

# Amazing Grace

December 2010

Vol.21 Issue 3

*Special points of interest:*

- **Careers Fair**
- **Year 12 Win Prize**
- **Poetry Competition**
- **New York Trip**
- **Family Cooking**
- **What's On this Spring?**
- **Results of Christmas Fayre**

## Dates For Your Diary

**INSET Day**  
4 Jan

**Y7 Parents Evening**  
11 Jan

**Y12 & 13 Parent Consultations**  
18 Jan

**Gala Evening**  
28 Jan

**PTFA Supper Quiz**  
Sat 5 Feb  
19.00 - 23.00

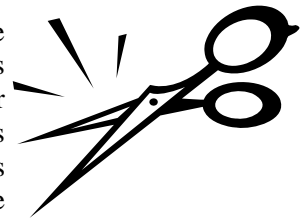
**Half Term**  
Mon 21 Feb—Fri  
25 Feb

## Message from the Headteacher

### All change?

The Comprehensive Spending Review, the Education White Paper and the Local Authority Cuts are going to make for an interesting year!

It is clear that Mount Grace is going to be affected by these changes ... and they will not only be financial. Many services currently funded by the Local Authority are likely to be cut or disappear. We are expecting to lose many Extended Schools activities, the Schools' Sports Coordinator, Advisory Teachers and Consultants, Specialist Behaviour Support and so on. The school is not going to be able to replace these services, much as we would like to.



The extent of the financial cuts are still not clear, but Mount Grace is in the fortunate position of being able to absorb some reduction in budget without significantly affecting the curriculum. That said, I am already looking at various scenarios which will ultimately reduce choice at KS4 and KS5.

Whilst the coalition government claims to be letting schools decide their own curricula, it is busily closing down the options for KS4 students. An example of this is the "English Baccalaureate", EBacc for short. The government intends to "report" or pressure schools into reducing the options for bright students: to qualify for the EBacc, students must gain "C+" grade GCSEs in English, Maths, Double Science, one Modern Foreign Language and either History or Geography. For these students there will only be ONE remaining option, if we keep the current curriculum structure. Furthermore, they have announced their intention of reporting this outcome retrospectively from summer 2010. As you know, many of our students follow vocational courses which do not currently qualify for the EBacc and consequently our EBacc "success" rate is 6.4%.

### Academy Status

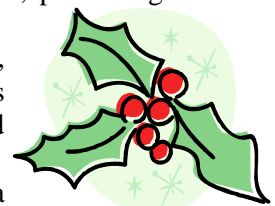
You will, no doubt, have heard a lot about this in the media. Many Hertfordshire Secondary Schools (probably about 40, according to Justin Donovan, the county's Chief Education Officer) are likely to convert to Academy Status this academic year. The Governors of the school met on Monday and have decided to investigate the matter further and consult with all stakeholders about becoming an Academy. There will be consultation meetings with staff, parents and other interested parties. These will take place during January. We will let you know when we have more details.

### Admission Rules

The Governors have once again modified our admission criteria for intake in September 2012 to include selection of 10% of the intake by aptitude. This brings us into line with our neighbouring secondary schools. To see the revised rules, please log on to our website.

It would be easy to be very anxious about next year. However, I am confident that we have the resources, enthusiastic students and excellent staff to turn these challenges into new and exciting opportunities for Mount Grace School.

I would like to wish all of you a very "Merry Christmas" and a "Successful New Year".



Peter Baker

## **Mount Grace School Careers Fair** **Can you help?**

As part of the Careers education, information, advice and guidance for students at Mount Grace School, we are putting on our first (and hopefully annual) Careers Fair. The event will take place on **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011** between **1pm and 3.30pm** and will provide KS4 students with the opportunity to meet and interview visitors from a wide range of industry sectors, to find out about their qualifications, jobs and career pathways. We already have volunteers from many industry sectors but are looking for more. If any parents, friends or family members feel that they could donate an afternoon of their time to come in and talk about their working experiences we would be very grateful.

