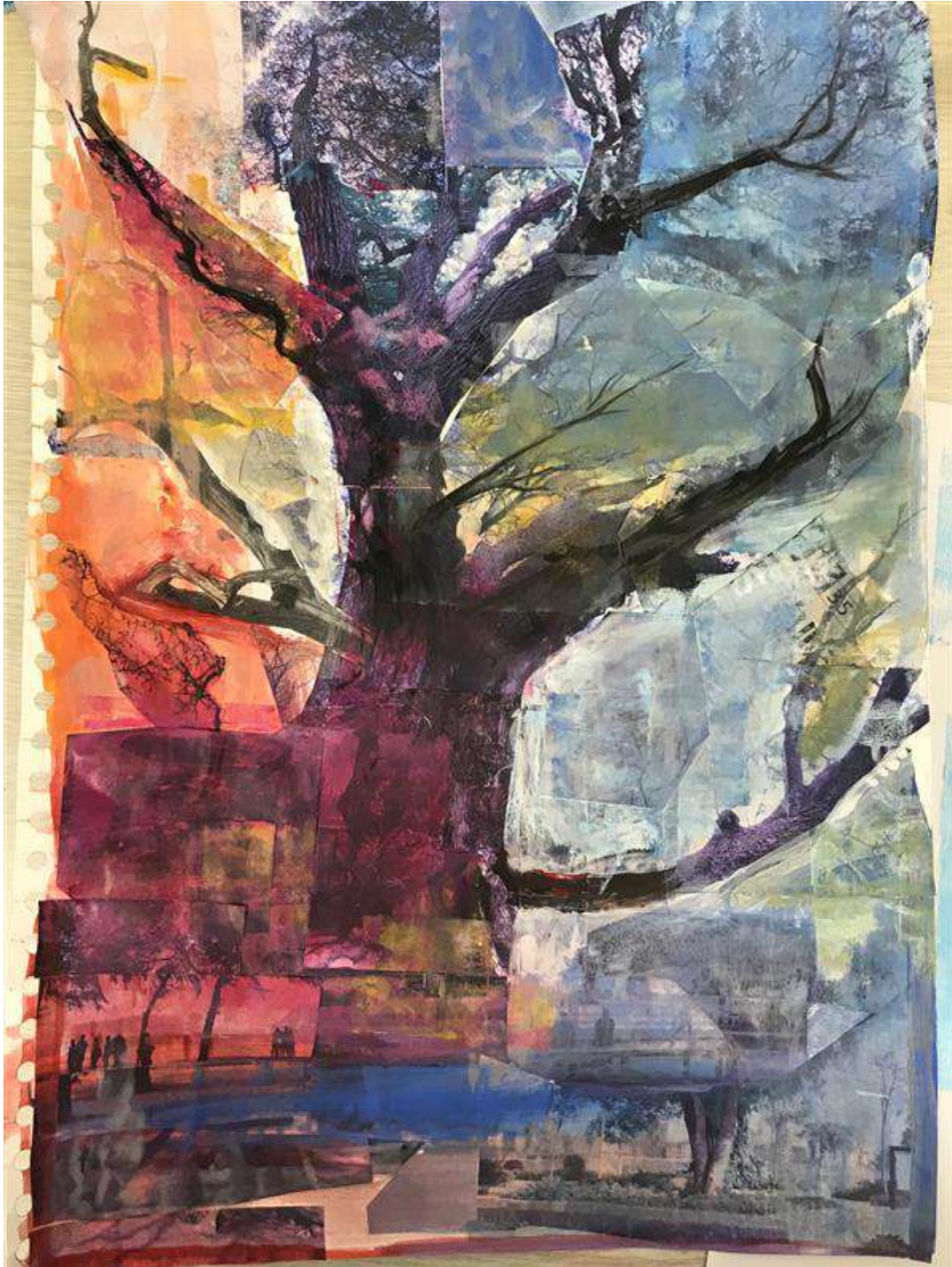




# InHouse

## MOUNT HOUSE STUDENT LOCKDOWN ARTWORK



JOHNNY LIU YEAR 12



## A message from Ian Davies, Headmaster

Dear Parents,

It was really good to welcome students to our Virtual School on Wednesday, and I am pleased that apart from a few minor teething problems the new lesson routine got off to a great start.

