

NEWSLETTER – 23rd September

Message from Mr Phillips, Deputy Head (Pastoral)



The passing of a national treasure – HM Queen Elizabeth II

When the death of the Queen was announced there struck a deep and solemn note in our lives which, as it resounded far and wide, and made countless millions pause and look around them. A new sense of values took, for the time being, possession of human minds, and mortal existence presented itself to so many at the same moment in its serenity and in its sorrow, in its splendour and in its pain, in its fortitude and in its suffering.

The Queen was greatly loved by all her peoples. She was respected as a monarch far beyond the many realms over which she reigned for the simple dignity of her life and her sense of duty. We thought of her, so faithful in her study and discharge of State affairs; so strong in her devotion to the enduring honour of our country; so self-restrained in her judgments of people and affairs; so uplifted above the clash of party politics, yet so attentive to them; so wise and shrewd in judging between what mattered and what did not.

For seventy years Elizabeth II was Queen. Never at any moment in all the perplexities at home and abroad, in public or in private, did she fail in her duties. Well does she deserve the farewell salute of all her governments and peoples.

The following poem by the Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage, is a tribute, a 'floral tribute', to the life of Queen Elizabeth II.



*Evening will come, however determined the late afternoon,
Limes and oaks in their last green flush, pearled in September
mist. I have conjured a lily to light these hours, a token of
thanks,*



*Zones and auras of soft glare framing the brilliant globes.
 A promise made and kept for life – that was your gift –
 Because of which, here is a gift in return, glovewort to some,
 Each shining bonnet guarded by stern lance-like leaves.
 The country loaded its whole self into your slender hands,
 Hands that can rest, now, relieved of a century's weight.*

*Evening has come. Rain on the black lochs and dark Munros.
 Lily of the Valley, a namesake almost, a favourite flower
 Interlaced with your famous bouquets, the restrained
 Zeal and forceful grace of its lanterns, each inflorescence
 A silent bell disguising a singular voice. A blurred new day
 Breaks uncrowned on remote peaks and public parks, and
 Everything turns on these luminous petals and deep roots,
 This lily that thrives between spire and tree, whose brightness
 Holds and glows beyond the life and border of its bloom.*

Exciting options now in our Sixth Form pathways.

We are delighted to announce that Mount House School is expanding our Sixth Form offer to include the opportunity to take the International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme, as well as our current A Level offer.

A key pillar of a Mount House education is the individual approach we can offer students. The IB Career-related Programme (IBCP) allows us to build on this ethos with a pathway that gives some students a learning experience and qualification that is more relevant to their needs. The International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) is a gold standard in education, recognised across the world with over 5450 IB World Schools across 153 countries. The IB champions holistic education and critical thinking.

Mount House School is a Candidate School* for the International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme. This school is pursuing authorization as an IB World School. These are schools that share a common philosophy—a commitment to high quality, challenging, international education that Mount House believes is important for our students.

The IBCP will give Mount House Sixth Formers an option that differs to A Levels in the approach to aspects of teaching and learning, whilst offering an excellent springboard for next steps be that Russell Group university entry, apprenticeships or the world of work. The Career-related Programme has four clear aims for students:

- To prepare for work in a knowledge society
- To prepare for the future
- To provide a locally relevant education
- To bridge the 'academic vs vocational' divide.

Having the IBCP alongside A Levels as a curriculum option for Mount House Sixth Formers means that we can offer a more personalized curriculum and a real choice of post-16 pathways. The IBCP offers some more flexibility in learning that is suitable for many students, whilst both A Levels and IBCP can offer a breadth and depth of study that Mount House students and those from elsewhere can thrive at in our Sixth Form.

Our **Sixth Form Pathways Evening on Thursday 6th October** is an excellent opportunity for Year 11 and parents to hear more about both the A Level offer and the IBCP offer in more depth. The evening will allow students to see how Sixth Form at Mount House develops attitudes, values and skills valued by universities and employers. It will begin the process of discussion about which is the right option for an individual student alongside considering the subject combinations that may be suitable for them. A letter to Year 11 parents is attached to detailing this further.

