

NEWSLETTER 40 – 12TH NOVEMBER

Message from Mr Kerr, Deputy Head

The 11th of November marked the official end of hostilities in 1918, when the guns of the Great War fell silent after four years of sacrifice and slaughter.

The deaths of nearly one million British service men and women are still, rightly, remembered. Yesterday at School we held a number of events in commemoration of these service men and women, including a special remembrance assembly, followed by a remembrance service at the front of School. To finish we held a wreath laying service at the Monken Hadley War Memorial for students in Years 11 – 13 and were joined by pupils from Monken Hadley Primary School.



I would like to congratulate all of our students who took part in this very special occasion. Here is an extract from Mr Phillips' excellent address during the remembrance assembly.

Britain was the only major power not to begin the First World War with a conscripted army. In a wave of patriotic fervour, thousands of men answered Lord Kitchener's call to defend freedom in its hour of maximum danger.

Kitchener realised that local ties could be used for the nation's service. Many more would volunteer if they could serve alongside their friends, relatives and workmates.

And so, on 21 August 1914, the first Pals battalion was raised from the stockbrokers of the City of London. Immediately 1,600 men joined what became the 10th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers.

Pals battalions became synonymous with the towns of northern Britain. Men from cities like Manchester, Leeds, Newcastle, Hull, Glasgow and Edinburgh all enlisted in their thousands in 1914 and 1915. And Pals battalions were also raised from Birmingham to Bristol and from Cambridge to Cardiff.

Many of these battalions suffered huge casualties and this ultimately ripped the heart out of many communities across our country. The idealism and the impulsive volunteering of so many men might seem strange to our generation. We are much more careful and much less tolerant of death.

It is sobering to reflect on one statistic. 454 British men and women lost their lives in the 20 year war against the Taliban in Afghanistan. This was 454 too many.



But 454 would have been a very good day in the Great War. On July 1, 1916, on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, the British Army suffered 57,470 casualties. Many signed up immediately – convinced that they had to do their duty, despite the appalling casualties, regardless to the risks to life and limb.

But why did so many answer the call to arms in 1914?

Civilization itself was in the balance. They went to war because the right was more precious than peace. They were prepared to fight for the things they had already carried nearest their hearts – for democracy and for the rights and liberties of small nations. To such a task they dedicated their lives and their fortunes. Everything they were and everything they had, with the pride of those who knew that the day had come when Britain was privileged to spend her blood and her might for the principles of righteousness and justice. God helping her, she could do no other.

In WW2 most in 1940 despaired of Britain's life, believing that surrender was the only way for national survival. But the people of Britain fought on against the power and might of the Nazi tyranny. The world turned more and more to Britain for those moral inspirations and spirit of defiance that lay at the very heart of freedom and democracy. Britain came into the full light of the day when the whole world knew that she put human rights above all other rights and that her flag was not only the flag of Great Britain but the flag of humanity. The call to arms in 1940 came on Trinity Sunday: 'Be ye men of valour and be in readiness for the conflict. For it is better for us to perish in battle than to look upon the outrage of our nation and our alters. So the will of God is in Heaven, even so, let it do.'

Today we remember the sacrifice of so many.

Many of their names are inscribed upon our parish war memorials around the country and the graves of so many young men who answered the call surround the globe. Also, we must never forget the civilians who have died in wars – men, women and children. Some calculations say that during the first world war, 11% of the population of France became casualties. We are also aware of how many civilians perished in the Second World war, with the advent of total war and the indiscriminate employment of aerial bombardment. In the 1940s Warfare began to affect not just those fighting – it began to affect everybody.

So, we also remember all those non-combatants who lost their lives in Europe, in Africa and in Asia, especially the inhabitants of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We remember those who perished in the Blitz on London and other British cities. We remember the victims of the bombing of Hamburg, Dresden and other German cities. We continue to remember the victims of the Holocaust. We remember the innocents who lose their lives in the present day due to war and terrorism.

So today we remember.

We wear our poppies with pride.

But tomorrow what will we do with them?

Our Poppies - do we throw them in the bin? Do they end up discarded in a jacket pocket? Do we forget all about them?

True remembrance means none of these things. True remembrance means holding onto our poppies and letting them remind us every day of our duty. Our immediate duty, yours and mine, to do all in our power to maintain peace and solidarity between all peoples.

That I would say would be the best way of honouring the fallen and not breaking faith with them. And that is the best way we can take their torch and hold it high.