If you feel you can support the event, please contact Nancy Hone, via school reception, who will be able to provide further details.

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## **CONGRATULATIONS TO** **JAMES 7FA**

James has been playing golf since the age of 5 and is a member of HADLEY WOOD GOLF CLUB and plays for their Junior team.

James has also been taking part in the HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY JUNIOR ACADEMY PROGRAMME which is funded from Sport England through the England Golf Partnership National Training Initiative.

## **David**

David qualified and competed at the Countryways Gundog Junior Challenge final at Sandringham in September with Barney, a Labrador. He had to direct Barney where to go only using hand signals and a whistle to bring him back three retrieves. He came first out of 20 juniors.



## **Year 12 pupils win £100 Dragons Den** **prize at** **Hertfordshire University**

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November, six pupils on the BTEC Business Level 3 course took part in a Dragons Den style competition at Hertfordshire University. The aim of the competition was to create a new product idea and pitch it to a panel of judges in the hope of their support and investment.

The MGS team produced and delivered a fantastic pitch, depicting their idea of a revolutionary gaming glove with confidence and belief in the future success of their idea. The glove harbours sensors on each of a hands' joints, is activated via infra-red and works with a camera attached to a games console.

All six pupils: Connor, Ameet, Rosie, Robert, Greg and Andrew delivered a well-prepared pitch, answering the judges gruelling questions with confidence. The MGS team were up against many other schools in the borough, and scooped the prize for creating the 'most innovative product'.

All of these pupils took home £100 HMV vouchers and certificates from Hertfordshire University.

## Poetry Competition

The following Y9 students have been entered into the nationwide “*Poetry Matters*” competition run by ‘*Young Writers*’.

The poems had to be about what ‘mattered’ to them and they ranged in topic from horses to food, love and homophobia, demonstrating the range of talent we have in our young writers here at Mount Grace. As a sample, look at Amber’s excellent contribution opposite! Congratulations to all of them and fingers crossed for our results!

**Macey  
Phoebe  
Sammi  
Giorgio  
Sarah  
Hadley  
Chiara  
Amy  
Trey  
Maria  
Tom  
Rachel  
Maisie  
Ellie  
Emily  
Emily  
Amber  
Emily  
Nick  
Katie  
Hannah**

Look out for further challenges that Mount Grace students are tackling, in particular the ‘Mount Grace Chronicles’. Our year 7s and 8s are demonstrating their literary talents by having their work published in an actual book! This will be on sale soon.

See Miss Stradling if you want to know more.

## What Matters to Me

What matters to me is love  
What matters to me is hate  
What matters to me is destiny  
What matters to me is fate.  
What matters to me is not what I have learnt,  
but what I have taught.  
What matters to me is not my  
competence, but my character.  
What matters to me are not how many  
people I know,  
But how many people will feel a lasting loss  
when I have gone.  
What matters to me are not my  
memories,  
But the memories that live in those  
who loved me.  
What matters to me are the little things  
That make life complete  
Like simply knowing you’re here  
Now it’s very clear  
What matters to me,  
Is my love for you is true.

**By Amber 9CY**

## Year 12

Year 12 Health and Social Care students had the amazing opportunity to explore social skills by going for a week of work experience at a variety of different early year’s education settings, such as playgroups and nurseries in the Potters Bar area. This is part of one of three placements over the year for our unit six which consists of 100 hours of work experience. During the work placement we gained both organisation and communication skills. We also expanded our knowledge of younger years and it gave us an insight into the roles and responsibilities of being an early year’s teacher. Some of the tasks we performed were: reading stories, painting and snack time. Some students worked closely with children during the work experience that had specific learning needs; they needed assistance which involved learning sign language. We really enjoyed our time and cannot wait for our next work placement! In October we also attended a child protection course. This improved our knowledge of how to deal with any difficult situations and how to be professional while working with children.

