

NEWSLETTER – 25th March

Message from Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde – Assistant Head

There is no ‘standard’ human brain against which our brains can be compared to. On the contrary, the human brain is so complex that no brain is exactly alike. The wide range of natural neurological variations of the brain affect the way that we think, learn, interact and process information, all factors contributing towards how we experience the world.

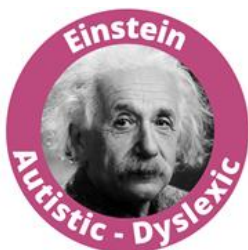
Neurodiversity is based on the concept that neurological variances should be recognised and respected just like any other human variation. It is about recognising that there is a wide range of neurological variations in the human brain, instead of viewing these variations as being “abnormal.”



Some of the different ways that people think, learn, interact and perceive the world have been given labels, such as ADHD, autism, dyslexia, dyspraxia and dyscalculia.

At Mount House we recognise the differences within our school community and celebrate the strengths and talents of our individual students. Neurodiversity matters to us because we want our students with their different abilities and needs along with their unique minds to develop resilience, determination and be rewarded and recognised for their hard work.

Neurodivergent individuals can change the world. We typically think of those individuals who have the greatest impact on the world as super-individuals who have extraordinary power and expertise. However, when you begin to look at individual lives, you see something entirely different. These individuals have both strengths and significant challenges. An example is Thomas Edison. We know he invented the light bulb, but who knew that this legendary inventor was a drop out from school. He couldn’t stick to the conventional ways of gaining an education as he failed assessment tests many times. He struggled with maths anxiety and related issues (dyscalculia) and had clear signs of ADHD, but his creative and imaginative abilities gifted humankind an invention that proved to be the precursor of modern life.



Environmental activist Greta Thunberg is another example. Greta is known for challenging world leaders to take immediate action for climate change mitigation and uses her differences as a strength. Greta initially gained notice for her youth and her straightforward and blunt speaking manner (traits of autism), both in public and to political leaders and assemblies, in which she criticised world leaders for their failure to take what she considers sufficient action to address the climate crisis. School-aged peers have been inspired by the work carried out by Greta, describing it as the “Greta effect.”

As educators these examples remind us that the students with differences in our classrooms may be the ones to make the crucial discoveries or the key decisions for our world in the coming decades. As the line goes from ‘The Imitation Game’ the story of computer pioneer Alan Turing, ‘sometimes it is the people no one can imagine anything of who do the things no one can imagine.’ Our students are fortunate to have the world as their oyster and we as teachers encourage them to take on board all of the opportunities offered at Mount House. We love celebrating their curiosity and their creative imaginations and look forward to saying I taught that student in years to come.

This week we have celebrated ‘Neurodiversity Week’ through the whole school assembly and by putting in place a programme of activities which students have had the opportunity to take part in. Some activities have been based outside on the courts and others have involved a calmer approach and have been delivered in the HIVE. Those who have been involved have been encouraged to celebrate the strengths, talents, hard work and resilience of their peers.

Year 7 taking part in the neurodiversity colouring club in the HIVE



Two clear messages delivered to the whole school on Monday, which will make the world a kinder place were:

- Be kind, understanding, inclusive and supportive towards everyone.
- Never forget that you have the power to make a positive difference to someone who may be having a difficult time.

Ukraine Appeal

With the devastating war going on in Ukraine at the moment, the school community has decided to fund-raise in support of innocent civilians who have been severely affected. There are a series of activities taking place in the last week of term where all monies raised will go to charities supporting Ukrainians. Here are four way you can help:

- 1) Year groups have been asked to bring in food items and toiletries which will be dropped at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre in Cheshunt on Friday, April 1st, for transport to Ukraine in a truck which leaves on April 3rd. The list of goods that each year group should bring in is located in Reception and at the end of the article.
- 2) Calling all baking enthusiasts!!! During the interval of the School's performance of Oliver!, there is a bake sale. Mr. McCormick will be there on March 30th and Alex, our Head of School, on March 31st to collect all money raised. Students who wish to take part in the bake sale need to register in Reception which days they are able to provide baked goods for.
- 3) On the last day of term, there will be a non school uniform day, where students can come into school in blue and yellow - the colours of the Ukrainian flag. To wear one colour they can donate £1 and if they wear both colours of the flag they can donate £2.
- 4) Mr McCormick has set up a Just Giving page in support of the charities who are involved in the transportation of refugees from Ukraine to safety in Bulgaria. He has a home in Bulgaria where he is currently housing a 69-year-old man and his 12-year-old grandson who have fled from Odessa.

