



NEWSLETTER 31 – 25TH JUNE

Message from Tony Phillips, Assistant Head

*“True wisdom comes to each of us when we realise how little we understand about life, ourselves, and the world around us.”
Socrates.*



In our enrichment programme this year, we set out to promote a thirst for knowledge among the students in order to create a school community of life-long learners. We wanted to create an atmosphere where there is a real desire for knowledge beyond the formal learning environment. Throughout the year many of our students took advantage of the vast array of enrichment opportunities available at the School, the details of which are in our Extra-Curricular Handbook. A new addition to the enrichment list is the opportunity for our students to build robots! I hope the students have gained intellectually through their experiences beyond the classroom.

The enrichment programme comes to an end this academic year with Activity Week in the final week of term. Normal lessons are being suspended next week to enable our students to engage in a range of enrichment and sporting activities.

Year 10 students will be engaged in STEM activities over the three-day period. In addition to designing and testing Vitamin C experiments on fruit and vegetables, they will also be conducting Acid Base Titration experiments. On Wednesday, led by our very excited Head of Science, Mr Brozny, they will be busy building robots.

Year 9 will be taking part in humanities and art enrichment activities. There will be a geography field trip to east London and a walking tour of historic London. A classics group will remain at school to decorate homemade Greek vases. Prospective art, photography and textile students will be admiring the works of art in the Tate Modern. The delights and challenges of sporting activities await the year group on Wednesday.

Year 7 and 8 students will be subjected to fresh air and fitness by being involved in sporting activities for all of the three days. In addition to football, cricket, tennis, athletics and other healthy pursuits, the students will also be involved in team-building activities.

During the week, Year 7 and 8 will also be involved in workshops organised by Stand Up! Education Against Discrimination. The workshops will explore racism and discrimination more broadly by looking at the Equality Act. They will be considering what is Islam and Judaism. They will look at the definition of antisemitism and stereotypes of Jews. They will consider the definition of anti-Muslim hate and stereotypes of Muslims. They will discuss how victims may feel and watch testimonies. They will also investigate the different types of anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim incidents which have been recorded. Lastly, they will ask what can we do about this issue and how we report hate crimes.

On Thursday, all students will be competing in Sports Day in an effort to win more points for their houses.

When the students return in September, they will discover new enrichment clubs and societies. We will also be welcoming guest speakers to the School who will further enhance the knowledge and understanding of our students across a range of subjects and issues. For example, in September, **Dr Sean Lang** will be visiting Mount House to talk about the controversial subject of the British Empire and slavery. Dr Lang is a senior lecturer at the Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge. **Dr James Prentice** will be coming to the School in October to talk about his role in fighting Covid-19. Recently, Dr Prentice received the NHS Hero Award in recognition of his contribution in fighting the pandemic. In November **Steve Quarterman** CBE will be talking about his role as a senior civil servant in the Ministry of Housing. In the Lent Term, **Robert Lacey**, the royal historian and historical advisor for *The Crown* will be visiting Mount House. His most recent book considers the relationship between Prince William and Prince Harry.

When our students return to Mount House for the new academic year, I would encourage all our students in all year groups to make the most of the enrichment opportunities on offer.

Stand Up! Education against Discrimination workshops



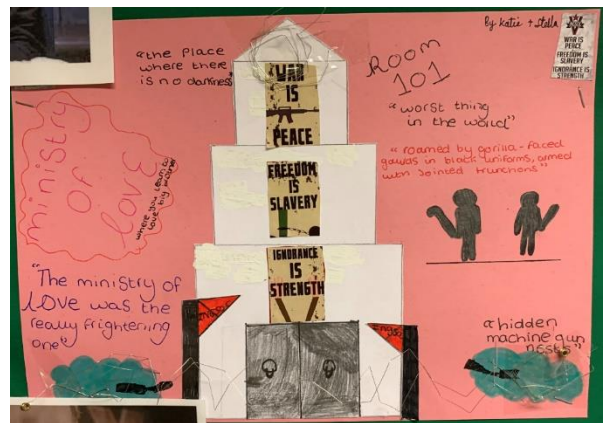
Next week, year 7 and 8s will attend anti-bullying and anti-discrimination workshops run by Stand up! Education against Discrimination.

