

# NEWSLETTER – 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

## MESSAGE FROM MRS RICHARDSON, HEAD

This has been a busy and productive term, and with last week's carol service and this afternoon's end of term assembly, there has been some opportunity for reflection in the past few days. As I look back on this term, there have been some significant high points. Welcoming all our new students and staff in September now seems a long time ago, as all have very quickly become 'part of the furniture'. It has been wonderful to welcome them all to our community and to see them thrive in their learning and their personal development.



The last week's events have, for me very much summed up a Mount House education. Classroom expectations remain high and students understand those very clearly – even this morning students are working hard in their lessons. Outside the classroom we have enjoyed a variety of events which students, staff and parents have organised; on Friday last week the carol service was a joy to attend and I thank the music team and the choir for all the effort which went into that event. This was followed by a wonderful Festive Fair organised by the PTA. On the same day we had a delicious Christmas lunch provided by our brilliant catering team, as well as Christmas jumper day to raise money for Save the Children. This week we have had music assemblies, a Santa run, sports fixtures, and today we look forward to our celebration assembly which will incorporate, for the first time, a house singing competition. Year 7 have been raising money for ARK Children's hospices this week, and today the Lower Sixth have been distributing gingerbread people to raise money for the Wings of Hope charity.

The ISI inspection of a few weeks ago went well; I was impressed by the knowledge of the inspection team and pleased that they very quickly understood the many strengths of Mount House as well as the work which is 'in progress'. I would like to thank parents for completing the ISI survey so quickly, and so supportively. I assume the final report will arrive early in the new year and this will be shared with parents soon thereafter.

I also wanted to take a moment to reflect on the essence of Christmas—a season of love, compassion, and goodwill. Regardless of our individual beliefs, we can all appreciate the values that this holiday embodies. For all of us, the holiday season provides an opportunity to reconnect with loved ones and friends. It's a time to share laughter, create memories, and strengthen the bonds that tie us together. The joy we experience during this season is a reminder of the power of human connection and I wish you all a wonderful festive break.

Congratulations to all of the students who won awards at today's end of term assembly.



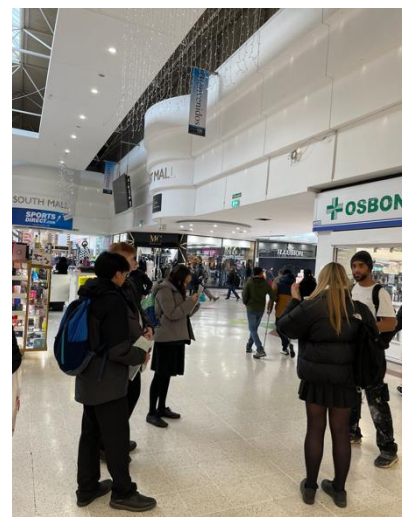
## GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP TO STRATFORD

On Tuesday the 12th of December, we went to Stratford to do our human geography fieldwork trip. After we left school, we took the overground and then we took the Elizabeth line to get to Stratford. We did an Environmental Quality Survey of the Stratford train station, old Stratford shopping centre, the entrance to the Olympic Park and Westfield shopping centre. We collected land-use data and asked questionnaires to up to 10 people at both the old Stratford centre and Westfield shopping centre, where we also had a nice lunch. At the end of the day, we filled in our evaluation of the fieldwork, which we will be asked about in our exam. As we were ahead of the schedule, we finished the fieldwork trip much earlier than expected! All of us had a really nice day doing the fieldwork outside of the school, even in the rain!