If you would like to help by giving a donation, the link to the Just Giving Page is as follows: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/craig-mccormick>

Alex Nicolaidis in Year 13 is also working with a chemist in Winchmore Hill where they are willing to cut out all profit margins in order to support our cause. By donating money, medical supplies will be bought in order to aid those out in Ukraine. The value of goods will be profit-discounted, so the chemist would not be making a profit from any money donated. This will allow more supplies to be sent out to Ukraine.

On behalf of the Ukraine Appeal Committee, we would like to thank everyone who donates and thank everyone in advance for their generosity. We truly believe that we can make a difference and help as many as possible.

If you have any questions, please email Mrs Clarkson clarksons@mounthouse.org.uk, Mr McCormick mccormickc@mounthouse.org.uk or our Head Boy Alex nicolaidesa@mounthouse.org.uk



Written by Alex Nicolaides

HOW YOU CAN BE PART OF THE UKRAINIAN APPEAL

**BRING IN A CAKE FOR
THE INTERVAL OF
OLIVER!**

Wed 30th & Thurs 31st

**Mufti-Day 1st April
Wear the colours of
the **Ukrainian Flag**.**

1 colour = £1

2 colours = £2

**Donate to Mr
McCormick's
charity online.**

**Link in the
newsletter**

**Bring in an item for
the foodbank to be
sent to the
Ukrainian Centre in
Cheshunt. See
separate list for
what your year
group requires**



Donations for the Food Bank for the Ukrainian Appeal

From Monday 28th March, please bring to reception

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Year 7 | Warm Clothes & Accessories (all sizes) |
| Year 8 | Baby Products (nappies, wet wipes, baby powder, formula) |
| Year 9 | Non-Perishable Food (tinned, pasta, rice, cooking oil, porridge) |
| Year 10 | Hygiene Products (sanitary, shampoo, dental, bodywash, toilet roll) |
| Year 11 | Bottled Water & Reusable Bottles |
| Years 12&13 | Medicine |
| Staff | Blankets, Duvets & New Towels |

PE

During our KS3 PE lessons the focus has moved onto cricket shots for Year 9 lessons and fielding and bowling for Year 7 and 8 lessons. This has specifically focused on defensive cricket shots and the cut shot. Year 9 have been looking at when to select a shot and why it will have a higher chance of scoring runs and not being caught out compared to another shot.

In Games students have started to finish their football topic, which has concluded in mini tournaments. The Year 9 students brought to an end their focus on different styles of play, which they used during their tournament. During each game they had to choose a different style of play that they wanted to incorporate. They chose from the Gegenpress, Total Football, Direct Football and Tika Taka.

Athletes of the Week

Year 7 Solu Ngoko
 Year 8 Dharmani Joshi
 Year 9 Wasif Siddique
 Year 10 Lydia Frost-Tingling
 Year 11 Macy Flint

U13 Match Report – written by Santiago Scicchitano

The U13 team lost their first and second game, but they kept their heads up and won an extremely important game 1-0 with a goal scored by Omar Riaz in Year 8. After winning this game Mount House got through to the Semi-finals of the plate competition, where they encountered an extremely tough opposition. We lost in a tight 2-1 score line, with the goal scored by Kwaku Adusah Gyami-Junior, who was our player of the tournament.

U15 Match Report – written by Michael Miltiadous

We arrived at LVS Ascot School after an early 8:00am departure from Mount House School. Our first game was against LVS Ascot A team, which we unfortunately lost 3-0. We kept our heads high and bounced back with a 1-0 win against Kings Monkden. We then moved on to our last game of the group which we unfortunately lost 3-0.

We came 3rd in our group overall which meant we moved onto the plate tournament. Our first game we comfortably won with a score of 5-0 against Bromley Independent. This put us into the semi-finals against LVS Ascot B team which was a very intense game where we won 3-0.

