



NEWSLETTER 37 – 8th OCTOBER

Message from Craig McCormick, Assistant Head



Black History Month in the United States is February, and it is so because that was the month of President Lincoln's birth and the month of the death of Frederick Douglass, a major player in the American abolitionist movement. The first record of such an event taking place in the US was in 1926. As Britain came to terms with its multicultural make-up, the first event in the UK was in October 1987. In the 1980s, everyone in Britain, according to historian David Olusoga, including Black people themselves, knew less about Black British history than we do today. Much of the key scholarship had yet to be done, many of the discoveries yet to be made. So as well as importing an American tradition, much of its content was also brought to Britain.

Back then, Black History Month events were more likely to remember Rosa Parks and the Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott than they were to shine a light on the Bristol bus boycott and the British colour bar. 34 years later and Black History Month has both evolved and matured. It is bigger, better funded, stamped with the imprimatur of official approval and more firmly focused on British history. The scale of Black History Month and the fact that political leaders and huge corporations feel compelled to play a part and list their initiatives is in itself an achievement - one that would have been unimaginable to the pioneers who put together the first programmes of talks and gatherings back in the 1980s.

Black History Month commemorates all those who are Black or of Black origin and the contributions they have made to the UK in our development as a nation. In that regard, it is all our histories. From Mary Seacole, a prominent black British nurse during the Crimean war; John Kent, who in 1846 became Britain's first Black police officer; to Charlie Williams, the first Black mainstream comedian on British TV; to Doreen Lawrence, who lost her son in a racist attack in 1993 and has devoted her life to levelling up the lives of Black Britons, they are all an integral part of our country's story that many do not know about. Last Friday, the House of Equality gave their first assembly of the year about Black History Month with particular focus on the "unsung heroes" of the equality movements. This will be a focus next year, not only within History lessons, but also in the School as a whole.

We are not a nation of cookie cutter people who all look the same and all have the same experience. We have a rich diversity in the UK and as a microcosm of British society, a rich diversity of people and experiences here at Mount House School as well as a culture of open mindedness and acceptance which fosters that rich diversity. This month especially, we celebrate that.

House of Equality



The House of Equality is a student-led club for years 11 – 13, on Tuesday lunchtimes in room 18. The club focuses on all aspects of equality for example, racism and LGBTQAI+ discrimination.

Black Lives Matter Assembly



Last Friday, to start off Black History Month, the club leaders, Emmanuela Attakpah and Ayomide Soetan, successfully led an assembly to celebrate unsung black heroes.

Next week on **Thursday 7th October** the club will continue with the theme of celebrating Black History Month by selling Afro/Caribbean snacks at lunch time.

It will also be a non-uniform day where students are encouraged to wear something related to Black History or Africa. There will be a £1 charge for the non-uniform day and a prize for the best dressed student. All proceeds will go to the Stand Against Racism & Inequality charity (SARI). We look forward to your support on this day.

Thank you
Ayomide and Emmanuela
Year 11

Modern Foreign Languages Assembly



To mark the end of International Languages week, the MFL department organized an assembly extravaganza on Monday 4th October. This focused on cultural appreciation and showcased the rich diversity of both students and staff. The MFL team presented a quiz in which Mr Brozny, Mr Van Leeven, Mr Peara, Mrs Gur, Mrs Clarkson and Mrs Richardson kindly agreed to take part. The instructions were explained in a variety of languages including French, Spanish, Italian, Turkish, Farsi, Greek, Yoruba, Chinese, Afrikaans and Dutch, reflecting the bilingual talents of Mount House staff. The quiz contestants answered a series of questions based on culture, food, language and geographical and historical facts about countries around the world. They were able to ask students for help but students could only use a thumbs up, thumbs down system to aid their teachers.



The quiz ended with a musical element whereby each team had to listen to and dance to iconic music from around the world. The staff truly showed their talents (some more than others!) and dance skills as they danced to Flamenco, Celtic, Bollywood, Arabic music and Zorba the Greek. The assembly hall was filled with laughter and excitement and students genuinely appreciated seeing their teachers in a different light!

