



NEWSLETTER 18 – 12th February

Message from Head Mrs Richardson

It has, I know parents will agree, been an exhausting 6 weeks. I congratulate you all on having 'survived'. No doubt in your houses, as with mine, continuing to work while also looking after - and let's face it worrying about - the well-being of children has been a draining experience. I am sure that many of you will not be having a week 'off' next week but I hope that your children will appreciate some time off screen. Or at least off the Teams and lessons screen!



Life continues to feel somewhat in limbo at the moment – for everyone - but certainly in the education sector as we await the Prime Minister's announcement on 22nd February about when schools will be allowed to fully re-open. We also hope to hear from Ofqual at about the same time, telling us how this summer's public examinations will be assessed. We will of course communicate arrangements for all of this to parents as soon as we possibly can.

In the meantime, I congratulate Years 7, 8 and 9 for their engagement with last week's off-timetable day. The effort students put into identifying charities they would like to support and presenting the details to their peers was impressive, and I hope all Mount House families will be able to use the charity challenge as a means of getting out of the house next week, and exercising in support of good causes. We will offer a similar day for Years 10 and 11 after half term, and Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde will be in touch with further details so that over half term the students in those year groups can start thinking about charities they would like to support.

Students can also engage with some of the suggestions on the Curiosity, Creativity and Competition Teams site – if are looking for a good half term read there are some suggestions – as well as on-line exhibitions, podcasts and competitions.



If parents wish to join the Facebook group I would encourage you to do so – and please also feel free to share any suggestions you might have.

I wish you all a restful half term.



YEAR 7 CLASSICS with Mrs Fallon

This half term Year 7 have been learning about the Greek hero Heracles, more familiarly known as Hercules. Hercules was one of the most popular Greek heroes and he faced all kinds of dangers, from the moment of his birth. Heracles' father was king of the gods, Zeus, and his mother was a mortal princess, called Alcmene. The name Hera-cles means 'glory of Hera', but actually Zeus' wife, Hera, was furious that her husband had fathered Heracles by another woman. Years later, Hera had her revenge when she drove Heracles insane. During his madness, he killed his wife Megara and their children. The gods decided that Heracles had to be punished and they ordered him to do whatever tasks King Eurystheus set him. So, Heracles was instructed to complete 12 labours as punishment for his crimes. It was Hera's hope was that one of the creatures would kill Heracles. However, Heracles' mixture of bravery, strength, persistence and intelligence meant that he not only completed all 12 labours, but he also gained the heroic status he is so famous for to this day.



This week Year 7 were tasked with designing their own Greek vase depicting one of Heracles' labours. They studied the different styles of vase painting and chose either red or black figure. Below are designs from **Omar Riaz** and **Luca Giussani**, who have drawn Heracles and the Nemean Lion, **Oscar Michaels**, **Sofie Bartek** and **Ava Adams**, who have depicted Heracles' and the Hydra of Lerna, **Dharmani Joshi** who has depicted Heracles and the Horses of Diomedes, **Santi Scicchitano** who has drawn Heracles cleaning the Augean stables and **Renuk Yapa**, who has drawn Heracles and Cerberus.





YEAR 12 HISTORY with Mr Phillips



Our lower Sixth historians have been busy during lockdown. With Miss Hassan they are nearing the end of their study of the British Unit. Following an investigation into the career of Winston Churchill from 1930 to 1951 (we are all eagerly awaiting the time we can visit Churchill's home at Chartwell in Kent!) our A Level students have considered British political history from the post war Attlee Labour government to the end of Major's Conservative administration in 1997. Watching

'The Crown' on Netflix has been a recommended extension activity, although it has to be viewed with a degree of caution as some of the historical 'facts' are debateable!

With Mr McCormick our students have been concentrating on the history of Germany from 1919 to 1963. During the course of their study of this unit they have considered the development of the Weimar Republic, the establishment of the Nazi dictatorship and its domestic policies, the impact of war and defeat on Germany and they are now in the process of covering the history of West and East Germany. This was another opportunity for the History Department to consider the historiography of the Holocaust.

Mr Phillips has introduced our students to the demands of their coursework assignment. Over the next two terms they will be engaged in a 4000-word essay to assess the reasons for Margaret Thatcher's downfall in 1990. They will be delving into such areas as the Poll Tax, the policy on Europe and Mrs Thatcher's presidential style of government. There's plenty of reading and research to be undertaken and Mr Phillips was delighted to produce a lengthy list of recommended books to consult! We have very good exam candidates and we are sure they will be up to the task.

ART with Mrs Baird and Mrs Somerville

Elizabeth He in Year 13 has created a series of photos for her A Level art project 'Hearing Music'





Year 9 created flags in response to the work of pop artist Jasper Johns. They used flour and water, scrunched up paper or collage to create a textured base on which to work.



