



# NEWSLETTER – 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

## Message from Mr Jon Cooper, Senior Deputy Head

I am sure you noticed our exciting option for Sixth Form from September 2023. Alongside our extensive A Level curriculum the school is also looking to offer the International Baccalaureate Career-Related Programme (IBCP). This offer allows us to tailor curriculums for individuals and help ensure that each is inspired in their learning at Sixth Form level.

For many the A Level pathway is the right one with the chance to explore some of their favourite subjects in depth. For others an approach that offers more coursework-based learning and skills focus alongside their academic studies can be the key to unlocking their highest potential in the last years of their secondary education. I suspect many reading this have a little more familiarity with the A Level offer through siblings or their own education and so I wanted to explore what it is about IBCP that means Mount House is making this pathway available to complement the excellent A Level offer we give.

So why the IBCP? The International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) has for over 50 years stood as the most widely recognised international education organisation and a gold standard in education. With the ever-changing nature of the working world and the development of industries that previously did not even exist, the need for students to be agile thinkers and flexible in their skills has never been more important. The IBCP was developed by the IBO to sit alongside their Diploma qualification in response to some of this, offering students who may not be best suited to some of the education assessments the state offers to thrive and play to their own strengths. As well as giving our students the option to find a pathway that works best for them, becoming an IB World School allows Mount House access to thousands of other IB schools across the globe, all of which share common values. Indeed, the IBO's mission statement conjures up some very similar sentiments that reflect our school:

*"The International Baccalaureate® aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.*

*To this end the organisation works with schools, governments and international organisations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.*



*These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right."*

A natural fit? Our current Year 11s have the opportunity to hear more about the two pathways we offer in the **Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 6pm-8pm** and we look forward to seeing them all there alongside the number of external students who have registered, excited to understand which pathways works for them. There will be an opportunity for other year groups and their parents to understand the options as the year progresses. That said, with extensive experience of IB programmes there are a few characteristics I think worth sharing at this stage of our journey.

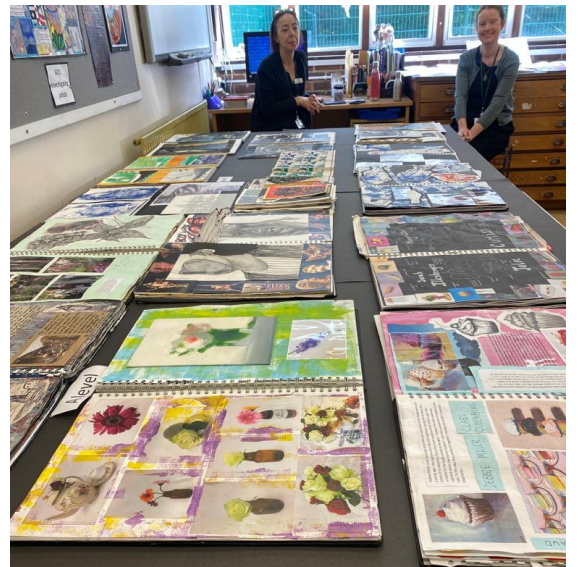
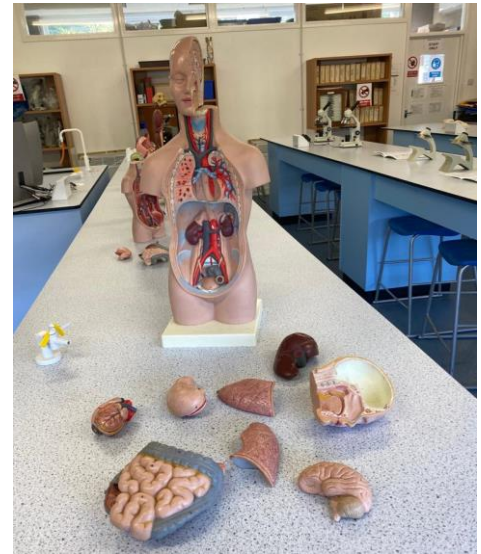
There is in all subjects focus on critical thinking and opportunity for both cultural and ethical debate. Students will explicitly be drawn into the connections between their subjects rather than perhaps seeing them as stand-alone areas of study. The ability to learn a depth of knowledge on that which they care most, whilst maintaining a breadth of subjects, and being asked to reflect on skills learnt can make these students stand out. Finally, the recognition that different students learn differently is a pillar of the IBO's course development - many courses give options that individuals can opt to explore, and all have coursework allowing students to be assessed not only through examination but also portfolios, projects, oral presentations and even monitored group discussions. All of which then comes with a qualification that opens doors: employers and universities from Oxbridge through to degree-level apprentices accept this qualification.

