

NEWSLETTER 3 - September 18th

Message from Head Mrs. Richardson

This will just be a short message from me as we approach what I suspect may be the final weekend of our Summer. I hope that you all have the chance to get out and enjoy it.

This week has seen the 80th anniversary of Battle of Britain Day, 15th September 1940 being the date when Fighter Command defeated the Luftwaffe. In assembly on Monday Mr Phillips spoke eloquently about the sacrifice of 'The Few', and their courage and selflessness in protecting Britain in the face of the Luftwaffe attacks. Among the 3000 or so airmen who flew during that battle, 574 were from countries other than the UK, and give us yet another reminder of the value of diversity and tolerance. The commitment of those airmen to the principles of freedom and democracy are something we might reflect upon as we respond to the challenges of our own world, and we must take heart from the resilience they demonstrated in circumstances which are unimaginable for many of us. For those of us with an interest in both World Wars, another aspect we often come across is that of the camaraderie which carried both soldiers and civilians through the most difficult of times. This term we have talked a great deal about kindness, and I feel very proud of the many examples of this displayed by our students in recent weeks, not least in the welcome showed by the old students to the new and the new friendships which are being developed.



Those of you who have been at Mount House for some time will know Miss Smyth well, and I am sure you will join me in congratulating her on her impending new arrival. We are delighted that Miss Gillett will be taking on Miss Smyth's role during her maternity leave and for the next 6 weeks they will be working together to ensure a smooth handover.



Next week we will continue to think hard about our treatment of others, as we learn about how unkindness can develop, and what is bullying and how should we respond to it. None of us can be bystanders if we witness the mistreatment of others, and I am looking forward to Monday's assembly when Mr Kerr will be talking to the whole school on this important subject.

ACADEMIC UPDATE from Miss Sidhu

It has been a real joy to see our students return, meet our new intake and get back into the school routine. I have been enormously impressed with how well they have adjusted to returning to school and, for our exam years, preparing for and for some, sitting exams.

We are all working together to help with the demands on your child which are likely to include:

- being more self-motivated and taking more responsibility for their own learning
- developing strategies for persisting when the work is challenging
- organising themselves and planning their time
- completing more work at home independently

For our exam classes:

- planning and carrying out their revision
- perfecting their 'exam technique'

Whilst academic progress is important, the priority is always the well-being of each student. Don't forget to allow your child time to relax and decompress in an unstructured way. This time will allow them to process the day and reflect on what has happened. Sometimes those unplanned conversations can really shed a light on areas of anxiety, or provide students them with an opportunity to celebrate their successes with you. Every success, no matter how small, should be celebrated, as taken together they build up a child's confidence in their ability to succeed. This time should ideally be away from gadgets, devices and social media - even twenty minutes can make a difference. It's interesting to note that Apple's Steve Jobs didn't allow his children to play with iPads at all and Bill Gates of Microsoft capped video-game time for his daughter.

Our aim is to be in frequent communication with you about your child's progress. The Academic Calendar [HERE](#) provides you with all the key dates. Our role is to provide the expertise and resources to help your child acquire the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to do their best in each subject, as we know you are keen to support this.

We report on academic progress as well as other aspects of school life such as conduct, homework and participation in class. In addition, we have scheduled Parents' Evenings, and Consultation Afternoons so that every half term you will receive information your child's progress. However, it is very important that you know that we are also available if you would like to have a chat as we are more than happy to discuss with you how your child is getting on.

Exams 2021

For parents of students in Years 11 and 13, this week the exam boards have started to publish the details of the changes to the exams next summer. I will send you summaries over the coming weeks so you are aware of what those changes mean for your child and the impact they will have on how the exams will be graded in 2021.



Homework club

This is an ideal opportunity for your child to complete some (or all), of their homework on-site. There is always a member of staff supervising who is available to help, especially with some of the more general queries and questions from our new intake.