**Health event to Hertfordshire  
University  
Year 10**

Miss Wells and Mrs Smith took Year 10 Health and Social classes to Hertfordshire University, Hatfield. Here we took part in various activities to do with the NHS, which we discovered is the third largest employer in the United Kingdom. In the first half of the day we watched a production by a theatre group, to do with different types of NHS jobs. This was very interesting and was a good way to help you think about future choices and courses. There are over 300 to 500 job opportunities in the NHS. During the second half of the day we met three different people - a Paramedic, a Midwife and a Physiotherapist which are different types of jobs in the NHS. During the paramedic session we learnt that the ambulance service has a variety of different incidents that it covers. In the Midwifery section we learnt that midwives are only there for the third trimester and after birth. During the physiotherapy section the lady taught us how to measure our knee joints and how to use a stethoscope. Throughout the whole day we had a fun-time and it was worthwhile for health and social students and people who are interested in jobs with the NHS.

Written by Health and Social Care  
Group A Year 10



**Coming to  
Mount Grace  
from Jan 5<sup>th</sup>  
2011**

Fun, laughter, and fat burning in one!

Classes for everyone

Mon and Wed at 7.30pm

(doors open at 7pm)

£5.00 each, U12 £2.50

Visit [www.zumbaherts.com](http://www.zumbaherts.com)

For all class times and information

Michele Giles is a former UK Reebok National and European  
Aerobic Dance Team Champion with over 20 years experience in  
Health & Fitness

For additional info visit website or call Michele on  
01707 876344 or 07793 753921

**Year 10  
Important Diary Dates Early 2011**

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January**

9.00am – Science Unit 1 - External GCSE Exam

1.30pm - English Literature - External GCSE  
Exam

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January**

9.00am – Science Unit 2 - External GCSE Exam

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March**

1.30pm – Maths Unit 2 - External GCSE Exam

These dates are set by the exam board and cannot be changed. Please check formal statements of entry to be clear about attendance

**Year 10 Work Experience – April 2011**

Just a reminder to all our Year 10 students about their work experience – if you are arranging your own placement please remember to have the work experience referral request forms back to the school by the last day of term, Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December. If you are trying to arrange your own private placement and experiencing difficulty please do contact Mrs Wootten at the school and we will try and help. Once we have all the referral request forms back we will be able to confirm places booked using Webview and will begin notifying students of their placements in January. Any problems please do contact us at the school and we will do what we can to help you.

N C Hone, Director of Applied Learning

## **MGS in the City - Part 2!!**

At 5.00am on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2010 13 members of MGS set off for what was to be a fantastic 6 day adventure to New York! We arrived during the early afternoon and from the moment we all saw the Manhattan skyline we were in awe of the incredible island that was to be our 'playground' for the next couple of days.

As we walked up the stairs of the subway of 'Times Square' we were astounded with the sheer incredulity, the lights, the steam rising from the sidewalk - it was like we were walking around in a movie set – it was so surreal!

Thursday evening was full of surprises, first we all went to Times Square for a photo session; 'Shirley Temple' cocktails at 'The View' a revolving cocktail lounge situated within the prestigious 5\* Marriott Marquis with spectacular 360' views of Manhattan, this was followed by a meal at the Olive Garden then on to the Empire State Building.

The last day included a cruise around Manhattan island, all the students were so chilled out enjoying the leisurely tour on the wonderful iconic Hudson River enjoying the views of the Manhattan skyline including; the Chrysler building; the Brooklyn Bridge and Pier 17 to mention a few – it was truly breathtaking!!

