

# NEWSLETTER 1 - September 4th

## WELCOME FROM MRS RICHARDSON

Thanks to a recommendation from Mrs MacDonald, over the Summer I have re-read Great Expectations, which I know Year 8 will be reading in English this term, and which provided an interesting focus for me as we moved towards the start of the school year. This year, undoubtedly, our expectations will be fundamentally different as we learn to live with the ongoing pandemic and its repercussions.

On Thursday we held assemblies in bubbles, and there were a few key themes which were relevant, in different ways, to students across the School. We have Great Expectations of our students, and I look forward to hearing more about their successes as the year progresses. However, not every day will go according to plan, and as we adapt back into school routines, we need to understand that it may take more time than usual to re-adjust. On some days lessons will be a breeze, and on others they may be more difficult. On some days friends will be supportive, encouraging and great company, but on other days we will fall out. All these things are completely normal, and a part of life, but it is how we react that is important – during the good times as well as the more difficult ones.



Communication is not only a vital life skill, but it is also key to thriving at school, and we really encourage students to talk to tutors, teachers and trusted adults. Talking things over often helps put things in perspective, and doing so early means precious time is not wasted in worrying. Getting involved in School life is also crucial – engaging in lessons, and also in the many lunchtime and after school clubs, and I am very much looking forward to these starting next week. These provide great opportunities to learn new skills, develop new interests and make new friends, and for older students they provide the opportunity to develop leadership skills.

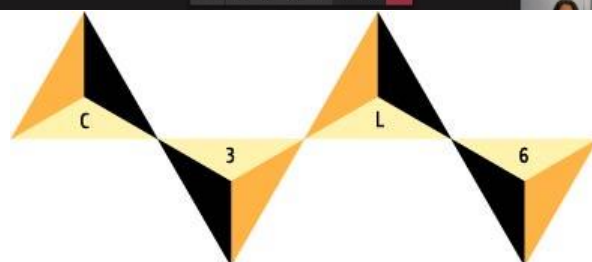
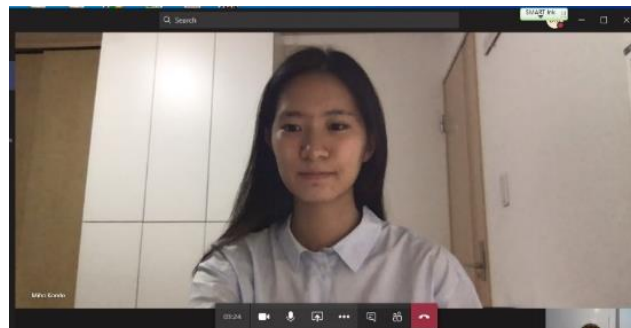
Last, but perhaps most importantly, I also urge students to be kind – kind to their peers, kind to their teachers and – of course - kind to their parents!

I look forward to meeting the Year 7 parents, over Zoom, this evening, and other year groups next week. In the meantime, I wish you all a wonderful weekend.

## C3L6 CAMBRIDGE CHEMISTRY CHALLENGE

Congratulations to **Rachael Harper-Wilkinson** and **Miho Kondo** for achieving Silver certificates in the 2020 Cambridge Chemistry Challenge.

The 90-minute examination was completed remotely in June with Rachael working in England whilst Miho completed the competition in Japan.



Cambridge Chemistry Challenge Lower 6th

## PUPIL INFORMATION FORM - URGENT

It is vital with the current Health and Safety protocols in place that we have a current updated record of all pupil contact data, health and allergy information. Please can you ensure you fill in the Pupil Information form via the link below as soon as possible if you have not already done so.

<https://forms.gle/7KGPZNLxNRxS5Kq48>

## PUPIL PHOTOGRAPHY - TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

Bentley photography will be at School on Tuesday next week for all pupils to have their portrait photo taken.

## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Congestion around the school at peak times can be a safety hazard for students and other members of the public. We will continue to investigate ways to minimise congestion at peak times to improve safety around the school gates. If you absolutely have to park, we ask that you park responsibly at all times in order to avoid accidents.

### Arrivals: Drop and Go

When arriving at school please ensure that you follow the school's traffic management system of 'drop and go' as directed by the Site Team. Students should be prepared to leave the car in a quick and safe manner. This means they should have their personal items readily available as they leave the vehicle. This will help us to improve the flow of traffic and assist in minimising peak time

congestion and avoid any potential hazards. A polite reminder that only planned visitors to the school are permitted to park their car in the car park.