Important dates this term

- Week beginning 5th October - Year 11 internal tests
- Thursday 15th October - Year 11 Parents' Evening (amended date)
- Thursday 5th November - Year 7 Parents' Evening
- Week beginning 2nd November - Year 12 internal tests
- Thursday 12th November - Year 8 Parents' Evening
- Week beginning 16th November - Year 13 internal tests
- Thursday 19th November - Year 10 Parents' Evening
- Thursday 26th November - Year 13 Parents' Evening

SMSC Update from Miss Smyth - 'Dealing with change'

We are all acutely aware of the many challenges that we have all encountered due to COVID-19, but one central theme has been '**change**'. This week the SMSC program focused in on dealing with change and the strategies we could all use to help us when confronted with the unknown.



The Year 7 and 8 students took part in teambuilding activities. These took part outside and were directed by our 6th form students. This was another opportunity for our younger years to build friendships, meet with their guardians and develop their communication skills.

KS4 students completed activities and discussions identifying unexpected changes they may encounter, describing their impacts and explaining different ways of managing and seeking support. These discussions and strategies can be followed up in students 1-to-1 discussions with their Form tutors throughout the year. In addition, we hope that they will feel equipped to face change in the future and access the many support networks available to them at school and home.

Celebrating success

At Mount House we encourage all our students to take full advantage of every opportunity and last week we had our first leadership elections of the year. A huge congratulations to the following students who have been successfully voted in as **Form Captains** and **Student Councillors**:

Form Captains

- 7.1 Nicholas Demetriou
- 7.2 Anna Ranger
- 7.3 Temidayo Yussuff-Shittu
- 8.1 Katherine Casey
- 8.2 Emily Hooker
- 8.3 Reuben Ward
- 8.4 Leon Gradica
- 8.5 Shamira Kosamu
- 8.6 Amelie Hilton
- 9.1 Evie Redpath
- 9.2 Amalya Antwi-Agyei
- 9.3 Tomi Fulker
- 9.4 Iman Salam
- 9.4 Nia Forbes Agyepong
- 10.1 Olivia Richardson (Term 1)
- 10.1 Benecia Odogu (Term 2)
- 10.1 Lily O’Callaghan (Term 3)
- 10.2 Ruby Sorrell
- 11.1 Raquel Bahirathan
- 11.2 Sadie Scott-Pickup

Student Councillors

- 7.1 Ciara Roche
- 7.2 Ava Adams
- 7.3 Calypso Malialis
- 8.1 Rocco Manzi
- 8.2 Anna Collington
- 8.3 Emer Yurtzseven
- 8.4 Andreanna Brueton
- 8.5 Grace Gallagher
- 8.6 Nicholas Polycarpou
- 9.1 Ayan Shahzad
- 9.2 Christina Panteli (Term 1)
- 9.2 Eashen Patel (Term 2)
- 9.3 Ava Athwal
- 9.4 Sohail Salehi
- 10.1 Ayomide Soetan
- 10.2 Maya Whitehouse
- 11.1 Antonia Nicola
- 11.2 Jada Okoye

Mrs Mariottini says

“ I just want to underline the fact that my form 7.1 did an amazing job as most of them wanted to be elected and they expressed their reasons in a very mature way. Well done for their speeches and the values they want to promote at Mount House – respect, resilience and being helpful to each other. Well done Nicholas Demetriou (Form captain) and Ciara Roche (Form councillor) for winning the elections in 7.1 pictured below with their excellent deputies. ”





MESSAGE FROM OUR STUDENT HEAD OF SCHOOL Rachael Harper-Wilkinson

Starting back at school this September has been very different. This year hasn't been the most ordinary, and many of us wouldn't expect to be returning to school in these conditions. Nevertheless, I am happy to be back in school with my friends and back to learning and a sense of normalcy. Despite the new system of bubbles, the school has been able to keep the Year 7 Guardians program running with support from all of 6th form. Helping the year 7s integrate into the school and feel able to talk about the excitement and difficulties of secondary school is very important during these times. At Mount House school we have also been able to run lots of new and creative clubs. I've recently joined the House of Equality club that aims to raise awareness on issues of racial, gender and cultural equality. This is a great opportunity for the older students of the school to voice their views of importance on topical issues spreading through the news today. And there are many more clubs for all students to involve themselves in: Green Team, badminton club and chess club to name a few. Life at school is slowly returning to normal and it's great to see everyone's faces again. We have an exciting year ahead of opportunities and change, so let's make the most of it.

