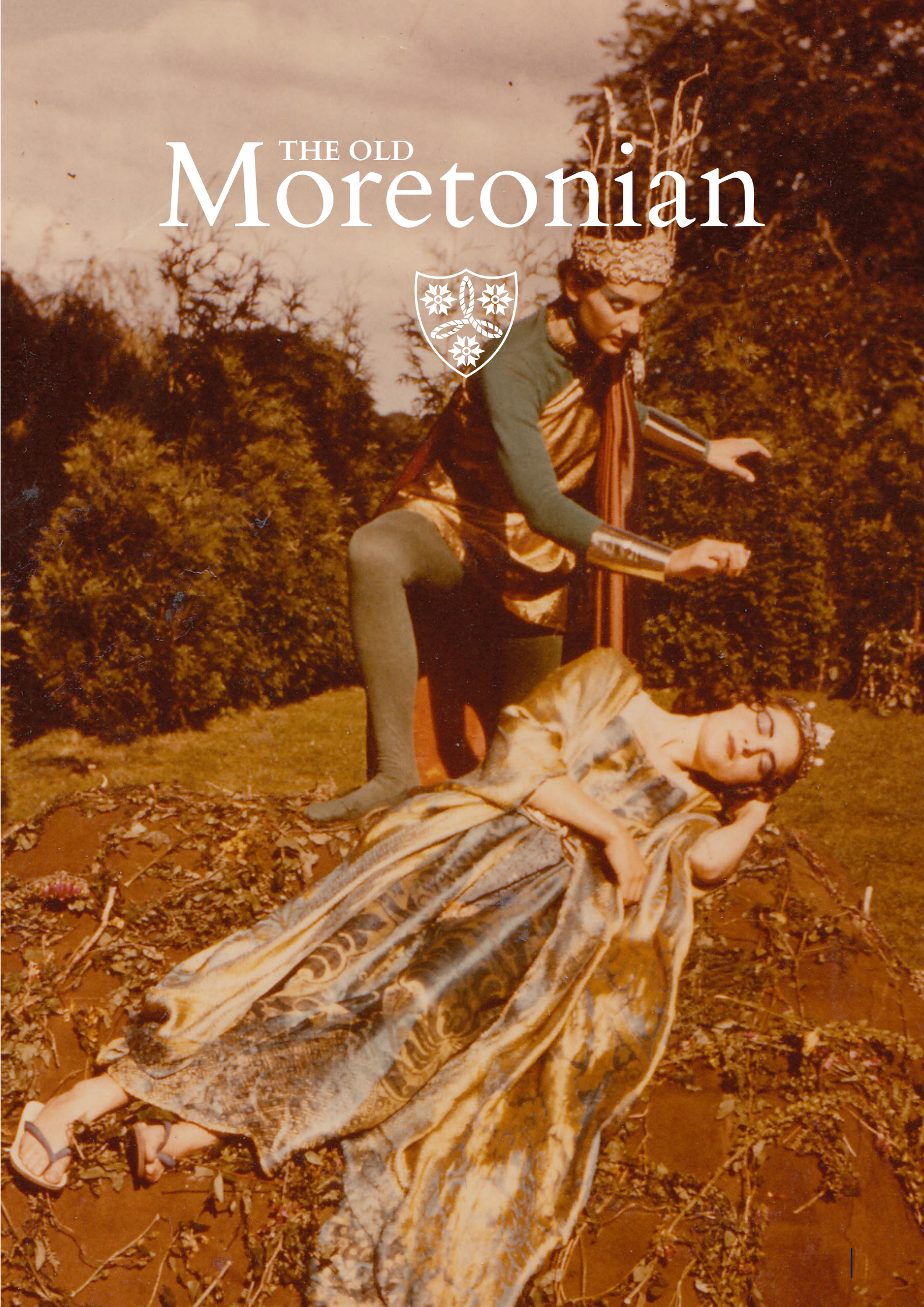
> We are honoured to work with Booka Bookshop as an important Oswestry business bringing literature to the local community, and it is always a joy to see an audience meeting their favourite authors.

Authors and celebrities, such as these, are normally found at literary festivals, however hosting them at The Holroyd Community Theatre gives a more intimate, affordable way for our fans to meet the people behind their favourite books.

Carrie Morris, from Booka Bookshop, added: "It is such a pleasure working in collaboration with The Holroyd Community Theatre team to bring an exciting mix of bestselling authors and big names to Oswestry. We can't wait to dive back in with some exciting event announcements coming in this year."



THE OLD Moretonian



OM 1979

My Reflections on Moreton

Cheryl Rowland *née Lloyd*

Former parent and President of the Old Moretonians' Association.



People often ask me if Moreton has changed over the years. Of course, the fabric of the school has changed and been vastly improved but the ethos of this quirky relaxed school with a family feel, which encourages individuality, has always remained the same contributing to what is known as 'The Moreton Magic'.

During my time at Moreton, we had several memorable members of staff. One was Miss Cameron who terrified us, especially when she prowled the corridors at night with her loose long grey hair! I will never forget in Remove when she caught my friend Janet after lights out with a bucket on her head running around with no clothes on! We all jumped back into bed and left the unsuspecting Janet standing in the middle of the dorm.

We always looked forward to the annual Carols in the Front Hall with individual groups singing Carols from all the countries of the world (in the various languages).

I was part of the Welsh group. My Welsh roots also led me to play Lacrosse for Wales.

In my last year, 1979, we won the All England Schools Lacrosse Tournament.

We celebrated by drinking champagne from the big cup and our photo was in the Daily Telegraph.



Moreton Family

Friends from Moreton really do become friends for life.

Moreton has always been a big part of my life. I have been back many times since I left. I was OM Membership Secretary for a number of years and have attended many happy reunions. Both of my daughters came here, Gabriella left in 2014, Natasha left in 2016. They are both in regular contact with several Moreton School friends and remain very close. I am still in contact with many from my year group and we meet up regularly.

I always think that whenever you meet an OM of whatever age, wherever in the world, there is an instant intangible connection as we are all part of the wider Moreton Family. In addition, due to the ongoing close connections OMs have with the school, we all continue to play a very valuable role promoting Moreton far and wide.

If there is one single thing that my time at Moreton made me realise, it was that I could achieve anything I set my mind to and that nothing was beyond the bounds of possibility!

"Friendly, Forthcoming and Confident" was Michael Charlesworth's description of Moreton pupils in the book 'The Story of Moreton Hall'. I wholly concur with this.



Fifty Shades of Blue

Pat Willis

(Or not quite - 34 years at Moreton)

I started work at Moreton Hall in October 1986 where I worked for the amazing Evelyn Davies in the small office in the library. She was the Head of Careers and Head of Learning Support and I was her Secretary.

Part of my job was checking UCAS forms as they all had to be handwritten in those days! Evelyn instigated the first Careers Convention (as it was called then) which was very successful and continued every year. I attended this year – my 38th!



The Careers Convention was extremely hard work as we set it up the night before and used the Musgrave Centre, Library and New Hall. Every delegate had a display board and information about the day including lists of appointments made by the girls.

Evelyn was also Head of Learning Support and I dealt with dyslexia reports.

I also worked for Geoffrey Smales and Mike Ingle both of whom were Director of Study. After six years I moved to the main office where I took over from Kath Mountford as she became Jonathan Forster's Secretary.

I had two photocopiers, four filing cabinets and a large stationery cupboard along with a large table and small desk!

I did all the photocopying and staff had to fill in a request form which I then had to calculate and make sure was in their budget! The girls were allowed stationery each term and they came to a hatch in my office and I distributed it. I still did work for the Careers department and various Bursars, the last of whom was Ian Davies.

