



NEWSLETTER 7 - October 16th

Message from Head Mrs. Richardson

I am conscious that in recent weeks I have covered some 'big' topics – bullying, racism, the Holocaust and perhaps as we approach half term it would be nice to focus on some more positive topics!

It has been another busy week at School. It was a great pleasure to attend my first Friends of Mount House meeting (via Zoom) earlier in the week, and I am looking forward to working with the Friends on a variety of exciting ideas.

I know that for many of us, any half term plans might have been curtailed. It is important to be reminded of travel restrictions and the quarantine rules which apply to most destinations. We are reliant on our whole community working together within the guidelines to ensure we can all return to school safely after the half term break. Despite the challenges, I am still very much looking forward to a few days off to re-charge batteries and I hope that Mount House families will be able to do the same. At the time of writing, there are still opportunities to visit some of London's incredible museums together with your household - all the big museums are still open as long as you book advance tickets – the British Museum, the Science Museum, the Natural History Museum and (my personal favourite!) the Imperial War Museum which has some fantastic exhibitions for keen historians. I would recommend booking quickly as I suspect tickets will be popular.



Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th October are in our calendar as Enrichment Days. We had hoped to be able to use these days to take students off timetable for trips and activities, but have decided that this is better postponed until a time when we can run a full and enjoyable programme. Lessons will therefore be as per the normal timetable next week. Please do remind your children to bring all their books home – although the Government is resisting calls for a circuit breaker, it may be that this changes during half term and we are ready to use our Remote Learning programme should it prove necessary.

I will be sending all parents a full half term summary towards the end of next week, which will detail some of the plans we are working on for taking Mount House forward in the coming months and years. In the meantime, I would remind you that next week there will be no after school clubs on Monday or Tuesday and we will finish for the half term break at 4pm on Tuesday. The buses will leave at 4.15 pm on both days. If parents were able to stagger their arrival in the school car park on Monday and Tuesday next week that would also be very helpful!

I hope that you all have a restful break.

SCHOOL DAY TIMING Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th October

As we approach Half Term there will be no clubs running on Monday 19th or Tuesday 20th October and buses will be leaving at 4.15pm on both days.

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

Please refer to the government guidelines about Covid-19 travel restrictions and quarantine regulations. Here is the latest advice on locations where you will not need to self-isolate.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors>

CO-CURRICULAR and ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT CLUB NEWS

Time Capsules

Our students have put together time capsules to capture this most unusual time.



TAKE A MOMENT TO FILL IN THESE PAGES FOR YOUR FUTURE SELF TO LOOK BACK ON. AND HERE ARE SOME OTHER IDEAS OF THINGS TO INCLUDE:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SOME PHOTOS FROM THIS TIME | <input type="checkbox"/> ANY ART WORK YOU CREATED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A JOURNAL OF YOUR DAYS | <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY / PET PICTURES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL NEWSPAPER PAGES OR CLIPPING | <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL MEMORIES |





Experimental Photography Club

Temidayo Yussuff-Shittu and Ciara Roche have been using Layers in Photoshop and have merged multiple photographic images together to create unusual effects.



Classics Club



The Classics Club has enjoyed a busy half term creating an innovative 'Top Trumps' of all the Greek Gods, heroes and creatures, analysing their special powers and comparing their relative strengths, speed, intelligence and special qualities.

If you enjoy Classics and would like to join the Club all are welcome on Thursday lunchtime with Mrs Fallon.

SPORTS AT MOUNT HOUSE from Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde

Students in Key Stage 3 have been developing their knowledge and understanding of the 'Components of Fitness' and have taken part in a number of tests to identify their current level of fitness and improve going forward.

House competitions

These continued in Year 7 & 8 this week, with students taking part in cricket-based activities. All students were extremely competitive giving their all to help their team.



Year 9 & 10 took part in football and cricket this week where they had the opportunity to demonstrate new skills within matches.

Year 11 worked on their batting technique in rounders and applied their learning in games.

Year 12 & 13 enjoyed taking part in very competitive 'Capture the Flag' games.

Winners of the House Competitions

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 11
			

Year 10, 12 & 13 will take part in their house competitions after half term.

The following students showed a great competitive performance in their House competition.

Year 7 - Grace Gakhar and Ava Adams

Year 8 - Luke Webster and George Cotgreave

Year 9 - Nia Forbes Agyepong and Luke Naumovic

Year 10 - Benecia Odogu and Arianna Paternostro

Year 11 - Ava Lovett

Year 12 & 13 - Harry Ourris and Rachael Harper-Wilkinson

Sports Clubs have now finished for this half term. It has been great to see so many students involved across the school. We hope to be able to put some of their learning into practice in the forthcoming months by arranging House Competitions and, where possible, fixtures against other schools.

PLEASE NOTE - Students have been informed to come into school in their PE kit if they have PE or Games lessons. If it is raining and students have both a PE lesson followed by a Games lesson, their PE lesson will take place inside. Games lessons will be outside.

Students in Years 7 - 10 will take part in a variety of activities during their Games lessons and will require shin pads and mouthguards.

CAREERS AT MOUNT HOUSE from Mrs Christou

10% discount for InvestIN programmes

InvestIN can provide students aged 12-18 with immersive experiences in their dream careers in over twenty different industries. The programmes are designed and delivered by highly accomplished professionals and involve interactive simulations, careers coaching and panel discussions with the experts.



