



NEWSLETTER – 11th JULY

MESSAGE FROM MRS RICHARDSON, HEAD

This year on Speech Day we decided to abandon the traditional long speeches and instead break up my review of the year with some contributions from students. Please find below an adapted version of that review – apologies to those students, parents and staff who heard this on Speech Day, but I am incredibly proud of all these superb achievements and think they are worth repeating!



One of the most exciting aspects of this academic year has been the return of school trips. Trips re-started this time last year with Year 7 and 8 going to PGL and Year 9 and 10 to Paris. In October, students from Year 9 and above went to Berlin and at Christmas the ski trip went to Obertauern, in Austria. At Easter, the tennis players and golfers had a wonderful 5 days at Vale do Lobo on the Portugese Algarve and this week students have been to Dorset and Normandy. This term has seen some brave year 9s undertake their bronze Duke of Edinburgh award expeditions in the Chilterns, with many students finding themselves well out of their comfort zones. All survived! We look forward to further opportunities next year, with the New York trip in October.

In sport, Mount House students have represented the School in both team and individual sporting events. In the skiing competition, Milo Dodd came 3rd in U14 competition. In table tennis, Clement Cheng won the U16 competition and the U13 boys team came 3rd in the competition. In swimming, Isabella Dugdale came 5th in 50m breaststroke with a PB of 46.57. In Cross-Country, Theo Whitehouse came 7th and qualified for the national finals. In Tennis, the U15 girls came 3rd in the competition, and the U15 boys came 4th, U13 girls and boys came 5th. In football, the U15 boys reached the quarter finals and in Badminton, the U15 boys came 3rd. Students from years 7 – 10 have represented Mount House at Panathlon competitions.

Way back in September, students, teachers and even some brave parents enjoyed the sponsored Moveathon which was organised by the Friends of Mount House. The money raised was used to buy additional picnic benches and these have been well used in recent week. Another Moveathon is planned for next year, and the Friends of Mount House have suggested that each year group will be able to decide what they would like to spend the sponsorship money they raise on something they feel would be a something useful for their year. I am looking forward to some interesting suggestions!

For the second year, we hosted a primary schools' cricket festival, with year 5 students from 4 different primary schools joining us on Hadley Common for a day of cricket. This provided a wonderful opportunity for our Year 10 students to be sports leaders, and all those involved received much praise from the primary school teachers. Another highlight was a visit from a Tottenham Hotspur scout, and I congratulate the Luke and Zac Webster and Ruzgar Suyar who are still working with one of the Academy Scouts.

Mount House students also participated in the Barnet Dance festival for the first time, joining more than 50 other schools across 4 evenings of dance, with young people from the ages of 4-24 taking part. Having experienced this for the first time this year, we can't wait for next year.

Two weeks ago, we were treated to the Wizard of Oz as our annual school production. It was an absolute delight to see so many students take to the stage and they very clearly enjoyed the experience. For those of us who simply turn up to enjoy the show, it is easy to forget the enormous amount of work which goes into such a production, including the many weeks of evening and weekend rehearsals. Drama provides a wonderful opportunity for students to grow. Being on a stage means leaving your comfort zone and dealing with the pressure that brings.

It is always a treat visit the music room, mostly because you never quite know what sounds will be emanating. We have enjoyed plenty of music in assemblies this year, and have particularly enjoyed listening to Mrs Wong's chamber group and of course the Phantoms. The Summer concert, as ever, produced an eclectic mix for us to enjoy – I

suspect that there aren't many school concerts which finish with Jimi Hendrix! It is also wonderful to see every year 7, 8 and 9 music class participate.

In art, textiles and photography, students have enjoyed a trip to the Tate Modern. Isabella O'Rourke was awarded the first prize in the ISA art composition competition, for her wearable textile art entitled 'Growth and Evolution', inspired by close up views of mould and bacteria. Cross-curricular learning at its best!

In science, Y10 and Y11 students competed in the British Physics Olympiad competitions. These are national competitions that challenge able students to test their understanding and problem-solving skills, organised and administered from the Outreach Office of the Physics Department of the University of Oxford. In the Junior Physics Challenge, the top Mount House students were Alice Reekie, George Cotgreave, Lance Dudding and Robert Harris, all of whom achieved Silver Awards. Alice was 2 marks from achieving the Gold Award, and George just 3. Their scores were in the top 15% of the 11758 students that took part from 265 schools. In January, Y11 competed in another British Physics Olympiad competition, the Intermediate Physics Challenge. Zac Webster achieved a Gold Award in the first paper with an outstanding score and in the top 10% of the 5653 students that took part. Year 10 student Athena Demetriou entered the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, finishing in the top 65% in the country while competing against students in Years 11 and the Lower Sixth. Athena was just one mark short of the Copper award, and answered questions on A Level and University level chemistry. This year we have also actively participated in the Century Tech cup. I hope that parents are now aware of the Century tech app to which we subscribe on behalf of all our students as it provides a great platform for independent learning and practise, primarily in maths and science. Each week the students earn 'Nuggets' and special mention should go to Nathan Oloko, Renuk Yapa and Mona Vaseghi who amassed many nuggets over the course of the four-week challenge.

