



NEWSLETTER 20 – 12th March

Message from Head Mrs Richardson

It has been such a pleasure to have a school which is once again filled with students. It feels like the first week of term here, and therefore seems a little strange that it is only just over two weeks until we break up for Easter.

We are busy planning for next term, and very much hoping that the Government schedule for relaxing Lockdown continues as planned. Next term we do anticipate running our internal exams – this will be the week beginning 24th May for Years 7, 8 and 9 and the week beginning 7th June for Years 10 and 12.

From 21st June we are hoping to hold some of the traditional end of year events as well as a few of the postponed activities. We will publish a planned calendar for parents before the end of this term, but this will include our Careers Fair which was originally planned for May - do contact either the Friends of Mount House or Maria Christou if you might be able to support this.

The final week of the school term will be an activities week – of course with an educational focus! We had hoped to be able to organise residential trips for that week, but are now planning some fun, albeit rather less exotic, opportunities! Full details will follow before the end of this term about the plans for each year group.

Additionally, we hope to have a Sports Day on Thursday 1st July and would like to invite parents, if they can, to join us and to bring a picnic on that day so that we can try and make up for this year's lack of social events. Do please 'save the date' and further details will follow.

I am sure that many students will be suitably tired this evening – having had to be out of bed very much earlier than they have for the last few months! I wish you all a restful weekend.





Return to Mount House





LATERAL FLOW COVID TESTING – update from Mr Kerr

I am delighted to confirm that, following a huge effort from staff and students this week, we have now managed to complete the return to school testing programme and I am even more delighted that all of the tests results have come back as negative!



From now on testing takes place at home. All students have received their home testing kits and they should start using them from this weekend onwards. Students are advised to complete two tests per week (3/4 days apart). I would suggest taking the test on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. All of the instructions on how to administer the test and how to log the results are contained in the information pack.

Further information can be found by clicking here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

If you test positive or get coronavirus symptoms, you should:

- self-isolate immediately
 - get a PCR test to confirm the result
 - follow the stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>
- inform the school by calling or emailing reception@mounthouse.org.uk

You do not need to contact the school if you record a negative test result.

Wellbeing space

Starting from Monday, students will have the opportunity to go to the café at lunch time to relax, play some quiet games or talk to their friends. Each day a different year group will be allocated access to the space and the Sixth Form students will be on hand to supervise and interact with the younger students. Keep your eyes peeled for days on which your year group has access to this sanctuary of calm!



Face coverings

When travelling on buses, unless medically excluded, we will impose a zero-tolerance policy as it is impossible to socially distance we must act to protect all those travelling and insist masks are worn.

If your son or daughter is exempt from wearing a mask, email schooladminofficer@MountHouse.org.uk to confirm.

We have a box of masks at reception for anyone who forgets theirs, but students will need to pay £1 to the Red Nose Day charity for each mask they need.

Welcome to Mount House Mrs Goodall

We'd like to welcome Karen Goodall to Mount House as the new School Administrator. Mrs Goodall has worked in education administration for 18 years and has a strong personal connection to Mount House, as her daughter attended St Martha's and has extremely happy memories of her time here. Mrs Goodall says, "As a former parent of St Martha's, I am delighted to be part of Mount House School community."



SPEAKERS' CORNER with Mr Allman

Congratulations to Krrish Patel Y8 and Santiago Scicchitano Y7 who were our key speakers this week at Speakers' Corner.



generally.

Their presentation to the whole school focused on the issue of racism in football. They used research and statistics which they say demonstrates a major issue of discrimination in the game that the Football Association needs to address.

Both boys spoke clearly and eloquently, demonstrating their serious concern that this issue - highlighted by the 'taking of the knee' before major football matches and other sporting activities - needs to be taken more seriously. They outlined the campaign by 'Kick it Out' while presenting a number of ideas and suggestions for how to combat racism in football and in sport



They both received school certificates and of course their Speakers' Corner prizes from the Headteacher for their excellent presentation.

