



# NEWSLETTER – 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

## MESSAGE FROM MRS TRICKEY, ASSISTANT HEAD

Our thought of the week this week has been **“I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.”**

In the dynamic world of ideas and opinions, we often find ourselves surrounded by a cacophony of voices, some of which may clash with our own beliefs. It's in these moments that the wisdom of Voltaire, a luminary of the Enlightenment era, rings particularly true: "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." Let's delve into this quote and explore how it resonates with us as students navigating the intricate landscape of diverse perspectives.

To fully appreciate Voltaire's words, we must transport ourselves to 18th-century France, a time marked by intellectual enlightenment but also rampant censorship. Voltaire, a staunch advocate for free expression, used this quote as a rallying cry against the prevailing forces that sought to stifle dissenting voices. It encapsulates the essence of a fundamental democratic principle: the right to express oneself without fear of persecution.

Now, why is this relevant to us, students of Mount House? In our daily lives, we encounter a plethora of ideas and opinions on a myriad of subjects, from the classroom to the digital realm. Voltaire's message challenges us to rise above the impulse to dismiss opinions that differ from our own. Instead of closing the door to differing views, let's open a window to constructive dialogue. By doing so, we contribute to an environment where diverse perspectives not only coexist but thrive.

Moreover, Voltaire's quote urges us to become advocates for free speech. As we embark on the journey to adulthood, we are preparing to step into a world teeming with diverse ideologies. It's our responsibility to defend the right of others to express themselves, even when we may vehemently disagree. This doesn't mean forsaking our convictions; rather, it calls for a commitment to upholding the principles that underpin our democratic society.

In essence, Voltaire's words encourage us to be active participants in the democratic process. We are not passive observers; we are the future leaders, thinkers, and decision-makers. By embracing the idea that we can disapprove of certain ideas while fiercely



defending the right to express them, we contribute to the cultivation of a society that values the richness of diverse thought.

As members of the Mount House community, let's engage in open, respectful discussions that challenge our preconceptions and broaden our understanding of the world. Let's be champions of free speech, fostering an environment where differing opinions are not only tolerated but celebrated.

In conclusion, Voltaire's timeless wisdom serves as a beacon guiding us through the complexities of our interconnected world. As we navigate the currents of diverse ideas, let's remember that in defending the right of others to speak their minds, we are fortifying the foundations of our democratic society.

Wishing you all engaging discussions, open minds, and a deep appreciation for the power of free expression.

## MR WHITEHOUSE ROCKS

Tomorrow evening in Claremorris Town Hall, Dublin, Mr Whitehouse will be giving it his all as the drummer in the extremely talented *Tribute to the Boss* band.

The band, which was formed about ten years ago, will perform some of Bruce Springsteen's biggest hits in front of thousands of fans.





## FACULTY NEWS: MATHEMATICS

On 3<sup>rd</sup> October, a group of our A Level mathematicians took part in the Senior Mathematical Challenge. This is a non-calculator, multiple-choice competition that draws in bright minds from across the country. The challenge aims to expose students to interesting mathematical problems and encourages creative problem-solving and critical thinking.

After the October break, we received the results. Congratulations to all students who took part, but particularly to Miku in Year 12 who achieved a Bronze Certificate. This places her amongst the highest achievers on the challenge and demonstrates her outstanding problem-solving ability.

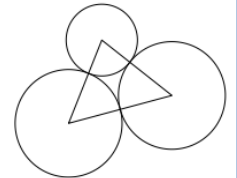
Feedback from our students has been positive. One remarked, "I didn't know much about the challenge, but I had a lot of fun trying it. It was about solving puzzles with ingenuity and the enjoyment that only mathematics can bring. Next year, I aim to improve!"

Should you wish to share in the students' experience, below are three of our favourite problems for you to try. Please feel free to email your solutions to Mr Toby for checking.

### Question 1

Three circles with radii 2, 3 and 3 touch each other, as shown in the diagram.  
 What is the area of the triangle formed by joining the centres of these circles?

- A 10      B 12      C 14      D 16      E 18



### Question 2

Wenlu, Xander, Yasser and Zoe make the following statements:

Wenlu: "Xander is lying."

Xander: "Yasser is lying."

Yasser: "Zoe is telling the truth."

Zoe: "Wenlu is telling the truth."

What are the possible numbers of people telling the truth?

- A 1 or 2      B 1 or 3      C 2      D 2 or 3      E 3

### Question 3

How many of the numbers 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 are factors of the sum  $2^{2024} + 2^{2023} + 2^{2022}$ ?

- A 1      B 2      C 3      D 4      E 5

## CENTURY TECH WINTER CUP

Congratulations to the whole school for another great week on Century Tech.



Our Top Ten students this week are:

1. Yuna A
2. Junior G
3. Tatiana M
4. Jesse S
5. Romario S
6. Isobel B
7. Erin J
8. Poppy N
9. Alexander H
10. Amari B

Well done and keep up the good work!

