



Moorside  
High School

Term 1 - December 2023



Consilium  
Academies

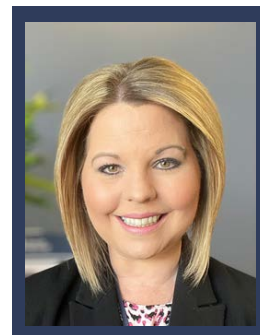
# Moorside News



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

### CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM MRS RYLES-DEAN - HEADTEACHER.

As we come to the end of another busy term and the end of 2023, Christmas gives us an opportunity to pause and reflect on the important things around us. So what has been important to us at Moorside High School this year? One thing that really resonates with me is the generosity of spirit and community. More than ever this year, we have seen so many people working with our school who deeply care about young people. We have developed more community links and the generosity of donations for our charity events has been overwhelming. I am immensely proud of our young people and their achievements, especially those students that are working hard to get the positive outcomes they deserve.



I would like to take this opportunity to firstly thank Mr Howson, for supporting the students to put together this newsletter and to also wish all our young people, their families, partners, and friends of our school, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Have a wonderful, restful break, thank you for your continued support. Best Wishes, Mrs Ryles-Dean



### MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD STUDENTS.

It is hard to believe another term has ended and we are pleased to see another issue of Moorside News. This is our opportunity as students to celebrate our first term achievements and bring you the most thought-provoking articles. From the successful to the scandalous (just kidding!), this latest issue brings you the best that our school has to offer.

Thank you to all the students that have taken part and contributed, it has been a really busy term and we are pleased to start seeing the school council get off the ground.

Merry Christmas everyone, have a great holiday!

### Inside news

- A Palette of Possibilities
- Consilium awards
- Board Game Club
- Festive fun
- Football for women

and much more....

### TEAM MOORSIDE - THE MOORSIDE WAY



# A PALETTE OF POSSIBILITIES: ART CLUB PAINTS PICASSO

Every Wednesday at the enchanting hour of 3pm, the art room becomes a realm of possibility under the expert guidance of the creative art teacher, Miss Souter.

As the school day winds down, a buzz of excitement fills the air, drawing students like magnets to the art room's welcoming embrace. The door swings open, revealing a sanctuary of inspiration—tables adorned with cardboard, paintbrushes poised for action, and an array of vibrant colours waiting to breathe life into blank canvases.

The past few weeks have seen the transformation of the art room into a Picasso workshop. Cardboard faces, reminiscent of the legendary artist's iconic style, have taken shape under the skilful hands of eager art enthusiasts.

The process is a dance between hands and materials, a work of creation that unfolds with each stroke of the paintbrush. The room is alive with the rhythmic sounds of brushes gliding over cardboard, and laughter punctuates the air as students revel in the joy of bringing their Picasso-inspired visions to life.

Miss Souter, the curator of this artistic symphony, moves among the budding artists like a guardian of creativity. With gentle guidance and infectious enthusiasm, she encourages the exploration of colour palettes, the blending of hues, and the expression of personal flair. The art room transforms into a kaleidoscope of creativity, with each participant adding their unique brushstroke to the evolving masterpiece.

The vibrant colours of paint burst forth, turning the once-muted cardboard into a riot of hues. The Picasso faces come alive, each one telling a visual story of the artist's imagination. The room becomes a gallery, a testament to the talents and creative energy thriving within the art club.

Art Club, under the nurturing wings of Miss Souter, is not merely a space for artistic expression; it's a community where creativity is celebrated. Students find a platform to showcase their talents: a canvas on which they can paint their imaginations.

As the clock ticks towards 3pm, the art room is filled with a sense of accomplishment. The Picasso faces, once lifeless pieces of cardboard, now stand as vibrant testaments to the creative spirit that flourishes within the walls of Moorside High School's Art Club.

So, dear pupils, the invitation is extended. Would you like to join this artistic odyssey? A Wednesday at 3pm might just be the key to unlocking the door to a world where imagination knows no bounds, and the canvas of creativity is limitless.

By Faith (Year 7)



# A NIGHT OF TRIUMPH AND CELEBRATION AT THE CONSILIUM AWARDS

In a splendid gathering at the Hilton Hotel in Leeds, Consilium Academies hosted their annual awards evening, a night that echoed with tears, laughter, and an overwhelming sense of achievement. The event served as a platform for schools within the Consilium trust to unite and recognise the outstanding efforts of both students and teachers across various categories.

The Consilium Awards highlighted the core values that shape the educational landscape within the trust: Partnerships, Opportunity, Integrity, Equity, Excellence, and People-Centred. Each category played a pivotal role in acknowledging the exceptional contributions of individuals who have gone above and beyond to create a positive impact within their school communities.

The mathematical Mr. Pinches, our (also mathematical genius) Deputy Headteacher Miss. Smalley, the equitable Mrs. Copestake, our sporty Mr. Mills, and Mr. Farmer were all nominated for various categories, but one teacher outshined them all: the mythological Miss. Powell who won the Excellence award for her tireless efforts in pushing the boundaries of educational achievement.

