



# NEWSLETTER 15 – 22<sup>nd</sup> January

## Message from Head Mrs Richardson

On Monday a group of parents very kindly met with me to share some suggestions about activities which families could engage with next week as part of Holocaust Memorial Day. As you are aware, on Wednesday Mr Phillips will be running a whole school assembly at 8.35, which parents would be welcome to join with their children. The full details of the recommendations for activities which you as families can engage with are included in the detail of the newsletter, and I would particularly encourage you to look at the Bornstein family story as Mrs Bornstein is the grandmother of a friend of a child at Mount House.



I am very grateful to the Friends of Mount House for organising a talk for Year 8 parents on mobile phones and social media on January 28<sup>th</sup>, and I very much hope that it will be possible to encourage more such events.

We are also launching on Monday a project about which I am quite excited, aimed at encouraging intellectual curiosity and providing opportunities for engagement beyond the curriculum. We have launched a Teams group for students called Curiosity, Creativity and Competition and parallel to this, for Mount House parents, a private Facebook group of the same name. The idea is that this will be forum for posting ideas and opportunities in different categories: reading, research, competition, viewing, visiting and listening. The parent Facebook group and the student Teams group will cross-fertilise, so that we can share with parents the ideas we are suggesting for students to engage with in these areas, and in turn we very much hope parents will share their ideas on Facebook which we can then share with all our students on Teams. Further details are to be found below, and I very much hope that this will enable parents to work together as a community to support and encourage our students in their intellectual and creative development and ambition.

I wish you all a restful weekend.

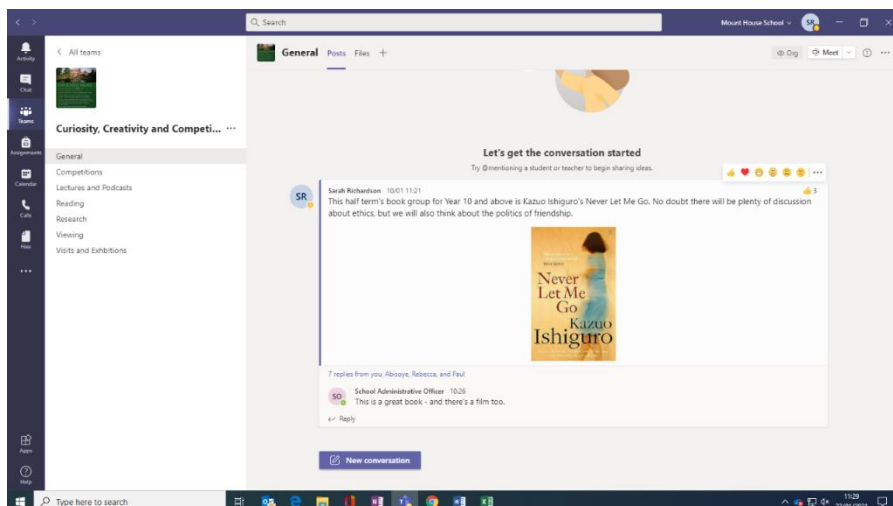
Sarah Richardson





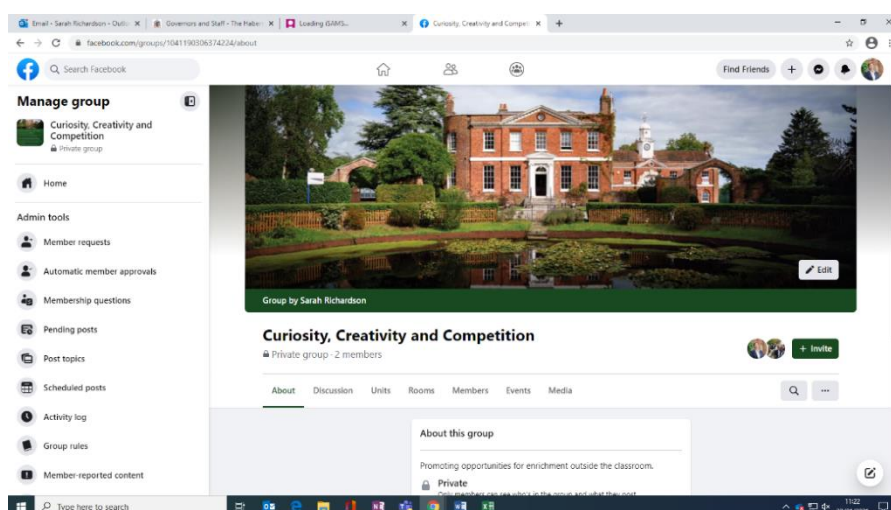
## CURIOSITY, CREATIVITY & COMPETITION

This new platform to support extra-curricular learning will be delivered on Teams and Facebook. This is the School Teams site which on Monday all students will be invited to:



And below is a screenshot of the parent Facebook group. If you have a Facebook account do please join this group – you simply search on Facebook for Curiosity, Creativity and Competition and send a join request. As soon as we have confirmed that you are a Mount House parent we will admit you as a member.

