



Moorside News

Moorside High School



THE MOORSIDE WAY : THE WAY WE DO IT AT MOORSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

EASTER WISHES FROM MRS RYLES-DEAN – HEADTEACHER.



It is hard to believe that we have already arrived at the Easter break, I hope you have some good things planned for Easter weekend. I know I am looking forward to spending time with my own children, and having an extra hour of daylight when the clocks 'spring' forward on Sunday 31st March. Although we have a long weekend ahead, school will be open from Tuesday for all Year 11 students and I know many of them will embrace this opportunity.

We also have some exciting plans for over the Easter holidays which include installing our new book vending machine and moving our reading room into a bigger space to create a learning resource area with books, computers and a classroom space for literature lessons. We know that this is an area that will really benefit the students.

As always, Mr Howson and the journalism club have worked wonders on this latest edition of 'The Moorside News' and I know you will enjoy reading it as much as I have ,and as much as the students have enjoyed creating it.

I wish you all a relaxing break and look forward to seeing all students return to school on Monday 15th April at 08:25am. Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Ryles-Dean



Inside news

- Eco-Club Litter Pick
- Chinese New year
- Rome Trip
- Netherlands Trip

and much more....

ECO-CLUB: PICKING UP ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



On the 6th of March, Moorside High School's Eco-Club took a significant step towards environmental conservation by organising a litter pick around Moorside Park and the East Lancs. This event served not only as a fantastic opportunity for students to represent their school but also to demonstrate to the community that young people are indeed capable of fostering a positive impact on our environment.

Under the guidance of Mr. Williams and Mr. Mills, the day commenced with our enthusiastic pupils donning high-vis jackets, armed with litter pickers and rubbish bags. Dedicating an hour at the start of the first period, they filled the bags to the brim, showcasing their dedication and enthusiasm towards making our community cleaner and more sustainable.

It's heartening to see pupils eager to participate in future litter picks, especially considering much of the litter comprised vapes, cigarettes, and aluminium cans. This determination is crucial, as continuous littering contributes to environmental degradation, affecting local wildlife and natural landscapes. By tackling this issue, the students of Moorside High School are taking important steps towards reducing pollution, promoting biodiversity, and enhancing the beauty of our local areas.

The Eco-Club at Moorside High School is an open invitation to all students who are passionate about environmental conservation and wish to make a tangible difference for future generations. If you're interested in joining, simply reach out to Mr. Williams to get started.

Moreover, our commitment to environmental awareness and education extends beyond local community initiatives. For instance, a recent engagement with higher education was highlighted in a post shared on Twitter X:

"Year 9 students have been out at @SalfordUni today gaining an insight into what life is like in higher education. Students had a campus tour and took part in a research task followed by presenting their ideas on different pathways!"

Looking after the environment offers numerous benefits, including reducing pollution, conserving natural resources, and ensuring a healthier planet for future generations. Activities like litter picks help in instilling a sense of responsibility and awareness among young individuals, empowering them to become proactive stewards of the environment. By engaging in these initiatives, students learn the importance of teamwork, community service, and the positive impact their actions can have on the world around them.

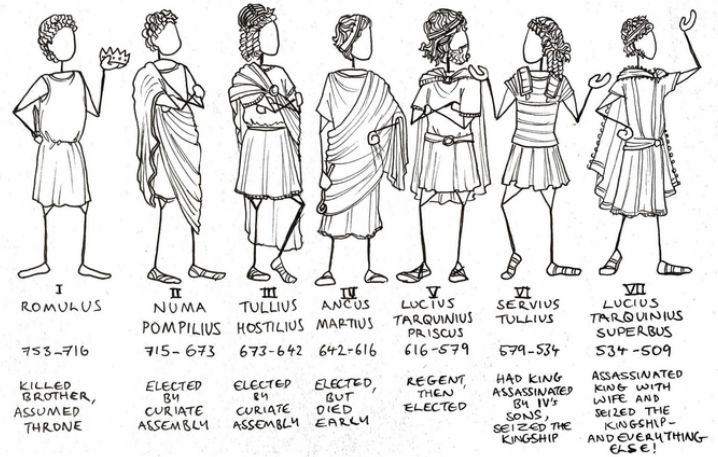
In conclusion, the efforts of Moorside High School's Eco-Club, supported by the wider school community, demonstrate the positive change that can be achieved when young people are encouraged and given the opportunity to engage in environmental protection. It's a powerful reminder of the role education plays in shaping environmentally conscious citizens who are ready to tackle the challenges of tomorrow.

By Dan (Year 7)

If you would like to be part of the Eco-Club, please see Mr Williams. We have more litter picks planned for the summer term.

MOORSIDE HIGH'S EPIC JOURNEY TO ACADEMIC OLYMPUS

In a heartening piece of news, Moorside High School has been honoured as the Secondary School of the Month in the 'Classics for All' newsletter. This commendation is not just a feather in the cap for our school but a testament to the tireless efforts and passion our diligent pupils, who have navigated the demanding waters of the GCSE period with unwavering dedication and an insatiable thirst for knowledge.



Miss Powell, who leads the Classics GCSE at Moorside High School, has been pivotal in fostering an environment where the ancient world is not just learned about but lived and experienced. Under her guidance, the school has embarked on a remarkable journey, beginning in 2020 with the introduction of the Year 8 'Myths and Power' unit. This curriculum includes engaging excerpts from Ovid, the profound tragedies of Aeschylus' Agamemnon, and even modern retellings of mythological tales.

The success of this initiative led to the creation of a mythology club, an amazing venture that has since become a cornerstone of the school's extracurricular offerings. With the support of 'Classics For All', this enthusiasm for the classical world expanded into Year 7, where pupils now delve into the adventures of the Odyssey and explore the art of rhetoric, laying a solid foundation for their understanding and appreciation of classical civilisation.

Mentioned in their newsletter, one of the most transformative outcomes has been the implementation of a whole school literacy policy inspired by the word roots CPD provided by 'Classics for All'. This policy introduces pupils to a new word root each half-term across all subjects, significantly enhancing their exposure to and comprehension of complex vocabulary.

The crowning achievement of these efforts was the launch of the school's first 'Classical Civilisation' GCSE cohort in 2022, a bold step that has reaped immense rewards. The enthusiasm among students is palpable, with one pupil even transforming their bedroom into a shrine dedicated to the ancient world, a clear indication of the profound impact these studies have had on their imagination and aspirations.

