

Word on the Street

STUDENT NEWS AND VIEWS

Student Council Warm Wishes

by **Caitlin McKellar**, Year 12, Head Chair of Student Council

'During this time, a lot has happened around us. We hope that all will come together sooner rather than later, and by September things may be a little more normal for the school and students. We in the Student Council hope you are all doing well, and hope to hear from you soon.

We as a team promise to keep our hopes high, and as soon as school starts once more, we will be getting back to hard work on new activities and special events and projects for you all to get involved in. Once school

starts again, we will be conducting learning walks to witness the conduct within the lessons and we will speak to the heads of department on the ways we can make classes more productive and enjoyable.

We're excited to hear what you've been getting up to during our prolonged break, and hope you are ready to learn once back. It might be hard after all that has happened, but we will be sure to support you every step of the way.'

During Lockdown, Student Council have been reflecting on how this time has made them appreciate some of the special things they hold dear, and the new found skills they've learnt. Here are some interesting points from two of our council members, Maymuna Rahaman and Caitlin McKellar, as they reflect on what they have missed, developed gratitude for and learnt during this time.

Over the past few months students have produced some outstanding work from their homes, thank you to all students for your efforts and learning at home!

Here are some shout outs to some outstanding students who've been chosen by their teachers-well done!

Maymuna Rahaman, Year 7

5 things I've missed during lockdown:

1. Friends
2. End of term assessments
3. School
4. Croissants
5. Teachers

5 things lockdown has made me more grateful for:

1. Food
2. Friends
3. Family
4. Myself
5. Everything my parents do for me

Interesting skills I learnt during lockdown:

- Taking care of siblings
- Learning Italian
- If I tidy my house every day, it looks and feels nice.

Caitlin McKellar, Head Chair of Student Council

5 things I've missed during lockdown:

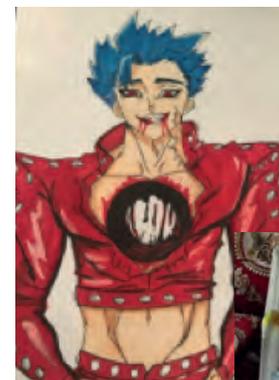
1. Meeting up with friends
2. Going out with family
3. Going to new places
4. Going to classes and more interaction
5. Going out for meals with my family

5 things lockdown has made me more grateful for:

1. The amount of time that goes into painting and drawing
2. More appreciation for books and reading in general
3. Spending time with family
4. More grateful for your own space, once tidied and organised
5. Trying out new recipes

Interesting skills I learnt during lockdown:

- Learnt how to paint
- Learnt how to be better with computers and coding



Diana Lita
Year 8
Heroes and Villains
Drama



Fatuma Sahra
Mohamed, Year 7
Rainforest in a box
Geography



Manha Teevana, Year 10
Alphabet Project, Art



Jiniya
Khatun,
Year 8 -
Lord of the Flies
Mood
Board
Drama



A message from the Heads of Houses

At the beginning of lockdown we felt disappointed and sad that the summer term was not going to be the same.

Which house would have won Sports Day? Which house would have raised the most money for charity and been crowned Fundraising Champions? Which house would have been awarded the most House Points at the end of the year and who was deserving of a rewards trip? Now, this may sound a little doom and gloom, and indeed it was, but lockdown encouraged us to think outside the box to find new and innovative ways to retain the incredible sense of inter-house competitiveness that two term's worth of events and competitions had created. We wanted to ensure that a 'virtual' house system continued to be full of competition, opportunities to be creative and fun most of all.

We launched a series of virtual competitions early on into lockdown and so many of you were brilliant in getting involved, showcasing your creative talents from baking to art to music to comic book creation. A selection of winners across all competition categories were chosen by Mrs Holden and awarded Amazon vouchers and the entries submitted by students across all year groups and



Live online events run by the Heads of House

across all Houses are truly wonderful - a snapshot of highlights include time-lapse drawing videos, heart-warming comic book panels celebrating frontline workers, three tier cakes and reflective poetry about the power of heritage. We plan to make a display of this fantastic work in September and we are very proud of everyone who participated.

