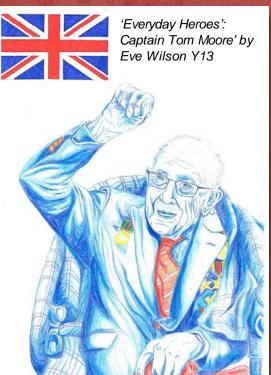


to this term's e-Phoenix, our short and snappy newsletter. If you are reading online, you can go to the full article by clicking the green symbol.

Welcome to the Autumn term and a return to school after the unprecedented long time away due to lockdown and COVID-19. There have been challenges to overcome, not least establishing a new routine to maintain COVID safety measures for teaching and minimising movement around school. We are proud of our students and the way the majority have coped and settled.

The term began with a two week 'Welcome Back' programme for



students during morning form time, in which they explored topics such as the impact of lockdown on their physical and mental health, how their academic and career plans might change, and what they achieved in their hobbies and interests over the summer. Form groups also discussed their lockdown heroes and were asked to submit creative responses about the time spent at home.

Much of this term has been a case of 'we are doing things a little differently from usual' especially our open evenings and parent events and we would like to thank everyone for joining in our various virtual opportunities. We concluded the term on a positive festive note with our fundraising Christmas Jumper Day.















Y6/7 Transition As with so much this year, our Y6 to Y7 Transition was a little different. Early in the summer term, we created a special section on our website which was full of essential information to inform and help prepare both our parents and students for the move to secondary school.

This included a special video tour of our school narrated by a Y8 student and recorded video messages from the soon-to-be Head of Y7, Mrs Evans and the Pastoral Manager, Mrs Brown.

We were very fortunate to be able to go ahead and welcome Y6 students into school during the first week of the summer holidays to familiarise themselves with the building, meet lots of their new teachers, enjoy activities and make new friends. Although we had to manage this in a different way from usual, we believe that this went a long way to help their successful start at Meadowhead in September as Y7s.









Summer School





https://twitter.com/MeadowheadSch

Like us on Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/MeadowheadSchool

See us on Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/meadowheadschool/

and get news and events details as they happen



Y7 Parents Settling in Evening

We were pleased to be able to hold a Virtual 'Settling-in Evening' for

parents/carers and their Y7 children at the beginning of October. We ran this with individual video appointments with each child's Form Tutor, which were booked using our online appointment booking system.

Although we were unable this year to welcome prospective parents and Y6 students into the school building, we put together a variety of specially created resources to get a sense of the experiences prospective pupils will have at Meadowhead. Our Open Evening on Thursday 1st October began with a presentation from Mrs Grewal-Joy, Headteacher, which you can watch here: https://mhsch.uk/y6openevening

Y6 Open Evening



We recorded video conversations with some new Y7 students and for an end of school perspective, two Y13 students reflected on their last six years with us.

Teachers recorded an overview of their subjects and we heard from our school Pastors, the Learning Resource Centre, current parents and we showed a virtual tour of the school.

For all the information from our open evening, please click the green phoenix or go to the Parents section of our website.





The Governors' Vision 2020 - Our Journey to Excellence

This September, our school welcomed new and existing students after a five - month gap. The organisation of the school

felt very different due to measures taken to safeguard students and staff in this time of extreme challenge from the pandemic.

Governors are required to review their strategic plans for the school's development every year. This year, the pandemic has prompted us all to consider and re-evaluate our values and priorities in great depth. We see that some changes, mostly organisational, are necessary and some values have risen in importance. However our overall values and direction of travel remain the same. These are the headlines of our six themes of strategic direction, slightly rearranged from 2019/2020 to reflect the priorities that have emerged in our review.

- 1. A Safe School
- 2. Teaching
- 3. A High-Quality Curriculum
- 4. Learning
- 5. Parental Support
- 6. Outcomes and Destinations

Please visit our website to view the full text of these.



This is our vision of excellence as a school. Most of these six themes are already in the process of being met. We expect to be designated as a 'good' school at our next inspection and to be well on the way to outstanding.



