



# NEWSLETTER 22 – 19<sup>th</sup> March

## Message from Head Mrs Richardson

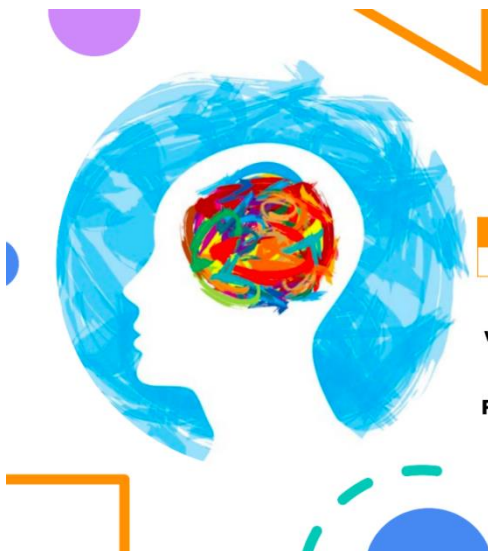
We've had another busy week at Mount House. We're proud that our resilient students are easing back into the routine of School, and are noticing that each student's experience and feelings are different. Some students have expressed the view that they prefer home learning, while others couldn't wait to be back at School.

We are focusing our form time on team building and personal relationships, and encouraging students to either join an organised club or just simply spend time with each other at lunchtimes. We are lucky to have such beautiful grounds, and that the weather has largely been kind to us so students have been able sit outside with their friends.



There has been a great deal in the press about the impact of 'learning loss' in children, and the fact that when we as adults talk about this with justifiable concern, children themselves will understand and believe that it is a 'problem'. I am hopeful that this discussion can be kept as far away from children as possible; the message we should be giving children is that they must continue to work hard and do their best, to ask for help and support as and when they need it, and they should not be worrying about what they can't do. Above all, if they are worried they should talk to a trusted adult: a parent, a tutor, a teacher or any of our School staff who are available to them. If they are worried about a friend, they should be confident to bring that to the attention of an adult – either in person, or through the Blue Box which can be found in the Library. Our doors are always open.

## Wellbeing Space for Students



### Well Bean Cafe



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 11	Year 7	Year 10	Year 8	Year 9

**Students are invited to make use of the wellbeing space on their year group's allocated day.**

**Please respect the environment and each other.**

**You may quietly use the resources (board games, colouring in activities) or talk quietly with friends. Students in Year 10 and Year 11 may use their phones.**



## Covid update from Mr Kerr

After a week of students testing at home, I am pleased to report that we have had zero positive tests recorded. From now on, please continue to test twice a week: I would suggest 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>

### Reporting test results to school

Please continue to use the track and trace app and in addition please complete the school's google form by clicking this link:

<https://forms.gle/pNMGGSeosnyp8BYA8>

If you test positive or get coronavirus symptoms, you know what to do:

- 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>
- notify the school

## Charity donations from Mount House School

We have donated the following amounts from our Christmas activities to two charities:

£75.42 to Children in Need from the disposable face masks at reception.

£675.53 to Noah's Ark Hospice from the Christmas Fayre, Christmas Jumper Day donations and the sale of Christmas cards.

Noah's Ark Hospice helps seriously unwell children and their families make the most of the special time they have together. The majority of babies and children they support are unlikely to reach their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Their staff and volunteers provide clinical, emotional and practical support to families across North and Central London and Hertsmere.



Thank you to everyone for giving so generously and for all the hard work from the various organisers of these activities.



## Transport

Shuttle buses will be re-introduced in the summer term, at 16.15 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. All students who were registered for this service last term will be added to the register. Any new registration enquiries can be sent to [coaches@mounthouse.org.uk](mailto:coaches@mounthouse.org.uk).

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.

## Global Recycling Day on 18th March

Some facts to consider this Global Recycling Day:

- Each year, recycling saves over 700 million tonnes in emissions.
- Approximately 1.6 million people worldwide are employed in processing recyclables.
- Austria recycles 63% of its used products every year.
- Humans have been melting and re-melting metal since 700BC.
- In 2017 we used one year's worth of the earth's natural resources in just 7 months.
- 91% of plastic created is not recycled.
- Aluminium cans can be recycled and put back on the shelves in stores in just 2 months.





