



NEWSLETTER – 26TH JANUARY

MESSAGE FROM MR CROSBY,
DEPUTY HEAD (PASTORAL)

Fragility of Freedom

At the entrance to Auschwitz and other Nazi concentration camps were the words '*Arbeit Macht Frei*,' which translates as "Work sets you free" or "Work makes one free". Of course, the people entering those gates were not to know that wasn't the case; their freedom was taken away and this year the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2024 is the Fragility of Freedom.



Freedom means different things to different people. What is clear is that in every genocide that has taken place, those who are targeted for persecution have had their freedom restricted and removed before many of them are murdered. This is often a subtle, slow process. The ten stages of genocide ([click here to find out more](#)) identified by Professor Gregory Stanton, demonstrate that genocide never just happens. There is always a set of circumstances which occur, or which are created, to build the climate in which genocide can take place and in which perpetrator regimes can remove the freedoms of those they are targeting.

Not only do perpetrator regimes erode the freedom of the people they are targeting, demonstrating how fragile freedom is, they also restrict the freedoms of others around them, to prevent people from challenging the regime. Despite this, in every genocide there are those who risk their own freedom to help others, to preserve others' freedom or to stand up to the regime.

Holocaust Memorial Day this year marks the 30th anniversary of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. 49 years after the Holocaust ended, 19 years after the genocide in Cambodia, the world stood by as Hutu extremists shattered the fragile freedom in Rwanda, following decades of tension and violence, culminating in the murder of over one million Tutsis in just one hundred days.

Many people in western democracies take freedoms for granted – this HMD, we can reflect on how these freedoms need to be valued, and on how many people around the world face restrictions to their freedoms to live, worship, work and love freely.

For example, Uyghur Muslims in China are facing forced relocation to Xinjiang province, ‘re-education’ that threatens to eradicate the Uyghur culture, and other limits to free expression, free movement and freedom of worship.

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims are living in refugee camps in Bangladesh, having escaped religious persecution in Myanmar.

Conflict is still ongoing in the Darfur region of Sudan. Survivors of the genocide, now safe in the UK, are terrified for the safety of their family members still in Darfur, and scared to speak out publicly in the UK lest their family members’ lives are threatened.

Anne Frank wrote in her diary: *‘That is when the trouble started for the Jews. Our freedom was severely restricted by a series of anti-Jewish decrees. You couldn’t do this and you couldn’t do that, but life went on.’* But of course, for Anne, and millions of others, life did not go on – they were deliberately murdered. Building upon the multiple restrictions on their freedoms, their freedom of life was destroyed.

In our whole school assembly this week we reflected on how freedom is fragile and vulnerable to abuse. Students have been called to be upstanders, to challenge ‘racism, hatred, bigotry, prejudice.’ As we head into the weekend and the rest of this term/year, let’s pledge not to take our freedoms for granted, and consider what we can do to strengthen freedoms in our everyday lives and around the world.



VEX ROBOTICS 'OVER UNDER' REGIONAL COMPETITION ST. HELENA'S SCHOOL, COLCHESTER, ESSEX – SATURDAY 20TH JANUARY



(from left to right – Evan F, Varun H, Mr. Brozny and Max C)

After several years of putting in the difficult hours after school, Mount House School competed in a regional robotics competition. We were certainly one of the underdogs. We were surrounded by older students, coming from experienced robotics programmes, who had already competed multiple times this season. But we created a lot of positive buzz for Mount House School on the day.

Vex Robotics creates a new international game for schools to test out their engineering and programming ingenuity every season. Students have to custom build their robot, create an autonomous code (independent movement of the robot), and come up with a strategy to outplay rival schools.

We were the youngest group of students in a field of 20 schools that included regional, national and international champions. I am proud to say that our team above all else demonstrated great resilience. We sat at the bottom of the leaderboard for most of the morning's group stage, but our boys were determined to improve. After each round they learned a little bit more about what it takes to win. They were constantly communicating with each other and the teams that we were paired with in the 2 v 2 robot competitions.