We made it to the final where we were up against Alton School. This turned into a very close and intense game which ended 0-0 after extra time. This moved us onto penalties with Luke Webster, Zakariah Rahman-Cook and Zac Webster scoring our penalties. It was a great day out ending with us being tournament winners and taking a gold medal home!

We would like to say a big thank you to the PE Department for taking us. Our players of the tournament were shared between Krrish Patel and Luke Webster, with an honourable mention to Zac Webster.

**Upcoming Fixtures**

29/3/22 - U13 A & B Netball Away to Latymer. Leaving school at 14:45 and returning to school by 17:00.

30/3/22 - U15 A & B Home to Latymer. Starting at 16:00 and finishing by 17:00.

It is increasingly important to remember that during the hot weather to bring a water bottle and sun cream for both PE and Game lessons.



British Science Week

Mrs Kazim ran a competition last week as part of British Science Week for the tallest tower made from spaghetti and marshmallows. Twenty teams took part where they designed and built their structures. The tallest structures had a height of 1.15m and two teams managed to get the same height.

Congratulations to the winners who were: Y11 Macy Flint and Olivia Richardson, Y10 Divine Aliga, Darcie Dudding, and Amara Vidale.

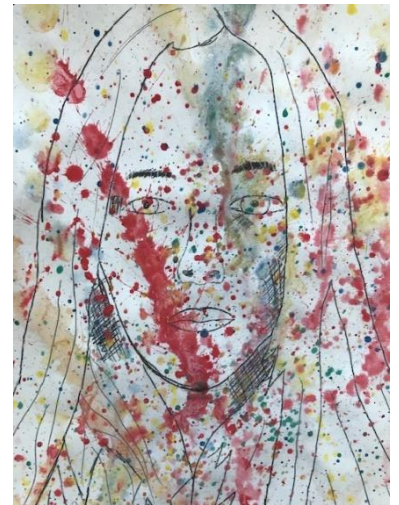
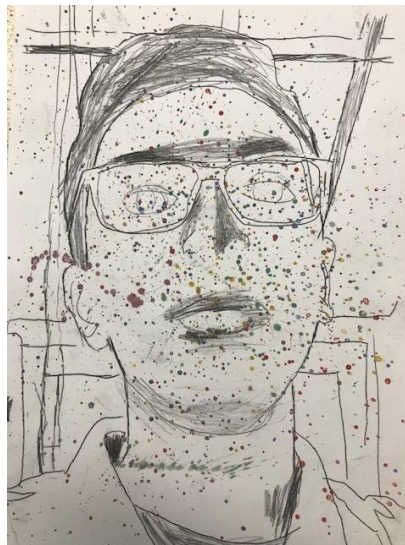
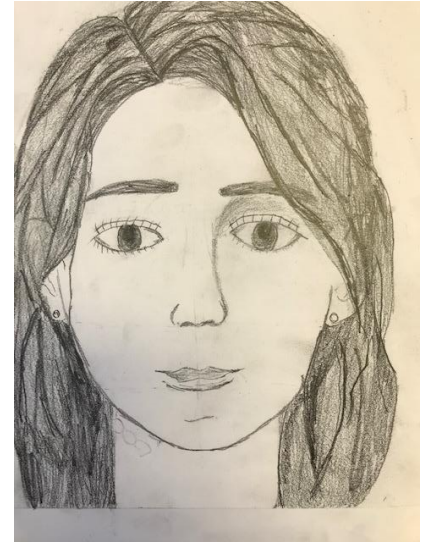


Year 7-8 did the 'Bean here done that' project, involving planting of beans and keeping a record of germination, shoot height, and root length. The images shown here were taken after just one week!





ART - Year 7 experimental self-portraits using ink sticks and poster paints





ART CLUB is held every Tuesday after school at 4pm. Please contact a member of the Art Department if you would like to join.





Music

This week, Year 8 music classes have been treating the assemblies to a rendition of Van Morrison's jazz classic 'Moondance'. These performances serve as a significant part of music assessments, as well as promoting musical enjoyment at Mount House. I would like to say well done to Year 8, including those who were not present for their performance, as they were also crucial in rehearsals.