In the 'Units' section you will see areas for reading, research, competitions, visits, viewing and listening so you can post in the Discussion section or in the Unit section.



## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY: Wednesday 27th January 2021

Suggestions for family activity is below.

**Anne Frank** The Anne Frank organisation <https://www.annefrank.org/en> has some very good resources which are suitable for people of all ages. There is a 6 minute clip which explains the history of anti-semitism <https://www.annefrank.org/en/topics/antisemitism/> as well as an online game about standing up to prejudice which students can play <https://www.annefrank.org/en/education/product/27/fair-play/>

**Robert Rinder: My Family, the Holocaust and Me** Link to the programme [HERE](#)  
Contains some upsetting scenes

Robert Rinder helps the second and third generations of three families affected by the Holocaust to retrace their relatives' footsteps and discover the full truth about what happened to them. Robert also explores further his own family's Holocaust stories.

In the first episode, Robert meets Bernie Graham and sisters Natalie and Louisa as well as embarking on his own journey of discovery. He visits the town his family came from in Lithuania and also travels to the Treblinka death camp, where he knows that his Polish grandfather's parents and siblings died.

In episode 2 Robert Rinder continues his journey, meeting Noemie Lopian, whose French mother was arrested as a child by the Nazis. Noemie wants to follow in her mother's footsteps to understand what happened and how her mother survived. In an extraordinary scene she meets the grandson of the man who hid her mother and her mother's siblings in a chicken shed in his garden during round-ups of Jews in the town of Saint-Junien. Noemie also learns of the incredible sacrifice and courage of a young female French Resistance fighter who saved her mother's life. Noemi's family are friends with a Mount House family.

Linking on from this, you can find out more about Noemie Lopian's parents, the Bornesteins from this [LINK](#) . Ernst Bornstein's story is very harrowing, and as a result his story has been made into an animation which is suitable for children <https://www.holocaustmatters.org/watch-the-long-night/>



**Defiance** is based on the true story of a group of Jews in Belarus who successfully defied the Nazis, hid in the forest and maintained a self-contained society while losing about 50 of their some 1,200 members. The "Bielski Partisans" represented the war's largest and most successful group of Jewish resisters and the shows their story: how they survived, governed themselves and dealt with ethical questions. **Please note this is a 15 certificate.**

**Yad Vashem UK** This is an organisation dedicated to honouring the memory of everyone who perished in the Holocaust. They run a programme called 'Guardian of the Memory' where each guardian is asked to light a candle on HMD in memory of the person whose name and details they have selected. Please do go onto their website and have a look [HERE](#)



## Virtual Learning Programme (VLP) PUPIL SURVEY FEEDBACK

### **Thank you to those who completed the student survey last week**

It is encouraging to report that the vast majority of students are very satisfied with the overall provision of the VLP. We would like to share the common themes within the feedback and how we have responded.

**Homework** - A number of students raised a concern about the amount of homework that is being set. In response to this and for clarification, the homework schedule is as follows:

- As 'normal' but lighter where possible for Years 10 and above
- Light touch but still regular homework for Years 7, 8 and 9

Students: please do communicate with your subject teacher and your tutor if you have any concerns about your homework. Although no students raised concerns about a lack of homework Mr Phillips and the History Department will be offering additional opportunities for homework to all Year 7, 8 and 9 students.

**Screen time** - A high percentage of students reported that they are not taking regular breaks from their computer. Please do try and create screen-free time during the day and I would advise no screens for an hour before going to bed.

**Exercise** - A whopping 90% of respondents reported that they are not getting enough exercise each day. Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde has reviewed the PE programme and over the next couple of weeks we will have a big push on encouraging students to engage with this. Please get involved in the additional PE sessions that have been organised.

**Pastoral care** - It is very pleasing to report that the vast majority of respondents are very satisfied with the support given by their tutors. Please do not forget to contact your tutor or any other member of the pastoral team should you wish to talk about anything of a pastoral nature.

Best wishes,  
Mr Kerr





## TEXTILES with Mrs Graves



We welcome our new textiles teacher Mrs Graves. Mrs Graves started her career in the fashion industry as a printed textile designer in Italy, New York and at Courtauld Prints in London. She has since acquired 28 years of teaching Art and Textiles GCSE and A Level and offers considerable experience and in-depth subject knowledge.

Mrs Graves said; 'I have been made to feel extremely welcome by staff and students at Mount House and I am delighted to take forward the tradition of high quality of textiles work which exists at Mount House. I work

passionately to develop students' individual strengths by using a wide range of skills and textiles techniques, ensuring each student is able to reach their full potential and gain excellent results.'