The Consilium Awards also celebrated the accomplishments of our students who embodied the values of the trust. Emily Elsey, Grace Jackson, Alfie Ainsworth, Madison Edwards, Lydia Tod, and Daniel Gresty were all nominated across categories such as Partnerships, Opportunity and Integrity to name a few! As each student was named, their peers and teachers erupted in applause, acknowledging not only their individual achievements but also the collective spirit of excellence that defines the Consilium trust. These young leaders are not just recipients of praise; they are beacons of inspiration, illuminating the path for future generations within our school.

The Consilium Awards proved to be more than just a recognition ceremony; it was a testament to the power of collaboration, opportunity, integrity, equity, excellence, and people-centred values in shaping the future of education. It's evident that these individuals and their achievements were not just celebrated for a night but would continue to inspire pupils across the school throughout the years ahead.

By Alex (Year 9)



WELL DONE TO ALL TEAM  
MOORSIDE STAFF AND  
STUDENTS THAT WERE  
NOMINATED, WE ARE  
REALLY PROUD OF YOU!





# Unleashing Fun and Strategy at Board Game Club

Thursday afternoons at Moorside High School come alive with the vibrant energy of the board game club, a haven for students seeking a blend of strategy and pure enjoyment. As the school week winds down, these gatherings provide an opportunity for participants to immerse themselves in a variety of engaging games.

One of the highlights of the club is the gripping game of "Horried." In this cooperative endeavour, players join forces to defeat Universal's legendary monsters, including Dracula and The Wolfman. The collaborative nature of the game fosters teamwork and strategic thinking, providing an exciting challenge for participants.

Next on the lineup is the thrilling world of "Jurassic World," where students take on the role of park managers navigating the challenges posed by unruly dinosaurs. Quick decision-making and effective problem-solving are essential to prevent the prehistoric inhabitants from spiralling out of control.

In the spirit of cooperation, students face the ultimate challenge in "Pandemic." The game requires them to work together to thwart a deadly pandemic before it engulfs the world. This intense and thought-provoking experience not only entertains but also encourages strategic planning and collaboration.

No board game club would be complete without a nod to the classic "Jumanji." The mystical and unpredictable nature of the game ensures that each session is a unique adventure, keeping participants on the edge of their seats as they navigate the jungle-themed challenges.

For those with a competitive edge, "Pokemon Battle Arena" provides an outlet for head-to-head battles. Two players face off, each aiming to emerge victorious in thrilling Pokemon encounters. The strategic depth and excitement of these battles make for engaging gameplay and friendly competition.

The club also embraces the intricate world of card games with "Magic The Gathering." In this 1v1 battle, students showcase their strategic prowess and mastery of card mechanics to become the most powerful planeswalker. The game not only entertains but also stimulates critical thinking and strategic planning.

Among the recent highlights at Moorside High School's board game club was an exhilarating Mario Kart tournament. Pupils revved up their virtual engines and raced against each other in a high-speed showdown, adding a digital twist to the traditional board game lineup and bringing a new dimension of excitement to Thursday afternoons.



Beyond the strategic challenges and competitive spirit, the board game club at Moorside High School provides a much-needed space for students to unwind and connect. The laughter and shared experiences create a positive and inclusive environment where everyone feels welcome.

Ran by Mr Greenhalgh, Moorside High School's board game club continues to thrive. It stands as a testament to the power of games in fostering not only entertainment but also social bonds, strategic thinking, and a sense of community. Thursday afternoons have truly become a time for students to escape into worlds of excitement, challenge, and laughter, making memories that will last well beyond the final move on the game board.

By Layla (Year 7)



**GAMES CLUB TAKES PLACE EVERY THURSDAY AFTER SCHOOL  
ALL STUDENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.  
IF YOU HAVE ANY OLD GAMES, YOU NO LONGER USE, PLEASE  
DO DROP THEM OFF AT RECEPTION, AS WE ARE SURE THE  
STUDENTS WILL REALLY ENJOY PLAYING THEM.**

# MOORSIDE'S CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY SHOWCASES FESTIVE FLAIR AND CHARITY SPIRIT

The halls of Moorside's High School were alive with holiday cheer as pupils and staff gathered for the annual Christmas Jumper Day, donning their favourite, funny, and goofy festive sweaters. The event, a part of the national Christmas Jumper Day initiative, not only brought smiles and laughter but also aimed to make a positive impact on the local community by supporting the Salford Food Bank.

The Salford Food Bank is a vital community initiative dedicated to providing emergency food and support to individuals and families facing crisis situations. This Christmas, like every year before it, Moorside's High School students took the opportunity to give back by bringing in non-perishable food items to contribute to the Salford Food Bank's efforts in ensuring that no one goes hungry during the festive season.

The Christmas Jumper Day at Moorside's High School wasn't just about charity; it was also an opportunity for students and staff to showcase their creativity through festive fashion. Among the standout jumpers was a vibrant yellow creation inspired by Jurassic Park. Another imaginative sweater took inspiration from Greek mythology, with the slogan "Saturn - the original reason for the season," adding a touch of humour and historical flair.

Marvel enthusiasts were not left out, as an Avengers-inspired jumper graced the school grounds, bringing together beloved characters in a festive ensemble. Even Pokemon fans delighted in a jumper adorned with the iconic creatures, blending nostalgia and holiday spirit seamlessly.

But the creativity didn't stop there; students and staff embraced the festive theme with jumpers featuring snowmen, elves, Santa Claus, and other classic Christmas symbols. The diversity of designs showcased the unique personalities and interests of Moorside's High School community.