Last year's cohort had the unforgettable opportunity to visit the British Museum and marvel at the Parthenon marbles, an experience that this year's Year 10 cohort eagerly anticipates for their upcoming trip to Rome in April. Our school now proudly supports two GCSE cohorts in Year 10 and Year 11, a remarkable achievement that highlights the growing interest and commitment to classical studies among the students.

In an era where the relevance of classical studies can sometimes be questioned, the success of our students stands to prove that the ancient world still has much to teach us about our own.

LEARNING, GROWTH, AND SELF-DISCOVERY: MOORSIDE MEETS THE FUTURE AT SALFORD UNIVERSITY



In a captivating endeavour aimed at broadening horizons and illuminating the path to higher education, students from Moorside High School recently embarked on an unforgettable expedition to Salford University. This trip wasn't just a visit; it was a meticulously planned experience designed to expose pupils to the countless possibilities that further education holds.

The adventure began at Salford University's main campus, recognised for its stunning architecture that seems to leap straight out of a Harry Potter novel. The grand and historical aura of the buildings immediately captured everyone's imagination, setting the stage for a day filled with inspiration and discovery.

One of the day's highlights was the opportunity to listen to talks from current university students, coming from a wide array of disciplines such as engineering and media. Meeting individuals who are at various stages of carving out their careers was nothing short of exhilarating. A student of engineering shared insights into the innovative world of technology and design, painting a picture of a future where creativity meets functionality. Meanwhile, a media studies pupil offered a glimpse into the dynamic, ever-evolving landscape of digital communication and storytelling. These talks were not just informative; they were a vivid showcase of the diversity and vibrancy of university life, highlighting the endless opportunities that await beyond the gates of higher education.

University of
Salford
MANCHESTER



The day also included a more relaxed segment, where students and staff got to unwind in the university café. This informal setting was the perfect backdrop for discussions about the day's events and reflections on the insights gained. Conversations flowed freely, from debates on the most fascinating aspects of the talks to personal aspirations and dreams for the future. This time spent in the café was as much a part of the educational journey as the formal presentations, offering a taste of the social and communal aspects of university life.

For many, including myself, this trip was a revelation. It was not just about seeing the university or listening to lectures; it was about experiencing first-hand the environment of higher education, the friendship among students from diverse backgrounds, and the passion that fuels both pupils and their teachers.

Reflecting on the day, it's clear that this experience has profoundly impacted my outlook on education and my future. The visit to Salford University has opened my eyes to the vast opportunities that lie ahead and has cemented my decision to pursue further education. This goal is supported wholeheartedly by Moorside High School, whose dedication to helping students realise their potential is nothing short of incredible.

As we journey back to our daily lives, the memories of Salford University linger, reminding us of the doors that education can open. For the pupils of Moorside High School, the trip was not just a day away from the classroom; it was a pivotal step towards realising their dreams, with the unwavering support of their school guiding them every step of the way.



Moorside
High School

Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

Aspiration

#WECARE

#TEAMMOORSIDE

SPEAK UP, SPEAK OUT

Wanting to ensure that student voices are heard, Moorside High School is encouraging young people to report any discriminatory behaviour they either witness or fall victim to or if they need to reach out for support, to do so, via the 'Speak Up, Speak Out' campaign. With an ethos centred around CARE, the compassion felt among Team Moorside's corridors may often mask some of the larger issues at stake of becoming institutionalised.

Something not right, or have a good idea, would you like to make a difference...

SPEAK UP, SPEAK OUT

SPEAK UP, SPEAK OUT
#TEAMMOORSIDE

TALK TO US

Your name & email will be registered when you log a comment

Below are some useful websites to improve wellbeing, resilience and decrease stress:

- **Moodscope:** If you are struggling with low mood, depression, or mood disorders, Moodscope offers an online personal mood management tool that effectively measures and tracks your moods. www.moodscope.com
- **Steps for Stress:** This website covers practical ways for you to start dealing with stress. www.nhs.uk
- **Get self-help:** This website offers CBT self-help information and resources including therapy worksheets, useful for home. www.getselfhelp.co.uk
- **Be Mindful:** The Mental Health Foundation wants to make mindfulness available to everyone. This website is useful for parents who want more information about mindfulness, mindfulness-based stress reduction, and mindfulness-based cognitive therapy. www.bemindfulonline.com
- **Kooth:** Your online mental wellbeing community. Free, safe, and anonymous support. www.kooth.com



#TEAMMOORSIDE
#WECARE



Dragon in the New Year: Celebrations Unfurl at Moorside High

As you walked through the corridors of Moorside High, the air was thick with anticipation and excitement. Conversations about the significance of the Chinese New Year echoed off the walls, sparking curiosity among students and staff alike. Central to the celebration was the school's library, which featured a breath-taking display in its window, meticulously crafted to represent the symbols and traditions of Chinese New Year. Dragons and red lanterns invited onlookers into a world of festivity and renewal.

2024 has roared in with the energy and ambition of the Dragon, a symbol of power, luck, and success in Chinese culture. This year, we're all feeling a bit more invincible, inspired by the dragon's courage and wisdom. It's a year for dreaming big and reaching for the stars, something our school has always encouraged us to do.

Traditionally, throughout the 15-day celebration, elaborate events such as parades and traditional lion and dragon dances fill the streets, captivating audiences with their lively performances. These cultural spectacles symbolise warding off evil spirits and welcoming prosperity.

Moreover, Chinese New Year isn't just about festivities; it's also a time for solemn rituals. Families come together for a reunion dinner, where generations gather to enjoy sumptuous feasts and exchange well-wishes. Additionally, it's a time to honour ancestors by placing food offerings on tables or chairs and bowing in respect.

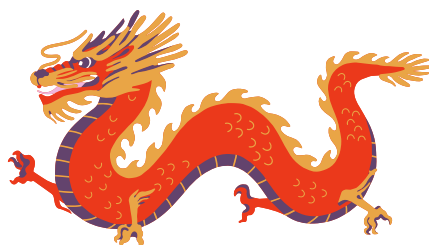
In China, the celebrations are so significant that schools typically close, allowing children to partake in the festivities with their families. However, Chinese New Year isn't confined to China alone; it's celebrated worldwide, uniting people of Chinese descent and enthusiasts across the globe.