We soon saw Mount House School shoot up the leaderboard, sitting at one point at the lofty heights of 12th place. Sadly, a last-minute stumble in our final match saw us finish in 14th and though we fought valiantly, we were dispatched by the 2nd place school in the knockouts.



Above all else, our students demonstrated resilience. Many young students would not have had the strength to keep fighting when they saw the level of experience of our competition. Varun, Evan and Max were not going to let a couple of mishaps in our first few battles prevent them from making their mark on the competition. I am so incredibly proud of what we accomplished this past weekend and look forward to seeing what our school can do next season.

With the amount of equipment we have at the school, we can easily support two teams. I hope to see some new faces after school in Room 9 while we perfect our skills in the weeks to come.

Here are some words from the team about their experience with Vex Robotics.

Varun – Year 8

I have enjoyed attending Vex robotics club, it's a lot of fun, you can play games. You can work with whoever you want. You compete and race against each other. You learn how to build robots and you can make anything. The regional competitions are great fun too!

Evan – Year 9

This is the first time our team joined this competition and I had so much fun and learned a lot. We didn't do very well this time in terms of ranking, but after seeing the robots from the other more experienced teams, I know what we could do to make it better and I am already thinking how to improve on our robot so we can achieve a better result next time. I want to say thank you to my two very reliable teammates and also to Mr Brozny. If you are interested in building robots, please come and join the club, you will have a lot of fun and learn many new skills.

Max – Year 8

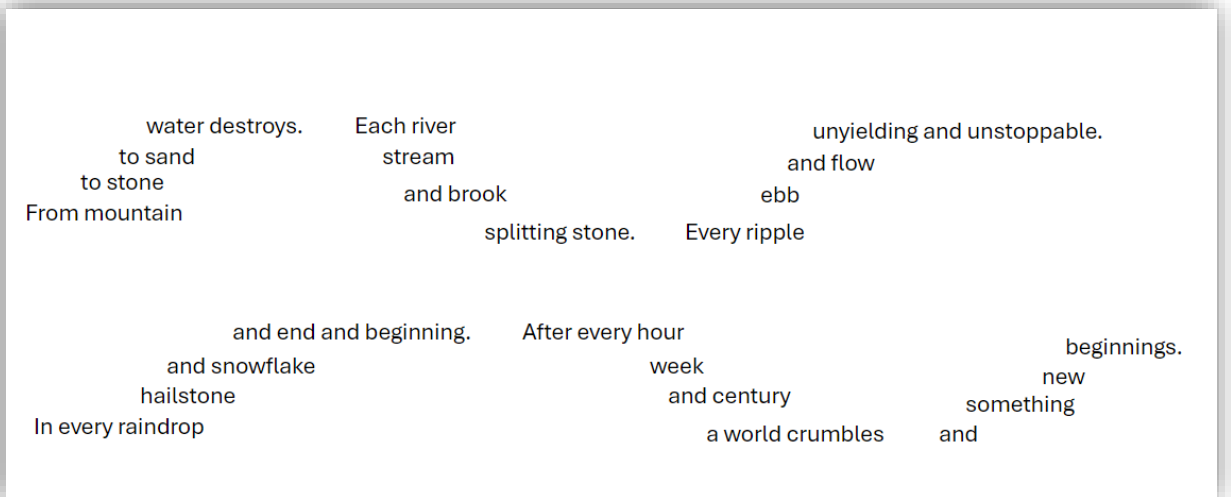
I would recommend robotics since technology is advancing and I feel that robotics and robots in general will be huge part of our future. Anyone who takes up robotics would have a head start going into the future. Robotics and robots in general will help solve many problems that we are facing today, like dangerous jobs, helping hospitals to treat dangerous diseases and search and rescue teams.

Taking up robotics could mean going to a robotics competition which is fun, challenging (in a good way), educational and overall, a good life experience.



ENGLISH

Poem by Reuben T Year 9



NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Our year 10 GCSE music students will be entering a **Fantastic Fanfares** competition at The Proms at St. Jude's. This week, they were visited by Ms Arnold: one of the organisers and judges of this wonderful music event. We were very grateful for her input, which left the students extremely motivated to make final adjustments to their compositions. The winner of this competition will experience a rehearsal of their fanfare, with a professional orchestra, which will then be performed at the opening of the Proms. A Mount House School student has won it before, so let's see if we can do it again. Good luck!



