



# NEWSLETTER – 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

## MESSAGE FROM MR CRAIG McCORMICK, ASSISTANT HEAD (ACADEMIC)

When I was thirteen, I always complained that I never received any mail. My family told me I should consider myself lucky because the only mail they received were bills. After weeks of listening to me drone on about it, my grandmother sprang into action. One day, despite the fact that I lived with her in her house, I got a letter from her. She had mailed it from her office eight kilometres away.



This began a pen pal correspondence which lasted years. I would mail my letters to my grandmother's office, and she would mail her reply back to me from her office to the home we shared alongside my grandfather and my brothers. We wrote about many things. We discussed politics, my schoolwork, and of course, the rate of my weekly allowance. I loved having a pen pal; I looked forward to her letters. That was when I was thirteen.

Today I am hurtling towards middle age at a rate of knots. My grandmother finally retired when she was 77 and returned to the UK to see out the rest of her life in the country in which she was born. By this time, I had not only left home, but also graduated from university and moved to the UK too. One time, I was visiting my grandparents and my gran handed me a box. She had been clearing out in her last house move and came across a bundle of letters. These were the letters I had written her as a boy and as a young man. I spent the next day reading through all of them. One said, "Thanks for the four-dollar allowance, it'll do for now until I need some more". Another one asked about an election result. It said, "Will Jean Chretien end up being Prime Minister for the rest of my life?".

I was quite a shy boy in my early and mid-teens and not one to express a lot of emotion. One letter I wrote had a PS. It said, "Thank you for always looking out for me". As I read through the letters, I pictured her back then. A clerical worker, making the best out of a modest salary, supporting members of our family on quite meagre earnings, but taking precious time, and the initiative, to make her eldest grandson feel important.

The power of simple, written words goes so far, and it was with this in mind that Mount House School celebrated World Book Day this year. Away from the showy nature of dressing up as favourite book characters, it was also an opportunity to discuss the literature that we enjoy, that influenced us, and in some cases, shaped our characters and maybe some of the decisions we made. I am currently reading *A Village in the Third Reich* – a bottom-up

approach to life in Hitler's Germany – as an historian, I obviously recommend it, but it provides an interesting insight into how ordinary people reacted and were affected.

All of us are, subconsciously, writers. That doesn't mean that we have a bestseller on the shelves at Waterstones, or a blog with hundreds of thousands of views. We write texts, we write essays, we write emails, shopping lists, and vacation plans. The Mount House community writes in over thirty languages. All of this writing, no matter how frivolous one might consider it, is a permanent record of activities - thoughts and attitudes, important or throwaway, positive or negative, loving or insulting. We are all guilty sometimes of hastily writing unwise words in an emotionally charged situation. That record, particularly if written in any online format, can never go away. Paper can be recycled and turned into tomorrow's magazines, but words are etched in our memories forever.

The written word matters, and whether that be in a hastily typed email, a Snapchat, or even purloined office stationary in the 1990s, those words should always be chosen carefully.



## HOUSE FOCUS

Every week in March we'll be hearing from our Heads of Houses and Student Head of Houses. This week it's Everest's turn.

Something interesting about Everest House is that they discussed this week whether they should change the name of the House. Mount Everest was named after Sir George Everest, an Englishman and former Surveyor General of India. The House of Equality club here at school has been looking into a possible name change, so watch this space...



**Mr Whitehouse** is the Head of House.

He's been teaching Music here for six years and has been Everest's Head of House for five years. He runs a variety of co-curricular music clubs and founded The Phantoms, our school rock band.

Everest has won lots of competitions over the years, and Mr Whitehouse lends his expertise to the performance side of House competitions, where Everest is the most successful House.

Mr Whitehouse says, "It's a brilliant House and I've always had great Student Heads of House to assist me".

