



# NEWSLETTER 8 – 6<sup>th</sup> November

## Message from Head Mrs. Richardson

The half term break has allowed me a little space to reflect on the achievements of our community in these challenging times. As I write this newsletter, on 4th November, I am aware that today is 'Stress Awareness Day' and that within our community there are students, staff and families who for a number of reasons are finding things difficult.

The way that students, teachers and support staff have all adapted to the strange new world of 2020 has really been impressive, but despite that image of coping, life at the moment is stressful and it is important that we understand what stress is and how we deal with it. On Monday, Miss Sidhu will be delivering our assembly, and she will talk to students about stress – what it is and how we can manage it. The details of this assembly will be included in next week's newsletter so parents can discuss it, if they would like to, with their children. We will need to continue to support each other in the coming weeks and months, and mental health awareness will be something the School focuses on in this second half of the Michaelmas Term.



I would like to express my public thanks to the support staff who over half term have been working hard around the School site. Most notably, there has been significant **decoration in the Sixth Form common room**, and we are looking forward to the completion of that project, and the Year 11 common room, with the arrival of new furnishings.

We have also begun a master planning process, and **appointed Sprunt Architects** to carry out that project for us. Sprunt have been visiting the School and meeting with a number of staff to discuss our curricular and extra-curricular needs, before making recommendations to the Board of Directors about how best we can maximise our buildings and outdoor spaces. We look forward to sharing the outcome of the master planning exercise with students and parents early in the new year.

We have also put considerable thought into our **Sixth Form provision, details of which can be found [HERE](#)**. Mount House has always enjoyed great success at A' level with small class sizes, and we are excited about the additional elements of the programme which we will be adding in 2021 – or sooner if Covid allows! This includes the development of the existing enrichment programme, as well as the introduction of community service and project-based learning as compulsory elements of our curriculum. We will be speaking to our students about the Sixth Form opportunities over the coming weeks, and are hosting a **Virtual Open Evening for external Sixth Form students at 6pm on 17th November**.



We are also re-visiting our **trips programme** with a range of very exciting options to be launched as soon as we are able. We know we need to plan now to be able to deliver these opportunities from (hopefully) the Summer Term of 2021. Options will include trips to UK cultural landmarks, residential outdoor experiences, language trips and also cultural visits to European cities as well a ski trip in December 2021. For older students the highlights are a trip for Year 11 and the Sixth Form to Washington DC and New York in October 2021 as well as the opportunity to join a World Challenge expedition in the Summer of 2022. Before the Christmas break we will be providing parents with full details of the opportunities available.

There has been a real energy and excitement to the **co-curricular programme**. The great work in art, textiles and photography continues to impress and is an area of huge strength in the School. Action groups such as Green Team and House of Equality have pushed forward their important agendas through talks, campaigning and action plans for next term and beyond. The **Student Council** have been asked to canvass the views of all students as we plan the programme for January 2021.

The Drama Club has been working towards a performance of *Macbeth* and will perform some scenes as part of the **Shakespeare Schools' Foundation Festival, 'One Night of Shakespeare', on 20th November**. They are hoping to be able to show their work to a larger parental audience after Christmas.



We are very much looking forward to ending the term with a traditional Christmas concert on **Thursday 10th December** in nearby St Mary's Church. The whole performance will be filmed and then sent to all parents as we will unfortunately not be able to have a live audience present. There will be group carols, festive readings and individual musical performances to look forward to.

**Sarah Richardson**





## PSHEE and SMSC programme with Deputy Head Matt Kerr

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE) and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC) are extremely important aspects of school life at Mount House, and as such are embedded into our weekly curriculum. Two form periods of 30 minutes per week are dedicated to teaching, discussing and exploring these aspects of a student's education.

Please click [HERE](#) to view our full annual PSHEE and SMSC curriculum and the range of topics and themes that we will be covering. The PSHEE topics for this term specifically are shown in the table below.

Michaelmas Term 2	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
Year 7	Guardian meeting	Assembly on Remembrance Day	Bullying versus banter	Cyberbullying	Keeping safe online	Personal identity	Celebration assembly
Year 8	Friendships	Assembly on Remembrance Day	Bullying	Keeping safe online	Sexting	British values	Celebration assembly
Year 9	Peer pressure	Assembly on Remembrance Day	Body image	Body image and the media	CSE	CSE	Celebration assembly
Year 10	Social media and self esteem	Assembly on Remembrance Day	Online stress	Hate crime	Hate crime	Managing conflict	Celebration assembly
Year 11	Celebrating diversity	Assembly on Remembrance Day	Digital footprint	Personal safety	Personal safety	Managing conflict	Celebration assembly
Year 12	Guardian angels	Assembly on Remembrance Day	Digital footprint	Personal safety	Personal safety	Managing conflict	Celebration assembly
Year 13	Guardian angels	Assembly on Remembrance Day	First aid – Choking	First aid – Burns	Domestic violence – Student research	Domestic violence – Teacher led	Celebration assembly

## SCHOOL NOTICES

### Lockdown cancellation of after-school clubs

According to new government guidance we are in the unfortunate position of having to cancel all extra-curricular clubs held after school for the duration of the current lockdown. For those who travel on the buses, from Monday 9th, they will leave school at 16.15 and will arrive at the students' stops an hour earlier.

