



MOUNT HOUSE
SCHOOL

Prospectus



Our Values

A

Adaptable – preparing for life beyond school and future careers

S

Supportive – a community with a strong sense of belonging in a safe, caring, inclusive and happy environment in which everyone feels valued

P

Principled – importance of being a responsible citizen; developing an awareness of, and contributing to, both the local and broader community

I

Inquisitive – developing a high degree of intellectual curiosity, beyond subject knowledge and high academic achievement, fostering a life-long love of learning

R

Resilient – developing a growth mindset; being capable of taking knocks with a 'can do attitude'

E

Excellence – aiming for excellence and to make the best even better

Head's Welcome

A very warm welcome to Mount House, a co-educational, independent senior school for 11-18-year olds in leafy Hadley Wood, Hertfordshire.

Successful schools are about the personal development of each child as an individual. This includes their academic qualifications, but just as important is development of certain skills - leadership, teamwork and collaboration, resilience and self-awareness - which allows them to enjoy success, happiness and fulfilment in their adult lives. In a changing world, students find a sense of purpose at Mount House, where they are supported, encouraged to have an open mind and immerse themselves in school life.

At Mount House, students combine endeavour with an enthusiastic engagement which extends well beyond the classroom. We are committed to providing the highest quality of education with breadth and balance for all. With a maximum capacity of 350 students, we are a small school with a significant sense of community. We encourage our students to aim high and to work hard to be the best they can be – whether it's in the examination hall, on the sports field, or on the stage. Small classes and tutor groups where students receive individual attention are critical to creating those opportunities, and this allows us to guide each student so that they, in turn, can contribute to the creation of a stimulating and supportive community.

Mount House is a place of learning, discovery, laughter and friendship – a place students want to be. I consider it a great privilege to be able to lead a unique school which offers such a wonderful educational experience.

Thank you for considering Mount House School for your son or daughter. I hope this prospectus contains useful information to help you and your child make an informed choice about secondary education and I look forward to welcoming you to our school.



Sarah Richardson
Head



History

Mount House School is located in a green belt conservation area, with woodland and vast green spaces that the school can utilise for sports and outdoor teaching. The location is also on the eastern edge of what is thought to be the Battle of Barnet battlefield, an historic encounter in the Wars of the Roses in 1471.

The 'Mount House' itself is a stunning Georgian Grade II-listed fine red brick mansion with many notable architectural features. Situated north of Hadley Common, on Camlet Way, Mount House sits to the northeast of a group of Grade II-listed 18th century houses clustered around the Grade II-listed parish church of St Mary the Virgin.

There is little available documentary evidence relating to the architect, original design, or early development of Mount House. Nevertheless, it is generally thought to have been built in the early 18th century, in a Palladian style, as an article in Country Life contended in 1942: 'The original design must have been a perfect example of the smaller Georgian house and may well be due to such a scholar as Ware or Flitcroft.' It was built on ground enclosed from Enfield Chase, and remained within Enfield parish until 1882.

As a family home, the most famous resident of 'Mount House' was Joseph Henry Green (1791-1863), an English surgeon who became the literary executor of Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Green lived at Mount House between 1836 and 1863 and was one of the most eminent surgeons in England at the time and also close friends of Samuel Taylor Coleridge from their first meeting in 1817. When Coleridge died in 1834, he made a huge tribute to their friendship by naming Green as the literary executor in his will, making him responsible for all his manuscripts, books and literary legacy. Green gave up his private practice at Lincoln's Inn, and moved to Mount House where he lived for the rest of his life and wrote Spiritual Philosophy; founded on the teachings of the late Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

In wartime Britain, the educational role of Mount House began when it was commissioned as the home of the Architectural Association School between 1940-45. At the end of the war, there was a renewed focus on education, and the building was confirmed to retain its sole purpose of the education of children and was established as St Martha's Senior School for girls (1947-2017).

