

MOUNT HOUSE VIRTUAL SCHOOLING

SUMMER TERM 2020



MOUNT HOUSE
SCHOOL



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We are pleased to be able to share with you the
Mount House Virtual Schooling Programme.

This programme captures **six important strands** of Mount House School life which will enable students to get the best out of this most unusual Summer Term.

This handy guide for students, staff and parents outlines the **key features** of the programme.

STRUCTURE OF THE WEEK:

It is important that students **follow a routine** each day and are ready to take part in lessons, complete written tasks or 'meet' their tutors each morning.

Some feedback that we have received includes students finding it difficult to work in front of a screen for long periods in one go.

Our Virtual Curriculum **fully embraces** the flexibility that virtual learning affords; please factor in regular breaks away from the screen.

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ACADEMIC

Academic lessons will comprise a mixture of **live teaching** and **off-line tasks**. We will be uploading the work for the week for each subject onto **Show My Homework** on Monday morning. Students can then work at their own pace through the written tasks, learning exercises and extended projects.

For students in Year 7 to Year 9, at least one of the timetabled lessons each week for each subject will be conducted in **real time** using **Microsoft TEAMS**. This will enable teachers to teach in a more 'traditional' way, facilitate discussion and answer any questions that have arisen from the written or learning tasks. This means that for students in these year groups, up to 2 hours every day will be spent with a teacher online.

For students in Year 10 and Year 12, at least **two lessons per subject per week** will be delivered using **TEAMS**. Depending on subjects chosen to study, this means that students can expect up to **4 hours a day** of direct online contact with a teacher. Work will continue to be set on **Show my Homework** to promote independent study.

Students in Year 11 and Year 13 will have already received information about the **carefully tailored research projects** that they are completing during the Summer Term.

In order to minimise confusion and to avoid clashes, live **TEAMS** lessons will take place in one (or more) of the regular timetable slots. Subject teachers will ensure all students are aware of when live lessons will be taking place.

All students will sit end of year exams during the school exam week which is scheduled for the second half of the Summer Term.

RECOGNISING ACHIEVEMENT, CELEBRATING SUCCESS AND THE HEAD'S AWARD

Students Of The Week and **House Points** will still be awarded in the usual way, although you'll be glad to know that we do not plan to issue Strikes during this period!

In addition to this, each week students will be graded for their progress, performance and involvement across the curriculum. The marks will be fed back to students by their tutor at regular intervals.

Involvement, excellence and creativity in the Academic Enrichment Programme, Future Skills and Co-curricular programme will be rewarded in the form of certificates and prizes.

The **Head's Award** will be presented to the very best students in each year group and this recognises excellence across the Virtual Curriculum, the Academic Enrichment, Future Skills and the Co-curricular programmes.



ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT & FUTURE SKILLS

A suite of **online lessons**, teaching vital soft skills, will be delivered by members of staff. These courses will each comprise a series of **five lessons**, and they are all suitable for all year groups.

<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Staff Member</i>	<i>Time & Day</i>
Philosophical and Critical Thinking	A Sidhu	Wednesday 08.30
Research Skills	T Phillips	Wednesday 08.30
Money Matters	P Smyth	Wednesday 08.30
Resilience and Emotional Intelligence	M Kerr	Thursday 08.30
Public Speaking and Debating	C McCormick	Thursday 08.30
Entrepreneurship	J Boonzaier	Thursday 08.30

The School's inaugural **Academic Enrichment Programme** is now likely to take a different form to the one planned earlier in the year. More details of our exciting alternative - the Virtual Academic Enrichment Programme will be released a little nearer the time.

Students must sign up for these additional lessons via the School web site / SOCS (Schools Online Communication System) by Monday 20th April.

HOUSE COMPETITIONS

House life as we know and love it (albeit as a virtual entity) will continue and we will be expecting all students to put their best foot forward to win '**Most Outstanding House**'.

During this time, we are learning that our school community transcends the physical buildings and you are a member of your House form wherever you are!

This term, House competitions will take place as a variety of one-off events and collaborative multi-week projects. To enable this to happen, students will tune in to weekly **House assemblies on Tuesdays** led by your Head of House. We will be hosting student elections to elect your new Head of House from Year 12 and you can expect them, alongside our Head Girl and Deputies, to be key agents in our exciting programme.

