



The
Mount School
York

Reflections

AUTUMN 2019



CONFIDENCE IN CONFIDENCE

We ask Mount girls what confidence means to them.

COLLEGE DAYS

'Was Shakespeare a Feminist?', 'Crisps or popcorn?', examples of conversations overheard this term in the College Common Room.

MOUNT MOTIVATORS

Netball, Hockey, Football, Swimming, Spin, Drumba and more!



Mount Girls come together to support each other. . . .

What a busy term it has been, from the very start with #GoGreenWeek to the Christmas celebrations. We welcomed many new girls and families to The Mount Community in September, all of whom have settled in to busy School life. Girls throughout the entire school have taken on with gusto the adventures the Autumn Term provides.

I have particularly enjoyed the many times that the School has come together, such as #GoGreenWeek, Bonfire Night, the Great Mountie Bake Off, and of course I am looking forward to Christmas Meeting which ends the term in a magical way. It has been so rewarding to witness how Mount girls support each other: Senior School girls are helping Year 7 girls settle in to School life through our traditional nutcracker system, Year 12 girls are mentoring Year 11 girls to aid their GCSE study, Year 13 girls enthusiastically welcomed Year 12 into College life and older girls in Junior School have been helping to coach younger girls in team sports. Our reinvigorated House system has also bolstered these vertical ties between year groups across the School.

It is said that *'great women are not born, they are made.'* Girls at The Mount are given many opportunities to nurture greatness, not only in themselves but also, and more importantly, in others. The compassion, support and friendship shown by girls for their peers is very special. Our younger girls have many great role models to look up to, they witness Mount girls who are not only kind and compassionate but confident, strong and adventurous.

As you read these pages, I hope these qualities become apparent.

Adrienne Richmond
Principal



Confidence

noun



'kɒn.fɪ.dəns

The quality of being certain of your abilities or of having trust in people, plans, or the future.

The confidence of Mount girls is often commented on by visitors to the School. Through observations and conversations with pupils of all ages, they are struck by the self-assurance and happy nature of the girls. Indeed, the last ISI inspection commented: *"Pupils in lessons were exuberantly confident."*

Building confidence is important for any young person, and in today's digital age it is crucial for children. As our girls grow and progress to university and beyond, the belief they have in themselves and their abilities will dictate their aptitude to adapt in an ever-changing world. Mount girls are exuberantly confident because they know they can be. All girls are taught to believe in the strength of their voice, to speak up and participate. We asked, what does confidence mean to Mount girls?

"Confidence is your ability to be yourself."

- Orlaith (Year 13)

"Being comfortable in your own skin."

- Matilda (Year 13)

"In school, being confident means being able to put your hand up and not afraid to get the answer wrong."

- Tilly (Year 11)

"For me, confidence is about talking to people and proving myself."

- Lila (Year 7)

"Confidence is like, if you do Maths and you are very good at it you are confident in it."

It means you really know what to do."

- Louise (Year 3)

"Being confident means being brave and standing up for yourself."

- Daisy Mae (Year 3)

Creating an environment where every girl is valued, enabled to flourish and given the confidence to know they can achieve is at the heart of The Mount School's ethos.

This term the girls enjoyed a myriad of opportunities to build their confidence, both in and outside of School.



Year 7's trip to Carlton Lodge was a perfect opportunity for girls to get to know each other and build their confidence within the group.

"The zipwire was my favourite. It was a really good trip. I made more friends and it was good to just get to know everyone better." Eva (Year 7)



The Berlin trip for Art, Language and History students in Year 11 and College was a huge boost to the girls' learning and a chance to gain independence away from home.

"My favourite bit of the trip was the Olympic Stadium because I'd looked it up for my GCSE History. To see the architecture and everything close up was quite amazing." - Anya (Year 11)



Girls embarking on the Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh award scheme underwent their practice expeditions, which were a blend of challenge and fun. The Silver team endured rain throughout but Bronze teams did catch a longer patch of sunshine.

"The first day was so beautiful, because the weather was nice. The second day was not as good because the weather wasn't, and we got lost! I loved just being out there in natural surroundings." Johanna (Year 10)

The Whole SHE-BANG!

The Mount is York's only all-girls school age 2-18. We are also the only all-through School in York to be housed on the same site. This provides us with a very special opportunity to unite girls across the School. Girls develop friendships across the School, develop excellent social skills and awareness of others. They learn to support and encourage each other reinforcing our happy and supportive community.

