



# NEWSLETTER – 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH

MESSAGE FROM MR COOPER,  
SENIOR DEPUTY HEAD

## Soft skills and careers

As part of the curriculum, our teachers have been building students' understanding of the huge variety of careers and the importance of soft skills. Next week is National Careers Week, so it's a good time to reflect on why we believe in this approach to studies.



Those of us in the workplace recognise that soft skills are essential for success at work and in life. The need to learn and develop communication, teamwork, problem-solving, adaptability, and time management are often the key to success beyond school. They are also the key to success in school, and much of our curriculum thought is about how to ensure students are exposed to these skills and can reflect on their understanding of them, alongside their natural desire to gain knowledge of the examination syllabus. So much time is dedicated by students, particularly during revision, to remembering information, but it is equally (if not more) important for them to practise soft skills, which are what enable students to apply that knowledge effectively in real-world situations.

Later in this and next week's newsletter you will hear more about some of the specific careers focus work covered in National Careers Week. I also encourage you to read the reviews and check out our socials - two speakers talked to students about their careers and the importance of skills as much as knowledge. **Sayi Rhodes**, drawing on a distinguished career in broadcast and digital journalism, spoke to the whole school and then conducted some workshops in geography classes, exploring wider world views and opening eyes to different perspectives and the role of storytelling in journalism.

Our Textiles GCSE and A Level students also heard from the **Jimmy Choo Academy**, a renowned institution that offers training and education in the fashion and luxury goods industry. They provided valuable insights into the world of fashion, design, and entrepreneurship, and shared their experiences working with one of the most iconic brands in the world. We believe that exposure to professionals from different industries is crucial for our students' career development, and we are grateful to these speakers for sharing their time and expertise with us.

In recent weeks, many students in year 10 have begun to reflect on potential career paths and started searching for work experience placements. This is also an opportunity to recommend our work experience partners InvestIN [www.investin.org](http://www.investin.org) who (with a 10%

Mount House discount) offer our sixth formers immersive work experience programmes. I have worked with this group for several years, and the feedback from students has been excellent. They provide access to some high-level programmes and activities, which offer a genuine depth of experience and focus that might not always be available during “in-work” placements, where daily work routines can leave placement students not as fully included or inspired as we might hope.

Whilst this is just a snapshot of some of the explicit careers related work being undertaken, just as important is to encourage all students to recognise that the collaborative work, the expectation for oracy in class, the teaching of how to conduct discerning research and the reflection on ethical dilemmas of a given topic are all the things that will stay with them. By developing their soft skills, our students will be better equipped to succeed in their future careers and will be able to apply them to real-world situations.

## ISI REPORT: CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT AT MOUNT HOUSE SCHOOL

The ISI is appointed by the Department for Education to inspect independent schools in England, and an inspection is a rigorous process, typically occurring once every three years.

The ISI introduced a new framework in September 2023. The material change in the framework is that independent schools now either meet the standards, or do not. The inspection report is structured around five key areas, providing inspectors’ detailed commendations, insightful overviews and recommendations for further improvement.



Department  
for Education

**ISI** Independent  
Schools  
Inspectorate

**We are delighted that Mount House received the rating of ‘Standards Met’ across all five areas. This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our remarkable team.**

If you would like to read the inspection report, [please follow this link](#).



## CAREERS

### Seyi Rhodes - Journalism



We were extremely fortunate to host Seyi Rhodes on Tuesday. Seyi is a current affairs journalist, presenter, producer and broadcaster, with nearly two decades of experience in the industry.

With a notable portfolio including renowned programmes like 'Unreported World' and contributions to the BBC World Service, he proved to be an inspirational speaker.

The whole school heard him in assembly, and he subsequently conducted smaller workshops tailored for GCSE geographers. In these sessions, he seamlessly intertwined his firsthand documentary experiences with the topics we explore in our curriculum.

Our year 10 students delved into Seyi's immersive journey through Brazil's favelas, providing a compelling lens through which to understand urbanisation.

Year 11 students scrutinised Seyi's coverage of the environmental impact on Indonesia's "world's dirtiest river," shedding light on the complexities of development and globalisation.

