



NEWSLETTER – 28TH JANUARY

Message from Mr Phillips, Assistant Head

ELIZABETH II – 70 GLORIOUS YEARS. A MOUNT HOUSE TRIBUTE TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN HER PLATINUM JUBILEE YEAR.

This coming Sunday, 6 February, we mark the accession of Queen Elizabeth II to the British throne in 1952. She will have reigned for 70 years and thus during the course of this year, we will be celebrating her Platinum jubilee.

The new young monarch ascended the throne upon the death of her father, George VI. The King had died peacefully in his sleep at Sandringham in Norfolk and at the time of her accession, the new Queen was in Kenya at the start of a tour of the Commonwealth. In February 1952, Winston Churchill was Prime Minister, Eisenhower was President of the United States, Stalin was still leader of the Soviet Union and Chairman Mao was in the process of consolidating a communist regime in China.

Princess Elizabeth as she was, in April 1947 made a radio broadcast in which she made a solemn vow on the occasion of her 21st birthday:

‘I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service...’

With a profound sense of duty, the Queen has remained true to her vow. Her long life and reign has been one of selfless service to the people of Britain and the Commonwealth.

By quite a margin she is Britain’s longest serving monarch and the Queen is as much of our culture as red post boxes, as familiar as cloudy skies and as reassuring as scones and jam. When she was born in 1926 the royal family was at the top of society and at the top of the world in which Britain, with an imperial responsibility covering a quarter of the globe, was still the dominant power.

With ever-gathering speed, that world has changed forever during Elizabeth II’s reign. She has been at the centre of extraordinary events for decade after decade. And yet, she has weathered them all.

I am especially reminded of her visit to the Republic of Ireland in 2011. Dressed in emerald green, the Queen, aged eighty-five, made one of the most significant speeches of her life. ‘It is a sad and regrettable reality that through our history our islands have experienced more than their fair share of heartache, turbulence and loss. These events have touched many of



us personally...To all those who have suffered as a consequence of a troubled past I extend my sincere thoughts and deep sympathy.’ This was a highly emotional trip, recalling the murder of Lord Mountbatten by the IRA in 1979, and centred on a visit to Croke Park, the stadium and headquarters of the Gaelic Athletic Association where, in 1920, fourteen innocent people were shot by police and auxiliaries loyal to the Crown – to her grandfather, King George V – at the beginning of the bloody struggle for Irish independence. During the visit the Queen shook hands with a representative of the diehard republican Sinn Fein. Without doubt, the Queen has the capacity for forgiveness and reconciliation.

However, the Queen is still charged by some with being out of touch and slow to react and even her most loyal admirers would not describe her as a force for change. For example, the Queen successfully resisted an attempt by Tony Benn (when Postmaster-General in the mid-1960s) to have the sovereign’s profile removed from British postage stamps.

The world changes: The Queen, thank goodness, does not. She keeps her profile on the postage stamps, not for reasons of vanity, but because that is where it belongs, that is where you expect it to be.

Elizabeth II, our Queen, is an example to all her people. She is renowned for her diligence and strong sense of duty, and diligence is one of the seven heavenly virtues of the Christian tradition. Unfortunately, it is a virtue that is slowly eroding in our generation. In a time where almost everything can be done at the push of a button, persistence and hard work may seem like an outdated notion – not, fortunately, for Elizabeth II.

There can be no doubt that through her service and devotion to duty, the Queen has a love for her people and the Commonwealth. Love transcends all faiths in our country. In his letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul describes love in the following way.

‘Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres’.



These words seem to describe our Queen perfectly and as Britain and the Commonwealth start to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, I feel compelled to quote from the last verse of the national anthem:

‘Thy choicest gifts in store, On her be pleased to pour,
Long may she reign! May she defend our laws,
And ever give us cause, To sing with heart and voice,
God save the Queen!’

Celebrating Chinese New Year!

Some of our students and teachers enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year this week. This is the year of the Tiger and is considered a sign of new beginnings. Chinese New Year is normally celebrated New Year's Eve and starts with a family dinner, which will almost always take place in the home rather than a restaurant, and reunite family members.