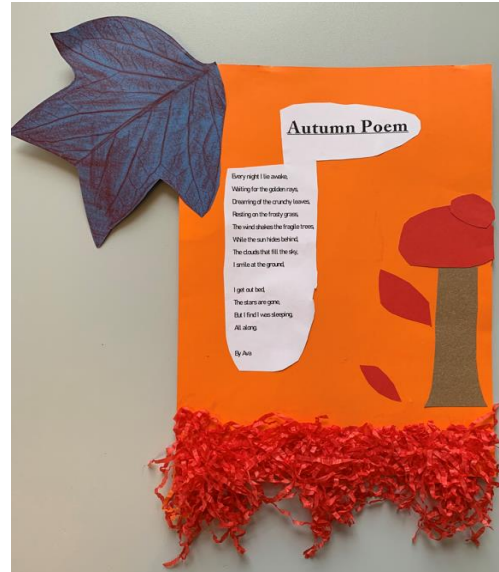
YEAR 7 AUTUMN POEMS

We are so lucky to have such a beautiful school campus at Mount House, surrounded by trees and plants. At this time of the year we see the changing colours of the leaves, so Year 7 have been writing autumn poems in English with Mr Nancarrow. Here is a brief selection, which was very hard to choose as there was so many very good poems.

Every night I like awake,
 Waiting for the golden rays,
 Dreaming of the crunchy leaves,
 Resting on the frosty grass,
 The wind shakes the fragile trees,
 While the sun hides behind,
 The clouds that fill the sky,
 I smile at the ground,

I get out of bed,
 The stars are gone,
 But I find I was sleeping,
 All along.

By Ava Gallagher



Sitting atop nature's crown,
 Clinging to the sturdy boughs,
 Crisping up, turning brown,
 Mellow mists shall arouse,

All manor of colour red and green,
 The clear air is soon to freeze,
 Gone is the sunshine I have seen,
 Gone is the buzzing of the bees,

Spring blossom, summer sun,
 Autumn colour, winter snow,
 Dying frost, day is done,
 Darkness wraps up summer's show.

