



# NEWSLETTER 36 – 1<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER

## Message from Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde

### The power of sport

With the opening of our new multi-use-games-area (MUGA) on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September, it seems timely to talk about sport and its power to change the world.

In an often-divided world, sport is a unique and important connective tissue that binds people together, both across and within societies. As we think about the forums that unite us as people, regardless of background or beliefs, it is hard to think of many as powerful as the stadia we fill to cheer for our favourite teams and players, or the fields where we play together for pleasure and exercise.



Taking a step back to the 1995 Rugby Union World Cup Final, it was rugby's biggest game and yet it was so much more. It was nation-defining for South Africa, with Nelson Mandela using the symbolic power of sport to heal and bring together a deeply divided South Africa. He used sport as a vehicle to demonstrate how people from opposite ends of the political spectrum – many of whom believed that violence was the only solution – could come together to support one national team. To everyone's surprise, Mandela appeared on the field after the South African team, known as the Springboks, beat New Zealand in the final, wearing the team's traditional green jersey and cap. The Johannesburg stadium was filled largely with white South Africans who soon starting chanting Nelson Mandela's name in a moment that was without doubt pivotal in the healing of the nation's deep wounds, and something tangible Mandela could build upon as he worked on the difficult challenges of unifying South Africa. It was a moment that will be remembered for ever as the ultimate example of sport's power to heal division.

In May 2000, who better than Nelson Mandela to address the audience at the first Laureus Worlds Sports Awards? He said:

***'Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair.'***

Nelson Mandela's words that evening transcended sport and at the end of his speech, he challenged athletes present to use their platform and everything they learnt through sport to make a positive impact on young people around the world.

At Mount House School, sport is growing and opportunities are expanding for all students. Our new facilities - the MUGA, Bartrams Lane Playing Field, Old Fold Manor Golf Club - along with our experienced and passionate staff are the starting point of using sport to inspire, unite, create hope and speak to youth in a language they understand.

### **Power to Inspire**

Our Year 11 students have been inspired by sport and their experiences have allowed them to lead various sports sessions as part of the co-curricular programme. The love and enthusiasm for what they are doing inspires and engages those students lower down the school .

### **Power to Unite People**

Students are united through PE and Games lessons, as well as when they join clubs and represent school teams. The U15 boys football team consisting of students in Years 9 and 10 came together to take part in a match against Normanhurst this week. Students worked collaboratively with a positive outcome (see match report below).

### **Sport can create hope**

We all love winning cups and medals at sporting events, but that is only one element of the sporting landscape. Sport also has real power to create lasting change within school. At Mount House we work towards creating a culture where:

- all students are part of a community,
- sport brings individuals and teams together,
- everyone is part of something where they can work towards reaching their full potential,
- the lasting outcome is successful individuals who are being empowered to and want to achieve their full potential.

### **Sport Speaks**

Any discussion of the power of sport has finally to include its importance as a vehicle to teach us the lessons of leadership, good health, teamwork, fair play, self-reliance and continuous improvement. Sport is particularly powerful for all our students at Mount House, and studies have demonstrated that participating in sport can lead to better performance in school and better lives once students have graduated. Sport isn't just important because we can play it our whole lives, but also because the lessons we learn in sport stay with us.



I would like to take this opportunity to share with students the benefits of taking part in sport, and to encourage students to sign up to the sports clubs we run at Mount House School.

The knowledge and experiences we gain will stay with us forever.

## New Business, Economics and Maths teacher: Gabrielle Wong



Mrs Wong is our multi-talented new teacher of business, maths and economics who previously worked in finance, strategy and consultancy, in companies like Diageo, PriceWaterhouseCoopers and L.E.K. Consulting. She has degrees in Business and in Philosophy, Politics and Economics.

At school, Mrs Wong also runs the Chamber Music club. She enjoys playing the violin with friends and recently her ensemble recorded the music for a series of radio plays by the Woodhouse Players. They periodically give informal performances in London and beyond.

Mrs Wong's father is from Hong Kong and her mother from Trinidad & Tobago. She is married with two children. Welcome to Mount House School.

## World Languages Week

This week we've been celebrating world languages in School. The languages wall in reception has been filling up with greetings and messages in many different languages. In form time, there was a music quiz and on Thursday there was a special lunch with kebabs (Greece) and jolloff rice (Nigeria), soup (Morocco) and of course the good old Victoria Sponge cake from Britain!



On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> there will be a languages assembly.

## Sport

During PE lessons in the last fortnight, students in key stage 3 have further developed their knowledge and understanding of the importance of fitness and have identified the importance of pacing when taking part in long distance events.

