



# NEWSLETTER 33 – 10<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

## Message from Sarah Richardson, Head

It has been a busy week at school and we are delighted to welcome back our old students, and to welcome so many new faces to the staff and student body. It has also been lovely to see so many parents in the evenings this week, and to finally be able to put names to faces.

Parents will be aware that one of the key messages we spoke about regularly last year was kindness. Please don't for a moment think that we are forgetting about that - but this year we will be talking a lot about pride. Pride in its original sense can be positive or negative, and of course it is now also the word which we associate with a fantastic and colourful celebration of sexual diversity.



For now, I would like to think about pride in the sense of the positive meaning of the word. In assembly this week, I asked students to think about who they are proud of, what they are proud of and how they feel when they know someone is proud of them. As regular newsletter readers will know, as a Head I feel very proud of a number of things. I feel particularly proud of Mount House students for the way in which they approached last year and all its challenges, especially those students who should have been sitting GCSE and A Level examinations. They tried as hard as they possibly could not to allow the pandemic to affect them. In April and May they came into school to sit the assessments, and they did so with determination and (mostly!) with a sense of humour. I am incredibly proud of not just what our students achieved in those exams, but also the way in which they achieved it.

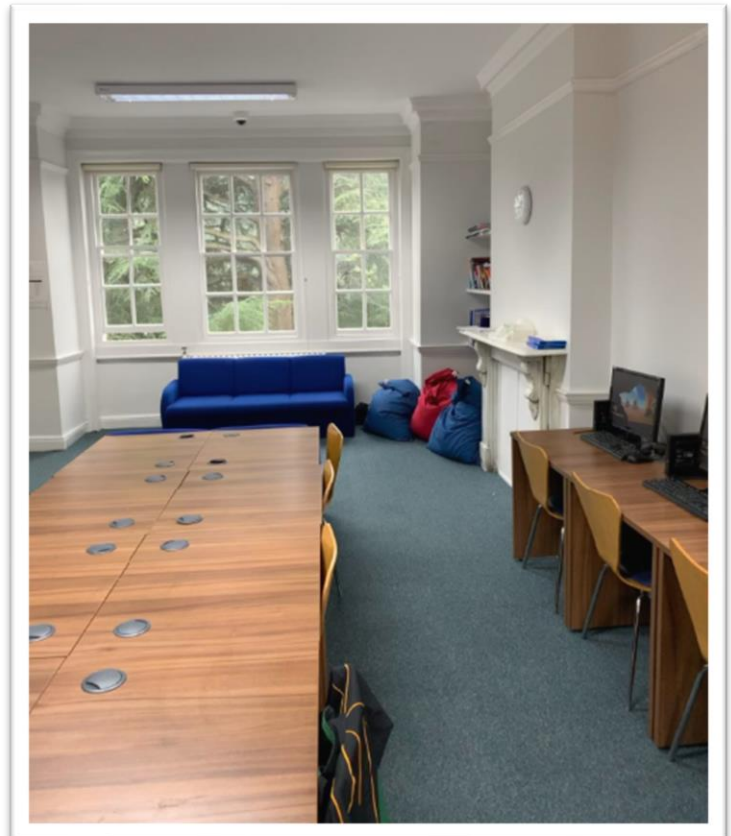
I also feel very proud of the teachers. Many of us are not digital natives, and virtual learning required a great deal of effort. The additional pressure which came from having to set, mark and grade students was not easy to manage – but we did manage it. And should the worst happen, we are ready to do it again. Fingers are, of course, very tightly crossed!

Over the summer, many teachers have been at school working hard to prepare for this new school year, and as a result there have been a number of positive changes to both the physical school as well as the systems. A huge amount of work has gone into trying to develop the wonderful learning environment, from the new MUGA and the new Library, both of which should be completed by Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. We also have our new Heads of Year offices spread throughout the school, and The Hive which has been created as a well-being space, open to all students and with a staff and sixth form presence to offer support. I would like to offer a public thank you to everyone who has made this happen over the summer, but particularly Chris, Danny and Alex who have worked tirelessly. We are very much looking forward to our Open Day on 25<sup>th</sup> September so we can showcase our achievements, and also to upcoming Friends of Mount House events so I can meet our current parents more regularly.