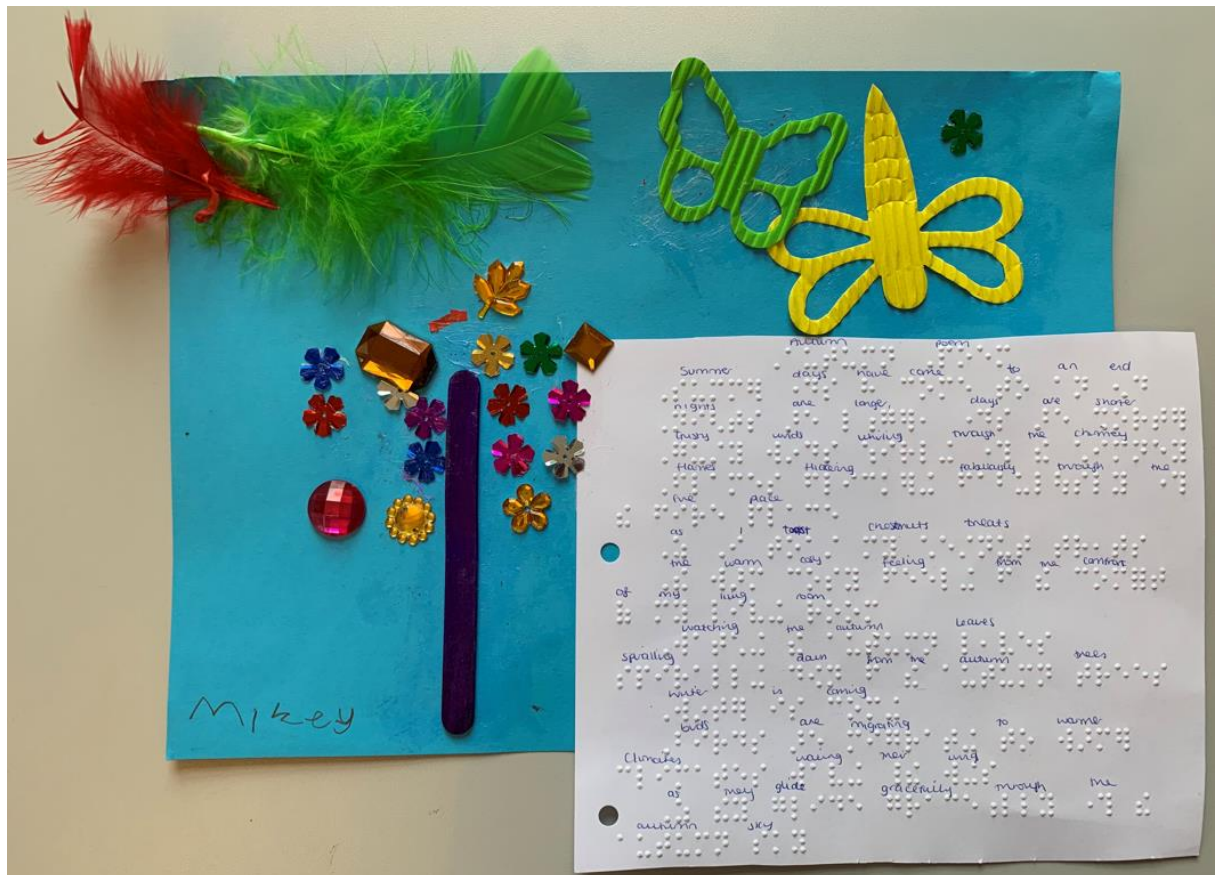
By Thomas Gittos



Summer days have come to an end,
 Nights are longer, days are shorter,
 Gusty winds whirling through the chimney,
 Flames flickering fabulously through the fireplace,
 As I toast chestnut treats,

The warm cosy feeling from the comfort of my living room,
 Watching the autumn leaves spiraling down from the autumn trees,
 Winter is coming, birds are migrating to warmer climates,
 Waving their wings as they glide,
 Gracefully through the autumn sky.

By Mikey Poulli



Little Inklings English Club

On Tuesday and Wednesday after school, Mr Nancarrow will be running an English Club in the School Library – The Little Inklings. The club is aimed at Year 7 and 8 students who need some help/support with English but all students are invited. The focus will be on key skills including spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as handwriting. But students are welcome to come along to read or write creatively. Please see Mr Nancarrow to sign up for the club.



Spanish Theatre Group: En El Campamento

All students learning Spanish from year 7 up to sixth form attended a fun play in Spanish called *En El Campamento* - which perhaps should have been called Senor BooBoo y los Zapatos. With help from the students, especially Atlanta and her smelly shoe, the characters in the play discovered that camping with too many clothes but not enough food and no phone signal can lead to the end of a friendship!



Sport

This week students in Years 7 – 9 have taken part in health-related exercise lessons, where they have developed their knowledge and understanding of the components of fitness and identified their current levels of fitness by carrying out various fitness tests including the 12-minute Cooper test, the sit and reach test and the Illinois agility test. All students have worked exceptionally hard and will have the opportunity to improve fitness levels in the forthcoming weeks.

During games, students in Years 7 – 10 will take part in a rotation of three activities during the remainder of this term and next half term. Those activities include netball, basketball and badminton. This week it has been great to see students learn new rules and skills in sports that are not familiar to them. There have been challenges for some but everyone has given their best and we look forward to watching progress made during the forthcoming weeks.

Year 11 and Sixth Form student have been given the opportunity to take part in golf this half term. This option has been very popular, resulting in two sessions being organised at Old Fold Manor Golf Club to accommodate the numbers.

Students who took part in golf spent an hour at the driving range, being taught skills at the level of the individual by a golf instructor. Those who did not select golf remained at school and took part in an afternoon of netball – a great way to finish the day.



Athletes of the week:

Year 7:	Santino Vazquez Williams & Milo Dodd
Year 8:	Omar Riaz & Anna Ranger
Year 9:	Carys Jeevanjee & Obiora Onuma
Year 10:	Musa Mweene & Olivia Gray
Year 11:	Stella Thrassyvoulou
Sixth Form:	Alex Nicolaides & Hibiki Hashimoto

Match report for KS3 Hockey Tournament (9th November)

Today we went to the Olympic Park hockey pitch and played a hockey tournament. We were split into two teams of boys and girls and we played 7 aside. Girls played five matches in total and boys played seven. We had lots of fun. With girls getting lots of draws and a few losses and boys drawing three and a few losses we all did really well. The teams were made of beginners and a few experienced players. We all got through to the knockout stage. We came out with 9th place which is really good as it is out of sixteen teams. **By Anna Ranger and Oscar Michaels.**



Players of the tournament were Alice Reekie and Reuben Ward, with special mention for both goalkeepers Emir Yurtseven and Anna Ranger.