Football at Hadley Wood playing fields has continued to be the main focus during games afternoons for students in Years 7 – 10, with preparations for the upcoming Inter-House Football Competition.

Students in Years 11 – 13 enjoyed their games session on the new MUGA this week. Year 11 played netball and sixth-form students took part in a rotation of activities including football, basketball, badminton and table tennis.

We have two weeks to celebrate Athlete of the week:

Year	24.09.2021	1.10.2021
7	Raymond Aliga-Raymond	Santino Vazquez Williams
8	Talya Djafer	Harvey Thomas
9	Hannah Foskett	Ruzgar Suyur
10	Olivia Gray	Zac Webster
11	Macy Flint	Elisabetta Losi
Sixth Form	Charlotte Wheatley	Elise Akman

**Match report:** The U15 Boys football team played Normanhurst School at Home on the 30<sup>th</sup> September. The game ebbed and flowed with our boys maintaining their composure on the pitch, producing some excellent football. Special mention goes to Zac and Jimi for their goals. The final score was 6-2 to Mount House School, with the team looking forward to their next match.





## Co-Curricular

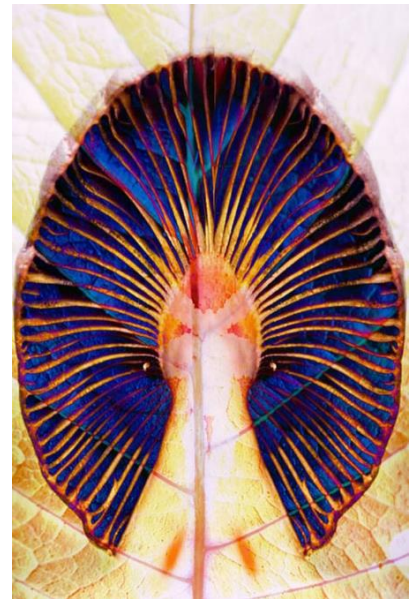
Some of our clubs still have spaces if you would like to try them. Please ask Mr Brozny if you would like to come along and have a go.

Event	Day/Time	Staff	Location
Running Club	Monday before school	NHI	The Common
Badminton	Monday lunchtime L1+L2	SPE	Hall
Chamber Strings Group	Monday lunchtime 2	GWO	Music Suite
Choir	Tuesday before school	SWH	Music Suite
Badminton	Tuesday before school	DMA	Hall
House of Equality	Tuesday lunchtime L2	ABI + SAL	Room 18
Business Club	Tuesday lunchtime L2	GWO + JBO	Room 1
ECO Club	Tuesday lunchtime L2	OPA + SCL	Room 19
GCSE PE	Tuesday lunchtime L2	NHI	Hall
Art Club	Tuesday after school	ABA + ESO	Art Room
KS4 Textiles	Tuesday after school	NGR	Textiles
Y11 Biology Intervention	Tuesday after school	SPE + RVL	Room 12
Robotics	Tuesday after school	PBR	Room 1
Y10-Y13 Netball	Tuesday after school	NHI + RVL	MUGA
Y8 Football	Tuesday after school	DMA + AMU	MUGA
Y10 + Y11 Classics Club	Wednesday lunchtime 1	KFA	Room 9
Maths Intervention	Wednesday lunchtime 1	AHO + NGU	Room 16
Y11 Religious Education	Wednesday lunchtime 1	SHA	Room 4
Drama	Wednesday lunchtime 2	CKE + FDA	Drama Suite
French/Spanish Culture	Wednesday lunchtime 2	MLA	Room 17
Table Tennis	Wednesday lunchtime 2	AMU	Hall
Briscola Italian Card Game	Wednesday lunchtime 2	EMA	Room 20
Science Club Y7-9	Wednesday after school	SKA	Room 11
Y7-9 Netball	Wednesday after school	NHI + OPA	MUGA
Y9+10 Football	Wednesday after school	AMU + DMA	MUGA
Y11 Chemistry Intervention	Wednesday after school	PBR + SRO	Room 12
Varsity Club	Wednesday after school	CMC	Room 2
Chess Club	Wednesday after school	PGA + AHO	Room 14
Model Making	Wednesday after school	PNA + NGU	Room 22
Y7 Football	Thursday lunchtime 1	DMA + NHI	MUGA
Model UN Club	Thursday lunchtime 2	ANI	Room 23
Ukulele	Thursday lunchtime 2	PNA	Room 22
French GCSE Y11	Thursday lunchtime 2	ADA	Room 18
Boxing	Thursday lunchtime 2	SWI + Y11 GKE + KGA	Hall
Head's Endeavour Award	Thursday after school	TPH + JBO	Room 2
Phantoms	Thursday after school	SWH	Music Suite
Drama	Thursday after school	CKE + FDA	Drama Suite

