



NEWSLETTER – 19TH APRIL

MESSAGE FROM MRS RICHARDSON, HEAD

Even as adults, we never stop learning. Term-time can be frantic, and for the most part there is very little thinking time, let alone opportunities for learning. I have therefore enjoyed a relaxing holiday, which turned out to be full of surprises. In our start of term assembly on Monday, I shared with the students some of what I learned during a recent trip to southern France. The best day was certainly our visit to the Chateau des Milandes in the Dordogne. The chateau was a key location during the Hundred Years' War [take note, PTA quizzers!] and again during the French Wars of Religion. However, it has enormous twentieth century relevance as the home of Josephine Baker.



Josephine Baker was a truly extraordinary woman. Born in the United States in 1906 to a black mother and with an unknown father, she was married first at age 13 and again at 15. She was a street child who subsisted by dancing, and her talent was spotted, taking her first to New York and then to Paris. In Paris she became famous for her dancing at the Folies Bergère, taking her into the highest echelons of Parisian social life.

When war broke out, Baker was recruited by French counter-intelligence, passing on information she overheard at embassy parties. With the surrender of Paris to the Nazis in June 1940, as a black woman, Baker was in danger. She moved to the Chateau des Milandes in Vichy France, where she continued to work for the Resistance both in France and in North Africa. After the war, Baker became a prominent Civil Rights activist, speaking after Martin Luther King at the March on Washington in 1963 and refusing to perform to segregated audiences in the US.





She returned to France where, unable to have children of her own, she adopted 12 children: her 'rainbow tribe' as she called them, to prove 'children of different ethnicities could still be brothers'. The children, ten boys and two girls, came from France, Algeria, Japan, Finland, Venezuela, Morocco, Columbia and the Ivory Coast and were brought up being educated about their cultural heritage, retaining their religions of birth. At the same time, the Chateau des Milandes was developed as a tourist attraction to show the world that 'racial hate is not natural. It's an invention by mankind.'



I am sure we can all reflect on Josephine Baker's life story; she triumphed against adversities which are, thankfully, incomprehensible to most of us. But her story serves to remind us of the importance of **standing up for what is right, and of being upstanders** where all forms of discrimination are concerned. I thoroughly recommend the Dordogne for holidays!

CO-CURRICULAR

The new co-curricular programme has been published on the website here:

<https://www.mounthouse.org.uk/co-curricular/>

It includes exciting music clubs like **choir**, the **accapella** group and **Phantoms**; summer sports like **tennis and cricket**; life skills-based clubs like **touch typing, communication and debating**; creative clubs like **baking, origami, drama, art and creative writing**; and games clubs like **Scrabble, retro computer games and chess** – to name but a few.

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

Thanks to all the students and staff who were involved in the school play which took place in the final week of last term. Thank you to the brilliant cast who worked incredibly hard, to their parents for all the support and to the staff who made things happen. Bravo to Ms Dawson and Ms Kelly!







P.E.

Athletes of the week:

Year 7	Queenie M
Year 8	Abigail A
Year 9	Selin S
Year 10	Raphael P
Year 11	Theo W

U13 Cricket fixture vs St Abbots

On Wednesday, Mount House ventured to St Abbots School for our first cricket match of the season. Despite a few players being new to the game, everyone gave it their all and showed great determination. The girls were particularly assertive with their fielding skills, pulling off some excellent catches. While we didn't clinch a win this time, I'm optimistic about the girls' development in cricket as the term unfolds. With each match, they'll gain experience and improve their skills, which will naturally reflect in our results. I'm confident that with dedication and effort, we'll see progress and success in the games ahead. Miss Buckland and I are truly proud of how well the girls represented our school, and we're looking forward to more cricket matches this term!



Written by Miss Hopping

**Netball**

This year, our students have displayed remarkable enthusiasm for netball, and we're keen to nurture and expand their talents beyond the school grounds. We're excited to share that the Young Fincs Netball club, located at Broomfield Park, offers a fantastic opportunity for girls to participate in the North London Netball League. The well-established club is hosting junior trials for the upcoming season on Thursday 4th July. If you're passionate about netball and eager to elevate your skills, we encourage you to join the trials and be part of this enriching experience.

**Y O U N G F I N C S
N E T B A L L C L U B****Junior trials****Years 8-11****Thursday 4th July
6-8pm****Wren Academy
Finchley
N12 9HB****YOUNGFINCS@GMAIL.COM
to Register**



SCHOOL COUNCIL



The School Council enjoyed meeting with the school's catering team, who listened to and responded to student suggestions and feedback about the lunch menu.

CHICKEN SHED

Chickenshed is a theatre for absolutely everyone, where through productions, performance training, education courses and outreach projects, their mission is to create wonder out of chaos and change out of challenge.

Chickenshed supports over 15,000 children and young people every year. Over 60% have experienced isolation and exclusion due to mental or physical ill-health, disability, bullying, gang pressure, interactions with the care system or being a young carer themselves. For many, Chickenshed is their safety net and second home.

They are currently organising their first community fundraising [Wonder Walk](#) to celebrate Chickenshed's 50th anniversary in 2024. The walk will take place on Sunday 9th June, starting and finishing at Chickenshed where they hope to attract 300+ participants and raise a minimum of £40,000.

This event is for the local and wider community and will hopefully be of interest to many parents and families at our school.





Weekly Menu

Week 2

MENUS NEXT WEEK

Monday

Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread

Honey Glazed Chicken wings with Garlic and Herbs

Vegetarian option
Macaroni cheese

Snack Option
Baked Potato
Or
Fresh Pasta

Served With
Oven Baked Herb Potatoes
Roasted Carrots
Green Salad

Dessert
Cherry and Bramley pie
With
Fresh double Cream

Tuesday

Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread

Turkey Masala with a Rich With Coconut Rice, mini coriander naan bread and mango chutney

Vegetarian option
Roasted sweet Potato and Chickpea Curry

Snack Option
Baked Potato with Various Fillings
Or
Fresh Pasta

Served With
Roasted Broccoli
Buttered sweetcorn

Dessert
Poached Pear Crumble
With Vanilla
Custard

Wednesday

Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread

Dish of the day
Italian Beef Lasagne with Garlic Bread

Vegetarian option
Roasted Vegetable and Puy Lentil Lasagne

Snack Option
Baked Potatoes
Or
Fresh Pasta

Served With
Sauteed Greens and Kale
Roasted Fennel Carrots

Dessert
Lemon Sherbet
Drizzle Cake

Thursday

Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread

PUPILS CHOICE

Themed Day Menu

Students Choice

Friday

Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread

Dish of the day
Breaded cod
Fillet with Tartar Sauce

Or
Salmon and dill fish cakes with tartar sauce and Lemon

Vegetarian option
Vegetable chilli with Rice
Bowl with melted cheese
Vegan Friendly

Snack Option
Jacket Potatoes
Or
Fresh Pasta

Served With
Crispy Spiced hand cut Wedges
Mushy Peas
Minted Garden Peas

Dessert
Blueberry cake