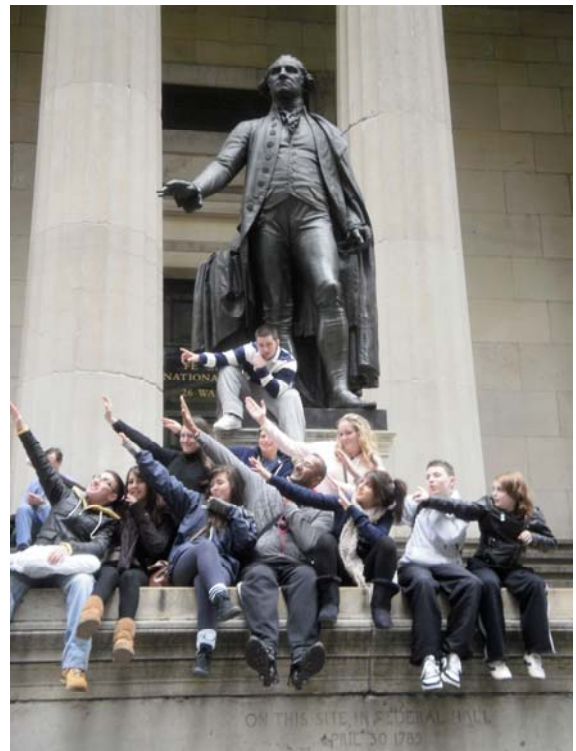
Mr Bhura - Trip Organiser



Outside the New York Stock Exchange



A leisurely ramble in Central Park



A blessing from George Washington!

## Media Department – Visiting Speakers

We have been lucky enough to have various visiting speakers this term to enrich our students' understanding of media industries. Firstly, Amir Saeidiani spoke about his photographic career path and showed some excellent photography. Then, we had Emily Fussell who spoke with the Year 13 Diploma students about her job at the British Board of Film Classification and showed how clips are classified depending on their content. Emily gave a wonderful presentation and was on hand to answer any of the students' questions as well. Lastly, we had access to a celebrity DJ, Melvin Odoom from Kiss 100 Breakfast Show, who spoke with some of the Year 12/13 students. Melvin was entertaining and passionate about his job and explained how to get into radio broadcasting based on his experiences. Melvin also left some contact details for students to enquire about work experience at Kiss 100 in the future.

Shirley Bierman (Head of Media Studies)

### A message from BBC Three Counties Radio

When snow falls across Hertfordshire, BBC Three Counties Radio will be broadcasting school closures and extensive travel news on 90.4FM (West Herts.), 92.1FM (East Herts.), 95.4FM (North Herts.) and 103.8FM (South Herts.). If you can't get access to a radio, links to all the LEA school closure websites can be found at [www.bbc.co.uk/threecounties](http://www.bbc.co.uk/threecounties).



## Taking a Bite out of the Big Apple!

As many of you know, during the October half term Mr Bhura and Mrs Crawford took a few students on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to New York City. These students were: Isaac, Daniel, Emily, Chris, Demi, Nicole, Rebecca, James, Katie, Joanna and Joe.

I'll start the story at the very beginning. On a cold, wet Tuesday morning as we set off on a journey we would never forget. And so we arrived at Heathrow airport and, after a mad sprint to get to our gate before it closed, found ourselves aboard American Airlines flight AA115. We touched down at John F Kennedy International Airport and got on a coach to the Broadway Hotel & Hostel, our home away from home for the next four nights.

The following days were a mass of shopping and sightseeing. We had a few interesting visitors including Daniel's policeman cousin, and Mr Bhura's brother. We saw all the sights and went to the top of the Empire State Building, and went in a revolving restaurant. Did you know the Statue of Liberty's nose is four feet long? For the majority of us the shopping was the highlight of the trip, but for me, I just had to pinch myself every five Minutes!

Isaac, 8LZ



## **Potters Bar Extended Schools Consortium**

### ***More Family Cooking at Mount Grace and it's still free***

We have just completed the 10<sup>th</sup> Programme of this grant aided project. Families have got back to basic cooking, improved their confidence and cooking skills. Ms Sarah Wells, and Ms Gail Malby have taught families to cook curry, lasagne, Christmas Chocolate Log to mention a few.

