



NEWSLETTER 23 – 26th March

Message from Head Mrs Richardson

‘Education is not so much a state of certainty as a process of enquiry. And I think an educated person is not someone who can recite an army of facts and knows a lot of things; it is probably someone who has some flexibility of mind who is willing to examine their own prejudice, who has acquired a depth of understanding that allows them to see the world from another point of view. I suspect that education is less about knowing more than someone; but more about knowing someone - really knowing someone - who is not like you.’



These are the words of Tara Westover. Described as ‘an American Memoirist’, Tara Westover was brought up in a Mormon fundamentalist family, received no formal schooling but managed to self-study and get into college, later doing a PhD at the University of Cambridge. Hers is an extraordinary story – and I recommend to you her book *Educated*, details of which are available on our *Curiosity, Creativity, and Competition* Teams and Facebook groups, the latter of which I encourage you to join. Dr Westover’s thoughts on the value of education, what is true education, and the importance of trying to understand the position of others will, I know, resonate with Mount House parents, students and staff.

At Mount House we continue to place a spotlight on prejudice. On Monday, Mr McCormick and Reuben Ward (Year 8) will be giving the whole school assembly which will focus on the work of Maccabi UK and the Yellow Candle Project. The Yellow Candle Project is a practical and informal educational tool to remember Jewish Holocaust victims on Yom HaShoah and broaden understanding of the Holocaust. On the last day of term, all Mount House students will be given a yellow remembrance candle; with each candle comes a card with the name, age, date, and place of death of someone who perished in the Holocaust. We are encouraging all our students and staff to light their candles on the eve of Yom HaShoah on Wednesday 7th April, and then for parents and older students to share an image of that on social media, thereby creating a modern-day collective communal memorial. Mount House has been chosen as one of five schools in the UK to make a short video broadcast of students participating in the lighting of these candles that will be broadcast by Maccabi UK. These students were Oscar McAvoy, Ethan Roberts and Reuben Ward in Year 8 in addition to Alicia Ormrod, Savannah Durling and Roman McAvoy in Year 7. Well done to all involved.

Terms ends at 12.20 on Wednesday 31st March. Buses will leave at 12.30. If you are collecting your children by car, please do arrive at any time between 12.30 and 1pm so that car park congestion is kept to a minimum. I wish you all a wonderful Easter break.



Year 9 Biology – Mr Van Leevan

Year 9 students experienced a flavour of real anatomy this week with the dissection of a sheep's heart; there is only so much you can learn from 2D pictures in a textbook. The students made use of instruments such as scalpels and scissors to explore the workings of the heart. Most students started off slightly apprehensively on the surgical work but grew in confidence when the heart revealed its secrets. Perhaps we are looking at future cardiac surgeons in the making!



Enrichment through the HPQ

This term we have introduced the Higher Project Qualification (HPQ) for Year 9s proceeding into Year 10 in September. A number of students have decided to take advantage of this 2000-word research project, which is worth half a GCSE. They are busy at the moment with their individual supervisors deciding upon their area of study. One proposed area of study is to consider to what extent Mussolini contributed to the defeat of Nazi Germany. Another proposal concerns the debate over the death penalty.

There is still plenty of time for others in Year 9 to join the HPQ programme. Should you wish to engage in this individual work project, please speak to Mr Phillips, Mr Mather or Miss Hassan without delay.

Extra-curricular with Ms Hillcoat-Hyde

Please note – there are no after-school clubs on Tuesday 30th March.



The School Challenge Club met again this week, with two teams battling it out and Mrs Richardson firing questions at them. Fingers were on buzzers as the young masterminds racked their brains for answers to questions on a range of subjects, including geography and literature.



Once again it has been great to see students taking part in sports clubs this week. The week started with **Running Club**, where students met at 07:30 on Monday. The focus was to work on fitness levels and the activity that students took part in was known as 10 – 1. The aim of the session is to carry out 10 shuttle runs, followed by a brief rest, carry out 9 shuttle runs, rest, carry out 8 shuttle runs and so on. Everyone agreed that this was a great way to not only start the day but also the week.



During **Football Club** on Tuesday after school, students took part in a match where they had the opportunity to play against their peers and demonstrate their learning and skillset.

There was an excellent turn out from all of the **cricketers** this week. Our focus was a quick recap on bowling, then into game play, looking at the importance of fielding as a team and backing up the stumps to reduce the number of runs from an over throw.

It was really nice to see everyone turning out for **basketball** again. As the end of term gets closer it was time for some competitive game play, with a shooting game of knockout, before leading into a full game of basketball, with students showing a big competitive drive to win.

London Mayoral Election – Mr Allman

Congratulations to three of our Mount House year 13 Politics students, who have been asked by electoral officers to act as official Polling Clerks at polling stations during the coming Mayoral and Outer London Elections on 6th May. Our Y13 students taking on this important role are:

- Jemima Carrol
- Lola Mweene
- Tinuade Oni

Sport with Ms Hillcoat-Hyde

We have had another great week in the PE Department.

Students in Years 7 – 9 have put their learning from recent weeks to the test this week whilst taking part in Handball matches. Modified rules meant that all students were fully involved, playing an important role within their team.

Students have taken part in various sports during Games afternoons this week, including football, rounders, basketball, handball, table tennis and trampolining.

