

Weekly Bulletin



Curated by J Day

17th March 2023

From the Head Teacher

Congratulations to Year 10 on getting to the end of their mocks. The year group have approached these with real maturity and focus. We are rightfully enormously proud of them all.

The options process is now ending. I am pleased to share that we will be running all our new courses next year widening the curriculum offer to students. These courses are Health and Social Care, Psychology, Film Studies, Business Studies, Engineering and Travel and Tourism.

I wish to congratulate Mr Woolliscroft on his appointment as Director of Teaching and Learning for Culture and Communities. This is a very strong appointment, and I am sure the new department will be a leading light in the school under his tenure.

Thank you also to everyone that was able to attend the parent forum meeting on Tuesday, there was useful feedback and guidance on how we can move forward as a school. If you would like to be part of the parent forum, please email: calcock@moorside.staffs.sch.uk

Special Mentions

World Book Day

For World Book Day, Student Leadership completed an assembly on the importance of reading. Well done to Halleday G, Isabel P, Gabriela Z, Niamh C, Isobel K, Isaac W, Taya P, Charlie P-J and Millie M!



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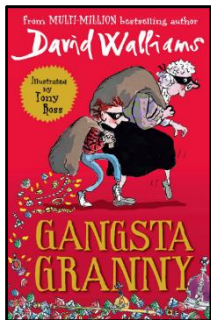
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School News

Book Corner

Ricci T in Year 7 is reading "Gangsta Granny" by David Walliams. It is about a boy who visits his granny, who only eats cabbage and is perceived to be



boring, but he discovers that she is actually a spy! They embark on a sort of mission to steal the crown jewels. Ricci's favourite part was when the queen flashed her knickers. She would recommend the book to anyone who wants a good giggle.

Year 11 Fundraising

Year 11's annual fancy dress day will be on the 30th March. This is to raise funds for their prom, which is to be held on the 6th July at the Stadium (Stoke City) in the Waddington Hospitality Suite.

House Update

Congratulations to our Year 10 House Captains – James, Grace, Olivia, Riley, Frankie, Georgie, Maisey, Maisie, Eva-Jayne, and Ella.

Well done to Year 7, who during Challenge Day on Friday 3rd March took part in a Charity Table Tennis Tournament to raise money to help those affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.



We have launched a house charity event this week, working with The Voice Project within the Staffordshire Children's Service. Students have been asked to bring in chocolate Easter eggs, which will be given to children in care. Students will receive house points for their donations and the house with the most donations will be awarded bonus house points.

If any parents or carers have any connections with local companies who would wish to donate prizes to the house system, please email Miss L Fower, or call the main reception to discuss.

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Engage

Challenge Day

The Year 11 Challenge Day started with a reminder of the importance of Online Safety. Session 2 was on employability. Session 3 followed on from this and covered money management, and in the final two sessions of the day pupils worked their way through multiple challenges and finished the day with a fashion show where they paraded the all-weather festival ponchos they had created.



Year 10 looked at improving their literacy through creating and developing a magazine. Students were in specialist subject groups to research and then write their articles. Editors for each form group circulated around the groups to offer encouragement and advice to students. In the afternoon, they focused on researching the cost of being a teen parent, as well as the truth about vaping and nicotine.

Year 9 looked at 'Moorside High's Ideal University', where working in mixed ability groups they designed an open day for a student who was unsure about university. Using teamwork, communication, leadership, and time management skills, they researched a range of topics such as what university is, what a degree is, finance/loans, degree apprenticeships, support available at university and methods to advertise the event. Each team presented to their class and the winning teams to the full year group in the hall. Pictured is the winning team (Stonehouse University) along with guest judge Gareth Hughes (Buxton/Leek College) and Mrs Stokes.



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Belgium Trip

Thank you to Georgie E, who has produced an excellent write up of the recent Belgium trip, which we will share with you below:

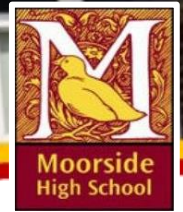
The Belgium trip was honestly so much fun. Having the opportunity to visit a new country, spend a few days alone with my friends while appreciating our history as a country was such an experience. The outward journey took place overnight on the 14th of February and it is important to make sure you get some sleep or you will be very tired on the first day, as once we arrived in Belgium in the morning we went straight out to start our activities.

The hotel we stayed at was very nice. The catering was better than I imagined. I always found something to eat while I was there. They served croissants, cereals, toast, and things like that for breakfast as well as having a range of spreads for the bread items. Then at teatime there was always chips and pizza for anyone who did not like any of the options; they had salad and vegetables for a healthy section and served desserts too. I was pleasantly surprised by the rooms too. I was in a group of three and in our room was one double bed and two single beds, all of which were very comfortable to sleep in. We had air conditioning, a TV, a seating area, a desk, and a wardrobe in the room as well. Plus, we had our own bathroom with the essentials: a bath, shower, toilet, bin, sink and a huge mirror. All the lights and water worked fine as well.