Year 7 & 8 football team

On a damp and rainy Wednesday afternoon the Year 7 and 8 boys embarked on their first game of the season to Berkhamsted, full of optimism and excitement matched only by their enthusiasm on the pitch.



Formation and analysis by Temidayo Yussuff-Shittu: We set out our team in an older formation of 4-4-2 allowing us plenty of the ball in the opening stages of the game. Junior Gyami opened the scoring for us with an assist from Eisa Salam, with Berkhamsted bringing a goal back to make it 1-1 at halftime. The second half continued with the pace of the first with Thomas Harvey continued to scoring with a lovely assist from Santino Vazquez Williams on his Year 7 debut.



Final Scores:

Mount House A 2-2 Berkhamsted Boys
Mount House B 0-3 Berkhamsted Boys

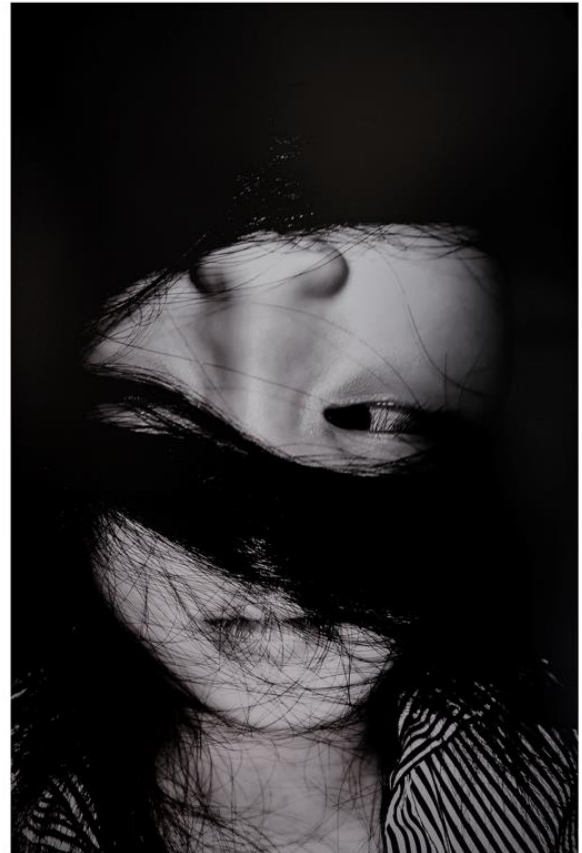
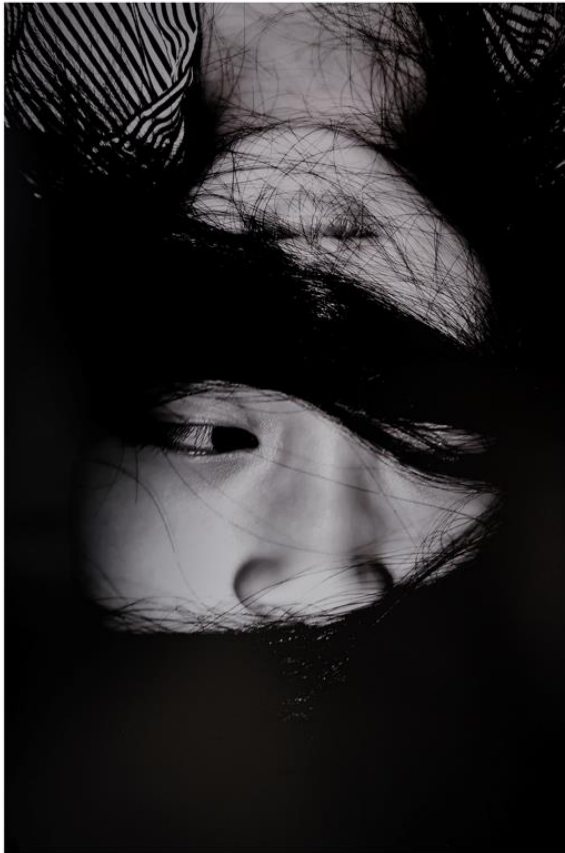
Player of the Match awards go to Junior Gyami for the A team and Thomas Gray for the B team.



Both teams played excellently.