Chamber Strings Group	Thursday after school	GWO	Music Suite
Basketball	Thursday after school	MKE	MUGA
Lacrosse	Thursday after school	MWH	MUGA
Golf	Thursday after school	TBD (extra charge)	Offsite
Y11 Physics Intervention	Thursday after school	PCO	Room 13
Drum Corps	Friday lunchtime 1+2	TBD	Music Suite
Experimental Photography	Friday lunchtime 1	ABA	Art Room
KS3 Mixed Football Comp.	Friday lunchtime 1+2	DMA + AMU	MUGA
Experimental Photography	Friday lunchtime 2	ABA	Art Room
Y11 English Intervention	Friday lunchtime 2	RMA	Room 9

## Art

Year 11 Art students Lily, Benecia, Anastasia and Maya have been busy using Photoshop to edit their photos and develop compositions for their canvas paintings:



## Music

We have a team of peripatetic music teachers who have spaces at lunchtimes and after school to teach the following instruments:

- Piano
- Double Bass
- Woodwind (flute, saxophone, clarinet)
- Guitar
- Cello

There's information (and a booking form) on the [website here](#) and in school on the music lessons board near The Hive about all of these teachers. Please ask Mr Whitehouse if there is another instrument you would like to learn that's not on the list.

### PERIPATETIC MUSIC TEACHERS

#### ERICK FLORES PIANO



A little bit about me. I have performed at various venues in the UK and North America. I have always performed traditional repertoire alongside my own piano pieces.

I enjoy writing music in various different styles, film, experimental electronic, orchestral, operas and even pop songs! My most recent work was an arrangement of the Canadian anthem 'Oh, Canada!' written for piano which was premiered in Italy as a celebration of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Some of my works have been commissioned and premiered by the London Philharmonic Orchestra,

L'Orch estre Philharmonique de Radio France and the BBC among others.

I obtained my doctorate in music with the immense support from the Royal College of Music and the Canadian Council for the Arts.

Lastly, I enjoy performing and writing music, but also teaching. I believe it is a privilege to be a teacher and do not see my music life without it. I have amazing memories of my music teachers since I was seven years old; so I truly hope my pupils can learn and also enjoy the experience of learning the piano.

[www.erickflores.com](http://www.erickflores.com)





## Open Day

Thanks to all the staff and students who gave up their Saturday morning to come into school and help show a record-breaking 130 visiting families around the school. There were some wonderful displays and demonstrations and the school was looking its best.



All of the student helpers and tour guides were treated to a chocolate cake in the cafeteria at break today.

With this open day, we were able to show the families from local prep and primary schools that Mount House is the school for them. Several families have already registered their children for places in the coming years, and we will look forward to welcoming the children as students at the school.

One parent wrote to us:

*“What a wonderfully authentic experience it was. Our guide in year 8 professionally and honestly gave us a fantastic introduction to life at the school. It left us all with a lasting impression of all the school has to offer. She was able to answer all of our questions, and tell*



*us stories about her time at the school eloquently and enthusiastically while introducing us to staff across all the subjects we asked to hear more about.*

*One comment particularly resonated: 'It's not really like coming to school. It's like having fun with all my friends but doing great learning at the same time' - what a thoughtful way to sum up her experience of Mount House so far.*

*Good first impressions of a school can be won or lost based on the outcome of the little details of organization, and it was here that really made it such an excellent open day.*

- the warm welcome from all of the staff
- the efficient queue of eager guides
- children positively engaged in their subjects at every turn
- pupils and teachers greeting each other kindly throughout the tour
- the most beautiful art and textile work **all** around the school (which really was of a very high quality)."

## Humanities on Open Day

It was wonderful to see so many new faces in our Humanities classrooms during Open Day.

In Room 9, Mrs Fallon and Mrs Clarkson in the Classics and Latin department transported us back to the Ancient world with exquisite artefacts, interesting books and even opportunities to create your own Roman soldier!



In Room 8, Miss Hassan represented both the History and Religious Education departments with a survey about life after death (a very cheery topic for a Saturday morning) and seeing how many people were meant to be Tudors or Stuarts in their previous lives.

In Room 19, Mrs Patel broadened our cultural horizons with a fantastic Geography exhibition, showcasing the wonders of this world and testing our much-needed map skills. As the Humanities department, we would like to say a big thank you to all the student tour guides for all their spectacular tours and all staff for their on-going efforts. Or, as the Romans would say, Gratias ago!