The educational role of Mount House developed further when ownership transferred from the 'Sisters of St Martha' to Mount House School Ltd. Boys were welcomed for the first time as students in 2017 and the school became co-educational in all year groups in 2022. Mrs Sarah Richardson joined as Head in 2020 and is supported by the Board of Directors and Governance.



Photos of the school magazine and school play publications from the 1930s



Architectural Association students on the main staircase in 1940s



Sketching class in the 1940s



St Martha's reunion event 2023



Original assembly and events hall



Hockey team in the 1930s

Curriculum

Mount House provides a broad and balanced curriculum for all students and strives to develop each individual to their potential, valuing talents and responding to specific needs. Our lessons are designed to encourage and develop independent thought and self-discipline and students are provided with opportunities for self-expression. The world is ever-changing, and our students' lives will be quite different from those of their parents, and therefore we place emphasis on development of students' competence in information and communication technology and its application to other areas of learning. At the same time, we place great value on creativity and the ability to debate and present, as well as on teamwork and leadership skills.

There are six, fifty-five-minute lessons timetabled per day, with the addition of the co-curricular programme, which includes a large number of academic and non-academic clubs.

In Years 7 and 8, students explore a wide range of subjects including Art, Classics with Latin, Music, Drama, Religious Studies, Product Design, Spanish, French and Food Technology, along with the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science.

In Year 9, students have some choice in their subjects and may choose two options from Global Studies, French, Latin and Spanish, as well as two options from Art, (including Photography and Textiles), Drama, Design Technology, Food Technology and Music. Option choices for GCSE take place towards the end of Year 9 and are managed as part of a career guidance programme which supports our students in making informed subject selections.

Lesson allocation in Year 7, 8 and 9:

Subject	Number of Year 7 lessons over the two- week timetable	Number of Year 8 lessons over the two- week timetable	Number of Year 9 lessons over the two- week timetable
Art (including Photography and Textiles)	1	2	3 if selected as an option
Classics	3	3	2
Computer Science	3	3	3
Drama	1	2	3 if selected as an option
English	8	8	8
Food Technology	2	2	3 if selected as an option
French	4	3	4 if selected as an option
Games	4	4	4
Geography	3	3	2
Global Studies	0	0	4 if selected as an option
History	3	3	2
Latin	Included in Classics	Included in Classics	4 if selected as an option
Mathematics	8	8	7
Music	2	2	3 if selected as an option
Personal, Social, Health and Economics Studies	1	1	2
Physical Education	2	2	2
Product Design	1	1	3 if selected as an option
Religious Studies	1	1	2
Science (split in to Biology, Chemistry and Physics)	9	9	12
Spanish	4	3	4 if selected as an option

Year 10 GCSE options

Core Subjects	Four options from which to choose
English Language	Art
English Literature	Classics
Mathematics	Computer Science
Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)	Design Technology from 2025
	Drama
	Food Technology
	French
	Geography
	History
	Latin
	Music
	Photography
	Physical Education
	Religious Studies
	Spanish
	Textiles
Year 10 students have four lessons of Games over the two-week timetable.	

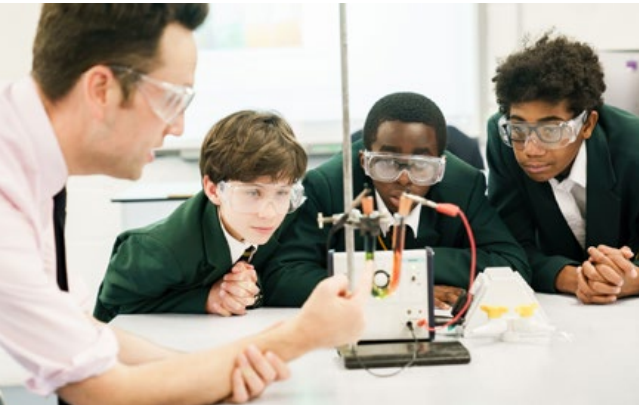
Setting

Students are setted in Maths and Science according to ability, with the opportunity to move between sets as appropriate.