Every year, Chinese New Year represents a specific animal from the Chinese zodiac, a tradition rooted in ancient mythology. Each animal embodies distinct characteristics, shaping the forecast for the year ahead. For instance, 2024 being the Year of the Dragon signifies strength, fortune, and auspicious beginnings. Similarly, individuals born in specific years are associated with corresponding zodiac animals, such as the Ox, symbolising diligence and reliability.

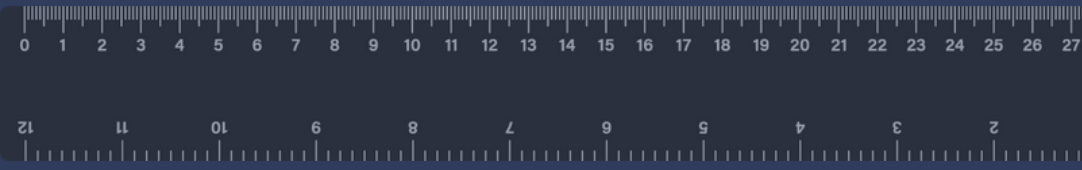
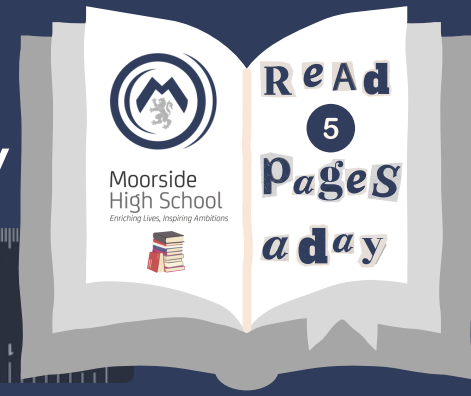
As the Year of the Dragon unfolds, the spirit of this celebration continues to ignite a sense of unity and curiosity among us. Moorside High School's commitment to celebrating diverse cultures not only educates but also brings us closer, fostering an environment where every student feels seen, heard, and valued.

Remember, it's the different cultures and backgrounds that make our school community so vibrant and unique. Let's keep this spirit alive, not just during Chinese New Year but throughout all our days at Moorside High.

By Eason (Year 9)



Ruling Over Reading: Cultivating a Love of Literacy



As you may or may not know, Year 7 have been given something called a reading ruler. It's exactly what it sounds like, a ruler that is used during the school day that helps with reading large texts in class. This helps as it allows students to focus on what they're reading and keep track of what line they're on.

Reading is very beneficial in every aspect of life. Particularly today as teenagers tend to become "glued" to their phones and become addicted. Reading can lessen the effects of being on a phone all day and can broaden the minds of teenagers. There are many events to support this such as World Book Day and book fairs in school.

The 'Reading with a Ruler' initiative at Moorside High School is not just a practical tool to enhance the reading experience for year 7 students; it represents a broader commitment to fostering a culture of reading within the school. This approach is designed to support students, especially those who may find large blocks of text intimidating or challenging, by providing a simple yet effective method to maintain focus and comprehension.

Beyond the immediate benefits of improved reading focus and comprehension, the act of reading itself offers numerous advantages for students. Regular reading practice is known to expand vocabulary, improve spelling, and enhance understanding of complex concepts and ideas. Moreover, it stimulates the brain, improves memory function, and can significantly boost academic performance across all subjects, not just English. By encouraging students to engage with texts beyond their digital screens, Moorside High School is actively working against the trend of reduced attention spans and the allure of instant digital gratification.

Knowing more vocabulary is your key to success across a wide range of GCSE subjects.



Read for top grades!



Students who read often and independently know 26% more words than those who never read.

The school's mission to instil a love for reading in its students recognises the profound impact that reading for pleasure can have on an individual's academic and personal development. Studies have shown that students who read for enjoyment not only perform better in reading assessments but also develop a greater understanding of other cultures, empathy for others, and an improved ability to navigate the world around them.

To further this mission, Moorside High School participates in and hosts a variety of events aimed at celebrating reading and literature. World Book Day, for example, is an annual celebration that underscores the joy and importance of reading. The school leverages this event to inspire students through activities that ignite students' imaginations and foster a deeper appreciation for literature. Similarly, book fairs hosted by the school (previously reported about by Moorside News) offer students access to a wide range of books, encouraging them to explore new genres and authors.

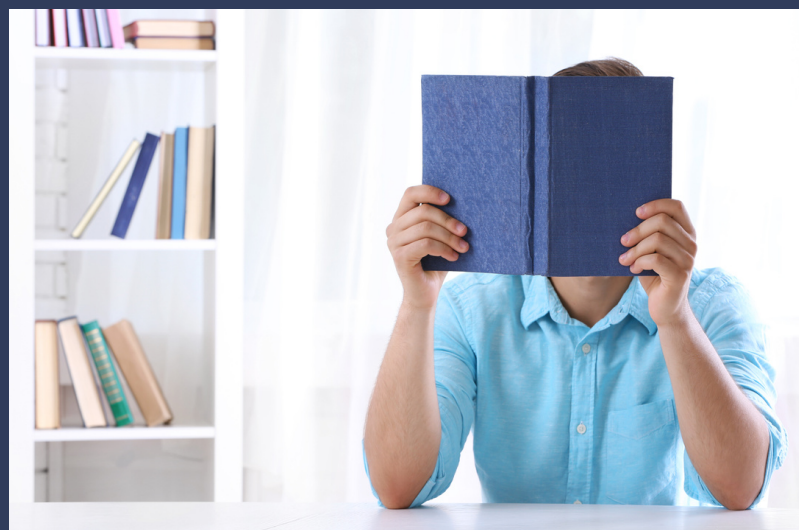
These efforts are complemented by the school's literacy program, which includes dedicated reading periods, interactive reading platforms, and initiatives like 'Reading with a Ruler.' By integrating these programs into the curriculum, our school not only supports its students' academic growth but also contributes to building a community where reading is valued and celebrated.

By Hannah (Year 7)



Moorside
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Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions



Children who read more than once a week gain higher results in maths, vocabulary and spelling tests than those who read less regularly.