## PE

Physical Education and Games lessons have been dynamic and engaging this week. The variety of activities, from boxercise with Mr Mather to the focus on individual skills in trampolining and hockey, demonstrated a well-rounded approach to physical development. It is fantastic to see the students honing their skills in different sports like football, basketball and golf, whilst also learning valuable tactics and techniques.

Alicia's enthusiasm to take on the goalkeeping role in hockey is commendable.

Overall, it has been an exciting and productive week for the students' physical education journey.

### Athletes of the week

Year 7:	Aliah M
Year 8:	Alicia K
Year 9:	Thomas G
Year 10:	Amelia M
Year 11:	Michael M





## CO-CURRICULAR REPORT FROM MRS HILLCOAT-HYDE

The energy and enthusiasm radiating from various clubs this week at Mount House School were nothing short of inspiring. As I had the opportunity to visit these diverse clubs, it was heartening to witness students fully immersed in the array of activities on offer.

One of the standout moments was observing a group of senior boys passionately learning a new song by *The Doors* on the guitar and drums. Their dedication and focus were evident, showcasing the power of music to bring individuals together in a shared pursuit of learning and creativity.

Meanwhile, in another corner of the school, students from years 7 and 8 were deeply engrossed in designing Christmas cards, channelling their artistic talents to spread holiday cheer through their personalised creations.

Simultaneously, the older students from year 9 to 13 were engaged in a collaborative project, meticulously designing letters on canvas that, once completed, will spell out the name of our school. This collaborative effort not only fosters teamwork but also celebrates the school spirit in a visually creative manner.

Our after-school team sports saw house matches in full swing, with students showcasing their skills and teamwork. The atmosphere was charged with competitiveness in badminton and table tennis, highlighting the determination and sportsmanship displayed by our students.

The aroma of freshly baked treats filled the air at Baking Club this week, as students dived into the world of baking, creating delectable treats to delight the taste buds of all involved.

At lunchtime, the baking enthusiasts rolled up their sleeves and crafted mouthwatering chocolate cupcakes. Guided by our dedicated staff, the students mixed, measured, and baked their way to creating these indulgent chocolatey treats. The lunchtime session was not only a time for culinary exploration but also a chance for students to bond over their shared love for all things sweet and delicious.



However, the sweetness didn't end there! The after-school session turned out to be a massive hit as students mastered the art of creating tantalizing cinnamon swirls. With precision and flair, they rolled out the dough, sprinkled it with a generous blend of cinnamon and sugar, and shaped it into delightful swirls of goodness. The baking club was buzzing with excitement as the aroma of warm cinnamon filled the room, signaling the imminent delight of these scrumptious treats.



## SCRABBLE CHALLENGE

The quest to beat Mr McCormick at Scrabble continues unabated. This week, a team of Year 11 students, made up of Lance D, Alice R and Reuben W rose to the challenge.



Although Mr McCormick quickly opened up a large lead by the playing of RETINAE for 66 points, JA going both ways on a triple letter for 52 and then ORBITED for 83 in three successive moves, Year 11 managed to break back most of the lead with some impressive multiple word play, bonusing out the endgame and finishing the match with SEEMING for 76 points while Mr McCormick still had a full rack.

Mr McCormick scored 409, and the Year 11 team scored an impressive 350, the highest score recorded by a challenger so far.

## YEAR 11 AND 12 CAREERS

Yesterday as part of the Year 12 Careers Day and the Year 11 Sixth Form Taster, our students had the opportunity to listen to experts in a variety of industries as part of the ReadyCon careers conference. Students heard from industry experts in eight different areas including finance, mechanical engineering, marketing, and IT. Speakers came from companies such as Microsoft, University of Nottingham, and Hult International Business School.

As part of the sessions, the students answered had some core questions to answer to encourage active listening. To continue the conversation at home we have uploaded onto the files of Parent ISAMS a summary of these talks and the "answers" to the worksheets. Equally we have some recordings of the broadcasts and any student that is keen to explore more of the industries can ask Mr Cooper for copies of these recordings.

## SIXTH FORM EXPERIENCE DAY

On Thursday, Year 11 students took place in an Experience Day giving them insight into life in the Sixth Form. All students attended five IB and/or A Level style lessons, allowing them to decide what they may wish to do when signing up for either the IB Careers-Related Program, our A Level program, or a hybrid of both, all of which are welcomed by leading universities in the United Kingdom and overseas.

These will be discussed with their Guidance Mentor at their next meeting before Christmas.



## PTA FESTIVE FAIR

The Festive Fair will take place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December from 3-4.30pm and is for students as well as families – the more the merrier. The raffle draw will be held at 4:15pm.

### 2023 Christmas Raffle Prizes

- £250 Virgin Experience Days gift card
- Luxury Christmas hamper
- Sony headphones
- One-hour personal training session with Chris Antoni of Tailor Made Fitness
- £50 Wagamama gift card
- £50 Pasta Brown gift voucher
- Everyman Cinema gift voucher
- The White Company festive gift set
- Air Up water bottle
- £20 Boots gift card
- And many more wonderful prizes...