Homework

All students are issued with a homework timetable and the quantity of homework increases in accordance with the year group. Core subjects will set a weekly homework, with other subjects set on a fortnightly basis. Mount House also has a Homework Club if students wish to complete their homework at school.



Progress and Assessment

Progress is measured by marking student work against typical criteria on an A to E scale. In order to progress well, students will have to meet standards which become more challenging as they move through the school. Most subject teachers will set short, in-class assessments at appropriate points, such as at the end of a topic.

These assessments will be used to monitor student progress and inform teaching. In addition, all Year 7, 8 and 9 students have an internal school exam week during the summer term. Year 10 internal exams take place during the summer term and Year 11 can expect two sets of mock GCSE examinations in November and February.



Sport

We are proud to offer an exciting and inclusive sports programme which is open to all and is one of the central pillars of life at Mount House. Sport supports physical health as well as mental health and well-being, and furthermore, students develop character through building resilience, empathy and respect towards others.

Our games afternoon for all year groups offers students a broad spectrum of sporting experiences, where teams are developed and fixtures are played against local schools. Our sports teams have enjoyed considerable success in both regional and national ISA competitions. The range of sporting activities we offer on games afternoons includes netball, athletics, cricket, football, basketball, hockey, golf and trampolining. Students of all ages have the opportunity to select the sports in which they would like to take part.

Some sport takes place onsite in the main hall and the outdoor multi-use-games area. Offsite, we use specialist facilities at Bartram’s Lane Playing Fields in Hadley Wood, Southgate Hockey Club and Old Fold Manor Golf Club.



Pastoral Care and Learning Support

Pastoral Structure

Mount House School is very much a family, providing support for all students and staff. All our students receive individual attention both educationally and pastorally. The Form Tutor contributes greatly to this – in most cases, the Form Tutor remains with the student throughout their time at school. Form groups are comprised of peers in the same year group and tutors look after between 12 and 15 students.

Tutors are responsible for the day-to-day welfare of their students and register their tutees each morning before lessons. Mount House 'Heads of Year' work closely with the Deputy Head (Pastoral) and each Form Tutor, ensuring students have all-round support.

Our staff form a partnership with parents, whose involvement is part of the ethos of Mount House School. Our open-door policy and commitment to excellent parent communication means that parents are welcome at any time and are encouraged to get in touch with any questions and provide feedback.

Learning Support

Students may develop special needs at any time in the educational process and these may be cognitive, physical or emotional. As well as discussing existing needs with parents prior to students starting at Mount House School, we carry out various steps to identify students who require additional support once they have arrived. Our SEN department works closely with pastoral and teaching staff to identify needs at an early stage so that each student can thrive.



Beyond the Classroom: Co-curricular and Clubs

Our co-curricular programme takes place at lunchtime and after-school, and the clubs provide opportunities to take part in concerts and productions as well as other activities, all of which promote creativity and intellectual curiosity.

The aim of this exciting programme is to provide stimulation beyond the confines of the classroom curriculum, giving our students the opportunity to broaden their minds and develop critical thinking and creative skills. We encourage parents to attend a number of enjoyable events such as concerts, productions and sports fixtures.



Careers Guidance

Mount House has a dedicated Careers professional offering students support and guidance throughout their school years. From Year 10 to Sixth Form, students are given additional support, including:

Personalised career planning: Year 10 students sit the Morrisby Profile Psychometric Test and feedback is provided by the Inspiring Futures Team at the start of Year 11, which is also followed up with individual interviews to explore possible career paths.

Work placements and practical support: the Careers Department holds an annual Careers Convention where teachers, business contacts and parents provide inspiration and advice for Year 10 and Sixth Formers.

University preparation: students are individually supported throughout the university application process, including assistance with personal statements, interview preparation and public speaking.



Sixth Form

Sixth Form at Mount House is an ambitious and dynamic environment and offers exceptional opportunities for both academic study and personal development.

