

NEWSLETTER – 6TH OCTOBER

MESSAGE FROM MRS RICHARDSON, HEAD

Over the summer, the Board of Directors signed off plans to improve the school's facilities. It was wonderful to be able to show these facilities to current and prospective parents during our Open Morning on Saturday, and I would like to thank all the students and staff who came into school on Saturday to help with that. We have had some wonderful feedback from prospective Mount House families about their experience, noting particularly the quality of the tour guides!



Thank you too to the members of the PTA who supported the Open Day and who organised a brilliant Moveathon yesterday. We are looking forward to the annual PTA Bingo Night on Wednesday next week, so parents do please support that if you can.

We enjoyed an excellent sixth form pathways evening last night, and it was a pleasure to see so many Year 11 students and their parents. We are really excited about the sixth form curriculum which will see the addition of the International Baccalaureate Careers Related programme alongside the A Levels and the Level 3 diplomas we already offer. Thank you as well to our current lower and upper sixth students who did a great job of talking to the year 11s about sixth form subjects.

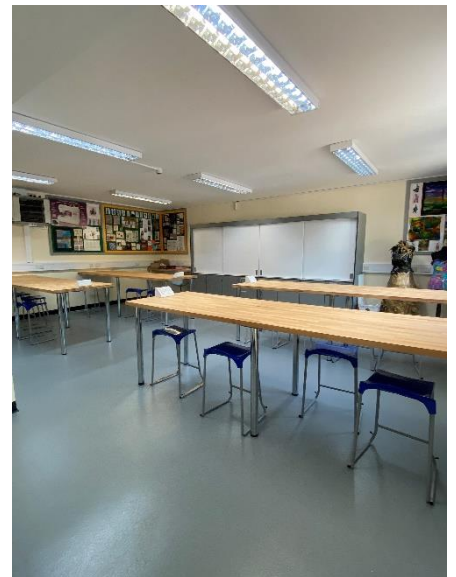


Over the summer we developed a new large science lab, fully equipped with fume cabinet so that we can do more practicals in science lessons.

We have the new Product Design/Textile room, a number of newly refurbished classrooms with new 'teacher walls' and we have put new touch screen Ben Q boards into almost every classroom.



Additionally we have new toilets – always important in a school!





I am delighted to confirm that following much planning and work on an enormous number of surveys, we have this week submitted a planning application for a new modular building on the northern edge of the site, to replace the current portacabins. In this building will be a new dining facility which will be joined to the Bethany extension through what is currently a maths classroom (which will become the kitchen).



The new building will also contain a classroom at the eastern end. The building will be linked by a corridor from Reception and there will also be new toilets. It is the intention to convert the current dining hall and kitchen into a new Art centre. We await the decision of the planners!



The inner courtyard will be upgraded with new benches and trees, to make it a relaxing and peaceful area for students.



OPEN DAY

Thank you to all students and staff who helped with the Open Day last Saturday. It was great to be able to show off our school to prospective parents and demonstrate all the brilliant lessons and activities we offer at Mount House.



CO-CURRICULAR

Clubs are in full swing, with students diving into diverse activities this week.

Trampolining Thrills:

Trampolining has become a favourite among students, providing them with the perfect platform to practise somersaults and execute stunning front and back drops. It's incredible to witness their aerial acrobatics as they defy gravity in a controlled and exhilarating manner.

Table Tennis and Badminton Battles:

Table tennis and badminton enthusiasts have been having a blast participating in friendly games. These activities not only promote physical fitness but also foster camaraderie and sportsmanship among our students.

Football Fever:

Football club has attracted students from all corners of the school. The focus here is on honing skills such as closed control, quick passing, and mastering the art of moving into open spaces. The dedication of our young footballers is truly commendable.

Scrabble Showdown:

The Scrabble club continues to thrive. Students in this club are expanding their vocabulary while attempting to outsmart the seasoned word wizard Mr McCormick.

Delicious Creations in Baking Club:

In the baking club, students have donned their aprons and whipped up mouthwatering flapjacks. The sweet aroma wafting from the kitchen is a testament to their culinary skills and creativity. This week's Star Baker is Nathaniel in Year 9.



