



NEWSLETTER – 17TH MARCH

MESSAGE FROM MRS HILLCOAT-HYDE, ASSISTANT HEAD

Each person has a brain that is unique to them; no two brains are quite the same and there is no 'standard' brain against which our brains can be compared to. For over a million people in the UK the wide range of natural variations of the brain affect the way we think, interact and process information, all factors contributing towards the way in which we experience the world.



Neurodiversity describes the concept that everyone's brain is different, and that these differences are not negative, but can in fact be beneficial and should be recognised and respected just like any other human variation. The brain is the most complex organ in the body, so a 'one-size-fits-all' approach to thinking and learning isn't always realistic.

"Daffodils, roses, lilies, daisies, orchids – all different and all beautiful..... We do not consider any one type of flower superior to any other. We do not try to make the rose more daffodil like because we consider daffodils the best sort of flower. Flowers are not expected to be the same; this natural variation is accepted and celebrated as part of biodiversity."

Victoria Honeybourne: The Neurodiverse Classroom

There are hundreds of thousands of different flower species, and we recognise they all need different environments to thrive. Yet when it comes to education, it's long been the assumption that all young people will benefit under the same environment and teaching styles linked to a "one-size-fits-all" model. To change the way learning differences are perceived Siena Castellon founded Neurodiversity Celebration Week in 2018. She said:

'...as a teenager who is autistic and has ADHD, dyslexia, and dyspraxia, my experience has been that people often focus on the challenges of neurological diversity. I wanted to change the narrative and create a balanced view which focuses equally on our talents and strengths.'

Siena set out a worldwide initiative 'Neurodiversity Celebration Week' with the purpose to help the world to understand, value and celebrate the talents of neurodiverse minds, with a mission to change the narrative. Working together with schools, universities and organisations the initiative aims to:

- Increase acceptance
- Provide education
- Celebrate neurodiversity



At Mount House we recognise the differences within our school community. We encourage a culture and community of acceptance through educating our students and through celebrating the strengths and talents of our individual students. Neurodiversity matters to us because we want our students with their different abilities and needs along with their unique minds to develop resilience, determination and be rewarded and recognised for their hard work.

We will add to the work already being done in school by celebrating Neurodiversity Celebration Week next week, starting with whole school assembly on Monday morning, where we will:

- Identify some of the names given to these differences (ADHD, Autism, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia and Tourette's syndrome)
- Discuss the work of some amazing individuals who are neurodivergent.
- Address how we can make someone's day and how we can make a positive difference to someone who may be having a difficult time.

This will be followed by welcoming all students to take part in a variety of activities being organised during of the week (please see timetable of activities below). Whilst students take part in activities, we want them to celebrate not only their own work but the work, strengths and achievements of others.

It is important to recognise that neurodivergent individuals can and have changed the world. We typically think of those individuals who have the greater impact on the world as super-individuals who have extraordinary power and expertise. However, thinking and seeing the world differently can be a super-power. For Greta Thunberg, having Asperger's syndrome helped her in life by being able to see things differently than most people. Richard Branson attributes many of the skills he required to become a successful entrepreneur to dyslexia. Considered 'incapable of learning' when he was at school, *Bill Gates* established Microsoft, one of the biggest and best innovation organisations on the planet. As educators, these examples remind us that the students with differences in our classrooms may be the ones to make the crucial discoveries or the key decisions for our world in the coming decades. We enjoy celebrating the curiosity and creative thinking of our students in our everyday teaching and look forward to the magnificent achievements our students will make now and in the future.

DAY	MORNING	LUNCH	AFTER SCHOOL
MONDAY 20th	Assembly	Sewing in the HIVE Year 10: visually impaired football (courts)	Tuesday - Thursday Visually impaired activities during sports clubs.
TUESDAY	08.00: colouring in the HIVE	All students: Strategy board game (library)	
WEDNESDAY		Year 7 & 8: visually impaired football (courts) Colouring in the HIVE UNO in the HIVE	
THURSDAY	08.00: colouring in the HIVE	Year 9: visually impaired football (courts) Inspirational Person Activity	
FRIDAY		Visually impaired house football competition Sitting volleyball house competition	



BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 2023

Science Week is a wonderful opportunity to explore parts of science which go beyond the normal school curriculum. Students are given the chance to build, to create, to research and explore the many career opportunities that they could pursue as a scientist.

Poster Competition



The British Science Week poster competition is always a favourite amongst Mount House Students. This year's theme was Connections. Students have one more week to complete their posters, either in lessons or at home. Students can submit as many posters as they wish but the school can only submit five entries to the British Science Association. Students must submit their posters to a science teacher by Friday 24th March.

Paper Gliders

Brooklands Museum has issued a challenge to students to create their own paper gliders.

Students created a paper glider that comprised of:

- 1 sheet of A4 paper
- 1 small piece of blue tack
- 2 skewers
- 1 straw
- Tape

The goal was to build the glider that could travel the furthest. Many of the designs were so good that we had to open the doors to the hall to allow students enough room to demonstrate the true flight length of their amazing creations. Year 9 did so brilliantly that we set them a second challenge of making a paper rollercoaster for a marble.