DAY 1: On the first day, we went straight from travelling into activities. We started off at around 10:05 visiting one of our British cemeteries at Lijssenthoek which had a small museum about the Casualty Clearing Station that existed during the war which had helped injured soldiers. We then visited another British cemetery at 11:30 at Essex Farm, the site of an Advanced Dressing Station for casualties during the war and the site of the burial of the youngest British soldier, Valentine Strudwick who was just 15 when he died.

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The British cemeteries which are looked after by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission are very well kept, peaceful places and in terms of looks, the graves are white and uniform. It was quite daunting seeing all those graves in a moderately small space. My friends and I noticed the different symbols amongst the graves representing different places the soldiers were from. Within about 10-15 rows of 30, that is 300-450 graves in total, there were 21 soldiers from Staffordshire. That is a scary statistic.



After visiting the cemeteries, we got some free time to look around and find food in the town of Ypres. The area we were in was tourist friendly and they spoke English, which was useful. The other two activities were visiting a museum called 'In Flanders Field' which covers everything from why the war started to what happened at the end and getting to go to the chocolate shop there was a little show in the chocolate shop, and it was a lot of fun to watch!

DAY 2: On the second day, we visited a third British Cemetery called Tyne Cot, this is the largest CWGC cemetery in the world. We then visited our first German cemetery at Langemark; they were nothing alike. The German cemetery had such an unsettling feeling to it, and it was just so much different to the British cemeteries. There were numerous German soldiers buried in one grave - there were 17 in just one grave. Plus, there were some graves that did not identify the soldier, most likely due to injuries in the war which was disturbing. We counted 5,800 soldiers in just one part - there were over 44,000 in total, and it was only a small cemetery.



We also visited a place called Sanctuary Wood which has a small museum but also original trenches from the first World War which we could explore. I can imagine that the conditions were terrible for the soldiers fighting there.

On the evening of the second day, we went back into Ypres to take part in the Last Post Ceremony which has taken place there every evening since 1928 (except during the German occupation of Belgium during WWII) in memory of those British and Commonwealth soldiers who died in WWI. We laid a wreath of remembrance on behalf of all the Moorside Community.



DAY 3: We went to another museum on the third day called 'Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917', this one was huge. It had soldier's uniforms, weaponry, and other items used in the war. It also had a reconstructed dug out which we could walk through and some trenches outside which were built to look similar to what they looked like during the war for both British and German soldiers.

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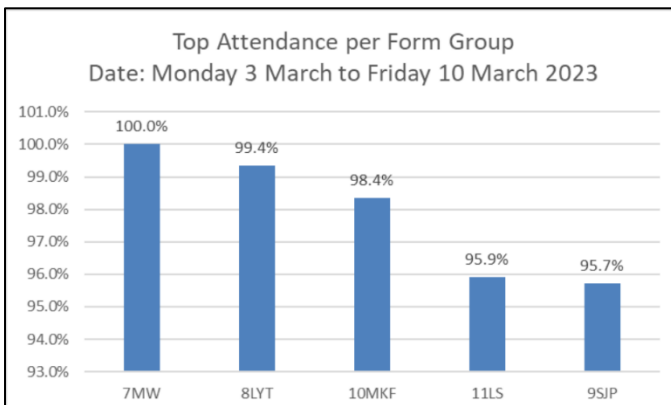
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We returned home on the last Friday before half term and were unfortunately delayed by a strike which was affecting the ferry times, but we were at least able to rest over half term to prepare us for our Year 10 mock exams!

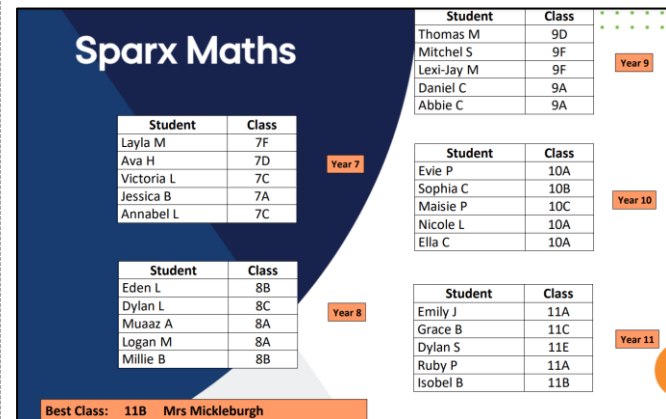
Attendance

Well done to the following forms for their excellent attendance rates this week – keep it up!



SPARX

Well done to the following classes for making it onto the SPARX leader board this week.



House Leader Board

Well done to Doulton who are currently at the top of the leader board. Do not forget that you can earn extra house points this week by bringing in Easter egg donations.

RANK	HOUSE	POINTS
1	Doulton	270
2	Moorcroft	255
3	Bridgewater	238
4	Wedgwood	236
5	Churchill	197