The Stress Is Worth It: A Message to All Year 11s

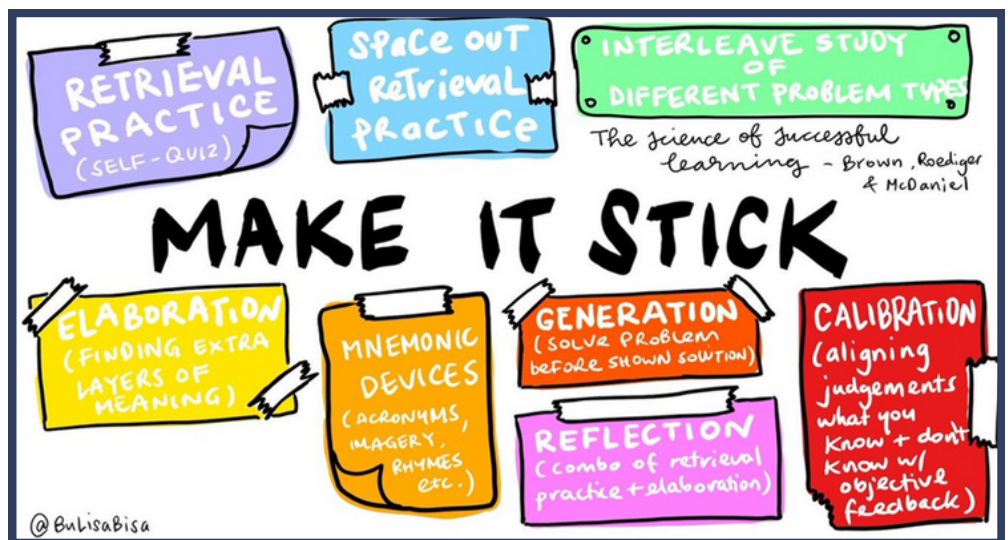
Exciting is one word for it—strange but fitting. Yet, nothing can truly capture the feeling of walking into that vast hall and taking the seat that marks the beginning of your future. I will be as honest as possible in this article because, truthfully, this will be you one day, and I believe that preparation is, to say the least, essential.

Exams aren't necessarily scary but rather helpful, offering valuable experience for your real exams and guiding you in tackling REVISION... Even though I might make it sound as daunting as the Battle of Hastings, it really isn't that scary. However, for me, the exam stress was very real, and whether you like it or not, you will most likely feel it too. It's all about how you manage that stress and use it to reach your potential. My own experience with the mocks at the end of it all is now being grateful for them, as I was able to gain experience for my real GCSEs and also understand that I really do need to start revising—which you should start doing now, by the way. I wish I had. Revising plays a significant role in how well you perform in the mocks. From my experience, I would advise against revising only the night before and suggest making a timetable if you're that kind of person—highlighters and all.

For me, tackling 17 MOCK papers felt like an ordeal, but I truly believe the outcome is worth it—whether you get to brag to your family about your success or humorously complain about, “my head hurts so much!” when you get home to get out of doing housework—the life. At the end of the day, mocks will be what you make of them, and the results will reflect that; this article is a slight message for you but also to let you know that you shouldn't be worried, and instead excited for what this opportunity could offer you.

I want to conclude by imparting a sense of general well-being and optimism. Take it as you will, and I wish you the best of luck for the journey ahead.

By Sam (Year 11)



SNEAK PEAK: MOORSIDE HIGH SCHOOL'S UNFORGETTABLE JOURNEY TO THE NETHERLANDS



This July, the halls of Moorside High School will momentarily quieten down, not for the summer break, but for an exhilarating educational voyage that promises to bring textbooks to life. The Geography Department, under the guidance of Ms. Potts, has meticulously planned a trip that goes beyond the traditional classroom setting, aiming to instil a deep-seated intellectual curiosity and a spirited sense of adventure in its students. Destined for the Netherlands, this journey is set to support the delivery of the KS4 curriculum, focusing on coastal environments and the changing economic world, while also mastering the art of learning beyond the confines of a classroom through first hand experiences.

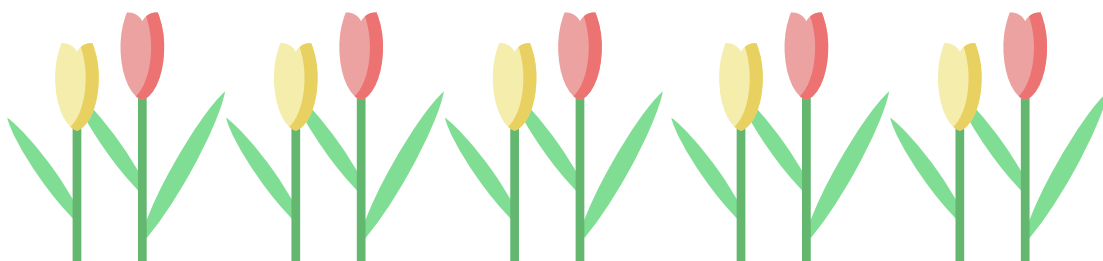
What Awaits the Explorers?

The expedition is packed with a variety of activities that will cater to the diverse interests of the students. From the moment the wheels roll towards the Netherlands, every detail, including return coach journeys, ferry crossings, and a comforting stay at Stayokay Dordrecht for four nights, has been arranged. Students will be provided with all meals except for those while travelling, ensuring their focus remains on the enriching experiences ahead.

By stepping out into the world, students are not just observers but active participants in a global classroom. The visit to coastal environments like Noordwijk and the Oosterschelde National Park aligns with the KS4 curriculum, offering tangible insights into coastal geography. The economic dynamism of the world is unravelled through the bustling ports of Rotterdam and the cultural essence captured in Amsterdam's historic canals, the diamond factory, and traditional cheese and clog making demonstrations.

With only 48 places available, the trip promises to be an intimate yet profound journey for the lucky students who secure their spots. It's a first-come, first-served opportunity to dive deep into the heart of the Netherlands, guided by the expert hands of Ms. Potts and the Geography Department at Moorside High School. The essence of this trip is beautifully captured in its purpose: to foster a love for learning that transcends the confines of a classroom and to cultivate skills that will last a lifetime.

As July approaches, excitement buzzes through the corridors of Moorside High School. This trip to the Netherlands isn't just a departure from the ordinary; it's a journey towards understanding, adventure, and discovery. Here's to hoping that each student returns with not just memories but experiences that shape their understanding of the world and their place within it.