**Only schools authorized by the IB Organization can offer any of its four academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), the Diploma Programme, or the Career-related Programme (CP). Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted. For further information about the IB and its programmes, visit www.ibo.org*

ICT

I would like to celebrate our "Apps4Good" team who have got off to a flying start this week. Apps4Good is a national competition where students develop a problem-solving technology product. Over the course of this term, students build prototypes of their apps and delve into enhanced topics like business modelling and user research. Hopefully, we will be able to enter the national competition and gain feedback on our app from industry experts. Our initial "MySchool" app idea is currently under construction, and has been developed by Alvin, Luca F, Ava & Solu. I am very excited to be working with them all!



Music

Chamber Ensemble rehearsals have begun. We welcome musicians of all levels who would like to perform traditional styles including classical and folk music. This term, the ensemble will rehearse for another splendid Christmas service. Please contact Mr Whitehouse or Mrs Wong if you are interested in joining.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

This week during baking club students put their skills to challenge whilst making scones.



It was great to see students following instructions on how to make scones and some even adapting their recipes. Students who did not have their ingredients were welcomed by the group with some students being kind enough to share their ingredients and work in pairs so that everyone was able to take part. We hope you enjoyed the scones at home. It was great to have Sorcha Van Leeven, our Deputy Head Girl, supporting one of the sessions as well.



The programme for this half term is attached to the newsletter – please can you ensure that if your child has signed up to baking club they have the required ingredients and a Tupperware box to take their treats home at the end of the session.

Touch Typing

The members of staff in the Hive have enjoyed meeting and supporting students who are keen to develop their touch-typing skills. The programme that students are following is called 'edclub' and can be accessed from home if students wish to further practice.



Choir

Students across the school have been singing Christmas songs in preparation for the Christmas service which will be held at the end of term. Students have enjoyed the atmosphere during choir and are looking forward to performing in front of and alongside the school in December.

Drama

During Drama Club this week we started the session with fun warm-up games which gave us the opportunity to work with students in different year groups. Following this we worked in small groups whilst taking part in improvised activities to create different characters and experiment with body language.

PE

This week students in Years 7 - 9 have completed our cross-country course. They have challenged themselves in different ways when completing the course and should be proud of their achievements.

Students in Years 7 & 8 took part in their chosen sport during Games on Tuesday. Our netball players were looking at applying a range of passes in matches and moving into space. During hockey students developed their dribbling and passing skills, with a focus on the push pass. Our footballers took part in shooting drills with special focus on early shots to avoid the defenders pressing.

Those who went to golf have further developed their knowledge of the sport and have applied their learning on the driving range and some on the chipping green this week. All in preparation for completing a three-hole course in the forthcoming weeks.

Those who took part in trampolining made progressions on their front-landings by adding in half twists before or after. We then looked at back-landings with and without support.





Students in Years 11 – 13 took part in the Moveathon and also had the opportunity to take part in a selection of golf, trampolining, table tennis and team sports. Everyone contributed to their chosen session and there was a positive vibe and energy amongst the three-year groups throughout the afternoon, which was great to be part of.

Netball club has been popular amongst students in Key Stage 3. We do welcome students who have yet to join us to further increase numbers and opportunities. This week students were familiarising themselves with receiving the ball from left and right and passing into space. They also had the opportunity to apply within a match.

Trampolining club has been extremely popular with Year 7, so we have allowed them to come across to different days to participate so everyone can get involved. KS4 trampolining club has also been popular having a nice range of girls and boys working together by giving coaching advice to help each other improve certain skills.

Athlete of the Week

Year 7 Georgie Gibson & Maria Ratcliff

Year 8 Florence Sunderland & Jennifer Douglass

Year 9 Nathan Munemo & Talya Djafer

Year 10 Amelie Hilton & Wasif Siddique

Year 11 Saam Pourhassani

Year 12 Rosa Scott Tatam

Year 13 Patrick Casey

IMPORTANT REMINDER

It is essential that students wear shinpads for football and shinpads and a mouthguard for hockey!

