

NEWSLETTER – 20TH OCTOBER

MESSAGE FROM MR COOPER, SENIOR DEPUTY HEAD

We have today enjoyed our Cultural Immersion Day, expertly organised by the student-led House of Equality and Mrs Da Rocha, Miss Hassan and Mrs Allman. This represents an important moment to pause and reflect on our cultural understanding and inclusivity and celebrate the diverse community and world to which we belong.

One part of the day I was particularly keen to see was the series of workshops offered, which included “Smashing Stereotypes” in Science for Year 9, a discussion on “Cultural Appropriation v Cultural Appreciation” for year 11, and a detailed exploration of Benjamin Zephaniah's poetry 'The British' for year 8. These represented opportunities for some really deep and important questions that need to be understood and allowed for different perspectives discussed. But diversifying the school curriculum is of course much wider than such wonderful celebrations as today, and our teachers have been making significant changes to the curriculum in the classroom over the last 12 months to explore topics through a wider number of lenses.

Our understanding of a variety of cultures and traditions helps us all appreciate the world, as well as letting us think about our own perspectives and opening our minds. By ensuring that our curriculum is diverse in nature, we empower our students to navigate the complexities of the global landscape, fostering a deeper understanding of the world around them. This encourages empathy and respect and develops critical thinking. Exploring these themes within the school helps dispel stereotypes and prejudice, often giving students the tools for addressing bias head-on, and to challenge misconceptions which are all too easily influenced by the information age in which we live.

I have seen this first hand in my work on the council of the charity United World Schools. In this role over the last 15 years, I have been lucky enough to see UK based school students work with school students from indigenous communities in Cambodia, Nepal and Myanmar. The realisation from both sets of students of the wider world out there and the validity of their different knowledge systems is probably the most powerful moment of realisation I have witnessed, and it had a profound impact on those students. I therefore deeply believe that a well-rounded education encompasses not only academic knowledge but also a global perspective. Indeed, this is one reason we are so excited to now be a recognised IB World School, and we look forward to the threads of the IB philosophy around global citizenship to



help build our curriculum across the school, as well as be an option in Sixth Form as part of the IBCP pathway, which is offered alongside the A Level pathway. Understanding and appreciating diversity are integral components of a holistic education. It equips students with a broader outlook, helping them see the bigger picture and making them more informed and compassionate global citizens.

The world is a curious place with rich ideas, history and beliefs. As an historian, exploring these concepts has always been at the forefront of my education and it too sits at the centre of what we hope to achieve here at Mount House. Today was a lovely moment to celebrate this and share some of our most precious aspects of our thoughts, heritage and identity.

SCHOOL TRIPS



As well as the excitement of the New York trip in half term, there is another school trip coming up – the Geography Field Trip to Stratford in December, led by Ms Colet and Mr Mather.

A letter has been sent out to year 10 and 11 Geography GCSE parents today with more details.

SPEAKERS' CORNER

On Monday 16th October, Darcie in year 12 introduced Vivienne in year 7 to the whole school assembly.

Through Speakers' Corner, Vivienne addressed the school on the important issue of neurodiversity.

She spoke passionately and eloquently on the need for the wider public to understand and appreciate the importance of neurodiversity in our community and society. She explained and introduced the school to high-profile celebrities from the world of business politics, and sports who are neurodivergent.

Her brilliant speech was well received, gaining a fantastic round of applause from all present.

At the end of Vivienne's speech, Darcie explained that Speakers' Corner provides an invaluable opportunity to students from all years to address the whole school on any current issue or event about which they feel passionate.





PE

We would like to remind all years that the weather is continuing to descend into traditional British winter conditions, and as such a jumper/hoodie and a waterproof coat are very much recommended – the Year 7s and 8s will particularly understand the importance of this after Monday’s golf session.

In PE lessons, students applied their learning from previous lessons in volleyball matches. It has been great to see many students develop and demonstrate skills in what has been a new sport for most.

In Games, despite the aforementioned seasonal climate, games continue to be a chance for students to show off their skills. In particular, yesterday’s year 9 and 10 football group enjoyed using the fields after an absolute downpour. The extent to which the treacherous conditions improved performance is still up for debate.

Year 11 and 6th Form students, under the refereeing of Mr Van Leeven, played fast-paced basketball matches, ranking up some excellent scores.

Trampolining continues to be popular across the student body. Students are making progress at varying levels, with some developing basic skills and others developing more complex skills. The number of students who have mastered a front somersault this half term has been amazing!

Athletes of the Week:

Year 7:	Zachary C
Year 8:	Florence S
Year 9:	Saffron T
Year 10:	Will A
Year 11:	Oliver W
6 th Form:	Newton Y & Luke D

Match Reports: football

We played well but we lost 7-1. Zach scored an early goal to make it 2-1 but after half time we conceded 5 goals. Congratulations to Haileybury.

Written by Benji Bishop



FOOD TECHNOLOGY

This week in GCSE Food Technology the students created some Halloween shortbread biscuits. They have also been looking at the Harvest Festival and how different countries celebrate the Harvest Festival across the Globe. Today class 10FOO/C are creating a rice or noodle-based dish, focusing on their presentation skills.



The Food Technology department this week have been creating some baked goods for Culture Day. Mrs Moore made some scones, Imogen in year 13 made some Halloween themed cupcakes, Jessica and Sienna in year 12 created some Halloween shortbread biscuits and Miss Buckland made some Irish Soda bread. 9FOO/C helped Miss Buckland and Mrs Moore to create some cupcake cakes for Culture Day.

KS3 have been making Greek Salads.



CO-CURRICULAR

The sports facilities have been bustling with energy this half term as our young athletes have been honing their skills in various disciplines. In the world of **netball**, our talented players have been focusing on perfecting their shooting techniques and exploring different angles inside the D. Their dedication and hard work have certainly paid off as we witness remarkable progress in their gameplay. This week our **badminton** enthusiasts have been concentrating on an essential aspect of the game: sustaining rallies in doubles. With an emphasis on teamwork and coordination, our doubles teams have been sharpening their reflexes and communication skills, all in the pursuit of achieving new heights of excellence in badminton.



Meanwhile, the lunchtime **baking club** has been savouring the delightful simplicity of shortbread biscuits, their crumbly texture and buttery richness delighting the taste buds of our students; and the after-school club made chocolate chip cookies.

These baking clubs have not only been a platform for culinary exploration but have also fostered a sense of camaraderie and creativity among our budding chefs.



This week's Star Baker is Alexander in year 7.

As we continue to witness the dedication and passion of our students in both sports and culinary arts, we remain proud of their endeavours and look forward to more moments of triumph and taste bud tantalization.

HADLEY WOOD FIREWORKS DISPLAY

**HADLEY WOOD ASSOCIATION
FIREWORKS
Sunday 5th Nov 2023**

- FUNFAIR
- GOURMET STREET FOOD
- LICENCED BAR

VENUE:
HWA Centre,
1-7 Crescent East
Hadley Wood, EN4 0EL

Doors open: 4:30pm | **Fireworks start: 6:15pm**

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS:
£9 for HWA members
£11 non-members

• Bundle Offer: Buy 5 tickets for the price of 4!
• Children under the age of 3 FREE entry.

PLUS RAFFLE TICKETS
£5 per ticket
Available online

Sponsored by:
STATONS
www.statons.com

TICKETS ONLINE ONLY
www.hadleywood.org.uk
TICKETS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE ON THE DOOR

HADLEY WOOD ASSOCIATION