The Classics department has had a busy year with trips to British Museum and Bath, a talk from James Renshaw and Year 10 students visited Hadley Wood primary school to teach younger students. In Year 11, Lydia Frost-Tingling studied for her Latin GCSE as a lunchtime club, and we are delighted that from next year Latin will be back on the GCSE

curriculum as part of the timetable. Lydia also deserves a special mention for winning the Year 11 cup for academic excellence. Lydia is an incredibly modest but exceptionally hard-working student, and a true scholar. She has won her year group's academic cup every year for the past five years which is a truly exceptional achievement.

Having enjoyed a fantastic trip to Paris in June last year, the modern foreign languages department are for 2024 planning an immersion language trip for the students studying Spanish in Years 9, 10 and the Lower Sixth in May 2024. In addition to French and Spanish, we congratulate Mia Bushnell and Athena Demetriou in Year 10 for sitting their GCSEs in Japanese and Greek respectively, and also Thomas and Pedro Ferreira in Year 11 who took an additional GCSE in Portuguese.

There has also been day trip to Lords, a computing trip to Bletchley Park, a geography trip to Epping Forest, business trips to Business trips to Cadbury World and the Migration museum in Lewisham, and an English trip to Othello at the National Theatre.

Independent learning is strongly encouraged at Mount House, and this is epitomised by the HPQ and EPQ, essentially the academic equivalent of the Duke of Edinburgh award. Completion of these takes real commitment, and it was a real pleasure to hear from Emir Yurtseven about how he feels he has benefitted from undertaking an HPQ.

There have been a host of new co-curricular clubs this year, including the Cryptocurrency Club, an enormous amount of baking in the new Food Tech room and a scrabble club as well as some of the old favourites such as Varsity which continues to be a wonderful haven for thought provoking debate and discussion. In Robotics, Y7 students Jasmine Price and Purity Sigei with Lower Sixth student Rosa Scott Tatam have been our first all-female robot team at Mount House. They have been fantastic role models and have built an entire robot from scratch.

We have had a number of students who addressed the school via Speakers' Corner. One of the most notable presentations was by Jasmine Price and Purity Sigei in Y7 who brought to our attention the issues and ethical questions associated with animal testing and cruelty in the cosmetic industry, and was one of the most powerful and emotive Speakers Corner presentations ever.

It has also been a busy year in the houses. Almost every Friday lunchtime has seen a house competition, and the nature of those competitions has ranged academic subjects, sport, music and drama. In all, 5,110 House Points have been awarded this academic year – costing Mr Cooper many tuck shop tokens! The top student with 160 house points – and therefore 16 tuck shop tokens – is Purity Sigei. Following sports day, the house competition results were finalised; in 4th place was Rushmore, 3rd was Everest, 2nd was Chimborazo and 1st was Olympus

We have also enjoyed welcoming back St Martha's staff and alumni to Mount House. A number of staff and students attended a mass in Potters Bar in November, marking the final move of the sisters to their new home in Rottingdean, and it was a great privilege to see 140 now adults back here last weekend reminiscing about their experiences.

This year has also seen a growth in service learning. We all gain so much from putting others before ourselves, and I am delighted that Mount House students have risen to the challenge of this. In addition to the cricket festival, we have sent classicists to Hadley Wood primary, the librarians to Monken Hadley primary and just last week we had a day of activities for Monken Hadley primary school during activities in sport, textiles, cookery and science. My thanks to the sixth formers, the year 10s and the staff who supported this. In terms of charity, we had a wonderful response to the Turkish-Syrian earthquake appeal, the staff led by Mr Allman and Mr Gallagher give ongoing support to a local food bank and we have also raised money, very importantly, for a charity called SARI.

SARI - or Stand up against Racism and Inequality - is a charitable organisation supporting victims of hate crime. They aim to promote equality and good relations between people with protected characteristics, as defined by law. Promoting equality at Mount House is the aim of the House of Equality. This is a student led society, supported by Mrs Da Rocha and Mrs Allman. They meet regularly, and plan events which promote diversity within school. The highlight of this year was most certainly the Cultural Day in October, with a fashion show, dance, cultural foods provided by parents and cultural experiences led by teachers. The House of Equality have also given assemblies on International Women's Day and on Stephen Lawrence Day. I would like to thank Sorcha

Van Leeven, Hibiki Hashimoto, Sylvia Aliga-Rayond, Darcie Dudding, Lydia Frost-Tingling, Amara Vidale, Amalya Antwi-Agyei, Divine Aliga-Raymond, Hailey Boakye, Vani Patel, Olivia Astley and Timayo Ladipo for all they have done to organise these events