By Mia B year 11

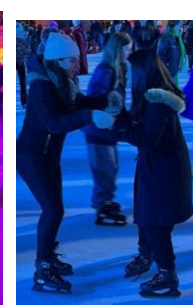
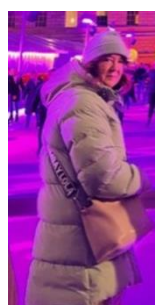
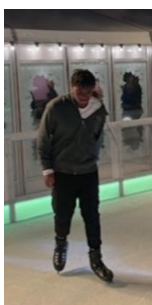
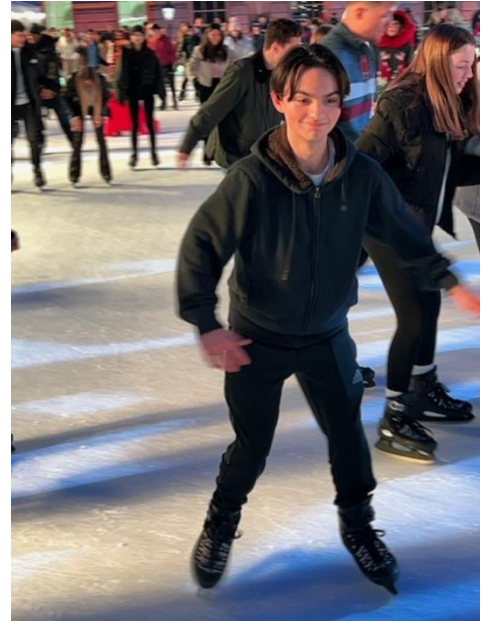
	1	2	3	4	5	
Ugly						Beautiful
Boring						Interesting
Crowded						Empty
Untidy						Tidy
Noisy						Quiet
Unsafe						Safe
Smelly						Clean
Poor quality buildings						Good quality buildings
Graffiti						No graffiti
No seating areas						Large seating areas

<b>Total Score</b> (Add up the numbers)	
<b>Average Score</b> (Divide the total by 10)	





### SIXTH FORM TRIP TO SOMERSET HOUSE





## CELEBRATING CO-CURRICULAR SUCCESSES: A TERM OF ACHIEVEMENT AND GROWTH

As we wrap up another enriching term filled with an array of co-curricular clubs and activities, it's truly heartening to reflect on the incredible achievements of our students. The dedication, enthusiasm and talent displayed across various clubs have been nothing short of inspiring.

The **A Capella and Choir** club's weekly rehearsals culminated in a mesmerizing performance at the Key Stage 3 carol concert, showcasing the hard work and harmony cultivated within the group.

The **Trampolining** club witnessed remarkable progress among its students, paving the way for upcoming competitions in the new year. The dedication and improvement demonstrated by the participants have been commendable.

**Football** remained a perennial favourite, offering students the platform to apply their learning through exciting matches, fostering teamwork and sportsmanship.

The **Classics Discussion** group in Key Stage 4 has been instrumental in enhancing the knowledge base of a select group of students, encouraging intellectual discourse and deeper understanding.

The **Touch-Typing** club has boosted the confidence and speed of those keen on honing this invaluable skill, empowering students with a practical ability.

The **House of Equality** initiatives, led by students through informative assemblies, have been instrumental in fostering awareness and inclusivity within our school community. Mrs Da Rocha says, "I would like to take this opportunity before we break off for a well-deserved Christmas break to thank you and your child, on behalf of the House of Equality Club, for your great contribution in making the Cultural Immersion Day a success. We were able to raise £701, which is more than last year. We could not have done that without your support."

**Retro Gaming** emerged as a beloved club, sparking interest and engagement among students, showcasing their enthusiasm for technological innovation.

The festive season brought a creative focus to the **Art** club, channelling the spirit of celebration and creativity into captivating pieces of art.

**Kids' MBA** provided a platform for students to begin exploring managerial skills, igniting their entrepreneurial spirit and fostering a mindset of leadership and business acumen.

The **Running** club kick-started each week on an energetic note, promoting fitness and a healthy lifestyle among participants.

**Wellbeing Baking** proved to be an excellent opportunity for students to develop their culinary skills while enjoying the camaraderie of teamwork and creativity. The **After-School Baking** club challenged students to create delectable savoury and sweet treats, nurturing their culinary talents in a fun and engaging setting.

As we celebrate the successes and growth achieved through these co-curricular endeavours, we eagerly anticipate the continuation of this spirit of enthusiasm and achievement in the upcoming term. Cheers to our students' accomplishments and their dedication to exploring diverse interests beyond the academic realm!



## SPORTING TRIUMPHS AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT: REFLECTING ON A DYNAMIC TERM

This term has been a testament to the developing vibrant sports culture within our school, with students actively participating in a diverse range of athletic pursuits such as netball, football, hockey, volleyball, trampolining, HRE, cross-country, gymnastics, golf, badminton, and table tennis.