One of the strongest characteristics of Mount House is that there's a very strong team ethos across the community, but everybody has an individual style and we embrace that. As part of this I like to encourage a spirit of questioning and spirit of discussion and creativity, characteristics heavily associated with an IB educated student. Taking this love of learning and curiosity through lessons and co-curricular means that the students and teachers really enjoy themselves. A part of that will continue to develop at the school from the way the IB works – it's all about asking questions and having a genuine curiosity about the world around you. After all, if we can't have the skills and ability to do that, then what are we aiming to achieve in our education?

## OPEN MORNING

Mount House held a wonderful Open Morning last Saturday where staff, students and Dr Colin Diggory, Chairman of our Board of Directors, welcomed many prospective families and showcased what Mount House has to offer. A big thank you goes to our tour guides who showed families around the school, many of whom were Year 7 students who had only recently joined Mount House. Many thanks to our catering staff who provided us and our visitors with some delicious cake and refreshments.







**ART TRIP**

**Year 11 and 13 Art, Photography and Textiles Students**

This week students have been immersing themselves in art at Tate Modern. This beautiful installation by Es Devlin highlights the plight of London’s species which are under threat and invites its audience to reflect on the wonderful biodiversity of the city and how we should protect it.



En route to the Tate Modern to meet the Art and Photography students the Year 11 and 13 Textiles students popped into the Fashion and Textiles Museum to see the small but stunning exhibition of highly colourful and detailed applique and print designs by the well-known textile artist Kaffe Fassett.





## Screening for access arrangements for public exams

We will be conducting access arrangements screening with students over the coming weeks, starting with Year 10 on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. The screening takes the form of four online tests, each lasting 10 minutes, and provides us with an indication of those who may require additional arrangements for public examinations. Students who already have formal access arrangements in place will not be required to undertake the screening. In order to facilitate this, please could Year 10 students bring a set of headphones (that can be plugged into the computer) to school on Monday. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Wiltshire.

## Pick up/drop off times

Parents are reminded that the School is open from 7.30 am and students may be dropped off at any time after that. 8.10am -8.20am, are particularly congested times and if parents could arrive a little earlier that would be appreciated.

At the end of the day, especially on Mondays and Fridays, 4pm is also a busy time. If you would like to pick up between 4.20pm and 4.30pm and thus avoid the worst of the car park, this is absolutely fine.

## Computing & Classics Combine!

In Year 7, students have been working on developing their presentation skills and professional use of PowerPoint and Cloud-based software by producing a presentation on a classical figure they have been allocated. Mrs Clarkson & Mrs Trickey joined forces this week to co-teach computing and classics – all in the same learning space! Considering how we can develop cross-curricular links between subjects is vitally important so that our students can really develop their skills in an holistic way, an opportunity arose for Classics and Computing to team up to do just that. It was great fun!





## Cultural Immersion Day

We will be holding a cultural immersion day on Wednesday, the 12th of October to celebrate the different nationalities that make Mount House a diverse school.

This will be held during the day and students will be encouraged to come dressed in their cultural attire. There will also be opportunities to purchase things from different cultures and taste different cuisines in addition to learning about different customs.

All proceeds will go to the charity Stand Against Racism and Inequality (SARI). We are also asking parents if they would be willing to make some foods/snacks from their culture to be sold at the event. Thank you to parents who have already volunteered. If you are able, please kindly email me [DarochaA@MountHouse.org.uk](mailto:DarochaA@MountHouse.org.uk) indicating the cuisine and its nationality. I look forward to hearing from you in due course. Mrs Da Rocha

## Year 7 Cookery Class

Year 7 enjoyed cooking a number of different British recipes this week.





## Baking Club

During baking club this week, students have made rocky roads, adding their own spin with a variety of ingredients including popcorn, honeycomb, and raisins. All bakes looked delicious - we hope they tasted just as good!