As we approach week 4 of this half term, we want students to be able to apply their learning from hockey and football within matches. It is therefore essential that students have the required equipment for the Games sessions next week as without this safety equipment students will not be able to take part in their chosen sports and will therefore take part in alternative activities set out by the department.

Moveathon Event – organised by the FOMH

It was great to see so many students from years 7 to 13 taking part in the Moveathon on Thursday! Well done to everyone for putting in so much effort. We clearly have some budding sports stars in our midst! Our thanks go to all the students and staff for taking part and helping out on the day. Also, a big thank you to Chris Antoni for leading the sessions and making it fun. It was a great team effort!

Please return all sponsor forms and money collected in a sealed envelope, to Sheila on reception, by the morning of Friday 7th October. Please write on the sponsor form the total amount of money collected and/or money paid by bank transfer if you choose to pay some

or all of it electronically. Also, please ensure the student name and year group is on the form.

Bank details are as follows:

Friends of Mount House
Account no. 80718548
Sort Code 20-44-86
Ref is your child's name and year group.

It's also not too late to get more sponsors and if you need one, there are sponsor forms available on reception. Prizes will go to the student in each year that raised and collected the most sponsorship. Winners will be announced before half term.

Here is what one of the Mount House Sixth Form students thought about the event.

"I found the Moveathon really exciting and a very fun activity to do with my peers I felt very energised after doing it and I enjoyed being part of it! It was fun to try out a variety of different exercise activities." Katrina Tornari







**Friends of Mount House presents
Family Bingo Night on Wednesday October 12th 2022 at 7pm.**

*Heads N Tails - £2

*Door Raffle

*5 Rounds of Bingo – Cards & Prizes for each round included with ticket

*Refreshments – Water, lemonade and juices included with ticket

****If you wish to drink alcohol, you may Bring Your own Beer/Wine and glasses on the night.**

*Entry Fee £15 per family / £10 for Staff

*There will be hot dogs, (chicken, veggie too) available to purchase at £3.50
Doors open at 6:30, starts promptly at 7pm.



Simply Scan the QR Code above, Enter amount of Entry for a family £15
In reference please put Student/Staff Name and Year Group
Eg. £15 – Kate yr9

****You can also send Entry Fee in an envelope to Sheila in Reception with Student and Yr.**

We are happy to announce that Tickets £15 per family/ £10 for staff are now available for the Friends of Mount Family Quiz Night on **Wednesday October 12th**.

Come join the fun and meet other Mount House families. There will be Hot Dogs available to purchase and doors open at 6:30 for those who wish to eat before the Games begin!

Simply scan the QR code below and please put the Student Name and year group as your reference. Or you can send your Entry fee in an envelope to hand to reception with your child's name and year group as your reference. Seats are limited so reserve your table today!

Mount House Water Bottles



As part of the move away from single use plastics FOMH have designed some new Mount House 500ml bpa free water bottles which are available to purchase from Sheila in reception for just £3.

We are always looking for more parent volunteers to help-out with the events listed above or as class reps to help support FOMH activities and publicise them to the rest of the class. It is a great way to get involved with the school and meet other parents and also to provide your children with additional fun activities during their time at Mount House. If you are interested in joining or have any suggestions for events please contact our secretary Julie Westmore (a Year 9 and 11 parent) onjwesty@btinternet.com.

Polite Notice

Please could we kindly ask parents who are dropping their children off in the morning in the school car park not to block access to the disabled parking space.

Uniform

Please could we ask that all uniform is named and for students not to lend uniform to friends. All students need to come into school in their own correct uniform each day.

Upcoming Events

Monday 26th September- Year 12 Trip to York, returning on Tuesday 27th

Wednesday 5th October- Years 10 and 12-Art Trip to The Henry Moore Foundation

Wednesday 12th October- FOMH Bingo Night

Thursday 6th October 6pm to 8pm - Sixth Form Pathways Evening for current Year 11 and their parents

Thursday 6th October 9am to 10.30 am - Working Open Morning

Thursday 3rd November 9am to 10.30 am – Working Open Morning