



# NEWSLETTER 17 – 5<sup>th</sup> February

## Message from Head Mrs Richardson

It has been a pleasure to wake up this morning to positive news. The extraordinary efforts of the NHS in rolling out the vaccination programme, the growing confidence that schools will be able to re-open on 8th March, and that community sport will also re-open as soon as possible after schools are all very welcome signs of progress. The possibility of vaccination passports is under discussion, and for those of you who follow cricket you will I am sure be delighted to see a test match back on terrestrial television and another century for Joe Root!



This week has seen 'round 2' of the Mount House entrance test for Year 7 2021 entry, and we have really enjoyed meeting the next generation of Mount House students. We will be sending out offer letters next week, and are really excited about the talented students who are planning to join us. One of the questions I often ask the prospective students is 'what 3 words would your friends use to describe you?'. Slightly worryingly for Mount House teachers, almost every response has been 'funny' – so we will look forward to some entertaining classrooms next year! Thankfully, many also feel they are kind and generous so we really could have a brilliant year 7 coming into the school. These students have not all been able to visit Mount House, so we do very much hope to be able to welcome them for a visit as soon as possible, and we are also hoping to hold a whole school open day on Saturday 19th June. Please do pop that date in your diaries as we would really like all our current students to be with us on that day as they are wonderful ambassadors for our school.

Our new Teams site, Curiosity, Creativity and Competition, is filling up with some great ideas and opportunities for students. I was also delighted to see so many Year 9s at the HPQ meeting on Tuesday evening. The HPQ is a wonderful opportunity for students to demonstrate their intellectual and creative curiosity and to develop their independent research skills. That it also gives students and additional 'half' GCSE makes it even more attractive. I encourage all Year 9s to contact Mr Phillips, Miss Gillet or me (through the Year 9 Team) if they have any questions. We will start the 'taught' element of this qualification after half-term.

This year we have also been working on a number of booklets to support parents and students as they navigate their way through Mount House and their educational journey. The first of these is a Curriculum Booklet which explains the course content for all the subjects we teach in Years 7-11, and I hope will be a useful guide to parents and is attached to this mailing. We will also be sending out a Student and Parent Handbook for Years 7 and 8 which explains the journey of a Mount House student from transition through to the end of Year 8. We look forward to getting your feedback on both of these booklets, and over the coming term we will be working on similar documents for the Middle School and the Sixth Form.

Wishing you all a relaxing weekend.

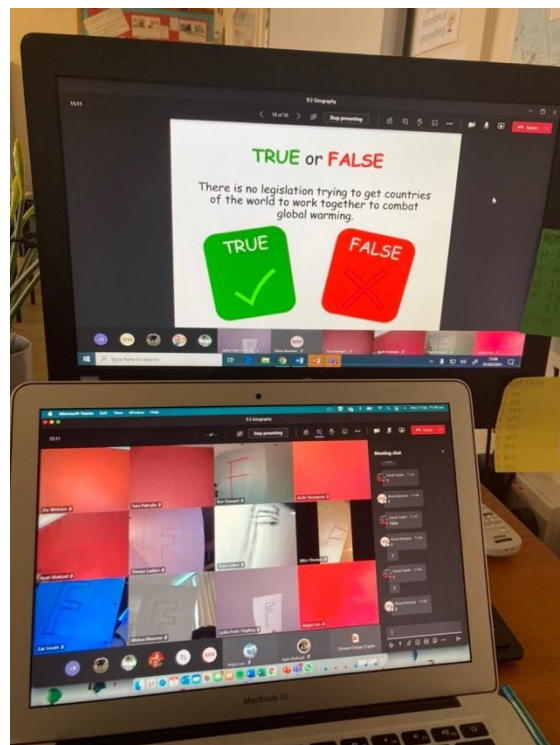


## GEOGRAPHY with Miss Gillett

This term Year 9 students are completing a unit investigating climate change in their Sustainable Futures unit. Students have been identifying the causes of climate change, both natural and man-made and are exploring how the enhanced greenhouse effect is impacting all parts of the planet - including its impact on the weather and food supply in the United Kingdom.

This week, we began with a quick True/False activity to check our understanding and see how much we knew about potential solutions for climate change such as global climate agreements and renewable energy.

Year 9 students have also been using an online learning platform called Seneca to check their understanding of climate change concepts. Seneca is great to use as a revision tool as it presents summarised information on each topic and allows students to answer a variety of different short answer questions, similar to low mark exam style questions they would engage with in GCSE's.