During half term InvestIN are running 1, 2 and 5 day programmes covering scientific, business and creative professions. Prices start at £95.00 and a 10% discount is available with the code **MOUNTHOUSE10**

Further information regarding these career programmes at www.investin.org.



MORRISBY PROFILING

This week our Year 11 students all participated in Morrisby profiling, which involves a series of online psychometric testing designed to assess a range of different abilities and interests. This helps our students explore possible careers that combine their interests, personality and abilities. The report which is produced challenges and suggests careers then each student will also have a guidance interview with a Careers Advisor from Morrisby. A hard copy of their report will be provided and action plans will be discussed after Half Term. This is designed to stimulate critical thinking and encourage our students to consider a range of factors that are needed when making career decisions.

CAREERS FAIR – THURSDAY 24TH JUNE 2021

Our annual Careers Fair will be held on Thursday 24th June 2021 from 1400 - 1600 at School. Exhibitors from all sectors are required. If you or anyone you may know are able to support this event please contact Mrs Christou at: christou@mounthouse.org.uk

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. Hard copies of the form can also be found in Reception.

This week we profile our cello teacher **Patrick Tapio Johnson**, who has performed in all of London's major concert halls, often as principal cellist, soloist or chamber musician. As an orchestral performer Patrick's impressive credentials include the National Theatre, London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Royal Opera House and BBC Concert Orchestra. He has performed under the batons of many eminent conductors, including Sir Antonio Pappano, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Marin Alsop and John Wilson.

Patrick currently teaches cello at Queen Mary University of London and here at Mount House School. He teaches across all ranges of age and ability, always looking out for passion and dedication in potential students



LAMDA LESSONS



We work with Create Theatre School who run LAMDA Speech and Drama lessons for pupils at Mount House School. The lessons are all taught by Caroline Lau who has 20 years' experience teaching the LAMDA syllabus.

LAMDA stands for the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts; it is a famous drama school and one of the oldest examining boards. LAMDA exams help to improve confidence as well as speech; they place a big emphasis on speaking clearly with good diction, as well as expression. These are all invaluable skills for pupils as they progress through education and into adult life. The exams also give children experience of answering questions in a more formal environment with detail and enthusiasm, which is an essential life skill.

For more information and to book LAMDA lessons please see the attached letter.

FOCUS ON HISTORY from Mr Phillips



Year 7 pupils are studying 1066 and the Norman Conquest. As the year progresses, they will make their journey through the Middle Ages before they are introduced to the first Tudor monarch, Henry VII.

Year 8 are currently making their way through the bloody Tudor period and therefore topics such as the wives of Henry VIII and the Spanish Armada are eagerly anticipated. The rest of the year will focus on revolutions in Britain, Europe and America.

The origins of the First World War are the main focus of **Year 9** in the Michaelmas Term. The pupils will soon be studying the course of World War One before moving on to the causes and course of the Second World War.

Year 10 pupils have obviously started their GCSE course and we are engaged in the history of Germany, 1918-45 and the pupils are coming to terms with the demands of history at this level. **Year 11** pupils have already started a revision of the course and are looking forward to achieving outstanding grades next summer.

In the **Lower Sixth** we are investigating the career of Winston Churchill prior to studying British political history from 1955 to the demise of Mrs Thatcher in 1990. Our **Upper Sixth** students are in the process of completing their A level coursework and preparing for their thematic exam paper, which considers the changing nature of warfare, 1792-1945.

GREEN TEAM UPDATE – Biodiversity - from Miss Gillett

With a million species at risk of extinction, David Attenborough's documentary '*Extinction*' explores how this crisis of biodiversity has consequences for us all, including putting us at greater risk of pandemic diseases. If you haven't had a chance to watch this documentary, I highly recommend finding time to watch it. <https://tinyurl.com/extinctionthefacts>

In 2019, a landmark United Nations study found that species extinction is accelerating and when the world loses its biodiversity, it has a huge knock-on effect on our food systems, our resilience to climate change and our defences against disease. “Soil should be teeming with life,” says Prof. Richard Bardgett “but reports have suggested that up to 30% of the land’s surface globally has been degraded.” Bardgett explains that insects in the soil provide a crucial function breaking down organic matter so that the soil is ready for plant growth. Without these vital insects, which are being lost at an alarming rate, harvests are affected, impacting people all over the world.



The Green Team recognises the importance of biodiversity in the UK and supporting wildlife in our local area. The KS3 & 4 group have been working hard on a proposal for an **insect friendly garden** in the school, which will be submitted to the Senior Leadership Team before half term.

MASKS AT SCHOOL - UPDATED POLICY

It is compulsory for students to bring masks to School to use in all communal areas. When students forget, we supply one for them. Due to the volume of disposable masks we are now using which is an environmental as well as safety issue, we now need to provide further encouragement to students to remember to bring their own from home. **The new policy to be implemented after half term will be to charge £1 per disposable mask which will go towards a nominated charity.**

BENTLEY PHOTOGRAPHS

Your child will have received this week a card from Bentley photographic. An example of the card is below



The card contains 2 access codes which allow you to order your photographs directly from the Bentley website www.bentleypics.com

There will be free delivery on any orders delivered to Mount House until 30th October so please place your order as soon as possible to benefit from this.