



# InHouse

12<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## MOUNT HOUSE SCHOOL PREPARES TO SAFELY WELCOME BACK YEAR 10 AND 12 STUDENTS



## A message from Ian Davies, Headmaster

Dear Parents,

Excitement was almost palpable in school this week as the finishing touches were added to plans for our return to school next Monday (15th June). Sadly, this return only applies to students in Year 10 and Year 12. Several students and teachers, for the best of reasons, have decided that they are unable to return at this stage, and the strength of our Virtual Learning Programme ensures that those who do not physically attend will not miss out. Teachers who are “shielding” at home will continue to teach and students at home will continue to benefit.



All our staff attended a briefing meeting on Thursday to discuss our Risk Assessment, which is now online for you to view [HERE](#). Several important changes have been made to the way we have arranged desks in classrooms, and indeed the entire physical environment. Most importantly, we have given much thought to the way our students are expected to conduct themselves in school while concern about the risk of infection remains.

In total, we expect about 30 students to be in school and the 7 members of staff who will remain at home to teach are Mrs Mela, Ms Dawson, Mrs Da Rocha, Mr Pandelis, Mr Hosseinian, Miss Wang and Mrs Charlery.

We anticipate that every year group in the school will return physically in September, but much will depend on both the national and local situation. To comply with best practice in relation to social distancing, it may not be possible to accommodate every student every day, and the safety and wellbeing of our students will remain our top priority as we plan our return to “normality”.

In assembly on Monday morning I will be talking about what we as individuals may have learned from our enforced lockdown with a few thoughts about which aspects of “normality” we might wish to avoid in future. Here is the text of the assembly; “A very warm welcome back to school - and a particularly warm welcome to those of you who are physically back in school for the first time since the country went into “lockdown” - probably about 3 months ago. All year groups have been doing exams in the last 2 weeks since the half term break, and I hope that you all feel that you were given a good opportunity to show your teachers what you have learned in the last year. The time immediately after end of year exams is a particularly worthwhile learning experience. The exams have identified what you don’t know, and your teachers will be recommending what you need to do to fill in the gaps in your learning. It is really important that you use this time wisely to consolidate and prepare for your work next year, in the sure knowledge that whatever comes your way will be even more demanding and rigorous, and that whatever you have learned this year will be a springboard to success next year.”

All of our students have now completed their end of year exams, and I hope they found it a useful experience. The final four weeks of an unusual term require renewed focus and energy, as we forge ahead with work we would normally do in the autumn term. This will ensure that our students are well positioned and in an envious position when we return fully in September.

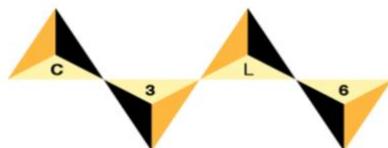
I am also delighted to share a video [HERE](#) from Sarah Richardson for all pupils and parents to share her excitement at joining Mount House in September and her reflections on current events. I do hope you enjoy listening as I did.

With kindest regards,

**Ian Davies**  
**Headmaster**



## Chemistry at Mount House



Cambridge Chemistry Challenge Lower 6th

June 2020

This week pupils in our Lower Sixth took part in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge. This is a 90 minute examination which covers a wide selection of topics. All pupils have the knowledge to complete the paper but the challenge is to apply the appropriate theory in an unfamiliar context. Well done to all the Lower Sixth Chemists for taking part in the competition.

Mrs Martin

## Co-Curricular Clubs

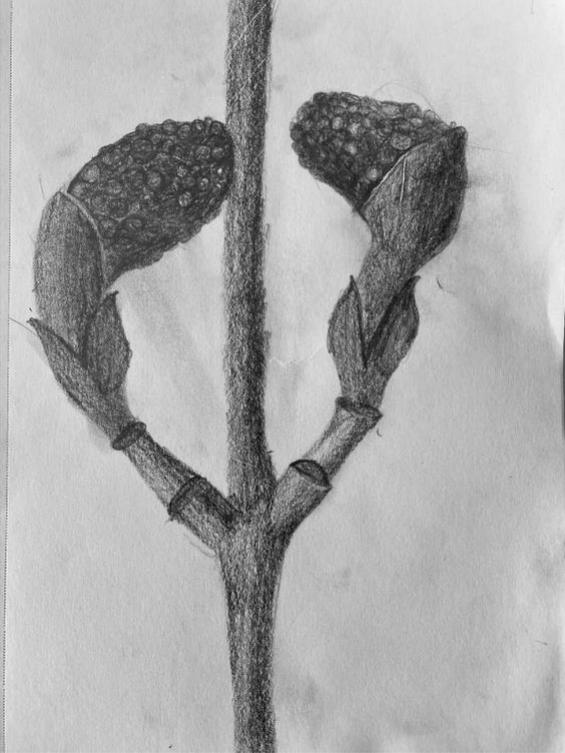
This week the Mount House Bake Off group did not meet to carry out their session due to exam week. However, students were given the ingredients and instructions to make pretzels should they wish to in their own time. Some members of the group took on the challenge and baked the following.



Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde

## Art at Mount House

Year 8 have been studying the work of Karl Blossfeldt. Here are some end of year assignment pieces.



I really like Karl's work because it's unique and in the time period it would have definitely been odd to be doing such a unique style. He captures the smallest of things and has a great "eye" for photography. The colours he has used are dark and they make me feel unhappy - Karl didn't really have a choice though because coloured images had not been invented yet. I don't think it's my style of photography because I like to use colours to make it pop and stand out. I would like to magnify things with texture as they would give a really cool effect, for instance a dog's nose would look really cool magnified because of all the cross hatching effect on it.

**Evie Redpath**

I like the art work because it is simple and beautiful. I like the black, white and grey tones in the photograph in the photo since it reminds me of day and night. The black and white show up more detail. I would like to take a photograph in the same style as Karl Blossfeldt and use the same method because I love taking photos of nature.

**Ayan Shahzad**

**Miss Somerville**

## Photography Club

A-Z Photography Scavenger Hunt making good progress though they've had a week off for exams.

<http://mounhouseschoolart.weebly.com/photography-club.html>

**Mrs Baird**

R - RED



## Music at Mount House

As we missed out on the Spring Concert this year, the choir are recording their parts individually for what promises to be an awesome production of one of our Mount House School choir arrangements.

Calling all singers and musicians: I would be grateful if any individual performers would submit a recording of any piece they have learnt as I am aiming to compile a virtual concert. Please submit video / audio recordings asap.

**Mr Whitehouse**

## History at Mount House

Thank you, **Joel Robinson** for his extended history homework: His own castle design made and explained using 'Minecraft'.



## Mount House Social Media

We would like to remind everyone to follow our social media accounts in which we post exclusive photos and videos.

These are

Twitter  @MountHouseSch

Facebook  @mounhouseschoolbarnet

Instagram  @mounhouse\_school

## Green Team



The Green Team would like to introduce an advice column for the members of our school community to seek ideas about how to become eco-friendlier in their lives and homes. Your questions can be sent into any member of the Green Team via email or Teams and will be answered by all student members.

*Q: How can I make my home more energy efficient?*

A: Thank you for your question!

You can try make your home more efficient by doing simple things like turning off unused lights. This can extend the life of your lightbulb meaning you won't have to purchase another for a while. Another way is by switching from baths to showers because a full tub takes about 70 gallons of water whilst a five minute shower uses around 10-25 gallons. You can also cut back on central heating - the average amount of electricity used in a UK household is around 4,000kw.

*Q: How do you make a kitchen environmentally friendly?*

A: Thank you for your question!

The way to make you kitchen environmentally friendly is to use an electric stove top because it is more energy efficient. They use less than half the energy of a standard fossil fuel cooker. Then purchase green electricity from a clean, renewable source. Choose cookware and utensils that are reusable and will not have to be thrown away, glass Tupperware is the most effective. Find metal and wood substitutes for you daily utensils and pots and pans. Try to avoid purchasing pre-packaged, frozen foods and instead make them yourself at home - even though Costco chicken nuggets are way better than homemade ones! You can use your peelings from vegetables and fruit and turn them into compost for the garden. We suggest you start buying locally at the farmers' markets or from the farmers themselves as their produce have no chemicals and are organic. You could remodel the kitchen to become greener, with countertops made of recycled paper and yoghurt pots, and bamboo and cork flooring.

**Miss Gillett**

## PE at Mount House

Non-Stop Action continue to produce fitness videos for our students which can be found on the 'Whole School' Teams group.

**Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde**

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



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