

NEWSLETTER 32 – 2ND JULY

Message from Sarah Richardson, Head

In this final newsletter of an ‘interesting’ year, it is hard to know whether to reflect on what has been or look forward to what we hope will be a better year in 2021/2. The challenges of this year have been well-documented, and when I think about the fantastic way Mount House has risen to that challenge I do feel very proud. I would therefore like to say very well done to the students who have had to put up with so much disruption, but who have dealt with that with laughter as well as a few tears; to you the parents, who have supported your children at the same time as continuing with your own work commitments, and of course to the Mount House staff – both teaching and support – who have given their all to the students here at the same time as supporting their own families. As a community we have been extraordinarily lucky, and no student or teacher has tested positive during a school term. I am aware that many of our families have lost loved ones this year, and my thoughts are with you.



Today we have enjoyed celebrating some of the many successes of our students as we held our final assembly and gave out prizes. I congratulate all of this year’s prize winners, and you can find the names of those students below. However, this tells only part of the story of our year, and we realise that although lessons and learning have continued, much of school life has been put on hold.

This last week or so has almost felt as though we are on the path back to normality – the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions have gone ahead; students have been on trips to museums; the Mount House Shakespeare Company has finally managed to put on their production of Macbeth which was initially due to take place as far back as November. Those of us who were lucky enough to see that production on Wednesday evening were able to marvel at the talent of the students involved, and respect the enormous amount of hard work which went into the production – not just the actors, but the stage crew, the prop designers and everyone else who made a contribution. Many thanks to Mrs Dawson and her team who have committed an enormous amount of time to this. We are very much looking forward to next year, and the school production of the musical *Oliver!*

We are currently fully immersed in our planning for the next academic year, and I am delighted that we will be starting the building of our new MUGA immediately, with the intention that it will be ready for September. You will find below some computer-generated images of the exciting new facility which I know will be very well used by both the PE departments and for co-curricular clubs. Over the next few weeks we will be contacting parents with more details about arrangements and essential information for next term.

One aspect of school life which has been a focus in this final week is the way in which we treat each other. I would therefore like to thank students who have gone out of their way to be kind, supportive and encouraging to somebody else. Random Acts of Kindness certificates were awarded to:

Katherine Casey, Neila Gakwandi, Michael Miltiadous, Melisa Remanica, Athena Demetriou, Grace Gallagher, Omololu Sonaike, Talya Djafer, Alicia Ormrod, Tara Porter and Dharmani Joshi.

The end of a school year is also one of sadness as we say goodbye to students as well as to some of our teachers. Although for those who are leaving these are exciting times – with new adventures and challenges to look forward to – we will of course miss them. This year we say goodbye to Rebecca Elkins, Miss Wang and Miss Gillett and we thank them all for they have given to the school in their time here. We wish all our students who are leaving a wonderful summer and we very much hope that they will keep in touch with us. Last, but most certainly not least, I would like to thank the Head of School, Rachael, and her deputies, Claire and Rico. who have been fine advocates for the student body. As a new Head, I have been particularly lucky to have such a thoughtful, considered and wise Head of School in Rachael and I am very grateful to her for all she has given to both me and to the School.

I wish you all a wonderful, and restful, summer break.

Prize Giving



Form prizes are awarded in years 7, 8 and 9.

Recipients have been nominated by their tutors, and are awarded to students who best represent Mount House values: who work hard and do their best, who contribute to our community and who have been kind and generous.

Year 7: Anne Banda, Grace Gakhar, William Arnold, Sofie Bartek, Ava Adams, Roman McAvoy, Oscar Michaels and Tara Porter.

Year 8: Anna Collington, Emily Hooker, Katherine Casey, Neila Gakwandi, Semi Kampanella, Mona Vaseghi, Reuben Ward, Krrish Patel, Mia Bushnell, Melisa Remanica and Mariam Demetriou.

Year 9: Lydia Frost-Tingling, Hailey Boakye, Darcie Dudding, Zac Webster, Ava Athwal, Stefan Contantinou, Anna Harris, Zak Rahman-Cook and Iman Salem.

The year 7 cup for academic excellence goes to: Sophia Sarkoob.

The year 8 cup for academic excellence goes to: Anna Collington.

The year 9 cup for academic excellence goes to: Lydia Frost-Tingling.

Academic prizes

Year 10

Art and Design, Business: Emmanuela Attakpah

Biology: Katie Gallagher

Chemistry and French: Vanessa Oboyere

Classics: Anastasia Moss

Computer Science: Benecia Odogu

Drama: Olivia Richardson

English and History: Ruby Sorrell



Geography: 'Aine Smith
 Maths: Nia Gakwandi
 Music and Spanish: Elisabetta Losi
 PE: Aimee Isaacs
 Physics and Religious Education: Ayomide Soetan
 The year 10 cup for academic excellence: Ayomide Soetan.