This is what some families had to say:

*"Lovely to spend quality time with my daughter whilst learning new skills"*

*"Fantastic fun, fantastic food, fantastic people"*

*"I love it, love the chopping and preparing and eating the food"*



The programme is open to young people aged between 10 and 13 years, along with an adult (Mum, Dad, Carer, Grandparent, sibling, family friend).

So come along to our family cooking sessions, which are still **free**. Details as follows:

**Where?** Mount Grace School, Potters Bar

**When?** Feb/March 2011 (Monday nights) – dates to be confirmed, taking bookings **now**

**Time:** 6-8pm

**Age:** 10/11-13 years with a parent or carer

**Cost:** FREE

To book call **Reggie Thompson** on

**01707 655512 x 252** or email:

**thompsonr@mountgrace.herts.sch.uk**

## BRING A BOTTLE OF WATER



Please make sure that you bring a bottle of water with you to school each day. The fountains can become frozen during severe weather - and children learn better if they are well hydrated!.

## WHATS ON IN THE NEW YEAR IN HERTSMERE

All the activities below are run in conjunction with Potters Bar Extended Schools Consortium.

**FEBRUARY HALF TERM ACTIVITIES – channel their energy so that you can get yours back!**

### **WICKED**

#### **DANCE & DRAMA WORKSHOP**

Hens Theatre Company present a day of musical theatre and drama based on the Hit West End Musical WICKED aimed at 7-13 year olds.

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February

When: 10am-3pm

Where: St Giles C of E School, South Mimms

Cost: £15 per child

To book call 07834 522971



### **FOREST SCHOOL**

Outdoor family fun. Come along and learn den building and many more creative outdoor activities

**When:** Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2011  
9am – 12pm OR 1pm – 3.30pm

**Where:** The Wroxham School, Potters Bar

**Cost:** FREE FREE FREE FREE

To book call 07834 522971

### **MOUNT GRACE**

#### **MULTI SPORTS CAMP**

The MGS Sports camp is open to children from 6 - 12 years old and will focus on sports such as Football, Tag Rugby, Netball, Basketball and Rounders (to name a few)



**When:** Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2011

8.30am -3.30pm

**Cost:** £15 per child per day

To book call 07834 522971

## FREE WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS

### **TIME OUT FOR ADHD**

A course for parents and carers to help support and further their skills in supporting and understanding a child with ADHD.

**When:** A 6 week course beginning on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 7.30-9.30pm

**Where:** The Church of King Charles the Martyr, Mutton Lane, Potters Bar

**Cost:** Free

To book: call 07834 522971

### **COMMUNICATING WITH TEENS**

A course for parents to help them understand their teenagers, how to handle common problems and communicate better.

**When:** Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February 7-9pm

**Where:** The Church of King Charles the Martyr, Mutton Lane, Potters Bar.

**Cost:** Free

To book: call 07834 522971

To book a place on any of the above activities download a booking form from [www.hertsextendedschools.org.uk/pottersbar/](http://www.hertsextendedschools.org.uk/pottersbar/) or call Carrie Andrews on 07834 522971 or text your name/child's name and the activity you want to do to 07834 522971 and we will call you back.

### **NEW AT MOUNT GRACE – COME AND CONVERT YOUR COOKING SKILLS INTO A QUALIFICATION**

Would you like to have fun and learn new skills at the same time? Convert your cooking skills into a food safety qualification? Then come to Mount Grace to study for the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health Level 2 in Food Safety. Ideal for working in pubs, hotels, restaurants, retail, schools etc

**When:** 24, 31 January and 7 February 2011

**Time:** 6-8pm

**Where:** Mount Grace, Food Technology Room

**Cost:** £15. (If you have a child under 5 and are registered with Hertsmere Leisure Children's Centres then your fees may be funded).

