



InHouse

19th June 2020

YEAR 10 AND YEAR 12 RETURN TO A SOCIALLY DISTANCED SCHOOL



A message from Ian Davies, Headmaster

Dear Parents,

Our students in Years 10 and 12 returned on Monday in bright sunshine to benefit from face to face tuition in small class sizes. The students I spoke to thought that the 2 metre social distancing routine needed to be relaxed in society while at the same time they rigidly observed that rule in our School context.

Our teachers hugely enjoyed meeting students again after an enforced absence of nearly 3 months, during which time they have honed and sharpened their expertise in the use of Microsoft Teams to undreamed of levels.

Sitting outside on our closely manicured lawns (and thanks here to us wonderful caretaker Mr Heaney who has worked tirelessly to ensure that the grounds and gardens are in superb shape for our return) eating a packed lunch was a particular pleasure this week.

Students who remain at home (Years 7-9 and those in Years 10 and 12 who have not yet returned) are still enjoying a rich diet of Teams teaching and Independent learning.

I am sure that we are all aware of adverse media coverage of the unhealthy aspects of spending too long in front of a screen, and with that in mind we have been planning an "Offline Day" for the whole school on Monday 29th June. This will enable all our students to spend a whole day not looking at a screen and doing a selection of multi-disciplinary projects or activities. Our students have worked hard and learned a great deal in their Virtual Learning Programmes, and they thoroughly deserve this time away from a screen. The outline for this day can be found below. On the same day, our new students who are joining Year 7 next September are visiting the school for their Induction Afternoon, and we look forward very much to seeing them all again.

In addition, on Thursday 2nd July, we will be holding our first Virtual Learning Taster Day for parents and students who are considering joining us in September 2021. In the current circumstances, we are not allowing prospective parents and children to physically tour the school so we hope this will enable them to understand and appreciate our enthusiastic and dedicated teachers and our energetic, determined and committed students. This will be closely followed by our Virtual Open Day on Thursday 9th July, the last day of the Summer Term, when term finishes for our students. Our teachers will then benefit from a day of Professional Development with a focus on Safeguarding and First Aid before they depart for a well earned summer holiday.

In Assembly on Monday I highlighted a few lessons we might all learn from our unanticipated 3 months of "lockdown". Please click [HERE](#) for the full text of that Assembly.

With kindest regards,

Ian Davies
Headmaster



Chemistry at Mount House

This Sunday June 21st at 3pm on Radio 4, tune into the dramatization of Primo Levi's The Periodic Table. It is a collection of short stories about elements and how they entwined into Levi's life. The first of six parts start with Vanadium, Argon and Lead. This tale will surprise you with historic events and amuse you with the simplicity of errors and solutions in industrial chemistry.



Missed it? - available later on BBC Sounds.

Mrs Martin

Co-Curricular Clubs

The Mount House Bake Off

This week students baked cinnamon swirls. The method for baking involved three sets of instructions involving techniques for making the filling, preparing the dough and adding the finishing touches with an apple glaze and pecan nuts.



Grace Hanna's amazing bake

Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde

Art at **Mount House**



Painting by **Christina Panteli**

Virtual Open Day Filming - Thursday 25th June

As Mount House plans to host its first 'Virtual Open Morning' we need to create some engaging film which will be used for this online event.

We aim to capture all aspects of the school environment and thoughts of teachers, pupils and parents. This filming will take place on Thursday 25th June and will run throughout the day. As a result of the filming taking place we ask all pupils attending school that day to wear school uniform. This is to ensure that in every aspect as we tour around the school there is an accurate representation of the uniform worn during normal attendance at school.

Please see the attached flyer to promote the first Virtual Open Morning which will follow as a result of the filming taking place on 25th June.

Offline Day at Mount House

Mount House school goes off-line for the day

We are pleased to announce more details about the upcoming off-line day scheduled for June 29th.

Students in Year 7, 8 and 9 should choose two of the six options from the list below for the off-line day on Monday 29th June. Students will complete one option in the morning and one in the afternoon. Students will complete the challenge or activity as described by the member of staff at the pre-offline day briefing meeting which is scheduled for lunchtime on Wednesday 24th June.