At the start of term, the entire school celebrated #GoGreenWeek. Whole school initiatives are one way of uniting year groups. A focussed central topic allows girls of all ages to develop a shared awareness of a subject that provides conversation and thought provoking discussion. Junior girls began the week with an assembly all about looking after the oceans and reducing plastic waste. They were then set an open-ended challenge to work in their Houses to present to parents and teachers on this topic at the end of the week. Girls worked together collaboratively to research, plan and create their projects. "It was wonderful to see how the girls all worked as teams, supporting and challenging each other" comments Rachel Capper, Head of Junior School. "The older girls developed leadership skills and enjoyed overseeing the project, helping the younger children and working to a deadline."

Their finished products were an impressively diverse and creative array of large models of sea animals made from recycled materials, presentations, drama performances and animation films portraying the important message to protect the oceans. Parents and staff were very impressed with the enthusiasm of the girls and the imaginative projects that they produced by working together. The week ended in a very loud and explosive way as everyone took part in a Samba percussion workshop using household objects.

In the Senior School, the #GoGreenWeek launched the newly formed EcoClub. Events included a special pudding picnic, a carbon footprint calculator quiz, a recycling collection day, and a Nature walk. The activities were designed to provide girls with a platform to start conversations and raise awareness of environmental issues facing our society. The week culminated in a dress up day, raising awareness for Oxfam's 'Second Hand September,' where girls were asked to wear garments and accessories that were either recycled, reused or creatively upcycled! "I think #GoGreenWeek was really good because we were looking at buying local, recycling and reusing items and getting everybody to think about why that's important," explains Rosie (Year 9) a member of the Eco Club. Rosie who is an accomplished sailor, added: "When you see pollution out on the water I think it's sad because it should be natural and clean."

House spirit isn't only for Sports Day. Our four houses, Cadbury, Fry, Rowntree, and Terry, are vertically split across the whole School. Older and younger girls join together to take part in House events, working as a team and establishing friendships. When the House Captains of Cadbury decided to choose, and name a mascot, they saw it as an opportunity to enforce connections between the Junior and Senior school. "We wanted the Houses to be as strong in Senior School as they are in Junior School. We decided to have Junior girls choose the Cadbury mascot



because they will be the ones coming through to Senior School with a really strong affinity for the House. They picked a Honeybadger called Stoffel. We're going to get a teddy of that which will live on our House board. I will then bring the Junior School children to the board to see the Honeybadger that they've picked. The girls were excited and so sweet that I'm really glad we decided to do it this way," explains Sophie (Cadbury House Captain) who was herself a pupil in the Junior School. "I think it's great the Junior girls can get to know some of the older girls, like the House Captains and the College Leaders." Romy (Year 5), who will be the Junior School's Cadbury House Captain next term, agrees: "It was nice when Sophie came to ask us to vote on the mascot and helped us get to know who the Senior House Captains."

"Everyone is so welcoming and friendly"

Charity drives encourage the girls to not just work with one another but to think about contributing to our changing world. The MacMillan Coffee Morning, organised by Cadbury House and the MSA raised £240. The Great Mountie Bake Off brought together girls from the Junior and Senior schools for a yummy celebration of the girls' culinary skills and raised £670 in aid of Children in Need. Well done to everyone who took part!

Of course, every day school days also provide opportunities for girls to interact and share their expertise. In November,

GCSE Latin students visited girls in Year 3 and 4, who had been studying Roman soldiers. The Year 11s had quite a surprise when they were suddenly taken hostage by an entire camp-site of Roman soldiers! Once released they shared with them some of the historic language and how it has shaped modern day English.

