



NEWSLETTER 24 – 23rd April

Message from Head Mrs Richardson

It has been a glorious week to return to school, and although not always warm – yes, the heating is still on! – it has been wonderfully sunny.

The adaptation of some of the bubbles has allowed students in Years 7-10 and 12 to attend assemblies and clubs as mixed groups, with older students supporting and encouraging the younger years. This is a very welcome step towards normality. Year 11 and Upper Sixth students have undoubtedly felt less 'warm and sunny' than most, but are approaching their GCSE and A Level assessments with an impressive level of determination. By keeping in their separate bubbles, we are very much trying to protect them.

For their sakes, I urge the entire school community to continue to carry out the twice weekly tests.



Looking ahead, our Upper Sixth students are keen to arrange a Summer Ball to celebrate their time at Mount House (assuming the government roadmap to lift the lockdown continues as expected). We have looked at external venues, but as you can imagine, these are booked up already. Instead, we are planning to make the School hall unrecognisably glamorous and invite our Year 12 and 13 students as well as all their parents to attend. The date will be Wednesday 30th June, and ticket prices will be in the region of £60 per person, for a three-course meal followed by dancing. Before we proceed further, we would like to identify whether this is something parents would like to attend; if not, we will consider alternative celebrations with the Upper Sixth students. To that end, please contact Karen Goodall schooladminofficer@mounthouse.org.uk by Friday 30th April if you would like to express your interest. If we have sufficient interest, we can then forge ahead with our plans.

This term I am teaching an additional Year 9 History course – they are, as you can imagine, delighted! We are learning about the Apartheid movement in South Africa, and it has given me the opportunity to re-read a quite extraordinary book which I recommend: Alan Paton's *Cry the Beloved Country*. The 'back-cover blurb' says this: 'first published in 1948, *Cry the Beloved Country* addresses the problem of race relations with the scrupulousness of the historian, the sensitivity of the poet, and stands as the single most important novel in twentieth-century South African literature'.



The weather for next week looks to be similar to this, although with slightly lower temperatures. For that reason, we will please maintain the current uniform expectations.

I wish you all the best for a relaxing weekend.

Welcome to Mrs Roy – new teacher of Chemistry and Psychology



We would like to welcome Mrs Roy to Mount House School.

She will be teaching Chemistry and Psychology and is a year 11 tutor.

“During my career I have taught in a mixture of single sex boys, girls and co-ed schools, and have loved them all. My previous roles include Head of Chemistry and Second in Science (which I relinquished once I became a mother so I could focus my more limited time on my students and teaching).

As a student I attended a very similar school to Mount House in terms of size (and even name - it was called The Mount!). The small nurturing environment was actually what inspired me to teach. My teachers all knew my name, and given the tiny class sizes I was given so much individual attention and felt really cared for. Therefore I am so excited to be teaching in a similar environment, and I hope to be able to make a similar impact on my students that my teachers had on me.

I love painting and attend a watercolour class once a week. I love looking at the Art and Design work that the students produce, so don't be surprised if you catch me drawn to your art folders! I also enjoy reading and playing scrabble, and have started an extracurricular scrabble club.”

Sixth Form Academic Enrichment

At Mount House all students take three or four A Levels, in addition to the Extended Project Qualification. From September 2021, we will also be expecting students to choose one subject from our new ‘Fifth Column’ on the timetable. There is a choice of options detailed on the website, and within that we hope all our students will find something which interests them, as well as offering them an academic stretch and challenge. These options will extend their formal learning and ensure that Sixth Formers progress to university and beyond with a wide range of academic skills and experiences.

[Sixth Form Academic Enrichment](#)



Geography

Our Year 7-9 students are starting new units of study this term in Geography and there are so many incredible resources available that can help support both their understanding of these topics and their overall skills in maths, spelling and vocabulary. This week, we would like to highlight the Year 8 Geography unit- *Biomes & Food Security*.