Morse Code

Students learned the basics of Morse Code using a torch.



Letters are signalled through a series of “dots” and “dashes”. A dot is a short one-beat signal and a dash is a long three-beat signal. Challenge yourself to learn morse code at home as part of your science week homework.

A	• —	U	• • —
B	• • • —	V	• • • • —
C	• — • —	W	• — • —
D	• — • •	X	• — • — • —
E	•	Y	• — • — • —
F	• • — •	Z	• — • — • —
G	• — —		
H	• • • •	1	• — — — —
I	• •	2	• • — — —
J	• — — —	3	• • • — —
K	• — • —	4	• • • • —
L	• • — —	5	• • • • •
M	— —	6	• • • • • •
N	• — —	7	• • • • • • •
O	— — —	8	• • • • • • • •
P	• — — •	9	• • • • • • • • •
Q	• — • — —	0	• • • • • • • • • •
R	• — • —		
S	• • • —		
T	• — —		

The Environmental Impact of Food

Students explored the wider environmental impact on the production of the food we eat. They had to work out how their weekly diet contributes to their carbon footprint.



Smashing Stereotypes

Students read about many people who were smashing the stereotypes associated with what a scientist looks like.



Mrs. Di Dio ended the week with a wonderful assembly celebrating all we accomplished during British Science Week. She also officially announced that Mount House School would be taking part in the **Step Into the NHS** competition. Students have been challenged to create an advertisement for a role in the NHS. The best ones will be used in an actual campaign to get more people to take up a career in the NHS.



All advertisements need to be submitted electronically to a science teacher by Friday 21st April. See Show My Homework for more details.

Mrs. Kazim also announced the students who won an award in this year's British Physics Olympiad.

Special congratulations to the students with the top results:

Zac Webster	gold
Nancy Ansell	silver
Ava Athwal	silver





P.E.

Core:

Over the last week KS3 students have been playing tennis. Year 7 and 8 have focused on familiarisation of the racquet and control of the ball, moving onto relays and forehand shots. Year 9 students focused on positioning of the body and footwork, which allows them to have more control and precision on their forehand shots.

Over the next week we will be moving onto backhand and serving. Keep your eyes peeled for the MHS School Wimbledon Tournament happening after Easter.

Games:

In Year 9 and 10 Games, the majority of boys went to the field for a fixture against Latymer. The remainder of students participated in team sports on the courts.

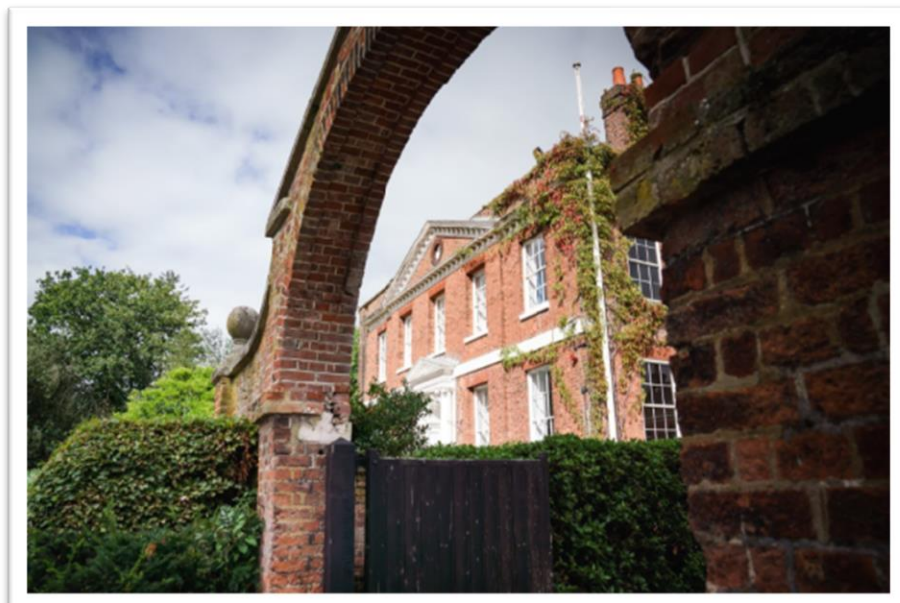
In Year 7 and 8 Games, the boys represented the school away at Latymer for a football fixture. The rest of the students participated in table tennis, trampolining and ended with some Just Dance in the hall.

Fixtures Next Week:

Tuesday 21st March U13 and U15 Boys 6-a-side football tournament at LVS Ascot

Athletes of the week:

Year 7	Chloe Miltiadous
Year 8	Tom Gray
Year 9	Junior Gyami
Year 10	Leon Gradica
Year 11	Haydyn Carne





HOUSE FOCUS



Every week this half term we've been hearing from our Heads of Houses and Student Heads of Houses. This week it's Olympus' turn.

Meet Miss Buckland, Head of House.

Since joining Mount House in September 2022, I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the Olympus family.



