



NEWSLETTER -Christmas 2022

MESSAGE FROM MRS SARAH RICHARDSON, HEAD



As a long and busy term draws to an end, we will all be looking forward to a rest and to spending time with friends and families. We know that there are some excited students looking forward to the departure of the first post-Covid ski trip on Saturday and we hope that they all have a wonderful time. Thank you to Mr Mather, Mr Cooper and Ms Mariottini for giving up a week of their holiday to take the trip – school trips are always good fun for teachers, but at the same time they can be somewhat exhausting! The 3-year trips plan is now available, and I have attached the details at the end of this newsletter so parents can forward plan.

As the holidays beckon, students will undoubtedly have more screen time than they usually would. I urge parents to continue to monitor this carefully; Children's Commissioner for England, Rachel de Souza, has been in the press recently as she campaigns for the Online Safety Bill which is currently passing through the House of Commons, and she writes: 'We'll look back in 20 years and be horrified by what our children were exposed to'. Please can I remind parents that even in holidays children should not have their phones in bedrooms, and their online activity should be checked regularly. This is essential to protect children from making mistakes themselves, but also to protect them from seeing unsuitable material which is openly available on platforms such as TikTok. We will be arranging a parent forum after Christmas to discuss our students' use of social media and will be in touch with a date and a programme as soon as possible; we hope that as many parents as can will be able to attend.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday and look forward to seeing students at 8.20 am on Wednesday 4th January for the start of the Lent Term.





Yesterday we said goodbye to 2 members of the teaching staff, Ms Nicola and Mr Boonzaier.

We wish Ms Nicola all the very best and thank her for all she has done for Mount House students in her time here.

Mr Boonzaier was recruited by St Martha's in 2004 is concluding his teaching career this Christmas after eighteen years and one term here. An approximate 750 students have passed through his classroom in his time here. Students will miss his kind, calm and considerate care; they universally regard him as a reassuring presence in whose company they can be themselves. His tutor groups have always spoken highly of how he has dealt with any situation they can get themselves into and he is omnipresent at house events, as Jerome always seeks to big up our students to instil confidence within them and celebrate achievements that some of us might consider minor. Jerome is a role model to teachers and students alike where he can exercise authority by building positive relationships with students and he will be greatly missed. We wish him a long and wonderful retirement and hope he will come back and visit.

In addition, we celebrated the fantastic service of Ms Somerville, who in 2022 completed her 30th year teaching at St Martha's and Mount House. Ms Somerville joined the staff in 1992, the only remaining staff member to have been hired by Sister Cecile. She has consistently helped our students attain some of the best results the School produces and contributes widely to this school's historic over-representation at prestigious art colleges around the UK. Her calm, cheerful manner is appreciated by all who come into contact with her and students said the following:

'I'm so grateful that Ms Somerville has been my form tutor. She is strict but always helps you.'

'She is always smiling, even if you've annoyed her.'

'We think you are an amazing teacher.'

We are looking forward to the next 30 years!



SNOW DAY COMPETITIONS

1ST PLACE - Erin Poon, Year 7



2ND PLACE – Fleur Cowie, Year 8



3RD PLACE – Tatiana Moss, Year 7



SETERRA GEOGRAPHY

Well done to all the students who entered the map competition. Please keep challenging yourself over Christmas – this is app is a great way of learning: <https://www.geoguessr.com/seterra/en>

Year 7

1st Place: Yuna Arao

2nd Place: Jake Hargreaves

3rd Place: Isabella Dugdale

Year 8/9

1st Place: Kasim Mustafa

2nd Place: Solu Ngoka

3rd Place: Harvey Thomas

Highly commended: Evan and Owen Fung



MOUNT HOUSE AT CHRISTMAS





HAVING FUN IN THE SNOW







YEAR 7, 8 AND 9 SNOW POEM COMPETITION

Dear Year 7, 8 and 9

I am sure you will have ventured out into the snow in the last few days. I would like you to have a go over the holidays at writing a poem about your experience of the snow. Your poem does not need to rhyme, but should be as descriptive as possible. There will be certificates and prizes for first, second and third prizes. Here's a few lines and a couple of snowy poems below to inspire you.

Happy writing from Mr Nancarrow

All night the snow fell silent, still, solemn.

A billowing blanket wrapped the world in white.

Wisps of white shivered from the branch of a tree
as a robin flutters its wings to take flight.

Dust of Snow

By Robert Frost

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree

Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.

