



NEWSLETTER – 16TH JUNE

MESSAGE FROM MR COOPER, SENIOR DEPUTY HEAD

Our message of the week in tutor times has been “Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out.” (Robert Collier). All of our students have taken exams of some form over the last few weeks. We of course wish the best of luck to the Year 11 and Sixth Formers taking GCSE and A Level exams, and it must be said they have been a credit to themselves and the school with how they have conducted themselves in the exam hall.



However, I would like to talk a little about why the exams for other year groups are taken at this point in the year too. Exams are often a subject of apprehension and anxiety, but they play a vital role in shaping student progress and fostering growth. My mantra for all assessments and not just exams (which you may have gathered from my article about the role of feedback earlier this year), is that they are NOT judgemental but rather *a step along the way* - albeit a significant one, especially for Year 10. So, here are the five key reasons the end of year exams exemplify this philosophy:

1. **Assessing knowledge and skills:** end of year exams serve as an effective tool to evaluate the students' understanding, which both the teachers and the individual students can reflect on and use to take the next steps forward.
2. **Promoting time management and study skills:** preparing for these exams means that students take the opportunity to organise their study materials, create study schedules and manage their time effectively. These essential skills go beyond exam preparation and extend to real-life situations.
3. **Encouraging revision and consolidation:** revision plays a crucial role in enhancing retention, reinforcing concepts, and identifying misconceptions. This consolidation of knowledge fosters a deeper understanding of the subjects, which for Year 10 in particular is key. Indeed, for many anxious Year 10s I have described GCSEs as a marathon, and Year 10 exams are the first half-marathon in the training regime. Remember: “Success is the sum of small efforts”.
4. **Cultivating resilience and overcoming challenges:** exams are challenges that teach students how to handle pressure, manage stress, and develop resilience. Another way to look at it is (for those students who perhaps have not given their all to studies in class and revision this year), that exams are a wakeup call: every lesson, every homework is an opportunity to progress and should not be missed: “Success is the sum of small efforts”. More positively for most of our students, exams are a reward



for all the challenges of study they have overcome this year with results they, as an individual, should be proud of.

5. **Preparing for higher education and beyond:** as students progress through their academic journey, they will encounter standardised tests, coursework, and professional certifications. By familiarising themselves with exam formats, time limits, and question styles, students gain valuable experience that will benefit them in future exams.

I suspect not all students are convinced by this, but as my studies have taught me... you should always end extended writing with a conclusion. So, end of year exams play a significant role in student progress by assessing knowledge and skills, promoting time management and study skills, encouraging revision and consolidation, cultivating resilience, and preparing students for future assessments. While exams can be stressful, they provide an opportunity for growth and development, equipping students with essential skills and experiences that go beyond the classroom. Exams are of course all about a balance and we encourage a school and home environment that emphasises the importance of balanced study habits, self-care, and maintaining a positive mindset.

Well done to everyone who has taken exams recently and thank you to the teachers for the mammoth marking regime.

Whether they have come out as your best results ever or if they have not gone as well as they could - think about the learning process.

The skills, learning, application, attitudes, and techniques you have got right and not so right along the way are what you should be reflecting on.





THE WIZARD OF OZ



With only a few days to go until our school production of *The Wizard of Oz*, excitement is mounting as the last rehearsals are underway and the final touches are added to the sets (see pictures) and costumes.

The play is based on L. Frank Baum's 1900 children's novel *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, and in 1939 was famously made into an Oscar-winning film starring Judy Garland. Songs like 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow', Dorothy and her ruby slippers, the yellow brick road, Toto the dog, the Wicked Witch of the East, the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, the Lion and the Munchkins are cultural references and characters we all know and love.

The Friends of Mount House will be having a bake sale before and after the play. If you would like to donate baked biscuits or cakes, please bring them in on the day (no nuts, please).

Please book your seats via this link for Tuesday 20th June

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mount-house-school-presents-the-wizard-of-oz-tickets-653749290727>

And via this link for Wednesday 21st June:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mount-house-school-presents-the-wizard-of-oz-tickets-653754245547>





PE UPDATE

During **Year 7 and 8 games**, a group of students came down to the fields where they were fortunate enough to meet Danilo Orsi, who plays as a striker for Grimsby Town in League Two. He answered questions from the students and even promised Santino he would use the celebration they made up together when he next scores!