Stand Up! Education against Discrimination is a nationwide project which provides anti-discrimination education, with a focus on antisemitism and anti-Muslim hate, to young people in mainstream schools. A partnership between Maccabi GB and CST, Stand Up! combines Maccabi GB's experience in delivering informal education sessions to thousands of young people, with CST and Tell MAMA's respective expertise in recording and combating antisemitism and anti-Muslim hate. Through interactive workshops and drawing on the unique knowledge of many partners in the hate crime field, Stand Up! empowers young people to act against all forms of discrimination, racism, antisemitism and anti-Muslim hate, whilst developing their sense of social responsibility to their local communities and British society as a whole.



English Department

Year 10 have been studying the dystopian text *1984* in preparation for their IGCSE exams. Although published in 1949, this highly influential text still has significance for contemporary society, especially when addressing the issue of state control in the lives of individuals. In addition, the ideas for the reality television shows *Big Brother* and *Room 101* have been borrowed directly from the novel. Students enjoyed the complex novel, following the protagonist Winston Smith and his rebellion against the totalitarian state of Big Brother. The students produced a critical piece of writing as well as designing and constructing key buildings from the text which are now displayed in the English Department corridor.





Year 7 have been studying *The Tempest* in English this term. They have completed a number of creative tasks to help them develop their understanding of the play. Students wrote a description of the island from the point of view of Caliban, the enslaved monster on the island. Some students made models of the island. Here is Sofie and Ava's island with an extract from Sofie's description of the island.



My island is incredibly beautiful and brings me happiness. The sunshine, golden sand, blueberry blue sea water and tall, towering palm trees. Enormous, chestnut-coloured coconuts full of ivory-coloured milk. Waves gingerly lap onto the amber shore and one of the best experiences, dipping my three toes into the warm soothing sand. There is a vibrant coral reef full of colourful shapes in varieties of sizes. Many sea animals, jellyfish the colour of pink berries and white berries that look innocent to the eye but are demons inside. Their long flowing tentacles sting, hurt like lightning strikes, burn like fire and sting like thorns. Meanwhile, threatening monsters hide deep in the water.

As the end of term is imminent, all students should ensure that they return their copies of the books listed below to their English teacher:

Year 7 Tom's Midnight Garden, Private Peaceful and The Tempest.

Year 8 Great Expectations, A Midsummer's Night's Dream.

Year 9 A Christmas Carol, Of Mice and Men, Macbeth.

All **Accelerated Reader** books also need to be returned to the library.

Thank you.

Duke of Edinburgh

35 students took part in their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh qualifying expedition on Tuesday 22nd & Wednesday 23rd June. Students arrived at Ashridge Estate, and were greeted by A to Z who guided them whilst planning their routes. Students set off group by group and throughout the day navigated their way from checkpoint to checkpoint until they reached the campsite (all in good time). On arrival at the campsite, students were greeted by our neighbours for the evening - two lovely cows - and they set up camp, putting up tents and cooking their evening meal. The temperature dropped quickly throughout the evening, encouraging students to retire to the tents. An early morning start meant that students were ready to depart the campsite on time. All groups navigated their way from checkpoint to checkpoint and arrived at the finishing point in good time.

All the members of staff assisting the trip were extremely proud of all students as this was a challenge in which they rose to learning from mistakes during the practice expedition, taking forward their learning into the qualifying expedition. Everybody passed, so a huge congratulations to all students! Now students should focus on completing the three sections: volunteering, skills and physical.

Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde



... and the non D of E students

The six Year 9 students who didn't join in D of E undertook a few writing tasks.

They had to write about a memory of something they'd done at school or in lockdown this year.



