

# NEWSLETTER – 21<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY

## Message from Mrs Richardson, Head

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January was a super busy day at Mount House, and we were delighted to welcome a host of visitors! At last, perhaps we are getting more back to 'normal'.

It was a real pleasure to meet some of our prospective new Year 9 and Lower 6<sup>th</sup> students, and also to have the Mount House Directors here for their monthly meeting. However, [sorry Directors!] the highlight of the day was certainly meeting Helen and Kate Richardson-Walsh. They came in for lunch with some of our students, popped next door to Monken Hadley primary school to speak to their students and then came back to Mount House to do a talk for students in years 7, 8 9 and 10. Helen and Kate spoke about their journeys – starting when they both played in their first Olympics in Sydney in 2000, and before Mount House students were born! Their hockey playing careers ended in Rio in 2016 with a gold medal, and as a result of those 18-year international careers they had a wealth of experience to share. The highs and lows of playing international sport, of learning to win and lose and to do so in the right way, of resilience and perseverance and of self-belief were all messages that resonated with students and with staff. Of course, being able to hold and wear their Olympic bronze (London 2012) and gold (Rio 2016) medals was an incredible experience.



Helen and Kate then stayed on to launch the first session of our senior leadership programme. This is for Mount House sixth form students, current and prospective, and was focused on developing high performing teams, the first stage of which is that we all have to be able to articulate our own super strengths. There followed a team challenge involving dried spaghetti, sticky tape and marshmallows – and a lot of mess! As ever, we are very grateful to the Mount House site team who are so amazing at tidying up after us, and also thanks to the catering team for providing a great spread afterwards. We are looking forward to welcoming Helen and Kate back for future sessions which will support Mount House students in learning to lead.





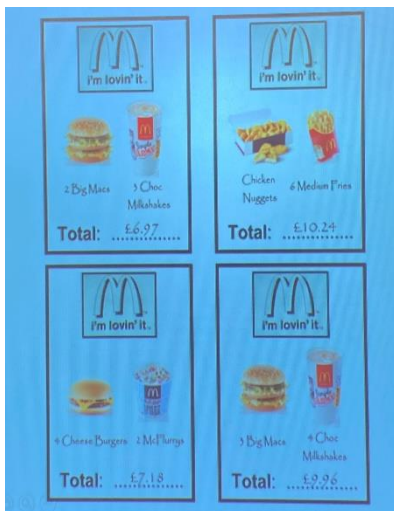


## NEW STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT

I am delighted to announce that Jon Cooper has accepted the post of Senior Deputy Head with effect from April 2022. Jon joins us from Redmaids' High in Bristol where he is Assistant Head. At Redmaids' High, Jon teaches History and Politics, has experience of curriculum management and is a Chartered Leader in Education. He is currently also in charge of the pastoral and academic care of the sixth form, outreach and partnerships, and the careers programme. In terms of co-curricular, Jon has an interest in cross country, athletics and football, the Model United Nations and the Duke of Edinburgh Award. He has led school exchanges in Australia and the USA, and school trips to the Battlefields, skiing, and Cambodia. He is a founding member of the Council for United World Schools and continues in this capacity for the charity, advising and consulting a network of schools across the globe. Jon's wife is Head of Performing Arts at a Bristol comprehensive and they have two sons aged 6 and 3. Jon will be visiting Mount House later this term, and we look forward to welcoming him to the Mount House community.

## MATHS

Year 8 worked on an interesting Maths activity this week where McDonalds had suffered a power cut and the tills stopped working! Students only had receipts showing a total price from which they had to work out the price of each individual item using simultaneous equations!







## SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

School Council elected representatives met on Monday in the School Hall. The meeting was chaired by our Head student Alex Nicolaides Year 13. A number of very positive suggestions and ideas were presented and discussed by representatives from Year 7-11. Full details /minutes of the meeting will be published and posted on the School noticeboard next week and circulated around the school.

Stephano Paternostro - Minute Secretary



## PE

This week students in Years 7 – 9 have continued to take part in table tennis and handball within their PE lessons. The focus in table tennis has been improving our serving and our forehand drive to the corners. The focus in handball has been defending. We have been focusing on where we position ourselves whilst defending in handball.

During games students in Years 7 – 9 have continued to take part in either netball, basketball or badminton and once again have demonstrated that they are keen to learn new skills and develop existing skills.

Our Year 11 and Sixth form students also enjoyed an afternoon of either golf or netball.

We were delighted to have a week of fixtures in the diary with netball, football and hockey being played.

### **U14 Girls Football – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January**

The U14 girls travelled to The Totteridge Academy for a 9 a-side game. They were up against a fierce opposition who were ruthless in their approach. The girls unfortunately lost the game, but a special mention must go to Emily for her excellent goalkeeping which at times kept us in the game.