We will also be exploring and offering opportunities for students to **maintain and strengthen community links** during this time. Now more than ever we must harness our ability to be kind, creative and giving. Information will be provided during House assemblies.



CO-CURRICULAR

The Co-curricular Programme will continue to run during the Summer Term as part of **Mount House Virtual Schooling**.

It offers all students a **variety of opportunities and experiences** allowing them to develop new and existing skills in a range of activities.

The programme can be found on *Show My Homework and SOCS*.

Students have until midday on Wednesday 22nd April to sign up to the activities they would like to take part in.

SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY - We will continue to share resources via *Show My Homework* aimed at encouraging family participation. There are also a number of sports clubs being offered by the PE Department which will be set up through **TEAMS**. Whilst students will be encouraged to take part in activities that are of interest to them, there will be a general level of expectation that they will aim to stay active.

MUSIC - Mr Nancarrow has recently introduced both a Ukulele Club and a Guitar Workshop where all levels of ability are encouraged to join. Students should contact Mr Nancarrow if they would like further information or if they would like to join either club.

CREATIVITY & MINDFULNESS - Having time to relax and be creative away from the classroom is of great importance to many of us. Mrs Agyepong will run Mindfulness sessions to encourage students to relax and be in the present moment. Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde will be offering an Arts & Crafts Club and The Great Mount House Bake Off which will encourage students to not only develop new skills but to take part in activities that will relax the mind.

DRAMA & FILM - The Drama Department will run a weekly club that will focus on film review and the exploration of genre. This will allow students to analyse, evaluate and express their opinions forming the foundation of a review.

READING, WRITING & COMMUNICATION - In addition to the *Mount House News Mouse* where students are being encouraged to produce and submit articles, a number of book clubs have been introduced for the various key stages and parents.

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT - During the course of the year, the Green Team has worked collectively to raise environmental awareness within the School community. Green Team members will continue to 'meet' during the Summer Term to raise awareness of how we can continue to improve our environment.

CO-CURRICULAR CONTINUED



CLIMB ANY MOUNTAIN - We are challenging students and staff (and parents!) to set themselves an individual target to 'Climb Any Mountain' during the Summer Term.

The mountains of our four Houses represent a variety of heights which the students can aspire to achieve. We are working on the basis that a normal flight of stairs = 2.5m (this can be adjusted if your stairs are longer/shorter) and would therefore entail the following:

House / Mountain	Height	Number of times stairs need climbing	Number of stairs climbed per week	Number of stairs climbed per day
Olympus	2918	1167	97	14
Rushmore	5725	2290	191	27
Chimborazo	6268	2507	209	30
Everest	8848	3539	295	42

** Figures are approximate!*

Further details will be available on the **Record Log** which will be shared on **Show My Homework** at the start of the Summer Term. This will also allow students to record the distance they have climbed each day.

We will ask students to return completed logs at the end of next term when their challenge has been completed.

PASTORAL CARE:

Keeping in contact during this difficult period is essential. Tutors will continue to call their tutees on a **Monday, Wednesday and Friday**.

Tutors will also host **Virtual Form** periods on **TEAMS**. This provides students with much needed connection with their peers in a formal school setting; this will also be the setting for PSHE lessons to be delivered, and key messages to be passed on.

Tutors, Heads of House and all of the Pastoral Team are available to talk to. Feedback we have received has suggested that many students have valued the slightly different approach to pastoral care delivery and on some occasions have felt more comfortable communicating on-line with their tutors - this candid dialogue should be encouraged.

SAFEGUARDING DISCLAIMER:

We will be streaming live lessons on a **daily basis** from the beginning of next term. Teachers will also continue to contact students using the telephone numbers held by the School.

Teachers and students have been briefed about the basics of **keeping safe online**, and general do's and don'ts with regard to online lessons.

These lessons and calls will usually take place during normal School hours. Please contact Matt Kerr, Deputy Head Pastoral - **kerrm@mounthouse.org.uk** - if you do not want your child to receive these calls or live streamed lessons.