



NEWSLETTER – 18th March

Message from Mr Phillips – Deputy Head (Pastoral) Designate

Terence Rattigan, in his play, 'The Browning Version', believed the teaching profession to be one of the noblest callings that a man or woman can follow. The task of the teacher is to educate but also, along with parents, to care for, and mould the young.

I have tried to encourage my own children to live their lives according to a set of virtues and values. As parents, we have an obligation to cultivate and practice certain virtues and pass them on to our children and grandchildren. We are their role models and they are our hope for a better world.



An important virtue to be instilled in the young is kindness. Sometimes we tend to be kind only to those people we like and block those we like less. It is far easier to criticise people for their faults without appreciating the good things they do. The lesson we need to impart to the young is that if they want to be treated with kindness, they need to be kind to others. Nothing ever good comes out of cruelty. We can all make the choice to be kind to others, no matter who the person is, where they come from, or even how they've treated you. Over a hundred thousand families in the UK have offered to allow Ukrainian refugees into their homes. Our own Mr McCormick is part of a scheme which has arranged for a Ukrainian boy and his grandfather to live in his home in Bulgaria. Other teachers at Mount House are arranging for food, clothing and medical supplies to be sent to the Ukraine in support of the relief programme. These efforts represent wonderful examples of kindness and I am extremely proud of my colleagues.

We also need to teach our children the true essence of love. When we speak of love, we often think of the romantic kind. But love comes in all forms. It is the binding force that keeps humanity alive and makes life worth living. The true essence of love is to protect, always trust, always hope and always persevere.

Honesty is another virtue that needs to be actively encouraged. The young should understand the value of integrity over falsehoods and material possessions. Television dramas and movies tend to make us think that lying and cheating is normal and that in some way being honest has become the exception rather than the norm. But true happiness comes from being able to sleep peacefully at night knowing that we have not deceived others.

A key to happiness is contentment. Our children need to learn to appreciate what they have and make the most out of it. Only then can they really appreciate what matters most in life.

Social media has taken hold of our lives especially the younger generation. We see our friends and strangers posting about their perfect life online. We are informed of new cars and of exotic locations visited. We are perhaps therefore reminded of how ordinary and dull our lives are. But these things don't matter. You may own all the wealth in the world, but it will not give you happiness. It will not give you peace of mind or help you build meaningful relationships.

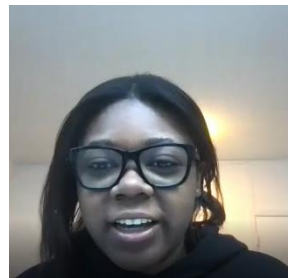
For me, humility is so very important. There is nothing wrong with being proud of our achievements and believing our worth is good. But sometimes pride can lead us to think we're better than others and have a lofty sense of self-importance. Humility allows us to accept that the world doesn't revolve around us, that we are not always right and that other people's opinions are also valid. Nothing gives me greater satisfaction than to be challenged by one of my students about a historical interpretation. One would expect a teacher to promote the value of hard work and diligence. The truth is, however, that anything of worth is rarely achieved without a high degree of effort.

Lastly, when growing up, we are told that patience is a virtue. Everything around us seems to be instant and we don't seem to want to wait very long for things. But there are benefits to being patient. It helps us to weigh our options more carefully and thus make better decisions. It also develops traits that can eventually prepare us for success. Life is improved if we learn to slow down and appreciate the moment. Life is not just about money and achievements. It's about living every moment to the fullest. There are of course other virtues and values that can add positively to the human experience. If we can instil in the younger generation at least some of these virtues and values, then that is the greatest legacy we will ever leave.

Mount House Alumnae Zoom Meeting

by Emmanuela Attakpah and Sofia Rees (Year 11)

During lunchtime on Wednesday, Mia Groom, Nicola Lazouras and Gabrielle da Rocha, alumnae of Mount House School shared their helpful tips via Zoom on how to overcome the stress we are feeling coming up to our GCSEs. It was reassuring to know that they felt the same way during their time as well. They shared with us how they revised for certain subjects and gave us useful tips on how to fully prepare for each day of an exam. We all found it incredibly helpful and left the hall feeling at ease.





British Science Week

This week Mount House students have been celebrating British Science Week. Students have taken part in experiments during their science lessons this week. It included building spaghetti towers only using spaghetti and marshmallows where they had to design and build the largest tower. Students also took part in planting pea seeds. There is also a British Science week poster competition and the theme is GROWTH. Students need to submit their entries by Monday 28th March and Mr Peara will select the five best entries and upload them onto the British Science Association Website before the official deadline of April 15th.