Year 11

Art and Design and Drama: Sadie Scott-Pickup
 Biology: Keren Mulat-Weldemeskel
 Business and Spanish: Antonia Nicola
 Classics and Textiles: Sienna Colletta
 Computer Science, Geography and Chemistry: Ailsa Rae
 English: Mara McNally
 French, History and PE: Olivia Butler
 Maths and Physics: Charlotte Wheatley
 Music: Esme Afuwape
 Religious Education: Jessica Franklin
 The Year 11 cup for academic excellence: Sienna Colletta.

L6

Biology, Maths and Physics: Karlie Liu
 Business, History and Sociology: Vivek Desai
 Chinese: Vicky Wan
 Economics: Alex Nicolaidis
 Spanish: Stefano Paternostro
 The Lower Sixth cup for academic excellence: Karlie Liu.

U6:

Art and Design: Linda Wang
 Biology, Chemistry: Miho Kondo
 Business, Spanish: Alice Plate
 Chinese and Textiles: Elizabeth He
 Classics: Francesca Marino
 Drama: Ella Ryland
 English Language: Jemima Carroll
 English Literature and History: Ellana Cowan
 French: Antonnia Lazouras
 Government and Politics: Harry Ourris
 Maths: Dolores Yan
 PE and Photography: Sybil Reid-Oldham
 Physics: Rachael Harper-Wilkinson
 Psychology: Olivia George
 Sociology: Hilda Mokwena
 The Upper Sixth cup for academic excellence: Rachael Harper-Wilkinson

The cup for Outstanding Contribution to Sport: Zac Webster
The cup for Outstanding Contribution to Extra-Curricular Activities: Zak Rahman-Cook
The cup for Outstanding Contribution to Languages: Lydia Frost-Tingling
The cup for Outstanding Contribution to The Arts: Emily Hooker
The cup for Outstanding Contribution to Music: Aine Smith.

A video of the prize-giving assembly was made, which will be uploaded to a password-protected website next week, and a code sent to parents and students who would like to view it.

New staff appointments by Mrs Richardson

We are delighted to be welcoming the following new teachers to the Mount House staff in September:

Sophia Clarkson – Classics. Ms Clarkson is Head of Classics at a coeducational preparatory school. She previously worked at two other independent schools teaching Classics, Latin, Ancient History, Ancient Greek and Classical Civilisation, and is an experienced teacher of GCSE and A level.

Oriana Del Malvo – Geography and Maths. Ms Del Malvo taught at an all-girls independent school in Johannesburg and her background is in environmental sciences.

Gabrielle Wong – Business, Economics & Maths (Part time) – Ms Wong had a career in business and consultancy before moving into teaching.

Within the school, we are delighted to announce the following appointments for September 2021:

Head of 6th Form: Rebecca Macdonald
Head of Year 11: Abi da Rocha
Head of Year 10: Solene Roy
Head of Year 9: Sam Whitehouse
Head of Year 8: Eleonora Mariottini
Head of Year 7: Sofia Clarkson.

Speakers' Corner

In last week's newsletter, three students who presented during the year were missing from the list. We'd like to apologise to these students and mention their excellent presentations:

- Anna Collington and Emily Hooker presented on mental health issues.
- Grace Kelly presented on discrimination against the travelling community.



New MUGA

Building work for the new MUGA will start next week. This new facility will be a wonderful space for our students to use for netball, basketball, football, street cricket and other sports. We're very excited to show the mock-up of how it will look, and hope to be able to share pictures of its progress on social media over the holidays.



MacBeth



On Wednesday 30th June, the Scottish play was performed in front of a small, socially-distanced audience of staff and parents. It was a triumph, so well done to all the cast and supporting cast:

- MacbethRuby Sorrell
- Lady MacbethAnastasia Moss
- King Duncan/Macduff ...Vanessa Amoit Oboyere
- Banquo/HecateOlivia Richardson
- MalcolmMona Vaseghi
- DonaldbainGrace Kelly
- Lennox/RossKatie Gallagher
- FleanceSofie Bartek
- PorterCalypso Malialis
- MurderersAva Adams, Anne Banda, Mia Bushnell
- Witches/Chorus.....Sofie Bartek, Ava Adams, Anne Banda, Mona Vaseghi, Mia Bushnell

Directors: Fiona Dawson & Tania Weldon

Music Director: Sam Whitehouse

Set/Props: Paul Nancarrow

Set construction & Stage Managers: Semi Kampanella, Jiselle Okoye, Anna Collington, Mariam Demetriou, Ciara Roche, Alice Westmore, Reuben Ward, Neila Gakwandi, Alice Reekie, 'Aine Smith.