Among other things I became Secretary of the OMs which required meeting and helping to organise drinks parties, balls and various other events. I worked alongside the formidable Joan Franklin whom I'm sure some OMs remember; also Sue Tunstall, Celia Jenkins, Katy Tanner, Cheryl Rowland and now Mandy Arthur.



I was the Secretary for the Golf Club which became very popular and was run by the girls. I didn't have a clue about Golf but some members formed a committee and various tournaments were held. The community loved it. It sadly finished when more clubs opened and numbers dropped.



I was involved with marketing and worked with a wonderful team led by Richard Briggs.

We worked hard but had fun too!

I was responsible for tickets and programmes for memorable Soirees, working out who should sit on which table, and every theatrical production (definitely 'West End' standard) which meant great difficulty fitting everyone in. There have been wonderful themed balls including the Circus and Alice in Wonderland to name two and end of term tribute bands including ABBA and Queen – such a great atmosphere. Every department has contributed to the success of Moreton, especially Sport and Spoken English. I worked with Merriel Halsall-Williams and helped organise her Spoken English events. She was truly remarkable.

I was also the Secretary for fundraising for the I.T. Centre. Katie Neilson was the Chairman and Sue Tunstall and other parents were on the committee. A ball was organised and proved extremely successful. It was held in the Sports Hall with a black and white check dance floor. The colour theme was black, white and cerise and there was also a tombola which everyone enjoyed.

I wish everyone all the best for the future of Moreton.

Love, Aunty Pat x

Top Award at Education Oscars

Tarryn Stanhope



Moreton Hall are celebrating with the news that last year's Head Girl, Tarryn Stanhope, having achieved five A* grades in her A Levels in last summer's examinations, has now won an Outstanding Student award in the British Education Awards 2024.

The British Education Awards (BEA) were created to celebrate the achievements of individual students on a national platform. The BEA identifies and celebrates individuals who have excelled within the British education system, acknowledging that success comes down to personal endeavour and application. Nominees are judged on a number of criteria including grades, extra-curricular activities, community awareness and entrepreneurship.

In November, an out of the blue email informed Tarryn, now having completed her first year of an Economics degree at Durham University, that she had been shortlisted to represent the North West, North East, Humberside & Yorkshire and West Midlands in the outstanding A Level achievement category. As one of the region's three finalists, Tarryn was then invited to a glittering awards ceremony in Manchester. When the winner of the region's A Level achievement category was announced Tarryn heard her name.

For Moreton Hall staff who have watched Tarryn's journey from her arrival at the school in Year 9, this is a wholly justified recognition of an outstanding student.

With her parents based overseas, Tarryn immersed herself in every area of school life. In Year 12 she was the Managing Director of Moreton Enterprises, the school's student-run business, as well as secretary-general of the school's Model United Nations group. At the start of Year 13, she was appointed Head Girl, and at the end of the year her teachers were delighted but not surprised to see a full house of A*s in her Economics, Maths, Business and English A Levels, as well as in her Extended Project Qualification.

"Tarryn's achievements in academia are remarkable and her dedication to her school and the study of Economics is outstanding. She even hosted a business lunch attended by senior executives whilst in her teens," remarked Amin Babor Chowdhury from the British Education Awards. "However, it was her inspiring desire to help others that made her our Zone One (the North and Midlands) A Level champion, beating off some of the most amazing applicants in our awards history."

Reflecting on the event and the award, Tarryn says: "I owe so much of my academic and extracurricular success to Moreton. If it weren't for the holistic, enthusiastic and extraordinary education I received at school, I don't think I ever would have immersed myself into such a wide array of activities – and it's not only because so many of the opportunities given to me were available uniquely at Moreton. It is largely because of the sense of community and support that the school fostered that made me believe I had to give back in some way. And still today, I am eternally grateful to the staff at Moreton for



everything they did for me, a debt I will hold for the entirety of my life. It was an absolute honour to represent Moreton Hall at the BEA Awards."

Principal Michael Brewer added: "Moreton Hall is exceptionally proud of Tarryn's achievement. Winning a British Education Award is a wonderful accomplishment; all that have known Tarryn during her time at school will know this is both exceptional and typical.

"Like generations of Moreton girls before her, Tarryn has left school equipped to write her own incredible story, and this recognition is a fitting next chapter."



OM 1987

A Sea of Opportunity

Melodie Schaffer *née Ridge*

Sail Canada's 2023 Rolex Sailor of the Year.



Melodie attended Moreton Hall from 1986 to 1987 on an English Speaking Union scholarship. She returned to Canada to complete a university degree in Chemical Engineering and then a Masters degree in Biomedical Engineering. She worked for five years as a Biomedical Design Engineer before staying home to raise her family.

Last year, Melodie embarked on the inaugural Globe 40 double handed race around the world in her Class 40 boat 'Whiskey Jack'. The race entailed eight legs, around all three Capes sailing 35,000 miles in this adventure with 174 days on the ocean, from June 2022 to March 2023.

From torn sails, to avoiding pirates, to no wind instruments or communication at times, the challenges were immense.

Six weeks before the race started, Melodie learned that her original teammate could not do the race; she didn't let this stop her and pieced it together one leg at a time. For six of the eight race starts she was with a new race partner, competing against teams that had trained together for years. Despite the challenges, she won leg seven, and set three speed and race records including the overall one of 347 nautical miles in a 24 hour period. She was the only female skipper for the entire race with the only Canadian boat. Few have raced around the world via Cape Horn, fewer still shorthanded (only one or two on the boat) and she is the first Canadian woman to do so.



Melodie was recognised for this achievement by being awarded Canada's 2023 Rolex Sailor of the Year. At the awards ceremony, Melodie was described as "made of pure grit, but she also dances to music on watch, is awed by the night skies, the ocean wildlife and delights in the people she connects with around the world. She may be smaller, female and older, but it is her ability as an offshore sailor, her skill and her determination that define her."

The message she shared is: "Anyone can sail, girls and women can and should be skippers, and everyone can chase a dream!"

Unquestionably, Melodie opened the way for more female presence in major offshore racing and ocean racing and she carried the colours of the Canadian flag very high.

At the awards event Melodie said: "I stand here not as a 20-year-old athlete, like I once dreamed, but 30 years later as someone with broad life experiences. I have had the epic experience of racing my boat around the world in the double-handed Globe 40 Race! The challenges were immense, not just on the ocean, but also personally. I was away for two years training and racing and I went six months without seeing my kids. I had no full-time shore team, and managed much of the logistics myself. I used my own savings to make this happen, betting on myself and my dream in every way."

Melodie is now building a campaign to race in the 2025 edition of the Global 40 Race.



OM News



Susan Robinson *née Knight* (1949) and Christine English *née Malkin* (1950)

Two apple trees were planted in Moreton Hall's Walled Garden in loving memory of Susan and Christine. The apple trees serve as a reminder of their history with Moreton and as a celebration of their lives.

Ebun Clark *née Odutola* (1959)

Ebun returned to Moreton with her niece for Speech Day this year and saw the Ebun Clark trophy for Spoken English presented to Jessica Blackwood.

Debbie Leigh (2008)

Debbie is proud to announce her appointment as an Associate Professor at Göthe University and the Senckenberg Museum of Natural History (Frankfurt, Germany). She will be heading a new research group in Genomic Biomonitoring focusing on conservation biology and biodiversity protection. She would be very happy to hear from Frankfurt based OMs or those interested in conservation genetics.