I would like to welcome our new drum teacher, **Uche Bartels-Williams**. Uche has experience of teaching through to grade 8 and is looking forward to teaching here at Mount House School. Please contact me if your child is interested in lessons.

Mr Whitehouse

YEAR 11 REVISION ASSEMBLY

This week our year 11s received a motivational talk from some of our former year 11 students in the build up to GCSE revision, organised by Mrs Da Rocha. The talk included revision tips and techniques, and how to improve predicted grades.

The take-homes were: **“Never give up”** and **“It’s not too late to start now.”**



PE

Netball

“On Wednesday 24th January, we travelled to Aldenham School. We played in a netball tournament against Aldenham and St Margaret’s. The player of the match against St Margaret’s was Erin and the player of the match against Aldenham was Queenie.”

Report by Sanvi and Ena Year 7

“On Wednesday 24th January, we travelled to Aldenham School. We played against St Margaret’s and Aldenham. We played well, worked very hard and put in a lot of effort. Well done to the players of the match, Poppy and Siana, who were amazing. Well done to our hardworking team and many thanks to Miss Buckland and Miss Hopping.”

Report by Eesha and Tilly Year 8

On the 25th of January, the U15 netball team played against Aldenham School. Although we were narrowly beaten, we played extremely well and improved our skills throughout the match. We both attempted to score many times and we both had a mix of successes and failures. Overall, the match went well and we all thoroughly enjoyed it.

Report by Beatrice Year 9





ISA Football Tournament – Nottingham

Ah, what a spectacle we witnessed today, my friends! It was a day of dreams and determination, as 18 young warriors from across the year groups embarked on a journey to Nottingham University for the ISA National Football Competition. The stage was set, and the battleground was alive with the echoes of youthful enthusiasm.

As the sun kissed the green fields of Nottingham, the U16 and U14 teams from our beloved school showcased the essence of footballing excellence. It was a day etched in the annals of their memories, and the heroes emerged under the watchful eyes of destiny.

But let me take you to the heart of the matter, where goals were not just scored but where stories were written in the language of passion. In the U16 ranks, a name echoed through the winds of Nottingham – Leon G, a maestro with a scoring touch that could make the gods of football weep tears of joy. He carried the hopes and dreams of the U16 team, leaving defenders in his wake and goalkeepers flailing at the mercy of his lethal strikes.

Meanwhile, in the U14 squad, it was Louca K who took the spotlight, dancing through opposition defences like a gazelle on a mission. His goals were not just a testament to skill but a declaration of intent, a promise to the fans that victory was the only destination.

Now, let us talk about the architects of magic, the players who left an indelible mark on the tournament. From the U16 side, the crown of brilliance rested upon the head of Zak S, a defensive magician orchestrating symphonies of play with every touch of the ball. And from the U14 ensemble, George C emerged as the embodiment of talent, weaving tales of skill and finesse that echoed through the hallowed grounds of Nottingham University. Ah, but before we close this chapter of footballing glory, let us shower a special mention upon a midfield maestro who orchestrated the symphony of play with unparalleled finesse. Luke W, with a touch that could caress the stars and control that left opponents in awe, became the heartbeat of the team.

Alas, football is a fickle persona, and as the final whistle echoed through the air, the U16 warriors found themselves on the wrong side of a 1-0 scoreline in the final. A valiant effort, but sometimes, fate has other plans. On the U14 front, the team battled hard but fell short in the 3rd/4th place play-off, a bitter pill to swallow in the pursuit of glory.

Yet, let it be known that this day was not about victories or defeats alone. It was about the beautiful game, the camaraderie, and the spirit of competition that united these young hearts. Each pass, each dribble and each goal was a brushstroke on the canvas of their shared experience.

In the end, my friends, it was a class day out – a celebration of football, friendship, and the indomitable spirit of youth. The memories forged on the hallowed grounds of Nottingham University will linger in the hearts of these young gladiators, reminding them that in the game of life, every match is a chance to become legends.