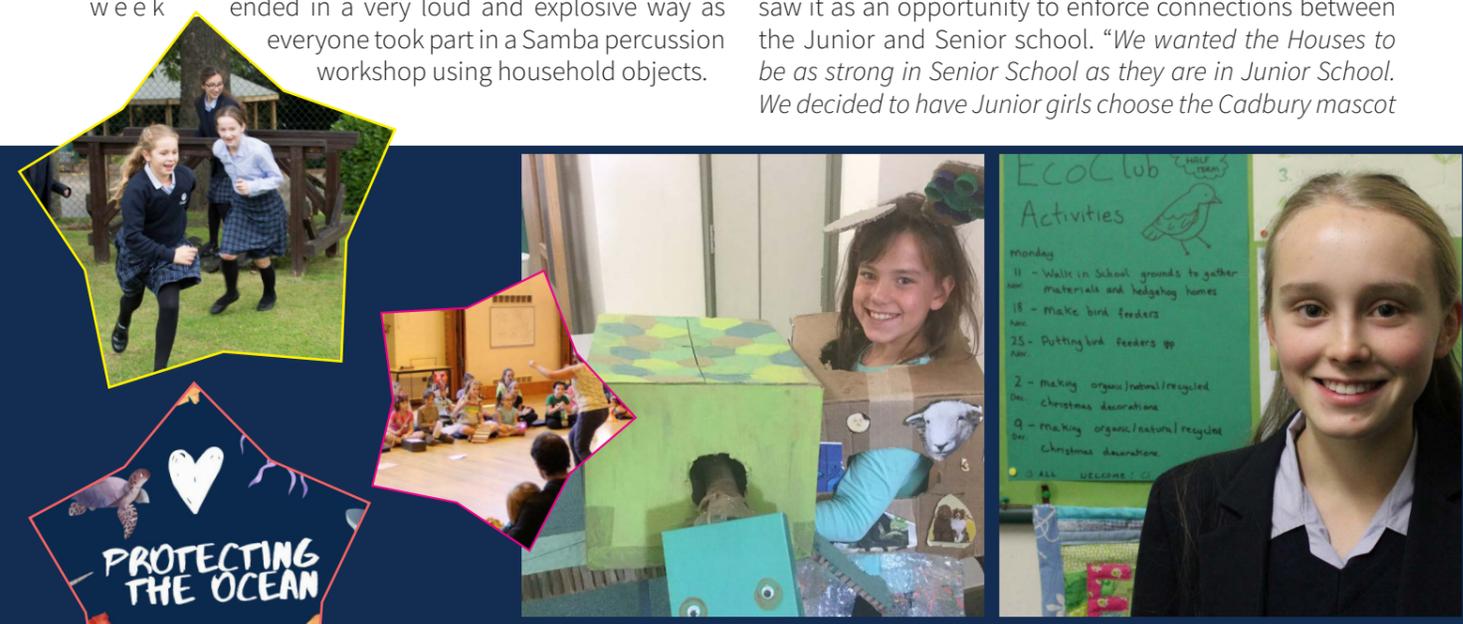
It is not just the pupils who make up The Mount Community and it is always special when events bring together pupils, families, staff and Old Scholars. A highlight of the School Calendar that does just this is the annual Fireworks night hosted on 'New'. It is truly a celebration for everyone throughout the School. From the Year 7's creative nature themed lanterns lighting up the paths, Year 11's spectacularly entertaining 'Games in the Dark', and Wilson Vale's delicious BBQ. The success of the evening was a team effort! The evening culminated in one of The Mount's oldest traditions, with the oldest and youngest senior school girls starting the show.

In our last ISI Report Inspectors commented, "Pupils display excellent social skills and awareness of others. They support and encourage each other frequently and unselfconsciously." As we mark a year from our Excellent Inspection, it is clear that this remark remains true as girls this term have enjoyed working together. "Everyone is so welcoming and friendly," grins Livia (Year 7).

AUTUMN REFLECTIONS

"Starting the fireworks felt really special. It's nice that the youngest senior pupil sets off the fireworks, because I thought that it would be the oldest! Everyone is included!" Lucy (Year 7)

"It's a really interesting tradition, which I think is great. I was able to support Lucy to press the button to set off the fireworks. It's good that we get opportunities to interact with the younger girls, we can help each other and encourage them." Kilmeny (Year 13)



PROTECTING THE OCEAN



Meet the College Leadership Team

Isla, Hannah, Sonia, Sasha and Alicia

In the Summer Term, the new College Leadership Team (CLT) officially took over the CLT reins. From speaking at School events, planning social programmes, running Student Council to helping younger pupils the girls' responsibilities are varied. We chatted to Alicia, Isla, Hannah, Sasha and Sonia to learn more about their views on leadership.

Hannah, who joined The Mount in Year 7 begins, "As a leader you represent a body of people, so you have to display good qualities. You should be caring and kind and willing to consider everyone's opinions."

Alicia, who joined The Mount age 3 comments, "Leadership is something that inspires and encourages people to become a better version of themselves. A good leader is somebody who knows when to take control, but also knows when to sit back and let others have their say."

As the girls eloquently describe leadership it is apparent they relish the opportunities to help others. "To be a good leader, you have to understand your own faults because it's impossible to be a perfect leader, it's impossible to be a perfect person," adds Isla, "But you must strive to be as close to that as possible. When you understand your own faults you are able to deal with them and that will help you understand and help other people."

