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National Science Week

British Science Week is a ten day celebration of Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) activities across the UK. This year the College pulled out all of the stops offering a huge variety of opportunities for students to participate in.

Key Stage 3 students had an eye-opening and entertaining visit from The Ugly Animal Preservation Society. The Society is dedicated to raising the profile of some of Mother Nature's more aesthetically challenged creatures. Young Engineers and their Energy Quest workshop helped sixty Year 7's to explore alternative energy.



Top: Students enjoying the interactive presentation from the Ugly Animal Preservation Society and trying on RAF flight helmets at the Big Bang Show. Below: Students at The Big Bang Show held at Butlin's Bognor Regis



Thirty Year 8's attended the Big Bang@Butlins and thoroughly enjoyed a morning of inspirational STEM activities, whilst Years 7 and 9 explored the night sky during lessons with help from the South Downs National Park Dark Skies workshops.

Thursday was Demo Day at MRC with dissections, explosions and the opportunity to research careers in STEM. To add a competitive edge the Science Department ran a house competition, challenging all students to complete a science treasure hunt. The week was rounded off with STEM challenges, including developing sun shields and engineering with spaghetti and marshmallows.

Kayleigh Axford, Head of KS3 Science, said, 'Inspiring our students to engage with science is so important, watching science come to life takes learning to the next level and inspires our next generation of scientists. British Science Week is a chance for all students across the country to learn about a subject they love.'

New Head Boy and Girl

The College are pleased to welcome Jack Cobbold and Gracie Spooner into the roles of Head Boy and Head Girl.

The key focus for their term in office will be to support the opportunities the College enrichment programme offers and a desire to fundraise for the local community and College charities.

Gracie and Jack head up a team of senior students and look forward to the challenges that being Head Boy and Head Girl will bring over the coming year.



Gilbert Hannam Day

Midhurst Rother College once again respected the tradition of honouring the memory of Gilbert Hannam, the founder of secondary education in Midhurst.

The day began for Years 11 and 13 with blessings in Midhurst parish church led by Reverend David Willis, with guest clergy Reverend Trish Bancroft giving the sermon. As part of the service the congregation enjoyed a rendition of *For Good* from Wicked performed by Year 11 and 13 students, Sophie Brownbill and Anja Blackwell, accompanied by Ted Murray.

The celebrations continued the evening with the formal Gilbert Hannam Prize Giving Evening. The guest speaker, well-known Midhurst figure, Colin Hughes, recounting his memories from his time as a teacher at the former Midhurst Grammar School and, more recently,



Guest Speaker Colin Hughes at the Awards Evening

working with students through the Midhurst Youth Wing on the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.

Colin commented during his speech that part of his directive on joining the Grammar School back in 1968 was to support the building of a new youth wing, a project that he finally saw completed in 2014 when new facilities opened in Lamberts Lane after a delay of 46 years.



Selected Year 13 church Service ushers with Rev Dave Willis, Mr Richard Brimacombe (Director of KS5) and guest preacher for the service Rev Trish Bancroft

Bloodhound Rocket Success

The College rocketed past teams from schools across West Sussex to win the Forest School Rocket Car Competition. The event, part of the Bloodhound Education Programme, is supported by engineers who have been working on Bloodhound SSC - a supersonic car that is designed not only to go faster than the speed of sound but to over 1,000mph.

The Bloodhound Project, a global engineering adventure, is using this record attempt to inspire the next generation to enjoy, explore and get involved in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The teams had a few hours to complete the task of making their own Bloodhound model from a block of foam, with students demonstrating their ability to work as a team, demonstrating their knowledge and thought processes through drawings, annotations, design ideas,



The winning Rocket Car Team, year 9 students Saya Patel, Oliver Arnold and James Purves

construction of the vehicle and be able to suggest modifications to their cars.

As a final challenge, the model vehicles fuelled by small rocket chargers, raced on a launch system across the Forest School tennis courts. A combination of good scores from the construction round, and a winning time in the race-off, saw Year 9 students Saya Patel, Oliver Arnold and James Purves win the event for Midhurst.