Moorside's High School's Christmas Jumper Day was more than just a day of festive fun—it was a demonstration of the school's commitment to making a positive impact on the local community. Through their support of the Salford Food Bank, coupled with the joyful display of creative Christmas jumpers, the students and staff at Moorside's High School truly embodied the spirit of giving during the holiday season.

By Ava (Year 8)





# Drama Delight: A Year 7's Guide to the Marvels of Moorside Drama Club!

Step into the world of Moorside's Drama Club, a vibrant haven of creativity and expression that unfolds every Monday after school until 4pm, under the guidance of the Mrs. Ross. As you open the doors to this captivating realm, you'll find yourself immersed in an atmosphere buzzing with excitement and laughter.

Picture the scene: students gathering in the drama studio, a room of imagination. The club serves as a playground for those who have a desire for acting, improvisation, or simply the desire to explore the realms of storytelling.

The heart of drama club lies in its changeability. Pupils have the opportunity to act out a large selection of scenes and scripts, unleashing their creativity and stepping into different characters with each session. Whether you're a seasoned actor or a newcomer to the stage, there's a place for everyone, and the club warmly welcomes all who seek the thrill of performance.

Mrs. Ross orchestrates the sessions, guiding students through various activities that not only practice their acting skills but also contribute to our personal development. The club isn't just about acting; it's a space where confidence is cultivated, anxiety is eased, stress is lifted, and the spectre of depression is met with the healing power of artistic expression.

One might wonder about the allure of drama club beyond the spotlight. Even if a future in the performing arts isn't on the horizon, participants are encouraged to join for the sheer joy of the experience. It's a chance to break free from the routine and embrace the unexpected.

The clock strikes 3pm, signalling the commencement of another drama-filled adventure. Members engage in improvisation exercises, unlocking their creative potential as they think on their feet. But drama club offers more than spontaneous performances; there's the opportunity to delve into full-fledged scripted productions, where students can improve their acting talent and just have fun!

The benefits extend beyond the final curtain call. Friendships blossom as pupils work together on scenes, fostering a sense of community (a staple of the Moorside community). It's not just about the lines delivered or the characters embodied; it's about the shared journey of self-discovery and growth.

So, if the appeal of drama calls, there's no need for a formal invitation. Just stroll into the drama studio on any Monday after school, and let the magic unfold. The stage is set, the spotlight awaits, and at Moorside drama club, the fun is just beginning.

By Natasha (Year 7)

# DRAMA:♥



# 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.



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](http://www.moodscope.com)
- **Steps for Stress:** This website covers practical ways for you to start dealing with stress. [www.nhs.uk](http://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](http://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](http://www.bemindfulonline.com)
- **Kooth:** Your online mental wellbeing community. Free, safe, and anonymous support. [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)





# A Day in the Life: My First Term at Moorside High School

The thrilling transition from primary school to high school! I still remember that feeling of excitement mixed with a touch of nervousness.

As the big day approached, my excitement was tinged with nerves, but I was determined to face it head-on. Walking alongside my buddies - Max, Fin B, and Ralph - added a layer of comfort to the adventure that awaited us at Moorside High.

Upon reaching the school gates, I couldn't help but admire the opportunities that lay ahead. Little did I know, Moorside was a treasure trove of diverse clubs, ranging from sports and homework clubs to cooking sessions and more. The selection of options left me pleasantly surprised, though I hesitated to join any right away. After all, making friends in a new environment can be a tad challenging.

The bell rang, marking the commencement of my first lesson - French. Unlike primary school, this was my maiden voyage into the world of French language and phrases. The class was an interesting mix of excitement and unfamiliarity, setting the tone for the academic journey ahead.











Moving on to the second period, I found myself in the realm of science. Now, I must confess, science wasn't exactly my strong suit. The teacher delved into topics like polymers, leaving me in a state of mild confusion. It was a challenge, but challenges are what make learning exciting, right?

As the day unfolded, I stepped into the realm of English during the third period. Fortunately, English was a subject I felt more at ease with. Our focus was on the captivating tale of Victor Frankenstein, not the monstrous creature but the man behind the creation. Surprisingly, the class was more about immersing ourselves in the narrative than diving into heavy coursework. Reading a book together laid the foundation for shared experiences and discussions.

As the term progressed, Moorside's extracurricular scene didn't fail to amaze me, and while I held back from joining any clubs initially, the attraction of the various activities lingered in the back of my mind.

So, how was my first term at Moorside High School? Let me tell you, it was a rollercoaster of new friendships, intriguing lessons, and the discovery of a multitude of opportunities that awaited me in the years to come. Stay tuned for the next part of my journey. There will be more to come, especially as I head further into the year.

By Cole (Year 7)

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

# Football for Females: Kick-Start Your Wellbeing and Join Moorside High's Girls Football Club!



Step onto the field and feel the adrenaline kick in as you enter Moorside High School's Girls Football Club, where the love for the game and the joy of teamwork come together under the expert guidance of Mr. Fish. As the whistle blows for the golden Monday hour from 3pm to 4pm, get ready for a football fiesta that promises an exhilarating after-school experience.