Activities Week

Despite the mixed weather, we have had an exciting week with plenty going on.

Years 7 and 8 were outside practising for Sports Day with the PE department.

Year 9 went on trips and completed a Classics project in school:

On Monday and Tuesday of the final week of term 30 intrepid Year 9s ventured to central London in a quest for enrichment. Led by Mr Phillips, two groups visited a number of locations of significant historical interest.

Having survived the upheavals of Finsbury Park railway station, the groups headed to Victoria tube station to begin their journey of adventure. Our first stop was Westminster Abbey, the scene of coronations, royal weddings and the final resting place of the good and the great. Consecrated during the reign of Edward the Confessor in 1065, Westminster Abbey is also the resting place of the Unknown Soldier of the First World War.

Crossing the road to Parliament Square, the group admired various statues including those of Mandela, Gandhi, Lloyd George and Churchill. The group were then treated to a mini lecture on the history of the Palace of Westminster.



Following some group photos, Mr Phillips engaged in a conversation with former Member of Parliament and Cabinet Minister, Sir David Lidington. A walk down Whitehall enabled the group to learn more about 10 Downing Street, the Cenotaph and the World War Two Women's Memorial. At the statue of Field Marshal Douglas Haig outside the Ministry of Defence, the group engaged in some historiography to question whether or not Haig was the 'butcher of the Somme'. We also viewed the Banqueting House, the site of the execution of King Charles I on 30 January 1649.

The groups then made their way to Horse Guards Parade. The Tuesday group were able to witness the changing of the guard at the entrance of the former headquarters of the British Army. Normally, the role of guarding the entrance is given to the Household Cavalry. However, on this occasion the Royal Horse Artillery, resplendent in their busbies, were on duty.

The groups stopped in the middle of the parade ground to hear a potted history of the Trooping of the Colour and to be informed that Horse Guards Parade was the site of the volleyball event during the 2012 London Olympic Games.

A weary group of Mount House students and staff made their way to St James' Park for a well-earned packed lunch. The Tuesday group were able to sit by the lake with an array of ducks and swans looking upon the scene of eating with a degree of anticipation!

After lunch the group made their way along The Mall to Buckingham Palace, the London residence of the British monarch since 1837. After a mini lecture on the Palace, the groups made their way to Green Park underground station to conclude their London enrichment experience.

A very big thank you to the accompanying staff - Mr Gallagher, Mr Hosseinian, Mrs Gur and Miss Hassan.

Geography Enrichment trip - year 9

On Monday, 12 students explored the Spitalfields Market and Brick Lane area as part of the Enrichment Activities Week. During their visit, students conducted fieldwork to decide which area was more accessible to people with varying needs, looking at the quality of pavement and vehicle traffic, and completed a public survey about the perceptions of local street art. They even found a Banksy! Although it was raining, our students engaged well with the walking tour, and started to make connections with the urban change in Shoreditch case study featured in their GCSE course.





Year 9 Classics Enrichment day

Monday and Tuesday saw Year 9 Classics and Art students flex their creative muscles when they designed and painted Greek vases. They began their day with an introduction about the function, design and technique used by the Greeks in the 7th-5th centuries BC. Most students decided to use the black figure technique, which sees the artist use the natural terracotta colour of the vase as a base, paint the figures in black paint and then etch the details in using a pin. Some students were able to highlight their designs using deep red and white (a colour usually reserved for female deities). Designs included the gods Dionysus and Poseidon, the goddesses Athena, the birth of Helen of Sparta, labours of Heracles, and geometric designs. In between discussion about England's chances against Germany in the Euros, there were moments of silence in the room when the students were really focused on the task and absorbed in the intricate painting. A special mention to Marisa, Christina, Lydia and Tomi for these winning designs. Well done Year 9!



Year 12 History trip

As part of Activity Week, a small group of A level historians ventured to Chartwell, the Kent country home of Sir Winston Churchill. Before entering the main house, the group walked in the various gardens to view, among other things, the memorial to John Churchill, the first Duke of Marlborough. We discovered the fish pond where Churchill would meditate and a swimming pool created by the great man himself. We also came across a garden wall that Churchill helped to build and the graves of a number of Chartwell pets including two dogs, Rufus I and Rufus II, and Jock the cat.