I hope that you all managed some rest and relaxation during the holiday, and that all your family remains well. You will find below the text of the assembly delivered on the first day of term outlining my thoughts on what we can all learn from the experience of the last couple of months. In the first paragraph you will notice that we are keen to support any students whose family might have experienced a loss at this time of challenge. If we are able to help, please get in touch.



Welcome to our first full school Assembly of the Summer Term - I hope you are all healthy and well rested after Easter and are looking forward to continuing your virtual learning programme which started last week. I hope very much that you and your families have managed to remain well, but if you have lost any family members to the virus please let Mr Kerr, Ms Smyth or Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde know and they will ensure your family member is enrolled in the Mount House Book of Condolence which we will post online.

I also hope you and your families have been enjoying the creative and very amusing posts on YouTube and WhatsApp, which prove that difficult times bring out a very creative and wry streak in the British people.

I have found, for example, that I need to practise social distancing with my refrigerator and will probably emerge from the lockdown as an amazing cook. I hope you do too.

However, this morning I want to focus on what lessons we can learn from this most unusual time, assuming of course that in the new world we now live in this IS an unusual time and does not become the new "NORMAL"

Firstly, and most importantly, we have learned that there is such a thing as SOCIETY. Forty years ago, Mrs Thatcher, the then first female Prime Minister of the UK, pronounced that there was 'no such thing as society' in order to emphasise her policy of individualism and to move us away from our reliance on the State. This pandemic, however, has made us much more aware that we are ALL in this together, all interdependent, and all reliant on certain key members of our Society.

We are now absolutely clear exactly who the Key Workers in our society really are, and our weekly opportunity to applaud them to thank them for their work is, and has been, one of the highlights of the week for me.

Secondly, we have been reminded in a vivid way that we are all connected, and something that affects one of us affects other people as well. In the past this has been called the butterfly effect - if a butterfly beats its wings in Brazil, we feel the breeze in Barnet. Our connectivity reminds us that artificial borders have little value if we have a virus to combat: the virus does not need a passport. So, we must all learn to work better together on a global basis if we are to win wars against unseen enemies.

Thirdly, the disease reminds us how precious something is that we all take for granted - our Health. Because we take it for granted, we neglect it by eating poorly manufactured and processed food, by not keeping physically fit, and by drinking water contaminated with chemicals. If we don't look after our health we will, of course, get sick.

Fourthly, this disease does treat us all equally, although it is particularly pernicious for those with pre-existing health conditions. But still, regardless of our culture, religion, occupation, financial situation or how famous we are, this disease treats us all equally.

We have also been reminded of the transitory nature of life itself, and that our most important duty is to look after each other, particularly the sick or those who are old. We have been reminded how materialistic our society has become and we now know the difference between what we really need and what we would like. These two things are easy to blur when times are good and we mistake our wants for our needs. It is the essentials (food, water, medicine) as opposed to the luxuries which we should value most.

Fifthly, we have all been reminded of the importance of family and home life - and how much we neglect this every day. Our forced enclosure in our houses has turned them once again into our homes and helped us to strengthen the family unit. It has reminded many of us that our true work is not our job; our true work is to look after and protect each other and be of benefit to each other.

This humbling experience has reminded all of us to keep our egos in control. No matter how great we think we are, or how great others think we are, a microscopic virus can bring our world to a standstill. Nature has amazing ways of reminding us that we are not ALWAYS in charge!

Sixthly, as I said in my final assembly of last term when I spoke about Camus' La Peste, we all have the power to act in ANY WAY WE CHOOSE in our response to this virus. It is not what happens, but how WE respond to changing circumstances that is important. We can choose to co-operate and help, to share and to give and to help and support. Or, we can choose to be selfish, to hoard, to look after only 'number one' - ourselves. We can be patient or we can panic! A crisis brings out our true colours.

And finally, we should all know that after every time of difficulty there is a time when things will ease. All things will pass and we should see that time as a new beginning. We can learn from our mistakes, and try to be better and do things in a better, more sustainable way as a result of the difficulties we have faced. It would be a great shame if we forgot the advances we have made in the last month or so, and returned to our previous less gentle, kind and thoughtful society that so many of us used to characterise as 'normal'.

What is 'normal'? Is a very good question that I would like you all to reflect upon in these challenging times.