World Book Day: Turning the Page at Moorside



On Thursday, 7th March, Moorside High School embraced the excitement of World Book Day, a much-anticipated charity event held in the UK annually on the first Thursday of March. This special day is dedicated to fostering a love of reading among children and young adults by providing each child in full-time education with a voucher to purchase books.

A unique aspect of World Book Day is the tradition of dressing up, and Moorside High School fully participated in this festive spirit. The teachers led by example, with Mr. Williams transforming into a blue Power Ranger, Mr. Howson stepping into the shoes of Scrooge, and Ms Ghelichi channelling the Ghost of Christmas Present. Many other teachers also joined in, each bringing to life a variety of characters from the pages of their favourite books.

It's noteworthy that World Book Day is celebrated in other countries on the 23rd of April. However, the UK has chosen to mark this occasion on a different date. The event is not just about dressing up; it serves a deeper purpose. World Book Day offers an opportunity for children to divert their attention from the negativity and toxicity often encountered on social media, encouraging them to celebrate the positivity and inspiration that books bring into the world.

Did you know that World Book Day was officially designated by UNESCO on 23rd April 1995? Since then, it has grown into a worldwide celebration of books and reading, emphasizing the importance of literature in our lives.

Each year, World Book Day is centred around a theme, with this year's theme being 'Read Your Way.' This theme encouraged young readers to explore books in all their forms, catering to their interests and reading preferences, and reinforcing the idea that reading should be a fun, personal journey.

Moorside High School's celebration of World Book Day underscored the importance of reading and literature in education and highlights the school's commitment to promoting literacy and the joy of books among its students.

By Bella (Year 7)

Moorside High School WORLD BOOK DAY



Pages Turning in Our Library's Latest Chapter

Last week, our library hosted a Scholastic Book Fair, which was a resounding success. Thanks to the enthusiastic participation of our community, we raised £100 in free books. This windfall allowed us to reward the talented winners of the World Book Day competition and also to enrich our library's collection with brand new titles.

Among the new acquisitions is ***They Wish They Were Us* by Jessica Goodman**. This gripping novel takes readers into the life of Jill Newman and her friends, uncovering that beneath the surface, things are not as they appear. Three years ago, Jill's best friend, Shaila Arnold, was tragically killed by her boyfriend. With the boyfriend, Graham, confessing to the crime, the case was swiftly closed. Now, in her senior year, Jill is looking forward to making the most of her final school year. However, unsettling texts claiming Graham's innocence begin to surface, threatening Jill's envisioned perfect year. Determined to uncover the truth, Jill's quest puts her friendships and future at risk.

***Everyone's Thinking It* by Aleema Omotoni** is another noteworthy addition. This novel, reminiscent of Mean Girls and Dear White People, is set in Wodebury Hall, an elite UK boarding school. It explores themes of family, friendship, and belonging through the experiences of Iyanu, an aspiring photographer, and her estranged cousin, Kitan. Amidst the backdrop of racial and social tensions, a scandal involving stolen photographs shakes the school, prompting both girls to confront uncomfortable truths about their lives and relationships.

***Spaceboy* by David Walliams** introduces readers to twelve-year-old orphan Ruth, who dreams of adventure from her remote farmstead. Her life takes a dramatic turn when she witnesses a spaceship crash-landing near her home. The encounter with a mysterious alien promises the adventure she's longed for, but does this visitor from another planet harbour a significant secret?

Our library continuously updates its collection, ensuring there's always something new and exciting for our readers. For those who enjoy reading and are looking for a communal experience, I highly recommend participating in the Salford Children's Book Award. Having been a part of it for three years, I can attest to the joy of reading six books, discussing them with friends, and collectively choosing a favourite. The highlight is attending the award ceremony, where you can meet the authors, get autographs, and learn more about their works. The climax of the event is the announcement of the winning book.

If any pupils are interested in any of the books mentioned, please visit the library and speak to Mrs. Smith to check their availability.

By Isobel (Year 10)

ReAd
a day

5




HIDDEN TALENTS: FROM MOORSIDE TO MANCHESTER UNITED'S PITCH

I might seem like the regular student but when the final bell at Moorside rings, my other life begins - one where I chase a football dream, wearing the number 3 shirt for Manchester United's Under 14s team.

I kicked off my football journey at the age of 4. Fast forward two years, and I was already stepping onto the pitch for Manchester United. Yes, you read that right - at 6! Life has been a whirlwind of footballs, goals, and dreams since then.

As a defender, playing both left back and centre back, my job on the field is to stop goals as much as it is to start the play from the back. It's a role that requires vigilance, strength, and a bit of creativity. Why do I play football, you ask? It's simple. The game brings me unparalleled joy. There's this indescribable feeling of happiness when I play, especially when I pull off something good on the field; it's amazing.

Choosing Manchester United was a no-brainer for me. Being scouted by such a prestigious club at 6 was a dream come true, and officially joining them at 9 felt like I was where I was meant to be. Plus, I've always been a United fan, which makes wearing the shirt all the more special.

For those dreaming of playing professional football, my advice is straightforward: Work really hard and stay humble. The path to professional football is as much a mental challenge as it is a physical one. It's tough, demanding, but also rewarding.

Balancing school and football hasn't been easy, but Moorside High School has been incredibly supportive, especially when it comes to my matches abroad. Their encouragement and understanding have made juggling both worlds much smoother.

My friends and family? They're my biggest fans and critics rolled into one. Their support is unwavering, always pushing me to be the best version of myself on and off the pitch. Hearing them say how proud they are motivates me to work even harder.

Speaking of hard work, my ultimate dream is to secure a scholarship at Manchester United and eventually break into the first team. It's a lofty goal, I know, but dreams are meant to be big, right?

So, that's a little glimpse into my life. A Moorside High pupil by day, aspiring Manchester United legend by dusk. Whether it's smashing school assessments or defending against the nation's best young talents, every day is an opportunity to learn, grow, and get closer to achieving my dreams.

By Idris (Year 9)



Minds Matter: Moorside High's Week of Wellness



As mental health continues to be a focal point within our school corridors, Moorside High School dedicated a week to educate and support students on all aspects of mental health, emphasizing the importance of understanding, empathy, and proactive mental wellness strategies.

The celebration of Mental Health Week at Moorside High serves as a reminder of the importance of mental wellness. It's crucial to recognize that while some may view mental health challenges as obstacles, others see them as opportunities to harness unique strengths. This week is about shifting focus from what we lack to what we can achieve and how we can support each other in this journey.