Additionally, all year 9 students were captivated by Seyi's encounters during Ivory Coast's civil war, offering insights into the challenges and realities of his profession.

During lunchtime, Seyi graciously hosted a Q&A session, sharing invaluable advice on embarking on a career in journalism: advocating for creating original content and securing meaningful work experience placements.

**University of  
Hertfordshire UH**

**Hertfordshire University** has some online events soon, including *Making the right choices for you post-16* and *How to choose a course and university*. To find out more/ book please visit [www.herts.ac.uk/study/open-days-and-events/undergraduate-events/online-events](http://www.herts.ac.uk/study/open-days-and-events/undergraduate-events/online-events) or book onto the next Open Day on 27<sup>th</sup> April: [www.herts.ac.uk/study/open-days-and-events/undergraduate-events/open-days](http://www.herts.ac.uk/study/open-days-and-events/undergraduate-events/open-days)



**Swansea University** is offering a Medicine, Healthcare and Psychology residential summer school this year. The dates are 14-17 July 2024 and year 12 students (16 and 17 year olds) are invited to join. If you are interested in learning more about the summer school or studying a medicine, healthcare-focused or psychology related degree, you can [register your interest](#) to find out more.

## BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK – LIVE PANEL

To launch this year's Science Week, the Planetarium at the Royal Observatory will host a live discussion panel, broadcasted live on YouTube.

**Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:45pm**

This discussion will take place with panellists and a live audience of young people from London.

Follow the link below to learn more.

<https://www.britishscienceweek.org/bsw24-royal-observatory-major-partner/>

Or use this link to go directly to the event.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PC\\_I2emhC6s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PC_I2emhC6s)

The Science department will be hosting a number of activities and co-curricular events during Science Week. More news next week.



## PE

### U13 hockey match vs Arnold House

We did not set off strongly, conceding many goals in the first few minutes, and our morale was lowered very quickly, however not many goals were scored by them after the first five minutes, ending the half 5-0.

Mr van Leeven gave us a great half-time talk and our morale was heightened once again. Varun had a great breakthrough, fumbled the ball past the goalkeeper and touched it in, securing our first and only goal. The other team came back strongly and scored, finishing the game, 6-1.

**Report by Oscar, year 7**

### Athletes of the week

Year 7	Alistair (golf)
Year 8	Hassan
Year 9	Saffron and Mikey
Year 10	Amelia (Trampolining)
Year 11	Luke



## YEAR 9 READING *ELEGY WRITTEN IN A COUNTRY CHURCHYARD*

Year 9 have been studying pre-twentieth century poetry. One of the poems they have read is Thomas Gray's '*Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard*,' written in 1750. The poem is set in a graveyard at the end of the day as the 'curfew tolls' and as the local people, rural workers, are leaving their work to go home to a 'blazing hearth.' These are the local people of the parish who didn't lead extravagant lives but were nevertheless happy. Now they sleep and 'For them no more the blazing hearth shall burn.' But their lives were of equal value to those who achieved what many would see as more in life. For as Gray tells us:

*Perhaps in this neglected spot is laid  
Some heart once pregnant with celestial fire;*

Nevertheless, we are all humbled by death, as Gray tells us:

*The paths of glory lead but to the grave.*

In order to bring the poem to life for my class, on Tuesday afternoon we took a short walk to our local parish church of St Mary the Virgin, Monken Hadley, and though it was raining and cold, students were not perturbed as we trudged down to the church.

On our visit students made notes of the inscriptions on the gravestones. From this they gained a sense of the local people who lived many years ago. A large number of graves date back to the eighteenth century, the time when Gray wrote his elegy. Students commented on how this really brought the poem to life, how they could imagine the people about whom Gray writes. Below are some of the inscriptions from the gravestones that students noted down.

