



## ***LOOKING AHEAD***

Ambition | Independence | Responsibility

Welcome to the Spring Term edition of Looking Ahead, our Sixth Form newsletter which showcases the academic and co-curricular pursuits of our Year 12 and Year 13 pupils. My thanks to the Academic Scholars for putting together these articles and for their continued contribution to the rich academic offering in the Sixth Form and across the School. I wish you all a restful Easter break and look forward to a bright and sunny Summer Term.

Best wishes,

**Mrs Camilla Young**

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Mrs Young sat down with Lola and Sheila (Year 13) to listen to them share their top tips with Lily and Arabella (Year 12) with regards applying to university.

[Click here to watch the video>>](#)

## Refugees of Malvern



As part of Year 12 Community Service, seven groups of Year 12 pupils have been allocated to various local charity initiatives and organisations to support. My group has worked with Malvern Welcomes, an organization that aims to support the resettlement of refugees in Malvern. Malvern Welcomes provides English lessons and community support to those

who are fleeing violence and war, welcoming them free of discrimination. Due to the current situation in Ukraine, we thought it was important to spread awareness and information to the whole school community, so we organised a social media takeover on Monday 14 March. In this, we introduced our team, and shared information about what the organisation does,

how it helps refugees and how you can make a difference. Malvern Welcomes is acting during the current events in Ukraine by supporting as many families as they can and making space in the community for the refugees who have had to flee their homes and includes families seeking safety from the war. By spreading the message of Malvern Welcomes to a wider audience, we are hoping to reach as many people as possible and help in whatever way we can to support such a vital cause.

*Cyra, Year 12*

## PSHE *Life Skills*

*Hattie and Marnie*

As we reach the end of our time at MSJ, during our PSHE lessons we have learnt some useful skills that we can take with us to the next step of our life, whether that is going to university, travelling, or even entering the working world. The first skill we learnt was car maintenance where we were tasked with changing a car tyre and also checking the levels of screen wash, coolant and oil. We can safely say that none of us had done this before! We also learnt how to cook a pizza with a twist, using pitta bread instead of pizza dough; a simple recipe that will no doubt be very useful for university. The following week, sewing was the focus of the session where we were taught how to sew an invisible stitch on a hem, which is not only a really valuable skill but the final product also looked very smart! The final life skill that we were taught was the importance of electrical safety, a vital skill that will come in handy when using any electrical device. All of Year 13 were pushed out of our comfort zone but agree that this course has been great fun and a much needed distraction from A level revision!





## Young Enterprise Mr Attfield

On Saturday 19th March, 11 budding entrepreneurs from Malvern St James travelled to the Young Enterprise trade fair on Worcester High Street to sell their homemade products. Two businesses from MSJ attended the event to present and sell their products. The first team, Sage, sold handmade tote bags, decorated with inspirational quotes. A proportion of the profit made was donated to the mental health charity Young Minds.

The second group of entrepreneurs from Fable & Flame, repurposed bone china teacups, into aromatherapy candles, which could then be used again as tea cups, trying to help recycle and upcycle. Overall, both companies comfortably broke-even. Sales on the day went exceptionally well with Fable & Flame selling over 40 candles and Sage selling 30 tote bags. Topping off the day, Fable & Flame were given the award for Best Trade Stand.

Well done to both businesses!







## Music Round Up

### *Christy, Year 13*

As an A Level Music student, I have been heavily involved in both academic and extracurricular music this term. Being a member of the MSJ Singers and the MSJ Symphony Orchestra has allowed me to build relationships with my younger peers.

The MSJ Singers recently performed in the Priory Lunchbox Concert. We were all so excited to be involved as it was our first public performance since March 2020. Finally we were able to showcase what we have been working on since the start of the academic year. The Choir performed Mozart's 'Ave Verum', Archer's 'Magnificent' and Rutter's 'Gaelic Blessing'.

It was wonderful to get back into the beautiful setting of the Priory to sing and share our passion for music with others. I was also able to use this concert as an opportunity to prepare for my A Level Music Performance later in the term. My passion for music also inspired me to complete an EPQ which



focused on the benefits of music therapy. For my project I conducted wide ranging research to assess and evaluate the wide range of benefits that playing and enjoying music can bring to all. I was inspired and humbled by my findings and greatly enjoyed putting together my final essay. Sharing my research with my classmates was a fantastic way of ensuring I am prepared for university study.



# English Trip to Stratford

**Michaela, Year 12**



On 16th February, the English A Level students attended Much Ado About Nothing at the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford. The play was

inspired by Afrofuturism and sci-fi providing breath-taking aesthetics, set in a high concept Messina. The costumes and hairstyles were vibrant



and far from anything that you would expect to see during a typical interpretation of a Shakespearean play. Music, specifically singing by the actors, and contemporary styles of dance were also incorporated into the play. Akiya Henry's interpretation of Beatrice was a particularly powerful performance and added an unexpected air of hilarious slapstick. Overall, the trip was thoroughly enjoyable.



# Micro-Navigation

**Chloe, Year 12**

On Saturday 16th January, five members of the Sixth Form went to Hollybed Common to develop our micro-navigation skills ready for our Gold Duke of Edinburgh Expedition in the summer. The day started with us repeatedly walking back and forth over a 100m stretch to calculate how many steps it took us to work out our magic number. This will be very beneficial for working out distances when we are on a remote Welsh hillside with few landmarks around us to determine our location.