TRANSPORT

School buses are running until the end of term in the mornings and in the afternoons at the following times:

Monday	16.15
Tuesday	17.15
Wednesday	17.15
Thursday	17.15
Friday	16.15.

There are no shuttle buses for the rest of this term. Please keep an eye out for notices regarding shuttle buses in the Summer Term.

Please ensure you are wearing your mask on the school bus at all times. Do not sit down and take it off – it needs to be worn for the entire journey.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR with Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde

It's brilliant to see so many of our students involved in the various extra-curricular clubs currently on offer. Sports clubs have been popular throughout the week with a number of students taking advantage of the opportunity to be active.

The week started with **Football Club**, where students took part in small-sided games followed by a game with all those in attendance. This was great preparation for those who have signed up to take part in the Football Competition being run at lunch time on Monday, Wednesday and Friday which has been very popular and hugely successful.

Students who have signed up to take part in the Football Competition will work with their team and compete in a number of matches throughout the remainder of term. Results and fixtures are shared via the Notice Board outside the PE Office and students involved must make sure they are aware when their matches are scheduled.

This competition has given students the opportunity to not only play but to also support their peers and this week we have seen real community spirit amongst our students. I hope all go on to enjoy the remainder of the competition and wish all teams the best of luck.



Year 7 taking part in the Football Competition.

Street Cricket took place on the courts on Wednesday with the focus being on core skills needed for fielding. Students looked at catching technique and stopping the ball from a long distance. Continuing through this half term we will be looking at more core skills but also implementing them into a match situation.



Netball and Basketball Club were extremely popular on Thursday evening. Mr Kerr and Mr Mather did Basketball and focused on set shots and rebounds whilst Mr Mullins and I took the netballers and went through shooting techniques with them. All finished the session taking part in small sided games.

This was a great way to finish what has been a truly fantastic week within sport.

SPORT with Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde

What a fantastic week we've had in the PE Department. It has been great to see students enjoying the opportunity to take part in physical activity with their peers.

Students in Years 7 – 9 have taken part in **Handball** during their PE lessons. They have developed the basic skills of dribbling and passing the ball within the game and have taken part in modified games against their peers. Having spent many weeks this term focusing on individual fitness, it was great watching students demonstrate levels of fitness alongside their enjoyment to compete against each other.

We have returned to Bartrams Lane Playing Fields during Games afternoons where students have taken part in a range of activities.

Year 7 and 8 boys were extremely happy when given the opportunity to take part in football on Tuesday afternoon and enjoyed competing against their peers. **Girls in Years 7 & 8** developed their hand-eye co-ordination whilst focusing on throwing and catching in Rounders. They too were pleased



to play matches against their peers and developed their knowledge and understanding of some of the rules within the sport.

Students in Years 11 – 13 took part in Danish Longball and Softball on Wednesday afternoon. All who participated thoroughly enjoyed getting back out and playing some sport despite the torrential weather.

Students in Years 9 and 10 took part in mini football matches that were set up. This provided an opportunity to be competitive against peers whilst enjoying the opportunity to be active.

Our Athletes of the week based on contribution to lessons and clubs are:

Year 7	Tara Porter
Year 8	Krrish Patel
Year 9	Haydyn Carne
Year 10	Olivia Richardson
Year 11	Danielle Da Rocha

ART with Mrs Somerville and Mrs Baird

Year 8 have been working on a photographic project “Through the Window”. They were asked to use different viewpoints and to experiment with editing their photographs. **Wasif Siddique** and **Mariam Demetriou** produced some particularly atmospheric images.

Wasif





Mariam



Easter Holidays Guide from Muddy Stilettos



The Muddy Stilettos website has kindly given Mount House parents exclusive early access to its curated *Easter Holiday What's On Guide*, so you can get an early steer on the best things to do locally (Herts and Beds).

To access the Easter preview, click on this link and enter the password:-

<https://herts.muddystilettos.co.uk/easter-holidays/whats-on-easter-holidays-hertfordshire-bedfordshire/>

Password: **MuddyH&BEaster2021**