## ENGLISH with Mr Nancarrow

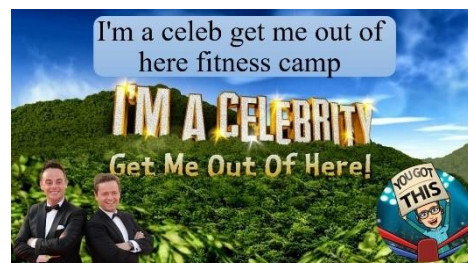
In Year 7 English Mr Nancarrow started his lesson with a memory game, whereby students are challenged to remember the sequence in which puppets representing each one with an action such as making the shape of a beak to signify a crow puppet. If their action does not correspond to the correct order the puppets appeared then they are out the game. This technique proved to be a good way to engage students at the start of a lesson whilst working remotely on Teams and also improves their memory skills as well as being a lot of fun, as Mrs Richardson discovered when she joined the class at the start of their lesson.





## SPORT with Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde

This week students in Key Stage 3 have taken part in various fitness-based games competing against each other and the teacher. All groups had the opportunity to take part in 'Card Roulette' giving their all to complete this activity. Some students have taken part in 'I'm a Celebrity' and now they know the rules of the game you may wish to take on the challenge together as a family at home.



The Games Programme has seen students 'Take on the Teacher' who are live on screen to challenge students the complete the 'Circuit of the Week.' Students then can choose from a selection of fitness-based and sports-based activities. The students based in school chose to take part in a basketball-based activity, following the link and giving it their all to complete this challenge.



A reminder that the PE Department are running 'Take on the Teacher' and 'Snakes and Ladders' throughout the week.

We look forward to students taking on the challenge to beat us as they take part in one of our fitness challenges.

Students can join us on the whole school Team for any of the sessions listed below:

Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	08:00 – 08:20	Take on the Teacher	All students are invited	Mr Kerr
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	08:00 – 08:20	Take on the Teacher	All students are invited	Mr Mather
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	16:10 – 17:00	Snakes & Ladders Fitness	All students are invited	PE Department
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	08:00 – 08:20	Take on the Teacher	All students are invited	Mr Mullins





## EXTRA-CURRICULAR with Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde

It was great to see students take part in the first Mount House Bake Off Event this term. We have two winners from those who took part between Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January.

**Omar Riaz** baked a victoria sponge cake and **Tomi Fulker** baked brownies. Well done to both students who will receive their prizes in the post.



A reminder that the second challenge has started and will finish on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January (*please note that bakes completed as part of the offline day will not form part of the extra-curricular competition*).



**Athena Demetriou** took on the photography challenge between Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January and has produced this great work and will receive her prize in the post.

## GREEN TEAM with Miss Gillett

Last term, our Green Team worked hard to set up the school greenhouse, with the intention of growing insect friendly plants for the school gardens. As we start to see the days gradually lengthen, the students on site and Miss Gillett took the opportunity to try and grow seedlings for spring sowing. Krrish, Roman, Ethan and Santi are experimenting with beans, flowers to attract pollinators and pumpkin seeds. We hope to update you soon on their success!





## ART with Mrs Somerville and Mrs Baird



This week we feature this fantastic A level art by Linda Wang. Linda has spent many hours creating these 3 large canvases for her A level coursework. She has used lots of different techniques in each square exploring the theme of colour, pattern and shape.



Year 9 are studying the work of American Pop artists Jasper Johns. Here is a selection of the students' responses to his number paintings.

1. Sara Pakoglu
2. Angus Lau
3. Tomi Fulker
4. Rae Giussani
5. Lydia Frost-Tingling

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.







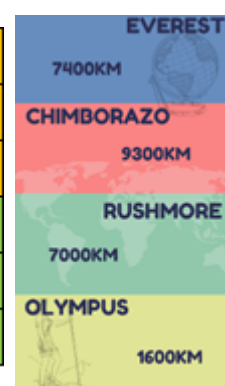
## 'MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE' OFFLINE DAY with Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde



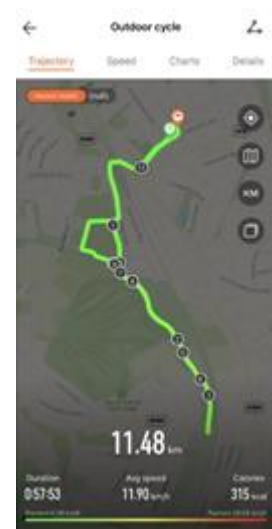
It was fantastic to see students (along with their families) in Years 7 – 9 take part in our Offline Activity Day on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January. The day started with a challenge which saw students travelling to their chosen House mountain.