Franki Quantrell *née Cummins* (2008)

Franki has been working at Moreton Hall for just over 11 years. During that time, in typical Moreton fashion, she has had many and varied roles, including Assistant Housemistress, Housemistress, Physics teacher, Most Able Coordinator and Rowing Coach to name a few. Having worked in almost all of the boarding houses at Moreton, Franki currently oversees the boarding provision as the Director of Boarding.

Alongside Franki's boarding role she is also the current Head of Mathematics and teaches A Level Statistics and Mechanics.

Franki added, "We always say it, and unless you've been to Moreton perhaps you won't understand, but there really isn't anywhere quite like it. I loved being here as a pupil and now love being here as a staff member!"

Sophie Davies-Cooke (2008)

After rejoining Moreton in 2021 as a member of staff, Sophie took on the roll as Assistant Housemistress in Gem. In the three years that followed, Sophie has become the Housemistress of Rylands House (Lower Sixth), Key Stage 2 Teacher, Summer School Coordinator and will be taking on the role of 16+ Registar in September.



Anna Gill (2009)

Having left Moreton as a student in 2009, Anna thought her time here was done. Fast forward 13 years and she returned, this time on the staff side of life!

As the Receptionist, Anna is the first person guests encounter either by phone or in person when they contact Moreton. She is always here to point guests in the right direction or welcome them with a warm brew and show them a window into Moreton spirit.

Anna also owns a Nail, Beauty and Hair Salon in Oswestry, Elvia Beauty Co., named after her two little girls, Olivia and Elsie.

OM News 2024

Jemma Moore (2010)

Jemma recently starred in ITV thriller Red Eye with Richard Armitage. Jemma always aspired to be an actress and enjoyed the drama opportunities at Moreton. Having read English and Drama at Queen Mary University of London she then went on to train at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

She has appeared on the Lockwood TV series and is also known for her appearances in the film Host and TV series Silent Witness. Her first big break was when she landed a role in Wonder Woman.



Alexandre Meehan (2013)

Alexandre married childhood sweetheart Alexander Styles (Old Salopian 2013).

Pippa Cornock (2013)

Pippa has recently been accepted to Holy Trinity Monastery (Herefordshire), nine years after making her vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience after she became a Junior Sister four years ago.

Katie Lankston *née Watkins* (2013)

Katie has given birth to a lovely boy Archie. She has proudly made Ella Saunders (OM 2013) and Frederica Rowland (OM 2013) Godmothers.

Alice Mitchell and Rebecca Cheetham (2013)

Both are preparing to run across the Arctic Circle in August 2024.

Isabella Mason (2013)

Isabella became a fully qualified Solicitor in Employment Law as of July 2023.

Ella Saunders (2013)

Ella married Charles Rogers-Coltman in May 2024.

Lucy Waters (2013)

Lucy married Samuel Coughtrie in May 2024.

Morgan-Darcy Rees Deacon (2018)

Morgan travelled all the way from Spain to perform two incredible solo pieces and join in with the Senior School Choirs at Moreton's Musical Soirée.



Millie Home (2019) and Ellie Jones (2014)

Both played in The Fly Lacrosse tournament in Manchester. This tournament sees the most talented players in the country play the six-a-side format of the game, soon to be seen in the Olympics in 2028. Millie was also selected to play for England in the European Women's Lacrosse Championships held in Portugal in July.



Old Moretonian Reunions

Celebrating 110 Years

Thank you

Thank you to our Old Moretonians for hosting wonderful lunches, tea parties and gatherings as part of our 110 year celebrations.



Anglesey

Twelve OMs gathered in Anglesey in January at the kind invitation of Debby Straw née McBride (1980), ably assisted by Debbie Smith née Boston (1979), for a sumptuous afternoon tea. A lovely time was had by all reminiscing with many connections made and promises to attend future OM events.

Inverness

Twelve OMs met up in Inverness this year. They all had a wonderful time reminiscing about their time at Moreton. Since 1988 this specific group, who were at Moreton from 1958 to 1968, have tried to meet up each decade, with their largest gathering being on their 40th anniversary where twenty-two OMs from all around the world met up in Chester.





Moreton Hall

Shelly Welch née Westlake-Bryant (1992) organised a reunion for her year at Moreton. Everyone had such a lovely trip down memory lane and immensely enjoyed it. They met up afterwards with six other girls at Kate's house and had a very enjoyable lunch in the garden, the sun was shining and the chatter was joyful.



Somerset

Veryan Gould née England (1984) and Louise Hutton née Rollinson (1980) kindly hosted an OM reunion lunch in Somerset. This was attended by Louise's sister Pippa, Veryan's sister Sarah, Amanda Arthur née Stott (1978), Emma Russell née King (1979), Jane Charley and Georgina Barton. A delicious lunch was had by all, old school photographs produced and poured over. We also discovered that Lou and Pippa's mother, Frances Whalley, was also an OM.



Wiltshire

Louise Waterfield née Wainwright (1978) hosted the annual get together for Amanda Arthur née Stott (1978), Fiona Walters née Sutcliffe (1978) and Louise Foden-Pattinson née Southan (1978) who had flown in from Bermuda.

OM 2003

Gap Year Experience

Emily Arthur



The year was 2003, I had just completed my A Levels and no fewer than two weeks later I was on a plane to Australia, ready to start my first 'proper job' as a Gap student at Pymble Ladies College.

I knew that I wanted to have a year out before I went to university but wasn't really sure what I wanted to do, other than travel! Working in a school was the perfect opportunity to do just that. Although it may have felt daunting travelling to the other side of the world without anyone that I knew, because I had a job and accommodation already included, I felt that this was a safe way for me to experience a different life and culture. It also helped that there were five other gappies that also had the same idea as me and would also be working at Pymble. We all soon became firm friends and only last summer had our 20 year reunion, which was wonderful! We were able to reminisce and look at old photos of our amazing time in Australia. We became friends for life and each others' greatest supporters.

Being a gappie in Australia, was quite a well-trodden route and there were gappies at the other local schools, like Abbotsleigh, who we met and became friends with. We had a ready-formed social life which was an unexpected bonus. We were also paid fairly well and this enabled us to travel around Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and the Cook Islands during the school holidays whilst maintaining a base on the school campus. The actual work was really fun and we were able to swap jobs working in different areas of the school. You could work in the office, in IT, the library, in the Prep School, as well as being a Junior Housemistress in a boarding house, where you helped the girls with music, drama and sports inter-house competitions as well as getting everyone to bed!

Having only recently left a boarding school, it felt funny to see life in a role as a teacher rather than a pupil. We had a great house team and would work together to make sure that the girls had fun whilst doing their work and going to bed on time! I wasn't sure what I wanted to do post university - so this gave me a brilliant grounding for different types of experience, whilst earning money, living life in a different culture and being able to travel and broaden, not only my horizons, but also my waistline, with all the delicious Aussie food!

> However, the most incredible part of being a Gap student, was the friendships that I have made that have lasted a lifetime.

If you are wondering what your 'next step' should be, I couldn't recommend being a gappie enough!

The France–Hayhurst Bracelet

Clover Porritt

Bracelet awarded to an Upper Sixth leaver embarking upon a gap year.

Last year I was sitting my A Levels, unsure about what I wanted to study at university but certain that I wanted to take a gap year, and it was one of the best decisions I've ever made.

In November 2023 after a couple of months of work and once everyone had left home to start university, I travelled to Ghana to volunteer in a Methodist primary school in Busua - a rural surf village in the western region of the country. The memories I made during that month - teaching and getting to know the children, living with and meeting all of the locals and learning about their special quirks and their personalities, raising money for the school and a couple of (very) unsuccessful surf lessons, to name a few - were some of the happiest memories I've ever made.