The team are very aware of the influence they have on younger girls. "Leaders influence people. What we say and do so can affect others. They need to see we are doing the best we can, and we need to encourage them to do the best that they can," remarks Sonia, who is Boarding House College Leader. Sasha, agrees "We are someone who people can approach and talk to when they need advice."

Alicia grins as she reminisces on her time in the Junior School, "One day a week we would go out into the woodland area for Outdoor Education. One time we picked all of the

elderflower we could find and then we fried it in an outdoor cooker. It was really good."

Isla also shares fond memories of the Junior years. "I really enjoyed 'Express Yourself Day'. It was our own idea, you got to come in wearing what you wanted and explain why to others. It was so much more fun than just coming in as the set theme. I came in with my fencing gear. Lilimae came in a dressing gown because she loved sleeping!"

"Leadership encourages and inspires people."

For Hannah, academic support has shaped her time at The Mount. "One of the main things that is so unique about the School is the amount of individual support that you get from teachers within your subject studies."

The memories and experiences they have provides an invaluable tool to help understand and represent the views of girls throughout the School. Sasha explains, "We understand the progression you go through. Every year is different and maps out how we think of ourselves as we're growing up. I see Year 7s now enjoying silly things and realise we were exactly the same; one day they'll be in College and they'll have gone through the same journey and matured."

"Every year group is different and you can see them maturing, especially in Boarding," adds Sonia. "In Year 7, I was quite introverted, not that confident. But I've felt that each year I've become more confident," agrees Hannah.

Alicia concurs, "It's a good thing. There have been points when I've made decisions that were a little bit ridiculous; I don't regret any of it. It's made me who I am. I think The Mount's environment makes that possible, we can do silly things, we can stay young for as long as possible. And then when we're ready to grow up and be College girls, be really mature, we can also do that."

"Yeah" concludes Isla, "The Mount allows you to grow at your own pace, doesn't it?"

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL

To celebrate the 'International Day of the Girl', Year 6 girls led an inspiring Junior School assembly. The girls contemplated what girls can and can't do. As Florence (Year 5) concluded:

"The only thing a girl can't do, is think of something that a girl can't do!"





Mount Motivators!

The Autumn Term has provided a brilliant start to the sporting school year, with girls throughout the School testing their mettle in many different team and individual events.

The benefits of physical activity through sport are well-known: improved health, energy boosts, reduced stress, improved concentration and many more (Sport England). For young people growing up in a digital age the access to the benefits from activity are more important than ever before. A report by the UK Chief Medical Officers, released in September, advised that children between the ages of 5 and 18 should engage in moderate-to-vigorous intense physical activity for an average of at least 60 minutes per day across the week. According to an article published in The Telegraph, only 8% of girls between the ages of 11 and 18 currently meet the minimum guideline.

Naturally, Mount girls have the opportunity to not only meet but exceed these guidelines, but thanks to our girls-only environment, they have the confidence to get sweaty and red in the face on the sports field and not worry about how that might look. This self-confidence stays with them into and throughout adult life. Many Mount girls continue

to regularly play sports or exercise at University and beyond.

In the spirit that #AllSportsAreGirlsSports, our football teams from Year 5 through to Year 10 took to the pitch this term. History was made as The Mount Football team took part in their first ever tournament hosted at Bootham. Most girls were playing their first ever competitive game of football but many had actually played before and deployed an impressive array of skills. The girls played their socks off and never gave up against some tough competition. A trip to watch the Lionesses take on Brazil at the Riverside Stadium in Middlesbrough, gave the girls a source of inspiration and a reminder that #WeKnowGirlsCan.

Junior School girls competed in various York Schools Sports Network (YSSN) events including Cross Country and Swimming. They also entered the Quadkids contests held at The Mount, which saw them taking part in sprint, throwing and jumping events. In the Early Years, children took part in an agility test and particularly enjoyed using hoops to take extra large steps. Our Year 6 Netball team became YSSN's York champions, winning the right to represent York in the regional round finals in July 2020.

Towards the end of term, Junior School girls from Year 3 upwards took part in a Biathlon at The Mount. The Biathlon was organised by Year 6 girls, Anabel and Amelia, to raise money for the Little Princess Trust. The girls came up with the idea themselves and with very little help from staff set up and ran a very successful race, not an easy task! "We raised over £1034.70! I think everyone really enjoyed it and it was nice to be able to include everyone," enthuses Anabel. "It felt amazing once everything was done. Even people who don't particularly enjoy biathlon events really enjoyed getting involved," explains Amelia.