## Geography Presentations with Miss Gillett

Feedback given during our online learning programme showed that the students wanted more opportunities to present to their peers on topics of their choice. Since returning to school, our Geography students have been working hard to create research questions or find interesting case studies that relate to their unit of study for the term and have worked individually or with peers to create a mini lesson. This week, the first round of lessons has been presented and the quality of work is amazing!

In Year 7, who are studying 'Water in the World', we have learned about sharks and the impact humans have on them; melting glaciers and the threats they pose to sea level rise; and whether tap water is safe to drink in European countries.



Amelia, Savannah and Alicia  
(Year 7)  
Under the Sea

Anne  
(Year 7)  
Oxbow Lakes





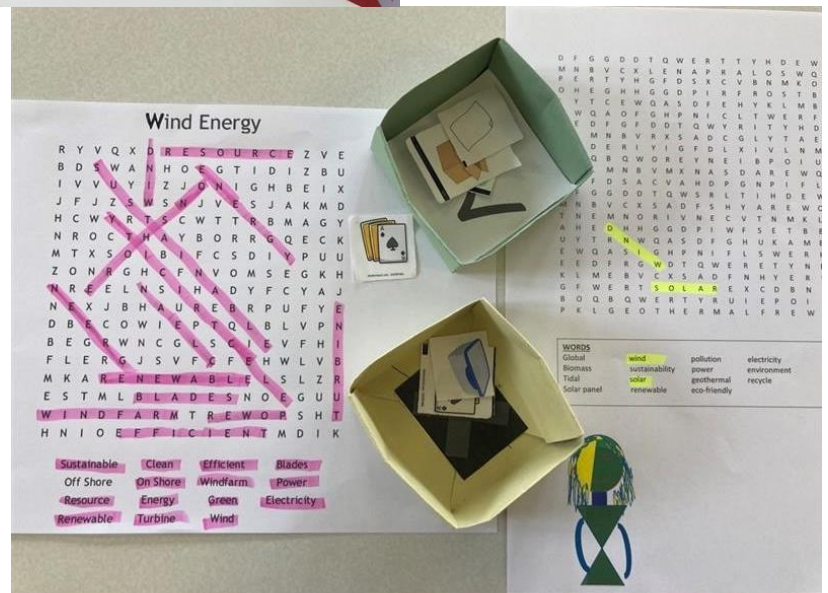


Our Year 8 students have been studying Mumbai and its urban problems, so they used these presentations as an opportunity to research and present about other major cities in the world and the problems they face such as rising electricity costs in Moscow, overpopulation in Paris and air pollution concerns here in London.

The Year 9 cohort has been completing a unit on sustainable futures and investigating solutions to reducing the impact of climate change. Their presentations have been wide ranging including talks on fast fashion, electric vehicles and alternative water sources.



Delia  
(Year 9)  
Renewable Energy



All presenters should be proud of the efforts they have put into their presentations and their work in Geography since returning from virtual learning. Well done!



## PSHE & SMSC Programme

Our form time activities programme is back in full swing this week after the completion of on-site COVID testing. House time is once again split into bubbles, with students engaging in a rotation of activities led by both student and staff leaders, such as team building, time challenges and art activities.

PSHE lessons in Year 8 form groups this week included a session on First Aid. Mr Mather and Mrs Lazouras' form were treated to a hands-on learning experience, as Mr Mather talked the students through how to complete compressions for CPR on Annie Dolls.



In SMSC time this Thursday, our Year 9 students had a teambuilding session and learned some classic Australian school yard games such as tunnel ball and thread-the-needle. Despite the cold weather, the enthusiasm and teamwork shown was very impressive! Well done Year 9!



## EXTRA-CURRICULAR with Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde

Sports clubs have continued to be popular this week, with numerous students getting involved in the various activities.

The focus at **Football Club** was shooting. Students had the opportunity to develop their short and long-range shooting techniques and put their learning to the test against Emir Yurtseven, who was in goal. To finish, the group took part in a very competitive match where students scored seven goals between them.

Our Football Competition has continued this week, and all teams have shown excellent competitiveness and sportsmanship throughout all games. The PE Department is looking forward to seeing how the table ends up for the knockout games after Easter.

This week's focus for **Street Cricket** was bowling. All cricketers showed good understanding, willingness to improve and excellent bowling to take wickets. Next week's focus will be on front foot batting.



Street Cricket

**Netball:** the year 9 netballers focused on shooting, driving into the 'D' and quick passes into space to move the defence around. This ended in a quick, exciting game.