To book a place download a booking form from [www.hertsextendedschools.org.uk/pottersbar](http://www.hertsextendedschools.org.uk/pottersbar) or contact Christine James on 01707 655512 x 252

**NON-UNIFORM DAY**  
**Friday 19th November 2010**

What a great start to the Fayre - a remarkable response to requests for everything from mince pies to a bottle of whisky. Gifts for the Chocolate Tombola and General Tombola allowed us to make two of the better profits and we hope to double the results in the near future - thanks to Cheryl and Karen.

THANK YOU to everyone who sent in gifts and/or money. The day started with SORTING - an amazing group of parents, friends and, dare I say it, grandparents plus some of the Sixth Form helped with setting out, lifting up, covering and decorating - the Hall looked wonderful.

**CHRISTMAS FAYRE**  
**Saturday 20th November 2010**

The three little maids from school, Gail, Mary and Barbara, must have been pleased with the Hall and the queue waiting impatiently for entry into Santa's Grotto.

The home-made cakes of every description were a hit with everyone, refreshments were very busy, Santa showed amazing vision, recognising some families and their misdemeanours!!

The Christmas trees looked wonderful and have been kept up for the Old Folks' Party and the Christmas celebrations. Wisely, we asked for comments from stallholders so that we can be prepared for next year—and we hope to have a meeting to discuss them and implement at least some of them.

The result so far is a profit of **£2,750** and rising - as some money from the Silent Auction has still to come in and hopefully the £ for £ on two of the stalls.

It would be invidious to mention anyone else by name - so many of you gave your time as and when you could—but a huge thank you to you all from Barbara, Mary and Gail who led the team.

**FAMILY QUIZ**  
**Saturday 6th November 2010**

In spite of some concern about clashes with Firework Displays we had fifteen tables for the evening. Thanks to Alastair we had a plan! Plenty of help meant we could set up, prepare the food and sort prizes for the winners and the raffle. We have some very talented helpers and the prizes always look appealing.

The Physical Education Department will be the recipients of the raffle proceeds (£253) and this will go towards the purchase of goal posts for 7-a-side football—in turn we borrow them for the Primary School Tournament. (Next Quiz—Saturday 5th February 2011—forms attached).

**Dates for your Diary – 2011**

Monday 10th January  
Committee meeting in Library from 7 p.m.

Saturday 5th February  
Family Quiz Evening

Sunday 6th February  
Stamp Fair Refreshments

R & R

Fairs

# POTTERS BAR STAMP FAIR

at

Mount Grace School, Church Road  
Potters Bar, Herts.

Stamps, Postal History & Postcards

## 6th February 2011

(16-20 participating dealers)

Open 10am - 4.00pm  
Admission Free, Refreshments all day

**OTHER DATES FOR 2011:**

**17TH APRIL**

**26TH JUNE**

**25TH SEPTEMBER**

## Traffic Danger

This is the sign outside the school gates on Quakers Lane. No stopping is indicated by wavy yellow lines and you must not stop anywhere along the length of the road markings or you can be fined and issued with penalty points. This means that you **MUST NOT** stop to let people in or out of the car or to load or unload goods. If you need to pick up/drop children off or help them carry something to or from school, then please do so on Mount Grace Road. This will reduce traffic congestion and the likelihood of a serious accident. The school has regularly urged parents not to stop outside the school gates, for safety reasons. Unfortunately, a number of parents have ignored our requests to keep our children safe. From 5<sup>th</sup> January 2011, the school will take photos of cars stopping illegally outside the school gates and pass them to the police.



## JACKIE SOUTHEY

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Jackie Southey, who worked for Hertfordshire Catering.

Mrs Southey was highly respected at the school for her dedication to the school in running the canteen and her support at many events held at the school.

Mrs Southey also gave much of her time to the recent canteen refurbishment over the summer which was much appreciated.

She will be missed by staff and students at Mount Grace School.

Peter Baker  
Headteacher

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[www.mountgrace.org.uk](http://www.mountgrace.org.uk)