



NEWSLETTER 16 – 29th January

Message from Deputy Head Pastoral Mr Kerr

The School term continues apace as we hurtle towards the end of January, and with the days becoming noticeably longer, it is a reminder of there being light at the end of this lockdown tunnel.

As you will know we suffered an online security breach on Monday with an intruder attempting to access our secure online Teams lessons. We are delighted with the effective and swift response taken to ensure the School's IT network was secured and our systems protected to prevent this minor incident becoming more serious. I would like to reassure everyone this has been reported to the relevant authorities including the ICO and we will implement any recommendations that are made. This is an important reminder of the importance of keeping passwords secure. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents that the Tik Tok app is recommended for age 13 and above. Many of us were affected by this incident and I would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding as passwords were re-set and normal services restored.



The attempted security breach served as a timely reminder of some of the nefarious activities lurking in cyber space and therefore the inaugural Friends of Mount House Parents workshop focussing on the dangers of excessive mobile phone and social media use was made even more relevant this week. The event was well attended and much valued by many Year 8 parents who participated. Keep your eyes peeled for other similar FOMH events throughout the year.

On Tuesday, Year 10 and 11 enjoyed an offline day which gave students the opportunity to be away from their screens and spend time taking part in activities they enjoy. The focus of the two Offline Days has been to encourage the wellbeing of our students. Whilst the wellbeing of our students continues to be in our minds on the forthcoming Offline Day (Thursday 4th February), through being active and keeping in touch with relatives, the theme of giving and supporting is also explored through encouraging participation in charity work.

Next week is Mental Health Awareness week and we mark the start of this very important week with an assembly. The PSHE and SMSC themes for the week will also centre around mental health. May I take this opportunity to urge you to talk to a friend, parent or teacher if you are worried about anything. There are also a number of very useful organisations with professionals who are trained to help you including [Childline](#) who offer dedicated telephone support for adults and children so that you can talk to someone anonymously at any time. The [NSPCC](#) is another excellent resource covering a wide range of issues that are particularly relevant today.

Message from Deputy Head Academic Miss Sidhu

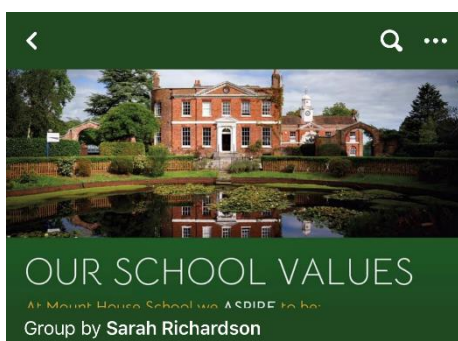


To Infinity and Beyond! For those of us who have seen Toy Story 4, one of the key messages is that change is inevitable. Woody has to come to terms with his new place within that group of toys and can see the changes presented to him in a positive light. Our students have experienced significant change in School life and whilst there are clearly challenges there are also real positives to be found. Students are learning and acquiring knowledge adapting well to new teaching methods and becoming at ease with a range of technology platforms, whilst critically developing a sense of personal responsibility towards their online learning.

Every parent knows (or at least suspects), that the teenage brain works differently to the adults. Developing independence is a central part of growing up and as teenagers begin to develop the decision-making areas of the brain, our staff here at Mount House School are providing our students with a variety of ways in which they can stimulate their curiosity, creativity and imagination. For those who have a more competitive edge, there are also prizes to be won in competitions.

Our Curiosity, Creativity and Competition group on Teams and Facebook offers extension activities which will help your child to stay inspired and to support the development of communication skills. There are a wide range of posts including links to Virtual tours of London's museums and an interactive website to travel to the Earth's core. You will also find details of competitions to participate in such as the Royal Academy Young Artists' Summer Show and the National Schools Geology Challenge by The Geological Society of London.

We know that keeping children engaged and entertained at home during lockdown is not easy - and inevitably boredom sets in. But if we see boredom as integral to the process of taking one's time, we can use this time to help our children discover for themselves and to take ownership by discovering the Curiosity, Creativity and Competition group and scrolling through the various suggestions and articles finding something to do. This is why we have set up a Facebook group for parents so that you can see what is available for your children to do at home and help them navigate their way from boredom to creativity, apathy to curiosity and quick fixes of more TV, to competition.



Curiosity, Creativity and Competition >

Private group

We invite all parents to access this group by searching Curiosity, Creativity and Competition on Facebook groups and requesting to become a member.



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

February 1-7th 2021 is Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme is Express Yourself. Expressing yourself is about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts or ideas through creativity. This could be through art, music, poetry, dance, photography, or other activities that make you feel good! Being able to express yourself is even more important this year as we are away from school, separated from our families, unable to hang out and do the activities we would normally take part in.



During the week, students will be engaging in a variety of activities and discussions around mental health, such as a special PSHE activity and our Monday Morning Assembly.

