



MOUNT HOUSE
SCHOOL

INHOUSE

September 2019

Issue 01

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



As I write this, we have just completed the most popular, and successful, Open Morning in recent memory.

I need to thank everyone who was involved in this event where we had 150 families visiting the school for the three hours on Saturday morning.

My thanks to all the parents who brought their children in to act as guides and to take part in the activities on show. Also, to both Mr Bryans (year 11 parent) and Mrs Webster (Years 7 and 8) who manned the dining room and answered so many questions.

I am also immensely grateful to all the pupils who took part, and were such fantastic ambassadors for the school, and to the SLT along with all the teaching staff for organizing such a wonderful set of activities on the morning.

The administrative staff too, along with our wonderful caterers, made the morning run really smoothly and ensured that all our very large number of guests were efficiently moved from one venue to the next, with minimum fuss, and also kept everyone refreshed. What an end to a super week!

It has been an interesting start to the term with all that has been happening in the news. The future of independent schools has once again been questioned by some of our politicians. Talk of confiscating assets and redistributing them will, hopefully, turn out to be 'sabre rattling' rhetoric but it does show that we are living in uncertain times. With Cambridge University committing itself to a greater proportion of pupils from the maintained sector and talk of higher university offers for students from private schools, it is becoming obvious that we cannot afford to relax.

"The largest, and most successful, Open Day that anyone can remember!"

All our new teachers have settled well, and I am hugely impressed by the standard of our teaching, across the board, this term. As parents will realise, I visit lessons every day on my tours and it has been a great pleasure to see so much clear enjoyment and focus in every classroom. This will, inevitably, feed its way through to strong examination results in the years to come.

This is the first of the newsletters for this year; you should also have been receiving the weekly bulletins. Over the coming weeks and months, these will be developed, and improved, further to provide all the school's stakeholders with the information they need. Parents can also view our twitter feeds and the new Facebook page that will be launched imminently.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members of our community who have sent messages of support since I announced my retirement at Christmas. I am very grateful for all the kind sentiments. Over the next three months I will remain tireless in my efforts to ensure that the school continues to improve and that there is a seamless handover. The appointment of my successor should have been made by Christmas and, thus, parents will have the opportunity to meet the new Head early in the New Year.

A HOST OF NEW PUPILS

This term we welcomed the 51 boys and girls who have joined us into our new Y7. Their induction day included meeting their form tutors, a tour of the school and a Rock, Paper & Scissors tournament to help break the ice.

On Monday last week, they all went out on a PGL adventure day where they, and their tutors, enjoyed a great day of 'bonding'. They all appear to have settled into their new routine really well and are enjoying the challenges that Mount House is providing.

The new Lower 6th has 35 pupils to start this new school year. This is the largest number in recent memory and is providing the opportunity for larger teaching groups, even in the less popular subjects.

The new Lower Sixth too had a trip of their own – to Berlin for four days at the start of the new term. The trip was designed as both a bonding exercise and a history lesson with Mr McCormick providing the commentary.

These two new cohorts have taken the pupil total in the school to 243 – a fifty percent rise over the last two years. This is an exciting time for the school and is testimony to the progress we have made as Mount House.



"We would all like to say a huge thank you to Mr McCormick, Mrs Macdonald and Mr Kerr for supervising us for the whole trip and with a special thank you to Mr McCormick for putting so much time and effort into organising this wonderful trip."

Jemima and Ellana, Year 12

BERLIN TRIP 2019

By Jemima and Ellana

This year, Year 12 had the amazing opportunity to go to Berlin before we started our A level studies. We were given the chance to explore the history rich city visiting: Check Point Charlie, Topography of Terror, The Berlin Wall Memorial and The Stasi Prison, which, for the historians on the trip, brought our textbooks to life.

We also had a great time being chocolatiers at Ritter Sport and getting a birds-eye view of Berlin from 360 metres in the air in the Berlin TV Tower, as well as ample opportunities for shopping and time to traverse the city with our new-found friends.

We took a brilliant walking tour of Berlin led by amazingly enthusiastic tour guides and were able to see the best of Berlin for example, The Reichstag and The Brandenburg Gate, taking in the city's amazing art and architecture. Immersed amongst the culture and citizens of Berlin, we could see the suffering and hardship that the wall had caused and how it contrasted to the strong, unified city that we had the pleasure of visiting.



The Generator Berlin was the perfect hub for our stay and gave us a chance, as well as the cafés and restaurants, to sample the local German cuisine. However, the highlight of the whole trip was bonding with our new classmates. We chatted on the river cruise, went out together and enjoyed a family style dinner at the local pizzeria. Suddenly, we felt as though we had known our new friends for years. We returned as a close knit group, ready to brave the new year together.