Dinner is followed by Shou Sui, which sees family members stay awake together during the night, launching crackling fireworks at midnight.

In the coming days, red envelopes with money are usually given by adults to children and it's believed the packet will ward off evil and grant a long life.





PE

This week students have taken part in handball during their PE lessons. The focus has been on introducing handball to the Year 7 which has included looking at dribbling, passing and the basic rules of handball. For the Years 8 & 9 we have had a quick recap of handball and then focused on tactics and how to defend.

Students in Years 7 & 8 have taken part in House netball and basketball during games sessions this week. It has been great to watch individuals and teams demonstrate the skills they have learnt during the course of the last 12 weeks. The results are as follow:

Basketball

Position	7	8
1 st	Chimborazo	Rushmore
2 nd	Rushmore	Chimborazo
3 rd	Olympus	Everest
4 th	Everest	Olympus

Netball

Position	7	8
1 st	Chimborazo	Chimborazo
2 nd	Olympus	Rushmore
3 rd	Rushmore	Everest
4 th	Everest	Olympus

U13 a & B Netball vs Aldenham School

Girls in Years 7 and 8 represented Mount House against Aldenham School in a friendly netball fixture on Wednesday 2nd February. All students demonstrated their learning and put their skills in to action. Aldenham had two very strong teams with excellent shooters. The final scores were:

Aldenham School A Team 17 – 5 Mount House School A Team

Aldenham School B Team 17 – 5 Mount House School B Team

Hockey at Lee Valley Olympic Park

On a bright, cold and early Thursday morning 10 Year 7 and 8 students set out to the Lee Valley Olympic Park for an exciting day of Hockey. They all played incredibly well with a huge amount of effort from everyone. A special mention must go to our debutants, Omar Riaz in goal and Thomas Gray, Yik Fong Fung and Harvey Thomas. Some valuable expertise has been gained for our next match against John Lyon School on Monday.

U15 Boys Football vs The Latymer School

The boys played The Latymer School on Thursday 3rd February in what could be described as a fiercely fought battle. Mount House came out strong and dominated the first half but unfortunately could not score a goal. With a few changes from the subs bench at half time Zac Webster managed to score a goal. Despite playing well, Mount House started to lose focus and unfortunately with some questionable defending we let in 2 goals. It was an excellent game but the final score was 2-1 to The Latymer School. A special mention must go to Philip Kyriacou for his outstanding defending.



Athletes of the Week

- Year 7 – Kerensa Hatch & Florence Sunderland & Thomas Gray
- Year 8 – Ava Adams & Grace Gakhar
- Year 9 – Michael Miltiadous & Philip Kyriacou
- Year 10 – Thomas Ferreira
- Year 11 – Aimee Isaacs & Benecia Odogu

Upcoming Fixtures

Date	Sport	Age Group	Gender	Opposition	Staff	Venue	Leave	Start	Return
7.2.22	Hockey	U13 (7&8)	Boys	John Lyon	DMA	Away	13:15	14:00	16:00
7.2.22	Netball	U13 (7&8)	Girls	John Lyon	NHI	Away	13:15	14:00	16:00
9.2.22	Hockey	U15 (9&10)	Boys	ISA	AMU	Away	08:00	09:30	16:00
9.2.22	Hockey	U15 (9&10)	Girls	ISA	RVL	Away	08:00	09:30	16:00
10.2.22	Netball	U15 (9&10)	Girls	Aldenham	PSM	Home	14:00	14:30	16:00



ART

Year 10 Textiles

Examples of some of the BATIK samples that the class has been working on inspired by batik artist Shasha Shaikh. Great work Year 10!