If you would like more information about Children's Mental Health Week, please visit the website [HERE](#)

HIGHER PROJECT QUALIFICATION (HPQ) with Mr Phillips

WHAT IS THE HPQ?

The HPQ provides you with the opportunity to create your own research project question focusing on a topic that interests you. You choose your own question! The project consists of a taught element, where pupils learn how to conduct research and develop independent study skills. Each pupil is paired with a supervisor (a teacher) who helps guide and support you through the project. You will be required to keep a logbook to record the development of the project.

WHO SHOULD STUDY THE HPQ?

It is aimed at pupils in Year 9 & 10. This is a project that you will undertake on a voluntary basis. It will be of interest to those who want to engage willingly in independent study.

WHY SHOULD YOU WANT TO STUDY THE HPQ?

Pupils gain a great sense of achievement. You will be able to develop skills (written, verbal, project management) which will enable you to develop the expertise needed to succeed in higher education. It is designed to enhance your GCSE studies and is worth half a GCSE, and is viewed highly by top universities. It will also prepare you for the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), which is completed in the Sixth Form.

WHAT IS REQUIRED?

You are required to complete three elements.

1. A presentation at the end of the project.
2. A logbook. This is the most important element and you need to show evidence of project development.
3. An essay of about 2000 words. Instead of writing an essay you can undertake a practical and creative project such as starting a small business, produce a play, carry out a scientific experiment, make a film, organise a charity event. For these more practical and creative projects you will need to produce written work of about 500 words in length. It is 100% internally marked and has no external exam.

SOME ESSAY EXAMPLES

- To what extent was the presidency of Donald Trump a failure?



- To what extent will extreme weather events have the most significant impact on climate change in the UK?
- How far is Scottish independence a realistic goal?
- To what extent have Americans successfully achieved their civil rights?
- To what extent can the gender pay gap in sport be justified?
- How far is social media dangerous?
- Should the electoral system of First-Past-The-Post as used in UK general elections be changed?
- How far was the Holocaust planned?

WHAT TO DO NEXT

If anyone from Year 9 is interested in doing the HPQ, there will be an **HPQ Teams meeting on Tuesday 2 February at 4.00pm.**

Also, you can email Mr Phillips if you require further information phillipst@mounthouse.org.uk

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES (MFL) with Mrs Lazouras

Online learning can be lots of fun. The MFL department are using language support websites and tools to create engaging interactive resources which support students to learn vocabulary, practice grammar, complete listening tasks, and revise language at the end of a module. Here are some examples of resources created by the MFL department.

This exercise is Year 9 vocabulary building with healthy eating concepts and also working with the future tense on this pinboard style game.



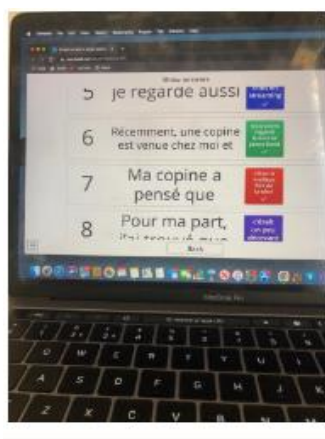
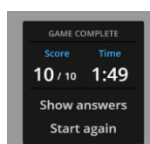


Using Wordwall Mrs Mariottini is working with her YEAR 10 GCSE Spanish covering the topics including family, physical appearance, relationships and descriptions of personalities. Students can spin the online wheel and answer the questions live with the class.



On the left screen Mrs Lazouras is using an online listening exercise and quiz for Year 10 and the right screen is a Word Wall card game to support Year 8 revision of the past tense.

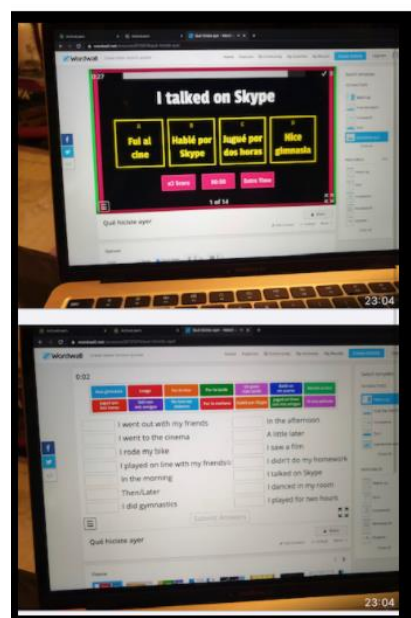
Pour moi, un bon film



Récemment, une copine est venue chez moi et



Pour ma part, j'ai trouvé que





PSYCHOLOGY with Mr Brozny

We are studying Romantic Relationships in Year 13 Psychology, looking at factors affecting initial attraction such as reasons why people get together and continue to meet beyond the first date.