"Next year for GCSE I chose to do photography because I enjoy taking pictures in my spare time and I enjoy Photoshop. I can't wait to learn how it all works. Another reason why I chose this is because I admire other photographers and the quality pictures they take. I want to learn how professional photographers take their best shot for their pictures. I might want a job in photography."



"During my first academic year at Mount House School, I managed to achieve high marks in two particular subjects, which were biology and classics. Although these were good marks I wouldn't say I felt any strong sense of pride, but I was certainly pleased with my results."

Classics was a new subject to me as I have only joined the school this year, and I find it a rather interesting study as it often includes mild controversial debate, and often goes into detail and speculation over things which wouldn't be studied in other topics. An example of this could be civil rights in ancient Greece and how domestic values and gender roles have evolved over time, and how some may remain intact 2000 years later – After Ancient Greece was believed to have "fallen" or "died out".

Another thing I like about classics is studying the text of stories and poems and trying to understand and piece together the information provided, to then answer questions about characters' motives and reactions to better understand the story and its contexts.



During the lessons (which we have every Friday) we will read and analyse a passage from the Iliad, which at first was about the Trojan War and fall of the city Troy, but is now featuring Odysseus and the Odyssey – a story which describes Odysseus's ten-year long journey home after the Trojan War.



The picture on the right shows a map of Greece, with Odysseus's homeland circled in red on the lower right.



After doing this, we will be given questions on the text for homework, and be expected to hand them in the following week for marking.

To ensure we have a good understanding of the topic, we are often given advice on how and when we should revise for upcoming quizzes or exams, and whether we should take notes of certain facts or features (which wasn't encouraged in my previous school, and often left to the students to figure out).

The teacher (Mrs Fallon) is always open and approachable if we want to ask a question, related or unrelated to the current topic, which I believe has helped me achieve a higher mark in my exam. Overall, I have enjoyed Classics this year, and have decided to pick it as one of my GCSE options in year 10, along with Geography and History which I have also enjoyed this year, with Ms Gillet and Mr McCormick."

The students were also asked to create an event for next year, as outrageous as they liked, and three students enthusiastically got to work on a Mount House style 'Hunger Games' (you will be pleased to hear we won't be putting on this event).

Another student dreamt up a Marvel marathon, where over a three-day bank holiday weekend, people could come to school and watch the 23 Marvel Avengers films back-to-back, dressed in their favourite Marvel hero costume, in the School Hall. Rules included not spoiling the film plots for other viewers!

Another event was called 'Survival of the Fittest and Smartest' and involved a night-time game finding a safe zone while eliminating other players, using torches and nerf guns. The winner would receive one week without homework!

Friends of Mount House



FOMH is an association of parents and teachers who volunteer their time arranging social and fundraising events for the benefit and enjoyment of students, staff, parents and the wider Mount House community. If you are interested in volunteering or would like to know more, please send an email and one of the team will be in touch.

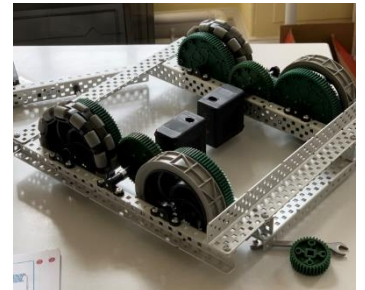
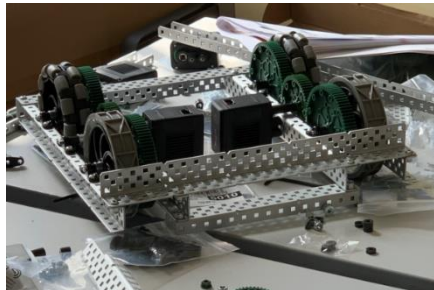
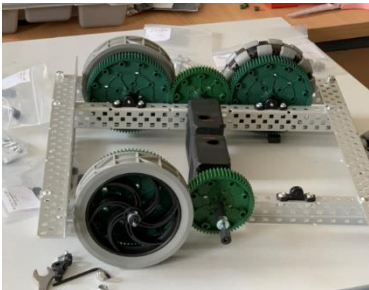
The Robotics Club is taking shape and working hard to prepare for the competitions and challenges ahead.