It was a wonderful morning. Mr Boonzaier's and Mrs Lazouras' forms won the Language quiz and enjoyed their chocolates. The MFL department would like to wholeheartedly thank all the staff who took part in their assembly - this just shows what a great team Mount House staff are!





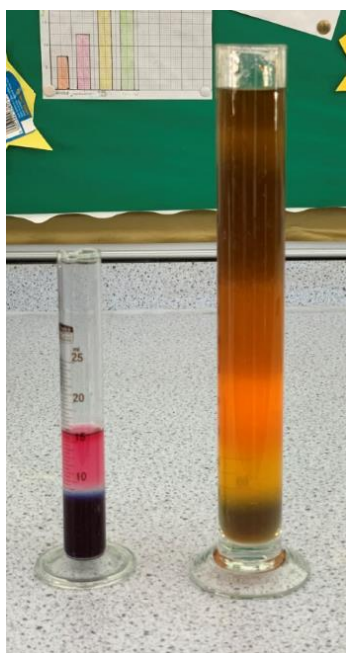
Guest Speakers

Last week Mount House invited **John Anderson OBE** to give a talk to our sixth form Economics and Business students. The former managing director of Bovis Construction and subsequently managing director of the Byrne Group held a 'board meeting' in the library. John described his career in construction, which started in 1962, and he explained what it took to be successful in business management – drive, determination and not to spend too much time sitting behind a desk! He said a business manager was like being a farmer – a farmer needs to be outside with his crops and animals and not stuck inside the farm house where he can see nothing.



On Thursday, Mount House welcomed **Dr Sean Lang**, Senior Lecturer in History at Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge. A graduate of University College, Oxford, Dr Lang is also a writer and radio and television broadcaster as well as being a professional playwright. His plays have been performed in Cambridge and throughout the world. He is also chairman of the Historical Association. In his lecture to our History GCSE and A level students, Dr Lang spoke about the issue of slavery and linked it to the protests of the present day, including the Black Lives Matter movement. He also touched on the use of narrative when studying history.

Chemistry



Year 10 have been learning about neutralisation reactions and the pH scale in Chemistry. They made rainbows by layering the acid onto the alkali.

Sport

This week, students in **years 7 – 9** have taken part in orienteering during their PE lessons. This has been a fantastic opportunity to problem-solve in small groups, and at the same time have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the lovely surroundings of our school.



Students in **years 7 – 9** have continued to take part in football during games sessions and have worked within their teams to prepare for next week's inter-house football competition. We are very much looking forward to watching students demonstrate their learning from this term in a school competition.

Year 10 students are taking part in their inter-house competition today, which we are thoroughly looking forward to.



During the afternoon of Friday 15th October, students in **years 7 – 10** (optional for years 11 – 13) will take part in a House cross-country event which will see all individuals gaining points for their House. We are looking forward to watching everyone take part (including some staff appearances) and wish all runners the best of luck.

Athletes of the Week are:

Year 7	Milo Dodd
Year 8	Tara Porter
Year 9	Michael Miltiadous
Year 10	Pedro Ferreira
Year 11	Lily O'Callaghan
Sixth Form	Stefano Paternostro & Matthew Jobson



Match report, ISA football tournament (U15 and U13):



We arrived at school around seven thirty to catch the coach to Ascot. The coach journey was approximately one hour. Once we arrived at Ascot we proceeded to sign in. Afterwards we warmed up and ran a few drills. When we finally got to the matches, I think, we worked very well as a team with passing and on our attacks. Our defending was of a very high standard as our goalie only had to save a few goals, but many attempts were made during the five matches we played. We unfortunately lost two, one of which went through to penalties and unfortunately eliminated us and we drew the rest of the time. I think, seeing as we had never played as a team together before, we did exceptionally well to come third place in our league.

Report written by Florence Sunderland in year 7.





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.