\*If you would like to donate something towards the raffle prizes, please contact Julie Westmore on [MountHousePTA@MountHouse.org.uk](mailto:MountHousePTA@MountHouse.org.uk).

\*\*If you are an artist / maker with festive items that might be of interest to the students, staff or parents, please get in touch using the email above by Friday 17th November, in order to be considered for a stall.

To help make this a success, we would be grateful if every family donated (collection boxes will be placed in reception):

- 1 bottle (alcohol, soft or things like perfume etc)
- 1 box of chocolates (remember no nuts)
- Any pre-loved items that would work as gifts for example unused toiletries, jewelry, bags, toys, books etc.
- Any left-over and / or unwanted nail varnish

**Finally, we would like to be able to offer festive treats from around the world to celebrate the fantastic diversity represented at the school.** If you would like to donate goods for the stall these should be brought in on the day of the fair in a named container, with a list of ingredients (remember we are a nut-free school).

So we have an idea of numbers we would greatly appreciate it if you are willing to kindly donate some festive treats that you email us at [MountHousePTA@MountHouse.org.uk](mailto:MountHousePTA@MountHouse.org.uk)

Thank you for your support.

**Mount House School PTA**



Join us for the Mount House PTA

# FESTIVE FAIR

Friday December 8th  
3pm - 4:30pm  
all are welcome!

*Hand Painting!*

*Sweet Stall*

Hot Chocolate

Mulled Wine

GINGERBREAD DECORATING

Raffle

Raffle Draw at 4:15pm

Christmas Cards & Gift Stall

BOTTLE TOMBOLA

Santa Toss

Chocolate Tombola

Snowball Bounce

Gift Tree

Festive Food

The poster features a festive background with stars, snowflakes, and Christmas ornaments. At the bottom, there are illustrations of a gingerbread man, a Christmas tree, a Santa hat, a globe, and a plate of cookies.





SCHOOL UNIFORM SALE



# Black Friday

## Save 15%

### USE CODE: BLACKFRIDAY

\*Terms and Conditions Apply: 15% off purchases with a minimum spend of £20.00 required. Valid from 00:01 (GMT) Friday 24th November 2023 until 23:59 (GMT) online at [www.smithsschoolwear.co.uk](http://www.smithsschoolwear.co.uk) and in-store at Enfield and Cockfosters locations.  
Pre-Loved items exempt from discount.  
Valid on in stock items only.

[WWW.SMITHSSCHOOLWEAR.CO.UK](http://WWW.SMITHSSCHOOLWEAR.CO.UK)

## LUNCH MENUS NEXT WEEK



## Weekly Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread</p> <p>Pasta Bar American Mac and Pumpkin Cheese with Garlic Bread</p> <p>Vegetarian option Black Bean and Mushroom Chili with coriander sour cream <b>Vegan Friendly</b></p> <p>Snack Option Baked Potatoes Or Fresh Pasta</p> <p>Served With Steamed broccoli Garden Salad Garlic Bread</p> <p>Dessert Autumn Apple Crumble With Double Cream</p>	<p>Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread</p> <p>Dish of the day Piri Piri Turkey Steak With Pickled Vegetables</p> <p>Vegetarian Option Sweet Potato and Butter Bean Cakes Dressed with Pesto</p> <p><b>Vegan Friendly</b> Snack Option Baked Potato with Various Fillings Or Fresh Pasta</p> <p>Served With Steamed Basmati Rice Fresh Green Beans Roasted fennel cauliflower</p> <p>Banana Muffins</p>	<p>Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread</p> <p>Dish of the day Mount House Hot Dog With Fried onions and a Mustard Mayo</p> <p>Vegetarian Option Chinese Hoi sin Vegetable Wrap with Edamame Beans</p> <p><b>Vegan Friendly</b> Snack Option Baked Potatoes Or Fresh Pasta</p> <p>Served With Spiced Roasted Carrots Fennel coleslaw Paprika sweetcorn</p> <p>Dessert Mount House 3 Berry mess</p>	<p>Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread</p> <p>PUPILS Choice Mexican chicken Fajitas With Guacamole , sour cream, and fresh salsa</p> <p>VEGETARIAN OPTION Mexican fresh Vegetable Fajitas With Kidney Beans, Guacamole , sour cream and fresh Salsa</p> <p>SNACK OPTION Baked Potatoes Or Fresh Pasta</p> <p>Served With Steamed Rice with Mixed Mexican Beans</p> <p>Roasted Aubergine and Courgettes Mexican Bean Salad</p> <p>Dessert Lemon and Lime Cheesecake</p>	<p>Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread</p> <p>Dish of the day Battered Pollock With Lemon Mayo</p> <p>Vegetarian Option Squash , Mushroom and Gorgonzola Pilaf</p> <p>Snack Option Jacket Potatoes Or Fresh Pasta</p> <p>Served With Crispy Potato Wedges , Garden Peas and Crunchy Salad</p> <p>Dessert Chocolate and Beetroot slice</p>