Athletes of the week

- Year 7:** Abigail Atefi
Year 8: Lizzie Jones
Year 9: Oscar Michaels
Year 10: Emir Yurtseven and Rocco Manzi

Cricket Fixture against Wren Academy

U13 girls played against Wren Academy Finchley on Tuesday at Bartrams Lane. It was a lovely sunny day but unfortunately we lost by 10 runs! It was a great opportunity for both teams to get some experience playing in a competitive cricket fixture.

Player of the match: **Lizzie Jones.**



Primary School Cricket Festival



With the sun beating down, creating the perfect surface for the impending Ashes test between the old foes of England and Australia, Mount House School hosted our very own mini-Ashes for local primary schools.

The day started with the primary school teams being introduced to their Year 10 coaches and umpires.



The year 5 students really enjoyed their day with a big thank you to the year 10 coaches.



ISA Tennis Competition at Welwyn Tennis Centre

We arrived at Welwyn Tennis Club at 12:15 where we started warming up and practising. We were playing doubles so Ava and Sofie were the team for U15 girls, Harvey and Santi for U15 boys, Tia and Josie for U13 girls and Kimmi and Amirali for U13 boys. We played our matches against the following schools: Mill Hill, North Bridge House, St James and Braeside. Then we played for positions. The U15 boys came fourth, U15 girls came third, U13 boys fifth and U13 girls fifth. We had lots of fun playing tennis in the sun and meeting new schools.

By Sofie Bartek and Ava Adams Year 9





UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS

Tuesday 20 th & Wednesday 21 st June	Wizard of Oz school production
Wednesday 21 st & Thursday 22 nd June	Duke of Edinburgh expedition in the Chilterns
Tuesday 27 th June, 7-9pm	Summer Concert
Thursday 29 th June, 5.30pm	Parent, Student & Teacher golf competition at Old Fold Manor
Friday 30 th June	* Sports Day & Friends of Mount House Summer Fair
Monday 3 rd – Thursday 6 th July	Activities Week
Friday 7 th July	9.00 – 12.00 Speech Day and prizegiving Terms ends at 12.30

* Sports Day: parents are welcome to watch students take part in the track events from 11:00 – 12:45.

OPEN DAY AND THE ST MARTHA'S REUNION



On Saturday 24th June, there will be a whole school Open Morning from 9.00 – 12.00. All students should be available to come into school and help with tours for prospective parents.

That same afternoon in the Cedar Garden, St Martha's Old Girls and Sisters will be returning to the school to reminisce and reconnect. We are excited to welcome them back and will be providing refreshments and some nostalgic tunes for them to listen to.

If parents would like more information, please contact Charlotte at headspa@mounthouse.org.uk.

St Martha's Senior School for Girls was the name of Mount House before the school started admitting boys in 2017. You can find out more about the history of Mount House by reading this section on the website: www.mounthouse.org.uk/history.

SUMMER FAIR

The date of our annual **Summer Fair** is **Friday 30th June** from **2.30 – 4.30pm** in the school grounds after sports day. We really hope that as many of you as possible are able to attend, as it promises to be a fantastic event and a celebration of the students and the Mount House community.



Stalls will include a sweet jar stall, a hamper table, a bottle tombola, a second-hand uniform stall, a book stall, a Pimm's, Peroni and Prosecco bar, loads of fun activity stalls run by each House, a scavenger hunt, food vans and an ice cream van. Water, squash and an ice cream or ice lolly will be free for each Mount House student and member of staff, who will need it after running their socks off during sports day!

All the money raised will go back into the school to provide items like the outdoor tables and benches and more books for the library. However, the main reason for the fair is for us all to get together to celebrate the end of the year and have some fun!

The Summer Fair Committee has been hard at work coming up with ideas and plans for the day, but we do need your help for this to be the best day for the students. There's still time to bring in donations to place in the boxes in reception. We ask each child to bring in:

- A glass jar filled with sweets - remember no nuts and the sweets should be wrapped. The jar can be as big or as small as you wish and if you'd prefer not to fill the jar with sweets, some small toys or craft items are equally welcome (although sweets tend to be an easier option).
- A bottle – alcohol of course very welcome, but if you'd prefer a soft drink (for example if your child takes public transport/the school bus to school) then that will also be welcome. Please ensure that the bottle is within date and less than a year old.
- Any second-hand books which you no longer want to keep.
- If you have any old uniforms that no longer fit and you would like to donate, please wash and hand in to Sheila in reception.
- We are also asking for £5 to go towards this year's hamper. Please send by bank transfer or hand in cash to Sheila in reception.