Sohail



Musa



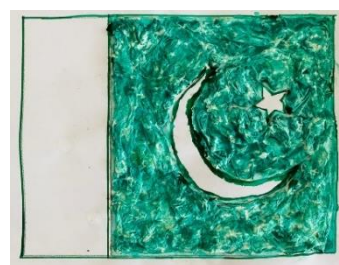
Lydia



Aoife



Zac W



Tomi



Rae



Sara



Tomi

SPORT with Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde

Please follow us on Instagram and take part in our Cha Cha Slide Hashtag Campaign!
#chachaslidechallengemhs

This week students in Key Stage 3 have taken part in 'The Escape Room,' a fitness and skill-based activity which has seen students work hard to save the PE Department. A great effort was seen throughout the different year groups and the PE Department were relieved to be saved.



This week's Games sessions have seen students take part in a variety of fun based fitness challenges, including;

- The Cha Cha Slide Plank Challenge
- The Hokey Cokey Plank Challenge
- The Handstand Challenge
- The Bring Sally Up, Bring Sally Down Plank and Squat Challenge
- The Pump it Up High Knees and Arm Waving Challenge
- The Burpee Challenge to I Get Knocked Down

Our athletes who worked extremely hard to conquer the fitness challenges are:

Year 7: Temidayo Yussuff-Shittu

Year 8: Mia Bushnell

Our athlete of the week and the student who we can depend upon to save the PE Department is Zac Webster in Year 9.

Please make sure you check the Extra-Curricular Programme to identify the sporting opportunities on offer after half term.

A huge well done to everyone for the work carried out this half term. Enjoy the half term break and we look forward to seeing you after half term for more fun and games.





Years 7 – 9 DRAGONS' DEN CHARITY EVENT with Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde

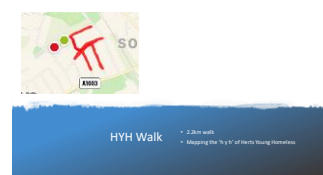
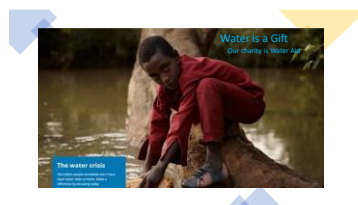
The Dragons were extremely impressed by the presentations across the key stage. It was evident that students had spent time working together in order to carry out research and produce informative presentations. With the standard of presentations being extremely high across the board in each year group it was difficult to select one charity per year group and before sharing the charities we would like to say thank you to the students for their efforts and for making the experience as enjoyable for us the staff.

The three charities that we will be supporting are below:

Year 7: **Water Aid** (Temidayo Yussuff-Shittu, Sophia Sarkoob, Tara Porter and Lilly Manzi)

Year 8: **Videx Charitable Trust** (Lillie Hiscock, Meric Duymaz, Ciara Nicolaides and Emily Hooker)

Year 9: **Herts Young Homeless** (Evie Redpath and Dara Koleva)



To support the various charities, we have set up JustGiving pages which will allow students, parents, relatives and staff to donate to one of the charities.

JustGiving™

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mounthouseyear7>

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mounthouseyear9>

As Videx is part of Virgin Giving Money we have set up the following page

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/MountHouseSchool>

Following the presentations, it was great to see the students being so complimentary of each other and supporting the chosen charities.

The afternoon activities saw students writing to relatives to inform them of the charity their year groups would be supporting and planning for their Bronze, Silver, Gold Challenge which will take place in the forthcoming weeks.

My comment to students is: fantastic work by all who took part in the Dragons' Den Charity Event! Your efforts were truly amazing! Well done!

Dear grandma and grandad,

I am writing to you to inform you of what I have learnt today during my offline day. Today I presented my powerpoint presentation about the butterfly AVM charity. It was a lot of fun. And I learned that I should always spend more than a little bit of time on a project. Sadly I did not win but my friend Temi did his group made a presentation about water trust and how they are trying to get clean water to every home everywhere. It was very impressive

From your grandson
Oscar



MUSIC with Mr Whitehouse

Year 9 have been learning about the music of Cuba and are practicing parts for the bolero classic 'Quizas Quizas Quizas'.

String and woodwind players are invited to join respective groups on teams.

The Phantoms are thriving, learning rock classics 'Don't fear the reaper' and 'The unforgiven'.