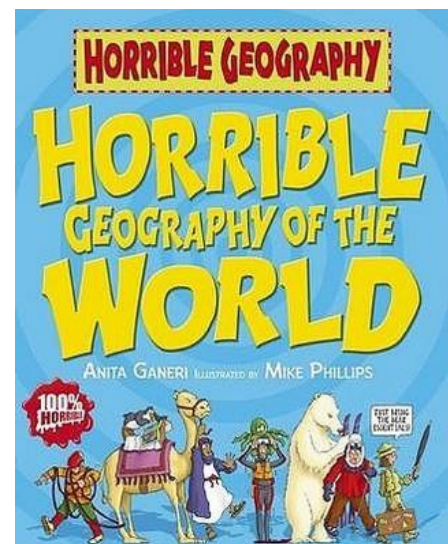
Suggested viewing on ecosystems will always include Sir David Attenborough's extensive collection of works, which offers us an insight into the ways in which animals and plants adapt to the characteristics of their environments and more recently, the effect of climate change. Other wider reading or viewing that may also support students in this topic include:

Rotten (15) Netflix [Rotten](#) | [Official Trailer \[HD\]](#) | [Netflix](#)

From the team behind Anthony Bourdain Parts Unknown and The Mind of a Chef, Rotten gives food the true crime treatment, diving deep into the food production underworld to expose the corruption, waste and real dangers behind your everyday eating habits.

Horrible Geography series

Grab your compass, put on your tin hat and get ready to go globetrotting. It's time to wave goodbye to miserable maps and find out what geography is really all about! Plant-choked rainforests. Polar caps where ice-bears roar! Raging rivers, scorching sands and towering icebergs! See what lives in monster lakes, how violent volcanoes explode, and what happens when stormy weather hits. Just make sure you have your survival kit to hand...



10 Million Britons are Living in a 'Food Desert': Report

<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/food-desert-britain-supermarkets-fruit-and-veg/>

Food insecurity is a significant issue impacts both rich and poor parts of the world, including London. The UN's Global Goals campaign to achieve zero hunger, including universal access to safe and nutritious food. Nevertheless, families across Britain — and across the world — are struggling to put enough food on the table to meet their nutrition needs.

More reading and viewing suggestions can be found in [the Curiosity, Creativity and Competition Facebook group](#).



House Competition



Congratulations once again to Rushmore House who took the win last term on 150 points, closely followed by Everest.

On Tuesday, House leaders launched our 'Charity & Community' theme. During this half term, our students will be working on raising awareness and support for local charities through assembly items, social media posts and activities at school.

House	Charity
	Noah's Ark Children's Hospice
	Guide Dogs
	Barnet Food Bank
	Young Barnet Foundation



Extra-curricular with Ms Hillcoat-Hyde

Summer term extra-curricular clubs started this week. Please see the website for the list of clubs.
<https://www.mounthouse.org.uk/co-curricular/>

It has been great to see so many students at sports clubs this week.

Tennis has been extremely popular, with many students attending sessions during lunch and after school. The latter have been an opportunity to work with students in small groups and individually in order to develop techniques and performances. Zak Rahman-Cook should be commended for his overall performance along with Mia Bushnell who is commended for her endeavour. We have organised a tennis competition for students during lunch and are looking forward to watching the competition progress this term.



Year 9 at tennis club on Thursday

Cricket continues to be popular amongst the student body, with students attending the after-school club on Wednesday and taking part in our exciting cricket competition.

In addition to the advertised clubs, Mrs Roy will run a **Scrabble club** after school on Thursdays in room 11 for years 7 and 8. Students should come along even if they don't know how to play - Mrs Roy will teach them. It should be lots of fun, and house points will be handed out for any impressive words - especially science ones!



Mount Ark - a faith society

How was your week? Are you feeling stressed? A problem shared is a problem halved. Mount Ark is a faith society where all beliefs regarding different topics and situations are freely shared.