Our Year 8 students have been investigating urban environments in their Changing Nations unit, with a focus on megacities such as Mumbai, including discussions like:

- How are megacities formed?
- Why do people migrate to large cities?
- What problems occur as a result of their population size and rapid growth?

As a part of their recent Geography assessment, students set out trying to creatively recreate their own megacity at home using what they had around the house. There were some amazing cities constructed from Lego, cake, perfume bottles, pillows and computer programs.



### ART with Mrs Baird and Mrs Somerville

Year 11 Art Students have displayed great determination and independence working from home completing amazing large canvases for their GCSE coursework.

Here are Elise Akman's grid portraits for her expression project.



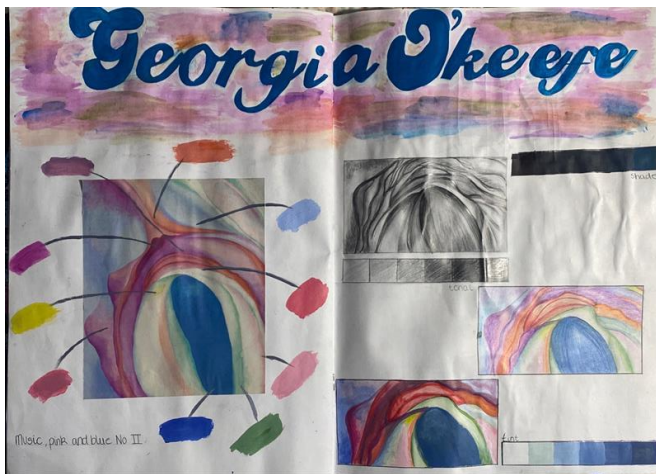




Sienna Coletta's sculpture of a butterfly, Poppy Canty's painting of a flower and Keren Mulat-Weldemeskel's seashore all created for their natural form projects.



Emmanuela Attakpah Y10 created a visual investigation into the work of Georgia O'Keeffe.

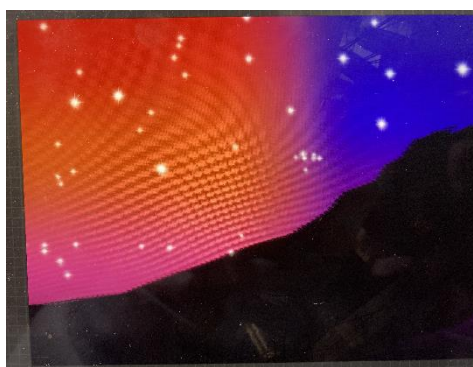


By Lesley Shi Y13. A final piece for her Concealment project





Year 7 have been investigating warm and cool colours and created these images using any medium that they wished. Calypso and Alice used their ipads.



(Left to Right) Calypso Malialis, Alice Westmore and Ava Adams

## SPORT with Mrs Hillcoat - Hyde

Students in Key Stage 3 have continued to take part in various fitness-based games, with the most popular game this week being 'Snakes and Ladders'. As the weeks have gone by individuals (both students and staff) have become more competitive and this has been great to not only see but to be a part of. Year 9 students demonstrated a desire to outperform Mr Mullins and myself this week and were very close to doing so.



Years 7 & 8 were placed into small groups during their Games session this week. Students worked extremely hard whilst preparing their routes and presentations for their offline day on Thursday 4th February – it was fantastic to see students working collaboratively via Teams. With increased competitiveness this week we are naming the following students our Athletes of the Week:

Year 7: Oscar Michaels

Year 8: Krrish Patel

Year 9: Zak Smahi

A reminder that Games are shared in the Whole School Team should you wish to take part at home and details for the sessions led by the PE Department next week can be found below.

DATE	TIME	CLUB	WHO	MEMBER OF STAFF
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	08:35 – 08:45	Fitness Hockey Cokey	All students are invited	PE Department
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	13:00 – 13:30	Escape Room	All students are invited	PE Department

