



NEWSLETTER – 21ST JUNE

MESSAGE FROM MS SMYTH, ASSISTANT HEAD (PASTORAL)

Navigating a general election can be a daunting task for students, especially if it's their first time voting. Both schools and parents have a pivotal role in nurturing civic responsibility and political activism among teenagers. We are conscious that not all students will be old enough to vote but may for the first time feel engaged in the process. They may also want to reflect on their sense of agency and how they can contribute to the various community networks they are part of. Teenagers can demonstrate political and social leadership in school through a variety of actions and initiatives and I want to focus my article this week on how our students can exhibit leadership, make a positive impact in their school community and navigate the upcoming election.



A sense of civic responsibility can sound like a lofty goal but there are plenty of opportunities for our students to develop their soft skills and influence their social and learning environments, such as Student Council, mock elections, Speakers' Corner and student voice panels. These offer students a wealth of opportunities to develop leadership, communication, and organisational skills, contribute to their school community, and prepare for future academic and career endeavours. It empowers students to make a positive impact on their school environment and fosters a sense of responsibility and civic engagement.

Over the coming weeks much of the mainstream media will be dedicated to sharing their views on what they think are important political messages and crucial focuses for our next government. In school, students can ask any of their teachers to support them in explaining any key terms or concepts that they are unsure about. They can make a start by checking:

- **Official candidate websites:** get information directly from the candidates.
- **News outlets:** read from multiple sources to get a balanced view.
- **Debates and interviews:** watch or attend debates and interviews to see how candidates handle questions and discuss policies.

Once they have checked various media outputs, I would encourage students to **reflect on what is important to you:** education, healthcare, economy, climate change. Consider factors such as:

- **Experience:** look at their political and professional background.
- **Policies:** which policies align with your values and needs?



- **Integrity and transparency:** evaluate their past behaviour and accountability.

We all have a responsibility to educate ourselves and others. We can do this by making sure that we share accurate information when we have conversations with peers and family members and avoid fake news on social media. Promote critical thinking and encourage questioning by challenging your friends and classmates to question the validity of claims made at this time and seek out multiple sources of information. As a school we aim to support the students engage in civil discourse in the classroom and during form time in a way that is respectful and constrictive, especially when disagreeing with others! As the trusted adults in our students lives, we should model respectful dialogue, creating safe spaces where they can express their concerns and thoughts. These actions not only help counter harmful messages but also contribute to a more informed, respectful, and engaged community.

My earliest memory of politics was meeting the late Glenda Jackson while I was at secondary school, when she chaired a debate in which I was participating. She was so fiercely passionate and engaged in listening to our discussions, championing young people, in particular women's voices that I knew that I was destined for a career in service. When I think about our students now, absorbing the various messages and rhetoric that dominate all media outlets, I am cognisant that we need to use this time to allow them to think about the 'big stuff', and reflect on what is important! By utilising us and the above tools, students can stay informed, engage critically with political content, and participate actively in the democratic process.

There are several helpful websites that students can use to stay informed, research candidates and issues, and engage responsibly. Here are some recommended resources:

- [The Electoral Commission](#): offers comprehensive information about voter registration, electoral processes, and educational resources about the UK election system.
- [Full Fact](#): an independent fact-checking organization that verifies claims made by politicians, media, and other public figures.
- [British Youth Council](#): engages young people in democracy and provides resources on how to get involved in political activism and elections.
- [Young Citizens](#): provides resources and programs aimed at helping young people understand and participate in democracy.
- [Shout Out UK](#): a youth media organization that offers political literacy programs, news, and resources to engage young people in politics.



P.E.

Tennis Triumphs

This week, students in years 7 and 8 have been honing their skills through competitive matches against their peers, solidifying their learning in a fun and engaging way. Meanwhile, some students in years 9 and 10 enjoyed a session at Hadley Wood Tennis Club, benefiting from the expertise of one of the club's coaches.

Golf Gears Up

With the house competition on the horizon, students have been eagerly preparing for next week's golf events. This preparation time is critical for sharpening their skills and building team spirit.

Athletics Adventures

Athletics sessions have been a highlight, offering students the chance to practise various events including the standing long jump, sprint starts, 100m sprint and standing triple jump. These activities not only build physical fitness but also help students decide on their events for the upcoming sports day.