Throughout the year, and especially during Mental Health Week, we've held numerous assemblies focused on addressing local community issues and the significance of mental health. This particular week, our discussions revolved around respecting individuals for their unique qualities and how they manage their mental health. It's essential to understand that anyone can experience mental health challenges, but these do not define a person; their personality does.

In addressing mental health, it's not just about identifying what needs to be done but actively finding ways to improve our mental wellness. Simple activities such as using stress balls, reading, taking walks, or practicing breathing exercises can be powerful tools in managing stress and anxiety.

Acknowledging the stress and challenges school life can bring, it's vital to equip our students with coping mechanisms. Anxiety and anger can be managed through various strategies, including seeking support from trusted adults within the school or engaging in mindful practices.

Moorside High ensures a safe and supportive environment for all students. Teachers within the school are always available for anyone in need of help or a listening ear, guaranteeing a confidential and trusting space to share concerns.

A noteworthy addition this year was the establishment of a Mental Health Tent indoors, where students and staff had access to mental health leaflets and free toothpaste. This unique initiative highlights the link between hygiene and mental health, promoting overall wellness.

On a personal note, I view mental health with a lens of positivity and potential. While opinions may vary, I believe in embracing our challenges as potential superpowers, turning what may seem like a vulnerability into a source of strength and resilience.

At Moorside High School, Mental Health Week is more than just a series of events; it's a commitment to fostering an environment where every student feels supported and empowered to tackle mental health challenges head-on, with the entire school community standing behind them.

Why Moorside? A Novel Chapter in Ms. Cowburn's Teaching Tale



As Moorside welcomes a plethora of new faces each year, it's always intriguing to dive into the experiences and insights of those who've recently joined the vibrant corridors of our school community. I had the privilege of sitting down with Ms. Cowburn, one of our new English teachers, to chat about her journey to Moorside, her experiences so far, and a sprinkle of personal revelations that offer us a glimpse into the heart and mind behind our newest addition.

When asked about her motivation to join Moorside, Ms. Cowburn shared a heartwarming truth: "Moorside is very close to home. It's the area I grew up in and feel committed to." There's a unique comfort and dedication that comes with working within a community that shaped you, and Ms. Cowburn embodies that sentiment fully. Her connection to the area adds a layer of personal investment in her role, developing a deep-rooted desire to contribute positively to the local community.

Transitioning to a new workplace can be daunting, but Ms. Cowburn found solace in the welcoming arms of Moorside's staff. "The staff are really lovely and supportive," she expressed, highlighting the assistance she's received in everything from settling in to lesson planning and well-being check-ins. This collaborative and caring work environment not only eases the transition for new teachers but also enhances the educational experience for students.

A highlight of Ms. Cowburn's time at Moorside so far was the joy and laughter shared during World Book Day, an event that showcased her passion for reading and literature. However, transitions come with their challenges. Coming from an all-girls Muslim school, adapting to a coeducational setting presented initial hurdles. Nevertheless, the supportive staff and the inclusive atmosphere of Moorside played a pivotal role in her adjustment process.

Ms. Cowburn's enthusiasm is palpable when she talks about teaching Year 8's 'Myths and Power', a topic that delves into the fascinating world of heroes and mythic stories. Her anticipation for teaching 'Othello' is equally evident, highlighting her passion for engaging students with complex themes and narratives.

Reflecting on her experiences, Ms. Cowburn notes the bustling, hands-on environment of Moorside as a distinct departure from her previous roles. This dynamism, though challenging, encourages strong bonds within and beyond the classroom, enriching the educational experience of both teachers and students.

When the conversation took a personal turn, Ms. Cowburn shared her affection for her favourite book 'The Mountains Sing,' a moving exploration of Vietnamese civilians' struggles during the Vietnam War. The book's beautiful language and heart-wrenching storytelling struck a chord with her, highlighting her deep appreciation for literature that challenges and moves its readers.

For those considering a transition to Moorside, Ms. Cowburn advises an open-minded approach and readiness to work hard, reminding us of the rewarding elements that come with being part of #TeamMoorside. Her journey and insights not only shed light on the personal growth that accompanies new beginnings but also affirm the rich, supportive culture that defines Moorside.

By Faa-izah (Year 9) Top of Form

Fasting Forward to Diversity and Inclusion

Moorside High School has always been a beacon of cultural awareness and celebration, showcasing its commitment to fostering an environment where diversity is not just acknowledged but celebrated. In the spirit of embracing the myriad of cultures and traditions that make up the school community, Moorside has taken a special interest in highlighting the experiences of its students during various cultural and religious celebrations. Currently, pupils within the school are recognising Ramadan, a sacred month of fasting, reflection, and community for Muslims worldwide. In an effort to share and educate others on the significance of this period, one of the pupils at Moorside High School has stepped forward to share their personal experiences and insights into what Ramadan means to them.

What is Ramadan?

Ramadan is when you fast for 30 days, and you must not eat before the time has passed. It's a period observed by all Muslims.

How are you finding it so far? Is it difficult?

Yes, but it is difficult sometimes because the time feels like it goes by slowly. During the week, it is easier as I am at school and distracted by my schoolwork. However, the weekends are a bit more difficult as I don't always have something to fill my time. Although at times it is difficult, I believe God helps me along the way to make sure I complete Ramadan.

What happens during Ramadan?

During Ramadan, it's time for Muslims to reflect on life and appreciate the things you have.

Why is Ramadan important to you?

The importance is you must fast 30 days. You must not eat before the time has passed and not drink water. After 30-days, Ramadan ends. Ramadan is for all Muslims. It is important to me because in my religion, God said you have to fast for 30 days every year until you die. This practice grants me access to the promised land, and this is important to me.

Moorside High School's endeavour to spotlight the personal stories and practices of its students during significant cultural and religious periods like Ramadan plays a crucial role in nurturing an inclusive community. Through sharing and listening, students and staff alike gain a deeper understanding of the diverse beliefs and values that enrich their school environment.

By Radwan (Year 9)



PGL: Where Learning and Laughter Swing Together



Being invited to PGL was an unforgettable experience where we received expert guidance from our teachers through lectures related to our studies, and also created lasting memories with my teachers, friends, and peers.