The ambiance is electric as girls of all skill levels gather for a football frenzy, creating a community bonded by the love for the beautiful game. The brilliance of this football club lies in its inclusivity – whether you're a seasoned striker or a newbie to the sport, there's a place for you to kick, pass, and score.

What to pack for this football fiesta? A pair of football boots is the golden ticket, but no worries if you haven't got those—just slip into your trusty trainers. After the school bell rings the final chime, you've got a quick 10-minute window to transform into your athletic alter ego, dressed in the school PE kit. And here's the cool part – you can choose to either switch back to your school uniform or strut your stuff in the PE kit post-session.

Now, the real action begins. Mr. Fish, the maestro of the field, takes charge, leading the team through a series of engaging drills, challenges, and skill-building exercises. It's not just about perfecting that killer goal; it's about perfecting your positions, mastering the skill of the game, and fostering a sense of teamwork.

Recent studies show that engaging in regular physical activity, such as football, can significantly improve mental health. It's like scoring a goal against stress and anxiety! The endorphins released during physical activity act as natural mood lifters, promoting a positive mindset that extends beyond the field.

But that's not all—here's a stat to juggle in your mind: students who participate in sports like football are 15% more likely to perform better academically. It's not just about kicking the ball; it's about kicking academic goals too! The discipline, teamwork, and focus developed on the field can translate into sharper focus and improved study habits in the classroom.

The Girls Football Club at Moorside High is more than just an extracurricular activity; it's a vibrant community where friendships are forged, skills are sharpened, and the joy of football binds everyone together. So, if you're ready to score goals and make lasting memories, lace up those boots (or trainers) and join the football frenzy every Monday with Mr. Fish at the helm. The pitch is waiting, and the game is about to begin!

by Scarlett and Amelia (Year 7)



# Movember: 'Staching' the Stigma



Moorside High School has taken a proactive approach to address the pressing issue of men's mental health by incorporating Movember-themed R-Time sessions into its curriculum. In a society where stereotypes and stigmas often shroud men's mental health struggles, the school's initiative aims to break down barriers and foster open conversations. The annual November event saw students engage in a unique activity—donning paper moustaches and writing inspiring messages for the men in their lives. This creative endeavour aimed not only to raise awareness but also to uplift spirits and spread positivity.

Men's mental health issues are frequently compounded by societal expectations and the concept of fragile masculinity. Moorside High School recognises that stereotypes often portray men as predators, perpetuating a damaging reputation. To combat this, the R-Time sessions delved into discussions about breaking free from these stereotypes and fostering a supportive environment.

According to alarming statistics, men are nearly three times more likely to die by suicide than females. The average suicide age has seen an increase since 2000, with a notable rise in the average age at 48 years old. This underscores the urgency of addressing men's mental health and breaking down the barriers preventing men from seeking help.

The Movember initiative, which began in 2005, has played a pivotal role in raising awareness about men's health issues, including prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health, and suicide prevention. The movement started as a playful endeavour when friends Travis Garone and Luke Slattery convinced their friend to grow a moustache. This seemingly light-hearted act evolved into the establishment of Movember, with the moustache becoming its iconic logo.

Thanks to collective action and increased awareness, Movember has contributed to a remarkable 36.1% decrease in male suicide rates. Moorside High School's integration of Movember into its R-Time sessions reflects the commitment to addressing the root causes of men's mental health struggles.

Studies also reveal that 56% of men harbour insecurities about their overall looks. Common signs of male insecurity include low self-esteem, fear of criticism, and a constant need for validation. Moorside High School recognises the importance of being vigilant for these signs and offering support to those in need.

Our initiative to raise awareness about men's mental health through Movember-themed R-Time sessions is a commendable step towards breaking down societal barriers. By addressing fragile masculinity, stereotypes, and providing a platform for open discussions, the school is contributing to a healthier and more supportive environment. As Movember continues to make strides in men's mental health advocacy, Moorside High School stands as a beacon, inspiring change and fostering positive conversations around the well-being of men.

by Sophie (Year 8)



# MOVEMBER®



# Future Fridays: Crafting Careers and Crumbling Stereotypes

Navigating life after secondary education can be a daunting prospect for most, if not all of us, during our KS4 journey. Having selected our options, delved into our studies, and delved deeper into non-optional subjects like Maths and English, a crucial question emerges: where can these subjects lead us?

Over the course of 4 weeks, Future Fridays provided our Year 11 cohort with a unique opportunity to delve into a myriad of career talks meticulously organised by our KS4 Raising Standards Lead, Miss Powell.

From the realms of theatre and project management to the spheres of law and teaching, the world of work offers something for everyone, even if the journey takes a bit of time.

In the past four Fridays, our Year 11 cohort had the privilege of listening to experts in their respective fields, including solicitors from major law firms and a university student embarking on their journey in English Literature and film. In the initial week, discussions revolved around careers in Humanities and the Arts, encompassing Classics, English Literature, and Drama. A speaker from the Lowry Theatre engaged us in a quiz tailored to our skills, ideas, and preferences, unveiling the best-suited jobs for each participant. The session concluded with mock interview questions to further immerse us in the career exploration process.

Moreover, we gleaned the invaluable lesson of persistence and self-belief, hearing from Classics for All about the enduring value of ancient literature and history in shaping careers. It was inspiring to discover that many successful politicians had studied these subjects at university—an undeniable privilege we also enjoy in our high school. The session concluded with a testament to the importance of pursuing what you enjoy, as exemplified by an individual who, uncertain of their path, studied enjoyable A-Levels like English Literature before thriving in a university-level apprenticeship and achieving success in the Civil Service's Department for Work and Pensions.