**Elise Akman** is the Student Head of House.

*I am taking A level English Literature, Art and Psychology. I hope to study Law in the future after leaving Mount House. My favourite subject has been Psychology, as you do a lot of deep analysis into case studies. Mount Everest is a strong house that has a reputation for winning, and I have participated in organising different events.*

**Irene Damianos** is the Student Deputy Head of House.

*I'm studying Biology, Chemistry and Photography for A levels and want to be a dentist. Biology is my favourite subject. I came to Mount House a year ago, and love walking around the school to get my daily steps up.*



## P.E. REPORT

### Lessons

This week in PE our Year 7, 8 and 9 students have completed their orienteering topic, and some have started tennis. The first tennis lesson focused on co-ordination and good communication while working in pairs.

### Games

This week Year 7 and 8 had a road safety chat during the first hour of games. During the second hour the students had the option to participate in outdoor games or team-building activities. Year 9 and 10 continued with football, golf, hockey and basketball. Year 11 and Sixth Form participated in invasion games, trampolining and finishing with some Just Dance. Year 11 boys played in a football match against Latymer School.

### Fixtures

13.3.23 - U15 Football vs Latymer at home  
 14.3.23 - U13 Football vs Latymer away  
 15.3.23 - U13 Football vs Keble Prep at home

### Athletes of the week

Year 7: Romario Stravrou  
 Year 8: Nathan Obi-Ezekpazu  
 Year 9: Nathan Munemo  
 Year 10: Robert Harris  
 Year 11: Marissa Antoniou  
 Sixth form: Luke Davidson

## SIXTH FORM AND FRIENDS OF MOUNT HOUSE CHARITABLE AUCTION



We are excited to announce that Year 12 have joined forces with Friends of Mount House and are holding an 'Auction of Promises' on the evening of Friday 12th May 2023. As part of this student enterprise, we are looking for parents to support this venture with offers of auction lots to help us raise funds.

The proceeds of the auction will be split between the IRC's Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal, a charity chosen by the 6th Form, and Friends of Mount House (FOMH). FOMH supports the school in working to enhance our children's education and school experience by engaging in extra-curricular activities and providing additional facilities or equipment.

In this week's attachments is a letter how you can help. Details of how to secure tickets for the event will be available closer to the time.

Thank you for your support.





## SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING - FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023 AT 8.30

### In attendance:

- Year 7: Ben Wrightson, Jake Hargreaves, Max Cute  
 Year 8: Hari Chowdhary, Selin Sarayli  
 Year 9: Rina Antwi-Agyei, Calypso Malialis  
 Year 10: Micheal Miltiadous, Krrish Patel, Ruzgar Suyur, Reuben Ward  
 Year 11: Darcie Dudding, Hailey Boakye, Aoife Thompson, **Iman Salam (Minute Secretary)**  
 Year 12: Rosa Scott-Tatam  
 Year 13: **Mara McNally - Chair**

Apologies for absence of Sophia Koumourou

### **Mr Allman - Facilitator**

The school council representatives have been appointed by their year groups to represent the voices of the students within the school.

Mr Allman provided feedback in relation to the previous minutes and Council suggestions especially in regard to yellow and red cards.

### Points discussed during meeting:

- Some reps reported that students are not happy with the changing rooms. Could changing rooms be improved?  
**Head's response: The changing rooms will eventually become an actual building and a permanent sign will be made for the girls' changing room.**
- Year 10 reps raised the issue of boys having to wear ties as girls are not expected to wear the new green skirts.  
**Head's response: The uniform is gender neutral so skirts can be worn by everyone, just like ties when a student (of any gender) is wearing a shirt.**
- The issue of the boys' toilets was discussed. Some felt the loos need to be cleaner and improved as a toilet seat was on the floor.  
**Head's response: They are cleaned every day so the only way it can be improved is for students to respect their environment.**
- **Year 10 and 11** reps want the Head to review the decision about mobile phones. They feel that it would help them in the classroom and with revision.  
**Head's response: This will not be changing as the school is constantly dealing with phone issues and not using it in school limits the phone problems. It is also seen as a distraction. The downsides outweigh any advantages.**
- Would it be possible for students to take out sandwiches and tuck shop snacks especially during exam time?