At The Mount, we strive to introduce girls to inspiring female athletes and in September, GCSE PE students travelled to the annual Girls' Schools' Association's #GirlsGoGold conference where they heard Olympian Katherine Grainger speak about her journey as a professional athlete. It was a busy and physically demanding weekend but the girls returned to school truly inspired. "Listening to Katherine Grainger speaking about how she got into rowing was really interesting. She wasn't a rower at all at the start, and you don't need to be young to start it at all," comments Tilly (Year 11). The girls also took part in a variety of activities including a bio-mechanics lesson, spin class, and Drumba! "I really liked the Drumba which incorporates dance with drums and it was really fun," laughs Olivia (Year 11). "Spin class was actually really hard!" adds Caroline (Year 11).

Of course sports also encourage teamwork and competition. Our equestrian team had a great day at Bishop Burton College at the National Schools Equestrian Association (NSEA) Christmas show jumping competition in December. Over the Autumn Term Numerous Netball, Hockey and swimming matches have taken place, both at home and away. Many of our teams have celebrated victories this term, such as the U13 Netball v Archbishops, U10 and U11 Netball v Minster, College Hockey v Bootham and Ackworth, and our Year 6 York Netball champions.

Confidence developed through sports is just as much about competing as it is to helping with a YSSN Sportshall competition, meeting athletes like Johnny Brownlee or running through a muddy forest for Cross Country championships.

Congratulations to all Mount girls who have taken part in sports and physical activity this term, both in and outside of School!

Congratulations to...

Libby (Year 8) who came 17th in National Biathlon Championships; Ava (Year 8) who is dancing at the Elmhurst Ballet Academy; Harriet (Year 8) who won the York U13 Girls' High Jump; Year 6 girls Amelia, Chloe and Asta who all qualified for the regional YSSN Cross Country in Dalby Forest; Eleanor (Year 7) who danced with the English Youth Ballet's production of Swan Lake at the York Theatre Royal.



Puddles just have to be jumped in . . .

"I've waited all my life to get muddy!" Squealed one our Junior girls with great glee as they ended a Forest School Session in the simplest of ways - jumping in puddles! A short video of the delighted girls happily jumping and getting dirty was shared on The Junior School twitter account. The tweet proved very popular on twitter with over 8,000 views. Enjoyment is infectious! To view the video yourself follow @mountoutdoor on twitter.





Where are they now? We catch up with Mount Old Scholar, **Eleanor**.

Eleanor Emuss joined The Mount Senior School in Year 7 as a boarder. After leaving The Mount in 1995, Eleanor studied International Hotel Management, followed by a MSc in International Business Studies. She is currently working as a Company Secretary for a publicly listed company. Eleanor recently visited the School to talk to Mount girls about her current role and how her career had led her there.

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think back to your years at The Mount?

Friendship and also knowing how lucky I was to be educated there.

What is your fondest memory of The Mount?

There are so many but I think some of my fondest memories are simple times with friends. For example all of our year sitting in Horseboxes listening to music and chatting. We spent a lot of time learning the lyrics of songs off by heart – one is *American Pie* by Don McLean.

How important an influence has the Quaker ethos been to you?

I think it has been a big influence in my life. It is the little things – peace, time to reflect and think, finding the good in people.

Have any influences from your time at The Mount helped you through life?

Being independent from such a young age and being able to make important decisions by ourselves is really important. I just felt that university was a natural

progression from school. As a boarder, I knew what to expect with respect to being away from your family for long periods of time.

I think I use the skills I learnt from The Mount daily. There hasn't been a pivotal moment so far but you never know what the future holds!

How do you keep in touch with girls from your cohort?

I speak to the girls quite a lot. We try to see each other as often as possible in this busy world. Social media plus Whatsapp etc has made it easier in the more recent years than before.

What is your current occupation?

I am a Company Secretary for a publicly listed company. This means that I'm an officer of the Board of Directors and am responsible for the governance of the Board. (In very short sentences!)

“I use the skills I learnt from The Mount daily.”

Quaker Week



Quaker Week (28 September – 6 October), is a time to reflect together as a Community. This year's theme of 'Quaker Stories' was fully embraced by the whole School community.

