



NEWSLETTER – 26TH APRIL

MESSAGE FROM MR COOPER, SENIOR DEPUTY HEAD

Our young people are often accused of being apathetic about political engagement and their role in society. For example, we may see lower voter turnout, and viewing figures of Newsnight from our children may not be as high as some of us might hope.

However, young people are politically active and socially engaged in many different ways. The concerns over our climate and environment, Black Lives Matter, support for the LGBTQ+ movement and many other causes have driven many of the steps forward in recent years. Young people demand change, harness the power of social media to support this, and in some cases actually lead these movements. Policy makers and power holders in politics and society have had to, and will increasingly need to, respond to this and whilst it may not always transfer into voting patterns, it does form the basis of much of the debate and change we can see. At Mount House we aim to foster active citizenship and civic engagement among our students. As part of our commitment to this, we are engaging the students in the London mayoral elections over the next few weeks.



This Monday, during our assembly, we will be introducing the mock candidates, mirroring the upcoming mayoral elections. Led by students and especially sixth formers, we aim to give students a sense of the democratic process and raise awareness of the issues at hand and the candidates' positions.

I have seen a number of mock elections in my time as a teacher and there is little doubt that they serve as a powerful educational tool, offering students a hands-on opportunity to explore their part in the electoral system. By researching candidates, analysing their platforms and participating in debates, students develop critical thinking skills and learn to articulate their opinions with confidence and clarity. School is also a safe and inclusive space for students to express their political views and engage in meaningful dialogue with their peers. There will be a diverse range of perspectives and hearing these can only inform and help us all reflect.

Special thanks to Mr. Allman for his efforts in preparing and inspiring our students for this scheme. It will help embed the sense of civic responsibility we all want our young people to foster. We look forward to what the candidates and electorate have to say.



WORK EXPERIENCE: PRE-MED PROJECTS

Recently, I took part in online work experience led by a company called Premed Projects. Their aim is to help aspiring doctors aged 16+ to better understand the world of medicine. This webinar helped me learn more about how a hospital A&E works and the sort of situations I might encounter. It also showed me how to talk to patients and ask specific questions to help tackle the situation at hand. We learnt about cardiology and the different conditions of the heart, such as coronary artery disease and heart attacks in further detail and how to manage them. We were shown how to read an ECG and how to correctly use that information to diagnose patients. We also looked at many examples of radiology and tried to spot fractures in different areas of the body. It was an incredible experience and really helped me to understand more about medicine and the different jobs involved. This short course has made me even more determined to study hard and achieve my dream.



Thomas F, year 12

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT: KING'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP LAB ESSAY COMPETITION



This essay competition, run by King's College Cambridge, is open to all year 11s and 12s, and the deadline for submission of a 1000-word essay is the 12th July 2024. There is a cash prize of £1000 and two runner up prizes of £500 each, which go to the student (not Mount House).

The choice of three titles is:

Q1: Entrepreneurs that innovate can keep up with the latest trends and fight off competition to increase consumer demand for their products. However, innovation can be expensive and can also destroy revenues for a firm's existing products. Provide some examples of this and discuss, in more detail, the trade-offs firms and entrepreneurs face when deciding to innovate, and what happens if they fail to innovate.

Q2: Discuss the concept of social entrepreneurship and its role in addressing social and environmental issues. Analyse, in depth, a successful social enterprise and discuss how it balances the trade-off between profit-making with creating a positive impact.

Q3: Explore the rise of the gig economy and its implications for entrepreneurs. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of gig work for entrepreneurs and strategies for succeeding in this evolving economic landscape.

For more information, please ask Ms Wong and see www.kingselab.org/essay-competition.



SERVICE LEARNING: BUG HOTELS

All sixth-form students' academic studies are complemented by an enrichment programme. This includes Service Learning, where students have the opportunity to work within our community or in the community outside of school to help others and develop their soft skills further. Darcie and Aoife in year 12 launched a Service Learning project leading environmental awareness work with year 7 as part of the Product Design curriculum. They began designing and constructing bug hotels to help the biodiversity and pollination in our local area.





