



NEWSLETTER 11 - 27th November

Message from Head Mrs. Richardson

November is always a challenging month in schools. It is dark when we wake up and dark by the time we return home. Christmas is not quite close enough to feel real – although as I drove home last night the Christmas songs had started on the radio – and students and teachers are all getting tired. Somehow as soon as December starts, the excitement of Christmas refuels us all and gets us through those final weeks of Michaelmas Term.

The Student Council, ably led by Sixth Form students, have done a great job at putting together a programme of celebratory activities which we can all enjoy as a community. This week has seen the putting up of Christmas trees in the building, and we are looking forward to events starting in earnest on Wednesday 9th December, further details of which are later in the newsletter.



Christmas is, of course, a time when we also think of other as well as ourselves, and I am delighted by the way students and staff have embraced the Giving Tree. Profits from the Christmas cards, as well as the Christmas Fayre and the Christmas jumper day on Tuesday 15th December will go to the Noah's Ark Children's Hospice. And I am grateful to students, parents and staff for their generosity in supporting this vital local charity. Generosity at this time of any year, but especially this year, is an important part of what we do. It's about being kind to ourselves and to others, our families, our school friends and our colleagues.

I wish you all a restful weekend

Sarah Richardson





SCHOOL NOTICES



Face Masks

Over the past four weeks when pupils require face masks at School we charge £1 to supply a replacement and have donated all the money collected to Children in Need. The new nominated charity for these funds in the forthcoming month will be Noah's Ark Children's Hospice.

Patrice Smyth

Congratulations to our Head of Middle School, Miss Smyth, who gave birth to her beautiful baby boy Callum last week. Mother and baby are doing very well. Miss Smyth sent us this lovely photo of Callum to share with the Mount House community.



FOCUS on PSYCHOLOGY with Miss Ogando

If you are curious about human behaviour and how our brain and environment affect the way we think and behave, Psychology is the right subject for you. In this A' level subject you will discover theories about why human beings can commit the most atrocious war crimes such as the holocaust genocides just because they were following orders. Why is it important to follow orders? When can it be dangerous?



In A-Level Psychology, you will also discover how your memory works and how memory can play tricks on us. You will learn theories to explain why eyewitness testimonies are not always reliable whilst the life of an innocent person can depend on the accuracy of such things. Psychology is a fascinating subject that has many career pathways such as Clinical Psychology where you work for the

NHS helping people with mental illness; Neuropsychology where you can help people with brain injuries to improve their daily life or go into research to contribute to the advancement of science, and these are just a few examples of the myriad of options available to students. If you like writing and evaluating ideas about human behaviour, Psychology is the right choice for you.

SPORTS with Mrs Hillcoat – Hyde

This week students in Key Stage 3 have taken part in gymnastics. We have been focusing on partner balances and core gymnastics movements. Star performers were **Krrish Patel** Year 8, **Ava Adams** and **Grace Gakhar** Year 7.



Games sessions have continued to take place at Hadley Wood Playing Fields or on the school campus. Small-sided Football games were enjoyed in each of the teaching groups. **Tara Porter** Year 7 once again demonstrated her competitive approach to the sport. She scored a great goal and was named player of the match.

Nicholas Polycarpou Year 8 and **Roman McAvoy** Year 7 were both named

player of the match within their sessions. During Netball on Tuesday we focused on dodging and making space during the attack phase. Star performers were **Anne Banda** Year 7 and **Anna Collington** Year 8.

Year 10 had the opportunity to take part in trampolining or netball. Those who selected trampolining had the opportunity to develop skills at their level.

Stella Thrassyvoulou and **Sofia Rees** developed their front drops which was fantastic to watch and **Natalya Symeou** landed a somersault whilst using a mat which was a great achievement.



The Year 10 netballers braved the late autumnal chill for a cracking afternoon of competitive netball. Once the students had honed their passing and shooting skills, they played a series of small-sided matches. Stand out performers this week were **Amiee Isaacs** and **Libby Richards**. But I would like to highly commend all the girls for their effort, determination and level of performance. Well played!



A group of Year 11 students chose to take part in trampolining where all individuals developed new skills linked to their ability, including; the initial stages of a somersault, landing a somersault, cradle, front and back drop and $\frac{1}{2}$ twist in to and out of front and back drops. Others chose to take part in badminton and table tennis, and focused on playing tactics for both singles and doubles.



This week in Sixth Form Games we focused on Ultimate Frisbee which can be a challenging sport to pick up and play due to the nature of the shape of the frisbee, tactics and the rules. The pupils seemed to click with the sport immediately and got themselves into a highly competitive and high scoring match demonstrating impressive skills.

CO-CURRICULAR with Mrs Hillcoat- Hyde

Trampolining continues to be popular amongst the student body. Several students in Years 10 & 11 have worked hard to develop some of the more advanced skills including somersaults. Students in Year 7 had the opportunity to perform a 10 bounce routine adapted to the individual. Well done to everyone that has taken part this week.

It has been great to watch Year 11 take part in Badminton during lunch time – this is a great opportunity to for them to not only relax and enjoy sport but also socialise with peers.