# – Building a Path to Success Beyond KS4!

In the second week, Year 11s were enlightened by an accountant at PWC, challenging preconceptions about accounting and revealing fascinating clients like Bentley and Chester Zoo. An architect and project manager also shared their experiences in constructing a new mental health hospital in Manchester, emphasising critical details such as the absence of magnetic metals in the MRI room. Their innovative approach to creating a patient-friendly environment, illustrated by an accurate cake diagram, showcased the importance of balancing safety and happiness, even within the confines of a mental health hospital.

The third week delved into careers in Law, exploring diverse routes into the field. Highlighting that a law degree is not essential, a speaker with a history degree shared their journey into law in later years. Another speaker shed light on new apprenticeship routes straight from college, emphasising the dynamic nature of careers in law. Notably, a student's enthusiasm during the talk secured them the promise of work experience—a testament to the tangible impact of these sessions.

Finally, in the fourth week, we explored vocational routes, increasingly popular over the years. Vocational courses, focusing on skills for art, trade, and technology, were discussed in detail, emphasising their growing significance in preparing students for diverse career paths.

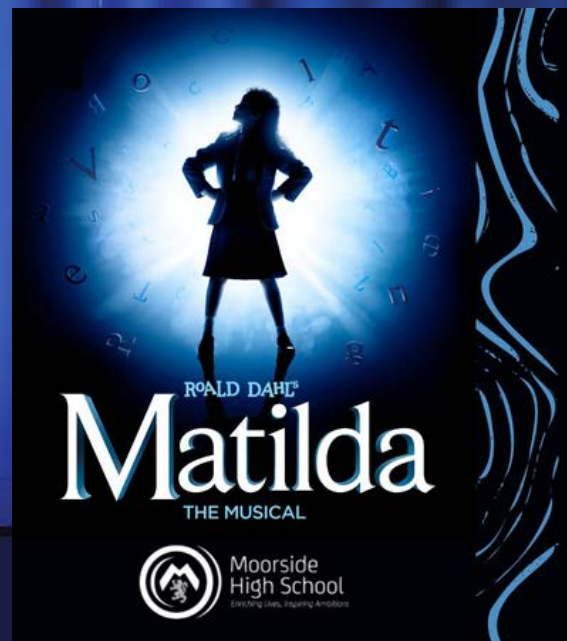
Regardless of the chosen path, these talks reinforced the idea that there is something for everyone, underscoring the paramount importance of resilience in navigating the ever-evolving landscape of career exploration.

by Emily (Year 11)



**SNEAK PREVIEW:**  
**Moorside takes the  
stage with**  
**‘Matilda the  
Musical’**

**SHOW  
TIME**





Get ready to be swept off your feet as Moorside High School prepares to amaze audiences with their astonishing production of *Matilda: The Musical*! This upcoming theatrical masterpiece promises to be a spellbinding experience, combining the magic of Roald Dahl's classic tale with the energy of Moorside's talented cast.

Leading the charge is the remarkable Tilly Taylor- Baird, who will be bringing *Matilda* to life with her undeniable charm and extraordinary stage presence. Tilly's portrayal of *Matilda* is bound to capture the hearts of the audience, as she embodies the essence of the beloved character with flair.

The delightful Karyn Farrell steps into the shoes of Miss Honey, the kind-hearted teacher who forms a special bond with *Matilda*. Karyn's portrayal promises to be a moving and heart-warming rendition, creating a character that audiences will surely connect with on a deep emotional level.

Prepare for some side-splitting moments as the mischievous Mr. Wormwood takes centre stage, portrayed by the charismatic Jack Greenhalgh. Jack's comedic timing and larger-than-life personality is sure to infuse the character with a dose of hilarity, making Mr. Wormwood a memorable highlight of the show.

While the role of Mrs. Wormwood is currently in the process of being recast, the anticipation is building as the production team searches for the perfect fit to complement the stellar cast.

Nevertheless, stepping into the formidable shoes of the intimidating Trunchbull is none other than the talented Lily Banham. Lily's commanding presence and exceptional acting skills are set to make Trunchbull a force to be reckoned with, sending shivers down the spines of everyone in the audience.

Not to mention, adding a touch of warmth to the production is Tori Dry, who takes on the role of Mrs. Phelps. Tori's portrayal promises to bring the character to life with authenticity, creating a memorable connection between the story and the audience.

The entire cast has been hard at work rehearsing, and their dedication and passion for the project are evident in every scene. The stage is set to transport the audience into the magical world of *Matilda*, where the magic of friendship, courage, and the power of imagination takes centre stage.

Mrs. Ross, Head of Drama, said, "We are so excited to be running a school production again at Moorside High School! We were overwhelmed by the talent at the auditions and we are so pleased with the amazing cast."

Mrs. Ross's enthusiasm sets the stage for what promises to be a phenomenal show, as rehearsals are in full swing and the cast, under her guidance, is gearing up to deliver a performance that will leave the audience in awe. "Rehearsals are in full swing, and you should also look out for sneak peeks in assemblies!"