Robert 1<sup>st</sup> son of Robert and Emma Chidwick  
Who died September 24<sup>th</sup> 1868 aged 9 weeks old  
Charles their second son  
Who died September 12<sup>th</sup> 1973 aged 2 and half years

Sacred to the memory of  
Henry Hyde Esq  
Lord of the Manor Hadley  
Who died 1871

Miss Anne Garrow  
Who died 20<sup>th</sup> February 1787  
Aged 18 years

With many graves dating back to the 1700s and 1800s, students commented on the short lives that people lived, and in particular infant mortality, illustrated by the early deaths of

the Chidwick brothers. But they also recognised the importance Gray gave to all the lives of those buried in such rural graveyards, however brief and however humble those lives may have been.

One student said, 'reading the poem in the church and walking around the graveyard really made the poem real, which helps you understand it.' As a teacher I could see the value in this short local trip to help students understand, appreciate and experience the poem.

The American writer and academic John Williams commented once that great literature should not just be read, but experienced. I think on Tuesday afternoon, amongst the gravestones, mizzling rain and cold wind, my class truly 'experienced' Gray's poem.

Mr Nancarrow  
Teacher of English



## NEWS FROM THE PTA

### New projects and equipment

Back in October the students took part in the school's sponsored Moveathon. Assisted by Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde, the students who raised funds had the opportunity to suggest how they are spent, and we are pleased to share with you the outcome of this process. Well done to all the students who took part in the Moveathon and came up with suggestions of what to buy.

- ✓ A new cello for the music department
- ✓ New footballs – football is a very popular game among many of the students and new balls are always needed!
- ✓ Chickens and the costs of setting up a project. This project will support a number of areas linked to the school curriculum including the sciences and business, and will also offer a lunchtime club for those who want to learn more about keeping chickens.
- ✓ Retro Gaming club - additional funding to support this popular club and to ensure it can continue as a co-curricular club, for the longer term.
- ✓ Robotics Club – further funding for another popular club that was originally set up with funding from the PTA.
- ✓ A new sofa for the Hive.

### Comedy Night on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March

Last chance to buy tickets!

If you are planning to join us for the Comedy Night, please do purchase your tickets as soon as you can so we can confirm numbers for the catering.

Thank you.

Here is the ticket link: [Stand Up Comedy Night Tickets, Fri 8 Mar 2024 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/stand-up-comedy-night-tickets-fri-8-mar-2024-at-19:00)

Our next step is the popular **Easter Egg giveaway** on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March**, where every student receives an Easter egg. Dairy and gluten free options will be available.



**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)



## Weekly Menu Week 2

### MENUS NEXT WEEK

#### Monday

Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread

Honey Glazed Chicken wings with Garlic and Herbs

Vegetarian option  
Macaroni cheese

Snack Option  
Baked Potato  
Or  
Fresh Pasta

Served With  
Oven Baked Herb Potatoes  
Roasted Carrots  
peas  
Green Salad

Dessert  
Cherry and Bramley pie  
With  
Fresh double Cream

#### Tuesday

Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread

Turkey Masala with a Rich With Coconut Rice, mini coriander naan bread and mango chutney

Vegetarian option  
Roasted sweet Potato and Chickpea Curry

Snack Option  
Baked Potato with Various Fillings  
Or  
Fresh Pasta

Served With  
Roasted Broccoli  
Buttered sweetcorn  
Poached Pear Crumble  
With Vanilla  
Custard

#### Wednesday

Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread

Dish of the day  
Italian Beef Lasagne with Garlic Bread

Vegetarian option  
Roasted Vegetable and Puy Lentil Lasagne

Snack Option  
Baked Potatoes  
Or  
Fresh Pasta

Served With  
Sautéed Greens and Kale  
Roasted Fennel Carrots

Dessert  
Lemon Sherbet  
Drizzle Cake

#### Thursday

Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread

PUPILS CHOICE

### Themed Day Menu

### Students Choice

#### Friday

Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread

Dish of the day  
Breaded cod  
Fillet with Tartar Sauce  
Or

Salmon and dill fish cakes with tartar sauce and Lemon

Vegetarian option  
Vegetable chilli with Rice  
Bowl with melted cheese  
Vegan Friendly

Snack Option  
Jacket Potatoes  
Or  
Fresh Pasta

Served With  
Crispy Spiced hand cut Wedges  
Mushy Peas  
Minted Garden Peas

Dessert  
Blueberry cake