This week the students at **Basketball Club** were introduced to the three-man weave. This drill encapsulates many of the essential skills of basketball; namely footwork, passing, receiving, movement and shooting. The hot shooter award for this week goes to Haydyn Carne. Well played everyone!

**Ukulele Club** will resume on Thursday lunchtimes from 1.00pm to 1.30pm. All students are welcome whatever ability they have on the ukulele. See Mr Nancarrow for details.





The **Gardening Club** were out and about with Mr Conyers this week, and will be learning about the plants in the school gardens and how to help them thrive. The club will be planting bulbs and growing flowers to brighten the green spaces at the school. Now that the weather's starting to improve, they'll also grow herbs and vegetables from seeds. They have use of the greenhouse and will be growing plants for both the school gardens and to take home.

If you'd like to join the gardening club, please meet by the library door near the Cedar lawn on Tuesdays after school

Planting daffodil bulbs along the wall in the Cedar Garden.



**Year 7 and 8 English Club:** Mr Nancarrow will be running the new English Club on Tuesday and Wednesday after school in Room 22. Year 7 and 8 students are invited to come along to read or write creatively. At the club students can also receive support with their English and will be provided with activities to help them improve those areas of English with which they need support.







## ART with Mrs Somerville and Mrs Baird

Emmanuella says: "I'm really enjoying using colours and exploring the work of Georgia O'Keeffe. We are using acrylic paints to do a study of one of her pieces of work. I have learnt that using a dry brush to blend the colours together helps to keep the surface textures smooth."



We have launched the Mount House School Art Gallery on Instagram. Every week we'll be sharing beautiful new photography, art and textiles. Please follow us:

[https://www.instagram.com/mounthouseschool\\_artgallery/](https://www.instagram.com/mounthouseschool_artgallery/)



## Sport with Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde

We have had another great week in the PE Department.

**Students in Years 7 – 9** have continued to take part in Handball during their PE lessons. The focus this week has been shooting. Students have developed their knowledge and understanding of the standing shot and the jump shot and have put their learning in to action whilst competing against their peers.



**Year 7 and 8 boys** took part in mini football matches, which was a great opportunity to be active and competitive.

**Girls in Years 7 and 8** continued to take part in Rounders, with the focus on bowling.

**Students in Years 9 and 10** took part in mini football matches and football rounders. This was a great opportunity to be competitive.

**Students in Year 11** took part in trampolining, badminton or table tennis. A special mention goes to Jada Okoye, who managed to land a front somersault.

**Students in the Sixth Form** took part in a mixture of handball and basketball, all students showing great enthusiasm and sportsmanship.

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

Year 7 Sophia Sarkoob  
 Year 8 Semi Kampanella  
 Year 9 Isabella O'Sullivan  
 Year 10 Katie Gallagher  
 Year 11 Jada Okoye



## World Poetry Day on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March

To celebrate World Poetry Day, we have a lovely poem written by Ava in year 7 (we are however hoping not to see any more snow until next winter!):

### **Snow, snow, wonderful snow**

Snow, snow, wonderful snow.  
 Wind in the air that softly blows,  
 Flurries of snow onto my garden floor,  
 Oh, how I adore,  
 the fluffy white blanket of fun,  
 to play and play until there's none.  
 Snow, snow, wonderful snow,  
 Wind in the air that blows and blows.

You can't run but you can hide,  
 Under the white duvet, if it's thick and wide.  
 What's that sound in the distance, it sounds like a scream!  
 What could this possibly, possibly mean?  
 Who's that I see? An unusual figure?  
 It looks like someone from a scary picture!  
 I walk carefully closer, then stop.  
 It's a snowman!  
 But what was the scream?  
 Snow, snow wonderful snow,  
 Wind in the air that blows and blows.

## Easter holidays

The Muddy Stiletto's 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.muddystiletto.co.uk/easter-holidays/whats-on-easter-holidays-hertfordshire-bedfordshire/>

Password: **MuddyH&BEaster2021**

### **Easter holidays sports course**

We know that children have missed out on playing sport in recent months and are very keen to get back to enjoying being outside and playing with their friends. Therefore, I would like to draw your attention to a sports course that is taking place from 12th - 15th April at Canons Park near Edgware. Whilst Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde and Mr Kerr will be coaching on the course, this is not a Mount House trip or activity so please click on the link for all the details <https://forms.gle/FKrNRXw8dhKUCPpdA>