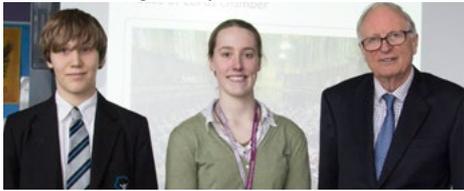
Southdowns Poetry

Following on from last year's poetry workshop with author Lynne Truss and the SDNPA, the College would like to congratulate Year 10 student Adam Procter who's poem 'Midhurst' has been published in the poetry anthology A South Downs Alphabet.



Peers In Schools Visit

The College hosted a talk from a member of the House of Lords on Friday 10 March 2017 to encourage students to engage more with the political and parliamentary process. Lord Luce met with selected Year 10 and Sixth Form students for an hour to talk about the work and role of the House of Lords followed by a question and answer session on various aspects of the parliamentary process and life at Westminster generally.



Students Alex Conway and Erin Collins with Lord Luce

The visit was part of the Lord Speaker's "Peers in Schools" programme, which has been running across the UK since 2007 and has so far involved around 75,000 young people.

Stonepillow Support

Sixth Formers hosted a fundraiser for the charity Stonepillow in February, with students acting on a raised awareness through local issues. The non-uniform day raised £780 for the charity. Chief Executive of Stonepillow, Geoffrey Willis, extended his thanks to the College, highlighting the need for funds to continue the charity's work which provides a lifeline those in need.



Climbing To The Top

Huge congratulations go to Year 8 student Erin Berry, who has recently won a place in the National Climbing Finals. Her success in reaching this level now requires her to be more committed than ever to her training as she will now expect to participate in GB selection competitions.

The College wishes her the best of luck as she moves onwards and upwards with her climbing career.

Corporate Challenge

The College is currently participating in the Chichester Corporate Challenge event. We have over 40 competitors participating. Final results will be available at the end of April, at the time of going to press our overall team positions are:

Year 7 girls – 2nd & 3rd Year 8 girls – 2nd & 4th
 Year 7 boys – 4th Year 8 boys – 1st & 6th
 Year 9/10 boys - 5th Staff Team - 14th (31 teams)

MRC Community Day

Saturday 6 May

Lots of activities for all the family. See the College website for more details.

Principal: Mr S Edwards

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Principal

We have had an excellent term in College and there is much to celebrate. The quality of teaching continues to improve, behaviour is significantly better and attendance is higher. I am very pleased that the students chose our school motto; we are starting to live this in College and I expect to see further positive changes as a consequence.

Our focus this term has been very simple: get the basics right. We will continue to focus on this to make sure that high standards are embedded in every classroom, so that high quality learning can take place every day. I look forward to the summer term and the start of the examinations for Years 11-13; they have worked very hard over the course of this year in particular.

This term has seen the launch of our new student reward system E-Praise. The new system, which students access via a phone app, is flexible and offers tailor made rewards for students ensuring that they get recognised for their good work, effort, behaviour and attitude in way that they want.

I wish you all a very happy and restful Easter break.



ROTARY YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER 2017

Students across the College were recently encouraged to participate in the Rotary Young Photographer competition, a national competition in which the College holds a strong tradition of success. This year's theme of 'Reflection' saw a variety of approaches, some literal and some more conceptual. Many entries were received across the two categories (Intermediate and Senior) with the

twelve finalists being judged by local photographer Mr Michael Chevis, former College Principal Dr Joe Vitagliano and Midhurst Town Councillor Mr Steve Morley.

The two winners, William West (Intermediate) and Amy Oster-Ritter (Senior) who will both receive a mounted print of one of their images, now go onto the national stages of the competition.



William West



Amy Oster-Ritter



Charity Fundraising

Outgoing Head Boy and Head Girl, George Caws and Erin Collins, would like to thank everyone for supporting the College's chosen

charities during their year in post. They, along with their team of Sixth Formers, have raised a staggering £4359.



Spring Concert 2017



Pictures of events can be found at www.mrc-academy.org Communications Gallery