Sixth Form

2020 Destinations

In a year like no other,

staying on at sixth form was Y11 students' most popular destination:

- 141 Meadowhead sixth form
- 18 Other sixth forms
- 139 College & training providers
- 11 Apprenticeships

And going to University was the top choice for Y13 students:

- 80 university
- 13 university next year
- 6 apprenticeships
- 7 employment
- 6 college foundation degree
- 4 gap year

Well done to all our Y13 students whose Results Day was the most unusual in living memory! We are proud of all our students' efforts throughout sixth form and especially during these unprecedented times.

√ Resident Careers Advisor

√ Unique Football Scholarship with Sheffield FC

Sixth Form Open Evening

This year's Sixth Form Open Evening was held on Thursday 12th November as a virtual event with live

presentations from Mrs Grewal-Joy, Mrs Burdekin and Ms Robinson. This included a look at the range of experiences available to our sixth formers and what a typical 'day in the life of a Y12' can be.

If you missed the presentation, you can watch a recording of it on https://mhsch.uk/sixthform where you can also view full details of our courses and entry requirements. We encourage you to watch the videos introducing our sixth form teachers and their subjects.



Testimonials from some of our former students

"My time at Meadowhead School Sixth Form was such a joy. I enjoyed every minute of it. The teaching staff are so supportive and always want the best for you. In addition to the support in lessons, Meadowhead supported me through my University applications" Holly

"Fantastic staff who inspired me to pursue a career in teaching after leaving the academy" Jonathan

"Meadowhead Sixth Form is extremely supportive with dedicated and knowledgeable teaching staff. Teachers are passionate about their subject and will go the extra mile for their students" Lucy



Sixth Form Academy Trust

Visit http://mhsch.uk/sixthform



Tutor Time and Enrichment

At Meadowhead Sixth Form, we work with a range of universities and employers to ensure students get all the relevant information ahead of their applications. This term, Y12

Sixth Form

students have heard from Finn Manders of Emmanuel College, Cambridge about "Why Higher Education", Martin Flynn from Sheffield Hallam University about degree apprenticeships and Oliver Bagshaw (himself a former Sixth Former) from Europa Worldwide about routes into employment.

Reverse Advent

Once again, our generous

sixth formers have been contributing to the 'reverse Advent' food boxes, to be donated to the Grace Food Bank.



Y12 students have also heard from Cerys Evans, ahead of work experience in February.

We have also continued to work with the government-funded Uni Connect project – called HEPPSY in South Yorkshire – that helps us raise the aims and aspirations of Y10-Y13 students. As part of HEPPSY this term, all Y13 students on the programme have met with a specialist

careers adviser and Y12 science students have started a project on the research behind why we feel pain with a Phd student from the University of Sheffield.

All Y10-Y13 students have also been surveyed to help plan our future work. Y13 students have started to prepare for January's virtual mock interview with a range of employers.





A huge congratulations to the successful candidates for all of the student leadership elections that have been conducted this term. In the Sixth Form, Mahan Ashoori was elected student president with Miriam Levy and Beck Mancini elected as vice presidents.

In Y11, Daniel Howcutt and Mary Okunwague Blessing have been elected as Head Boy and Head Girl with William Butcher and Lealiki Kavanagh-Cosgrove as deputies.

These students meet with Mrs Grewal-Joy and Y7-Y10 representatives as part of the student leadership team known as the Cabinet. This term, meetings have focussed on the Covid restrictions, self-isolation and homelearning, rewards and our charity donation from non-uniform days. Further to this, each form group has elected two representatives that meet with their Head of Year each half-term to provide feedback and input. We thank all of these students for their contribution to the school community.

GCSE Results Day

On a somewhat surreal exam results day, we congratulated all our Year 11 students, who this year received their GCSE/BTEC exam results via email.

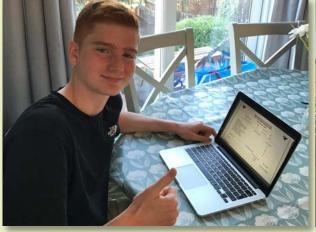
We were also delighted to be able to welcome the very excited BBC Radio Sheffield reporter, Jenny Eells at 8am who came fully prepared with her socially distanced 2 metre microphone stick) to interview Mrs Evans (Head of Y11) and 3 of our Year 11 students as they opened their results live on the radio!

Well done to these students and their parents for coming up to school so early to take part in the radio show at short notice!