The activities include:

1. Baking challenge – bake a cake or biscuit show stopper
2. Painting – Pick a place / person or object and draw / paint your selection
3. Create a fully illustrated Comic book
4. Poetry or prose - Theme is Quarantine or Freedom
5. Invent and create a board game
6. 5 km nature walk with flora and fauna spotting - Plot your route and complete the walk

Once students have completed the challenge they should take a photograph of what they have accomplished and upload it to the appropriate TEAMS files. Prizes will be awarded to the best submissions of the day. All students should log into the Mount House Full School TEAMS at **1pm on Wednesday 24th June** to find out all the details.

Mr Kerr

Mount House Student Head of Houses

Please see below links to short videos from each of our Student Head of Houses.

Everest <https://youtu.be/kDyT9IhbWKM>

Rushmore https://youtu.be/WC53HZg_P-A

Chimborazo <https://youtu.be/grVaftP-Zbo>

Olympus <https://youtu.be/XY-ws8LueIM>



PE at Mount House

Following a week of 'End of Year Examinations' students in Years 7 – 9 had the opportunity to take part in a number of challenging activities. The first activity saw students and Mr Mullins working extremely hard, pushing themselves and relying on the roll of a dice whilst taking part in 'First to 100 – Fitness Challenge'. Students selected the level in which they wanted to participate which resulted in four winners;

Bronze Level: Deniz Kent

Silver Level: Mia Bushnell

Gold Level: Dara Koleva

Platinum Level: Luke Webster

Following this activity Mr Mullins shared an activity which saw students and myself trying to overcome the 'Shoe Balance Challenge'. The aim of the challenge was to lie on one's back and place a shoe on one foot. Once balanced individuals had to turn on to their front and then return to their back. A few students managed to carry out the task and I would imagine that some continued to overcome this challenge during the weekend.

The final activity required students to take part in a challenge whilst working with a partner. We await videos to see whether students can reach the level of Mr Kerr and his son or Mr Mullins and Miss Overman.

As a department, we were very much looking forward to teaching Year 10 and 12 in school during their Games afternoon and students were looking forward to the session. Whilst ensuring that students kept 2m apart from each other they took part in a fun based fitness session with music on the common.



This week Miss Smyth and the Year 10 and 12 students working from home have been working out using their name! That's right their names. Each student created a circuit using each letter of their name. The students were in control and could do as many sets as they felt appropriate. Even better still Miss Smyth has challenged the students to repeat their circuit twice before they meet next and have asked students to encourage one member of their family to join them. Until next week, live happily ever active!

Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde

Green Team



Here are the Green Team advice questions for this week.

Miss Gillett

Q. Where can I make eco-friendly purchases?

A: Thank you for your question. One way to be sure you're making eco-friendly purchases is by simply asking the shop employees. Alternatively, eco-friendly products will have labels such as those shown below. These labels indicate that the product is better for the environment from being organic, recyclable, biodegradable or even carbon neutral. Other points to consider when shopping is the type of shops you go to. Charity shops and farmers' markets are environmentally friendly as they focus on the ideals of reselling used products, helping the local community and reducing carbon emission. You could even try bringing reusable jars and containers to shops to package your food in. Lastly, one effective way to be eco-friendly is to only buy what is necessary; don't over-buy but instead buy only what you need.

Answered by: Tinuade, Rachael, Eloise and Katie.



Q. How do I set up a recycling bin at home? I can't seem to organise my recycling and everything just ends up in general waste. How can I be more organised?

A: Thank you for your question. Recycling can be overwhelming at first so it is important to take it slow, you can start by making a recycling schedule. When setting up your recycling bin you can make an effort to put it close to the source of waste for example placing a paper recycling bin next to a printer and try make sure you are aware of any recycling restrictions and requirements in your borough (a link will be placed at the end of this article to show the different requirements of each borough), you can also try composting your fruit and vegetable waste as this enriches the soil and reduces landfill waste.

We hope this article helped and happy recycling!

<https://www.gov.uk/recycling-collections>

Answered by: Mia, Haruka and Lola



Year 10 and Year 12 Dress Code

In listening carefully to pupil feedback we have agreed that, with the exception of Thursday 25th June, pupils will be able to wear their own clothes adhering to a smart / casual dress code for the remainder of the term.

This flexibility is in response to the fantastic positive approach both the Year 10 and 12 pupils have adopted in their return to school, and we commend their desire to work together on the most practical ways to manage the current situation and learn together as effectively as possible.