Mount House provides a tailored Sixth Form education which is reflected in a high number of one-to-one and small group sessions, delivered by experienced subject experts. Not only do our students go on to attend some of the world's leading universities, they are encouraged to achieve their post-school ambitions and be fully prepared for life beyond school.



Mount House is an accredited IB World School and is proud to offer our Sixth Formers a curriculum with enormous flexibility, enabling them to follow a traditional university route or to consider one of the degree apprenticeship programmes. Mount House students have the option to study the International Baccalaureate Career-Related Programme (IBCP), Level 3 diplomas and/or A Levels. In the IBCP, IB subjects can be combined with Level 3 diplomas. Level 3 diplomas can also be combined with A Levels, offering Mount House Sixth Formers a wide range of subjects and flexibility in their sixth form studies. Students may also follow a pure A Level programme. In addition, our vibrant enrichment programme offers a multiplicity of opportunities for personal development through leadership, educational visits and through focusing on independence and creativity.

Find out more in our Sixth Form Prospectus





School Life and Community

Lunch

The social hub of Mount House is our school restaurant where students and staff dine together. Lunches are freshly prepared onsite by award-winning caterers Thomas Franks. Students choose from a nutritious, well-balanced and above all delicious selection of hot and cold meals, including fresh fruit and vegetables, a soup of the day, salads, sandwiches and desserts.

House System

Mount House prides itself on its active House System whereby all staff and students are assigned to one of the four Houses. The Houses represent elements such as challenge, adventure and achievement.

Each House is described as a 'family within a family', providing a sense of belonging and support.



The House System rewards effort and achievement, both for excellent academic work and involvement in the many inter-house competitions which generate close bonds between students. In Sixth Form, the House System becomes a unique opportunity for students to grow and develop their leadership skills through responsibility for helping younger students in their House to succeed. The pinnacle of this leadership opportunity is the student selection of Heads of House who support running house meetings, assemblies and public speaking.

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)



Parent Teacher Association

All parents, guardians and carers of students as well as school staff are members of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA). The PTA forms an active part of school life and creates a strong and supportive school community by holding events and fundraising activities.

The PTA organises a range of social opportunities for the Mount House family to come together and get to know each other over the course of the year. Events include a summer fair, Christmas fair, quiz night, bingo evening and more recently, a silent auction.

Fundraising events benefit Mount House students and one of the PTA's annual fundraiser events is the Mount House Moveathon which promotes the benefits of physical activity. Each year group participates in non-stop movement with help from a personal trainer and PE staff.