### **U14 & U15 Girls Netball – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January**

The U14 and U15 netball teams played against St Michael's at home this week. Both teams enjoyed the opportunity to represent the school and improved skills and teamwork throughout the games. The final scores were;

U15: Mount House 3 – 8 St Michael's

U14: Mount House 3 – 10 St Michael's

### **U15 Boys Hockey – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January**

On Wednesday the U15 boys travelled to John Lyon School for a hockey fixture. We all played really well but unfortunately, we lost the game 2-0. I believe we represented Mount House excellently, and for our first 11 a-side game as a team it was a lot of fun and a great experience.

Written by Luke Webster Year 9

### **Athletes of the week**

Years 7	Wako Sasaki
Year 8	Raphael Sarabi
Year 9	Obiora Onuma
Year 10	Olivia Gray
Year 11	Benecia Odogu
Sixth Form	Charlottle Wheatley



Please find details for next week's fixtures below:

Date	Sport	Age (Year)	Boys/Girls	Opponent	Staff	Venue	Leave	Start	Return
24.1.22	Football	U14 (Year 8&9)	Girls	St James's School	DMA	Home	13:15	14:00	16:00
24.1.22	Football	U15 (Year 10)	Girls	Saracens	AMU	Home	15:00	15:45	17:00
25.1.22	Netball	U15 (Year 10)	Girls	Ashmole	PSM	Home	15:45	16:15	17:00

Please can we remind all students to check the sports notice board and tick their name off if they are available to play. If students are not available to play please can they inform the relevant member of the PE department as soon as possible. Students should also be reminded to bring their kit to school on match days.

## CAREERS

### UK STUDENT FINANCE (PARENT/GUARDIAN SESSION)

This session will look at what financial support is available to support your young person through university, how they apply for it and what additional funding is available. You will also have a chance to ask questions. For full event details please click on the link below: <https://www.unitasterdays.com/events/event/66792/uk-student-finance-parent-guardian-session>

### FACE TO FACE LONDON ROUTES INTO STEM IS BACK!

The [EDT](#) (Engineering Development Trust) has arranged an insightful local course over the February 2022 half term (15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>), collaborating with **Uxbridge College, University of Westminster and Murphy Group, a leading global, specialist engineering and construction company**, to deliver face-to-face Routes into STEM course for the first time in two years. Places are limited. For details and the application form please see the information below.

#### What is face-to-face Routes into STEM?

Routes into STEM is an innovative 3-day local non-residential experience that provides young people in Year 10 with an understanding of the amazing opportunities offered by STEM based careers (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). The course allows students to engage with a college, a university and a company who have put together an interesting agenda to showcase STEM courses, apprenticeships, degrees, and careers, giving students the best chance to make informed decisions and to meet role models.

**Day 1:** Uxbridge College – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022

**Day 2:** University of Westminster – 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022

**Day 3:** Murphy Group – 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022

#### Benefits include:

- Experience of a real-world application of STEM subjects with hands on STE(A)M activities

- Practical taster sessions of STEM courses at College and University helping with decision making
- Visualisation of future STEM career opportunities and how to access them through apprenticeship & graduate schemes
- Meet, speak with, and be inspired by role models
- Develop presentation skills, team-building and social skills, unlock innovative thinking, boost confidence and enhance student's portfolio and CV
- Gain an industry-led accreditation Industrial Cadets Bronze Award

**Course cost, bursaries & other support:** £150 for all 3 days towards the cost of administration and the Industrial Cadets Bronze Award. Bursary places may be available for this course, please indicate your interest on the application form.

**Lunch & travel arrangements:** Students are responsible for their own travel. Lunch is sometimes provided for the course, and this will be confirmed along with all other details in the Course Joining Instructions.

**Apply online here:** <https://membersarea.etrust.org.uk/content/routes-stem-student-online-application> For more information, please visit EDT [website](https://www.edt.org.uk) or [studentrecruitment@etrust.org.uk](mailto:studentrecruitment@etrust.org.uk)

## COVID 19 UPDATE

**From 20<sup>th</sup> January**, face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors in classrooms, but still advised to be worn in communal areas of the school. **From 27<sup>th</sup> January**, face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, staff and visitors in communal areas. But please note that face coverings will continue to be mandatory on the school bus and public transport in London.

The twice weekly testing regime continues for all students at home and please report any positive covid cases to [reception@mounthouse.org.uk](mailto:reception@mounthouse.org.uk) and follow the guidance regarding isolation. We will continue to offer lessons via Teams to students who are isolating. We will endeavour to ensure isolating students have access to online lessons as quickly as possible and certainly within 48 hours of being notified.

## Upcoming Events

<b>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Guest speaker, Mythily Katsaris, partner for Fladgate LLP Speaking to Year groups 10, 11,12 and 6 <sup>th</sup> form.
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March</b>	School in Action Open Day
<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Open Day