LEONARDO DA VINCI'S BIRTHDAY

On 15th May, we celebrated Da Vinci's birthday with a House competition. Students were asked to recreate a Leonardo painting in a photo. A panel of judges awarded first prize to Ash House for their versions of The Last Supper, Vitruvian Man and Salvator Mundi. The judges also gave a special commendation to Holly House for Mona's Mona Lisa.



PORTUGAL TRIP

Our school trip to Portugal was an unforgettable experience filled with sunshine, learning and unexpected adventures - especially when Miss Buckland got lost when looking for the pool! The daily tennis sessions offered a perfect balance of focused improvement and friendly competition. Mornings were dedicated to refining our serving and volleying techniques under the warm Portuguese sun. Afternoons were more about gameplay and tactics, testing our newly acquired skills against each other.

Away from the tennis court, the trip offered a variety of activities to keep us entertained. At the pool we raced to collect sinkies from the pool bottom, adding a splash of excitement to our leisure time. Mr Peara was on constant alert as Evan and Owen tried to push him into the water! Evenings were not just for rest: Mr Whitehouse's quiz brought out our competitive spirits once again, ensuring that learning remained a central part of our experience.

Looking back, the trip to Portugal was more than just a tennis excursion; it was a journey of growth, friendship, and resilience. From mastering new skills on the court to overcoming the challenge of turbulence in the stormy skies on the flight home, each moment served as a reminder of our ability to adapt and thrive in any situation. At home, we were inspired by not only memories of our tennis triumphs, but also the invaluable lessons learned along the way.

A massive well done to all students who worked exceptionally hard on the court during the five days we were away, in particular to Sofie, Olivia, Kimi and Pedro, who were selected to represent Mount House School in a doubles competition.

Thank you so much to Mrs Wiltshire and Mr Whitehouse for taking part on the court helping students improve; and to Mr Peara for his amazing photography skills and constant Dad Jokes! I would personally like to thank all of the students and staff on this trip who made it such an amazing experience.

Miss Buckland







SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING - FRIDAY 19TH APRIL 2024

The minutes for the School Council meeting are included below. The School Council would like to thank Rosa, our outgoing Chair and Katie, Minutes Secretary, for all their hard work and commitment during the last year. They have worked tirelessly to represent the school and act as a student voice within the school. The new Chair is Aoife, along with Jess, who is the new Minutes Secretary for the coming year.

Held in the school library

In attendance:

Chair: Aoife T

Minutes Secretary: Katie G

Year 7: Isabella B

Year 8: Jasmine P, Hassan J

Year 9: Selin S

Year 10: William A, Harvey T

Year 11: Anna C, Mia B, Theo W, Alice R

Year 12/13: Freya C, Molly E, Jess Y (future Minutes Secretary)

Invited guests: representatives from the Thomas Franks catering company

Bursar: Mrs Nathwani

Teacher Facilitator: Mr Allman

Meeting Started at 8:33

Points raised and discussed:

1. A year 11 representative suggested that Thomas Franks introduce a rotation of meals on Fridays, as currently it is only fish. The team responded by agreeing as they want to introduce cultural or different meals on a Friday.

Head's response: the Head stated that if the fish is unpopular, it can be removed from the menu.

2. A number of year 10 representatives asked if there could be more halal and kosher options. However, Thomas Franks responded that there can be no cross contamination and it's difficult in a small kitchen. They would like to accommodate everyone. They want students' opinions on some popular vegetarian options.

Head's response: the Head would like a survey to be conducted of which vegetarian options the students would like to have.

3. A year 12 representative proposed that more bowls should be put out by the soup option as it's not a clear option for the students.

4. Thomas Franks said that they are looking to introduce more cultural food onto the menu in the coming months. They asked Council representatives to suggest ideas.

5. A year 11 representative requested chips instead of wedges on a Friday. Thomas Franks responded that they could facilitate this but they don't have a fryer. Chips would have to be oven-cooked, which reduces the taste.

6. All representatives agreed that the food in the school has improved. They want to bring back the paninis onto the menu. Thomas Franks want to create healthier versions of those types of food with the help from a nutritionist.

The use of the MUGA was discussed as a request by Mr Crosby.

7. A year 10 representative requested for the MUGA rota to change so that their food slot in the canteen doesn't clash with the MUGA timings as it shortens how long they are allowed on it.