Trips

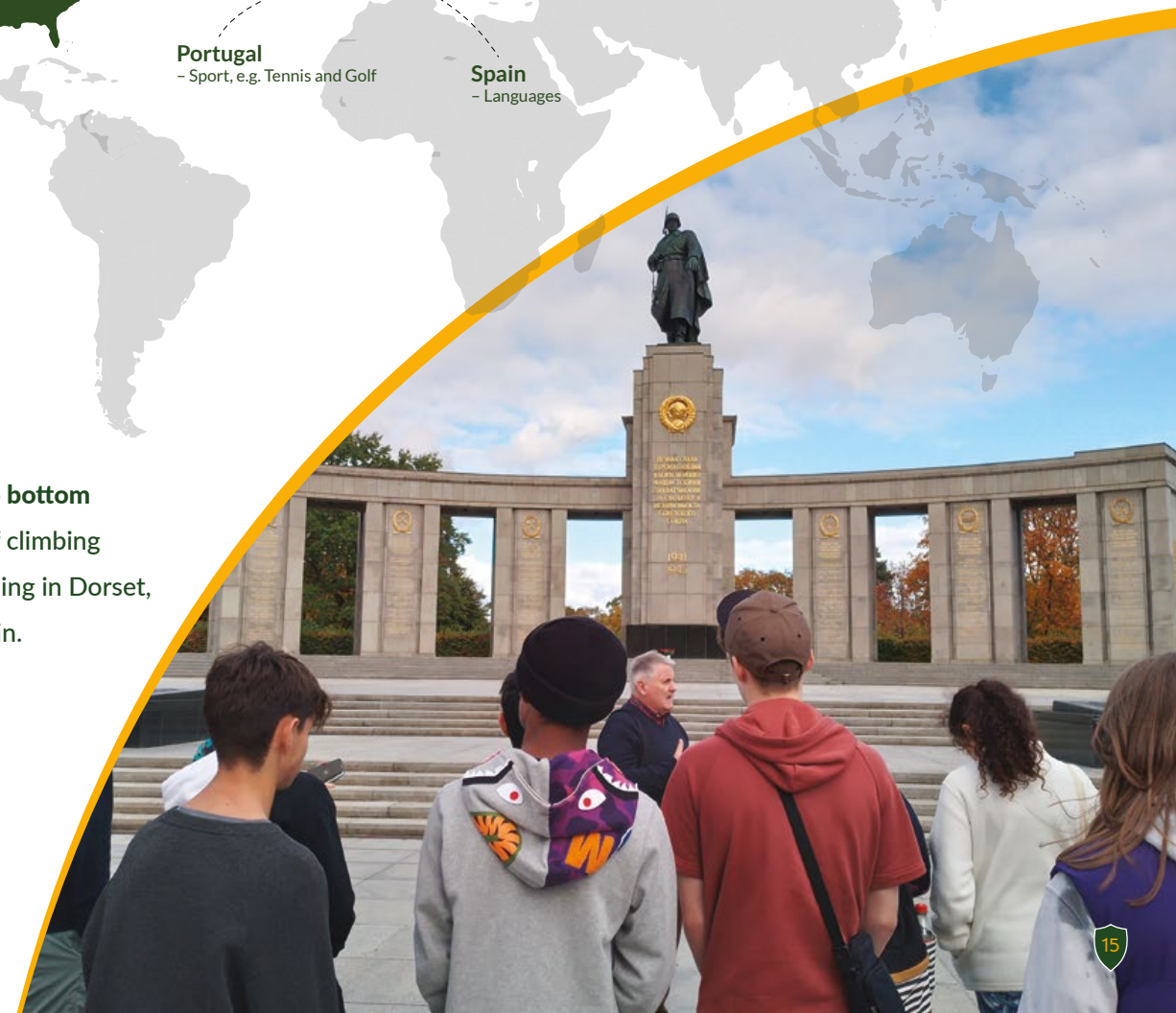
Education is enriched significantly by participating in trips and visits. Therefore, a variety of exciting trips are offered during a student's time at Mount House. The trips are designed to complement their studies and broaden their general and cultural knowledge.

UK trips include visits to museums, galleries and theatres, as well as activity-based residential trips to Dorset. During our 'activities week', the entire school takes part in a wide range of exciting and enjoyable activities, providing a stimulating finale to the academic year.

The world map shows examples of trips outside the UK.

