



MOUNT HOUSE
SCHOOL

10 OCTOBER 2019

WEEKLY UPDATE



A message from the Principal

The Mind of a Fox is a book on scenario planning by the South African business strategists Clem Sunter and Chantell Ilbury. It details a philosophy where strategists should explore the future; if you are aware of **what could happen**, you are better able to prepare for **what will happen**.

When I first met Chantell, she was looking for a way to bring her model of scenario planning to a younger audience and I was looking at an inspiring way to teach critical thinking skills. We realised that the kind of structured processes explored in her book are ideally suited to help young people develop and test options before embarking on a strategic plan. We sat down to try to create a framework for school students, and the concept of the **Growing Foxes** course was born. After some trial sessions, that I ran at Mount House in 2017, the course has now been fully developed and launched in South Africa this year.

The trouble with the future is that you don't know what it is going to be until it arrives. At that point it can be too late to plan for it. A 'Foxy' strategist will be able to assimilate a number of different alternative outcomes and prepare for them; this allows them to find a route around problems and get to a successful outcome. In contrast, the 'Hedgehog' sees only one route to success; if that route becomes blocked, there is no alternative plan.

This week we had the training for the **Growing Foxes** course. After half term, we will start to roll out the 10 lesson course to pupils in the school, starting with year 9. This is an exciting initiative for the school as we will be the only school in the UK running the course this year. We will be leading the pack; a great place to be!

I. Mulhiss

WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT WEEK?

October 16th – Ski trip meeting for parents and children 6.00-7.30pm

October 17th – Y12 and Y13 parent consultation evening 5.30pm-7.30pm

October 18th – Half term 4pm

Sixth Form Parent Consultation Evening

The Sixth Form Parents Evening is on October 17th 5.30-7.30pm. Parents should have received an email about this and their daughters and sons should be making appointments with their teachers.

Mr McCormick

After defeating his opponent in the semi-finals, Mr McCormick is through to the final of the Mensa Scrabble finals to be held in Hertfordshire during half term. We wish him the best of luck!

Geography update

Our top year group are the Y8s who are leading the weekly quizzes on Show My Homework, closely followed by Y11s.

Governance Committee

There is a space available on the school's Governance Committee for a KS3 parent (Y7, Y8 and Y9). If you are interested in this role then please email Mr Mullins on mullinst@mounthouse.org.uk by October half term. More information can be found at

<https://www.mounthouse.org.uk/?s=governance>

Lost property

There is now a box in the chapel for lost property and it is quite full. Please ask your child to look in there as a first port of call for any lost items.

Please also ensure that all items are labelled, including shoes, trainers, coats, calculators etc.

A message from our Senior Leadership Team

The Selfie

The selfie has become a huge part of modern life. It has transformed the simple self-portrait into something more immediate and has grown in cultural importance, being linked to identity, self-exploration and narcissism. So is it something to worry about, or just a bit of harmless fun?

In the vast majority of cases, selfies are fun and harmless. The only time you may need to intervene is if your child's selfie-taking is leading to them becoming overly-concerned about their appearance, it's affecting their self-confidence or if they've sent someone a picture they regret taking.

Doing anything in excess isn't good, but as long as you encourage your child to lead a balanced life, then selfies will simply be another way to have fun in the digital age.

'Parent Info from CEOP and Parent Zone'

Natasha Hillcoat-Hyde, Assistant Head (Pastoral)

WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT WEEK IN SPORTS?

October 15th – Y10 netball tournament at Copthall

October 16th – Away match – U13B football team v The Kings School