As we look forward to the next academic year, we have a busy summer ahead, with the builders already on site to start work on our 5th science lab, a new Product Design classroom and the creation of additional classrooms and new toilets. While all that goes on, and the teachers and students enjoy a well-deserved holiday, the non-teaching staff will be on-site, and I would like to say an enormous thank you to them: the Bursar, her finance team and the admin team work tirelessly to ensure that the school runs smoothly. Sheila and Maria do an enormous amount to support both staff and students. Last, but very much not least, my thanks to Chris and Danny - I don't know where we would be without them. They are the first to arrive and the last to leave. They clear up after us with remarkable good humour.

A huge thank you to all who have contributed to the success of the school this year. Thank you to the students who ensure that life for the adults at Mount House is never dull, thank you to parents who do so much to support both your children and the school, and particular thanks to the committee of the Friends of Mount House. I would also like to thank the teaching staff and the Board of Directors for all they do. I wish you all a restful and interesting summer, and look forward to hearing all about it when the students return in September.



PRIZE GIVING

On Friday 7th July, our school prizegiving celebrated the students' successes. Following the event, students, parents and teachers enjoyed tea and scones on the Cedar Lawn.

Congratulations to all the winners this year.

In years 7, 8 and 9 Form prizes are awarded to students who have made an outstanding all-round contribution to the school. These are students who have worked hard in lessons, and given their best. They have contributed to the wider life of the school through the co-curricular programme, and they have also shown the sort of community spirit which we value very highly. Form prizes were awarded to:

- 7ACH - Rania A, Tatiana M, Ben W
- 7FDI - Max C, Maria R, Purity S
- 7PBR - Yuna A, Isobel B, Jasmine P
- 8HWA - Ava G, Rohan K, Solu N
- 8SHA - Kasim M, Roshan M, Wako S
- 9DMA - Rina A, Anne B, Sophia S
- 9RVL - Ava A, Sofie B, Harvey T
- 9STR - Zana B, Junior G, Santi S

Year 10:

- Art - Carys J
- Biology - Robert H
- Business - Rocco M
- Chemistry - Athena D
- Classics - Lorenzo T
- Computer Science - Alice R
- Drama - Thibaut S
- English - Alice R
- French - Melisa R
- Geography - Reuben W
- History - Alice R
- Maths - Anna C
- Music - Joel R
- PE - Anna C
- Photography - Tiger H
- Physics - Lance D
- RE - Katherine C
- Spanish - Omaricha O
- Textiles - Fleur E



Year 11:

- Art - Marissa A
- Biology - Zak R
- Business - Ayan S
- Chemistry - Divine A
- Classics - Darcie D
- Computer Science - Joba J
- Drama - Jessica Y
- English - Aoife T and Lydia F
- French - Amelie G
- Geography - Amara V
- History - Lydia F
- Maths - George S & Aoife T
- Music - Charlene K
- PE - Amara V
- Photography - Stefan C
- Physics - Emily W
- RE - Timayo L
- Spanish - Amalya A
- Textiles - Jessica Y

Year 12:

- Art - Rosa S
- Biology - Rosa S
- Business - Olivia A
- Chemistry - Janan K
- Criminology - Luke D
- Classics - Aine S
- Computer Science - Newton Y
- Drama - Anastasia M
- Economics - Luke D
- Geography - Aine S
- History - Anastasia M
- Maths - Rosa S
- PE - Imogen M
- Photography - Kara K
- Psychology - Katie G
- Textiles - Imogen M

Year 13:

- Art - Lara P
- Classics - Katrina T
- Economics - Katrina T



- Geography - Hibiki H
- Maths - Hibiki H
- PE - Charlotte W
- Photography - Poppy C
- Physics - Charlotte W
- Politics - Mara M
- Psychology - Patrick C
- Sociology - Sophia K
- Textiles - Isabella O

Academic Excellence:

- Year 7 - Yaqub F
- Year 8 - Thomas G
- Year 9 - Oscar M
- Year 10 - Alice R
- Year 11 - Lydia F
- Year 12 - Luke D
- Year 13 - Isabella O
-

Contribution to school life:

- Sport - Krrish P
- Arts - Florence S
- Music - Kimi R
- Languages - Athena D

The Head's Award went to Head Girl Mara M

The Head's Endeavour Award went to Charlotte W



SPORTS DAY

What a fantastic week we had running Sports Day afternoons where students took part in standing long jump, shot put and javelin whilst gaining points for their Houses. This was topped off by the track events held on Friday 30th June, where students competed against their peers, earning points for their Houses.



It was amazing to see so many students involved and stepping in to fill gaps when needed.