If you are unable to donate any of the items listed above, but would still like to give something back to the school, you can always donate by clicking on this link <https://bopp.app/link/b2vtt> or QR code, to pay FOMH securely from your bank.

Thanks for all your help in making this event fun and successful.





MOUNT HOUSE
SCHOOL
INSPIRING EVERY INDIVIDUAL

MOUNT HOUSE SCHOOL PARENT, STUDENT & TEACHER GOLF COMPETITION

THURSDAY 29TH JUNE, TEE OFFS FROM 5:30PM

£40 PER PLAYING PAIR, WHICH YOU GET 9 HOLES EACH WITH FOOD AND
DRINK ON ARRIVAL.

TO TAKE PART YOU WILL NEED TO CREATE A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN YOUR CHILD
AND YOURSELF.

IN YOUR PAIR YOU WILL BE PLAYING A SHAMBLE FORMAT. THIS MEANS BOTH OF
YOU WILL TEE OFF, YOU WILL THEN SELECT WHICH BALL WAS BETTER AND BOTH
PLAY YOUR NEXT SHOT FROM THERE. THIS WILL CONTINUE UNTIL ONE BALL HAS
BEEN PUTTED.

THE COMPETITION WILL BE PLAYED OVER 9 HOLES, WITH THE WINNING PAIR
EARNING A TROPHY AND MEDALS.

PLEASE FOLLOW THE LINK BELOW, TO SIGN UP YOUR
ADULT AND STUDENT PAIR.

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/7VMQUP85EC47TMLA](https://forms.gle/7vMQUP85EC47TMLA)

IF YOU HAVE A STUDENT WHO DOES NOT HAVE AN
ADULT TO PLAY WITH, PLEASE EMAIL MR MATHER
(MATHERD@MOUNTHOUSE.ORG.UK) AND WE WILL TRY TO
FIND A TEACHER OR AN OLDER STUDENT FOR THEM TO
PLAY WITH.



The link to sign up is: <https://forms.gle/7vMQUP85eC47tMBLA>



BBC PROMS

The world-famous Proms run for eight weeks, from Friday 14th July – Saturday 9th September at the Albert Hall, and there's a huge range of programming, from Berlioz to Bollywood, large scale symphonic and choral work, to intimate chamber concerts and exciting Proms debuts.



There are also some events might appeal to our students, for example:

Horrible Histories – ‘Orrible Opera on Saturday 22nd July

Experience the very best of music's biggest, bloodiest and most dramatic genre, and discover the stories behind some of opera's best-loved tunes in the company of your favourite Horrible Histories characters, in the 30th-anniversary year of the books by Terry Deary, illustrated by Martin Brown. Join the English National Opera Chorus and Orchestra for this specially devised concert experience.

Fantasy, Myths and Legends on Monday 28th August

The BBC Concert Orchestra and conductor Anna-Maria Helsing recreate a host of classic fantasy soundtracks from film, TV and gaming – including music from the *Harry Potter* and *Lord of the Rings* films; TV's *Game of Thrones* and *His Dark Materials*, and Studio Ghibli's popular animations.

Relaxed Prom on Thursday 3rd August

BBC Proms relaxed performances are designed to suit individuals or groups who feel more comfortable attending concerts in a relaxed environment. There is a relaxed attitude to noise and audience members are free to leave and re-enter the auditorium at any point. There will be chill-out areas, where spaces are made for anyone needing a bit of quiet time before or during the performance.

National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain on Saturday 5th August

Drawn from the UK's finest teenage musicians, the National Youth Orchestra also performs Hindemith's jovial reworking of themes by Weber, before crossing the Atlantic for Copland's lyrical Symphony No. 3, which incorporates his much-loved *Fanfare for the Common Man* as a springboard for its final movement.

Manchester Collective on Saturday 19th August

The Manchester Collective presents an urban musical world: bright with neon light, tense with uncertainty.