



NEWSLETTER 17TH JUNE 2022

MESSAGE FROM MR JON COOPER, DEPUTY HEAD

If there is one common experience students who have been or are educated in the UK can relate to, that is the feeling of being in an examination hall. For right or wrong, the system has long had milestone examinations placed at various points in a child's education. Every student at Mount House has too had some form of examination experience in recent weeks and is now in a position where they have received results, or in the glorious long summer before GCSE and A Level results days in a couple of months' time. So, I hope that this strikes a chord with everyone in some way.



I will put my neck on the line here - I am not a huge fan of the examination system that we have adopted in the UK. That is not to say I do not recognise the importance of these assessments. Indeed, examinations of the nature you have all experienced offer a variety of advantages. They allow student and teacher a chance to reflect on the understanding and knowledge learnt. They allow the process of review and application of knowledge to be performed. Exams also give a chance for us all to celebrate the hard work and efforts that students have put in over the course of their studies. Indeed, being able to interpret questions, apply knowledge and summarise information succinctly are skills exams help to tone that are really important in many jobs. For these reasons I support the use of assessments.

However, it is also often the case that exams are seen as a judgement, a marker to define us, and a final chapter in a particular part of our knowledge. It is this approach to examinations that I think the UK system has got wrong. Some of the set-up of our national examinations favour regurgitation of information. They focus on a defined way of answering a particular question and leave little room for assessment outside of the written, timed format. They can almost feel like the hurdles race - a series of markers to get over. For those of us lucky enough to have been given a natural head start like long limbs this might be easier than the others of us (myself included) who may not hold that natural height advantage. If a hurdle gets hit and goes wrong, there is no going back. That's it, knocked over. That hurdle defined. It can't be rectified until the next race (or exam). This more judgmental and hoop jump outlook on exams dulls their use and ultimately is not a useful tool for genuine education.

I would like students to see the benefit of exams as a step in the process of learning. One of many stepping stones on the journey. They offer the chance to reflect on hard work and understanding and to continue to work with teachers once results are in. Because learning is

about a process. It is about sparking curiosity. It is about finding your loves and having the chance to excel at them whilst also being able to be challenged and keep trying at things that might not be so easy. Skills learnt are for many careers more important than much of the information we filter through. Process is what should last with us, is what helps us understand ourselves and the world around us. The ability to discuss, to present, to work collaboratively, to be creative, and to research are just as important as the ability to write down ideas in a defined manner. In this sense I think learning should be looked at more as a field event. Here we can all have our own individual targets. We can all throw a little further, jump a little higher. No outcome is unattainable as we can have another go, listen to our coach for tips to progress and go through the process again. Yes the final podium might have others standing there but that does not mean each participant has not learnt and improved as the event goes on.

So, well done to everyone who has taken exams recently. Whether they have come out as your best results ever or if they have not gone as well as they could - think about the learning process. The skills, learning, application, attitudes, and techniques you have got right and not so right along the way are what you should be reflecting on. That way the next jump might just take you that little bit further.

SUMMER CONCERT

Thank you to all the students who performed at last night's concert and to all the parents and students who came to support them. The students had the opportunity to show off their amazing musical talents playing an array of instruments from piano, violin, flute, guitars, drums etc as well as some outstanding singing which included group and solo performances and some audience participation! Our legendary school band 'The Phantoms' also performed some music from The Kinks and The Beatles. Well done to everyone.







Friends of
MOUNT HOUSE

Summer Fair



Monday 4th July

After the Sports Day from 3.30pm

**Thanks to those who have generously been sending
in donations for the Summer Fair and Hampers. We are
still collecting up until Friday 1st July**

Please donate any of the following in the boxes in each classroom:

- Any second-hand school uniform.
- Any second-hand books.
- Any unwanted accessories.
- Any not used and unwanted cosmetics or toiletries.
- A glass jar filled with sweets – please leave at reception.
- A bottle for the tombola – please leave at reception.

Thanks so much for all your support.

Also, to give us a rough idea of numbers to help us with the catering, could you please fill out the google form in the link below:

<https://forms.gle/bTDKF7mL6hYB4r7V7>

Water Fountains

Students have been making full use of the new water fountains that have been installed, courtesy of the Friends of Mount House, which have been especially appreciated this week in the hot weather. The FOMH has also organised for some water bottles to be produced for all students to buy (see image below) which they will be able to fill up from the water fountains. Water bottles should be available to buy at the Summer Fair. In addition to this, the school has had new air conditioning units installed in three classrooms.



top colour **Green**



PE

Students have enjoyed sport in the sun this week. During PE lessons students have taken part in Tennis and Danish Longball where they have applied learning in matches.