Mrs Graves



MUSIC

Here is a photo of our our wonderful musicians in our strings and wind ensemble!
From left to right: Solu, Hari, Seth-Joshua, Omololu

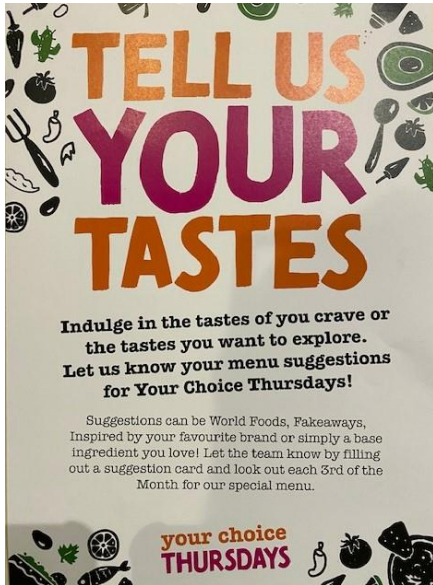


SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING - report by Stefano, Year 13

Representatives from Y7-11 met in the school hall at 8:30 on 18th January. A number of issues were discussed including the following:

- Some students asked if we could introduce a warning system before teachers could use a yellow card. Mr Kerr said he would discuss this with the Head.
- Reps reported that they were happy with the clubs and societies that have been set up.
- Reps said that they were happy with the timetable changes within the school
- There was a long discussion about the school menu.
- Joba Y10 and Stella Y11 conducted a survey in the school asking over 120 students their views.
- The recommendations based on this research were presented to the Head on Thursday 28th January.
- The Head said she would consider these proposals and report back to the school council.
- The school council would like to thank Joba and Stella for all their hard work in this process.

The next meeting will be on February 22nd.



Students have been given suggestion cards and asked to put in their menu suggestions in a suggestion box in the school reception area over the last week.

It is part of a project called 'Your Choice Thursdays' where students can enjoy eating their favourite food requests on the 3rd Thursday of every month. Thank you to Miss Smyth who has organised this project and for the catering staff for listening to student suggestions and cooking the food!

CAREERS

This morning our assembly guest speaker was Prakash Pattni, Managing Director of J P Morgan. He delivered an inspirational speech to Years 10, 11 and the 6th form.



Invitation for Parents: Success Beyond School



SUCCESS BEYOND SCHOOL ★ Trustpilot ★★★★★

Events for parents to enhance their children's futures

"I will definitely be recommending this experience"

FREE TO ATTEND

We are delighted to announce the first events in our *Success Beyond School* series for 2022. These are free-of-charge, live online seminars featuring career experts, designed to help parents amplify their children's career potential.

We have 5 fantastic seminars this term, including topics such as 'how to help your child choose their career' and 'how to inspire young women to become entrepreneurs.' These events are for parents of students aged 12-18 and are free to attend.

[View All & Register](#)

We kindly ask you to forward this email to relevant students and parents so they can register their places now. A PDF version of this email is [here](#).



YEAR 10 STUDY SKILLS & REVISION SUPPORT CONFERENCE

We have taken the decision to arrange a Study Skills/Revision Support Conference for our Year 10 students and their parents. Parents often ask how they can best support their children especially in preparation for the examination period. Therefore, it would be a good idea for parents to attend this conference and make themselves aware of study skills/revision strategies that can be used for all subject areas.

The Conference will include sessions on multi-sensory study/revision skills, practical exercises and student well-being. This represents a wonderful opportunity to promote the Mount House principle of a student, teacher, parent partnership. The Conference will be held at Mount House School on **Tuesday 1st March, 6.00-7.30pm**. If you and your son/daughter would like to attend, would you kindly email Mr Phillips (phillipst@mounthouse.org) the names of those attending by **Wednesday 23 February**.

COVID UPDATE

We have been advised by Barnet that cases in this area are high and they are recommending that students and staff are encouraged to wear face masks in corridors and communal areas. Please therefore send your child in with a mask next week, unless they are exempt. Please also continue testing regularly.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

WEDNESDAY 23RD FEBRUARY - Virtual talk by Holocaust Survivor, Ivan Shaw (ne Buchwald)

TUESDAY 1ST MARCH – Year 10 study skills and support conference

THURSDAY 3RD MARCH – Motivational Speaker Jacob Knox-Hooke speaking to 10,11 & 6th form

FRIDAY 4TH MARCH - Working Open Day

SATURDAY 25TH JUNE - Open Day

Please tell friends and family who are looking at secondary schools about our forthcoming open days. They can book a place on our website at www.mounthouse.org.uk