In Junior School the girls researched the Quaker Values, **Simplicity, Truth, Equality, Peace, Social Justice and Sustainability**. Through discussions and role play they explored how these values inspire and guide their actions within themselves and towards others. Together they read stories and thought about the meanings. *“There was a story about Glennard the Dog, where we learned never to act before you think,”* explains Kyra (Year 6). They then created collages and stories to portray them. At the end of the week parents were invited to a Meeting of Worship led by our Year 6 girls. *“I liked the Quaker Meeting. I like having silence because it's quite nice to be able to just clear your mind,”* comments Anabel (Year 6) *“And not have distractions,”* adds Kyra (Year 6).

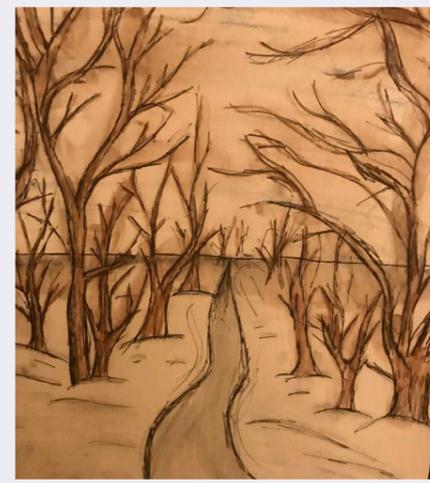
In the Senior School, each year group chose a well-known Quaker to research and find out more about their 'Quaker Story'. The year groups are now taking it in turns to present their findings to the rest of the School at a Morning Meeting across this academic year.

Sasha and Maddie from Year 13, travelled on the Northern Schools Quaker Pilgrimage to Ingleton. Here they learned more about the history of Quakerism and the lives of Quakers such as George Fox and Margaret Fell of Swarthmore Hall. They also learnt more about Quaker Meetings and have been using their findings to help establish a new fortnightly College Meeting. College girls have played an active role in choosing opening music, and reading out quotations, passages from Quaker Faith and Practice and recently poems reflecting the horrors of the first World War, in English, French and German language.



CHRISTMAS ARTWORK

The annual competition to design the Principal's Christmas Card had some excellent entries from Year 7 to College. All of the fantastic artwork was displayed for families to view after the Christmas Meeting.



COLLEGE YEARS

'The Jewel in the Crown'

'Was Shakespeare a Feminist?', 'Crisps or popcorn?', 'Greta Thunberg's dedication to her cause.' 'Who will be next to pass their driving test?' are just some of the vibrant and animated discussions we overheard in the College Common Room as we caught up with College girls to hear about their start to the academic year.

Just like the season, the Autumn Term in College is a time for change and growth. Girls move from GCSE to A Level study, a step that some consider to be the biggest in a child's education. Studies become more focussed and girls gain more independence. "When you reach College, you do have a lot more independence, such as our timetable including free lessons and use of the College studies," says Sasha (Year 13). Close academic support is offered to all girls through small teaching groups led by inspiring subject specialists, who are passionate about their subjects. "The level of respect and understanding of shared responsibility is so comforting," explains Isla (Year 13). "Instead of the teachers telling you what to do, you have this mutual relationship. It becomes more of a fun partnership, and you can actually have very intellectual discussions and debates with your teachers."

College also provides new friendships as we welcome students to the College from York, Yorkshire and across the globe. "We all got on so well straight away and everyone is so nice to each other that you don't even notice that many of the girls are new to the School," enthuses Orlaith (Year 13). Year 12 girls have quickly settled into College life, taking on the challenges presented to them with great assurance. Our College Leadership Team (page 7) and Year 13 girls have been a key driving force in helping girls adjust taking the time to make the girls feel welcome and very much a part of the School's traditions. Along with the long-standing peer mentor programme,

new events such as pizza evenings and socials have provided College girls with the time to bond. "It's like one big year group, some of them we see in class and some we don't. It helps that our studies are mixed up together" remarks Maddie (Year 13). The thoughtfulness of Year 13 has clearly inspired our Year 12 students who this term began a mentor programme for Year 11 girls, guiding them through their academic studies.

One of The Mount traditions presented to Year 12 in Autumn is the College Pantomime. Year 12 girls, write, direct and star in their take on the great British tradition. In the last week of term the girls take to the stage to perform the pantomime for the rest of Senior School. The Panto is always a major highlight for the girls and staff, providing a fun and light hearted way to mark the end of a challenging term. As we went to press the girls were busy in final rehearsals. "They are going well. We have had some funny moments which we've kept in the Panto and I'm really excited to show everyone!" smiles Elise (Year 12).