We look forward to making flapjacks next week (recipe below). For your reference, please find attached a copy of the baking booklet for this half term and please can we take this opportunity to remind you that students need to bring containers to take their treats home.



### FLAPJACKS INGREDIENTS

100g golden syrup

100g demerara sugar

125g unsalted butter, diced

250g rolled porridge oats

75g mixed seeds (sunflower, pumpkin, golden linseed and sesame)

¼ tsp ground ginger

pinch of salt

## Sport

This week students in Years 7 – 9 completed their final cross-country run, which saw improved times across the board. We hope that students will continue running outside of the curriculum as this is a great way to exercise. This week has also seen students move to volleyball which has been a hit. Students have learnt some of the basic skills and are looking forward to learning more and playing games.

During Games sessions this week boys in Years 7 – 10 have continued to take part in football or golf with the girls taking part in netball/hockey or trampolining. Students in Years 11 – 13 selected between trampolining, golf, football and team sports (including indoor and outdoor activities).

### **Golf**

Students have further developed their driving techniques this week, using different clubs on the driving range.

**Football**

Shooting has been the focus of this week's games sessions. Students have taken part in structured drills both in isolation and within a competitive environment which prepared them when shooting in matches.

**Trampolining**

All year groups looked at front somersaults and linking skills. Students have been practising three different routines (created by Miss Buckland) which included the skills we have gone through the last few weeks. The routines were labelled bronze, silver and gold. Naturally each routine became more challenging. Miss Buckland is very pleased to say that every student managed to complete a routine to a high standard, and everyone attempted a front somersault. Students in Years 11 – 13 who participated in Trampolining looked at the routine from the iGCSE specification along with front somersaults.

**Netball/Hockey**

During netball, the focus for students in Years 7 & 8 was to look for and move into space to receive the ball on court. This linked to ensuring that passing was accurate and therefore drew upon learning from previous weeks. During Hockey students either took part in a small sided game where they had the opportunity to demonstrate dribbling and the push pass or they were involved in a shooting drill.

**Team Sports (Year 11 – 13)**

Some students opted to take part in table tennis. This was an opportunity for them to play matches against their peers and Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde. Clement Cheng was the undefeated champion and during the afternoon took the opportunity to coach his peers, which gave them more confidence. A group of students took part in basketball with Miss Smyth. They took part in sport specific drills before applying their learning in a mini 3-a-side tournament.

**Athletes of the Week**

Year 7: Tatiana Moss

Year 8: Milo Dodd

Year 9: Lilly Manzi

Year 10: Luke Webster

Year 11: Clement Cheng

Sixth Form: Patrick Casey & Janan Khaledabadi

**ISA Skiing Competitions**

This week three students: Alice Moore (Year 7), Milo Dodd (Year 8) and Emily Westmore (Year 11) took part in a well-attended and busy ISA Skiing competition held at Hemel Hempstead.

Milo raced in the U14 men's competition for the first time, where he did exceptionally well, coming 3<sup>rd</sup> overall. This was the first time that Alice had also raced in the U14 age bracket





and at the age of 11 she was the youngest competitor. This did not stop her from holding her own and she finished mid table which is fantastic.

Emily raced for the first time and loved the experience, representing the school in the U16 competition.

Well done to all three students!



Potters Bar Hockey Club have invited our students to join them for hockey sessions. Please see the flyer below. Please contact the number on the flyer if you require any further information.



### FOMH Moveathon

Thank you to everyone who has returned their sponsor forms and donations for the recent Moveathon. If you are still collecting, please note all sponsor forms and money collected need to be returned in a sealed envelope, to Sheila on reception, by the morning of Friday 7th October. You can also send donations in via bank transfer as follows:

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

\*\*Family Bingo Night is on Wednesday October 12th starting at 7pm. Tickets are selling quickly so please reserve your place today. See below for more details.





**Friends of Mount House presents  
Family Bingo Night on Wednesday October 12<sup>th</sup> 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.**

## Upcoming Events

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October**      Librarians trip to Cambridge

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October**      Years 10 and 12 - Art Trip to The Henry Moore Foundation

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October**      FOMH Bingo Night

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 6pm to 8pm**      Sixth Form Pathways Evening for current Year 11 and their parents.

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 9am to 10.30 am**      Working Open Morning

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 9am to 10.30 am**      Working Open Morning