We then went walking up Midsummer Hill following many smaller paths, off the beaten track to use our new skills to work out how far we had walked and how far we would need to walk to get back on track. To conclude the day, we used the Trangias to cook a late lunch of some much-needed pasta. All in all, it was a very productive day which solidified our micro-nav skills and boosted our confidence when walking in remote areas.





# Academic Prefects

*Doxa, Year 13*

This term the academic prefects have worked hard to come up with new ideas to inspire younger pupils to step out of their comfort zones and challenge themselves towards their academic interests.

At the beginning of term, we hosted a Question and Answer panel on pursuing Medicine as a career: **So You Want To Be A Doctor?** During the session, we aimed to inspire aspiring medics by sharing our own experience of choosing A levels and writing personal statements to apply to medical school.

In addition, we hosted the Young Academic Platform (YAP). This term we changed the traditional format from lecture-style presentations to discussion-based activities where scholars were encouraged to join in academic discussions alongside teachers who specialised in those areas, providing different perspectives and discussion topics.

We also came up with two new academic events: the Video Challenge and the Escape Room. Through these events, we hope to encourage different year groups to share their thoughts, and furthermore, to promote and inspire other girls at school to take a leading role in academics.



## University Update

*Audrey, Year 13*

After almost a year of hard work preparing my application, I have finally come out the other end of the UCAS journey with an offer to study **Medicine** at the **University of Edinburgh**. The process has been difficult at times with many highs and lows! I am immensely grateful to have been supported by many members of the MSJ community along this journey: my UCAS mentor, subject teachers, the Old Girls' Association and my Head of Year. Together we have drafted numerous editions of my personal statement and organised a number of mock interviews; their words of encouragement were always so welcome when things felt overwhelming and, at times, daunting. Now that the application process is coming to a conclusion, I will be shifting my focus onto my A Levels and looking ahead with anticipation to medical school. I am so excited to embrace a new journey for a career that I have always aspired to.





## *Not* the Christmas Dinner Dinner

On Friday 11 February, Year 11, 12, and 13 pupils were welcomed to an evening of dinner, games, and dancing at the delayed Christmas Dinner that had been due to take place in December. The 'Not The Christmas Dinner' Dinner was a chance for everyone to dress up and enjoy some fine dining in the

gloriously adorned York Hall. After an initial picture round, tables embarked on some competitive games of Higher and Lower, Pictionary, and Pass the Parcel, with extra forfeits thrown in for some riotous jollity. Everyone then sported their dancing shoes for a choreographed routine of the

Macarena. Even the staff could be seen shaking their hips and jiving to the beat! The evening was topped off with several more hours of spirited dancing. There was merriment and joviality all around, a reminder of how good it is for everyone to be back in the same room sharing their zest for MSJ life.



# External Essay Competitions

Throughout the course of Year 12, many pupils have taken the opportunity to engage in external essay competitions offered by universities and various academic organisations. Lucy, Year 12, tells us more:

“ Personally, I have entered the Oxford University French Flash Fiction Competition, in which I had to write a short story of any genre in French. This really challenged me, not only in terms of improving my grammar and vocabulary but also as a way of thinking creatively in a different language.

In addition, other pupils have participated in the Newnham College Essay Prize, where they debated such topics as the possibility of Small Molecule Therapy for COVID-19 and whether it would be feasible to carry it out within an ideal time frame, as well as the question of sleep deprivation in clinical health settings.

Everyone who has completed essays will definitely agree that it has allowed us to explore concepts beyond the curriculum and enrich our Sixth Form experience. ”

## Post-Mocks Party

**Sassy, Year 13**

In Greenslade we are always looking for a reason to celebrate, so, when mocks finished at the same time as Chinese New Year, we knew that we had to have a party! Keen for an opportunity to all get together, some girls from Hong Kong spoke to Ms WG and arranged for a Hot Pot night. We ordered ingredients from an oriental supermarket, such as beef, chicken and pork for the meat eaters, along with veggie dumplings and udon for all. For dessert Ms WG made pavlova and I made a brookie (a brownie cookie). There was music and laughter as the whole Greenslade team joined in the merriment. Overall, it was a success with the spicy option being a particular hit. For all of us Greenslade is a home from home and so the dress code was relaxed with some wearing smart casual and others in pyjamas. Overall, it was an enjoyable evening, full of friendship and memories that will stay with us as we leave MSJ.





## Lacrosse Nationals



This term the Under 18 and Under 15 lacrosse teams travelled to Aldershot in Hampshire to take part in the National Schools' Lacrosse Tournament. Both the 1st team and U15s had some great wins against Marlborough College, St James & Tudor Hall. The 1st team qualified for division 2 and U15 team finished 5th in the pool.

**We're all in this together!**



### ***Tilly, Year 12***

As a Sixth Form pupil I have had the opportunity to express my creativity and dramatic potential by being part of the annual school production, High School Musical.

Pupils ranging from Year 7 to Year 12 formed this dynamic cast, allowing us all to let our hair down and truly showcase our talent whether this be through acting, singing, or dancing. Everybody had something unique and special to bring to the performance and, as a cast, we were immensely grateful to each other for everyone's fantastic and individual contributions.

Over the last few months, there were certainly challenges, however as a whole we pushed through these together, smiling, laughing and only shedding a few tears along the way! We were all so excited to make it to show week and couldn't wait to show family and friends all our hard work and our dazzling musical. Giving credit to the girls who helped with the sound, lighting and set is also essential as without them, High School Musical wouldn't have been possible.





Our Year 13 pupils are looking forward to a **bright and sunny** final term at MSJ!