Students also sent us pictures of themselves as they opened their results at home.









Headline figures

As was widely reported in the press, Summer examinations for Year 11 and Year 13 students did not take place in 2020 due to Covid-19. Centre Assessment Grades (CAGs) were instead awarded to students.

| Headline Figures for KS4 results | 2020 |
|---|------|
| % of pupils achieving a grade 5+ in English & Maths | 50% |
| % of pupils achieving a grade 4+ in English & Maths | 71% |
| % of students achieving English Baccalaureate (Grade 5+ Passes) | 17% |
| % of students achieving English Baccalaureate (Grade 4+ Passes) | 21% |
| English Baccalaureate Average Point Score* | 4.21 |

* EBacc A.P.S. – A national headline measure that calculates the average grade achieved by students focusing on their performance in English, Maths, science, geography or history and a language.

Summer Reading Challenge

Well done to everyone who took part in the Summer Reading Challenge - there were 3 levels to have a go at - Bronze (get someone to take a picture of you reading), Silver - talk to family members about a positive reading memory, and Gold - to find Food in Fiction.



Fred swallowed. He tried to re-catch his temper.

He held out the seasoning.

Reading for

'Do you want some? We might as weh

'No. It could be poisonous' said Con.

Fred withdrew his meat from the fire. It was black in patches, and the skin was charred and steaming. He pulled off the skin with his fingers, wincing at the heat, and sprinkled a pinch of the salt and unknown herbs on to the bird.

Food in Fiction - found by Amy in Y7 in 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell





Pleasure

Library updates

Although access at break times has been restricted, students have still been able to borrow a book from the library. Using the Pick-a-Book-for-Me slip they fill in their reading preferences for our librarian to select a book and deliver it to their Head of

Year Office, following COVID secure measures. This is available online via the student portal or from their

form tutor. Students can also email their request to LRC @meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk. They can browse the library catalogue online from home:

https://mhsch.uk/librarybooks

All returned books are quarantined before being lent out again.

'Reading Well' - the library has a comprehensive selection of books to support our students with their mental health and wellbeing. They can go to the 'Shelf Help' reading list on the above library link.



Students engrossed in their quiet form time reading

Get Your Winter Reads Online

All students at Meadowhead have access to over 1000 popular titles to borrow on our e-book platform, completely free and just using their normal school login details.

https://meadowhead.wheelers.co/

Families can also borrow e-books, audio books, digital magazines and comics free from Sheffield City Library, via the RBdigital platform. Full details and a help guide here:

https://mhsch.uk/sheffieldlibrarydigitalhelp

Readathon

Well done to all the Y7s who joined in this term's Readathon - the sponsorship money totalled a

wonderful £380.00 which gets books to children who are in hospital.





e-Safety at Meadowhead

We have invested in the new National Online Safety platform to help safeguard young people online. A letter has been sent to parents with all the details of how you can join completely free of charge. There is also a dedicated National Safety Online app for both Android and Apple devices, plus guides on the latest Xbox. Playstation and mobile phones.

Login information and further resources are on our website.



GROW Project with **Sheffield Hallam**

The Covid-19 Pandemic has caused considerable disruption to our young people at a late stage of their studies.

In and Out of School

Sheffield Hallam University (SHU) have developed a GROW mentoring project in recognition that this can have a profound effect on their processes and habits of learning. At Meadowhead School we have been lucky enough to have 30 Y10 students take part in the project, which included a number of individual and groups sessions with trained university graduates.

The GROW has been a huge success for students transitioning into their GCSEs and in Meadowhead School. It has offered Y10s the opportunity to develop important skills through mentoring and coaching. By working together, schools and graduates have formed a network of support for young people who are at one of the most crucial stages in their education, which will have long-lasting benefits.



Chocs for Champs

Supporting Young Carers here at Meadowhead School is something we are incredibly passionate about. Our key message to anyone who is a Young Carer is that they are doing an amazing job and what they are doing is something to be proud of! Having been inspired by a young carer in Suffolk to raise awareness, we have received a donation of over 300 selection boxes and advent calendars from a number of our Trust Partners, including: Whittam Cox Architects, Hair Creative, Thornsett Properties, The Grace Food Bank, Virgin Money, and some of our amazing school Governors. Thank you everyone - these will be gifted to our Young Carers to say 'well done and keep going

10 Activities To Do While At Home

Many of our students are spending much more time at home due to the national lockdown and periods of self-isolation. To help with this, we have put together a list of activities they can complete at home

after they have done their regular schoolwork to keep their mind and body active.