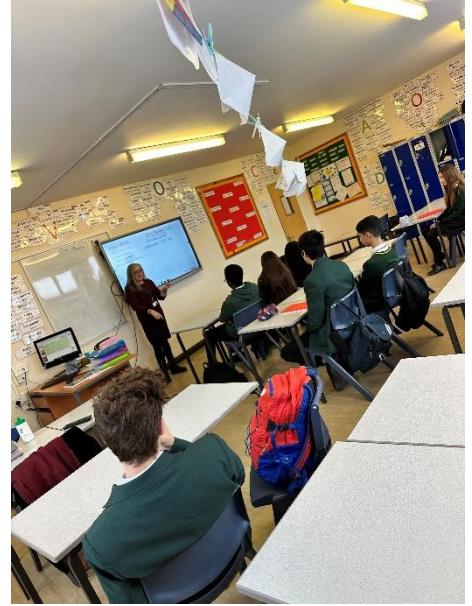
Lines: The cold earth slept below

By Percy Bysshe Shelley

The cold earth slept below;
Above the cold sky shone;
And all around,
With a chilling sound,
From caves of ice and fields of snow
The breath of night like death did flow
Beneath the sinking moon.
The wintry hedge was black;
The green grass was not seen;
The birds did rest
On the bare thorn's breast,
Whose roots, beside the pathway track,
Had bound their folds o'er many a crack
Which the frost had made between.

SPANISH

Here our Year 9 are learning Spanish Christmas Carols with Lola, our Spanish speaking assistant!



END OF TERM ASSEMBLY – CHOIR and INTERHOUSE PLAYS



Proposed School Trips

To assist with parental planning, the table below covers planned residential trips for the remainder of this academic year as well as 2023/4 and 2024/5.

Parents will be receiving further information about the remaining Summer 2023 trips imminently, and then we will be moving onto the planning of the 2023/4 trips.

Please note that the 2023/4 and beyond trips are not yet in the planning stages, and are subject to change!

2022/2023

Month	Trip	Year groups	Approximate Cost
December School holiday	Austria (Skiing)	8 - 13	£1150
April School holiday	Portugal (golf/tennis)	7, 8, 9, 10 and 12	£1000
June Term time	Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions	9	£430
July Term time Activities Week*	Dorset (Outdoor Education)	7 and 8	£445
	Normandy (History and culture)	9 and 10	£600
	Location to be confirmed (Service learning)	12	TBC
July Summer holiday	Bryanston School, Dorset (Multi Sports)	7, 8, 9 and 10	£650

*Non-residential excursions will be available for those who do not wish to go on a residential

2023/2024

Month	Trip	Year groups	Approximate Cost
September	York (2 days, 1 night)	12	£150
	France (2 days, 1 night)	7 & 8	TBC
October Half term holiday	Silicon Valley	10 - 13	TBC
December School holiday	Europe (Skiing)	8 - 13	£1150
April School holiday	Portugal (golf/tennis)	7, 8, 9, 10 and 12	£1000
May Term time	France (language immersion week)	9, 10 and 12	£700
June Term time	Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions	9	£430
July Term time Activities Week*	UK (Outdoor Education)	7 and 8	£445
	World War One Battlefields (History)	9 and 10 12	£600
	Europe (Service learning)		TBC
July Summer holiday	Bryanston School, Dorset (Multi Sports)	7, 8, 9 and 10	£650
July Summer holiday	UK/Europe based choir tour	All	TBC

*Non-residential excursions will be available for those who do not wish to go on a residential

2024/2025

Month	Trip	Year groups	Approximate Cost
September	York (2 days, 1 night)	12	£150
	France (2 days, 1 night)	7 & 8	TBC
October Half term holiday	Trip TBC – perhaps Iceland, or Athens	10 – 13	TBC
December School holiday	Europe (Skiing)	8 - 13	£1150
April School holiday	Portugal (golf/tennis)	7, 8, 9, 10 and 12	£1000
May Term time	Spain (language immersion week)	9, 10 and 12	TBC
June Term time	Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions	9	£430
July Term time Activities Week*	UK (Outdoor Education)	7 and 8	£445
	Paris (Cultural)	9 and 10	£600
	Europe (Service learning)	12	TBC
July Summer holiday	Bryanston School, Dorset (Multi Sports)	7, 8, 9 and 10	£650
July Summer holiday	UK/Europe based choir tour	All	TBC

*Non-residential excursions will be available for those who do not wish to go on a residential