One of the most rewarding aspects has been witnessing the remarkable growth of our students as they embraced these sporting activities. Their burgeoning confidence and unwavering determination to excel in their chosen sports have been truly inspiring. Notably, golf has garnered significant popularity, and the prospect of introducing a dedicated golf term in the future is met with enthusiasm and anticipation.

Looking ahead, students have already made their game afternoon selections for the upcoming term. We kindly urge parents to ensure their children have the appropriate equipment necessary for their chosen sport to ensure maximum participation and enjoyment.

The commitment and dedication shown by our students in their sporting endeavours serve as a testament to their passion for athletics and their willingness to challenge themselves. Through these activities, they not only enhance their physical abilities but also cultivate essential life skills such as teamwork, perseverance, and sportsmanship.

As we conclude this term, we celebrate the achievements and personal development attained by our students through their engagement in sports. We eagerly anticipate continued success and growth in the upcoming athletic ventures and commend our students for their enthusiasm and commitment to a healthy and active lifestyle.

## HOUSE SINGING COMPETITION: CONGRATULATIONS, ASH HOUSE!



## CENTURY TECH WINTER CUP

This is the last week of the Winter Cup and the leaderboard this week is as follows:

1. Yuna year 8
2. Nathan year 8
3. Jesse year 7
4. Mia year 11
5. Jasmine year 8
6. Brendan year 7
7. Isabella year 8
8. Poppy year 8
9. Owen year 9
10. Mohamed year 9

Overall, for the four weeks of the cup, the top four students are:

Yuna

Jasmine

Nathan

Jesse.

## PTA FESTIVE FAIR

Thank you to everyone who helped make last Friday's Festive Fair a success. All the students, teachers and parents enjoyed the stalls, the food and the drinks.

We had some amazing raffle prizes, and the winners were all very happy. We wish you all a happy and relaxing break.





## BAKE SALE

The House bake sale in aid of Macmillan Cancer raised a total of £167! The cakes were spectacular and congratulations to Ash House, who raised the most money.

1st Place – Ash - £64

2nd Place – Cedar - £50.35

3rd Place – Holly - £34.90

4th Place – Oak - £18.50

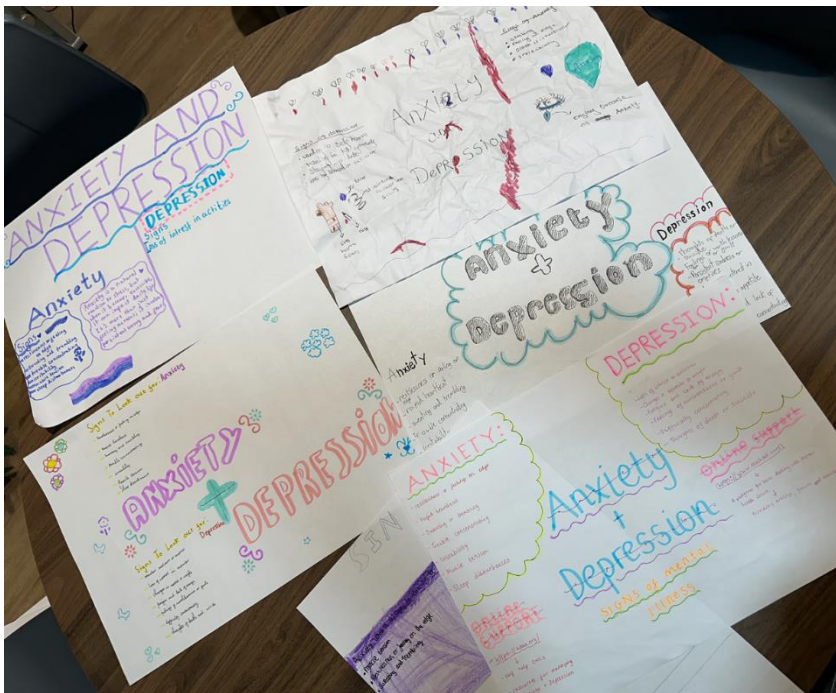


## PSHE

We are proud to share the remarkable efforts of our year 8 students who have been studying mental health issues in their recent PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, and Economic education) lessons. These last two weeks, the students undertook a comprehensive study on mental health issues, focusing on anxiety and depression, equipping themselves with the knowledge to recognise early signs.