Good luck team from all at FoMH.

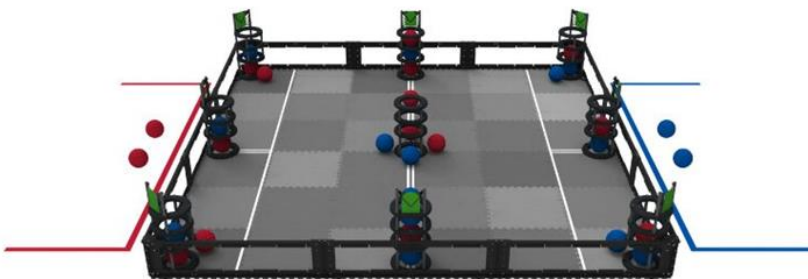
Keith Brueton - Acting Chair kmbrueton@gmail.com

Julie Westmore jwesty@btinternet.com

Robotics Club



The Robotics Club (**Robert Harris** Year 8, **Joel Robinson** Year 8, **George Cotgreave** Year 8, **William Arnold** Year 7) is working hard to get four operational Crunch Build Robots ready for the Year 10 Robotics STEM Day on Wednesday June 30th. Year 10s will complete the Crunch Build design on their robots and take part in a game called Change Up. The aim of the game is to move the coloured balls into your opponent's goals so that your team's colour lines up.



Our next goal will be to build a new design for the 2021-2022 Season where we will be competing against other schools in the new game, Tipping Point.

Speakers' Corner: Women in Sport



On Monday 21ST June, **Anna Ranger** and **Talya Djafer** in Year 7 spoke to the whole school on the issue of women in sport. They spoke very clearly with purpose and great clarity. The speech provided an insight into issues that women face in sport today. It brought to the attention of all of us that we still have some way to go before women have equal opportunities in all sports.

The speech was well received by the whole school and won applause from all year groups.

Both girls received their Speakers' Corner certificates and their prizes from the Head on stage.

Well done Anna and Talya.

At the end of the presentation the Head invited all Speakers' Corner presenters from the academic year onto the stage to receive a rapturous applause from across the school.

The presenters over the year were:

Nia Gakwandi

Rwanda post-Civil War

Santiago Scicchitano and Krrish Patel

Racism in Football

Miho Kondo

The Cultural Differences between the UK and Japan



Congratulations to all those who have participated in Speakers' Corner this year. We had some incredible presentations with a variety of issues which were both and educational and informative.

Speakers' Corner is open to all students from across the school who wish to bring any issue, concern or subject that they feel passionate about or

indeed they have some interest in to the attention of the whole school. We look forward to welcoming a number of new presenters in the new academic year.

Many thanks to **Vivek Desai** and **Alex Nicolaidis** in Year 12 for all their help and outstanding commitment in coordinating many of the Speakers' Corner activities over this very challenging year.

Mr Allman

School Council meeting: 14th June

There were 14 school reps present. Also present were Mrs Nathwani, Mr Kerr and Garry the Head Cook. The meeting was facilitated by Mr Allman.

Ideas and recommendations were as followed:

- The introduction of sandwich option
- The possibility of lowering the drinks prices
- Reintroduction of soup
- New smoothies at break and lunch
- Cold food and drink during the summer
- Smaller tables for students
- Separate queues for hot and cold food during break.
- Some reps suggested there was too much salt and oil in the hash browns.

Garry our Head Cook was very accommodating and welcomed all the positive contributions made by the representatives and agreed to put these proposed changes into place. These will be put into effect as a soon possible.

The chair thanked Garry and Mrs Nathwani for their attendance.

The next meeting is 28/06/21.

Stefano Paternostro