Athletes of the Week

Year 7: Ena

Year 8: Nikos

Year 9: Olivia

Year 10: Junior

A reminder that with the current glorious weather, students must ensure that they have a water bottle and sun cream for every PE and Games session.

A REQUEST FROM MRS FALLON:

As we approach the end of the school year many of us are growing excited for the forthcoming summer holidays. If you are setting off abroad, I would like to make a request from our students their families. If you are visiting any ancient sites, or places relating to the ancient world, please email me a photograph of you at the site and a short explanation of where you are and what you saw. I would like to use these images to create a classroom display in the new school year. Many thanks in advance and happy holidays!



DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITION: A JOURNEY OF GROWTH

20 students are currently undertaking their qualifying expedition for the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Yesterday was a particularly successful day as they completed their walking route, set up camp efficiently, cooked their meals, and even enjoyed a friendly football match with another school at the campsite.

The enthusiasm and preparedness of the students were evident this morning, as all groups departed ahead of schedule. Their mastery of camp craft is commendable, and we are eager to meet them along their route today to witness their progress firsthand.

This week has shown the remarkable impact that favourable weather can have on our sports and outdoor activities, fostering growth, skill development, and teamwork among our students.







SUMMER CONCERT

This year's summer concert was yet another bonanza of music and fun. It featured every music class from years 7 - 9 plus a variety of high-quality soloists. The choir featured three times and the Phantoms played several great numbers as always. We also had two performances from the Junior Phantoms, who were formed this year. We say farewell and wish the best of luck to Joel R and Áine S: both have contributed so much to music during their time at Mount House.

Many thanks also to the PTA, who provided food and refreshments to all the concert-goers and performers on the Cedar lawn.

Mr Whitehouse







MACBETH SCENE

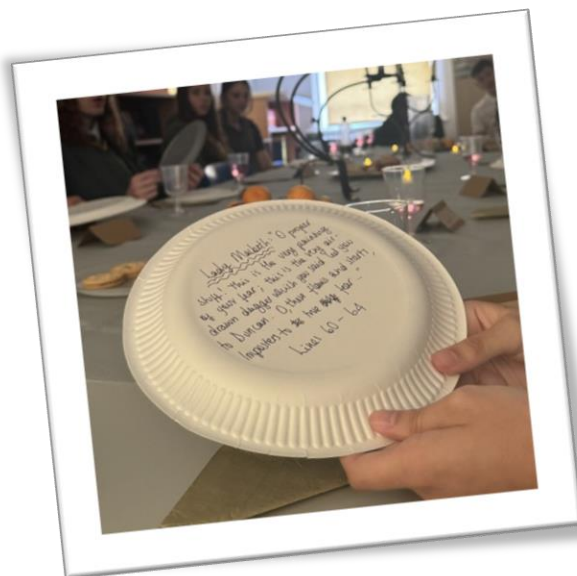
This term the year 9s have been studying Macbeth. As a small surprise, my class were invited to Macbeth's banquet where the famous scene of Banquo's ghost comes to haunt and torment Macbeth. This scene is pivotal as Macbeth's demise is soon approaching.

Students enjoyed treats and delicacies of the time whilst analysing key quotes, from the scene, that were hidden on the underside of their plates.

Students were then encouraged to discuss and map out their ideas on their section of the table cloth before clinking their glasses to present their ideas to the class.

The lesson ended by debating the question: 'Is Macbeth truly accountable for his actions or is he somewhat innocent?'

Miss Christofi





THEATRE IN EDUCATION – T.I.E.

Last week, year 9 drama students paid a visit to our neighbours Monken Hadley Primary School as part of our T.I.E. project. They planned and delivered a one-hour workshop, facilitating a range of interactive warm up games to an enthusiastic group of 22 year 5 students. The workshop ended with a Q and A session which was very insightful for our year 9s as their aim was to attempt get to know the students and gauge their interests and what they were most passionate about.



The plan now is to brainstorm the results in class and devise a second workshop incorporating all of the new ideas. This will take place in our drama studio on Thursday 27th June and will feature all of the year 5s who will have the opportunity to rehearse and perform alongside our year 9s, exploring a range of theatrical techniques and using costume and lighting to enhance their work.

Well done to all involved who demonstrated great communication and leadership skills and above all made the session fun and enjoyable. We look forward to welcoming Monken Hadley to Mount House for part two.