Dancing into the Limelight:

Last but not least, our talented dance students are choreographing an exciting routine to the beat of "Hall of Fame" by The Script. The stage awaits their spirited performance, and we can't wait to witness their dance come to life.



xBox 360 Rock Band instruments:

Mrs Trickey & the members of the retro gaming club are on the hunt for instruments compatible with an Xbox 360 - specifically spare guitars and a set of drums - to enable group playing of Guitar Hero. We're also on the lookout for a copy of Rock Band.

If you have any items that are taking up space in a cupboard or your attic you'd like to rehome, please contact Mrs Trickey at Trickeys@mounthouse.org.uk



Parent Teacher Association
MOUNT HOUSE

We would like to thank all of the students who took part in the Mount House PTA Moveathon, making it a fun day for all. The students enjoyed all of the different exercise activities that that personal trainer Chris Antoni had for them to do over the 30-minute session. There was a healthy snack and drink for the children after their workout. It was fun seeing Mr Mather using the ropes again.

Students have until Friday October 20th to hand in their completed forms and sponsorship money raised. Please ask your son/daughter to hand these to their form tutors. Thank you for those who brought their sponsorship forms today. Students can still obtain sponsorship up to the 20th October.

We would also like to thank the games staff and Chris Antoni from Tailor Made Fitness who helped make this event possible.



There are still a few tickets available for Family Bingo Night next Thursday 12th October at 7pm. Doors open at 6:30. If you are interested in tickets, please contact Julie at MounhousePTA@mounhouse.org.uk

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING – FRIDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Held in the school library.

In attendance:

Rosa ST – Head Girl

Katie G – Minute Secretary

Reuben W – Admin Officer

Year 7: Isabella B, Vivienne B, Ali A

Year 8: Yaqub F, Jasmine P, Hasan J

Year 9: Henry D, Selin S, Lizzie J

Year 10: William A, Aaron G, Rosie B

Year 11: Anna C, Mia B

Year 12/13: Joba J, Darcie D, Aoife T, Freya C

Teacher Facilitator – Mr Allman

Meeting Started at 8:43 after school council photo.



Points raised and discussed:

1. A year 7 rep suggested that all school council members should have a school council badge. This was agreed by all present.

Head's Response: The Head agrees and thinks it's a great idea. Our Chair and Minute Secretary are going to work with Charlotte on ordering them soon.

2. Some reps raised a concern about gluten-free lunch options. The chair did respond saying dietary requirements will be considered.

Head's Response: The Head replied that jacket potato is the current guaranteed gluten-free option and she will ask Thomas Franks to review the choice.

3. A number of sixth form reps raised the issue of the furniture in the common room. Some reps wanted an upgrade in the furniture with more 'friendly sofas'

Head's Response: The Heads says that she will review this request in January.

4. A number of reps asked if the library could be used exclusively for studying/silent study. They wanted an area that they could work quietly in without any interference.

Head's Response: The Head said she is going to review the library bookings but there are five lessons per fortnight where the Year 7s and 8s occupy the room for reading.

5. A year 8 rep brought up the issue of the boys changing rooms being messy. The chair explained the mess was created by the students and they had to take responsibility for keeping their clothes off the floor and on a clothes peg.



Head's Response: The Head will have a look at the hole in the changing rooms and decide what she can do in response.

6. Reps raised the issue of the new student toilets in the halls. Some students felt uncomfortable in using these toilets as waiting students can hear 'everything'. Can this be addressed?

Head's Response: The Head will go look at the toilet situation. One solution might be to have music playing!

7. The issue of ventilation in the cooking room was brought to the attention of the council. The chair stated that windows can be opened to meet any concerns about ventilation. However, one rep said only one window can be opened in that room.

Head's Response: The Head will speak to Chris Heaney.

The Chair responded.

Meeting Finished at 8:55

Next meeting due to be held on **Friday 20th of October at 8:30** in the library.

Minutes by Katie G.

COFFEE MORNINGS

A wonderful opportunity for parents to get together, share ideas and challenges over a cup of coffee with Mrs Richardson in the Treetops restaurant.



Coffee mornings will take place in the Treetops restaurant from 08:30-09:30. Please find out when your year group's coffee morning is happening and secure your place by using the link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/coffee-mornings-2717599> . When you arrive, please sign in with Sheila at reception.

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