We used Breakout Groups in Teams where I divided the class into 3 separate groups who worked together in Breakout Group Mini Meetings. The groups had to move out of the main call and collaborate together on their ideas. Their group activity was to design the ideal first date for a young professional '20 something' in London. They researched locations in London for this date as well as identifying things that you should be discussing with a potential partner in a first date to achieve success.

We then joined back together in the main video call to share what the students had created. Here are the 3 files created by our 3 groups

Group 1 - Olivia, Francesca, Wendy and Tinuade
Group 3 - Emilia, Paula & El

Group 2 - Rico, Codi, Alice and Antonnia



CONVERSATION :

1.

Family- They could talk about their siblings, parents, pets.
Culture- Where they're from, languages they speak, traditions
Personal life- Hobbies, education/university, jobs
Their future- What are their hopes and dreams, do they want a family
What are their music taste, favorite shows, celebrity crushes etc.
Second date ?


2.


What to talk about on the first date?

- School/Work
- Where they grew up/Where they are from
- Favourite movies/shows/colour/food/music
- Friends and Family
- Fears
- Hobbies
- Likes and Dislikes
- Pet Peeves
- Second date?

WHAT TO TALK ABOUT ?

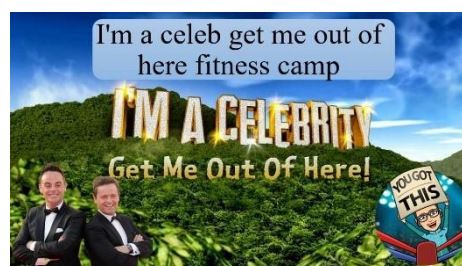
1. Hobbies
2. Past education
3. Plans for the future - Jobs
4. Current Job
5. Food
6. General preferences
7. Family e.g siblings
9. Thoughts about travelling
10. Common interests
11. Where they're from ?



3.

SPORT with Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde

Students in Key Stage 3 have continued to take part in various fitness-based games, including 'I'm a Celebrity – Get Me Out of Here' and 'Monopoly' which has seen them competing against each other and the teacher. It has been great to see so many students taking part and feeding back their results. A reminder that Games are shared in the Whole School Team should you wish to take part at home.



Students have worked extremely hard in Games whilst 'Taking on the Teacher' and completing the 'Circuit of the Week.' Year 9 also had the opportunity to plan their Strava Art Routes in preparation for their Offline Day on Thursday 4th February. Years 7 & 8 will spend time on Tuesday 2nd February preparing for the tasks they will undertake during the Offline Day.

A reminder that the PE Department are running clubs where students will have the opportunity to take part in fitness-based activities whilst trying to outperform the teachers.

DATE	TIME	CLUB	WHO	MEMBER OF STAFF
Tuesday 2 nd February	08:35 – 08:45	Fitness Cha Cha Slide	All students are invited	PE Department
Wednesday 3 rd February	13:00 – 13:30	Snakes & Ladders	All students are invited	PE Department
Tuesday 9 th February	08:35 – 08:45	Fitness Hockey Cokey	All students are invited	PE Department
Wednesday 10 th February	13:00 – 13:30	Escape Room	All students are invited	PE Department



EXTRA-CURRICULAR with Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde

There have been various bakes during the past few weeks as part of the Extra-Curricular Programme. I thought that with others getting in the baking spirit I would do the same. I made a chocolate cake followed by a carrot cake with my daughter.

Our three winners from those who took part in Mount House Bake Off between Monday 18th – Friday 29th January are **Neila Gakwandi** who baked tasty looking caramel brownies, **Athena Demetriou** who baked an amazingly colourful Valentines chocolate cake and **Karlie Liu** who made a strawberry tart which looks amazing! Well done to the three students who will receive their prizes in the post. The third Bake Off challenge will start on Monday 1st February and finish on Thursday 11th February.



MR. PHILLIPS LOCKDOWN QUESTION OF THE WEEK

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

What do the following all have in common?

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

(Please note that bakes completed as part of the offline day will not form part of the extra-curricular Bake Off competition)



Year 10 and 11 'MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE' OFFLINE DAY with Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde

The Offline Day, with time away from screens on Tuesday 26th January was welcomed by students in Year 10 and 11. It was wonderful to see students (along with their families) take part in the proposed activities.

The day started with a challenge which saw students travelling to their chosen House mountain selecting the distance from 0.8km up to 9.3km either walking, running, cycling or swimming.

It was great to receive evidence of students completing their journeys in what was a fresh morning with snow on the ground! Well done to everyone who undertook the challenge and who pushed themselves to complete the distance set.