- Stay calm and mindful
- Listen to a podcast or audio book
- Get Creative
- Be a Lockdown Hero: Charity and Fundraising at Home
- Stay Fit and Healthy
- Get Reading Fiction
- Travel the World in a Virtual Way
- Dance and Perform to your Family
- Get Cooking
- Get Thinking about the Big Questions

Full details on our website news page







Supporting good causes

Well done to Lyndon Rose Y7 who started a charity animal hamper collection, which was donated to the RSPCA just before Christmas. We are sure the cats, dogs and rabbits loved their treats and toys!



Non uniform days

We had our first non-

uniform day of the year on the Friday before half term All proceeds went to the charity. Assist, which supports refugees and asylum seekers living in Sheffield.



We chose this charity as the experience of newly arrived people from all around the world has been prominent in all our minds while we have discussed the topic of migration during our Black History Month activities.

Well done to everyone taking part - we raised over £1200

Wearing a Christmas jumper on the last day of term was a very popular choice for this non-uniform day, with funds going towards a snowflake for Sheffield Children's Hospital and the charity 'Humanitas' chosen by Y7.



Odd Socks Day

Lots of students wore odd socks to school on

Monday 16th November as a positive way to mark the start of Anti-Bullying Week 2020. This year's theme is 'United Against Bullying' - wearing odd



socks supports the message that our students should be allowed to be themselves, free from bullying. Well done to everyone who joined in. Parents can still download a very helpful toolkit by visiting the news

page of our website or clicking here



Snowflake for Sheffield Children's Hospital

We are delighted to have received our Snowflake Plaque in recognition of our support to the Snowflake Project 2019-20! The project raised over £335,000, which will help build a new Cancer and Leukaemia Ward at Sheffield Children's Hospital.









Y7 Christmas Hamper Appeal

2020 has been a hard year for most, however for some families it has been one of hardest financial years. As a school community we wanted to support these families during the Christmas break. Staff and students filled Christmas Hampers full of wholesome food, toiletries and treats.

Well done to all the Y7s who took part in a poster competition to encourage donations - they were amazing!



Afternoon Tea Parties

Students from Y9 and Y10 who have achieved exemplary reports this term were invited to their own afternoon tea party with a selection of tasty cakes and a drink in recognition of their efforts. Very well done to these students.





Diamond Award Ceremonies

Towards the end of term we had the pleasure of recognising our Y8, Y10 and Y11 Diamond Award Achievers, holding our first virtual award ceremonies, which were streamed live to parents and carers.

48 students who were presented with a Diamond Award have attained over 500 reward points, which is a huge achievement. We also recognised 7 students who have reached their Double Diamond Award which means they have received 1000 reward points!

Mrs Grewal-Joy said "we are celebrating true excellence. These students are exemplary and through their hard work and sustained effort they have maintained high standards and are role models for their peers."

We are extremely proud of you all -very well done!





Marking Occasions



Well done to our Y11 students who sat their mock exams in November and December. We are extremely proud of how you dealt with the pressures of your mock exams during this uncertain period!

Black History Month

As part of Black History Month, students learnt about key moments in British history such as the Bristol Bus Boycott and the

treatment of the Windrush generation. Students in Y7 - Y10 engaged in debate about the curriculum in an Ethics lesson.

Sixth Form students also heard from the President of Sheffield Hallam Students Union, **Andrew Adegbola**, about the importance of diversity in leadership positions.

During October, a new student group – **Meadowhead Against Racism** (MAR)– began meeting to guide and improve the school's work on tackling racism.



STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths)

Y12 students get their CSI kit on

At the start of this half term our brand new post-16 course 'BTEC Level 3 in Forensic and Criminal Investigation' began. As part of the first unit students

undertook the search of a mock crime scene wearing full They then took their recovered evidence back to the lab for

CSI gear. They then took their recovered evidence back to the lab for analysis.