HOUSE OF EQUALITY Tote Bag Competition



The deadline to submit tote bag designs for the House of Equality is **Tuesday December 1st**. The winning designs will be printed onto the bags by our Year 11 team and sold for charity. These tote bags could be seen all around Barnet, London and the rest of the country! Get your designs into Form Tutors by Tuesday. Any digital designs can be emailed directly to Mrs Allman allmans@mounthouse.org.uk

SPEAKERS' CORNER with Mr Allman



This term we have enjoyed some excellent presentations at our Speakers' Corner events. **Nia Gakwanda Year 10** provided a compelling insight into Rwanda's successful progress post conflict,



Katie Gallagher Year 10 discussed the highly topical issue of feminism and the #metoo movement, and the subject of traveller discrimination was investigated by **Grace Kelly**.

Our most recent presentation on December 16th by **Anna Collington** and **Emily Hooker Year 8** covered the key issue of the growing crisis of mental health crisis in the United Kingdom. They drew attention to the escalating crisis as a consequence of lockdown and why it should be taken increasingly seriously. They argued that the government needs to act more effectively in providing greater resources and facilities around the country to deal with this issue from building psychiatric hospitals to increasing the budget to provided trained councillors. The girls spoke eloquently and clearly to a captive audience.

Today all the Speakers' Corner participants (pictured above) received Certificates of Excellence from Mrs Richardson and were awarded book prizes.

CHRISTMAS AT MOUNT HOUSE

We are fully embracing the 'Christmas Spirit' in Mount House this year with a whole host of festive activities to raise spirits in our School community, with family and friends and the local community around us.

Form Room Decorating Competition 7th – 14th December

On Monday 7th December, the world-famous Form Room Decorating Competition will begin. It's a high-stakes competition involving every form in the school, led by form tutors, and will be judged by the Head on **Monday 14th December**.

The prize is... drum roll... a non-uniform day for the winning forms on 16th December (the last day of term). There will be three categories:

1. Classiest decorations
2. Novelty value decorations
3. Environmentally-themed decorations



Christmas Bauble decorating Friday 11th December

On Friday 11th December at lunchtime, there will be a bauble decorating activity, led by the Student Council and the Art Department. Details to follow.

Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day – Tuesday 15th December

On Tuesday 15th December, all students and staff will enjoy a special Christmas Lunch in their bubbles, with a slightly extended lunch time. Also, on this day the whole school, including all staff and students, will have a non-uniform 'Christmas Jumper' day. There are rules!



1. You must wear your best Christmas jumper
2. You must bring in a donation (recommended amount £2) to Noah's Ark Children's Hospice



3. You must take care not to spill gravy down your jumper.

Mount House School Christmas Concert

We are looking forward to filming our Christmas Concert on **Thursday 10th December** at St Mary's church. **For selected choir members performing from 4pm their pick-up time will be 5.45pm** from School, and the relevant parents have been informed. There will be a special Christmas treat provided for all those students singing from 4-5pm!

Mount House Christmas Cards in aid of Noah's Ark Children's Hospice – LAST DAY TO ORDER!

Today is the last day to place orders for our Charity Christmas Cards please email Fiona Coope schooladminofficer@mounthouse.org.uk to place your order ASAP and you will be able to collect your cards from reception on Tuesday 1st December.

Design 1 – Ice Skaters by Ailsa Rae Year 11



Design 2 – Christmas Wreath by Evie Redpath Year 9



Design 3 – Snowy Mount House by Emily Hooker Year 8



The cards are size A5 you can order a mixed pack of total 10 cards including each of the 3 designs for £5. Alternatively, you can order 10 cards of a single design for £5. Please make it clear which design you would like when ordering. Each card will have the message 'Season's Greetings' and comes with a red envelope.

'Giving Tree' for Christmas

This week we launched our 'Giving Tree' on the Cedar Lawn our School campus, to put a smile on the faces of those less fortunate than ourselves.

Our 'Giving Tree' is full of laminated tags with a suggested present. Students remove the tags and source the present, placing the laminated tag on the present under the tree in Reception. The presents will then be donated to **Age UK Barnet**, who support older isolated members of the community and **Young Barnet Foundation** who support disadvantaged children.



The presents with their laminated gift tags must be placed underneath the Christmas tree in the school reception by **09:00 on Friday 4th December**. (Please can gifts that are being donated to Young Barnet Foundation be left unwrapped but Age UK gifts can be wrapped).



Christmas Cards for Age UK Barnet

Students in Years 7 and 8 have made Christmas cards for Age UK Barnet which will be sent to members of the community. Age UK Barnet representative said:

'Thanks so much to your creative and kind Year 7s. These gorgeous cards will really lift the spirits of the older people we support.'

MOUNT HOUSE SCHOOL WEBSITE www.mounthouse.org.uk

This week we launched our 'new look' website with a new design, lots of new images, revised navigation and additional content. We do hope you like it, and will continue to develop the site over the coming months. We welcome any feedback or content you would like to see going forward, please email marketing@mounthouse.org.uk



'An Excellent Independent School'
The Telegraph