As the excitement builds, Mrs. Ross extends an invitation to students who are eager to be a part of the magic, saying, "There are still opportunities to be involved; either in the cast or backstage. Please speak to your music or drama teacher if you are interested."

So, if you've ever dreamed of treading the boards or working behind the scenes, this is your chance to shine. Join the crew and be a part of the magic that makes *Matilda: The Musical* an unforgettable experience at Moorside High School.

Moorside High School's production of *Matilda: The Musical* is not just a show; it's an experience that promises to leave you spellbound. With a stellar cast, captivating storytelling, and the infectious energy of a high school production, this is one event that you won't want to miss. So mark your calendars, gather your friends and family, and get ready to be swept away by the enchanting tale of *Matilda* at Moorside High School. It's a musical moment you'll be talking about long after the final curtain falls!

"The performance will be on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th July 2024, so get the date in your diaries!" Mrs. Ross added.

by Alex (Year 9)



# Moorside Meets Manga

Every Wednesday, the library at Moorside High School transforms into a haven for anime and manga enthusiasts as the doors open to the Manga Club. This weekly gathering has become a vibrant and eagerly anticipated event, drawing students from all years who share a passion for the captivating world of Japanese animation and comics.

One of the key highlights of the Manga Club is its dedication to keeping attendees up-to-date with the latest anime and manga releases. From the thrilling pages of "Death Note" to the epic adventures of "Avatar: The Last Airbender," students have the opportunity to dive into the realms of fantasy, mystery, and adventure. The club doesn't just stop at reading; it brings these stories to life by showcasing the latest anime releases, making every Wednesday an exciting exploration of the newest and most thrilling content.

The Manga Club has become a hub for over 50 students who gather each week, a testament to its widespread popularity. The inclusive nature of the club is a key factor in its success, as it welcomes students of all ages.

Miss Smith, the school librarian and the driving force behind the Manga Club, expressed her enthusiasm for the lively environment the club has fostered: "It's a lively, vibrant environment where everyone is welcome and new friendships have been made."

Such overwhelming popularity has led to a logistical challenge—the club has outgrown its initial space. To accommodate the growing number of attendees, the Manga Club has had to book the conference area, expanding its capacity to ensure every student eager to participate can join the fun.

The success of the Manga Club has also inspired the school to explore new avenues of creative expression. In January, a spin-off club called Chinese Calligraphy is set to make its debut. With numerous students expressing interest, this new venture aims to celebrate Chinese New Year by crafting beautiful and meaningful banners filled with good luck wishes. It's a testament to the dynamic and diverse interests of Moorside High School students, showcasing the school's commitment to providing unique and engaging extracurricular activities.

As the Manga Club continues to thrive, it serves as a shining example of how shared interests can bring students together, fostering a sense of community, creativity, and a love for storytelling. Moorside High School's dedication to embracing diverse passions is evident, with the Manga Club paving the way for exciting new ventures like Chinese Calligraphy. The school's library isn't just a place for books—it's a hub of creativity, imagination, and the formation of lasting friendships.

by Jaden (Year 7)



# SOCKING IT TO BULLYING: MOORSIDE DOES ODD SOCK DAY



Bullying is an act of selfishness and cruelty. This is why on November 13, we celebrated Odd Sock Day at Moorside High School to raise awareness against any type of bullying or aggression. From physical bullying to mental, verbal, racial, religious, sexual, and disability bullying, Odd Sock Day provides a safe haven for all individuals entangled in the complex tapestry of torment.

You may not realise, but even just light banter with friends can lead to insecurities or psychological thoughts. The symptoms of mistreatment and harassment need to be recognised. Repulsive behaviour such as this should be left in the past, becoming a distant memory, and those who follow in its path may find solace in the arms of this day, not to perpetuate its vile wrath but to eradicate it altogether.

The statistics surrounding these acts of cruelty in the UK are alarming. According to recent studies, over 80% of young individuals will face some form of bullying during their school years. The impact is not just temporary; it can have long-lasting effects on mental health, self-esteem, and overall well-being.

As part of the activities during R-Time, pupils engaged in a heartwarming exercise by writing positive messages on paper socks. These socks became not just a symbol of quirkiness but also a canvas for expressions of kindness, encouragement, and support.

The collective effort of the students didn't stop there. A vibrant banner, adorned with these paper socks, was meticulously crafted and proudly displayed in the school library window. This visual masterpiece served as a testament to the commitment of our school community in standing together against bullying and discrimination.

Odd Sock Day provides an opportunity for young people to celebrate diversity and share what makes them unique. It gives us a chance to acknowledge their individuality. Never find yourself confined in the crevices of oppression; being perceived as an outcast shouldn't be thought of. Let us work towards a future where kindness and understanding prevail, making Odd Sock Day unnecessary because every day is a day free from bullying and discrimination.

by Sophie (Year 8)





# Literary Magic at Moorside: Our Enchanting Journey Through Pop-Up Libraries

An event that never fails to spark curiosity and ignite the imaginations of our students is the eagerly anticipated Pop-Up Library at Moorside High School. Organised with precision and passion, these events are spectacle led by our dedicated team of student librarians during every half term. The commitment to excellence is evident in the meticulous attention to detail and creative flair that goes into the presentation of each Pop-Up Library. Picture this: a vibrant Gazebo adorned with decorations that seamlessly align with the chosen theme. We've successfully orchestrated memorable events like the Odd Socks Antibullying initiative, celebrated the richness of Black History Month, and conjured up a Spooktacular Halloween special. Our most recent endeavour involved infusing the festive spirit into the library with a Christmas-themed Pop-Up.

