

The MGS Development Fund Newsletter

Bricks and Stones

Spring 2019



WELCOME TO OUR NEW LOOK NEWSLETTER

We are delighted to be sharing our latest newsletter with you all. The Development Fund has been a growing project at MGS for a number of years now and we are now getting to stage where the students can finally start reaping the rewards of your generous donations. The projects that you have contributed to are making such a remarkable difference here, so we thought it would be the ideal time to update our newsletter with more content on the impact donors are making, as well as a new look. Please do feel free to contact us at any time with any feedback or thoughts on the Development Fund community.

We would like to update you on...

01. The Library Project and PA Spring Fair

02. The impact of your generous donations

Interested in supporting the Development Fund? Would you like to get involved in other ways? Do you have any thoughts on what sort of projects the MGS community would like to support? Do contact Mr Ferguson, Chair of the Development Fund (rferguson@mgs.kent.sch.uk). He would love to invite you in and talk to you about our plans.

01. LIBRARY PROJECT FUNDRAISING AND SPRING FAIR

On Saturday the 30th March, Mrs Hudson and the wonderful Parents' Association Team organised the second MGS Spring Fair. It was the hottest day of the year so far, which contributed towards a great turn out, especially after the frustrations of the snow at this stage last year! The PA has generously agreed to use this event to build a significant contribution towards the Library Project. It was a huge success and the newly renovated War Memorial Library is looking like being the most remarkable facility due to the continuous donations. We can't wait to contact you all later in the year to invite you to our very exciting launch event!



Hot off the press! Your generosity is really creating opportunities...

Ofsted 2019:

“Pupils’ personal development is outstanding. Pupils thrive within the school’s ethos to foster the growth of the whole individual alongside high expectations. Pupils also benefit from a wide range of cultural, sporting and community based enrichment and extra-curricular activities.”



...Many students were buying flowers as last minute Mother’s Day gifts!

...It is always lovely seeing younger siblings coming to this event and playing games with the older students.



...All enjoyed a BBQ in the sun!



02. THE IMPACT OF YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS

I was delighted to announce to the whole school community that we have successfully managed to raise close to the £200,000 required to redevelop the library at our recent Remembrance Service to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. Work will begin in May and the newly developed War Memorial Library will be ready for students at the start of September. As a school, we cannot thank you enough for your generous donations. MGS has never been a school that stagnates and the proactive, positive and outward looking nature of our fine institute and its generous members is

Thoughts on the Library Project from Daniel Little, Vice-Captain of the School...

“The War Memorial Library has been by far the most useful location for me in all my years at MGS. Every student needs a quiet place to get on with work and to discover new material, and the library has been doing that job to an extent. But while the school increases both its student intake and its expectations from us in terms of our ambition and work ethic, it makes sense that the Library is expanded to fit with the School’s needs. I won’t be around to see how the project turns out, but I think the ambition and passion for learning that young Maidstonians have more than merits a new Library to help us reach new academic heights. Although I won’t be the one to benefit from the new space and resources the Library provides, I would love to come back one day and see how Maidstonians are able to use this facility to the benefit of their studies in the way that myself and others have been able to. I’m slightly jealous of what the younger Maidstonians have waiting for them as this culture grows!”

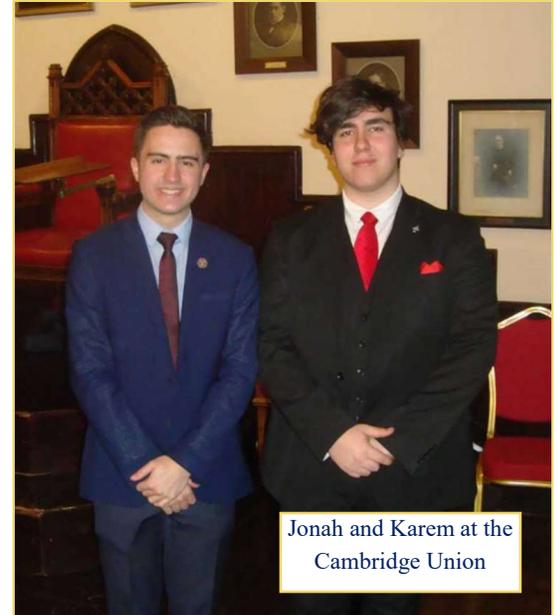


Oliver Leyland, 1st XV Rugby Captain following the Kent 7s Tournament

continuing to create new opportunities for our students. However, what is most gratifying about this is that we are now starting to reap the rewards of your donations already!

The redevelopment of the War Memorial Library this year has really helped the school look at its academic spaces and how they are used to inspire curiosity, rather than just be the necessary places to study. A growing community of students have been proudly gathering to share academic thoughts and actively debate fascinating topics. Together, they formed the concept of the MGS Forum, an academic society with separate strands to encourage students of all ages to meet and develop their interests together. Using the library as our base (but having to branch out due to space issues... for now), the MGS Forum have set up a Debating Society, a Legal Society, a Philosophy and Psychology Society and a Political Thought Society.

All of these groups regularly have 15 or so students attending, but at one stage, over 50 students were using their lunch times to debate! A of these groups have achieved notable success thus far, with the Legal Society competing in the Bar Mock Trial Competition and debating teams competing in the Oxford and Cambridge competitions. The library played a key role in these and in fact, we used it to



Jonah and Karem at the Cambridge Union

successfully host the prestigious Cambridge University South East Debating Competition Regional Round. MGS qualified from this, with Jonah Diomedede and Karem Mumykmaz being invited to the Cambridge Union to compete in the national finals as one of only two state schools from across the country. In addition to this, one of the founding members of the society, Junior Okoroafor, received an offer to study Psychology at the University of Oxford (with seven being offered in total this year). Showing the school community the importance of academic spaces has had such an impact this year.

While we are celebrating success, we would also like to share our recent experiences with the 1st XV rugby side. You all donated generously to support the school’s new Pavilion, and it is so exciting seeing the impact this space has had on the students here. 1st XV stalwart and School Captain, Henry Warby, said “you can’t underestimate the impact it has had on the team and the bond it has helped us form as a group. It is the simple things like having our own changing room and the facilities to all shower together as a team should!” The growth in the quality of rugby here has been rapid and I was incredibly proud to accompany the boys this February on tour in northern Italy. We won both our matches, trained with professionals, watch Treviso win in style and visited Milan, Modena and the Ferrari Factory in Maranello. To be honest, I think it was the best week of my teaching career thus far and what made it even better was that they returned in March and took their togetherness to the Kent Sevens Tournament... and won the plate, beating Judd 29-17 in the final!

It all starts with your small acts of kindness and support... mighty oaks from small acorns grow.