Diary Dates

Friday 31st March 2017
Year 8 trip to Barcelona
Spring term ends

Friday 14th April 2017
DofE Gold practise Assessment

Wednesday 19th April 2017
Summer term begins
Year 10 exams begin

Thursday 20th April 2017
DofE Silver practise expedition

Thursday 27th April 2017
Year 10 exams begin

Year 10 exams begin

Friday 28th April 2017
Year 12 trip to GSK Ware

Year 9 Tree Planting

On Monday 6th March 2017 Miss Elmore took twenty eight Year 9 students to Heartwood Forest in St Albans to take part in tree planting. The tree planting project has been running since 2009 and this was the third year that Monk’s Walk school has been involved.

It is the biggest project of its kind in the UK and the plan is to plant four hundred hectares of new forest.

In one hour our students managed to plant an incredible two hundred and fifty trees which was pretty good going for a Monday morning!

GCSE Pod

We are very pleased to see our Year 10 and Year 11 students using the GCSE Pod website to help with their revision. In this academic year Monk’s Walk students have reached 5000 pod downloads and streams—that is amazing. Keep up the good revision. Please go to www.GCSEPod.com to logon.

Textile Request

Monk's Walk textiles department would like to request any donations such as buttons, zips, decorative trims, elastics and large cut offs of fabric. These would be really useful for students to create clothes etc. Please deliver to the reception or via the students to E2 - Thank you.
Year 13 Geography trip to Swanage

Our annual field trip to Swanage with Year 13 students brought about the usual jovialities and excitement with any Geography expedition. Leaving at 8am, there was a subdued atmosphere in the camp as students plugged in their headphones and drifted off as the 3-hour journey to destination Swanage began. As the rain started hurtling down the coach windscreen, it was looking like a very wet, bleak and dismal day for collecting field data.

There was a brief stop in the New Forest on the way down. The New Forest National Park Authority gave us a guided tour of the management strategies used to control tourism in the New Forest but also to manage the habitat. This was a glorious opportunity for students to experience the ecosystem first hand and they were incredibly perceptive and observant in the Q&A session with the New Forest ranger.

A short drive to Sandbanks and the chain ferry with some welcomed warm and sunny weather resulted in a growing level of excitement amongst the team. As we entered the sand dunes of Knoll Beach, spirits were raised further by the beach, sea and Old Harry’s Rock in the distance and the opportunity to have a warm drink by the coast. A 2-hour tour of the sand dunes was to follow with expert advice from the National Trust ranger, who guided the students through the sand dunes and the physical processes that have shaped the landscape for over 400 years. He also touched upon the threats facing the area and how tourism is being managed to help minimise the negative impacts.

A practice transect of the sand dune was to follow as well as experimenting with the equipment ready for data collection on the Saturday. As we settled into the hostel for the afternoon and early evening, thoughts turned to the prospect of lasagne or jacket potato for dinner…

Saturday morning. 8am. Breakfast in the hostel and down to the sand dunes at 9am. The students worked well collaboratively the day before to plan their methodologies for data collection. This was a real opportunity to collect data independently with minimal input from the staff (a true geographical investigation). They handled this very well and effectively collected data from two different areas of the sand dunes with enough time to grab a warm drink in the café afterwards before heading back to the hostel.

After some gruelling time in the classroom graphing their data and then analysing the trends, we headed up for dinner and then out for bowling in the evening. It was proven that all of that gym work does not necessarily equate to being able to bowl effectively! A comfortable win for Mr Rainforth. There was even time for a quick snack and a slush puppy before driving back to the hostel, with the boys desperately trying to stream the Haye vs Bellew fight on their phones using the poor quality mobile internet coverage in Dorset.

Sunday was focused on analysing the results from Saturday using different statistical analyses. When this was done, it was back on the coach for the long journey back to Hertfordshire. A lot of tired heads by the time we pulled into school. Thank you everyone for a wonderful trip and for being exceptional throughout the visit.

Student quotes about the trip:
“This trip has given me the experience of using different geographical equipment and developing some of the technical field work aspects of geography”
“It has allowed me to put theory into practice; to be able to visualise the concepts learnt in class and apply them to the real world”
“The bowling was a highlight of the trip. It was nice of the staff to plan this as part of the activities so that it was not just all work”
“It was nice to work in groups and to be able to plan our own investigation. This level of independence will be really important for when I study geography at university”. Mr Rainforth
The Brilliant Club

As part of the scholars programme undertaken by the Brilliant Club, six Year 9 and six Year 10 pupils went to Trinity College, Cambridge in March to learn what life is like at a top university. The students had a session on study skills, a tour of the college (including seeing where Steven Hawking lived) and spoke with current students. They also met a current PhD student who will be coming into school for the next four weeks. These students will be writing their own university style project and this will culminate in a graduation ceremony at another top university in May.