The essence of these events lies in their ability to transcend the conventional boundaries of a library. Rather than confining literary exploration within four walls, we strive to bring the library experience into the heart of the school. The books showcased during these Pop-Up Libraries aren't just for show—they are available for eager minds to borrow, delve into, and savour. The carefully curated collection is a deliberate effort to introduce students to new genres, diverse authors, and captivating narratives.

At the core of this literary extravaganza is the dynamic Pupil Librarian Team. These dedicated individuals are not merely organisers; they are curators of literary journeys, architects of reading adventures, and champions of a vibrant reading culture within our school. Their passion for books and commitment to fostering a love for reading among their peers is truly commendable.

As we geared up for the upcoming Christmas-themed Pop-Up Library, there has been an air of anticipation and excitement. We aim not just to provide access to books but to create an immersive and enchanting experience that leaves a lasting impression on every student. We hope that the carefully selected Christmas-themed books will not only entertain but also kindle a renewed enthusiasm for the magic of reading.

In essence, Moorside High School's Pop-Up Libraries transcend the conventional boundaries of a library, transforming it into a dynamic, ever-evolving space that reflects the vibrant literary spirit of our school community. With the Pupil Librarian Team at the helm, these events are not just about books; they are about fostering a culture of curiosity, exploration, and a lifelong love for the written word.

By The Pupil Librarian Team



# Moorside High School's Sign Language Club Spreads Christmas Joy and Awareness

At Moorside High School, a special event is taking place, thanks to the Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) department. The school's sign language club has been making waves, not only within the school community but also in the broader context of promoting awareness and inclusivity.

Under the enthusiastic guidance of our dedicated MFL teachers, the sign language club has embarked on an exciting journey to learn British Sign Language (BSL). The commitment goes beyond the classroom, as the club has subscribed to the official British Sign Language website to enhance their learning experience.

In recent weeks, the sign language club has started practicing Christmas songs to sign during the upcoming Christmas celebration assemblies. The chosen festive tune? "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree." The joyous and lively melody perfectly complements the spirit of the season, and the club members have been gearing up to showcase their newfound skills to the entire school community.

What makes Moorside High School's sign language club particularly special is that both teachers and pupils involved are beginners. This collective learning experience not only shows a sense of community among staff and pupils but also reflects the genuine commitment of the school to inclusivity and understanding.

Miss Cofield shared her thoughts on the initiative, showing the joy and satisfaction that comes from working with pupils on such a meaningful project. "It has been great to work with pupils and share an experience that not only raises awareness but promotes the learning of a cool, new language. We're in A204 every Wednesday just having lots of fun!"

The fact that the sign language club meets every Wednesday shows the dedication of both the students and the teacher involved. It's not just about showing a new skill; it's about creating a space where everyone feels welcome, supported, and engaged.

The overarching goal of Moorside High School's sign language club spreads beyond the classroom walls. By embracing BSL and showcasing their skills through festive songs, the club aims to raise awareness of the deaf community. In doing so, they hope to foster a more inclusive environment within the school and inspire others to learn and appreciate different forms of communication.

As the Christmas celebration assemblies approached, the sign language club was ready to spread Christmas joy through the universal language of gestures, and in doing so, they are also breaking down barriers and promoting a more inclusive and understanding school community. The message is clear: language is not just about words; it's about connection, empathy, and celebrating the richness of diversity. It's about CARE!

by Eason (Year 9)



# Thought Piece: Unlocking Academic Success Through the Cognitive Benefits of Computer Games

Games, often criticised, surprisingly hold a key to enhancing cognitive development in young minds, paving the way for academic success. Let's debunk the myth that all games are detrimental and explore how they contribute positively to vital skills necessary for academic progress.

In the classroom, we frequently engage in activities that require hand-eye coordination—translating information from the board onto paper. Interestingly, this mirrors the skills honed while playing computer games. Whether it's navigating a complex virtual world or mastering a controller, the process demands keen hand-eye coordination. These skills, developed through gaming, extend beyond the digital realm, promoting real-world benefits such as heightened awareness, improved concentration, and enhanced perception.

Speaking from personal experience, I've found that my ability to concentrate is often challenged. However, when immersed in a game like Fortnite, my focus sharpens as I strive for the elusive Victory Royale. The intense gameplay, requiring sustained attention for up to an hour, serves as a unique exercise in concentration. Additionally, gaming provides an avenue for social interaction, allowing me to spend quality time with friends—an aspect often overlooked when considering the positives of gaming.

Beyond academic challenges, games also offer an effective method of stress relief. Achieving a Victory Royale, for instance, triggers a sense of accomplishment. The rewarding visuals and the feeling of success displayed on the screen contribute to a positive emotional response, creating an environment contributing to mental wellbeing.

Addressing a common concern, the notion that video games induce violence is a prevailing argument. However, it is essential to recognise that most games are inherently unrealistic. Drawing a line between fiction and reality is crucial, as the majority of games are designed for entertainment rather than emulating real-life scenarios. Responsible gaming, combined with parental guidance, can help soften concerns related to violence.