Monday's assembly (8MU1)

Anne - vocal
 Ciara - vocal
 Alicia - keyboard
 George - keyboard
 Tara - keyboard
 Zachary - keyboard
 Sophia - glockenspiel
 Oscar - guitar
 Temidayo - double bass
 Paris - drums

Wednesday's assembly (8MU3)

Santi - piano
 Georgie - keyboard
 Alice - keyboard
 Roman - guitar
 Eisa - guitar
 Zeyad - guitar
 Enis - guitar
 Nathan - glockenspiel
 Junior - double bass
 Seth – drums

Friday: a performance for Monken Hadley Primary C of E School (8MU2)

Calypso - vocal
 Ava - keyboard
 Sofie - keyboard
 Luca - keyboard
 Aaran - keyboard
 Amelia - keyboard
 Kiyan - glockenspiel
 Harvey - guitar
 Omar - double bass
 Sotirios - drums
 Dharmani - drums

Mr Whitehouse



Careers

Can I afford to go to university? Webinar Tuesday 5th April 6-7PM

Online booking link:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5793841757790660107?source=salford>

Are you worried about affording university? Not sure how budgeting, finance, loans and bursaries work? Hear from the experts and get your questions answered as we take you through how money works at university. You will hear from the University of Reading, Aberystwyth University and the University of Salford. Information for attendees: You will join these webinars without video or audio and your name will not be seen by other attendees. Any questions you submit will not be seen by other attendees. This session takes place live so you will have the opportunity to ask questions throughout. However, if you are unable to attend at the scheduled time, if you register for the webinar, you will receive the recording via email.

SURGERY LIVE

We are a team of NHS doctors who are passionate about teaching, and hope to inspire the next generation of students into a rewarding career in healthcare. Over the past 12 months we have hosted a range of online courses and received fantastic feedback, so we wanted to reach out to more keen students.

Our next upcoming course is **SurgeryLive** on **Saturday April 2nd 2022**. The deadline for registration is **Sunday 27th March 2022**.

This interactive full day virtual course gives students an insight into the life of a surgeon and the career path to get there. Attendees will also learn how to suture, having received all the necessary equipment that a real surgeon would use, delivered via post prior to the course. We round off the session with patient cases and virtual operations in a simulated operating theatre. The course is suitable for students aged 14 and above. Certificates of attendance will be sent out following the session. The cost for the full day is £90 per student (including suture kit).

More information about the day and how to enrol can be found using the link below, please note places are offered on first come, first serve basis:

<https://doctorslive.co.uk/surgerylive/>



On Thursday 31st March, the Friends of Mount House will be having an Easter Tombola and Hoopla for students at lunchtime. Each student will also be offered a chocolate Easter egg or Easter biscuit. Please send your child in with a few coins to enjoy the festivities. Money raised will go towards the fundraising for new water fountains.

Oliver!

Our school production of Oliver! is taking place on the evenings of March 30th and March 31st. To book your free tickets please use the following links:

March 30th - <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BNCQ>

March 31st - <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BNCT>

Robotics Club

Last year, Friends of Mount House supported the Robotics Club led by Mr Brozny, with an initial funding contribution of £3,000, which helped to set up the Club. Apart from learning coding and robotics, the club members, once ready with fully built robots, will pitch their skills against teams from across the UK. If successful they will get to test their skills against international competitors. Mr. Brozny sent this recent update on the team's progress so far:

'This academic year, the Robotics Club has been busy building their 'clawbots'. We have been very proud of having Year 7 students in the club for the first time. Now that our students have completed their initial designs, we will be moving on to programming and troubleshooting. In the summer term, we will be able to compete with their robots against each other in our robot battle arena.'

Well done to: Owen, Evan, Louis, Kasim (Y7), Joba & Thomas (Y10). If you'd like to find out more information about the Robotics club, please see Mr Brozny. Don't forget to regularly check FOMH newsletter for more updates and news.



COVID 19 UPDATE

We are following the latest Government guidance for Covid 19 which can be found at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

If your child tests positive for Covid 19, please do not send them into school. They should stay at home until they receive a negative test.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

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