Following this flurry of creativity, we wanted to deliver a House competition that was 'live' and lots of you joined members of staff in tuning in via a YouTube link. The 'Big House Quiz' and stream of comments proved that the inter-house rivalry was very much still alive and we were delighted to see you all supporting your House. Then came 'MAS - A Question of Sport'

A World Without Racism

by Eleni Brooks Y7



Mussamat Fabiha Rahman, Year 9
Isolation Creations

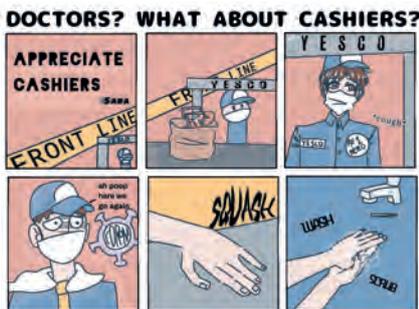
Imagine a world where the colour of your skin doesn't matter. Where everyone is considered beautiful (because they are), no matter their origin. Where nobody is stopped on the streets or treated as dangerous because they are not white. People are taught from the day they learn about good and bad, that white is good, and perfect. But they are taught that black is dark and evil, concealing faults and imperfections. Imagine a world where these lies do not exist. It would change everything- to the colours of the outfits villains wear in movies and books- to the way that people think about each other. Now think about every word I just said. Specifically 'Imagine'. We should not have to imagine this. Life shouldn't be the way it is. People should be treated like they are equal (because they are). People should get their basic human rights. But they don't. And we need to put a stop to racism, once and for all.



CoronaCon Comic strip accounts of the Covid 19 virus



Yusuf Chowdhury, Year 9



Sara Sarker, Year 9

where Mr Webb dominated with his sports knowledge, carrying his team to a sure victory over Mr McCabe and Mr Chu, and some of you even learnt how to bake bread with Mr Stokes when he hosted his very own YouTube tutorial!

We have enjoyed and appreciated your engagement with online tutor time activities during House Week, in particular your time-capsule 'Letter to myself' about your lockdown experience, as well as 5 daily positives which showed that even in the most uncertain of times, there is always something to be grateful for. We must give special mention also to the beautiful and heartfelt poetry written by some of you in response to the resources we posted to address the importance of the Black Lives Matter movement and its historical roots.

Lastly, a big thank you to those who have used their student voice to let us know their thoughts and feelings on how the house system has gone this year and your ideas for next year. Each and every comment helps us shape the future of Houses at MAS and since it's inception, we have done our very best to place you, our students, at the heart of the House system. Your voices will always be heard and will always be valued. Without you, we couldn't have achieved any of this so we are extremely grateful to you all for your enthusiasm, commitment and passion. We are very excited for all that is to come next year and hope you are too.

Enjoy a well deserved summer break and we look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Heads of Houses.

Brilliant Bake Off creations

Just a few of the amazing cakes that students baked at home



Amira Hayden, Year 8



Mabel Windram, Year 7



Mohammed Adnan, Year 7



Kamran Mazid, Year 7

The blacker the berry the sweeter the juice

By Tracy Bediako, Year 12

They say the blacker the berry the sweeter the juice,

Let's call it quits, let's call a truce.

Let's agree that racism is wrong, not only that, let's make blackness a melody, almost a song.

We've been fighting for years, decades, centuries in fact.

I'm tired, we're tired.

We don't want to give hate back, but is that what we have to do so we can remove the front and the back,

the top and the bottom.

The richer the poorer.

Because in reality none of that matters,

If I cut my hand and cut your hand, our blood is red so we're all brothers.

But society doesn't seem to see it that way.

We fought for everything, simple things, just being allowed to breathe and be ok.

You came to my country, you took all I had.

You called it 'appropriation', oh no, this is bad.

To me, it's cliché to say,

'I don't see colour', when that's what it is, but who am I aye.

So, no it's not ok to say the 'n word' because we're friends,

I don't care about 'he said', 'she said', this is where it ends.

And no it's not ok to sexualise, stereotype. And if I catch you doing it you'll regret your life.

Was that harsh? Sorry, let me stop being such an 'angry black girl' or an 'aggressive black man.'