I think the happiness I felt during that time was undoubtedly a reflection of the warm hearted, joyful nature of the people who lived in the village, who not only accepted the volunteers but embraced us with open arms. It was amazing to see that people with so little could be so generous and so positive.

Because of how much I enjoyed my volunteering experience in Ghana, I decided I wanted to do it again, but this time in Sri Lanka. During the time I spent volunteering there I was able to learn a lot about the culture through visiting temples, being lucky enough to take part in many festival celebrations and travelling to different parts of the country to see all that the beautiful country had to offer.

Upon reflection, I am so happy that in Upper Sixth I made the decision to take a year out of education.

In fact, I think it made leaving the Moreton bubble that we all know and love, just that little bit easier. Instead of worrying about having to go straight to university, I had time to make these amazing memories volunteering, meeting people from all walks of life and having my eyes opened to the world around me.



2013 - 2023

110th Anniversary Service

"...Ask, and it shall be given you
Seek and ye shall find
Knock and it shall be opened unto you..."

These words remind us of the importance of enquiry, perseverance and the faith that these qualities will be rewarded.

To "seek" knowledge and understanding is fundamental to learning. It requires us to be determined in our search for an answer. It requires strength, courage and a willingness to continue that search even when obstacles are in our way. Life presents us with challenges and setbacks throughout our journey.



Our ability to persevere when challenges are tough and to never give up is what yields the greatest reward. So often, we believe the outcome is the most important goal. The A Level result, being placed first in the competition, winning the Lacrosse match (although winning in Lacrosse is, of course, extremely important). But St Luke reminds us that the real glory is in the journey.

In this service of thanksgiving, we remember how the school we have inherited today is "...manifestly a gift from the past".

That past is the work and sacrifice of so many but most especially the Lloyd-Williams family.

Moreton Hall was established by Ellen Lloyd-Williams, fondly known as Aunt Lil, in 1913 with just 13 pupils. Its original home was at Lloren House, Oswestry, on Upper Brook Street. Lloren House was one of the boarding houses of Oswestry School and only a temporary home for her new school. It took six years for her to find the right home for Moreton, the beautiful house and estate we know today as Moreton Hall. Her three daughters, Bronwen, Mary and Grace all taught at Moreton. Bronwen, a Wales Lacrosse player, would be so proud of our status as National Schools Lacrosse Champions 2024. Moreton was and remains a truly family affair.



Bronwen later became Headmistress and grew and steered the school for 28 years. In 1973 she retired, ending 60 years of the Lloyd-Williams family's stewardship of this remarkable school. Today, just over 50 years later, we give thanks for their vision and perseverance in building and shaping this school to what it is today.

Their vision was for a school that had family at its heart. A school that epitomised generosity, understanding and togetherness.

A school that created an atmosphere of freedom and informality and a philosophy that "...enables life to be pursued keenly and boldly."

The Lloyd-Williams sisters exemplify what it means to "seek", to "ask" and to "knock". Their sacrifices and perseverance are what we are celebrating in this service. The journey of this school over the last 110 years has not been without its obstacles but the school we have today is richer for this past. The school we take into the future will be richer for the contributions of each and every pupil, staff member, teacher and Head.



In the words of Sir Francis Drake, which in my view, perfectly encapsulate the spirit of Moreton Hall.

"...grant us to know, that it is not the beginning, but the continuing of the same until it be thoroughly finished, which yieldeth the true glory..."

Sarah Pritchard
Head of Spoken English

International Women's Day

Old Moretonians at the heart of our celebrations.

International Women's Day has become a highlight of the Moreton Hall calendar and each March pupils from across the school gather to mark this global event, celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women, the successes in pursuit of equal rights, while highlighting the work still to be done.

Hosted by Moreton Hall's Bronwen Enrichment Society and M-PWR (Moreton Promoting Women's Rights) group, we turned to our own for inspiration and insights and we were delighted to be joined by Old Moretonians, as well as former parents, all impressive and inspirational women who, in sharing their own journeys, encouraged their audience to have the confidence to forge their own paths, whatever they might be.

In the opening session, communications specialist Flavia Paterson (OM 1995) and local business woman, Alison Parr, a former Moreton Prep parent, reflected on the most significant changes they have seen in women's rights and the work that still needs to happen. Flavia's focus was the importance of 'knowing your worth' and in highlighting the continuing gender pay gap, she encouraged the girls gathered to have the confidence to make their case for parity of pay in their future workplaces. Linked to this, Alison highlighted the lack of women in the top executive roles and the challenge for women accessing top jobs as well as having a family.

As our keynote speaker, journalist and author, Jessica Hatcher-Moore (OM 2000), gave a fascinating and insightful talk on her own journey from Moreton girl to an award winning journalist based in Kenya, and now as a freelance writer and podcaster juggling her professional and family commitments. Jessica reminisced about how Moreton Hall had encouraged her to think anything was possible and as well as talking about her successful career, she also spoke frankly about the reality of combining life as a professional woman and a mother of two little boys.

In the second half of the morning, pupils were set a task in their groups to identify a key issue which they felt was a priority in promoting women's rights and to create a project to showcase this to the visitors. This is just the kind of challenge our creative and talented pupils relish, choosing an eclectic range of issues to focus on including abortion rights, the importance of female education, the right to feel safe walking home at night, women's sport and the lack of women in construction. Projects included mini-dramas, posters, a film, a paper sculpture of a demonstration and even a re-working of a song from the Barbie movie.

Reflecting on the presentations and remembering her own time at Moreton, Jessica commented: "I love that we are talking about so much more now than we ever did when I was a teenager. And I'm genuinely excited to see what this next generation of women will achieve – especially having seen how creative and confident the Moreton girls are today. As women we exist on a continuum and for me it was really moving to see the change that has taken place since I was at school. The M-PWR programme is clearly having a huge impact and I really enjoyed being a part of the conversation."

With plans already in place for next year's International Women's Day event, we look forward to welcoming more of our amazing OMs to share their stories and inspire the next generation.

Caroline Lang
Senior Tutor, Moreton Sixth

OM Obituaries

Susan Robinson *née Knight* (OM 1949)

We are sad to announce the death of Susan Robinson on 11 November 2023. Susan attended Moreton for ten happy years and remained a staunch supporter of the school all her life and was an active member of the OM committee. Susan's daughters, Sheila (OM 1976) and Nicola (OM 1978) also attended Moreton with Sheila Treasurer of the Old Moretonian Association for many years too. Susan's sister-in-law, Mrs Knight, taught Drama at Moreton. Our sincerest condolences to all her family and friends.

Christine English *née Malkin* (OM 1950)

We are sad to announce the death of Christine Malkin on 9 October 2023, aged 91. Christine was a longstanding OM and supported many Moreton Hall events throughout her life. Her daughters, Caroline and Annabel and her niece Alison also attended Moreton. The funeral service took place at Nantwich Church where the curtains adorning the Great West door of the church had been designed by Denise Rylands (OM 1946), a close Moreton friend of Christine's and the artist who painted the murals in the school dining room. The school prayer was also read during the service.

Alexandra Lyle Elson (OM 1970)

Alexandra Lyle Elson, born in Armonk, New York, 1952, to Diana and Charles Elson, beloved wife of Karen Schifano, passed away on 1 November, 2023, after a long struggle with lung cancer. Alex and Karen lived in New York City and were life partners for almost 40 years.