SKI TRIP

PASSO TONALE, ITALY
DECEMBER 13-19TH 2019

Mr Scobie would like to invite the parents of children signed up for the ski trip to the main hall on October 16th at 6.00pm to discuss the trip. At this event, the company Snow Union will be in attendance and there will be the opportunity to learn about what kit pupils need to bring skiing. There will also be an opportunity to hire some of this kit on the evening.

GEOGRAPHY UPDATE

We are back to having Geography studied throughout the school from KS3 to A Level.

All Geography students are going head to head on weekly quizzes on Show My Homework to see which year group has the best Geography general knowledge.

KS3 topics: Year 7- Exploring the UK; Year 8- Amazing Landscape; Year 9- Global Interconnections.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES 2019

The Co-curricular Programme is in full swing. This year we see a broad and enriched programme offering a range of activities for students throughout the school. All students should sign up for activities via the 'School Online Communication System' (SOCS). If you have any questions with regards to signing up please direct them to Mrs N Hillcoat-Hyde; Hillcoat-hyden@mounthouse.org.uk

If you have questions with regards to individual clubs please ask your child(ren) to speak directly to the member of staff leading the club.



Under 12 footballers in action during their first match of the season

Students in Years 9 & 10 are currently taking part in hockey, football and handball, with those in Year 9 also taking part in cross-country. The programme for students in Years 11 – 13 has included netball, hockey, football, handball, rounders and fitness training in the Furzefield Gym.

Sports Clubs have started positively with a number of students attending a variety of clubs. To mention a few:

Gymnastics has reached maximum numbers and students have taken part in fun-filled sessions.

Running Club has been popular on Wednesday mornings with a number of students committed to improving their fitness whilst starting the morning with a challenge.

Approximately 40 girls attended **Netball** Trials on Thursday 12th September which was a fantastic turnout.

Football has been popular amongst the girls and boys who are all looking forward to competing in regular fixtures against teams from a collection of local schools.

SPORTS UPDATE

It has been an exciting start to the term for the PE Department. Having secured the use of Southgate Hockey Club and Furzefield Gym, we have introduced our Games afternoons for all students within the school.

Students in Years 7 & 8 have had the opportunity to take part in football, netball, hockey and cross-country.

A number of boys have attended **Basketball Club** and have started to develop their individual and match skills. The PE Department would like to say well done to all students for an active and positive start to the year.

'Scores on the doors'

Netball

Vs Archer Academy

U13 Girls Won 9 – 3

U15 Girls Lost 9 – 13

Football

Vs Normanhurst School

U13 Boys A Won 12 – 2

U13 Boys B Won 7 – 2

A really promising start to the term. Well done to all who played in the matches.

All students must remember that it is important that they have the correct kit, including shin pads and mouth guards when required.

MATCH INFORMATION – where to find your team’s fixtures

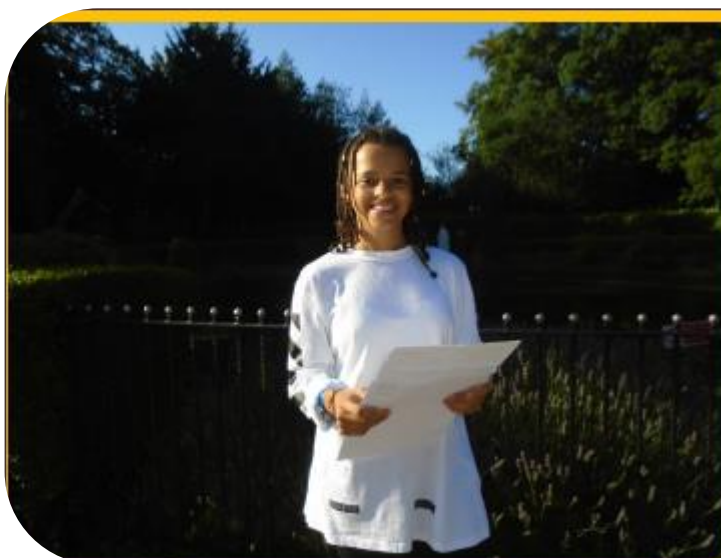
To check team sheets and match details - time, location etc. - please visit the following link to the SOCS area of our school website:- <https://socs.mounthouse.org.uk/Calendar.asp?id=25580>

Choose the match that you are interested in then click on details and team sheet.