MUSIC AT MOUNT HOUSE from Mr Whitehouse

We offer the opportunity for students to enjoy a wide range of lessons on instruments and vocal coaching. If you would like your child to sign up to music lessons at Mount House with any of our peripatetic teachers then please complete the form on our website that can be found [here](#) and send the completed form to Mr Whitehouse whitehouses@mounthouse.org.uk. Hard copies of the form can also be found in Reception.



This week we feature our **singing teacher Meinir Wyn Thomas** who is a fantastic Soprano and a highly experienced teacher with a great track record of bringing the best vocal talents in her pupils. Mrs Thomas studied at the Royal College of Music and University College of North Wales, Bangor and has taught at Mount House for many years.

I also have a new addition to the Co-Curricular Programme starting next week where I will be running an **'Open Mic' session on Thursday afternoons 16:00 – 17:00** and all students are welcome and should confirm their attendance to me on email whitehouses@mounthouse.org.uk

SCHOOL COACHES

In order to ensure that we are minimising risk and are able to track and trace, we have revised procedures for boarding the school bus as follows:

- Y7, 8 and 9 - to sit at the front of the coach
- Y10 & Y11 - to sit in middle rows of the coach
- Y12 & Y13 - to sit at the back of the coach

Where possible, pupils are advised to leave a row between bubble groups.

Disembarking the coach will continue to be by rows, starting from the front of the bus.

It is mandatory for all pupils to wear masks for the entire journey to and from school, in order to protect themselves, their fellow pupils and the bus drivers.

Please notify reception and/or email coaches@mounthouse.org if your child is not taking the bus on a particular day because they have left school early. This is very important, and is to avoid delaying the bus for the other pupils.

If you would like your child to use the coaches, please fill out the registration form [here](#) and send it to coaches@mounthouse.org.uk. There are a limited number of spaces available on some routes.

STUDENT ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

It is important to keep children away from school if they feel unwell and in the current environment we have full details of symptoms documented

Therefore, if you child is ill please fill the details in this form

<https://forms.gle/f3LAdR6hkwKGjffo8>

PHOTOGRAPHY AT MOUNT HOUSE from Mrs Baird



One a range of stunning photographs by Elizabeth He in year 13 of her cousin in China. We will be welcoming Elizabeth back to the UK in a few weeks' time.

As part of our Co-curricular programme I run **Experimental Digital Photography** on Wednesday lunchtime at 1:25pm for Year groups 7, 8, 9. We will be learning with lots of unusual techniques to produce expressive and interesting photographic images. New members are welcome to join!

SPORTS AT MOUNT HOUSE from Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde

This week we have been fortunate to have glorious sunshine whilst playing cricket and rounders and taking part in Athletics during our Games afternoons.



The boys in **Years 7 & 8** had another fun-filled session run by Mr Shah and the girls in Years 7 & 8 rotated activities – taking part in running and standing long jump. The Year 7 girls were fantastic taking part in standing long jump and were very competitive.



Years 9 & 10 had a fantastic afternoon taking part in a modified cricket game. **Darcie Dudding** demonstrated outstanding batting skills within the game and should be congratulated.

Year 11 took part in an action-packed rounders match where they had the opportunity to further develop their knowledge and understanding of the game which involved learning tactical rules and techniques.

Years 12 & 13 enjoyed a game of rounders followed by a game of cricket. The students worked extremely well together demonstrating not only their competitive nature and commitment to win but also their ability to work as a team and support and guide each other.

The PE Department have thoroughly enjoyed the Games afternoons this week and look forward to next week's sessions – well done to everyone involved!

CO-CURRICULAR AND ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAMMES

Co-Curricular Clubs have been extremely popular this week with students taking the opportunity to take part in activities that are both new to them and for some, those they have previously taken part in. With the sun shining it has been great to see a number of students attend sports clubs such as netball, basketball and football. Badminton and table tennis continue to be popular across the school and it is fantastic to see so many students active at lunch time.



PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THE TRAMPOLINES ARE STILL OUT OF ACTION AND THEREFORE THE SESSION ON MONDAY 21st SEPTEMBER WILL BE BASED ON GYMNASTICS AGAIN. ALL STUDENTS THAT HAVE SIGNED UP TO TRAMPOLINING ARE WELCOME TO JOIN. IF FOR ANY REASON THEY DO NOT WISH TO TAKE PART THEY MAY JOIN THE HOMEWORK CLUB.



We have a couple of new clubs starting this week – the 'Open Mic' on Thursday after school (more details below) and also **THE BRISCOLA CLUB**. Mrs Mariottini will teach students the Italian card game 'Briscola' every Tuesday lunchtime using 'Piacentine cards' which are completely different from the cards you will be familiar with. The club is opened to Year 7 -11. Whilst we will learn some Italian card games the overall purpose of this club is develop team building strategies as well as building understanding of Italian culture.

We also have the **Science Club with Mr. Brozny** for Year groups 7 -10 every Thursday after school in the Science Labs. The Club will be designing experiments that we will submit to the British Science Association for CREST Awards, compete against each other in Science Fair Competitions and have discussions on important issues in Science.



What is CREST?

CREST is a scheme that inspires young people to think and behave like scientists and engineers.

Download the [Co-Curricular Programme](#) and [Academic Enrichment Programme](#) information clicking on the links above and remember you can still sign up to ALL the different clubs and societies.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Phillips (Academic Enrichment Programme) phillipst@mounthouse.org.uk and Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde (Co-Curricular Programme) hillcoat-hyden@mounthouse.org.uk

FOCUS ON CLASSICS with Mrs Fallon



Over my many years of teaching Classics at this school I always look forward to my first lesson of the new academic year with my Year 7 classes when I will inevitably be asked the question, *“But ...what IS Classics?”* Many students are surprised when they discover it is the study of ancient Greek and Roman civilisation and literature. I am asked *“so is it just more History?”* and I can assure them Classics is so much more than that as they explore the mythological world of the awesome Greek gods, legendary heroes such as Perseus and Hercules, dangerous creatures like the centaurs and Minotaur.

They get to discover the cause of the Trojan War and how their heel came to be named after the warrior Achilles. They study the city of Athens and the architectural masterpiece of the Parthenon. They explore the origins and site of the Olympic Games. They will look at the foundation story for the city of Rome, the barbaric gladiatorial combats in Colosseum, the luxury of the baths of Caracalla, and the impressive lives of the many Roman emperors who ruled. It is always my wish that students leave their first Classics lesson excited to return next week to expand their knowledge into this magnificent world!

This term **Year 8 Classics Students will be studying the wonderful world of the Greek gods.** Their first lesson looked at the ‘Creation of the World according to Greek mythology’ and the students were tasked to create a storyboard retelling and illustrating this myth. ***Well done to Krrish Patel, Melissa Remanica and Zoey Umenyiora for their outstanding storyboards!***

For **Years 10 and 11, Thursday 1:00-1:25pm I also run a Classics Club** which offers students the opportunity to extend their study and appreciation of the ancient world beyond the GCSE curriculum and class lessons. The club will consist of a mixture of discussion and debate of topics studied in class e.g. *Which of Hercules’ labours was his greatest?* We have extension and revision tasks, which should be enjoyable as well as academic e.g. *creating top trumps of the Greek gods!*

LITERACY TIP OF THE WEEK from Mr Nancarrow Cutting words into syllables

This week we look at breaking down words into syllables. When reading with your child, if they have difficulty pronouncing a word, break the word down by covering up each syllable. Using an L shaped piece of card works well to underline the word with the horizontal edge whilst covering the syllables with the vertical edge moving left to right. Here are some words you can practice with your child.



he – li – cop -ter	un-der-stand
bro-ken	in-ter-est-ing
el-e-va-tor	beau-t-full

KEY DATES FOR NEXT WEEK

No key dates next week