Classics Assembly on The Ides of March

It is no coincidence that the Classics department's assembly has fallen on the week of the 15th of March. In Classics students are taught that coincidences do not happen. Fate is set and anything deemed a "coincidence" is actually an omen, a sign, and very often, a warning.

In 44BC, Julius Caesar had risen to the heights of Roman politics and was made dictator for life, one man to control an empire. But with supreme power comes envy, jealousy and resentment. Rival politicians were terrified that Caesar might remove them from power, so some of them decided to act.

A group of politicians, who called themselves the "Liberators", came together to plot Caesar's assassination, led by two men, Cassius and Brutus. Brutus was actually a very good friend of Caesar's, but was persuaded by Cassius that it was in his blood not to let Rome fall into the hands of one man – Brutus' heroic ancestor had slain the last king of Rome hundreds of years earlier, vowing that his family would never let one man rule Rome again. So, he chose family pride and the controversial opinion of a radical minority over friendship and the loyalty that goes with that.

The day arrives, and it's a day full of dreadful portents and dark omens, with many people warning Caesar to not go to the Senate that day. It was the first full moon of the new Year; his wife Calpurnia had dreams and visions that he was going to be harmed, there were rumours circling around the city of a plot against him, and a prophet had actually told Caesar on numerous occasions to 'beware the Ides of March'.

On the morning of the 15th of March, Brutus showed up at Caesar's door to remove his fears and escort him through the city under his protection – a ruse to further insult their friendship and cement Brutus' position for all time as a man who defines betrayal. As Brutus leads Caesar through the city, Caesar spots that very same prophet who had told him he should fear the Ides of March. Caesar turns to the seer and mockingly tells him "the Ides have come", i.e. "the date has arrived and I'm still here." But the seer replies by saying "Yes, but they're not over yet."

Caesar is led to the Theatre of Pompei and surrounded by his fellow senators. Before he has any idea of what's going on, they fall upon him, one after another, stabbing him 23 times in total. According to ancient sources, Caesar put up quite a fight up until the moment he saw Brutus standing amongst the conspirators. Caesar is broken in the moment that he realises Brutus' betrayal.

There are many messages that can be taken from this story. Yes, Caesar was a great man, but he was viewed by his assassins as a threat to their society. They stood up against a leading politician who, in their eyes, was the most dangerous man in the world at that time. You don't have to go far to find comparisons between this situation and what is happening today. A single politician, in a position of power, but hated by many for his outspoken radical beliefs.



This powerful assembly certainly put across its message. It's a mark of strength to stand up when you disagree with someone you care about; it's a mark of cowardice to be disloyal through dishonesty and deception. Which one best defines this story,... you decide.

Many thanks to the Year 8 Classics students who performed a wonderful re-enactment of the events.



Classics Talk

On Monday the 14th of March, James Renshaw came into the school to give the Classics students a lecture on the political history of the Acropolis.

During this lecture he discussed both Persian invasions in 490 BC and 480 BC, as well as the second construction of the Acropolis orchestrated by Pericles and Phidias. The Parthenon was also a highlighted topic, discussing its Ionic frieze and Doric metopes. He also mentioned the formation of the Delian League and how the treasures from outlining cities were kept in Athens and then used to build the Acropolis.

James Renshaw gave an extremely engaging lecture which was interesting as it gave us students contextual knowledge on the strategic construction of the Acropolis and the Parthenon which is a topic that will appear in our exams.

By Aine, Anastasia and Katie (Year 11)

Year 10 feedback

I found the talk very interesting because James Renshaw provided us with valuable information that will enable us to achieve higher marks in essays and exams.

I didn't realise that it only took the Athenians 15 years to build the Parthenon – that is incredible with their limited tools and resources.

I would highly recommend James Renshaw as a lecturer and it was an honour to meet somebody who wrote our coursebook.





Sport

During this week's PE lessons students in Years 7 – 9 have not only finished Gymnastics with some well thought out routines but they have moved onto looking at Striking and Fielding. They have been focusing on their catching and throwing skills which should hopefully get them ready for what is to come in the summer term. We have seen some lovely sunny weather recently and so have been getting the 'Crazy Catches' out on the MUGA's to test pupils' reactions.



With some of the Year 7 students taking part in the fixture on Monday afternoon, it allowed a small group to take part in badminton and football. Students developed their serving technique in badminton and had the opportunity to play a match in football, which ended up being very competitive.

Years 8, 9 & 10 took part in football at Bartram's

Lane. Students took part in possession drills and played matches.

Year 11 took part in trampolining and 'Just Dance' and finished the afternoon with an energetic badminton session.