Written by Mr Mather (ghost written by Peter Drury).



Athletes of the Week:

- Year 7: George C
- Year 8: Benji B
- Year 9: Mikey P
- Year 10: Georgie G
- Year 11: Luke W
- 6th Form: Rosa S

Special mention this week to Mikey P, named as Old Fold Manor Golf Club’s ‘Golfer of the week’ in their latest newsletter. A picture of Mikey will appear alongside a write-up of why he truly deserves this commendation. Mikey has made wonderful progress in his golf both this and last term and continues to display ambition and great ability.

PTA



Parent Teacher Association
MOUNT HOUSE

COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST SOCIAL OF 2024!
Friday 9th February from 7pm-9:30. (Doors open at 6.45)

Mount House parents, teachers and friends are all welcome.

Teams of 6-8 people ideal - or join a team on the night.

Categories are: film/movies, general knowledge, food/drink, pictures, history, arts & literature, sport and music.

Prize for the most original team name and overall winners.

Complimentary sandwiches, nibbles and soft drinks.

Bottles of wine and beer will be available to purchase.

Tickets are £10 per person. **Purchase your ticket today via <https://square.link/u/AUYBjNYd>**

All proceeds will go to the Mount House PTA to fund future student activities and projects.



Second Hand/ Nearly New Uniforms

For information please email Julie on Mounthousepta@mounthouse.org.uk.

Mount House PTA IS hosting a Stand Up Comedy Night on the evening of Friday March 8th 2024.

Tickets are now on sale:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/stand-up-comedy-night-tickets-810085426317>



STAND UP COMEDY!

Join us for a hilarious night of ****Stand Up Comedy****

Featuring



Shazia Mirza



Steve Best



Dan Evans



Mark Maier (MC)

FRIDAY, MARCH 8TH 2024

Mount House School, Camlet Way, Barnet, EN4 0NJ

DOORS OPEN AT 6:45 PM FOR DINNER.

INDIAN FOOD PROVIDED BY APNA PUNJAB

SHOW STARTS AT 8PM.

Tickets £25 per person (includes dinner)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/stand-up-comedy-night-tickets-810085426317>

*over 18s only.
**Onsite Parking available



Brought to you by Mount House PTA, a registered charity (Charities Commission No. 1204962)



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6YRS - 16YRS | 10AM-4PM

www.southgatehc.org.uk/hockey-camps



MENUS NEXT WEEK

Weekly Menu

Week 1

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread</p> <p>Pasta Bar Rich Beef bolognese With spaghetti and crispy garlic bread</p> <p>Vegetarian option Pumpkin and crispy kale risotto With Parmesan and cannellini beans Vegan Friendly</p> <p>Snack Option Baked Potatoes Or Fresh Pasta</p> <p>Served With Steamed broccoli Garden Salad</p> <p>Dessert Winter Bramley Apple Crumble With Double Cream</p>	<p>Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread</p> <p>Dish of the day BBQ Chicken Drumsticks With Garlic and Parsley Rice</p> <p>Vegetarian Option Sundried tomato and Feta Deep Filled Quiche Vegan Friendly</p> <p>Snack Option Baked Potato with Various Fillings Or Fresh Pasta</p> <p>Served With Fresh Green Beans Roasted fennel cauliflower</p> <p>Dessert Banana and cinnamon Cake</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 Stir-fry with Quorn Garlic, soy and Vegetable Noodles Vegan Friendly</p> <p>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 Roasted aubergine and courgettes Carrots</p> <p>Dessert Chocolate Mousse</p>	<p>Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread</p> <p>Dish of the day Breaded cod With Tartar sauce Or Salmon and dill fish cakes with tartar sauce and Lemon</p> <p>Vegetarian Option Tandoori Quorn and Vegetable Indian Wrap</p> <p>Snack Option Jacket Potatoes Or Fresh Pasta</p> <p>Served With Crispy Potato Wedges Garden Peas Crunchy Salad</p> <p>Dessert Carrot cake with cream cheese frosting</p>