Staff have been very clear with students that we want them to be proud of themselves and proud of their school, and with a determination to keep it looking nice. We all need to remind ourselves to be proud of what we achieve. I have encouraged the students and staff to never let a single day pass without doing something they are proud of. I hope that you all have a lovely weekend, and I look forward to hearing about exciting weekend activities when I see students on Monday.



The Hive



Year 11 common room

## Co-Curricular Fair

On Tuesday, we held our inaugural Co-Curricular Fair in the Hall, where students signed up to clubs including Art, Table Tennis, Chess, Model UN, Robotics, Lacrosse and Ukulele, to name but a few! Old students heard about new clubs and new students heard about old clubs, and there was a real buzz of excitement in the air.

Everyone's looking forward to the clubs starting next week and as usual, they'll be held during every lunchtime; after school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; and the running club is on Monday morning before school.



Co-Curricular clubs are listed on the website here:  
<https://www.mounthouse.org.uk/co-curricular/>

## New Co-Head of Humanities Faculty: Ms Clarkson

Mrs Clarkson has joined us from her previous job as Head of Classics at Orley Farm School in Harrow.



She previously worked at two other independent schools teaching Classics, Latin, Ancient History, Ancient Greek and Classical Civilisation. Mrs Clarkson is also Head of Year 7 and will be helping run the Eco Club.

Mrs Clarkson is an ex-St Martha's student and has a 3-year-old son and an 18-month-old daughter. She loves travelling and is hoping to do more with her children; the highlights so far have been the Machu Picchu trail in Peru, a tour of Brazil and the Amazon Rainforest and being part of Carnival in Trinidad and Tobago. She also loves going to the theatre and to concerts and has tickets for Matthew Bourne's new ballet in a few weeks .

A full list of all Mount House teaching and admin staff can be found on the school website:  
<https://www.mounthouse.org.uk/about-us/staff/all-staff/>



## Change of Reception

During the school holidays, there was a house move for Sheila – now the student reception is where the library used to be.

Students and parents should use the side gate to access the school.

A reminder to all parents and students: please email [absence@mounthouse.org.uk](mailto:absence@mounthouse.org.uk) or call Sheila in reception if your child is due to be absent from school.

Registration is at 8.25 and if you are late, you'll need to sign in to the Late Register in reception.



## School Photographer

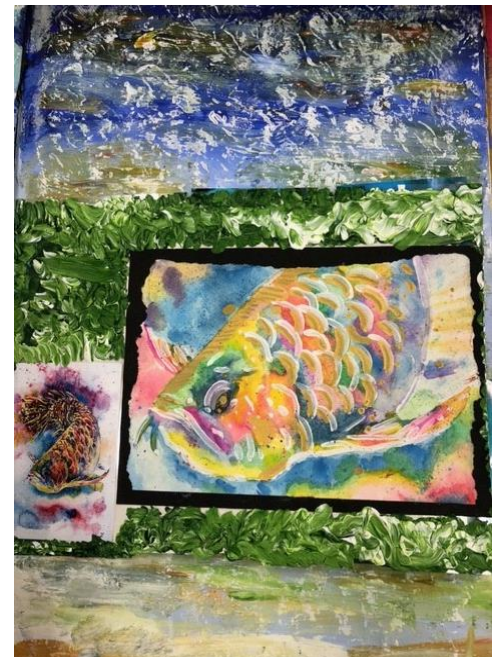
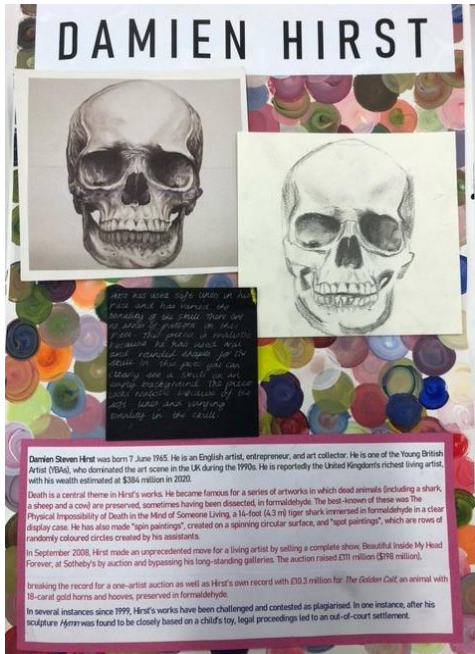
The School Photographer was due to come this week, but had to delay as he had some equipment stolen from his van. We apologise for any inconvenience caused. The new date for school photographs is Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September.