Alex did graduate work in Stage Directing at Carnegie Mellon, worked at the Public Theatre, Shakespeare & Co and the Eugene O'Neill Theater. Alex also read scripts for the Sundance Film Festival and the O'Neill. She loved the theatre, but not the theatre world, and so later was employed in a variety of other businesses before retiring due to family illness.

Almost until the end, Alex maintained her membership in Actors Equity. In addition to the theatre, Alex was an aficionado of film noir, mystery and detective fiction and was passionate about jazz, particularly the music of Bill Evans and Ella Fitzgerald.

Kate Pickering (OM 2011)

Kate was the beloved daughter of Gill and much loved by all her family, friends and colleagues working at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and sadly passed away on 2 September 2023.

Kate enjoyed every minute of her work with the Civil Service and her policies regarding EU Trade and Leaseholder Protection sailed through both the House of Commons and House of Lords. She also enjoyed her time sitting 'in the box' on BBC Parliament. Gill praises Moreton for giving Kate wonderful opportunities and such a very happy life. Following Moreton Hall, Kate continued her education at Queen Mary University, and Richmond, the American International University in London, meeting interesting people from around the world.

Kate was described as a thoughtful, knowledgeable, and dedicated civil servant by her employer. Above everything, Kate's kind and thoughtful nature shone through brightest. Kate has left a lasting impact on the work she did and people she met, and her loss has left a huge hole, which will be felt for a very long time.

2025

Old Moretonian *Social Calendar*

Saturday 28th September 2024	**Open Day at Moreton Hall**
Saturday 9th November 2024	**OM Reunion organised by Lucinda Heyman (OM 1997) at Moreton Hall**
Friday 15th November 2024	**Old Moretonians' London Drinks and Canapés at Chilli Art Projects, Lambeth Road**
Wednesday 12th February 2025	**Moreton Hall Careers Fair** *As well as hosting university exhibitors, we always love to invite OMs to join us. It is so inspiring for current students to hear about your role and career path. They always say hearing from the OMs is the best part of the day!* *We would welcome contributors of all ages, from all sectors and industries - nothing is too niche!* *To find out more or confirm your availability, please contact Catherine Ashworth* ***ashworthc@moretonhall.com***
March 2025	**Musical Soirée**
Saturday 5 July 2025	**Speech Day at Moreton Hall**

If you would like to host a reunion or wish to attend any of the above events please express your interest via email to **oldmoretonians@moretonhall.com**.

To keep our records up to date, please don't forget to contact us with your updated information **oldmoretonians@moretonhall.com**.

Moreton Hall

Brush Strokes

Over 200 visitors attended the national three-day Prep School SATIPS Art Exhibition held at Moreton Hall.

The inspirational event showcased the work of talented young artists from Prep Schools nationwide including Moreton Hall Prep, St Helen's College, King's College Junior School, RGS Springfield, Habderdasher's Boys' Prep School, Bromsgrove Preparatory School, Heatherton House School, Brockhurst & Marlston House School, Forres Sandle Manor, Millfield Prep School and Tockington Manor School.

The exhibition, displaying a collection of 180 pieces including 3D models, was officially opened by Moreton Hall Principal, Mr Michael Brewer, and SATIPS Council Chair David Kendall and saw exhibitors travel far and wide to attend the gallery event.

One parent commented:

> What amazing work! Such talent on display from such young pupils. I have been very impressed indeed. ”









Whilst another visitor to the exhibition, said:

> Absolutely amazed at the beautiful and varied artwork on display - I wish some of them were for sale! The care taken in presenting the work conveys to the artist how much their creativity is valued. ”

Moreton Hall will also host the SATIPS Art Exhibition in 2025.

Prep Art Gallery

















Winner | Biology Art Attack 3D Competition

Little Picassos in the making...

The Art Gallery





















After Lady Lava (Etta) finds out about Bobby's great idea, he is soon whisked away to work as one of her Eggheads. Although Lady Lava is Rock Bottom's biggest celebrity, and Bobby's own idol, he soon discovers she hides a very dark secret indeed...

From the Caveys, to the Mini Miners, the Three Amigos and the Eggheads, Rock Bottom provided a role for everyone. Each pupil performed with commitment and enthusiasm, leaning into comedic timing and singing their hearts out. The audience were treated to catchy tunes such as 'Rock Bottom Rocks', 'Back To The Beginning' and 'Welcome To My Life.'

One thing's for sure... the Stone Age certainly rocks!



Moreton Prep Juniors rocked The Holroyd Community Theatre when they took their audience on a journey, turning back the clocks, and travelling to the beginning of time in their spectacular performance of Craig Hawes' Rock Bottom.

Once parents, family and friends had taken their seats, the four Time Keepers (Angharad, Zac, Oscar and Casper), took to the stage and introduced the modern day audience to the age-old question of human origins.

Back in Prehistoric Britain 5000 BC, the Cobblestones live an ordinary life on Stoney Street that is until Bobby Cobblestone (Bea), or BC as he's known by his friends, hatches his very first good idea, much to the dismay of his grandparents, Coral (Isla) and Cliff (Joseph).

Bobby's ideas range from a triangular shaped wheel, "we all know wheels are square", to coat hangers, to trying to figure out how to save Rock Bottom

from an impending volcanic eruption and a mysterious monster plaguing Rock Bottom's residents.

Moreton Prep's Football, Rugby, Netball, Cricket, Tennis, and Hockey teams have been in action across pitches and courts across the county and beyond. While our younger pupils have represented their school for the very first time in athletics and gymnastics meets, the list continues:

Fencers have crossed swords with local rivals, dancers have performed a brilliant showcase for friends and families, and athletes have raced around cross-country courses in all seasons.

It has been a fantastic achievement to have every single pupil from Reception through to Year 6 have the opportunity to represent Moreton Prep in a fixture or competition this year. An increased footprint of participation has been masterminded to gain as much exposure within the local area as possible for our budding young athletes to gain many opportunities in a variety of environments and settings. Notably, our brilliant athletes in cross-county events, which featured schools from the wider Oswestry area, represented Moreton





in vast numbers and claimed some outstanding results. Joseph Barlow claimed the top spot in the Year 5 and 6 boys sections, and the collective teams finished as runners-up and close to the top spots, respectively.

It has also been memorable to see our Reception and Year 1 cohort fly the flag for Moreton Prep in the indoor Athletics, Gymnastics, and Football competitions this year. Something they thoroughly enjoyed as they sprinkled the events with Moreton magic like their more senior peers at school have done. It is a great way to start their sporting journeys in a fun yet friendly environment.

"As our pupils pack Cricket bats, running spikes, and Tennis racquets away for their summer break, we hope they are all eagerly anticipating catching the global showpiece in Paris and that they are spared to continue their love, and who knows, maybe even grace an Olympic area one day – as competitors, officials, or avid spectators embracing their lifelong passion for sport."



Prep Sport Round Up

We Are The Champions

As the Paris 2024 Olympiad draws ever closer, an event that we hope will inspire, educate, and enthral our Moreton Prep pupils, we are reminded that the Olympic values of respect, excellence, and friendship have continued to flourish through the sporting lives of our pupils across the year.

Throughout the last academic year, we have seen our pupils from Pre-Prep through to Year 6 take part in a wide variety of sporting activities and experience the range of human emotions that are inevitable - there have been victories, defeats, draws, goals scored, races won and lost, dances forgotten, and moves improvised - but most importantly of all,

plenty of smiles, laughter, camaraderie, and shared love for physical exercise and sport.



Whilst many schools find it a challenge to find the balance between the academic studies and extracurricular activities, they go hand-in-hand at Moreton Prep, with very much overlap.

Our children have a varied curriculum and are taught in small classes and by specialist teachers.