During Games, Year 7 found took part in a modified round of golf (3 holes) which they thoroughly enjoyed. Years 8 & 10 have taken part in cricket-based activities with Year 9 developing skills whilst taking part in a rotation of athletics events.

**Athletes of the Week:**

Year 7: Raymond Aliga-Raymond

Year 8: Alvin Kiriinya

Year 9: Alice Reekie

Year 10: Thomas Ferreira

On Tuesday the 14th of June the Year 8 girls travelled to Latymer to play cricket and won. We got people out by running them out, catching and bowling them out. When our players were batting, we hit two fours. Our team also had a lot of fast runners to get more runs from between the wicket. When anyone was the wicketkeeper, we made sure to roll the ball so that we had excellent control and didn't allow the opposition to get any extra runs. Everyone played very well, and we finished the cricket season with 2 wins.

Written by: Amelia Murty and Dharmani Joshi

Player of the Match: Amelia Murty and Alicia Ormrod

We arrived at Latymer school to play a 16 over game of cricket. We bowled first bowling very well. Luke scored 1 wicket and Reuben scored 3 wickets which included a 2-wicket maiden. We had to get 100 to win. We unfortunately lost by 15 runs. Luke and Krish built up a good partnership but in the end the bowling was very good from their side. This game gave us a lot of experience for next time and we played very well.

Written by: Reuben Ward

Player of the Match: Reuben Ward**Sports Day**

We are delighted to be holding our Sports Day on Monday 4th July at Bartram's Lane playing field.

The morning will consist of field events and track events (heats, middle distance and long distance) for all students in Years 7 – 12.

Lunch will be served on the field for all students, and parents are welcome to join us and bring a picnic from 12:30.

Afternoon events will start at 13:00 and parents are welcome to stay and support students taking part in the track finals. There will be an opportunity for parents to take part so please bring your trainers if you are keen to be involved.

MENTAL HEALTH -SELF ESTEEM WORKSHOPS

A series of workshops took place on Wednesday for Years 7 to 12 and covered the following topics. Thank you to our presenter Alex from the self-esteem team who delivered the workshops.

Session 1: Body image Y9/10

Session 2 – Mental health Y7/8

Session 3 – Stress Y10/12

Session 4 - CPD for staff

Session 5 – RSE for parents

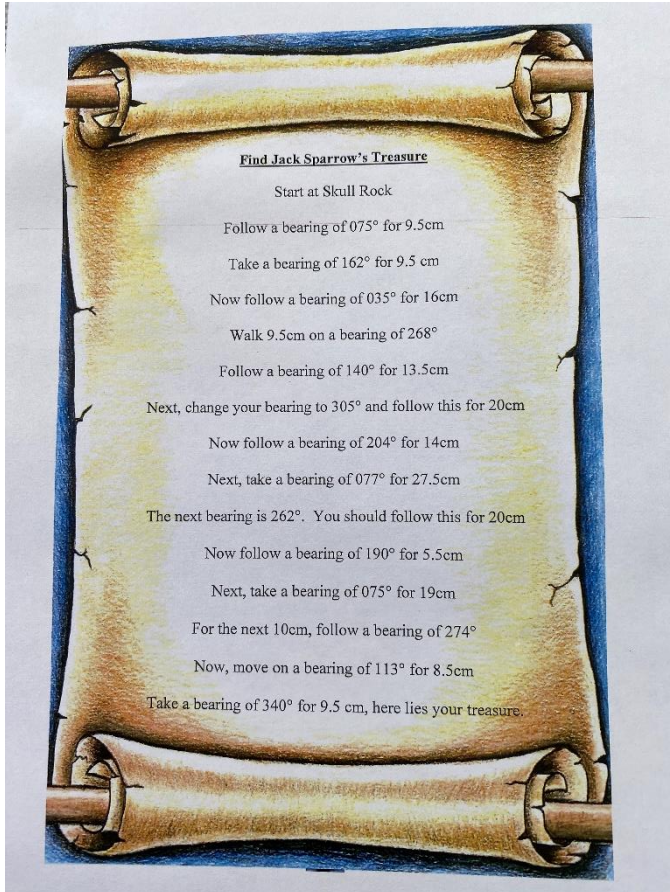
Thank you to the parents who were able to attend the RSE workshops. The DFE guidance about the statutory changes to RSE was given out to parents and for those parents who were unable to attend, please see the attachment. We did not get time to cover RSE fully on Wednesday and so look out in the calendar for an additional parents' workshop in the next academic year.