Computer games, when approached mindfully, offer a range of cognitive benefits that directly contribute to academic progress. From refining hand-eye coordination to fostering concentration and providing a platform for social interaction, games play a crucial role in shaping a well-rounded individual. Embracing the positive aspects of gaming can lead to a more positive understanding of its potential as a tool for cognitive development and academic success.

by Mohammed (Year 9)





# Pride and Performances: A Roaring Success at Moorside's Dino-mite Year-End Show!

Before delving into the immersive, exhilarating, and entertaining show hosted by the Pride Club and the lovely Miss Henn, it's essential to mention why it took place. Firstly, it was organised due to the tremendous support received during the summer and to contribute to the local Salford food banks. According to Miss Henn, the four trolleys "have never been fuller in all my time at Moorside," a noteworthy achievement considering the challenges faced by many this Christmas.

To kick off the event, Sophie delivered a heartfelt spoken word piece celebrating people of all sexualities. The evening continued with outstanding singing performances, including a standout solo by Savannah and two captivating duets by Astrid and Lucas among other singers. These performances brought immense joy to the audience, with enthusiastic clapping, swaying hands, and tremendous cheers echoing throughout the performance hall.

Adding a touch of humour, a masked dancer took the stage, with a teacher dressed as a dinosaur dancing around the performance hall for a few minutes. The talented display turned out to be orchestrated by Mr. Pinches, leaving the entire crowd in fits of laughter.

In the spirit of festivity, prizes were awarded, accompanied by a beautifully displayed montage of teachers and several instances of waving a pride flag across the stage. Sebastian, a Year 9 student, delivered another heartfelt speech that resonated deeply with the audience. The event culminated in an emotional sing-along, complete with lively and chaotic dancing and singing.

Overall, this was a truly fantastic end to the year. Attending the event in the summer of 2024 would be wholly recommended, given the memorable experiences and positive atmosphere created during this year's show.

By Sophie (Year 10)





# Wellbeing in Winter

As we say goodbye to textbooks and say hello to the winter half term, it's the perfect time to focus on our wellbeing. The winter season brings chilly weather, holiday cheer, and, of course, a well-deserved break from school. So, let's dive into some tips on how to make the most of this time and keep our mental and physical health in balance.

- 1. Unplug and Recharge:** Let's face it—constant screen time can be draining. Take this opportunity to unplug from the digital world. Put your phone on silent, step away from the computer, and indulge in some screen-free activities. Whether it's reading a book, going for a walk, or trying your hand at a new hobby, disconnecting can do wonders for your mental health.
- 2. Catch Up on Zzz's:** Sleep often takes a backseat during the school year. Now's the chance to catch up on those much-needed sleep. Establish a relaxing bedtime routine, create a cosy sleep environment, and aim for a solid 8 (or 12 if your parents allow it!) hours each night. A well-rested mind is better equipped to tackle the challenges that lie ahead.
- 3. Get Moving:** Winter doesn't have to mean staying in. Engage in some form of physical activity, whether it's a brisk walk, a dance session in your room, or a winter sport. Exercise releases endorphins, those feel-good hormones that can help fight stress and boost your mood. Plus, it's a great way to counterbalance the extra holiday treats!
- 4. Connect with Loved Ones:** The holidays are all about spending time with loved ones. Whether it's family, friends, or even that cousin you only see once a year, make an effort to connect. Share stories, play games, and simply enjoy each other's company. Strong social connections are a key factor of overall wellbeing.
- 5. Reflect and Set Goals:** Take some time to look back on the past year. What were your achievements? What lessons did you learn? Use this time to set realistic and positive goals for the upcoming year. Having a sense of purpose can bring lots of motivation.
- 6. Practice Mindfulness:** The holiday season can sometimes be overwhelming. Practice mindfulness to stay grounded in the present moment. Whether it's through meditation, deep breathing exercises, or simply taking a moment to appreciate the beauty around you, mindfulness can help reduce stress and promote a sense of calm.
- 7. Indulge in Self-Care:** Treat yourself to some well-deserved self-care. Take a long, relaxing bath, pamper yourself with a face mask, or spend an afternoon doing things that bring you joy. Remember, self-care is not selfish—it's a necessary investment in your own wellbeing.

As we embark on this winter break, let's prioritise our mental and physical health. By incorporating these tips into our daily routine, we can ensure a well-rounded and fulfilling holiday season. Here's to a joyful break and a rejuvenated return to school in the new year!

By Tanaya (Year 9)



## Take care OF YOURSELF



It's Christmas Time – Parents guide to help keep children safe online

# It's Christmas Time!



**A Parent's Guide to Social Media**



**A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures**



**A Parent's Guide to Gaming**



**A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming**



scan the QR code with your phone's camera to see the guides on our website



**A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming**



**A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers**



**A Parent's Guide to Fake News**



**A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings**

## It's always best to be prepared

Many parents may be planning to give electronic gadgets to their children this festive period.

Our guide is designed to help parents take a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games.

**Scan the QR code to find out more.**

**Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.**

**Parents** please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

**Skips Educational** Email: [info@skipssed.com](mailto:info@skipssed.com) Tel: +44 121 227 1941

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Merry  
Christmas

From  
Team Moorside



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