So, remember the positives, and remember that things can both BE better and GET better.

With kindest regards,

**Ian Davies**  
**Headmaster**

## Science at Mount House

The following link to STEM Career Experiences will be particularly interesting to students in Years 10-13

[https://mailchi.mp/fb472e7c3af0/stem-995501?utm\\_source=InvestIN+Education+-+Schools+MASTER&utm\\_campaign=7d617b6b20-bankersschoolmar\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_ea2e31bba1-7d617b6b20-136203661&mc\\_cid=7d617b6b20&mc\\_eid=1bd984e946](https://mailchi.mp/fb472e7c3af0/stem-995501?utm_source=InvestIN+Education+-+Schools+MASTER&utm_campaign=7d617b6b20-bankersschoolmar_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_ea2e31bba1-7d617b6b20-136203661&mc_cid=7d617b6b20&mc_eid=1bd984e946)

**Mrs Martin**





## Academic News at Mount House

As a School, we have recently signed up to [Blutick.com](https://blutick.com), an online learning platform for the GCSE/IGCSE Mathematics curriculum. For each topic there is a video explanation, worked examples and questions to answer. Students input every line of their working and receive immediate intelligent feedback which identifies any mistakes made and guides students towards solving the problem. At the end of each topic there is a quiz where students must solve 6 questions to complete the task. Using Blutick's teacher tools, teachers can monitor student progress (they can see every line of working entered by each student on each question) and be in contact as needed to support their learning.

During the current school closure, we will be using Blutick in addition to what we are currently delivering, to continue your child's maths education and so from next week, teachers will set tasks on Blutick. You can find more information at <https://blutick.com/getting-started/>.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mr Gallagher (Head of Maths) at [gallagherp@mounthouse.org.uk](mailto:gallagherp@mounthouse.org.uk)

**Miss Sidhu**  
Academic Deputy Head

## Co-curricular Programme - Summer 2020

The Co-curricular Programme is underway with a variety of sessions having started this week. Those taking part in 'The Mount House Bake Off' met yesterday and have planned their 'Star Bakes' which sound very interesting and creative. A number of students have taken part in sports clubs in order to keep active whilst at home. In addition to the published programme 'Backgammon' will run on Friday lunch times (13:00-13:30). If you have missed the deadline on SOCS or would like to join Backgammon Club please email Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde directly: [hillcoat-hyden@mounthouse.org.uk](mailto:hillcoat-hyden@mounthouse.org.uk)

**Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde**

## Virtual Schooling Programme at Mount House

Please see attached the virtual schooling programme that the School will be following during the School closure.