Upon arrival, we were assigned to classrooms for revision in two subjects. Knowing my luck, we found ourselves in a complex full of boys, and it didn't take long for the mischief to start. Each time we heard a knock, we were greeted by an empty hallway, the only clue being the poorly placed cellophane across our door's entryway. It didn't take long to find the culprits and start a playful war.

The first activity of the night was "ambush," a game where you had to hide in groups, mark your trail with cones, and wait for the other team to pass by. It was dark, with the only light coming from some people's phone torches as we trudged through the mud to our hiding spot. The excitement was palpable as we waited silently, then sprang out shouting "ambush!" at the top of our lungs.

The early morning rose after a night of knock-a-door running and sharing snacks in the hallway, as we prepared ourselves for breakfast and 3 hours of revision in science, English, and maths. I learned more about Macbeth's final scene, went through exam papers in both maths and science, and eagerly awaited the next activities.





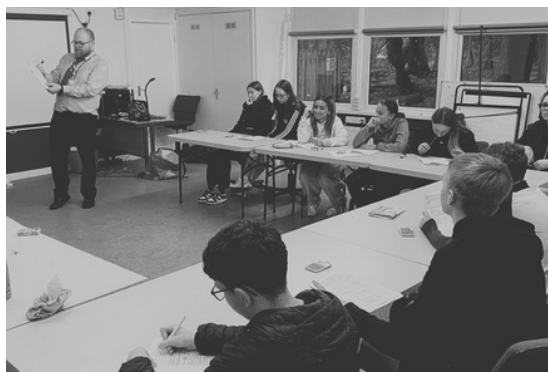
The next activity was the giant swing, a harness that took you high up with the help of your peers. With a pull of a string, you were flying. One of the first to go up was a teacher, wearing one of his "don't care if it gets ruined" outfits. His bright red shorts became a beacon for all. When it was my turn, I eagerly waited for the person next to me to pull the string. We soared through the air on our turn, the excitement unmatched.

After a packed day, the last thing I wanted was canoeing. I wasn't allowed to get my contact lenses wet, so falling in was not on my list. Despite this, I decided to give it a shot. It quickly became apparent that my friend was not adept at water activities. As the instructor announced a forfeit for the losing team, my heart sank. The forfeit turned out to be standing up, doing a 360, and sitting back down. My friend and I struggled with stability, leading to an inevitable dip into the water for me.

Trying to steer correctly became a new challenge until the instructor announced another forfeit: swapping boats. The swap was daunting, but we managed without falling into the dark, watery abyss. The night ended with a bittersweet campfire, roasting marshmallows, and playing charades. It was the last activity, but incredibly memorable, a perfect end to our adventure.

The next day involved more revision before heading home. The weekend had been an unforgettable journey, blending education with adventure. It allowed me to create lasting memories with people I wasn't initially close to, enhancing the social experience. The revision sessions were beneficial, and everything I learned is now neatly summarised on sheets to aid my future studies.

By Esme (Year 11)



Within an hour of arriving at PGL, Year 11 were hard at work doing Maths, English & Science sessions.

Moorside Pupils' Canvassing Success

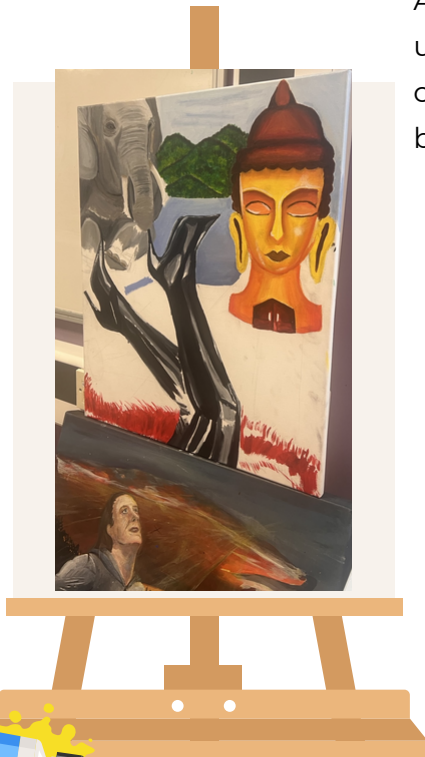
Whether it's a mood board or a masterful sketch, our Year 11 students have been dedicating immense effort and creativity into their art projects for the upcoming textiles exam. This pivotal assessment is not just any test; it's an opportunity for students to showcase the culmination of their artistic journey in secondary education. The final exam, a rigorous 10-hour challenge, is spread over two days. It is crucial, as it constitutes 40% of the students' overall mark. In addition to this, there are two segments of coursework, each contributing to 60% of the final grade. One part is completed in Year 10 and the other in Year 11, ensuring that students have ample time to develop and refine their skills.

For those who have a passion for art and are considering it for their GCSE, the opportunities to express creativity are boundless. In their sketchbooks, students are encouraged to go beyond traditional sketches, incorporating various materials such as fabrics, reference photos, and more. This approach allows students to infuse their sketchbooks with their unique personality, making each page a testament to their individual journey and artistic exploration.

As the exam approaches, we've been given an exclusive sneak peek at some of the extraordinary pieces our students have been working on. Each artwork not only displays technical skill but also tells a story, reflecting the diverse inspirations and themes explored by our students.

One standout piece is a painting that draws inspiration from the legendary Pablo Picasso, particularly his Blue Period, with an added twist of vibrant colours such as deep dark yellow, orange, and blue. This piece captivates viewers, inviting them into a world where emotion is conveyed not just through form, but through a striking palette.

Another artwork transports viewers to the heart of Chinese culture with its use of deep reds, a fiery dragon, and a fortune cat. This painting masterfully combines traditional symbols with a modern artistic feeling, creating a bridge between the past and the present.