**Departures: Pick up and Go**

As you are aware the school has limited car parking space. When picking up your child(ren) from the school, **please try not** to arrive into the car park until 15:45. We ask that you text your child(ren) when you arrive so that they can make their way to the car park and this will assist in minimising congestion.

We thank you for your cooperation and support.

**MICHAELMAS TERM LUNCH MENUS**



The lunch for this term can be viewed on the web link below. Week 2 begins Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

<https://www.mounthouse.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Michaelmas-term-menus-Mount-House-School.pdf>

**TRAMPOLINING CLUB**

We are delighted by the number of students that have signed up to trampolining club on Monday after school. Please be aware that our trampolines are out of action on Monday 7th September - however the club will still run and we will be looking at preparation ahead of the first session when we use the trampolines. This will include some gymnastics movements that lend themselves to trampolining. Anyone that has signed up to trampolining should attend.





## PASTORAL UPDATE

I do hope everyone is getting back into the swing of School life, now that the first week of term draws to a close.

I must say that I have been thoroughly impressed with how the new joiners have started here at Mount House. Starting a new School year is always a daunting experience and although there may be some bumps along the way, the early signs are extremely positive - long may this continue.

### Mount House Pastoral System

I would like to take this opportunity to explain the pastoral system at the School. Students in all year groups have a form tutor who will be responsible for the day to day welfare of their tutees. The form tutor will see their tutees every morning during form period and if you have any queries of a pastoral nature that you would like to raise, please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance. Form periods are a very important time in the school day and are the regular daily check in between tutee and tutor. This time will be made up of form activities and individual one to one meetings with the tutor as well as full school assemblies, house assemblies and PSHE lessons. During next week students will get the chance to vote for School Council representatives and other positions of responsibility with the form.

Year 7 and 8 make up the **Lower School**, Year 9, 10 and 11 make up the **Middle School** and Year 12 and 13 belong to the **Sixth Form**. Over the next few days your child's tutor will be in contact to introduce themselves to you via email. Whilst the form tutor remains for primary point of contact for parents, issues of a more serious nature may be dealt with by the relevant Head of Section or me.



Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde – Assistant Head - Head of Lower School



Miss Smyth - Assistant Head - Head of Middle School



Mr McCormick - Assistant Head - Head of Sixth Form

### Wellbeing survey

Over the next week tutors will be reviewing the results from the Wellbeing survey and discussing this with their tutees. I would like to take this opportunity to pick up on 4 strands of wellbeing that I think are particularly important at this time: sleep, diet, exercise and engagement with something bigger than yourself. Please do keep an eye on these four areas and try to maintain or develop good habits and attitudes with regards these basic components of wellbeing.

In brief, having a sensible bedtime, following a balanced and healthy diet, taking regular exercise and being involved in a club, group or organisation that excites and stimulates you is a good mantra to follow. In the coming weeks we will re-visit these themes, as well as many others, as part of the pastoral care provision at the School.

### Parent Introductory Meetings

All parents will receive an email with the login details for next week's introductory parent meetings which will be delivered via Zoom. These meetings give parents the chance to meet the new Head - Sarah Richardson; your child's form tutor; Head of Section and other key members of staff at the School.

I do hope you have a lovely weekend and as always please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to do so.

### Matt Kerr, Deputy Head Pastoral



### TUCK SHOP

The School offers a tuck shop is held outside (weather permitting) or in the Hall for all students at mid-morning break time. All items are £1, so please can students bring the correct change to reduce contact between students and catering staff.

We would like to encourage all students to bring a healthy snack to School, but please ensure that all snacks are nut free – we are a nut free school.

We also encourage pupils to bring refillable water bottles into school.

### HPV DOSE 2 YEAR 10 GIRLS - WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020

The catch-up vaccination session is booked for Year 10 girls on 16<sup>th</sup> September. Relevant forms have been completed for those who had the initial vaccine but any girl who did not have the original Dose 1 vaccine will need to fill out a form at reception.



## KEY DATES FOR THE NEXT HALF TERM

September 4 <sup>th</sup>	Key staff introduction meeting with Year 7 parents
September 7 <sup>th</sup>	Key staff introduction meeting with Year 10 parents
September 8 <sup>th</sup>	School photos
September 8 <sup>th</sup>	Key staff introduction meeting with Year 11 parents
September 9 <sup>th</sup>	Key staff introduction meeting with Year 12 parents
September 10 <sup>th</sup>	Key staff introduction meeting with Year 8 parents
September 10 <sup>th</sup>	Key staff introduction meeting with Year 9 parents
September 16 <sup>th</sup>	Year 10 HPV vaccinations