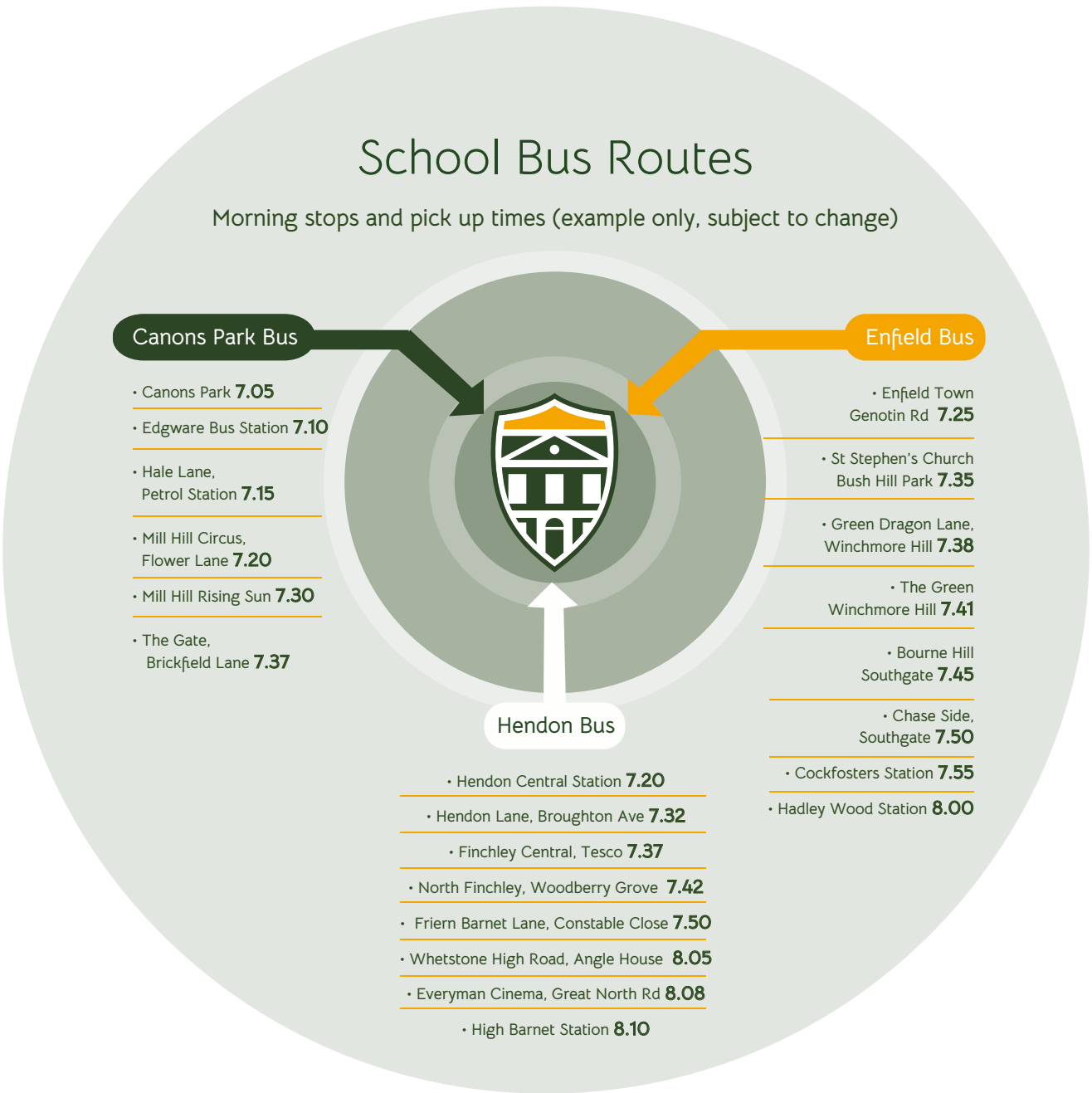


Images from top to bottom
Ski trip to Italy, cliff climbing in Dorset, raft building in Dorset, cultural trip to Berlin.



School Transport

Our school buses run an extensive service that makes Mount House School accessible to students from surrounding areas. Currently, Mount House has three bus routes for morning pickups and afternoon drop offs:



The school buses leave at 16.15 on Mondays and Fridays as there are no after-school clubs on those days. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays the buses leave after clubs at 17.15. A shuttle service to Hadley Wood Station, Cockfosters Station and High Barnet station is available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 16.15.

Registration and Admission

Usual entry points for admissions into Mount House are Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12; however, we do occasionally offer places in other year groups should a place become available.

While the school uses entrance exams to select its students, we give greater weighting to interviews, achievements in all areas and school references. Each year group is selected as a cohort, in which children with different aptitudes and personalities will inspire and support each other.

Admissions process:

- Book a visit**
mounthouse.org.uk/opendays
- Register**
mounthouse.org.uk/register
- Family interview**
Parents and child invited to interview with the Head
- Entrance assessment**
- Offer of place**

For more information contact us:
admissions@mounthouse.org.uk
0208 449 6889





MOUNT HOUSE SCHOOL

INSPIRING EVERY INDIVIDUAL

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