If you are in the situation that you need your child to remain in school because you meet the criteria explained below, please contact [reception@mounthouse.org.uk](mailto:reception@mounthouse.org.uk)





*"Where schools are offering extra-curricular activities (that is, before and after school clubs) they should only do so where it is reasonably necessary to support parents to work, search for work, or undertake training or education, or where the provision is being used for the purposes of respite care."* For the full government guidance please review this webpage.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-and-childcare-settings-new-national-restrictions-from-5-november-2020#schools>

### **Car Park**

This week has been busy in the School car park. Part of the master planning exercise will include looking at the car park and how it works so I hope we will be able to improve that situation, but in the meantime please can we ask parents to drive and park considerately. This is particularly important during lockdown – please don't all arrive at 4pm!

### **Face masks**

The Department for Education has published further guidance for schools as part of this month's Lockdown. While these rules have been in place at Mount House for some weeks, there are still significant numbers of students who, disappointingly, are not wearing masks and I would be grateful if parents could reinforce the need for students to wear them. Should students forget their mask they can buy one from Reception for £1, and any monies collected will be donated to the Poppy Appeal.

Please can I remind everyone in the community of the guidance:

- In schools where pupils in year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained.
- Some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings and we expect adults and pupils to be sensitive to those needs.
- Face coverings should also be worn by pupils in year 7 and above when travelling on dedicated school transport to secondary school or college.

### **School Bus**

**Face masks are compulsory on the school buses, for the entire journey.** Please wear them in order to be considerate to each other and to the drivers, who are trying to do their jobs in difficult circumstances. If we were to be informed about a suspected Covid case (either a student or the driver), we will require everyone on that bus to self-isolate unless the students have followed the rules about masks, seating and boarding / disembarking the bus. As a reminder about the bus protocols, you can find them [HERE](#)

Please make sure that you arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus leaves. The bus will not wait for very long if the students are not at the stop – otherwise the whole schedule will be delayed.

### **School Uniform**

In order to keep the classrooms well ventilated, windows and doors are being left open. With this in mind we have decided to allow students to wear an additional layer in the form of school hoodie or coat during lessons if the classroom becomes too cold.



## FRIENDS of MOUNT HOUSE (FOMH)

In spite of current constraints, the parent-staff association is still very much active and looking forward to creating real and virtual opportunities for bringing the school community together this year.

Over the forthcoming terms we are hoping to help develop a programme of online talks for parents providing insights into the pastoral curriculum running at the school, and support social enterprise activities being developed by students.

Parent volunteers are also needed from a wide variety of industries to provide careers talks to students and participate in a planned summer Careers Fair. We also have some social events pencilled in for later in 2021, including the traditional Easter Egg hunt for students and a quiz night for parents in the summer term.

If you are interested in helping out with any of these activities, or have other suggestions, we are very keen to hear from you! We are also looking for parents to volunteer as class reps to help support FOMH activities, and for additional committee members (particularly from year groups 10 and 13, who are not currently represented). Keith Brueton (a Year 8 parent), is acting as Chair of the association whilst Miss Smyth is on maternity leave, and Julie Westmore (Year 9 parent) is the Committee Secretary. Please do contact either of them if you are able to contribute any ideas or time [kmbrueton@gmail.com](mailto:kmbrueton@gmail.com) and [jwesty@btinternet.com](mailto:jwesty@btinternet.com)

## FOCUS on A' LEVEL ECONOMICS with Mr Boonzaier

By studying Economics at A' level you will understand how societies decide what goods and services to produce, in what quantity, by what means and ultimately 'who gets what'. Students will gain an excellent understanding of how economies allocate their scarce resources to meet the needs and wants of their citizens. At Mount House we develop the students' interest and enthusiasm as they master the new language and methodology of Economics and learn to apply economic theories to complex situations.

In the classroom, students are expected to have a lively curiosity about the world. The subject has a contemporary emphasis and we aim to create in the individual the ability to think as an economist and develop a greater understanding of the problems which face businesses and governments on a local, national and global level and the alternative ways these economic problems can be resolved. We study the macroeconomics 'big picture' of how our national economy fits into the global context, the global impact of financial markets and monetary policy and the operation of the international economy. At the same time, we study at microeconomic areas investigating how individual decisions impact economic outcomes, the importance of competition, how markets operate and why they fail and the distribution of wealth.





Possible career options include banking and finance. The A' level course in Economics will stand you in good stead by giving you an insight and understanding of the economic forces that impact your day-to-day activities. The analytical and evaluation skills that you will have developed will be useful whatever path you choose in the future.

## SPORTS with Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde

The PE Department is delighted to welcome Mr Mather to the team. He has spent the week teaching volleyball to students in Key Stage 3 and has taught a range of team-based sports during Games afternoons.

Volleyball has been particularly popular across students at Key Stage 3. For many it has been an opportunity to develop new skills and for some the opportunity to refresh skills previous learnt. We look forward watching students' progress over the forthcoming weeks.



Students in Years 7 - 10 have had the opportunity to take part in either netball, football or hockey either on school campus or at Southgate Hockey Club. **Due to the current circumstances we are no longer able to travel to Southgate Hockey Club and therefore lessons will take place on school campus or at Hadley Wood Playing Fields.**



Students who have taken part in netball this week will continue to do so and those who have taken part in hockey and football will now walk to Hadley Wood Playing Fields to take part in football. If students have football boots it would be beneficial for them to wear them when playing on the fields. However, they will also require trainers to walk to the grounds.

This week Mr Mather introduced a new game to some of the students in Key Stages 4 and 5 called Flag Football. Sixth Form students picked up the rules quickly and demonstrated their competitive nature whilst playing in matches.





## HOUSE COMPETITION UPDATE with Miss Gillett



Congratulations to Everest House who were the first winners of the 2020-21 Interhouse competition season! Everest House showcased incredible talents including acting, musical skills, sporting finesse and amazing video editing to win 2 out of 3 of the year group sections in our **Interhouse Competition Assembly on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October**. Congratulations to Mr Whitehouse and Head of House Olivia George and all members of Everest House for their efforts.

Our next house event, the annual 'Christmas Extravaganza!' will be launched next Tuesday. Stay tuned for more details!

## WELCOME to Mount House Mr Mather

Re-locating to North London from Devon, Mr Mather has joined Mount House to teach PE and Drama with an undergraduate degree from Cardiff Metropolitan University and PGCE at University of Exeter.

He spent the summer of 2018 at a summer camp in America in Pennsylvania, where he was a camp counsellor and Swimming Coach. He played hockey for Exeter and Culm Valley Hornets and is looking forward to being able to start playing for Southgate Hockey Club once hockey resumes.



## Mount House School Christmas Card Competition 2020



The theme this year is **Christmas at Mount House**. You could create a painting, a drawing, or a photograph. Try to reflect both the season and the school in your image. Perhaps the school grounds could be the backdrop for a snowman, Santa or a seasonal animal? If you like using photoshop, you could edit an existing image of the school to make something creative and original. Or you could take a photo yourself in the school grounds and then edit.

Your picture should be **A5 in size** and needs to be handed in to Ms Somerville or Ms Baird with your name and the title of your work on the back by **Monday 16 November**. The 4 best entries will be printed as the Mount House Christmas cards for 2020.

## CO-CURRICULAR CLUBS – Ukulele Club with Mr Nancarrow



Leila, Alice and Melisa Year 8 (pictured) enjoying Ukulele Club on Thursday this week. Amelie and Grace are also members from Year 8 and Maya in Year 10.

The group is learning some basic chords and the pieces Count on Me by Bruno Mars, Heather by Conan Grey, and Yellow Submarine by The Beatles.

If you would like to join Ukulele Club please speak to Mr Nancarrow who will now be running this at lunchtime.

## 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 please complete the form on our website that can be found [here](#) and send the completed form to Mr Whitehouse [whitehouses@mounthouse.org.uk](mailto:whitehouses@mounthouse.org.uk). Hard copies of the form can also be found in Reception. We have a number of violins available at Mount House to provide on free loan if any pupil would like to use them for violin lessons

**Robin Richard** is a highly experienced Violin teacher. Robin has a BA Music from Middlesex University, where he studied the violin, and also a Certificate in Education from West Midlands College, Walsall. He has played in various small ensembles over the years, and he is also a skilled piano accompanist.



## AMERICAN ELECTION at Mount House from Mr Allman

We enjoyed our own USA Election Day here at Mount House on Tuesday. **Lola Mbololwa** represented Team Trump and **Jemima Carroll**, represented Team Biden.

We enjoyed their speeches and a Q&A session covering a range of topics including the economy, the environment and international relations. Our Politics teacher Phil Allman led proceedings and checked all the votes being counted. In the Mount House Team Biden won with 72% of the votes cast.