I hope that one day if I had a child, I'd tell them:

'You're black, you're beautiful, you're Nubian, you're a star, don't let anybody ever tell you otherwise, we've been through way too much, we WILL NOT compromise.'

And if you're of a different colour, other than black, I hope that this hits you and hits you until SOMETHING cracks.

Because that's all we need as black people, we need something to crack.

Isolation creations

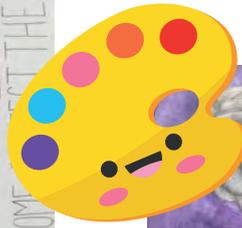
This is a selection of art work that MAS students have created at home during lockdown.



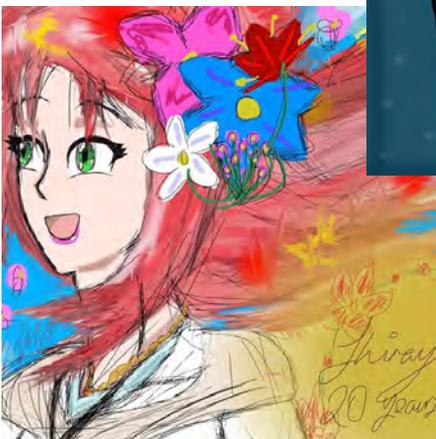
Ezinne Bako-Johnson, Year 7



Imran Miah, Year 8



Mehreen Chowdhury Demi Lou Craig Ward, Year 11



Fateha Begum, Year 9



Power of the Pen

An extract from
In The Night

by Liza Ruth Dalglish - year 7

The clock struck midnight. In the quiet suburban town, nothing stirred, nothing made a sound. All the street lamps had long gone out and the houses were silent. All human activity had stopped. The only light came from the bright moon which swam in the night sky, distant from the stars surrounding it, surveying the slumbering houses below with a watchful eye. The stars twinkled and you could almost hear them whispering to each other. They were pearly white jewels scattered across the blue-black canopy. The scorching heat of the day had left a cool, cloudless night. The tall trees dotted around the streets, rustling softly, seemed to sing for joy and an owl hooted in relief. The sound could be heard for miles around and was pure music in the dead of night.

Dark Skin Girl

By Catia Djalo Camara, Year 12

Tears are streaming down the Dark Skin Girl's face,
Pain is streaming down the Dark Skin Girl's face,
Disappointment is streaming down the Dark Skin Girl's face.
Her skin glistens, her melanated skin glistens in the sunlight, moonlight
but pain streams down the Dark Skin Girl's face.
No sense of validity in her heart,
No sense of love in her heart,
No sense of pride in her heart.
Her hurt from society's words resonates in her soul
but stays trapped within the layer between ignorance and morality which holds society together.

Dark Skin Girl's self-esteem is decreasing, and no-one cares.
I wish we knew how beautiful we are,
I wish we knew how our hair defies gravity,
I wish we knew how our skin reflects the sun,
leaving a sun-kissed honey glow resonating throughout society.
I wish we knew all of this but how can we even -

We are trapped in lockdown with no way out,
No way out, a constant on-going battle with ourselves.
We stare into the mirror screaming, feeling suffocated.
The mirror doesn't reflect back the

hate that society unleashes upon the Dark Skin girl,
The mirror doesn't lie,
The mirror reflects back the beauty, the beauty that has been forgotten about,
the beauty that isn't recognised,
the beauty that is demonised,
the beauty that is so hated.

Tears stream down the Dark Skin Girl's face as she remembers the painful memories,
the painful memories which were shoved back into her head,
she remembers how her skin complexion brought her so much sorrow,
she remembers how people would taunt her for her complexion,
she remembers the anxiety which suffocated her making her forget her beauty and believing the lies which she was force-fed.

However, lockdown has taught her that inner beauty overpowers hate,
lockdown has taught her how her melanin absorbs the sunlight leaving an everlasting glow,
lockdown has taught her how she doesn't need to seek validity from anyone.

Pride is gleaming upon the Dark Skin Girl's face,
Beauty is gleaming upon the Dark Skin Girl's face.