In an era where mental health awareness is of paramount importance, our year 8 students passionately engaged in discussions, activities, and group projects aimed at understanding and identifying signs of anxiety and depression. The objective was not only to impart knowledge but also to empower our students to be vigilant and supportive within our school community.

One of the highlights of their endeavours was the creation of informative and visually engaging posters. Working collaboratively in groups, the students poured their creativity and insights into designing materials that guide us in recognising early signs of anxiety and depression.



As part of the broader initiative, the year 8 students actively participated in Mental Health Week, dedicating their time and energy to furthering the conversation around mental well-being.

From insightful presentations to open discussions, they demonstrated a profound understanding of the subject matter and showcased their commitment to breaking the stigma surrounding mental health.

Mrs Mariottini, Head of year 8



## CAREERS: WORK EXPERIENCE



### 1. Free Work Experience Programmes

You can apply for Springpod's upcoming programmes and many of their on-demand programmes with industry-leading employers such as:

- [JLR: Drive Your Future](#)
- [Vodafone Innovators](#)
- [Siemens Energy](#)
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- [Routes into Rail](#)
- [Hospitality Virtual Work Experience with Pret](#)
- [Aerospace Work Experience](#)
- [Early Careers with Wagamama](#)
- [Business & Professional Careers](#)
- [Construction with Inspiring Worcestershire](#)

All of the programmes can be viewed [here](#).

Every programme is free, involves around ten hours of commitment, and rewards students with a certificate for CVs and Personal Statements upon completion.

### 2. University Experience (Subject Spotlights)

These are mini lecture series delivered by top academic professors on a certain topic designed to give you a chance to experience realistic university-style learning before you apply for courses. It forms another stage of your exploratory journey with Springpod in an engaging, episodic Netflix-style format, in a range of subject areas:

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- [Computer Science with Anglia Ruskin University](#)
- [Psychology with the University of Bradford](#)
- [Medicine with the University of Sunderland](#)
- [Sports Science with Anglia Ruskin University](#)
- [Criminology with Canterbury Christ Church University](#)

You can access all of their Spotlights [here](#).

If you have any problems or questions, please feel free to reach out to [hello@springpod.com](mailto:hello@springpod.com) who will be able to help.



The seven questions below each have a one-word answer which can follow 'Christmas'. Use the design of the card to help you to put letters from your answers into the grid below to find the final answer.



These clocks show a four-letter word. Can you work it out?



We've jumbled up our gift tags! Split them into three groups of three and find a word that links each group.

- DECLAN
- BEVERLEY
- JASMINE
- PUDSEY
- PENNY
- PITCH
- SCARBOROUGH
- SIRIUS
- STICKY

What word links these three link words?



We found a scrap of paper with some bars of music on it which we think are concealing a word.

Next to the music were some 1s and 0s, and the numbers 16,8,4,2,1. Can you work out the hidden word?



Can you solve this riddle?  
**What breaks but cannot fall,  
 can leap but never crawl,  
 can be seized but never gripped,  
 often present, never skipped?**

Each letter represents a different digit:



**MI x MI = MAA  
 TI + TI = RA  
 DO - SO + TI - MI = RE  
 RE x RE = ?**



Find the pairs of letters which come next in each sequence:

**TH, RD, ND, ??  
 ET, EL, PM, ??  
 WU, SQ, OM, ??  
 WR, AP, PI, ??**



Look at this message.  
 Can you work it out and find the secret, 4-letter word?

**Agklq ldhum qom ndem.  
 Gembqgax c 4-hmqgmik vdke.  
 Hddp mumkxvomkm.  
 Ycxim qq'l umkx diugdsi.**

Can you solve the final challenge below?

1	4	5	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	5	4	6	1
3	3	2	3	4	1	6	1	3						



Follow us or scan the QR code to find the answers soon.  
 @GCHQ  
 @GCHQ



**MOUNT HOUSE SCHOOL**  
 INSPIRING EVERY INDIVIDUAL