Fridays, 1.30 in Room 18

All students are welcome

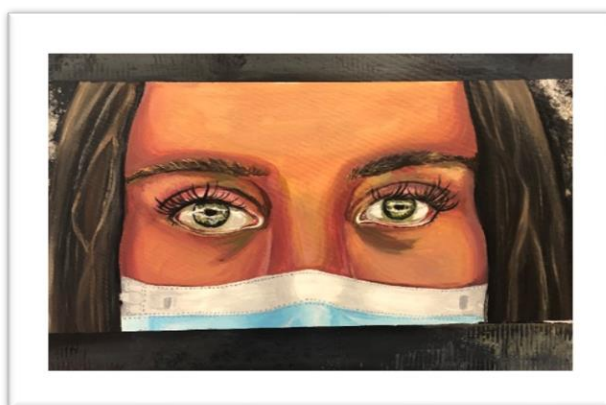
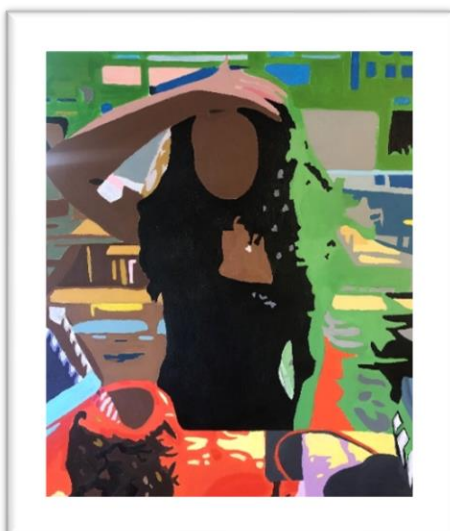
Mrs da Rocha



Art with Ms Somerville and Mrs Baird

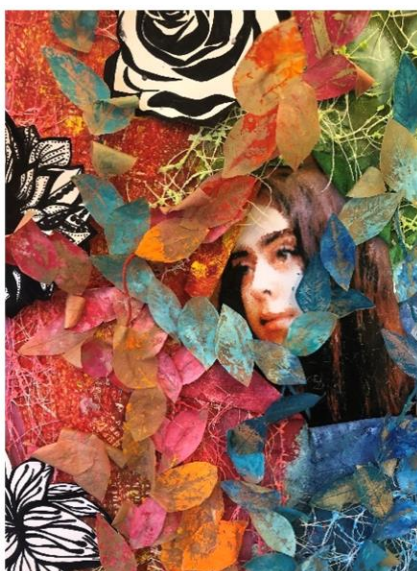


Our GCSE art students are putting finishing touches to their entries for the Royal Academy Summer Show.



Clockwise from top left: *Figure Abstraction* by Esme Afuwape; *Social Distancing* by Sadie Scott Pickup; *Red Gerbera* by Poppy Canty; *Butterfly Body* by Sienna Colletta.





Clockwise from top left: *Natural form Kaleidoscope* by Raquel Bahirathan; *Colourways* by Elise Akman; *Seascape* by Keren Mulat-Weldemeskel; *Concealment* by Jessica Franklin; *Following the Rules* by Sadie Scott-Pickup; *Movement* by Liliana Dos Santos.



Sport with Ms Hillcoat-Hyde

The sun has been shining as summer sports started this week – the perfect combination for a PE teacher!

During PE lessons students practised striking and fielding activities with this week's focus being throwing and catching. Students had the opportunity to develop skills and perform these within competitive games.

It has been great to see students in Years 7 – 10 taking part in athletics and cricket this week during games afternoons.

Year 7 & 8 cricketers had the opportunity to develop skills and apply in modified matches with Owais Shah, Mr Kerr and Mr Leeven.

Years 7 & 8 athletes developed their knowledge and understanding in shot put, javelin and standing long jump. Students took part in the activities on a rotation which will continue next week.

Thursday afternoon saw all students in Year 9 take part in cricket with Owais Shah, Mr Mather and Mr Leeven. The highlight of the session was competing against peers within modified games, where all students demonstrated a desire to win. Year 10 took part in athletics and recapped the techniques for shot put and javelin and had the opportunity to perform the different techniques/throws, competing against themselves and their peers.

Year 11 took part in netball, supporting the GCSE students with their training and Year 12 & 13 took part in a basketball match against each other.



Athletes of the week are:

Year 7	Grace Gakhar
Year 8	Obiora Onuma
Year 9	Sara Pakoglu
Year 10	Aimee Isaacs
Year 11	Ava Lovett and Katrina Taylor
Sixth Form	Rachael Harper-Wilkinson




Lunch menus for the summer term

Lunch menus from our caterers Thomas Franks are now on the website here:

[Summer Term lunch menus](#)

The menus are refreshed every half term, in consultation with students.