This is one of the 4 units they will study in Y12, which involves assignments based on developing techniques in collecting, analysing and reporting chemical, physical and biological evidence during forensic investigations. Later in the year they will be preparing to give evidence in a mock court trial.

This diploma is the equivalent to 2 A Levels and you can view the full course

spec on the subject pages of our website











Chemistry Competition

At the beginning of December a small team of Y9/10 expert chemistry students took part in the Royal Society of Chemistry's Top of the Bench Interschool Chemistry Competition. This prestigious competition is designed to encourage and recognise high achievement of chemistry students. The quiz consisted of various rounds, some curriculum based and some a bit more light hearted. The Sheffield and District regional heat this year was held remotely. They applied themselves to new situations with ease, representing the school well and Mr O'Brien sends his thanks to them for their involvement.

We would like to say 'thank you' to the University of Sheffield's Women in Engineering Student Society for kindly donating these books to the Meadowhead Community Learning Trust. The book aims to promote and inspire primary school children to study STEM subjects. We have distributed these to our local primary schools and we are sure they will enjoy them.





During the weekend of the 21st/22nd November the Royal Society of Biology hosted their first ever virtual science festival. Students that managed to watch some of this enjoyed it and it was ideal for any

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Maths)

budding biologist, chemist, geologist, physicist, or anyone who loves science and wanted to find out more.

The content is still available if you missed it and can be found here: www.rsb.org.uk/science-at-home

Zone 3: Scientists At Work

Maths Week

We marked Maths Week during 9th - 13th November by setting our students some tasks to highlight the occasion! The aim of maths week was to raise the profile of maths and make it accessible and enjoyable for all! There was a daily maths challenge during form time and we shared it on social media for everyone to have a go. Try this one!

Maths Week 2020

Use the 6 numbers below in the given order to make a total of 100.

You can use + - x ÷ ()

6 3 5 4 2 1

Maths Week 2020

Day 1 Answer

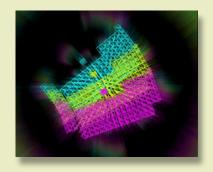
There are two possible answers

or

or $6 \times (-3 + 5 \times 4) - 2 \times 1 = 6 \times (-3 + 20) - 2 \times 1 =$ $6 \times (-3 + 5 \times 4) - 2 \times 1 = 102 - 2 = 100$

We were part of an amazing 667,171 group of people who took part from all around England https://mathsweekengland.co.uk/

On the 9th December science students enjoyed the Royal Society of Chemistry Schools virtual Christmas lecture "The Periodic Table and Me: How we got from 4 elements to 118" - the 150th anniversary of the Periodic Table was celebrated recently.



Erasmus - Full STEAM Ahead

This fantastic project came to an end this term with

staff and students holding an end of project celebration on Friday 2nd October. Students had prepared their own special video from photos over the last 3 years and then it was time to watch the official end of project video. Mrs Silverwood presented

certificates and chocolates before everyone gathered outside the Sixth Form Centre for photos. You can watch the video here: https://youtu.be/Y5xtg5PznxE





Our STEAM partner schools in Spain and Germany also sent us their end of project photos, which you can see on our website.



Careers

The Careers Team were very pleased to start up face-to-face meetings with students in September. We have been busy in recent weeks meeting with Y11 and sixth form students to support their planning for the future.

Our programme of careers events will continue this year giving students the chance to meet with employers and build experience of the workplace. As you might expect, there have been some changes in the ways we can offer this, so students may take part in virtual work experience or have online careers talks from employers, rather than meeting them face-to-face. On a positive note, this means we can offer a broader range of speakers this year, as we aren't limited by the location of a business or an employer. Despite this, we look forward to the day when we can start inviting employers back onto school premises once more.

In December, we hosted a careers workshop by the high-performance sports car manufacturer McLaren Automotive. A group of Y10 students discovered the range of career opportunities available at McLaren, improved their employability skills and learnt about manufacturing, production and supply chains.

A group of Y9 students heard from international law firm Slaughter & May who advise on some of the most complex, high profile and ground-breaking matters for clients across the globe. The session helped to demystify pathways into the law profession, and improved students' knowledge of the roles in the law sector. They also got to practise some of the skills that law firms look for.