Joel Robinson

Oscar Michaels

Tomi Fulker

Lorenzo Theodoulou



#chachaslidechallenge with Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde, Mr Mullins and Mr Mather



Last week saw the PE Department along with various members of staff and students both in school and at home take on the #chachaslidechallenge. It was a great way to start the morning with a burst of energy being released through physical activity

Lots of different fitness videos are being uploaded to social with #chachaslidechallenge and we wanted to take on the challenge within Mount House. Our PE teachers Mr Mullins and Mr Mather braved the cold to create an inaugural #chachaslidechallenge video. Head over to our social channels to see the video and accept the challenge to add your own video with the hashtag #chachaslidechallenge



<https://youtu.be/vPRFWT0slgk>

SPEAKERS' CORNER with Mr Allman

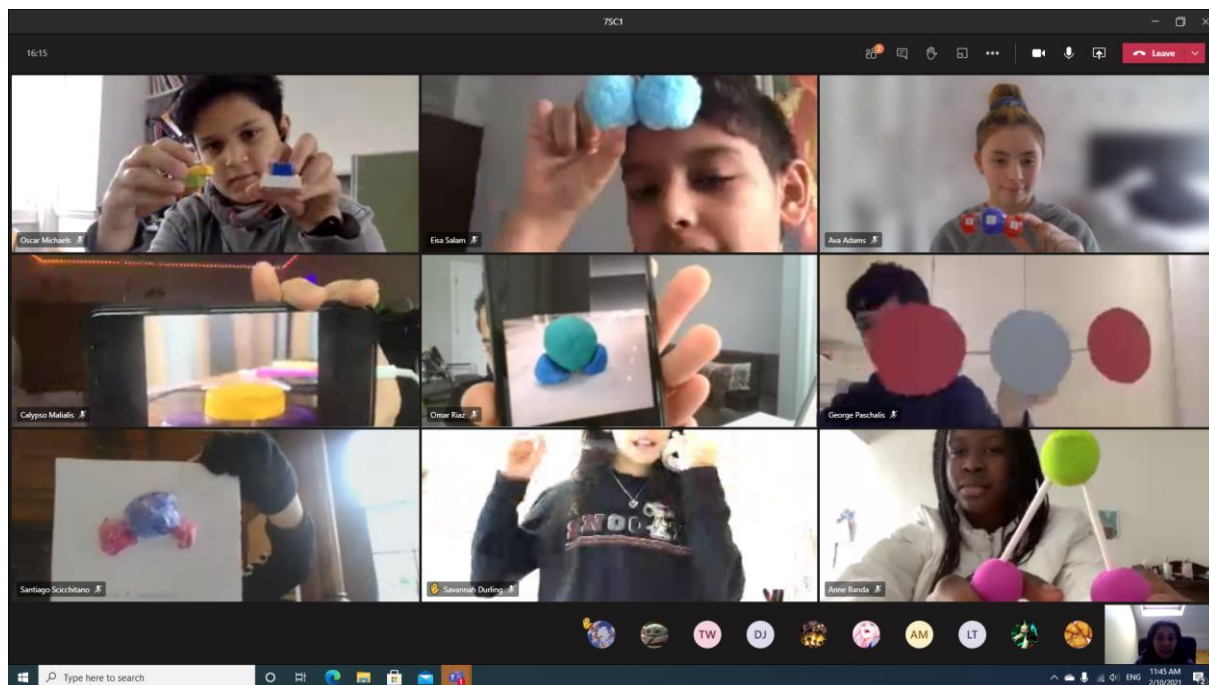
Speakers' Corner is set to return after half term. We expect a presentation to be made on **Monday, March 1st** during the school assembly. The speech will be on a very serious and controversial issue which has been widely discussed in the media.

Remember, Speakers' Corner offers all students the opportunity to address and bring to the attention of the whole school any issue, event or concern they may have.

If you would like to take part in Speakers' Corner please contact Mr Allman via his email - allmanp@mounthouse.org.uk or A Level Politics Y13 student [Jemima Carroll](mailto:Jemima.Carroll@mounthouse.org.uk) - carrollj@mounthouse.org.uk

All presenters are awarded with the prized Speakers' Corner certificate and a special prize presented by Mrs Richardson. We hope to hear from you soon.

CHEMISTRY with Mrs Martin



Year 7 were set work to model elements and compounds using things found around the home. Students pictured are modelling hydrogen, water, carbon dioxide and sodium chloride (table salt). Some students have managed to demonstrate the correct shape of water which is V-shape (bond angle 104 degrees; and an A-Level concept!) Well done to all the students.



LOCKDOWN QUESTION OF THE WEEK with Mr Phillips

Last week he asked:

What do the following U.S. states have in common?

Arizona, California, Nevada, Oklahoma and West Virginia

Answer: Battleships sunk in Pearl Harbor

Question for 12th February

What do the following world leaders have in common?

Benazir Bhutto, Justin Trudeau, Indira Gandhi, John Quincy Adams, Kim Jong-un,

Basher al-Assad, George W Bush, William Pitt the Younger

The answer will be revealed in the next newsletter.