Parents are allowed to watch matches and children will always be brought back to the school from away matches.

EXTERNAL EXAM RESULTS

Although neither our A level or GCSE cohorts were quite as strong as in the previous year, Mount House pupils still managed to produce a good crop of high grades this year.



Rachel – “Everyone should be proud of their own results, don’t judge yourself with others results, everyone has worked very hard. I am very pleased with my own results and I am now going to relax and get ready to come back in September.”

Rachel Six Grade 9s, three Grade 8s and one grade 7

Overall Grade Percentages 2019

A level		GCSE	
A*/A	38%	9 - 7	34%
A*/B	48%	9 - 5	78%
A*/C	64%		

In the GCSE exams, the results in most of the subjects, were broadly in line with our expectations. The Modern Languages, English Literature and the Art subjects being the most successful overall.

The GCSE performances are more modest than at A level, reflecting the mixed ability cohort in our Year 11. Some of the students gained some outstanding results, but we are not complacent about our GCSE performances and are always looking to make continuous improvements to ensure the very best results year after year.

At A level the percentage of grades at A*/A was just under 40% and the A*/B rate to just below the 50% mark. This represents another successful year for, as a non-selective school, we are very proud of our value-added scores that show how we have helped our students achieve their potential.

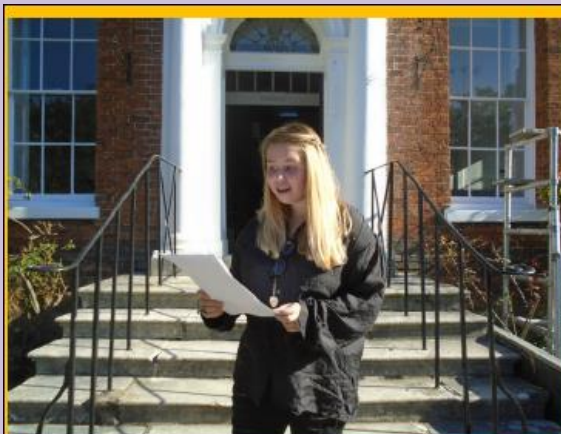
Effiyenia gained the A*A*A grades necessary to take her place at Cambridge but decided to accept a place to study Law at King’s College London.

Places were obtained by students at:- University of Edinburgh, London Fashion Retail Academy, Keele University, Kings College London, University of Newcastle, Birkbeck University, The Courthauld Institute, Sussex University, Cardiff University, University of the Arts London, University of Hertfordshire

All the leaving U6th formers gained places to study their desired courses at University. We wish them the very best of success in their new lives.

QUOTES FROM THIS YEARS GCSE CANDIDATES

Ellana (received A* A* 9 9 9 8 8 5) – “I didn’t bring my parents as I was too nervous but I am very happy! I am coming back in September to hopefully do 4 ‘A’ levels.”



Skye (received A & A* in English) – “I am very pleased with my results, I got what I expected and more. I had great teachers, especially in RE and Drama, who taught with passion.”



Keren (Y9 pupil and received a grade 9) – “I feel like someone needs to create the word to explain how I feel as I am speechless!”

Claire—

“I am very happy and am coming back in September”

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- September 28th Open morning 9am-12pm
- October 3rd Activities with the National Citizen Service for Y12 8.25am-9.10am
- October 10th Y7 Info & Social evening 5.30-7pm
- October 11th Y11 Sixth Form experience day
- October 16th Parents ski trip meeting 5.30pm
- October 17th Reports sent out to parents
- October 17th Y12 and Y13 parent consultation evening 5.30pm-7.30pm
- October 18th Half term starts at 4pm

HOUSE SYSTEM

The four new Houses (Chimborazo, Everest, Olympus and Rushmore) expertly led by the four new Heads of House (Alison Gillett, Sam Whitehouse, Eleonora Mariottini and Aidan Mullins) were formally launched to the whole School, by Senior Head of House (Patrice Smyth) in assembly.

As part of this launch, each House has been set the challenge of creating a completely new House identity; this includes producing a motto, song, mascot and banner. These will be used by the students during the fiercely competitive inter-house events throughout the year and we look forward to seeing and hearing their creations later in the term.

PARENT CONSULTATION EVENINGS

Y12 & Y13	October 17th 2019	5.30-7.30pm
Y11	November 14th 2019	5.00-6.30pm
Y9	January 16th 2020	5.30-7.30pm
Y10	January 23rd 2020	6.00-7.30pm
Y7	February 6th 2020	5.30-7.30pm
Y8	February 13th 2020	5.30-7.30pm