When the opportunity came up to become Head of Olympus, I jumped at the chance. Since taking over the House I have made it my mission to make sure everyone gets involved in some aspect and we are now winning some stars!

I am very proud of the students who get involved every week and try their best. Check out the Olympus House Board where we showcase our students during the House events. Hopefully we can continue adding stars to our board.

I am a PE teacher here at Mount House, specialising in trampolining. I run netball club and trampolining co-curricular clubs for all years. I am very excited for my first school trip to Portugal in the Easter Holidays.

Meet Kat Taylor, Student Head of House



Which A levels are you studying?

English Literature, Textiles, Classics and Business French.

What do you hope to study at university?

Classical Civilisation.

How long have you been at the school?

Since year 7.

What's your favourite place at school?

The textiles room and the sixth form common room - I find these two places the most relaxing and enjoyable as I can talk to my friends as well as get work done.

What does Olympus House mean to you?

It means being a part of a community and working with the younger years.



HOUSE COMPETITION

On Friday 10th March, students across the Houses took part in a variety of activities organised by the Learning Support Team. Opportunities included taking part in a sitting volleyball tournament, a visually-impaired football tournament, games of UNO and sewing. It was great to see students throughout the school developing new skills whilst undertaking activities that were new to some of them and although it was a House Competition, there was great team spirit within Houses and towards other Houses.

Some of these activities will be repeated for Neurodiversity Week next week.

The overall results combing all activities from the lower and upper school are:

1 st	Everest & Rushmore
2 nd	Olympus
3 rd	Chimborazo





BAKING CLUB

This week students have enjoyed the challenge of making jammie dodgers of all shapes and sizes. Baking was broken down into two elements: making the dough for the biscuits, followed by making the strawberry-flavoured butter cream. Students are definitely more aware of timings when baking and majority of biscuits were completed at school, with a few needing to be assembled at home due to not cooling down in time.



We look forward to making our Easter brownie bites next week.

INGREDIENTS

175g butter
 150g dark chocolate
 250g light brown soft sugar
 85g self-raising flour
 50g cocoa powder
 3 large eggs
 100g milk chocolate chips
 24 mini chocolate eggs, plus extra to decorate



CAREERS

The British Army is holding an insight day for all students interested in becoming an Army Officer on **Wednesday 12th April** at **The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst**.

Please click on the link below for more information.

[Regular Army Officer Insight Day - Registration Questionnaire](#)

SIXTH FORM AND FRIENDS OF MOUNT HOUSE CHARITABLE AUCTION



Year 12 have joined forces with Friends of Mount House (FoMH) 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 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.



UPCOMING TRIPS

Mrs Da Rocha is leading a trip to **Morocco** in December 2023. Please see the letter sent out on 10th March for details of the trip and how to sign up.

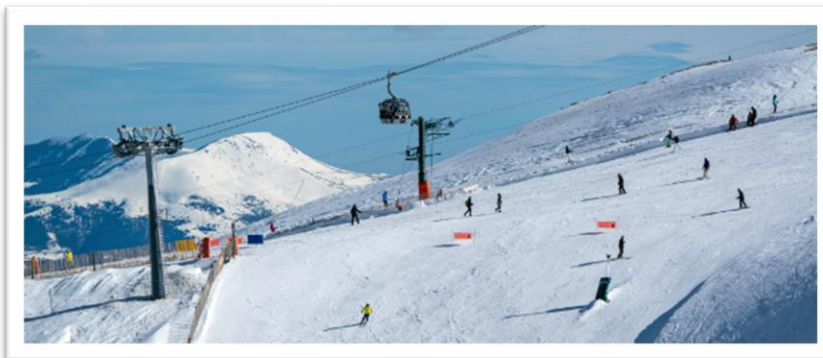


Cultural Tour to Morocco

17th – 21st December (5 days, 4 nights)
£1250 pp (based on minimum 40 students)



rayburntours.com



There is a school ski trip planned to **La Molina** (on the French-Spanish Pyrenees border) in December 2023. Please see the letter sent out with this newsletter for details and how to sign up.

SCHOOL NOTICES

Equipment

Please can parents ensure students bring a pencil case with stationery to school every day. All students should bring pens, pencils, a ruler, an eraser and a calculator to school.

End of Term

Term ends at 4pm on Wednesday 29th March. Buses will leave at 4.15pm on Monday 27th, Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th. There will be no after-school clubs on Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th.



EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

ARTSY
The Creative School of Art

11TH & 13TH APRIL
EASTER HOLIDAYS ART WORKSHOPS

KIDS AGED 5-14 // 10:30AM-15:00PM

£40 OR £35 FOR SIBLINGS
(MESSAGE FOR SIBLINGS DISCOUNT)

PLEASE BRING A PACKED LUNCH, WATER AND WARM COMFY CLOTHES FOR YOUR CHILD IF THEY WISH TO ATTEND








07581489377 **BOOK HERE**
rtsy.contact@gmail.com

MYDDELTON HOUSE GARDENS, ENFIELD EN2 9HG

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