For Year 13, the Autumn Term is a rewarding time. As they mature into confident young women, they assume the responsibility of being the oldest girls in School. They are leaders and role models who are key to representing pupil voice and shaping the School. Year 13 also marks the beginning of a time of change, as girls continue to look to their future. This term Year 13 girls have been attending university Open Days across the country before preparing and submitting their UCAS applications. Encouraging the girls to submit their UCAS applications in the Autumn term is a best practice at The Mount, allowing the girls time to focus on their studies while their offers for university places and interviews begin to trickle

in. They are closely supported by their teachers, Personal Tutors, Michael Spiers (Head of College) and Wendy Thompson (Careers and UCAS Leader). All of whom have spent time getting to know the girls, developing a mutual relationship and an understanding of their needs and abilities. They are able to offer bespoke and proficient guidance. "What I like about the mutual relationship with teachers is that we are treated like adults," comments Hannah (Year 13)

In November, Year 13 girls who took up the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) completed their presentations. The EPQ is a self-directed and largely self-motivated project which shows university admissions tutors that a student is capable of an in-depth research project and also what interests them. This year's EPQ presentations covered a scintillating array of topics, including Shakespearean costume, whether or not Shakespeare was a feminist, lessons from the US obesity epidemic, dolphin intelligence, medicinal herbs, the little black dress, universal credit, female serial killers and the business of the Marvel universe.

Although, the College years mark a huge change it is evident that it does not phase girls at The Mount. The Mount Sixth Form College has often been described as "The jewel in The Mount's crown" and it's clear that these girls are indeed growing up into diamond young women. The atmosphere across the College is extremely positive and inspiring. Girls are not only considerate and hard-working, but full of ambition and determination.

And in case you were wondering, Shakespeare's feminist status is still undecided, crisps trump popcorn and as for who will be next to hit the roads only time will tell!



AUTUMN REFLECTIONS

"I'm really enjoying College. The studies are a massive help and make it is so much easier to get your work done, as do the amount of free periods we have. I like how everyone is an email away so you have the support there for when you need it. And it's a really social and really nice environment."

Denva, Year 12

"College is mad, but it's mad in the best kind of way. The School knows it's unique and is very proud of that aspect which I think is very nice because it makes the School special."

Naomi, Year 12



EXPLORE

This term the Junior School introduced a new Creative Curriculum under the themes 'Explore, Discover and Create'. The girls were welcomed back in September to the news they were all to be intrepid explorers!



Year 1 and 2 visited the Yorkshire Air museum to launch their topic on flight. They were also visited by Mr Steen, a Royal Navy Pilot. They then embarked on a #thinkingadventure topic of great women explorers.



Year 3 and 4 explored Roman times in many different ways. They visited the Yorkshire Museum for a



morning of workshops before ending the topic with their own Roman Day. The girls were visited and put through their paces by a Roman Centurion, who looked suspiciously like Mr Spiers, Head of History!

Year 5 and 6 were evacuated to Ryedale Folk Museum as part of their topic 'A Child's view of WW2'. They also used their library sessions to find out more about life for children in World War II, through children's literature.



The new Creative Curriculum has also introduced ways to develop digital competency across all subjects. Year 3 and 4 brought Roman Soldiers to life by using Chatterpix to combine drawings and voice recording. Year 1 and 2 have been experimenting with green screen technology to create a biographic film about the pioneering British pilot Amy Johnson. This term we launched the Weekly Junior School vlog which is a combination of video and photographs highlighting weekly activities. Visit twitter to view the most recent vlog @mountoutdoor.

The Early Years children have enjoyed exploring fantasy lands in their topic 'Fantasy and Adventure'. *Room on a Broom* Follow My Leader and creating witches spells were just some of the popular fantasy adventures they had this term!



The girls have had plenty of opportunities to explore outside the classroom and enjoyed their outdoor education activities creating Autumn artwork, taking part in team challenges and jumping in puddles! (page 9).

Next term, Junior girls will be taken on a journey of discovery as they begin the 'Discover' section of the creative curriculum.

THE BENEFITS OF VERTICAL LEARNING

Promotes friendship with differing ages and develops emotional intelligence	Nurtures thinking and problem-solving skills, and extends vocabulary	Creates positive role models and leadership opportunities
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Read more at mountschool.york.co.uk

At The Mount, we champion 'Vertical Learning', this means teaching and running activities across year groups. Research shows that children who are taught in multi-age classrooms exhibit notable increases in self-esteem.

This term we extended the 'Vertical Learning' model into the Early Years as well as a new timetable which includes specialist teaching in Active Learning (games, dance and gym) French and Music lessons. This provides an excellent balance between adult led and child-initiated learning.