MATHS CHALLENGE

Year 9 students were given the challenge to find Jack Sparrow's hidden treasure. They were given bearings and then had to follow these bearings on a map.



SCIENCE ROCKETS

In Biology we started a project to make rockets. We were tasked with launching a rocket and bringing an eggstronaut back safely to Earth. We launched our rockets on Monday 13th June by filling our plastic water rockets with water and then using a bike pump to create pressure to launch it upwards. Mr Mather was splattered with water twice by a Ribena bottle rocket. The highest launch from 8.1 was McRocket, the people who designed and built this were: George, Paris, Anne and Will. There were four groups and from Wednesday our class started to build our landers.

Written by Oscar Michaels and Zachary Hodgins



MONKEN HADLEY COMMON

UNWELCOME VISITORS! OAK PROCESSIONARY MOTH CATERPILLARS

Oak processionary moth caterpillars' nests have been found in several oak trees on the Common in recent years and nests have recently been spotted in a couple of trees this year.

The caterpillars have thousands of tiny hairs that can cause unpleasant skin, eye and throat irritations in people and animals. Walkers and other users of the Common are therefore advised to avoid standing or sitting under oak trees. Under no circumstances should people (other than by specially trained operatives) handle or disturb the caterpillars or their nests.

Further information on oak processionary moths and caterpillars can be found on the Forestry Commission's web site at www.forestryresearch.gov.uk/opm

If anyone thinks that they have seen caterpillars or moths' nests on any oak trees on the common, do please inform the Curators [email. curator@monkenhadleycommon.net tel. 0701 4246096] and/or report it to the Forestry Commission [email - opm@forestrycommission.gov.uk tel. 0300 067 4442]

Curators of Monken Hadley Common June 2022 (PLEASE SEE ATTACHED LEAFLET)

SPEECH DAY AND PRIZEGIVING – FRIDAY 1ST JULY

Speech Day and Prize giving will begin at 1.30pm in the Assembly Hall and all pupils will be expected to attend. The parents of prize winners are invited to attend, and the names of prize winners will be released no later than 20th of June.

Our guest speaker will be Dr Sean Lang, historian, playwright, television and radio broadcaster.

Following the ceremony there will be afternoon tea and scones in the Cedar Garden.

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION – NEW BUS STOPS FROM SEPTEMBER

Following a number of enquiries from parents for additional bus stops on the Canons Park bus route, we have trialled a new route, and are now delighted to offer 4 new bus stops on this service.

The Canons Park bus route has been optimised and re-routed through Mill Hill, Hendon, Finchley Central and North Finchley. Therefore, it will no longer travel through Totteridge Lane/Apex Corner.

In addition, we have added an earlier bus stop at Enfield Town Station.



The above changes will not impact on the timings of the bus stops you currently use.

If you would like to book a place on the school bus, please complete and return the attached School Transportation Registration Form and send via email to coaches@mounthouse.org.uk by latest, **30th June 2022**.

Bookings are accepted on a first come, first served basis. Every effort will be made to accommodate all students who wish to travel by the school bus, but no guarantee of availability can be made.

For the new academic year, all existing school bus agreements will roll forward and there is no need to take any action if there are no changes to your child's school bus agreement.

REMINDER - SCHOOL BUSES AND CLUBS

CLUBS - There will be no after school clubs running from Monday 27th June.

BUSES - End of term arrangements

Monday 27th June 2022 to Friday 1st July 2022

There will be no shuttle bus and both buses will depart from Mount House at 4.15pm.

Monday 4th July 2022

There will be no shuttle bus and both buses will depart from Mount House at 5.15pm (this is due to Sports Day and the Friends of Mount House Summer Fair).

Tuesday, 5th July 2022

There will be no shuttle bus and both buses will depart from Mount House at 4.15pm.

Wednesday, 6th July 2022 – Last day of term

The school closes at 12.30pm and both buses will depart at 12.45pm.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday 1st July - Speech Day and Prize Giving with guest speaker Sean Lang

Monday 4th July - Sports Day and Friends of Mount House Summer Fair

Wednesday 6th July – Alumni Summer Garden Party

OPEN DAYS - SATURDAY 25TH JUNE & SATURDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER

Please tell friends and family who are looking at secondary schools (for Year 7, Year 9 or Sixth Form entry) about our forthcoming open days. They can book a place on our website at www.mounthouse.org.uk