Weekly Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread	Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread	Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread	Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread	Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread
Pasta Bar Rich beef spaghetti Bolognese served with homemade garlic bread	Chick of the day Chicken Tikka Masala With Couscous and garlic naan	Chick of the day Slow Cooked Shepherd's pie And Gravy	Roast of the day Roast Chicken Breast With a Yorkshire Pudding	Chick of the day Grilled Chicken Burger with a Pear-Apple Mayo in a Bun
Vegetarian Option Jackfruit and onion vegetable served on a toasted slice <i>Vegan Friendly</i>	Vegetarian Option Mushrooms, spinach and Chicken (chili) <i>Vegan Friendly</i> Snack Option Baked Potato with Various Fillings Or Fresh Pasta Pots	Vegetarian Option Mushrooms and soy lentil Cottage Pie <i>Vegan Friendly</i> Snack Option Baked Potatoes Or Fresh Pasta Pots	Vegetarian Option Winter Vegetable pie with a herb crust Snack Option Jacket Potato Or Fresh Pasta Pots	Vegetarian Option Onion ring and Feta Burrito with chili dip Snack Option Jacket Potatoes Or Fresh Pasta Pots
Snack Option Baked Potatoes Or Fresh Pasta Pots	Served With Steamed Basmati Rice Fresh Green Beans	Served With Fennel Roasted Carrots Garden Peas	Served With Roast Potatoes, Steamed Kale and Thyme Seasoned Carrots	Served With Chips Potato Wedges Garden Peas and Crunchy Salad
Dessert Pineapple upside-down Cake	Dessert Cockles and Cream Pots	Dessert Apple and Raspberry Crumble With Custard	Dessert Orange Citrus Cake	Dessert Bey Lane Pie

Mobile phones

Mobile phones belonging to students in Year 7, 8 and 9 are now being collected at the start of each day, so that students are free to interact with each other and learn without the distraction of a mobile phone in their pocket. So far, the response to this new measure from students and staff has been overwhelmingly positive. If you are a parent of a student in year 7, 8 or 9 please click on this link to complete a very short survey. Please note - parents in other year groups may also complete the survey: <https://forms.gle/U3EtnuEplujT44tv5>

Transport

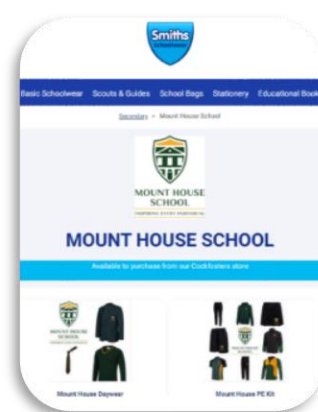
A reminder to all parents that we have a shuttle bus running on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays at 4.15pm to Hadley Wood, High Barnet and Cockfosters. This service will be available to all students as long as there is enough demand. If your child is already taking the bus, the shuttle is free; for all others, it costs £225. Please email schooladminofficer@mounthouse.org.uk for more details.

New Uniform Supplier: Smiths

We are happy to announce that the new uniform supplier for our school is Smiths in Cockfosters. Parents should find them more convenient as the shop is closer to the school than the previous supplier. Smiths stocks the full range of uniform and you can either buy from their shop or online.

<https://www.smithsschoolwear.co.uk/c/417/Mount-House-School>

25 Station Parade, Cockfosters Road, EN4 0DW. Tel: 0203 818 3622





Home testing update and reporting test results to school

Government advice states that students should continue to test twice a week (e.g. 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 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)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>
- Contact Mr Kerr ASAP

Additional testing kits

Additional testing kits (one test kit per person) are available for collection from reception at break and lunch time each day.

Masks

If your child is exempt from wearing a mask – please let your child's Form Tutor know.



Dates for your diary

Thursday 20 th May	Careers Fair
Thursday 27 th May	Half term
Monday 7 th June	Back to school
Saturday 26 th June	Open Day: all students and staff to attend
Thursday 1 st July	Sports Day and Friends of Mount House after-party
Friday 2 nd July	End of summer term and Leavers' Garden Party



Mount House – The Movie



This week we had a film crew in to make a new school video. They were seen roaming around the school, in classrooms and on tennis courts, in the hall filming trampolining and table tennis, in the art room and music suite filming the Phantoms playing their guitars.

We were lucky with the weather and the finished film will be uploaded onto the website as soon as it's been edited.

Thank you to all the patient students and staff who agreed to be filmed (sometimes with three takes!).



Social Media

We are now more active on social media, using it to raise awareness of our wonderful school to prospective parents. Please do follow, like and share posts with your connections:



@MountHouseSchoolBarnet



@MountHouseSch



@Mounthouse_school and @Mounthouseschool_artgallery



Mount House School