GIRLS CAN STEM

"Women should not think that coding is for men only: coding is for everyone. If you enjoy it, do it."



Wise words from Hannah (Year 4) who was named one of 12 winners of an international coding competition. Hannah's sentiment is borne out of a recent survey which indicates that it is girls' lack of confidence in their ability with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects, rather than shortage of ability, which influences them to be less likely to take up careers in STEM.

Hannah was one of 12 winners of the Shaun the Sheep Mission to Space international coding competition which was hosted by Aardman Animations, the Raspberry Pi Foundation and Code Club. The competition had entries from over 35 countries. The judges said that Hannah's project was very joyful, and felt the way she recorded her own voice for the animation was really creative and unique.

The findings from the survey, published by the Department for Education, suggest there is still work to do to change perceptions and close the gender gap in STEM. School standards minister Nick Gibb said "We all have a part to play, including parents and teachers, to dispel misconceptions about STEM subjects and help encourage our scientists of future generations."

We believe at The Mount we already do this. Over the last three years approximately over 75% of leavers went on to study STEM related subjects at University. Our all-girl environment nurtures girl's confidence (page 3), girls are given many opportunities to build their STEM knowledge through lessons and challenges.

This Autumn, A Level Scientists had the opportunity to take their learning beyond the classroom on a Biology field trip to Cranedale. One of the many challenges the College girls faced was collecting data from streams and marshes, and also to catch wild mice! "We all had to make traps and had to think

of the best place to lay the traps. Everyone caught a mouse except for one person whose trap was unfortunately broken," says Orlaith (Year 13). The learning experience was nevertheless valuable.



Being able to have playful fun with learning is also invaluable to building confidence. "We gave each of the mice names, like Stuart," says Anna (Year 13) "like the character Stuart Little."

A team of Year 8 girls who took part in the Institute of Engineering's Faraday Challenge faced a building task to create a moving vehicle. Emma (Year

8) said, "Our challenge tested our ability with team work, imagination and making decisions under pressure. It was really fun, we loved looking at the other teams' designs and ideas."

Having positive role models is also important; girls are inspired by the confidence of others aspiring to be like them. Girls in Year 1 and 2 have enjoyed all of their Thinking Adventures this term, and a particularly inspiring one was 'Women Explorers' where they looked at the lives of aviation pioneers Amy Johnson and Amelia Earhart. "Amy Johnson was the first woman to fly to Australia," smiles Tiff. "She came from Hull," exclaims Cecily. The girls are visibly inspired by their learning.

Hannah's words, "If you enjoy it, do it!" aptly sum up The Mount's attitude to girls in STEM!





Welcome to The Mount



Stacey Greaves joined the Early Years Team in September. She has years of experience working with young children as well as training in counselling children and young people. She lives with her partner and two children.

What drew you to a career in teaching?

I enjoy working with children especially within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). I am nurturing, caring and have a genuine

interest in each individual child's well-being, development and early learning. I take pride in children's achievements and encourage them to flourish and grow.

Who is your hero?

My heroes are people like my family members, who have stood by me and supported me through thick and thin. I've learned most heroes are ordinary people - it is their act that is extraordinary.

Currently Reading: *The Gruffalo* to the children! *The Girl in the Letter* to myself.

Favourite Film: *Stand by Me.*

Favourite Pudding: Hard choice! As I am a pudding fan! I will go with lemon drizzle cake.

Current Playlist: Avicii - Wake me up, The Nights, Lonely together.

Adam Dawson, joined The Mount this term as the new Head of English.

He is a father of two and married to his high school sweetheart. In his spare time, he plays with a successful tribute band, the Threatles.

What drew you to a career in teaching?

I had some great English teachers at my own school (Huntington) but I had other teachers that didn't connect well with students. I wanted to be the sort of teacher that I would have liked

to have and to help people learn in a relate-able way.

Who is your hero?

One of my earliest heroes was Jimi Hendrix - his guitar playing inspired me to pick up the guitar. In the literary world, I have a real soft spot for Christopher Marlowe, who not only wrote some excellent plays, but pushed at the boundaries of what live theatre could achieve.

Currently Reading: I'm actually reading a book that I stopped the Year 9 literature group from reading: *Perfume* by Patrick Suskind - to see if I'm overreacting!

Podcast or book:

I have to say book really don't !!? But it's hard to read while driving, so I probably consume more podcasts at the moment. I really enjoy Adam Buxton's.



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