The remainder of activities undertaken involved cooking and baking – I hope that these treats were greatly received by those of you living with a Year 10 or 11 student. Students who will receive a prize for work produced during the day are:

Year 10 - **Grace Kelly, Olivia Richardson, Aine Smith, and Ruby Sorrell**

Year 11 - **Danielle Da Rocha-Afodu, Keren Mulat-Weldemeskel and Ailsa Rae**





HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY: Wednesday 27th January 2021

On Wednesday 27 January we observed Holocaust Memorial Day. Throughout the week, Key Stage 3 History classes dedicated a period to the Holocaust to ensure our pupils had a knowledge of this terrible event. The Holocaust is deliberately included in the GCSE and A level history courses we teach at Mount House School. Year 9 pupils also cover the period of the Second World War and this is another opportunity for the Holocaust to be addressed in our classrooms. Many people might think the Holocaust happened somewhere else, to someone else. We need to understand that the Holocaust happened to people in Britain. There are survivors who live in Britain today, or who fled Nazi persecution to become British citizens. There are also former members of the armed forces who liberated the concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen in April 1945. Those soldiers were never to forget that experience. Mount House School will never allow the horrors of the Holocaust to be forgotten.

On Wednesday morning, Mr Phillips led an assembly on Holocaust Memorial Day. This is what he had to say.

‘On this Holocaust Memorial Day, we remember the six million Jews murdered in the Nazi death camps throughout Europe, and the countless other innocent people killed during the Nazi tyranny. We also remember the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur. Past events tell us that the persecution of the Jews and antisemitism cannot only be restricted to the Nazis. However, the scale of persecution in the period 1933-45 was unprecedented in the annals of history. It was beyond evil; the most grotesque example of man’s inhumanity to man.

Over the years, I have visited a number of concentration camps including Sachsenhausen, Dachau and Auschwitz. Above the main gate of every camp are the words ‘Arbeit Macht Frei’ – ‘Work makes you free.’ Like many Nazi utterances, it was a cruel lie. I have seen what remains of the gas chambers and crematoria. I have seen where inmates were brutally tortured by SS guards. I have learned of the horrors of medical experimentation. I have visited the house in Wannsee where a small group of bureaucrats decided upon the final solution of the Jewish problem – the planned extermination of 11 million Jews in Europe. I have met survivors of the Holocaust. What I have failed to do is understand fully why the Holocaust happened; how a civilised nation could allow itself to descend into this level of barbarism.

After the Holocaust, the international community adopted a legal definition of the crime of ‘genocide’. They wanted to make sure that never again would the crimes of the Holocaust be allowed to happen.

However, in the years following the Holocaust, genocide has continued to stain and darken the pages of history. On Holocaust Memorial Day we also remember all those who were murdered or affected by the genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

These more recent genocides represent a failure of mankind to learn from the Holocaust and represent a reminder for all of us that we must be prepared to guard against genocide happening again in the future.

Gena Turgel, a survivor of the Holocaust, said this:

“We will continue to do our bit for as long as we can, secure in the knowledge that others will continue to light a candle long after us.”



The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day in 2021, therefore, is 'Be the light in the darkness'. It asks everyone to reflect upon the depths to which humanity can sink, but also the ways individuals and communities can resist the darkness and 'be the light' before, during and after genocide.

Be the light in the darkness is a call to action for everyone marking Holocaust Memorial Day. This theme asks us to consider different kinds of 'darkness' such as identity-based persecution, misinformation, denial of justice. It also asks us to consider different ways of 'being the light' such as education, acts of solidarity, and illuminating mistruths. In essence it asks us to do justice, to right wrong and to serve mankind with dignity.

Increasing levels of denial, division and misinformation in today's world mean we must remain vigilant against hatred and identity-based hostility. Rapid technological developments, a turbulent political climate, and world events beyond our control can leave us feeling helpless and insignificant. But the utterly unprecedented times through which we are currently living are showing the very best of what humanity is capable of. We have it within our gift and power to strive for a better world, a world that is free from hate and persecution.

This year's theme asks all of us to recognise that the responsibility for genocide education and prevention does not lie only with survivors sharing their testimony. Their experiences hold lessons for all of us and it is vital that we listen to their experiences and become witnesses for them when they have departed. Every school in the world has a moral duty to tell of the horrors of the Holocaust and attempt to learn the lessons of this hideous experience. We at Mount House will not be found wanting. The Holocaust will continue to be in our curriculum in key stages 3, 4 and 5.

Holocaust Memorial Day enables us to remember for a purpose. It gives us a responsibility to work for a safer and better future for everyone. Everyone can step up and use their talents to tackle prejudice, discrimination and intolerance wherever and whenever we encounter them. Finally, the Nazis did not achieve their hideous objectives in the Holocaust and their final solution of the Jewish problem. The Jewish people overcame the darkness of Nazi tyranny and re-discovered the light of hope and they have prevailed.

We have been granted the right to be the light in the darkness. Let us therefore strive to be that light and guard against the darkness of persecution and intolerance.'