EVEREST			
Walking	Running	Cycling	Swimming
3.7km	3.7km	7.4km	74 lengths
CHIMBORAZO			
Walking	Running	Cycling	Swimming
4.65km	4.64km	9.3km	93 lengths

OLYMPUS			
Walking	Running	Cycling	Swimming
0.8km	0.8km	1.6km	16 lengths
RUSHMORE			
Walking	Running	Cycling	Swimming
3.5km	3.5km	7km	70 lengths



It was great to receive evidence of students completing this task during a wet morning! A huge congratulations to everyone for taking part and pushing yourselves to complete the challenge that you set yourself.





The Quiz challenge demonstrated students definitely knew their mountain facts and were able to share their knowledge and understanding whilst gaining points for their House. Well done to those of you who completed the quiz, as a result the following points have been awarded to each House:

<b>CHIMBORAZO</b>	40
<b>EVEREST</b>	45
<b>OLYMPUS</b>	40
<b>RUSHMORE</b>	45

The following students have won prizes for their work, which they will receive in the post;

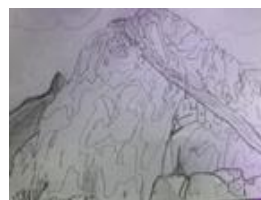
ACTIVITY	WINNERS	
Paint, sculpt or draw your chosen mountain	Ava Adams	Hailey Boakye
Travel guide leaflet	Lydia Frost-Tingling	
Mount House Bake Off Show Stopper cake	Zachary Hodgins	Theo Whitehouse
'Top Trump' cards.	Elodie Kaye	Mia Bushnell
Three Course Meal	Ayan Shahzad	Evie Redpath

Well done to all students taking part in the activities here is a selection of the work completed which shows the excellent participation in the 'Mountain Challenge' including all the prize winners.





**MOUNT HOUSE  
SCHOOL**  
INSPIRING EVERY INDIVIDUAL



																																			
Evening	Chapters	Postcards	Chapters																																
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## BREAKING NEWS – MHS TRIPS PLANNED FOR 2021 (Covid permitting)

### TRIP TO WASHINGTON DC - October 2021

As part of the Mount House School Enrichment Programme, Mr Phillips will be organising a five-day trip to Washington DC for October 2021. The trip will be open to all pupils who are currently in years 10, 11 and 12.



The itinerary is designed to appeal to a wide range of academic interests and will cover a number of subject areas including history, politics, literature, philosophy, music and art. In addition to enhancing our knowledge, this will also be an opportunity to share an exciting and thoroughly enjoyable experience.

We will stay in the centre of the capital of the USA, Washington DC. All the notable landmarks will be taken in including the home of the President of the United States, the White House. We will also visit Congress to have a guided tour of the House of Representatives. There will also be an opportunity to have a tour of the Supreme Court and visit the headquarters of the FBI.

The Lincoln Memorial made famous by Martin Luther King's 'I have a dream' speech will also be on the itinerary as will the Vietnam Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery, the site of the grave of President John F. Kennedy and the eternal flame.



On our way back to Dulles Airport, we will also be visiting Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington, on the Potomac river.



During our stay in DC there will be plenty to do in the evenings, including meeting a veteran of the Civil Rights Movement and attending an ice hockey match and support the local team, the 'Washington Capitals'! Mr Phillips has visited Washington on eleven previous academic trips and with his experience of running this itinerary all who join will have a very rewarding and

memorable experience. For further information please email Mr Phillips [phillipst@mounthouse.org.uk](mailto:phillipst@mounthouse.org.uk)

### SKI TRIP - December 2021.

The PE department have started to make initial preparations for a School Ski trip to the Alps that has been provisionally scheduled for December 2021 and will be open to students from year 7 – 11.

We will send out more details as soon as we are able. In the meantime, please can you complete [this google](#) form to indicate your level of interest in the School Ski trip in December 2021, which will aid planning. Here is a photo from the successful Mount House Ski trip in 2019, and the December 2021 trip promises to be even better!





More information about trips planned for 2021/2 will follow.

## FOMH BEST PRACTICE SESSION – MOBILE PHONE USE YEAR 8

**Online learning session on mobile phones - 28<sup>th</sup> January at 6 pm**

Calling all parents in Year 8! Do you want to get a better handle on your child's mobile phone usage? Have you successfully implemented any practices that you would like to share with other parents?



On 28<sup>th</sup> January at 6 pm there will be a short virtual session hosted by Mr Kerr to chat about concerns and tips on this issue. Please email [KerrM@MountHouse.org.uk](mailto:KerrM@MountHouse.org.uk) to receive a meeting invite with the Zoom details. This is intended to be the first in a series of virtual parent sessions on pastoral topics that will be rolled out to other year groups.