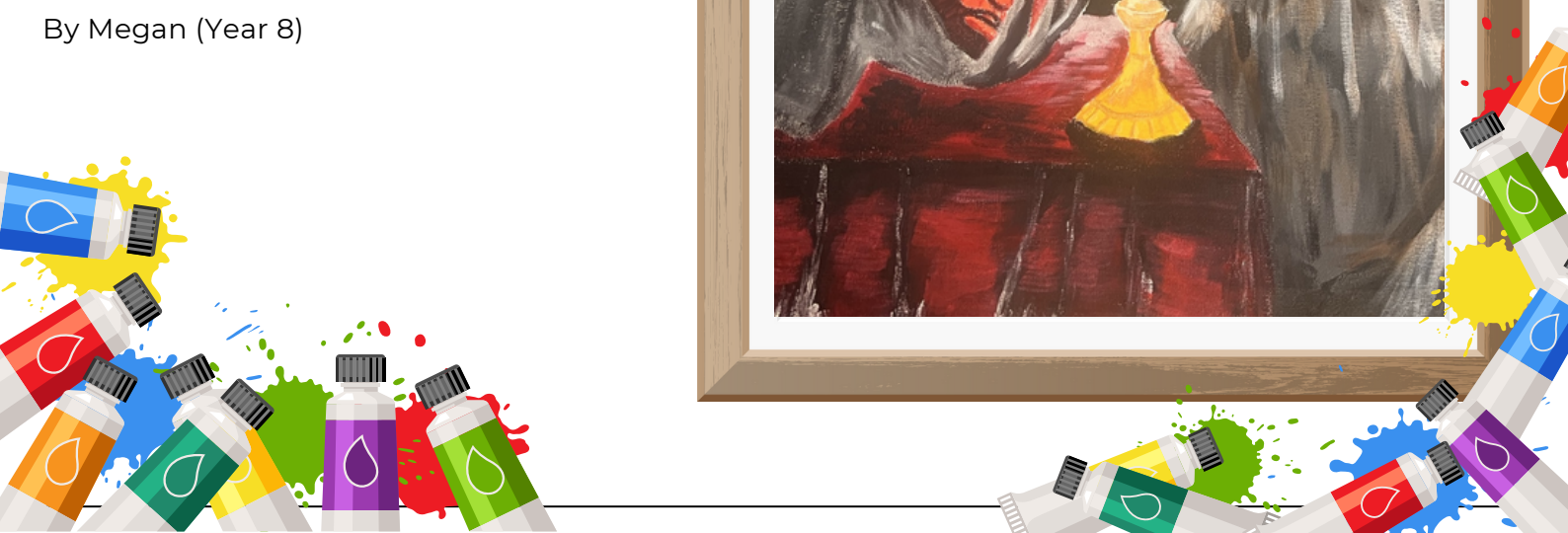


Perhaps the most intriguing is a piece that delves into macabre themes, depicted through a skeletal hand holding a heart on a table with a chalice, set against a backdrop featuring a skeletal animal figure holding a cross. This painting evokes a profound sense of contemplation, exploring themes of mortality, faith, and the eternal cycle of life and death.



These artworks are just a glimpse of the incredible talent brewing within the halls of Moorside High School. As the exam date draws near, our Year 11 students continue to push the boundaries of their creativity, ready to make their mark in the world of art. Stay tuned and keep an eye on our school's Twitter X account for more updates and possibly more sneak peeks into the exceptional works our students are creating.

By Megan (Year 8)



Rome-ing Through History: A Classic Adventure in the City of Seven Hills

The Classics Cohort is off on another trip, but not to England's capital – we are off to the City of the Seven Hills.

After many terms of studying the ruddy ruins of Rome, along with heroic Hercules, a trip to this city will heighten our knowledge of the ancient artifacts and allow us to bring our very own first-hand knowledge into our exams. It's not just Classics students going – students from History and Spanish will also be joining us to take in the history of humanity.

While many of you are asleep on the 8th of April, Miss Powell, Miss Cox, and Mr. Day will be preparing for a 3-night trip with 25 students at 5:10 a.m. The early morning start at Moorside High School will ensure we have the evening in Rome to climb Aventine Hill to watch as the sun sets over the beautiful city. After a long walk of sightseeing and sunsets, the Trevi Fountain is next to be seen, which wasn't initially on the itinerary. Not only are we seeing it now, but we are also seeing it once the sun has set while enjoying some Italian gelato.

Another early morning at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday gives us plenty of time to eat and get dressed for an eventful and educational day visiting the famous Colosseum and Roman Forum. Those who do Classics will most likely be analysing every intricate detail they see, showing non-Classical friends just how skilled the Romans were. After the Roman Forum, we will be enjoying our lunch before heading off to the Capitoline Museum where the twins – Romulus and Remus – can be seen as babies being nurtured by the she-wolf (a prescribed source in our studies). Palatine Hill, on which Rome was initially founded, is next to be explored before we head back to the hotel for our evening meal. Lights out!



Our final full day in Rome will be spent mainly in the world's smallest country; Vatican City is surrounded by Rome and is home to St. Peter's Basilica, another site we will be visiting. For lunch, we will be going to Trastevere, a neighbourhood in Rome, to indulge in local dishes and climb another hill: Janiculum Hill. Three out of Seven Hills in less than 48 hours. Of course, after, we will be going to the Ara Pacis, which Classics students closely analysed in recent mocks. Everyone has heard of or watched Hercules, and luckily for us, we will get to visit the temple dedicated to this hero. The Bocca della Verità, or the Mouth of Truth, is also to be seen and is an ancient Roman mask. Our final night will be enjoyed eating gelato before packing for another early morning but afternoon flight.

There is still more fun to be had and sites to see, where we will be visiting the Pantheon, the Trevi Fountain once more, along with many more ancient sites that can't be missed. A boat ride, shopping for souvenirs, and finally our flight home. There are many dishes to be devoured, memories to be made, and sites to be seen. This will be the final trip for the Year 11s that are going, but possibly the first international holiday students are spending with friends. We will be set to arrive back an hour before midnight, having a (nearly) full fun-filled day in the City of the Seven Hills.

By Emily (Year 11)



MOMENTS MATTER,

ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

Missing out on school adds up

- 80% attendance over a school year means your child misses a whole year of education over five years.
- 85% attendance means that 29 school days, nearly six weeks, or 145 lessons are missed over a year.
- 90% attendance means 19 school days, four weeks or 95 lessons are missed over a year.



TEAM MOORSIDE - THE MOORSIDE WAY



Complete all homework and hand in on time



Play your part in the positive learning environment



Wear correct uniform



Planner, equipment, knowledge organiser out on desks



Be respectful to everyone



Use technology appropriately



Look after school property and keep the school tidy



Move around the corridors sensibly



Listen and follow instructions first time



Arrive on time to school and lessons

HAVE A GREAT EASTER



Thank-you for your continued support
#TeamMoorside



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High School
Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions