

NEWSLETTER 4 - September 25th

Message from Head Mrs. Richardson

Autumn has certainly arrived at Mount House this week, and in some style with significant rain and a dramatic hailstorm on Thursday. This week the Student Council has had its first meeting of the term, and at our weekly meeting this morning the Heads of School Rachael, Claire and Rico briefed me about the concerns raised by students. I am delighted to announce one immediate success – the Bursar has been persuaded to turn on the heating on Monday! I look forward to working with the Student Council on some of the other areas they would like reviewed. This week too the students are getting noticeably more tired, and I suspect that the novelty of being back at school is wearing off; it is worth remembering that the transition back to school routines will take longer this year than it might normally, and making sure that we are getting enough exercise, rest and sleep are important.



The Covid situation is an ever changing one, and parents will no doubt be aware of the many and varied statements about schools and remote learning. We have reviewed the **Mount House Virtual Learning Programme**, which we very much hope NOT to have to use, but which you will find attached to this newsletter for your information. I would again ask parents to ensure students come to school with masks, and that parents do continue to emphasise with their children the need to wear them. A number of local schools have now had to send home bubbles, and we do need the whole community to work together to try and keep everyone as safe as possible.

Mr Kerr spoke to the School on Monday about bullying. Bullying is absolutely unacceptable. It is behaviour that can take many forms, and is repeated as well as intentional. Unkindness too is unacceptable, and is often prevalent in schools; I am sure that most of us will at some time have made comments or remarks which caused unintended upset, and so we continue to encourage all students to think carefully about what they say, and avoid engaging in 'banter' which is often more harmful than it might seem.

I wish you all a relaxing weekend.



CO-CURRICULAR and ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME from Mr Phillips

The Co-Curricular and Academic Enrichment Programmes continue to attract support from our students and the numbers attending continues to grow. As proponents of lifelong learning, the teaching staff are greatly encouraged by the number of pupils opting to take advantage of such a diverse number of clubs and societies.

Model House of Commons are preparing their speeches and arguments on the future of the Monarchy and those involved in the **Head's Endeavour Award** are enthusiastically engaged in their first of five demanding tasks. Mrs Billington has been delighted by the contributions of those attending the **Marketing and PR Group** as they prepare for their new product launch at the end of term.

THE OLD BAILEY SOCIETY

This week we discussed the trial of William Joyce who was charged with high treason in 1945. Known as 'Lord Haw-Haw', he was responsible for broadcasting German propaganda during the Second World War.

The only evidence offered by the prosecution was that he possessed a British passport. However, it emerged during his trial that he was an American and therefore he could not be convicted of betraying a country that was not his own. The reason he had a British passport was because he had lied on his application form about his nationality. The usual penalty for making a false statement on a passport was a small fine. However, the Attorney General argued, successfully, that his possession of a British passport, even though he had misstated his nationality to obtain it, entitled Joyce to British diplomatic protection until the passport expired. Therefore, he owed allegiance to the British Crown at the time he started working for the Germans! Found guilty of high treason, Joyce was hanged on 3 January 1946.



Zak Rahman-Cook (Year 9) pictured above with **Mr Phillips** and **Sohail Salehi** (Year 9) is busy preparing for his presentation next week on a famous trial.

It is never too late for pupils to sign up for our clubs and societies and we look forward to welcoming more pupils to enjoy such a rewarding and enriching experiences.

Download the [Co-Curricular Programme](#) and [Academic Enrichment Programme](#) information clicking on the links above.

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

SMSC Update from Miss Smyth - 'Transitions'



This week the SMSC program focused on transitions and tools for success.

The Year 7 assemblies were led by our Year 8 students. The Year 8's have been working hard over the past few weeks to reflect on their first year at secondary school and using their experiences to plan sessions for our newest members to enable them to reach their potential and make the most of their first year at Mount House. It was another opportunity for our students to connect with each other and come together outside of lesson time. Year 8 form tutors were very proud of their students and felt that the Year 7's learned valuable lessons from their peers.

In our upper school, the Upper 6th delivered sessions focusing on strategies to prepare Year 11 students for their first public examinations. Our Head of School Pupil Rachael Harper-Wilkinson delivered a talk with her 'Do's and Don'ts' for the year ahead. These included getting exercise, study tips and how to structure your revision. Together with Olivia George she has extended this session to include a Q&A for our Y11's. This is another example of how our students are supported at Mount House and how they care for each other.

Well done Mount House students, I am proud of you all and how you always go above and beyond for each other. Have a lovely weekend.

LAMDA news from Mrs Kelly, Drama Department



On Wednesday afternoon **Marissa Antoniou, Grace Hanna, Mona Vaseghi, Sienna Lacey and Timayo Ladipo** travelled to Vita et Pax school to take their LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) examination.

This was a practical exam performed in front of an examiner. Although this was as daunting as it sounds, the girls hid their nerves well, took a deep breath and did themselves proud, approaching everything with great confidence and determination. It was clear the girls had been working very hard in preparation for this event. Not only did they perform but they had to

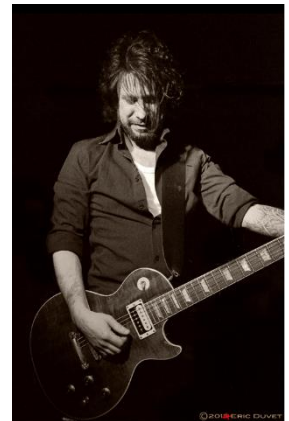
be ready to answer questions about their characters' emotions and motives. Mona performed two contrasting monologues while the other students performed a mix of monologues and duologues. Well done!



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 **Noel Martin our guitar teacher** who has 25 years of teaching experience including many styles of tuition from classical and folk, to rock and pop. Noel expertly tailors each learning experience to the individual student, offering graded teaching through several exam boards and if preferred, a more casual and relaxed approach. Noel also has a significant experience in more performing live, recording and song writing. He played the guitar for over 30 years touring Europe, the American East Coast, and Australia and closer to home has many treasured recordings from world famous Abbey Road Studios and his live performances include Wembley Arena, Birmingham Arena, the Shepherds Bush Empire and Brixton Academy. Noel brings this experience to his students and inspires a new generation of musicians and performers



TRANSPORT & SCHOOL COACHES

Beech Hill will be closed from the 5th October until the 16th November for road works. Please take this into account when travelling to and from school.

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 to avoid delaying the bus for the other pupils whilst we search for the missing pupil.

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.

If you would like to book a place on the coach, please fill out the booking form [here](#) and send it to coaches@mounthouse.org.uk. There are a few spaces left on all three routes (Canons Park, Friern Barnet, Enfield).

STUDENT ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

If your child is absent from school if they feel unwell please inform reception on **daily basis** on email reception@mounthouse.org.uk to confirm they will be absent. Please can you also fill out all the details of the illness in this form <https://forms.gle/f3LAdR6hkwKGiffo8>

LATE ARRIVALS

Please ensure that if your child is late arriving at Mount House they remember to sign the late register with Mrs Lamsley in reception. It is very important that all late arrivals are monitored and that all pupils have correctly registered their attendance.



GREEN TEAM 'Reusable PPE' from Miss Gillett and Lola Mweene

It is now mandatory to wear masks in communal spaces to around the School as an important safety measure. When buying a mask, it is best to choose a reusable triple-layer face mask which are very effective and are more eco-friendly than single-use surgical masks which cause unsightly litter and long-term waste.

Single-use masks are typically made from polypropylene, a fossil fuel-derived plastic that can take hundreds of years to break down. According to UCL's Plastic Waste Innovation Hub, if everyone in the UK used one single-use face-covering each day for a year, it would create 66,000 tonnes of plastic waste that cannot be recycled. A reusable mask does the task! The World Health Organisation (WHO) advises that people they can make their own multiple-layer mask via this tutorial.

<https://www.google.co.uk/amp/s/www.wired.com/story/how-to-make-a-cloth-face-mask/amp>

SPORTS AT MOUNT HOUSE from Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde

This week has seen the **Year 7 & 8 girls** take part in their first cricket session with Mr Shah. The group had the opportunity to identify and develop skills within the game and they put these to the test when taking part in competitive 'kwik cricket' games. The boys in Year 7 & 8 took part in athletics, developing their running and standing long jump techniques.

Year 11 have worked extremely hard during their Games afternoons and have used this opportunity to work with peers whilst having fun and enjoying sport which has been great to see. This week they took part in a game of Diamond Cricket where everyone had the opportunity to bat and field.

Year 12 & 13 became very competitive during their Games Afternoon, whilst taking part in rounders and football.



This week has seen sessions take place in the rain and therefore we encourage students to ensure they are dressed appropriately and have the correct equipment.

Sports Clubs



Sports Clubs continue to be popular and grow in numbers. They will continue to take place throughout the term and may, on occasion, take place in the hall due to the weather. Students should ensure that they see the member of staff leading the session to ensure they are clear on where the club will take place.

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Trampolines

It has been confirmed that routine maintenance on the trampolines will take place during half term. Therefore, we will continue to offer Gymnastics on Monday afternoons (16:00 – 17:00) until half term. Parents will be informed of the trampoline rotations that will take place in due course.

NEW HUMANITIES TEACHER – Welcome to Miss Samira Hassan



Miss Hassan joined Mount House this term to teach History, Religious Education and English. She has a BA in International Relations and History from the University of Leicester and a PGCE from the University of Warwick. Miss Hassan's specialism is in social history having conducted research and delivered her thesis on the experiences of immigrant communities in London. Miss Hassan is an avid reader and was also involved in societies such as Amnesty International focusing on Racial Equality and Human Rights and took part in Model European Parliament on the committee of Women's Rights and Gender Equality.

Welcome to Mount House Miss Hassan!

KEY DATES FOR NEXT WEEK

No key dates next week