Career Companion

We have taken the leap and moved to an online careers library which is

accessible to students, staff and parents/carers. Our brand new Career Companion features hundreds of websites packed with reliable, up-to-date information on future options in work, learning and training. You can have a browse and check out:

- Careers-matching quizzes: see Fast Tomato or the Buzz Quiz
- Labour Market Information: find out what you could get paid and which jobs are growing or disappearing
- University options, ideas for work experience, apprenticeship search and much more.



Applying to Apprenticeships, Colleges & Training Providers

Our November event for parents in Y11 and Y13, *Applying to Apprenticeships, Colleges & Training Providers*, became a virtual event featuring videos and information from a broad range of employers, apprenticeship providers and colleges, along with a useful Q&A session with a selection of panellists.

This event is still available to view at https://mhsch.uk/careersevent.



Creative Photography

Y10 photography students have enjoyed experimenting with various effects during their

> lessons. Firstly they created different backgrounds and photographed them to display on the white board, before

then using their camera skills in light and speed settings to capture images.



LGBT+ Group

Our sixth form students have taken a lead on running this new group which welcomes students from all year groups. It is held in a safe and supportive environment - we encourage students to speak to their Head of Year/Pastoral Manager if they would like to join.

In and Out

of School

Y13 Geography Coursework Trip

As part of the A-Level Geography course students are required to complete compulsory fieldwork data collection for their Non-Examined Assessment (NEA). This was completed over two days with visits to Kelham Island, Sheffield city centre, Sharrow, Bridlington, Hornsea and Mappleton.

Whilst collecting data, we were able to witness the Little Kelham Development in its final stages as well as an abundance of artwork dotted throughout the area. Please see more photos and read more about the trips on our website.



As part of their assessments, these Y12 Sport students learnt the

valuable skills of basic first aid, then practiced them on each other.





We say goodbye

Mrs Grewal-Joy took the opportunity on the last day of term to thank staff leaving at the end of this term and wished them the very best of luck in their future careers and retirement.

We said farewell to

Miss Richardson – Geography teacher Mr Merritt – MFL teacher

Miss Gallacher – English teacher

Mrs Aitkin – English teacher Mrs Unwin – Finance Manager

Our best wishes for a very happy retirement Ms Aitken!

Having been at Meadowhead for eighteen years I was present when the new building emerged like a phoenix from the ashes of the

old, but I have actually been a teacher for forty years so although I have very mixed feelings about retiring, I think now is a good time to take that step.

My enthusiasm for the job has never waned, and I still feel as committed and passionate as ever about teaching even if slightly weary of navigating the turbulent waters that educational initiatives bring with them.

I realise that I have spent my whole life in the classroom as either a student or teacher and I have always had homework! I am frequently asked if I ever get bored teaching the same books over and

over again, but I don't. No class ever reacts to them in the same way and I feel that spending my life sharing the literature that I love with students is a privilege. Sometimes a student says, "What is the point of studying Romeo and Juliet/ Of Mice and Men...?" My answer is that every book teaches us something about human nature, people and society.

I have met some amazing characters at Meadowhead - both staff and students- and am still in touch with many colleagues who are and will remain friends for life. At some point in the future I hope to celebrate my retirement by meeting with them and sharing some great memories. Ms Aitken





BiG Challenge 2nd November saw the launch of the Big Challenge Competition and we are delighted once again to have 14 teams taking part. This is an ideal opportunity for our students to learn how to run and build a business, with a £25 cash loan provided by the school. The students have the support of a host of virtual online videos as well as in school tutorials to build their knowledge around marketing & advertising, media,

Please visit the Big Challenge 21 Website: http://bigchallenge.biz/

resources, selling and financial management.





At the end of term, our Big Challenge teams set up their stalls in their year corridors and made a great job of selling to their fellow students and staff.





Sixth Form Christmas Fayre

The Football Scholars organised a fantastic Christmas Fayre in the sixth

form common room at the end of term - there were lots of

Christmas gifts, raffles and a great festive atmosphere. Some of the Big Challenge teams had also set up their stalls for Y12 and Y13 students to run on their behalf and the Next Generation Leaders Team also attracted a lot of interest (and money!) with their stall.