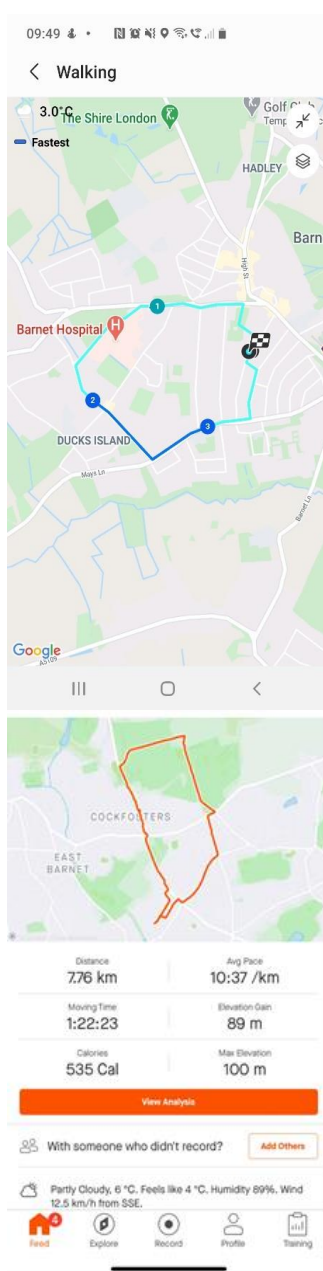




## Years 7 – 9 OFFLINE DAY with Mrs Hillcoat – Hyde

It was amazing to see so many students involved in the various activities which formed part of the Key Stage 3 Offline Day on Thursday 4th February.

The morning started with a walk/run/bike ride of varying distances whilst carrying out routes and drawing via Strava on the way. There were some great attempts linking your charity and football teams to your routes.



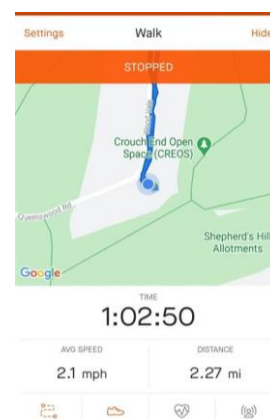
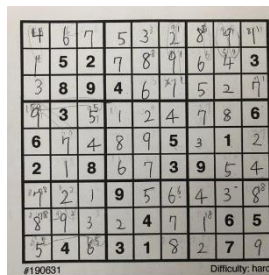


## SIXTH FORM 'Analogue Afternoon' with Mr McCormick

In an attempt to prise Sixth Form eyes away from the screens that they, alongside most of the nation, are staring into constantly over lockdown, Mount House School held its inaugural Analogue Afternoon this past Wednesday. Sixth Formers were set a series of challenges such as making a meal from scratch for two people on a strict budget, drawing a portrait of Mr McCormick for the Sixth Form Office, walking five kilometres and drawing MHS on the Strava app whilst doing so and some fiendish sudoku to return the feel of the Sixth Form Common Room to their individual homes. Additionally, students were encouraged to track down a landline and make a call to someone who isn't on their social media, or hand-writing a letter to open in later life.

Students took to the challenges with enthusiasm, and Mr McCormick received countless Teams notifications throughout the day, going well into the evening (and in one particular case at twenty past eleven!). Our students who are currently overseas also took part in this challenge and walks were completed, dots were joined and meals were cooked on at least three continents. Points were awarded for effort, participation and quality. Congratulations to the 3 winners who will receive their prizes in the post.

1 <sup>st</sup> place	Miho Kondo	74 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	Rachael Harper-Wilkinson	66 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	Karlie Liu	59 points





## DRAMA CLUB with Mrs Dawson

Our Mounthouse Shakespeare troupe continues to battle ahead with rehearsals for Macbeth, which will be seen in all its glory, later this year.

Every Wednesday, we meet, devotedly, for script readings, closer character analysis, the sharpening of diction and to share ideas on costumes and staging. As audiences in Shakespeare's day went to the theatre to "hear" a play, our online rehearsals are proving an excellent way of listening closely to the words and connecting with the rhythm of the language.



Next, will be the integration of the music and audio recordings and we may have a great play for radio! Our "Bard of Avon" would be so proud of our dedicated and talented students!

In addition to Macbeth, we have also started to explore alternative material, which will include an array of stimuli, such as poems, songs, modern scripts and pictures to allow our members to work in small groups inventively to create short pieces of drama.

## LOCKDOWN QUESTION OF THE WEEK with Mr Phillips

Last week he asked:

**What do the following all have in common?**

**Robert F Kennedy, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jnr, Eleanor Roosevelt and Cesar Chavez**

Answer: President Biden has placed their busts in the Oval Office.

Question for 5<sup>th</sup> February

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

**Arizona, California, Nevada, Oklahoma and West Virginia**

The answer will be revealed in next week's newsletter.