Art

Year 11 have been busy this week recording, experimenting, responding to artists and developing ideas for a final piece of work on canvas.



## Friends of Mount House



Friends of Mount House (FOMH) is an informal parent staff association, formed by parents, carers and staff of Mount House School. It is currently led by Mr Kerr, Miss Smyth (teacher representative) and five parents.

The primary aim of FOMH is to organise a range of social and fun activities for the students, teachers and parents over the course of the year and enhance the learning experience of the students at Mount House.

Last year the Friends of Mount House made a significant contribution to the Robotics Club. Covid limited their activities but they managed to provide ice cream to the students and staff after Sports Day as well as 'Class of 2021' biscuits for the leavers.

FOMH would like to invite new parents to be part of the committee this school year. If you are interested, please contact Julie Westmore at [jwesty@btinternet.com](mailto:jwesty@btinternet.com).

## Parent Business Directory on the website



<https://www.mounthouse.org.uk/parents-business-directory/>

Parents can browse through the businesses of other parents for the goods and services they're offering. There are seven businesses now – but any other parents who would like to advertise their business free of charge can do so by sending Fiona [marketing@mounthouse.org.uk](mailto:marketing@mounthouse.org.uk) an email with a short blurb, logo and link to their own website.



## Careers

**SurgeryLive** – an event for students interested in a career in Healthcare.



Date: Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021

This is an innovative and interactive virtual course which gives students a real glimpse of what it's like to be a surgeon in an operating theatre, delivered by practising NHS surgeons.

The day includes:

1. A glimpse into the day of a surgeon
2. Solving real life surgical cases
3. Live virtual operations – showing step by step how common surgeries are carried out
4. Learning how to suture with a live follow-along demo (students will be sent their own suturing kit, the same ones used by medical students and doctors.
5. A chance for students to interact with practising NHS surgeons and doctors

For more information please follow link below:

<https://doctorslive.co.uk/surgerylive/>

### Event: Meet the Russell Group

Date: Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Featuring all 24 universities and important seminars  
Students and parents can register [here](#). There are also important [warm-up webinars](#) students can take part in.



## COVID 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.

## Car Park - Disabled Parking



Please be aware that the disabled parking spot is needed by one of our students and therefore should be left clear for their use. Thank you.





## Cricket Festival for local Year 6s

In the summer term, Mr Shah visited primary schools in the area to coach their year 5 pupils. Whenever possible, Mount House students accompanied Mr Shah and Mr Mather to these sessions – for example Emily Hooker and Anna Collington went to Trent primary school; Luke Webster and Krrish Patel went to Hadley Wood primary school; and Reuben Ward and Theo Whitehouse went to Monken Hadley primary school. All the students helped the younger pupils with their batting, bowling and fielding and they all had good luck with the weather.

*“It was really fun to teach the primary school cricket outside on a nice day. They learned how to throw, field and bat” – Reuben Ward.*



On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September, there will be a Cricket Festival on Monken Hadley Common, where the four schools will send their best teams – who are now Year 6s - to compete against each other. The Mount House students will assist at the Festival and might even be bought an ice cream to thank them for their hard work!

## Julie Westmore at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition

Mount House School would like to congratulate one of our parents, the artist Julie Westmore, who has had a painting chosen out of 35,000 entries by the RA to be part of their Summer Exhibition.

The exhibition runs from 22 September to 2 January 2022.

Her painting “Junkanoo Rushing” represents a Bahamian tradition of a celebration that happens annually over Christmas.



## Open Day

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September we will be holding our first major open day since January 2020. We would like as many students as possible to be at the school that morning between 9am and 12pm. We will be asking our students to show prospective Mount House families around the school, and also asking them to take part in some of the activities arranged on that day.

We do understand that some of our students may not be able to make it. We would be very grateful if you could complete the form by clicking on the link: <https://forms.gle/hcKJtmUCiR64i9oX8> by Monday 13th September to confirm whether your child will be able to attend. If you have more than one child, please complete this for each child separately.



## Social Media

Please follow, like and share posts with your connections:



@MountHouseSchoolBarnet



@MountHouseSch



@Mounthouse\_school and @Mounthouseschool\_artgallery



Mount House School