They have the opportunity to play a variety of sports, try musical instruments, play in concerts, star in theatre shows, be creative in our Art department, have the opportunity to be part of our own school council and have their voice heard. They help the local community through charity work and thoroughly enjoyed our themed days: Outdoor Education Day and Young Farmers Day.

Pupils enjoyed meeting a variety of visitors this year, from many different walks of life, including visits from authors, MP's, Yeoman Wardens and the emergency services.

In Year 6, our children have an enrichment programme which is designed to enhance and expand their knowledge, skills, and abilities beyond the typical learning environment.

Our extra-curricular activities, which children of all ages in Moreton Prep have access to, support and enhance the academic curriculum and have a positive impact on pupils' academic performance.



Overall, extra-curricular activities provide our children with opportunities for personal growth, social connections, and skill development, all of which contribute to their academic success.

Our Year 6 children will be leaving us as confident young people who are flourishing and excited for their next adventure with many happy memories of their time in Moreton Prep. They will have made friendships which will last a lifetime because of the experiences they have shared.





Year 6

The Next Chapter

As Year 6 look to the next chapter of school with both excitement and trepidation, it is important to also look back at the journey they have been on up until now, the Moreton Prep journey, and to think about what that actually entails.

From the earliest stages in Moreton Prep, the tiniest minds in our Nursery and throughout the Prep, are nurtured.

Through immersive experiences and a dynamic curriculum, our children develop an insatiable thirst for knowledge, igniting a lifelong passion for exploration.

Year 6 pupils have fully immersed themselves in Moreton life throughout their whole time in Moreton Prep.







Academic Excellence: Science, Technology and Creativity

Year 5 pupils are provided with amazing opportunities to explore a wide range of academic subjects and extracurricular activities.

Pupils use the well-equipped Centenary Science Centre for scientific exploration.

Delving into Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and more with hands-on experiments such as chemical reactions using Mentos mints and Coca Cola and learning about the moon phases with Oreos and Jaffa Cakes.

The Food and Textiles and Technology buildings are essential in teaching Year 5 pupils about nutrition and healthy eating, equipping them with the knowledge to make informed decisions for a healthy lifestyle. These classrooms also foster creativity and problem-solving skills as pupils design and produce various projects such as creating Gelato, Nachos and spinning tops.

As Albert Einstein aptly noted:

"Creativity is intelligence having fun."





A World of Opportunities

Moreton Hall offers a holistic education and unparalleled opportunities for all pupils.

From its top-tier sports amenities to its advanced science and technology centres, from creative arts to outdoor education, every aspect of the school is designed to nurture well-rounded, confident, and capable individuals.

The school's expansive grounds house state-of-the-art facilities that cater to a wide array of academic, athletic, and creative pursuits, ensuring Year 5 pupils can explore their passions and develop their skills in an inspiring environment.

As Nelson Mandela said:

> "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Computing: Shaping the Innovators of Tomorrow

In today's digital age, Moreton Prep pupils are equipped with the skills to use creativity and technology to understand and change the world.

With deep links to Mathematics, Science, and Design Technology,

Computing lessons in Year 5 use hardware such as a Microbit to provide critical insights into both natural and artificial systems, preparing pupils for future technological advancements.





Inspiring Self-Expression

Performance is far more than just entertainment; it is a form of self-expression, allowing pupils to share their stories, thoughts, and emotions. We empower our pupils to embrace their individuality and find their voice, both on and off the stage.

Nurturing Creativity

At Moreton Prep, performing arts is a playground for creativity, where pupils are encouraged to think outside the box. Whether they're crafting characters, composing melodies, or choreographing dances, they're tapping into their artistic instincts and unleashing their boundless imagination.

Fostering Collaboration

Performing arts thrive on collaboration and teamwork, and here at Moreton Prep, we emphasise the importance of working together towards a common goal.

Celebrating Diversity

We welcome pupils from all backgrounds to share their unique gifts, providing boundless opportunities. Through performing together, our pupils learn to appreciate the beauty of difference and cultivate empathy and understanding.

Performance is not just a part of our curriculum; it is the heart and soul of Moreton Prep. From building confidence to fostering collaboration, celebrating diversity, nurturing creativity, and inspiring self-expression,

performance is a transformative journey that shapes our pupils into confident, compassionate, and creative individuals.

So let the curtain rise, and watch our pupils take centre stage as they embark on an unforgettable journey of discovery and growth.



Year 4

Shining Bright

Every child is a star waiting to shine. Through Moreton Hall Prep's vibrant performing arts program, we ignite passion, creativity, and confidence in our pupils, allowing them to discover the magic of the stage and the endless possibilities it holds.

Embracing Performance

We believe that performance isn't just an extracurricular activity; it's woven into the fabric of our curriculum. From Drama to Music to public speaking, our pupils immerse themselves in a world of creativity and expression.

Building Confidence

Stepping onto the stage isn't just about delivering lines or hitting the right notes; it's about conquering fears and embracing challenges. Our pupils learn to stand tall, speak up, and believe in themselves. With every performance, they grow in confidence, captivating each and every audience and as they navigate the spotlight.





Enhanced Relationship with Nature

Sir David Attenborough emphasised the importance of children growing up with an understanding and appreciation of nature: “If children don’t grow up knowing about nature and appreciating it, they will not understand it. And if they don’t understand it, they won’t protect it. And if they don’t protect it, who will?” Developing a connection with nature fosters a sense of responsibility and a desire to protect the environment.



Inclusive Education

All children are unique – they learn in different ways. One of the many brilliant things about outdoor learning is that it gives more scope for inclusive activities and overall mindset.

> “Let Nature be your teacher.”
> William Wordsworth



Year 3

Lifelong Learning

Outdoor learning in education offers a wealth of benefits that extend beyond the traditional classroom settings.

By enhancing mental health and wellbeing, fostering a relationship with nature, enriching curriculum learning, and promoting child development, outdoor education provides a powerful and memorable approach to teaching that supports the overall growth and development of children.

Enhanced Curriculum Learning

Many pupils thrive when learning outside, as this shift in environment and practical approach can help certain concepts come alive and be easier to understand. Outdoor learning can make abstract ideas more tangible, engaging and memorable, thus enhancing comprehension.

Enhanced Child Development

Complementing standard classroom-based learning with outdoor learning allows children to embrace a greater sense of freedom and independence whilst developing critical thinking skills. This holistic approach to education supports the development of well-rounded individuals.

> Fresh air, active learning and first-hand experiences take our learners on their own learning journeys and inspire inquisitive minds.

Improved Mental Health and Wellbeing

There is an enormous body of research showing that time spent in nature can improve children's mental health and wellbeing.



Immersed in our wonderful surroundings, the Discovery Day was truly a special experience.

Our teachers expose pupils to a wide range of experiences to broaden their interests and inspire new passions. Rather than simply providing guidance, children are encouraged to collaborate.

Older children support the youngest members of the Prep, working together to explore and create new masterpieces.

"Discovery Day was the best day ever!"
Emily Dean, Year 2







Year 2

Discovery Through Play

Most of what children need to learn during their early childhood years cannot be taught; it's discovered through play.”

- Albert Einstein

Children are natural explorers driven by their curiosity to understand the world around them.

The word “discovery” encompasses endless opportunities to explore and learn new things for the first time. We harnessed this innate thrill of uncovering mysteries to create an action-packed Discovery Day for Moreton Prep children.