The highlight of the day was the parent race, where six parents took part in the 100m race – well done to those involved.



The outstanding performance for each year group are awarded to the following students:

Year 7 female athlete:	Poppy N
Year 7 male athlete:	Kimi R
Year 8 female athlete:	Kerensa H & Lizzie J
Year 8 male athlete:	Milo D & Zidane S
Year 9 female athlete:	Rosie B
Year 9 male athlete:	Junior G
Year 10 female athlete:	Oma O
Year 10 male athlete:	Zak S



Outstanding contributions were made by those who jumped into events to gain points for the houses:

Year 7:	Jake H, Chloe M & Tatiana M
Year 8:	Hari C, Edie C, Ava G, Rohan K & Solu N
Year 9:	Sofie B, Zachary H, Amelia M, & Harvey T
Year 10:	Anna C, Lance D & Emily H

The winner of Sports Day 2023 is OLYMPUS!







SUMMER FAIR

During the school fair, Mount House students had the opportunity to play in a 5-a-side football competition, with Year 7 and 8 playing together and Year 9 and 10 playing together.

All students showed brilliant teamwork and sportsmanship.

Thank you to the FOMH for providing some footballs for the winning players.



ACTIVITIES WEEK

YEAR 7 AND 8 OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES RESIDENTIAL, DORSET

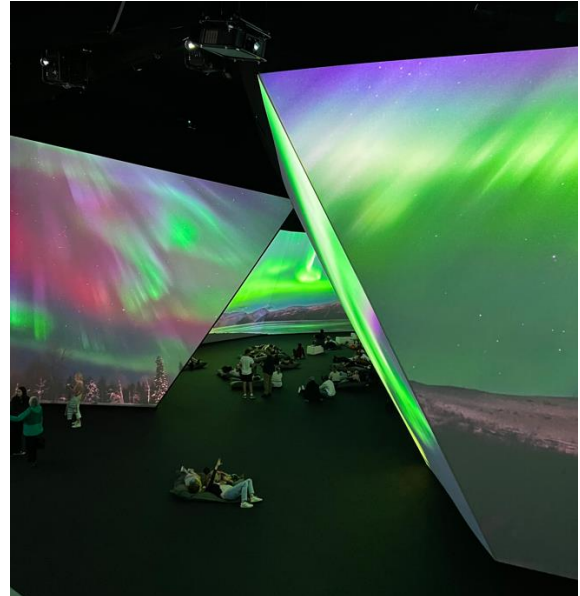


YEAR 9 AND 10 RESIDENTIAL, NORMANDY



YEAR 7 & 8 DAY TRIPS

Year 8 and 9 enjoyed their trips to The Globe Theatre, the Science Museum, the BBC Earth Experience and the National Gallery, where the students took part in a guided gallery tour.



PARENT & STUDENT GOLF COMPETITION

On Thursday evening 29th June, Mount House School hosted its inaugural parent and student golf competition at Old Fold Manor golf club.

This event allowed a wide range of golfing experience to take part.

Congratulations to Alice and Andrew Westmore for placing first.

This will become an annual event, so please keep a look out for our next tournament.





SAVE THE DATE!

Please could we ask parents to add **Saturday 30th September** to their diaries. This is the key admissions event for the school and the students are always the highlight of any visit, which I am sure you remember from your own visits on open mornings.

This half day event is considered a school day for all students and attendance is expected, between 8.45 am and 12.30 pm. In recognition, we offer students a half day at the end of the year at Christmas.

Intended highlights for the open event include:

- Year 7 choir performing
- Years 8 and 9 as tour guides
- Year 10 and 12 Food Technology demonstration
- Year 9 and 10 Debating
- Year 11 GCSE Drama mock rehearsal
- Year 11 GCSE PE moderation activities
- Year 12 and 13 Science demonstrations

PLUS, many other roles with other departments. We want to show the school off at its best and the students are what make it this.

Thank you for your support in ensuring your children are with us on that morning and full details of the times and plans will be with you early in the Autumn Term.



ART CLUB IN SUMMER HOLIDAYS



The Creative School of Art

SUMMER ART WORKSHOP DATES

KIDS AGED 5-13 // 10:30AM - 15:00PM

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FRIDAY 25TH AUGUST

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STAFF UPDATE

We say farewell this term to some staff: Mrs Phillips, Leanne, Miss Watkins, Mrs Hutchinson, Mrs Clarkson, Mrs Williams, Mrs Graves, Miss Gur and Mr Phillips. We wish them all every success as they move into new roles/retirement, and hope that they will keep in touch.

AND FINALLY...

We wish you all wonderful summer holidays and hope all our students who are expecting exam results receive the grades they deserve; and we look forward to seeing you on the first day of term.

For all new Year 7 students and all Lower Sixth students this will be **Tuesday 5th September**.

For all other students it will be **Wednesday 6th September**.