**Head's response: This is being considered for year 11 and sixth form students only on a trial basis.**

- The halal option that the council requested some months ago has still to be put in place to become an inclusive school.

**Head's response: Please could council members conduct a school-based survey on who would prefer to eat chicken or beef over pork sausages? The halal kosher option is being reviewed.**

- A discussion took place about how we can stop footballs being lost so often. A proposal was put forward that the MUGA should have a net put over it.  
**Head's response: This is not practicable as this would hinder the MUGA being used for different sports such as tennis and netball.**
- It was agreed at the council that **Iman, Aoife and Hailey** will now represent the council with a monthly meeting with the Head to discuss the school council minutes. All School Council ideas/ suggestions will be taken to the Head.

**Meeting finished 8:55am**

**Next meeting scheduled - March 17th**

Minutes taken by **Iman Salam**.

## BAKING CLUB

This week, students were definitely challenged preparing different elements for their lemon and berry streusel muffins. Students had to pay particular attention to the recipe and instructions as one wrong move would have seen sinking muffins. Overall, there was success with the end result being tasty streusel muffins.



The recipe for Jammie Dodgers next week is on the website here:

<https://www.mounthouse.org.uk/co-curricular/clubs-activities/>

## BARNET DANCE FESTIVAL

On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March, 14 Year 7 dancers performed at the Barnet Dance Festival alongside 13 other local schools. The girls had a long day... which started with a morning of rehearsals and adding final touches to their costumes at school, then at lunchtime we took a coach over to the Arts Depot in Finchley, where a full dress and tech rehearsal took place.

The girls really enjoyed seeing other schools perform and cheered everyone on. Once we had finished the tech run, all 14 schools were called onto the stage to learn the finale. This was great, with over 200 children on the stage, ranging from 4-16 years old. Finale learnt, we took the girls out for some fresh air and to get a quick snack to refuel them for the show ahead.

The curtains opened at 6pm and the girls were called to side stage at 6:30pm. There were lots of nervous but excited children itching to get on stage! Once the girls finished their routine, as they ran back down to their dressing rooms, the adrenaline rush was clear to see! Finally, they were called back up stage side to do the finale.

The girls were incredible! I am so proud of them. Each and everyone of them performed amazingly and I hope they enjoyed the day as much as I did. I could not have done show day without the help of Mrs Kelly and Ms Dawson who helped me with navigating the day and getting everyone on and off stage successfully.

Thank you all and a HUGE well done... until next time!  
Miss Wooldridge









## UPCOMING DATES

Monday 13th March	House Leadership Election 08:30
13 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Y7 - 9 Science Week
13 <sup>th</sup> March	U15 Boys Football Fixture 13:30
Tuesday 14th March	SEN Parents' Coffee Morning 08:30
14 <sup>th</sup> March	U13 Boys Football Fixture 13:30
Thursday 16th March	RSE Day
Friday 17th March	FOMH Meeting 08:30
17 <sup>th</sup> March	Sixth Form Parents' Coffee Morning 08:30
20 <sup>th</sup> March	Mount House will be celebrating Neurodiversity Celebration Week
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	end of term 16:00





EASTER HOLIDAY GOLF

# **JUNIOR EASTER GOLF CAMPS**

Run throughout the easter holidays  
with PGA Professional Beth Scott  
and Assistant PGA Professional Joe  
Goodall



## **DATES AND TIMES**

**TUESDAY 4TH APRIL - 10AM-2PM**  
**THURSDAY 6TH APRIL - 10AM-2PM**  
**TUESDAY 11TH APRIL - 10AM-2PM**  
**THURSDAY 13TH APRIL - 10AM-2PM**

**£50 PER DAY (DISCOUNT FOR  
MULTIPLE DAYS)**

**ALL EQUIPMENT INCLUDED  
LUNCH INCLUDED**

**LOTS OF PRIZES TO BE WON!  
4-16 YEARS OLD**



**TO BOOK A PLACE PLEASE EMAIL BETH  
ON [BETHSCOTTGOLF@OUTLOOK.COM](mailto:BETHSCOTTGOLF@OUTLOOK.COM)**