The day kicked off with the children planting seedlings in outdoor planters, allowing them to create their very own garden. In the process, they learned about different flowers and bulbs, and since then, they have taken responsibility for watering them weekly. Next, the children were grouped into mixed-age teams to build dens. They worked collaboratively, using only the resources provided, to construct the most watertight dens possible. It was inspiring to see individual children stepping up to lead in various roles. Lastly, the children crafted idyllic wind chimes that mimic the soothing sounds of nature. They used beads and sticks collected from the school grounds.

“Discovery is a child's privilege.”
Alexander Grothendieck

Year 1

The Cover Is Not the Book

Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.”

- Frederick Douglass

At Moreton Hall Prep, we are passionate about books and our love of reading is showcased throughout the school.

Reading is an essential skill, which allows us to access many areas of everyday life, and opens a child up to a whole world of new opportunities and experiences. By introducing children to a love of reading from a young age, we equip them with the tools to navigate the world and pursue their aspirations with confidence. Reading in childhood builds self-esteem, vocabulary, feeds imagination and lays the foundation for future success and leadership.

As a Prep school, World Book Day is a highlight of the school calendar and a day we celebrate in style. It provides us with endless opportunities to delve deeper into books and promote reading for pleasure. This year, our children dressed up in some amazing homemade costumes to showcase their love for their favourite stories and authors. We were also lucky enough to have Frank Cottrell-Boyce visit Moreton Prep to inspire readers and remind children of the exquisite world books provide.

The Prep School library has recently been refurbished, decorated and organised, to provide a calm, relaxing space for reading to take place. Pupils have taken ownership of the area and created a space that can be enjoyed by all.

By fostering a rich literary environment and nurturing a love for books from an early age, we can empower young minds to embark on a lifelong journey of exploration, enlightenment, and wonder.

After all, in the words of Dr. Seuss:

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”



The Great Outdoors

Reception class at Moreton Hall Prep is not just about learning on paper and on screens; it's an adventure in itself, an experiential journey that enriches young minds through hands-on encounters with nature, animals, and the great outdoors.

At the heart of this adventure lies the school's farm, a vibrant hub of activity teeming with life and learning opportunities.

Nestled within the picturesque grounds of Moreton Hall Prep, Cornflower Farm serves as an outdoor classroom where children connect with the natural world firsthand. This year, we were able to watch our frogspawn grow into tadpoles and when they became froglets, we released them into our own little pond down at Cornflower Farm. From feeding the animals to planting seeds in the vegetable patch, and even watching chicks hatch in an incubator in class, every activity is a chance for discovery and exploration.





For the Reception class, this immersive experience goes beyond traditional teaching methods, fostering a deep appreciation for the environment and instilling valuable life skills.

Our outdoor education is carefully designed to stimulate curiosity and promote physical activity, amidst lush greenery and open spaces, children engage in various activities that encourage creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving. During our Outdoor Education Day pupils worked together to build dens, navigate through obstacle courses, and planted flowers. We believe that every moment spent outdoors is a lesson in resilience and adaptability.

Perhaps the most memorable adventure in Reception was when seven baby emus came to visit us for the day. These fascinating creatures captivated the children's imaginations with their long legs, curious beaks and distinctive patterns and markings. Reception class observed them with wonder and fascination, learning about their habits, habitats, and unique adaptations. It's a rare opportunity to witness wildlife up close, and one that leaves a lasting impression on young minds.

For the Reception class, every day is an adventure, and every experience is a lesson waiting to be learned.

First Steps

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is a pivotal time in shaping the educational landscape for babies and children aged 0 to 5 years.

At First Steps Nursery we provide optimal learning environments for young children to develop and flourish with an emphasis on play-based learning and outdoor education.

Play-based learning focuses on the importance of child-led activities in fostering holistic development. There is a growing emphasis on incorporating elements of structured play to scaffold learning outcomes, balancing child-initiated activities with intentional teaching strategies. With this in mind, we place great importance on learning through play. Through our observations, we gain valuable insights into how each child learns best, which in turn informs us on how to meet the individual needs of the child. Drama and role play give children the opportunity to develop their language skills and explore their feelings, whilst sand and water play allows children to explore mathematical concepts.

The benefits of learning through play are endless, and includes encouraging communication, improving cognitive development and developing social skills.

Outdoor learning is acknowledged for its myriad benefits in promoting physical health, cognitive development, and environmental awareness.



At First Steps, outdoor learning is embraced as it provides a sense of freedom which is fantastic for children's development, both physically and mentally and also provides opportunities for risk taking. We are lucky enough to have hundreds of acres of beautiful grounds to play in and explore.

The Early Years Foundation Stage landscape is dynamic, characterised by evolving thoughts and emerging trends that shape early childhood education. By staying attuned to these developments, we can continue to enhance the quality and inclusivity of the EYFS provision nurturing the potential of every young learner during the start of their magical journey at Moreton Hall.



Award Winners

Speech Day Prizes 2024

	Scholarship Prize *awarded to pupils who have demonstrated excellence and a love of learning.*	Gaiety Prize *awarded to pupils who have joyfully and enthusiastically engaged with school life whether it be in Sport, Music, Drama, ESB, Farm, the Arts or a combination of the above.*	Humanity Prize *awarded to pupils who have shown friendship, compassion, empathy and selfless service.*
Reception		**Harry Boakes, Olivia Boakes, Jasper Conroy, Harrison Gaunt and Sienna Parkinson**	
Year 1	**Henry Trant**	**George Salem**	**Daniil Shabas**
Year 2	**Harriet Reynolds**	**Anna Barlow**	**Lilly Leigh**
Year 3	**McKenzie Varley**	**Paul (Pip) Barlow**	**Seren Wright**
Year 4	**Samuel Salem**	**Darcy Stone**	**Rhys Thomas**
Year 5	**Joseph Barlow**	**Lilyanna Forester**	**Hugh Carpenter and Florence Ruscoe-Edwards**

Year 6 Awards

The Moreton Hall Prep Achievement Award	**Li Yunzhen (Aurora)**
The Moreton Hall Prep Effort Award	**Isla Seabridge**
The Grace Lloyd-Williams Award for Good Citizenship	**Oscar Conroy**
Moreton Hall Prep Sports Award	**Tomos Cheeney**
The Moreton Hall Prep Music Cup	**Eira Smith**
The Moreton Hall Prep Drama Award	**Henrietta Brewer**
Award for Personal Development	**Zac Heaton**
Award for Progress	**Casper Whelan-Stobie**
Award for Commitment to School LIfe	**Beatrice Durham**
Scholarship Values Award	**Angharad Rayner**
Gaiety Values Award	**Beatrice Durham**
Humanity Values Award	**Zhiyan Chen (Jane)**

News Highlights

Take Flight

Moreton Prep took part in a group submission to the Biology Art Attack 3D Competition. Inspired by The Natural History Museum and their infamous specimen drawers, Moreton Hall Prep pupils delicately replicated the butterflies that they had spotted visiting their school garden. Their winning submission was displayed in the Front Hall for pupils, staff and visitors to see.



Aquaponics

Pupils from Years 4, 5, 6 and Remove helped maintain Moreton's Aquaponics production system. Set up in the Science Centenary Centre, Aquaponics is a form of agriculture that combines raising fish in tanks with soilless plant culture. Pupils have been caring for the fish as well as tending to the first batch of lettuce.





Grandparents' Day

Grandparents were invited to watch the Prep School choir and musical solos performed on the piano, trombone and drums as well as Spoken Word recitals as part of Grandparents Day. They were also treated to a selection of afternoon cakes and tea before accompanying their grandchildren on a tour of the school and their classroom, proudly showing them the work they've done this term.