## Art at Mount House

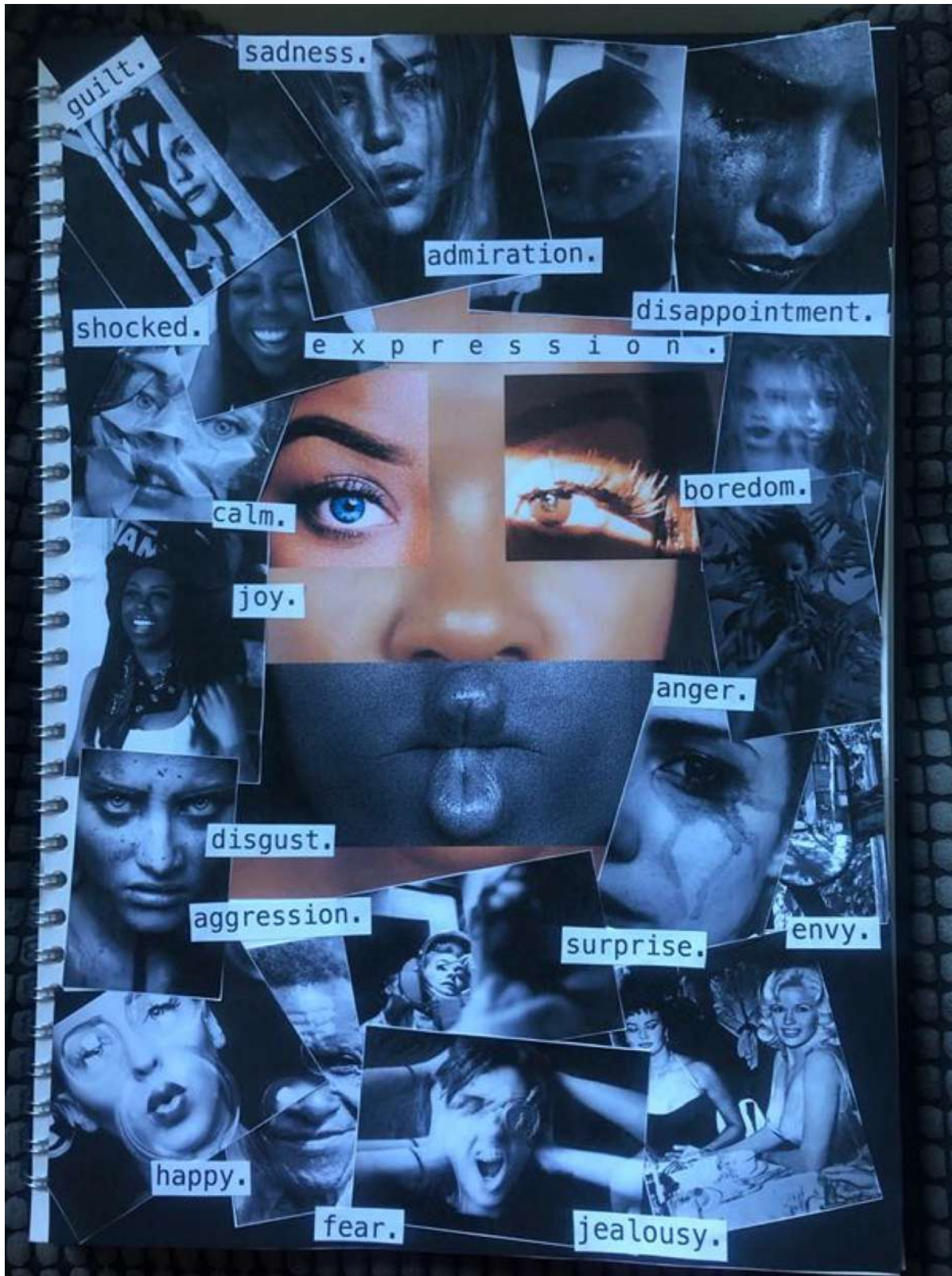


Here are some examples of lockdown artwork produced by Mount House pupils in the past few weeks.

**Mrs Somerville**

Claire O'Doherty Year 12

## Art at Mount House



Esme Afuwape Year 10

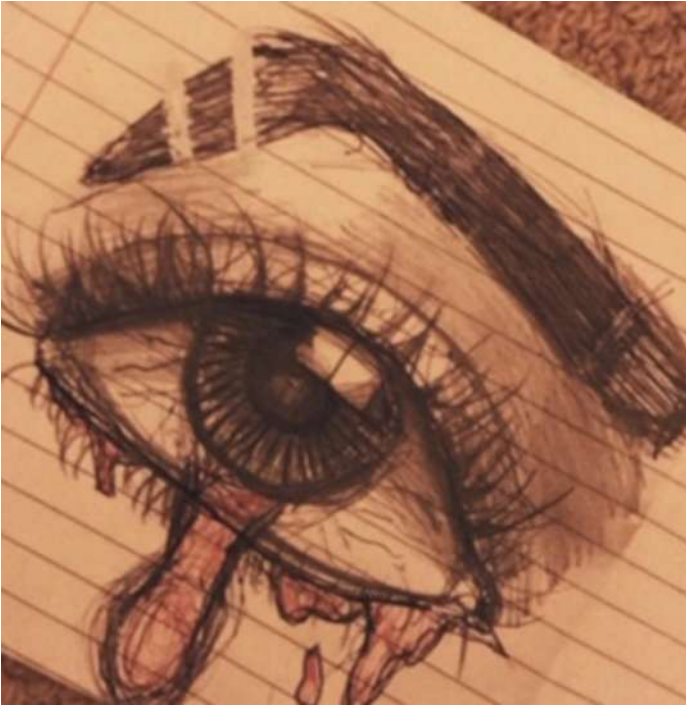


# Art at Mount House



Jess Franklin Year 10

## Art at Mount House



Zara Grace Everson Year 8



Zara Jemal  
Year 8



Evie Redpath  
Year 8