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

Year 7	Omar Riaz
Year 8	Jiselle Okoye
Year 9	Tomi Fulker
Year 10	Aine Smith
Year 11	Maria Tofan

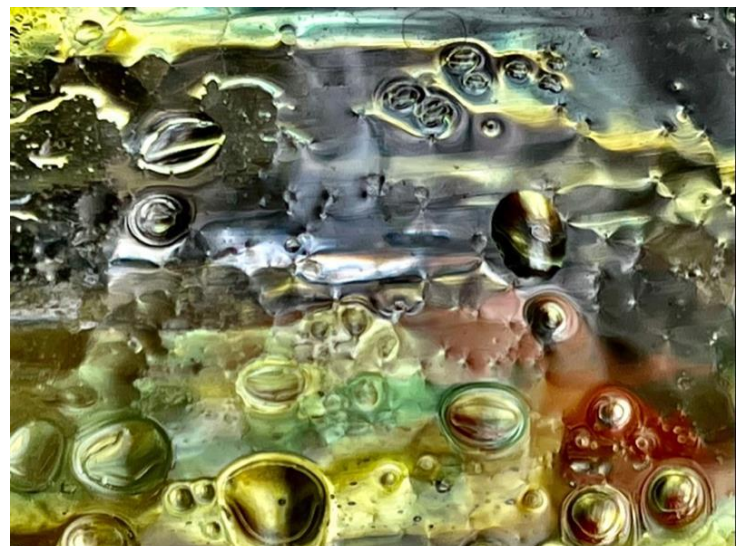
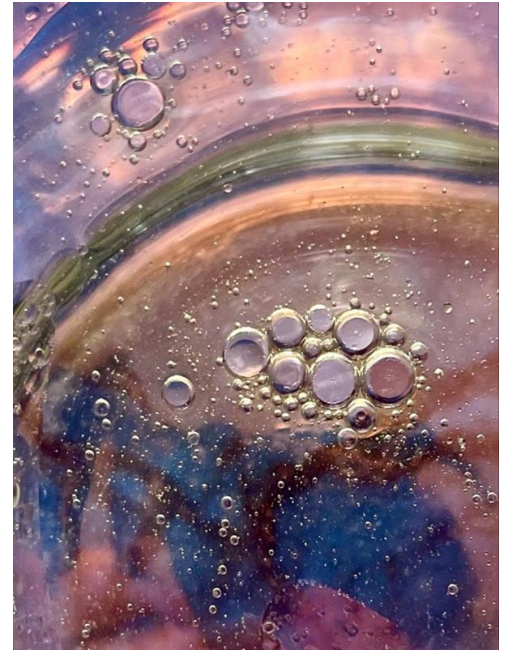
Reminder: Sports course during the Easter holidays

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>



Art with Ms Somerville and Mrs Baird

Fine Art photography by a current Year 13 student exploring colour, shape and pattern for her A level coursework project. She experimented photographing oil and water and created these amazing images.





Notices and dates

Summer Term 2021 Fees

The summer term 2021 school fees invoice will be sent to you on Thursday 1st April 2021. For students on roll at the start of the Lent term, 5th January 2021, a refund of £210 for cancelled School lunches has been added as a credit to each student's invoice.

Invoices also include chargeable extras such as Summer 2021 exam fees for exam year students, Morrisby fees for Y10 students and also any charges for any additional student text books issued.

Transport

Buses leave at the following times next week:

Monday 29th March 16.15
Tuesday 30th March 16.15 (no after-school clubs)
Wednesday 31st March 12.30

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.

Filming in School – Wednesday 21st April

At the start of next term, a film crew will be shooting a new Virtual School Tour video for our website. Several classes and students will be filmed going about their day-to-day school routine, and some students will be asked to do additional filming for art, music, drama and sport. Please ensure the students are wearing full, smart school uniform on that date (with their PE kit brought to school in their bags).

Careers Fair – Thursday 20th May

We will be holding our annual Careers Fair on 20th May at Mount House School from 2-4pm. Exhibitors from all sectors are required. If you or anyone you know is able to support this event, please let Mrs Christou know by emailing christou@mounthouse.org.uk

Virtual Work Experience

The free virtual work experience programme with Springpod involves around 10 hours of activity. There are many careers to choose from including: veterinary medicine, TV & film work, nursing, hospitality, fashion, dentistry and many more.

There are live webinars, quizzes, tasks, student panels and opportunities to learn more about the career you may have chosen and the different pathways.

The programme will take place between **6th and 16th April 2021**. You do not need to be available full time during these dates but you do need to be able to complete 10 hours of activity over the two weeks.

The deadline to register is on Monday 29th March 2021

https://www.springpod.co.uk/virtual-work-experience-programmes/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=mixpanel&utm_campaign=teachernewsletter_11_03_21

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 31 st March	End of Lent term – buses leave at 12.30
Monday 19 th April	Start of summer term
Wednesday 21 st April	Filming in school: please wear correct school uniform
Thursday 20 th May	Careers Fair
Thursday 27 th May	Half term at 4pm
Monday 7 th June	Back to school
Saturday 26 th June	Open Day: all students and parents welcome
Thursday 1 st July	Sports Day and Friends of Mount House after-party
Friday 2 nd July	End of summer term Garden Party for students and parents in Y11 & U6



Home testing update and reporting test results to school

Government advice states that students should continue to test twice a week (3/4 days apart, for example Sunday and Wednesday evenings) during the Easter holidays. 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 engage with the track and trace app and in addition please complete the google form by clicking this link:

<https://forms.gle/pNMGGSeosnyp8BYA8>

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>

Additional testing kits

Additional testing kits (one test kit per person) are available for collection from reception on Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th March at break and lunch time each day. Please make sure you collect your kit before the Easter break.

And finally...

We wish you all a relaxing, restful holiday and we'll see you in April, ready and raring to go for the summer term!