'ello, 'ello, 'ello

Moreton Prep didn't have just one police visit this year but three! PCSOs Kate, Stuart and Peter visited pupils to introduce the important role the police play in the community in keeping people safe and to be aware of using the internet safely and stranger danger. Pupils particularly enjoyed sitting in a police car, activating the siren and the emergency lights.

News Highlights

Prep Plant Appeal

Moreton Prep School Council took part in an Earth Day Plant Appeal. They reached out to local businesses including Percy Thrower's Garden Centre in Shrewsbury who donated a handful of plants to Moreton Prep which they have been tending to throughout the school year.

ESB

Ten pupils in Moreton Prep took on the challenge of completing an English Speaking Board assessment in Speech. The pupils had to write and deliver a talk on an object, interest or hobby of their choosing to a group of their peers and an assessor. The talks showed the broad and varied interests of our Prep pupils. Alongside the talks each pupil learned and performed a chosen poem and read from a favourite book. The assessor was impressed by the work of each pupil, some of whom had only been taking Spoken English for one term. Eight pupils achieved the top grade - Distinction and another two achieved a Merit +.

Spoken Word Festival

The inaugural Moreton Spoken Word Festival provided opportunities for pupils to embrace the challenge of performing in front of an audience. It also built their confidence and communication skills forming important life skills. Pupils from Year 2 to 6 performed pieces of poetry, drama and prose.





Shining Stars

Moreton Prep pupils braved the cold earlier this year and performed during the Christmas Light Switch On in Oswestry. Pupils donned their reindeer antlers, Santa hats and tinsel and performed in the centre of Oswestry, spreading Christmas cheer.



'Tis the Season

Moreton Prep pupils spread Christmas cheer at The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital Christmas Fair where they sang a medley of Christmas songs.

News Highlights

MP Helen Morgan Comes to Visit

The MP for North Shropshire, Helen Morgan visited Moreton Hall Prep and spoke to the pupils about her job in parliament, the election and the importance of public service to the local community. Pupils learnt about the importance of the fundamental British values (democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs) through Helen's passionate talk. Helen also answered many of the children's own questions about her life and job. We were very privileged to have had such a distinguished guest visit.



The Word is Out

This year's Prep School Oracy Competition raised the bar once again in terms of quality and joyfulness. Before a packed audience in our Halsall-Williams library, pupils as young as seven recited poems for their peers, teachers and parents, not to mention judges Miss Pritchard and Mr Reynolds. It's no mean feat filling a cavernous building like that with tiny lungs, bringing a poem to life through intonation and rhythm only (no acting allowed!) and enunciating each syllable perfectly even though one's two front teeth might still be missing. Yet they filled it.

Congratulations to the winners: Hattie in Year 2, Seren in Year 3 and Joseph in Year 6.

Oswestry Youth Music

Our Prep School children took home a win in the Oswestry Youth Music Festival, having won the Youth Choir, 11 and under category.



Green Day

To commemorate Mental Health Awareness week, teachers wore green to bring awareness to the importance of mental health. The 'Go Green' initiative is an opportunity to spotlight mental health and stand in solidarity with those facing mental health challenges.



First Female Beefeater Joins Prep

Moreton Prep welcomed the first female Beefeater, Moira Cameron. In early 2007 Moira made national headlines with the announcement that she had been appointed as the first woman to join the prestigious organisation. Moira spoke with the Prep pupils about what her role entails and her past experiences in the army. The children asked lots of thoughtful questions, eager to learn more about Moira and her role.

News Highlights

Explosive Science Challenge Day

Budding scientists from Moreton Hall Prep, The Ryleys, Prestfelde School and Weston Rhyn School came together to discover the fascinating world of Science.

The day involved a series of workshops and hands-on demonstrations delivered by Moreton Hall's specialist STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) teachers to promote the joys of Science and to expand children's learning across Chemistry, Physics and Biology.

The pupils took part in experiments and activities from building and firing rockets, conducting forensic analysis and making the tallest tower. They even enjoyed a trip to Cornflower Farm where they met Moreton's resident sheep and investigated the life cycle of a butterfly. In the afternoon, the children got to take part in a live action Science show.



Roaring Success

Pupils from Pre-Prep to Year 6 enjoyed exploring ecosystems and learning about conservation and habitats during the whole school trip to Chester Zoo. Reception class was inspired to recreate the animals they'd seen in their Art lessons using different mediums, this linked to their class topic on tigers whilst Year 1 planned their own version of Handa's Surprise, a book by Eileen Browne.

Feathered Friends

Moreton Prep had a flurry of different visitors this year but perhaps the most notable was the arrival of seven baby emus who they got to hold.

During the Easter term, pupils incubated chicken eggs. They were overjoyed when they discovered that the eggs had hatched overnight. The children handled the chicks with great care and nurtured them before letting them go to their new home.



Jam-Packed

As part of their Food and Technology classes, Year 4 made jam from raw ingredients and enjoyed measuring out the fruit and sugar, mixing and letting it boil on the stove. The result was jam-tastic!



> ...to enable students to understand the world around them and the talents within them so that they can become fulfilled individuals and active, compassionate citizens. ”

- Sir Ken Robinson
How to Create a Culture For Valuable Learning

Collaboration with our parents and the local community ensures that our curriculum is embedded in the real world and is enriched by the experiences we can all bring to it. This year has seen us welcome parents who are dentists and vets, local vicars, bee keepers, police officers and fire officers in addition to welcoming emus, lambs, alpacas and goats as part of our Young Farmers Day. The art which was created on the beach trip and singing with gusto during the ‘Big Sing’ celebration or learning lines for the Prep production of “Rock Bottom”. The list of learning experiences which are weaved into our curriculum are endless and the memories for our Prep children will be timeless and enduring.





Children may not remember a page of a textbook but they will savour the memory of tasting the honey that a local beekeeper shared, feeding an alpaca, the pride that is developed through performance with your peers, competing in a Mathematics competition and delivering an amazing oration of a poem in our Oracy Competition.

The curriculum and your child’s experience day-to-day is so very important, as the thinker and educationalist Ken Robinson explained:

> What we become as our lives evolve depends on the quality of our experiences here and now. ”

- Sir Ken Robinson
Out of Our Minds: Learning to be Creative

A vibrant and exciting curriculum is a living and breathing entity at Moreton. Of course the major challenge is fitting everything in! It is a challenge our teaching team, parents and our local community accept and we are already planning the journey the curriculum will take our children ‘on’ next year.

Deborah Speakman
Head of Moreton Prep

A Welcome from *Deborah Speakman,* Head of Prep



> Reflecting on a year of learning experiences at Moreton Hall Prep can be a daunting task when we consider the learning inside our classrooms, the 100 acres, the theatre, swimming pool, science labs and art studios and of course the playground.

These learning experiences are, for the most part, not accidental but are the result of the careful planning and collaboration between educators, the community and parents. A good curriculum empowers children with the knowledge they are entitled to: Knowledge that will nourish both them and the society of which they are members.

Curriculum work is a living, breathing process.

This year we have been carefully developing our curriculum within Moreton Hall Prep to make links between different subjects and to deepen the learning that takes place. As well as thinking about what is the richest material to include in our curriculum, we also have to structure it in a way that makes remembering almost inevitable. Experiential learning, learning outside the classroom and cohesion between different curriculum areas, helps to embed knowledge and skills at a much deeper level.

Of course a successful curriculum is one that is constantly evolving and revisited on a regular basis in order to evaluate how well it is working. It needs to meet the needs of all pupils and be flexible to account for the diverse range of strengths we find within our classrooms.

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"The overall effectiveness of the early years provision is **outstanding.**

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Moreton Hall Prep