Monk’s Walk French Exchange programme

This year’s French exchange (organised by the MFL department) started with the first leg of the exchange this month. On Tuesday 7th March 2017 a group of 28 French pupils from a secondary school in Versailles, France stayed with us for a week. Each pupil stayed with an exchange partner (predominantly from Year 9). They carried out a programme of visits during the week including a day in Cambridge, Harry Potter Studios and visits to London and St Albans as well as an afternoon spent in school. The French pupils were lovely and a pleasure to have with us. Our group from Monk’s Walk are looking forward to taking part in the return visit to Versailles in May.
Maths in Action

On Tuesday 14th March 2017, 30 Monk’s Walk students, Mrs Rayment, Miss Lee and Mrs Sharma attended the ‘Maths in Action’ programme held in the Institute of Education at University College London. The series of six lectures was very informative and interesting to listen to, especially the discussion on exam techniques and how to raise your marks. I found it helpful that the talks were very visual and illustrative because it helps us to remember the information and be able to use it in our maths lessons and exams. All of the speeches were very engaging and often included audience participation, which was good because it kept the audience tuned in and listening. The lectures showed us how maths is used everywhere in day to day life in areas you would never expect and how it can be beneficial for everyone. The programme especially encourages students in Years 10 and 11 to consider taking maths further at A level, so that they too can have a part in the future of Mathematics.

By J French

Duke of Edinburgh annual training day

Over 120 Students attended the annual DofE Training Day on 11th March. Luckily for those involved they were blessed with good weather which enabled all the activities to go ahead as planned.

F Year Bronze students attended sessions on putting up tents, basic first aid, map reading and compass work and even cooked their own lunch using gas stoves - never have we seen so much undercooked pasta!

E Year Silver Students spent half the day planning their two expeditions to the Peak District and the Brecon Beacons and then completed an Emergency Outdoor First Aid Qualification - hopefully they'll never have to use it!

D Year Gold Students spent the day with a Qualified Mountain Leader from Snowdonia planning their Easter Expedition to North Wales. On this expedition the students will be self sufficient for four days and will have at least one night ‘wild camping’ - let’s hope the snow and ice of last year does not make another appearance.

Many thanks to all the staff and volunteers who gave up their time to help the students. Without their dedicated assistance we simply would not be able to offer the award to as many students as we do at Monk’s Walk.
Dance Club

Tuesday lunchtimes

in the gym
12.30 - 1pm
PE kit needed
Trainers optional

Year 7 Trampoline Club

WEDNESDAYS 3.30 - 4.30PM A BLOCK
ONLY 25 PLACES! SEE MISS CHILTON (B21)
TO PUT YOUR NAME DOWN!

Bring your PE kit and socks!

Maths Explorers

Maths Club
FOR YEAR 7’S ONLY

Run by
Mrs Pink, Mrs Rayment and Year 8’s

ALL abilities very welcome!

Through interesting activities, we’ll be exploring the World of Maths AWAY from your normal Maths lessons, so no teaching—honest!

Where : A24
When : Every Tuesday lunchtime
12.30—1.10 pm

Key Stage 3 Rugby Club

Wednesdays 3.20pm
The Glass Menagerie

In order to support our English Literature A-level, 39 6th Form students watched a production of ‘The Glass Menagerie’ by Tennessee Williams on 28th February 2017. We study Williams’ well known ‘A Streetcar Named Desire’ as part of our course, and so seeing one of his plays on stage gave us an example of how Williams’ work is interpreted. The production was at The Duke of York Theatre, London, and was directed by the award-winning John Tiffany, who is currently well known for the production of ‘Harry Potter and the Cursed Child’.

Williams’ play is focused around three main characters, a crippling shy daughter with a limp, an obsessive mother desperate to find a suitor for her daughter, and a son who is greatly relied upon, but has no life of his own.

I think that the majority of those who went to see the play would agree with me that Cherry Jones, who plays the overbearing mother, was the highlight of the show. The bare, understated stage only added to the intensity of the family conflict and an uncomfortable atmosphere was created which not only the characters but also the audience found inescapable. There were some changes from Williams’ own very detailed notes on how to stage the production (Miss Scott in particular was disappointed that some of Williams’ directions had been overlooked!). However, the lighting, sound and movement all combined to create an intense and powerful atmosphere.

At the end of this story, the audience is left bracing themselves in the knowledge that the suffering of the characters, far from being over, is only really just beginning and this was powerfully brought to life by the actors on stage.

L McCloskey (Year 12)

Dragon’s Apprentice

Having raised over £520 for HAD the Dragons Apprentice team attended the final 'Judgement Day' event at the Barclay Tower in Canary Wharf. The team gave a presentation to the 'super dragon' judges and were lucky enough to look round the Tower and view the amazing sights from the 30th floor! Many thanks to Barclays for hosting Monk's Walk.