We also took the time to visit Churchill's art studio. He was a prolific artist who enjoyed painting scenes drenched in sunshine. He particularly enjoyed visiting the south of France and Morocco for this purpose. Not exactly Monet or Turner, but his artistic efforts do offer a distinctive vibrancy to the beholder.

In the house we were able to see the Churchill reception room and dining room as they looked in the 1930s. The most important room was Churchill's study. He spent most of his wilderness years (1929-39) in this room, writing speeches warning of the threat posed by Hitler and writing his biography of his great ancestor, the Duke of Marlborough, the victor of the Battle of Blenheim fought in 1704. From the windows of the house there are lovely views of the North Weald of Kent – one of the reasons why Churchill purchased Chartwell in 1922.



Head's Endeavour Award

Stage 3: The Expedition: Whittlesford and Sawston (South Cambridgeshire) Wednesday 23rd June

Temidayo Yussuff-Shittu and Oscar Michaels, together with teachers Mr Phillips and Mr Boonzaier, set off from the Church of St Mary and St Andrew in the village of Whittlesford on the final challenge of the Head's Endeavour Award.

The 5-mile course navigated by Oscar and Temi, employing their map-reading and compass skills, passed through country lanes visiting the Guildhall in Whittlesford built around 1000AD and a number of farm buildings.

Crossing fields of wheat of the Chuck-a-Bush Farm, we enjoyed perfect summer weather. Weary legs carried the expedition on via the Whittlesford Mill and crossing the River Cam.

A packed lunch in the village of Sawston brought a deserved break for all.

The expedition continued carefully to the final leg over A roads, main rail crossings and along cycle paths. A visit to the RAF pilots' war grave sites in the church cemetery placed the historic significance of Whittlesford in clear perspective. Spitfires from the Imperial War Museum at Duxford were flying overhead.

Congratulations to both Oscar and Temi for completing the expedition challenge.



Year 10 STEM

Year 10 students were busy this week conducting experiments in the Chemistry and Biology labs. The practical work for Chemistry was acid-base experiments and in the Biology lab, the students cut up various fruits and vegetables to analyse their vitamin c content. On Wednesday, there was much excitement as the robots were finished and the students took turns battling against each other's robots in the arena in the sixth form area.



CHARITY ACTIVITIES THIS TERM

Everest House raised £86.50 for Noah's Ark Hospice from various fund-raising events

Olympus House raised £259.80 for Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. This amount was raised over the course of the year by Miss Marriotini and the students from Olympus. The money was collected during a series of events organised by students in 2021, including food and sweet selling. Some of the money came from a Just Dance event which took place on the 25th May 2021. We would like to thank the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association for hosting a talk last year in February 2020 at school.

Chimborazo House raised £124.50 for the Chipping Food Bank Collection and collected food donations. In addition, the collection at the Sixth Form vs Staff football match came to £30.40.

Rushmore House raised £161.60 for the Barnet Youth Foundation.

Sale of Face Masks: £22.10 was raised for Noah's Ark Hospice.

Thank you to all the students and staff who worked so hard to raise this money for the different charities.

Chipping Barnet Food Bank appeal

During the summer term, Mount House has supported the Chipping Barnet Food bank with a variety of activities, such as a food collection drive, a charity teacher vs student football match organised by the sixth form and raising funds to purchase specific items that are required. We have donated over £150 and just over 52kg of food/personal hygiene items to the food bank - an impressive effort!

Currently the food bank is in need of the following items to support families in need this summer:

- rice
- pasta sauce
- deodorant & shampoo
- sugar
- 'bags for life' (new or used)



For students who are currently working through the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, volunteering at the Chipping Barnet Food Bank could be an ideal way to give back to the local community. More information about volunteering opportunities can be found on the website- <https://chippingbarnet.foodbank.org.uk/>.

Charity Football Match

A Staff vs Sixth Form end-of-year charity football match was played in front a Wembley size school crowd at lunch time on Friday 26th June. There were incredible performances from the sixth Form which included Alex who scored a hat-trick, Vivek, Matthew and Kiran.

However, the staff were able to use the tactics and experience which has been passed down through generations to control much of the game.

At times the game became heated with Garry our Head Cook being sent off, and Mr Mullins too - late in the game - for foul play and ungentlemanly conduct.

The Sixth Form clearly deserved more than that they got - which was a 7-4 thrashing - even though at times they were supported by some dubious calls from our match referee.

The staff team included:

Mr Mather, Mr Mullins, Mr Whitehouse, Mr Peara, Ms Hillcoat-Hyde and the Staff Player of Match Mr Kerr.