Head's response: the Head will check for any clashes with the timetable.

No other suggestions in relation to the MUGA were presented.

8. A year 9 representative raised the question again of being allowed to wear PE kit to school when they have PE first period. The Head previously stated that they will forget their school uniform and it's not reliable. The Chair suggested that there could be a trial period during which this can be tested.

Head's Response: Mrs Richardson has agreed to a two-week trial period. All students who have PE in period 1 have to change into full school uniform after the lesson otherwise they go back to coming in school uniform.

9. A year 10 representative suggested that GCSE PE students be given one practical every week instead of one every fortnight. It will allow them to practise throughout the whole year and not leave their sports until the last minute.

Head's Response: the Head will communicate with Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde about the scheme of work so students understand why practical lessons are scheduled as they are.

Meeting finished at 8:53

Next meeting is due to be held on the 17th of May

Minutes by Katie Gallagher.



SEND TRAVEL TRAINING WORKSHOP – LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE



Able to Travel

Free SEND travel training workshop
Tuesday 6th August 2024
 10.15am – 11.50am OR 12.15pm – 1.50pm
 RAF Museum, Colindale

Parents and carers, we would love to welcome you and your child(ren) to our fun and friendly summer travel training session. Suitable for children and young people (Year 6 and above) with SEND or those who are particularly vulnerable or anxious whilst travelling on public transport. Top travel tips will be shared to help make travelling easier and safer.

Limited spaces available – book soon to avoid disappointment! Please contact road.safety@barnet.gov.uk for more information and a booking form.

FUTURE SCHOOLS EVENT AT LYONSDOWN SCHOOL

Jessica and Aoife joined Mrs Richardson at Lyonsdown School to help with their 'Future Schools' programme in which the school prepares its pupils for secondary school and guides them towards the right choices.

Jess and Aoife were a credit to Mount House and we hope that the Lyonsdown pupils who join us here at Mount House will be happy.





Weekly Menu

Week 3

MENUS NEXT WEEK

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread</p> <p>Dish of the Day Mexican Beef Chili with rice and Sour Cream</p> <p>Vegetarian option Roasted Vegetable and Chickpea tagine With rice Vegan Friendly</p> <p>Snack Option Baked Potatoes Or Fresh Pasta</p> <p>Served With Sweet corn and Spring onions Roasted Aubergine and Courgettes</p> <p>Dessert Vanilla Iced Slice</p>	<p>Soup of the day with freshly baked bread</p> <p>Dish of the day Chinese Chicken With Special fried rice</p> <p>Vegetarian option Indian Lentil Dahl With Mini coriander and garlic Naan, mango chutney</p> <p>Snack Option Baked Potato with Various Fillings Or Fresh Pasta</p> <p>Served With Roasted Indian spiced Cauliflower Chilli Green Beans</p> <p>Dessert Apple and Ginger Cake</p>	<p>Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread</p> <p>Dish of the day Grilled Cumberland sausage With mash potato and onion Gravy Gluten free sausages available</p> <p>Vegetarian option Vegan Quorn sausage with mash potato and onion Gravy</p> <p>Vegan Friendly Snack Option Baked Potato Or Fresh Pasta</p> <p>Served With Fresh Green Beans Savoy cabbage</p> <p>Dessert Very Fruity Granola Bars</p>	<p>Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread</p> <p>Dish of the day Roast pork With apple sauce, stuffing, gravy and crispy crackling</p> <p>Vegetarian option Roasted vegetable and thyme crumble</p> <p>Snack Option Baked Potato Or Fresh Pasta</p> <p>Served With Roast potatoes Roasted carrot and swede Broccoli</p> <p>Dessert Chocolate and beetroot cake</p>	<p>Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread</p> <p>Dish of the day Breaded Cod with tartar sauce and Lemon Or Mackerel and dill fish cake with tartar sauce and Lemon</p> <p>Vegetarian option Roasted pepper and mushroom quiche cheddar quiche</p> <p>Snack Option Baked Potato served with Various Fillings Or Fresh Pasta</p> <p>Served With Oven Fries Mushy Peas, Baked Beans</p> <p>Dessert Lemon and Courgette Cake</p>