HUW WILLIAMS BASS



Bass player Huw V Williams, a Londoner by way of Bangor, North Wales is one of the most exciting new arrivals on the jazz and improvised music scene in the last five years. Huw has been associated with the best practitioners of the international avant-garde music scene including Jim Black, Huw Warren and Ivo Neame. He has also collaborated with the contemporary generation including Devin Gray, George Crowley, Laura Jurd and Elliot Galvin.

As well as working in others' projects, Huw is a prolific composer and band leader. HON was his debut release in 2016 which had exceptional reviews from Jazzwise, The Telegraph and The Arts Desk, "swaggering, infectious energy" - John Fordham, The Guardian. Huw's next release is a trio with prestigious London saxophonist George Crowley and rising New Yorker Devin Gray on drums. The music is composed specifically for this trio using varied techniques such as collective improvisation.





Co-Curricular

Choir – Tuesdays before school in the music suite

Being part of our choir is a fun and rewarding experience. The choir is also an inclusive and friendly way to enjoy music at Mount House. The choir this year is led by our pro singer in residence, Hannah Robinson, who is a British singer-songwriter based in North London. Hannah began her career as a session vocalist working internationally before going on to write tracks for artists including Kylie Minogue, Lana Del Rey, Icona Pop, Ladyhawke, The Saturdays, Annie, and Sophie Ellis-Bextor.



Eco Club – Tuesday lunchtimes in room 19



“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.”

The Lorax, Dr Seuss

The Eco Club is a group of diverse, passionate individuals who are looking forward to making our school a more environmentally conscious place. In the year ahead, our goal is to register for the global eco-schools organization and to participate in a whole-school review to assess how eco friendly our school currently is.

We look forward to welcoming new members, if you would like to join us please come to room 19 every Tuesday at 13:30pm in Mrs Patel's classroom.

Watch this space regularly for our Eco Club updates!

Absence – what to do

If your child is due to be absent from school, please call Sheila in reception on 020 8449 6889 or use the absence email: absence@mounthouse.org.uk



Art

Christmas Card Competition 2021

The theme this year is:

Pride, Hope and Joy

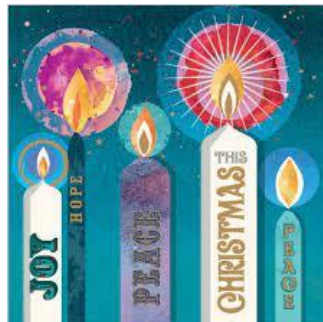
You should work on A5 sized paper and create a design that will work well as the school Christmas Card. Work carefully and creatively, making your image vibrant and colourful.

You do not have to add any words to your image.

Your materials need to be flat and suitable for printing from e.g. acrylic and watercolour paint, tissue paper and other flat collaged materials.

Hand in your design to your art teacher immediately after half term.

Please make sure that your name is on the back!



Photos and Films

This week, we had a photographer in school taking pictures of the students going about their daily lives. These stunning photos will be used on the website, social media and in brochures to promote the school to prospective parents.



Thank you to all of the students and teachers, who were all naturals in front of the camera!

Next week on Tuesday 12th October, a film crew will come to the school to film drone footage of the school including the new MUGA, and update science, sport and music for our school video, which is on the [homepage of the school website](#).

Please ensure that students are all wearing the full and correct uniform.





Friends of Mount House



Friends of
MOUNT HOUSE

FoMH invites you to our first social evening of the school year. Gather up a team of MH parents and come along. All you need is a little general knowledge, some inspired guesswork and an occasional dash of luck!

Teams of 6/8 people. If you don't have a team we can put you in one. There will be complimentary wine, soft drinks and nibbles. Places are limited so grab your tickets now.

Thursday 11th November from 7pm.
(doors open at 6:45)

Ticket Prices: £10 per person/£15 per couple

RSVP by Tuesday 3rd November to
jwesty@btinternet.com 07900556722
kmbueton@gmail.com 07896033038



*All Proceeds will go to Friends of Mount House and will be used to fund future activities and sponsoring school programmes such as Robotix club for the benefits of the students.