Athletes of the Week

Year 7	Leo Figa
Year 8	Amelia Murty
Year 9	Grace Gallagher
Year 10	Thomas Ferreira
Year 11	Natalya Symeou
Sixth Form	Charlotte Wheatley

BELMONT FIXTURE

U13 Football Report – Santiago Scicchitano

The Mount House A team played a well fought game against Belmont. Unfortunately, we lost 3-1 but a great goal was scored by Santi.

The U13 B team adopted a 3 – 4 – 3 total football formation for their juicy encounter against Belmont on Monday. Nathan Munemo was instrumental in organising his defenders who kept the threatening Belmont attackers at bay for large periods of the first half. Mount

House dominated in the midfield and were quick to transition from defence into attack. A mix up in the opponent's box led to a penalty which was calmly dispatched by Leo Figa, so the team went into the half-time break 1 – 0 to the good. Solu Ngoka pulled off save after save to keep the team ahead but unfortunately, Mount House's defence was breached and the team could not hang on to the lead. Nevertheless, this was an excellent performance from all the players. Well done! MOM – Leo Figa.

U13 Netball Report – by Tara Porter

On the 14th of March Year 8 went to Belmont for a netball match. When we first arrived, we did a few drills with the help of sixth formers Charlotte Wheatley and Katrina Taylor. The game started off well and steadily and by half time the score for A team was very close, but we pushed through at the end and won. Sadly, the B team lost but still played very well individually and as a team. Unfortunately, the U13 & U14 netball matches were postponed due to the weather.



Reminder

It continues to be important that students wear the correct footwear as this enhances their learning experiences – we suggest that students wear football boots when taking part in sessions at Bartram's Lane, but do also ask that students have trainers in school as well.

Students should now come to school in their school uniform and get changed on the days in which they have PE and Games.

Games for the coming week:

22/3/22 - U13 & U15 Boys ISA Football Tournament

Players know if they have been selected and should arrive at School for 7.45am as it is a long journey to the venue.



Student News

Congratulations to Solu on his incredible achievement in qualifying for the U12 British Youth Championship for Epee (fencing). He won a bronze medal in the tournament last weekend.



Speakers Corner

On Monday Hari Chowdhary in Y7 addressed the whole school on the growing concerns that we all face with air pollution in our local community and across the country. Hari's speech outlined ways in which we as a school and as individuals can and should reduce Carbon dioxide emissions. Hari spoke clearly and with great conviction. His speech was warmly received which led to 2 rounds of applause. 🙌🙌

Speakers Corner returns in two weeks' time.



School Council Meeting

The School Council met on Tuesday morning at 8:30am in the school hall. Elected representatives from across the school from year 7 -12 were in attendance.

The meeting was chaired by our new Head of School, Mara McNally and minuted by our new Deputy Head of School, Sorcha Van Leevan.

The council enables elected representatives to voice their views and opinions about all issues and matters related to the school.

Minutes of the meeting will be published and circulated to all students next week.



FOMH

Friends of Mount House would like to thank everyone who came to the Family Bingo Night last Friday. It was a huge success with fun had by all and fresh pizzas made by The Pizza Gig.

Thank you also to those who were not able to come but donated to the cause. We were able to raise £750 to go towards the installation of two new water bottle fountains in the school.



Careers

A CAREER IN FINANCIAL SERVICES WITH MAVEN

Are you interested in a career in financial services? Would you like to know more about trading the various financial markets?

On **Thursday 24th March** from **5:00pm - 6:00pm** Young Professionals have an insight to financial services with Maven for what's set to be a fascinating talk on a career in the industry with both a director and other senior leaders within the business coming to speak to you.

Founded in London in 2011 with 10 employees, Maven is a proprietary trading organisation that now has a global presence with over 200 employees across 5 countries. They have offices in London, Hong Kong and New York and will be opening a new Chicago office as part of their plans to expand coverage of derivatives markets.

"We value diversity in our workforce and currently have 28 nationalities within our employees. Maven is a proprietary trading firm which means it is 100% employee owned."

Maven implements both fundamental and quantitative trading & market making strategies across global financial markets, utilising only the group's capital. "We see ourselves just as much a technology firm as a multi-strat trading firm."

Maven are currently seeking a number of candidates for their September 2022 Finance Apprenticeship programs.

If you're keen to find out more about careers in finance and trading and hear about the apprenticeship opportunities at the firm then be sure to register yourself for this online event by clicking the link below.

Registration link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Maven-Event>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

WED 30TH & THURS 31ST MARCH – Performances of Oliver!

SATURDAY 25TH JUNE & SATURDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER - 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