Mr Moore
Mr Haseler

What subject do you teach? English and EPQ

How long have you been teaching? 10 years

Why did you want to become a teacher? To share my love of literature and to stay away from irritating adults as long as possible. Also, I must admit, my wife suggested it and I thought she was mad for a year or so, until I saw my brother teach and thought, ‘Umm…’.

If you weren’t a teacher, what other career would you have chosen? Either a footballer, poet, chef, publican, hairdresser...

Do you have any hobbies? If yes, what are they? Reading, cycling, keeping chickens, watching football, cooking, travelling, oenology.

What is your favourite TV programme? I don’t like tv but I especially don’t like tedious crime dramas, generally set in Northern Europe or Oxfordshire.

What is your favourite food/meal? Murgh Zafrani (sweet, hot and mustardy curry). Mrs Furness’ Christmas cake was pretty good too.

Where has been your favourite holiday destination? Liverpool, Berlin, Grenoble... endless.

What has been your favourite gift/present? For me: my bike; from me: a full named-up LFC kit for my niece.

Please tell us something we would not know about you...Do you think I’m stupid?!
Congratulations to Zoe McCandlish on completing the Marsden March on 19th March, covering a distance of 14 miles. Zoe was a little tired the following day!

Mrs Magee recommended Ellen Sadler, Megan Dott and Amira Woodall for a commendation following their work on a project on their homes. Mrs Magee said "The girls had put a lot of effort into the presentation of their work in an original way and also into the range and quality of language they had produced."

Emily-Gene Greaves was recommended for a commendation by Ms Boswell for her wonderful piece of descriptive writing in a timed practice in class.

Amelie Evans, Ruby Colville, Harriet Pace and Austen Fowler all received commendations following a challenge in prep to recreate Edgar Allen Poe's story of The Raven, with ambition and imagination. Ms Scott said "The students went above and beyond to create truly outstanding pieces."
### Football Results

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<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Score</th>
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### Netball Results

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<td>7 - 17</td>
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<td>Thurs 9th March</td>
<td>Monk’s Walk U12 v Mount Grace School</td>
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<td>Monk’s Walk U14 v Mount Grace School</td>
<td>Won</td>
<td>9 - 3</td>
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Mid Herts Year 7 Indoor Athletics

On Thursday 23rd February a group of Year 7 students went to Sir Frederic Osborn School to take part in the Mid Herts Indoor Athletics event. Our students worked very hard and did very well with the boys coming in 4th place overall and the girls achieving 2nd place overall.

The best performance of the event was our very own R Thomas and M Dorman who took part in the 8 lap Parlauf and won 1st place rather comfortably.

A big well done to you all.

Mr Athill

Trampoline Success for Monk’s Walk

Monk’s Walk took part in a Trampoline competition in March, held at Sir Frederic Osborn School. Our students did extremely well and achieved some fantastic results:

**Elite- winners through to the county finals:**
- Molly Winter
- Sophia Sutcliffe

**Advanced team 1st place- through to the county finals**
- Lauren Yusuf
- Amelia Mattheolie
- Grace Mattheolie
- Zoe McCandlish
- HayleySomerset

**Best Girl:** Lilly Scully HW
**Intermediate Team Joint 2nd place with SFO**
- Catherine Catchpole GL

**Beginners Team 3rd place**
- Best girl: Serena Williams JL

**Best boy** Shaun Gava JA
Abi Stewart D1 competed as guest in the Elite category, receiving the highest score in her category and supporting the younger students all day.

Monk’s Walk Rugby Result

Monk’s Walk Year 7 Rugby team played a tough match against John Warner School. Both teams played equally well but Monk’s Walk was able to secure a win and final score of 6 - 4. A big thank you to all of people who came to watch and support.

G Hawes (JN)
Wishing you all a lovely Easter break; just a reminder that school is back on Wednesday 19th April 2017.

**Monk’s Walk Mid Herts Success**

A huge congratulations goes to Monk's Walk U12s football team who won 2 - 1 against Chancellors School this week, winning the Mid Herts Cup! K Scott scored two outstanding goals to win the match but all of the lads played fantastically well!

**Handball**

Monk's Walk Year 8 boys did exceptionally well on Friday 24th March 2017 at the county handball final held at Sir Frederic Osborn School. The boys narrowly missed out on a medal by a controversial goal at the end of their game. Despite being novices at the game, I am exceptionally proud of their attitude towards learning the rules, their conduct during both tournaments and their willingness to succeed. Well done boys.

Miss Steadman

**Year 8 Rugby Success**

On Monday 20th March 2017 Monk's Walk’s Year 8 rugby team played Mount Grace school in Potters Bar. After a juggle about of their team (due to lack of Year 8 students on their team) the game began. The game was evenly matched, with both sides being equally strong. Despite the cold and wet playing conditions Monk’s Walk won the match with a 9-7 score.

T. O'Donnell HW