ART

Congratulations to former student Elizabeth He, who won first prize at the ISA nationals with her amazing photographs. Elizabeth left Mount House in the summer after achieving two A*s and one A in her A Levels.





Textiles

Year 10 students have been developing their understanding and use of harmonious colour themes through the imaginative use of collage. Great work, Year 10!

Mrs Graves



Careers

There are still spaces left on Ward Round Live courses (work experience) in December for any students interested in medicine.

Ward Round live course is a LIVE, highly interactive, online experience where students are taught by an NHS Doctor to assess, and speak to our LIVE 'patients' from our studio ward.

Ward Round Live 2021 remaining available dates:

- Saturday 4th December 2021
- Saturday 11th December 2021



The course is suitable for students aged 15+ who are interested in studying medicine. To read more about the course, including price, timings, and to book a space, students can follow the link here: <https://educationprojects.co.uk/courses/ward-round-live/>.

Want to help your child make informed decisions about their next steps?



Is your child in Years 10-13? Then join (Success at School Team) on **24th November (6.30pm - 7.10pm)** for our FREE parents' insight webinar in partnership with IBM, to find out about the varied school leaver opportunities IBM can offer your child.

- **Hear directly from IBM early careers managers** on school leaver opportunities including apprenticeships, degree apprenticeships and gap year roles.
- **Hear from current apprentices** on their journey at IBM so far.

PLUS a Q&A session, giving you an opportunity to ask any questions.

Don't miss out, register now to secure your place:

[Register now](#)

Speakers' Corner

On Monday during the school assembly Reuben Ward Y9 spoke to the whole school about his concerns and hopes associated with COP 26 which is taking place in Glasgow, Scotland.

Reuben brought to the attention of the school the absolute necessity that all countries of the world must agree to reduce carbon emissions, reduce methane while at the same time stop deforestation if we are to reach a stable controllable climate increase of 1.5 Celsius.

He demonstrated and outlined the consequences of global warming and its devastating consequences for all people and wildlife on planet earth.

Reuben spoke with passion and clarity reflecting eloquence and understanding of the subject matter. His informative speech was roundly applauded by all present.

Speakers' Corner is open to all students from Y7-13 who wish to bring to the attention of the school any issue, subject or a concern that they believe we should all be informed of.

All Speakers' Corner participants are awarded a Head Teacher's prize and certificate as well as a special prize from Speakers' Corner leaders.

If you wish to participate in Speakers' Corner please speak to Mara in Year 12, Alex in Year 13 or Mr Allman.

Upcoming Events

19 th November	School in Action Open Morning (For Year 7 entry in 2022)
8 th January	Assessment Day for Year 7 entry 2022
20 th January	13+ Entrance Exam
20 th January	Sixth Form Transition Evening (for external applicants and current Year 11 students)

If you have family or friends who may be interested in attending our Open Mornings/Evenings or registering their child for the Assessment Day, please let them know about these events.

www.mounthouse.org.uk/open-days



Friends of Mount House

We would like to thank all of you who came to support our Quiz Night last night and we hope everyone had a great time.

Our **Christmas Fair** is on 8th December, 2021 from 4 -6pm (following the Carol Service).

There will be

- *A Raffle with fabulous prizes
- *Mulled wine and Mince Pies
- *Christmas Wreaths, Plants and cards
- *Bottle & Chocolate Tombola, Hoopla and more

We will be sending raffle books home next Friday and hope you will support us by buying the tickets. Below is a list of the amazing prizes. We are asking each family to donate a bottle and a chocolate towards the tombola. Please bring in and leave with reception. Thank you for your support.



Christmas Raffle Prizes

*To be drawn at the Christmas Fair
on December 8th at 5:30 at Mount House School
£2 a ticket*

1. Macbook Air M1 13"
2. Apple AirPods with charging case
3. Gourmet dining Experience for 2
4. Bed and Breakfast Getaway for 2
5. Sculpted Pottery Starter Kit
6. JWesty Design Gift Set including Mug, Coaster and Notebook
7. £50 Amazon Gift Card
8. £35 Amazon Gift Card
9. £25 Amazon Gift Card
10. A Mixed Case of Italian Wine/Prosecco (6 bottles)
11. £25 Gift Certificate to Legends Kitchen of Cockfosters
12. £25 Gift Certificate to Barnet Art Gallery
13. £20 Costa Gift Card
14. Kew Candle