Our outstanding and balanced UEFA semi-qualified Referee was Mr Allman.

The money raised will go towards the East Barnet food bank.

Match Report by Alex Nicolaides Y13.

Music lessons next term

Our peripatetic music teachers visit Mount House on a weekly basis, and would be happy to sign you up for the following instruments:

- String instruments – violin, viola, cello, bass
- Woodwind – flute, clarinet, oboe, saxophone
- Guitar – acoustic, electric and bass
- Vocal

Details of how to book music lessons can be found on the website:

<https://www.mounthouse.org.uk/co-curricular/music/>

For any further information, you can email Mr Whitehouse on whitehouses@mounthouse.org.uk

In the absence of our annual concert, some of our talented musicians collaborated to provide you with musical performances to enjoy in video format. We have three piano solos, a bass performance, the Phantoms and a 'music video'. Special thanks go to my son John, for his editing expertise. This video will be uploaded onto a secure website and a password will be sent to parents and students to enjoy.





Sports Day

With the sun shining, there was no better way to spend the penultimate day of term than all together on the sports field.

Students in Years 7 - 9 spent the morning taking part in a rotation of activities including football, cricket and running (800m & 1500m). All students were fully focused on gaining points for their house and demonstrated a competitive and supportive nature throughout the day. Students in Year 12 supported the activities by refereeing matches and coaching younger years.

The afternoon saw the whole school take part in track events. It was amazing to see students wanting to take part in extra events and supporting each other. There was a true Mount House Community spirit throughout the afternoon.

The day finished with a well-deserved ice cream, provided by the Friends of Mount House. Well done to everyone who took part in the activities throughout the day.

The final results are:

Track Events

- 1st - Everest
- 2nd - Chimborazo
- 3rd - Olympus
- 4th - Rushmore

Cricket

- 1st - Rushmore & Everest
- 2nd - Olympus
- 3rd - Chimborazo

Football

- 1st - Everest
- 2nd - Chimborazo
- 3rd - Rushmore
- 4th - Olympus

Overall Positions

- 1st - Everest
- 2nd - Chimborazo
- 3rd - Rushmore
- 4th - Olympus

Leavers' Garden Party

It was bitter-sweet to say goodbye to our leavers on a beautifully sunny afternoon, with delicious food and drink provided by the Garry and his team. Mr McCormick gave his world-famous speech, "highlighting the highlights" of the students and handing out tongue-in-cheek awards to the year 13 leavers.

The video of his speech will be uploaded to a password-protected website next week, and a code sent to parents and students who would like to view it.



These lovely biscuits were provided by the Friends of Mount House.

Stand Up! Education against bullying workshops

All students in Year 7 and 8 took part in an anti-bullying and discrimination workshop this week as part of the Enrichment Programme. Students discussed a number of themes including the different types of bullying, with a particular focus on the idea of racial bullying.

Students explored different scenarios and then discussed how to respond to situations in school and online. Other topics covered during the workshop included the effects of bullying and a further discussion on empathy. The workshop concluded with a discussion on 'what should I do if I think I am being bullied?'



The event was a very worthwhile activity and was extremely well received by all students.

Careers

When: 5 and 12th July 2021 from 7.00-9.00pm.

What: Join us for our live presentation and Q&A with serving female Army Officers, Sandhurst Officer Cadets and Army careers advisors, all of whom will be on hand to answer your questions.

The presentation will cover life at Sandhurst, we'll share some experiences from our careers so far and provide a female perspective on being an Army Officer.

Who: The webinars are aimed at women considering joining either the Regular Army or Army Reserve as an officer.

How: All you need to join the event is an internet connection and a smart phone, tablet or laptop/PC. Spaces are limited. Click on the link below to secure your place at the webinar.

5 July 2021 - [Click here to secure your place for this event.](#)

12 July 2021 - [Click here to secure your place at this event.](#)

We hope that you will join us for the presentation and look forward to answering your questions. Please only submit question during the webinar, rather than via email beforehand.



Safeguarding

For safeguarding matters during the Summer holiday, please contact the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead by calling School Reception (during working hours) on 0208 449 6889 or 07738846615 for emergencies out of hours. For other emergencies consider calling 999 or anyone can make a referral to Children's Social Care by calling [0800 389 8312](tel:08003898312). For a mental health crisis call 111 and select option 2. For other important matters please email kerrm@mounthouse.org.uk and your email will be dealt with as soon as possible.

And finally...

Have a lovely summer. Good luck to all of the students who are collecting their results in August and who are moving on to other schools and universities. Everyone else: we'll see you in September!