PTA ICE CREAMS

Thank you so much to the PTA, who treated years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 to post-exam ice creams from Lewis of London. Everyone (students and staff) greatly enjoyed the treat.





Parent Teacher Association
MOUNT HOUSE

FRIDAY
28th June
2:15-4:15pm


SUMMER FAIR



Ice Cream - Pizza - Drink Stall
Music - Nails - Hook A Duck
Second Hand Uniform - Book Stall
Spin the Wheel - Coconut Shy - Ring toss
Sweet Stall - Bottle Tombola
TOTAL WIPEOUT - House Competition
Hamper draw @ 3:45pm





MOUNT HOUSE SCHOOL PARENT STUDENT GOLF COMPETITION

**THURSDAY 27TH JUNE, TEE OFF FROM 5PM
£40 PER PLAYING PAIR (9 HOLES EACH, FOOD AND
DRINK ON ARRIVAL)**

**TO TAKE PART YOU WILL NEED TO CREATE A PARTNERSHIP
BETWEEN YOUR CHILD AND YOURSELF.**

**IN YOUR PAIR, YOU WILL BE PLAYING A SHAMBLE FORMAT. THIS
MEANS BOTH OF YOU WILL TEE OFF, YOU WILL THEN SELECT
WHICH BALL WAS BETTER AND BOTH PLAY YOUR NEXT SHOT
FROM THERE. THIS WILL CONTINUE UNTIL ONE BALL HAS BEEN
PUTTED.**

**THE COMPETITION WILL BE PLAYED OVER 9 HOLES, WITH THE
WINNING PAIR EARNING A TROPHY AND MEDALS.**

**PLEASE FOLLOW THE LINK BELOW, TO SIGN UP YOUR ADULT AND
STUDENT PAIR.**

[HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.COM/E/PDQTAJJHQ3](https://forms.office.com/E/PDQTAJJHQ3)

**IF YOU HAVE A STUDENT WHO DOES NOT HAVE AN ADULT TO
PLAY WITH, PLEASE EMAIL MR MATHER**





CAREERS

London Metropolitan University Open Day

Attending an open day is a great opportunity to meet our vibrant university community and see our fantastic facilities up close.

Aldgate campus Open Day – Friday 28th June 2024 from 11am

Holloway campus Open Day – Friday 5th July from 11am

During the day, students will have the opportunity to:

- learn more about their chosen subject area and participate in taster sessions.
- view student work and engage in discussions with academics, support staff, students, and alumni.
- benefit from workshops and advice sessions covering funding, applications, and university preparation.
- explore our campus and visit one of our private accommodation providers' halls of residence.

Find out more here: <https://www.londonmet.ac.uk/events/undergraduate-open-days/>

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MENUS NEXT WEEK

<div>  <div> <h1>Weekly Menu</h1> <p>Week 1</p> </div> </div>				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread Pasta Bar Rich Beef bolognese With spaghetti and crispy garlic bread Vegetarian option Pumpkin and crispy Kale risotto With Parmesan and cannellini beans <i>Vegan Friendly</i> Snack Option Baked Potatoes Or Fresh Pasta Served With Steamed broccoli Garden Salad Dessert Winter Bramley Apple Crumble With Double Cream	Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread Dish of the day BBQ Chicken Drumsticks With Garlic and Parsley Rice Vegetarian Option Sundried tomato and Feta Deep Filled Quiche <i>Vegan Friendly</i> Snack Option Baked Potato with Various Fillings Or Fresh Pasta Served With Fresh Green Beans Roasted fennel cauliflower	Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread Dish of the day Mount House Hot Dog With Fried onions and a Mustard Mayo Vegetarian Option Chinese Stir-fry with Quorn Garlic, soy and Vegetable Noodles <i>Vegan Friendly</i> Snack Option Baked Potatoes Or Fresh Pasta Served With Spiced Roasted Carrots Fennel coleslaw Paprika sweetcorn	Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread PUPILS Choice Mexican chicken Fajitas With Guacamole, sour cream, and fresh salsa VEGETARIAN OPTION Mexican fresh Vegetable Fajitas With Kidney Beans, Guacamole, sour cream and fresh Salsa SNACK OPTION Baked Potatoes Or Fresh Pasta Served with Steamed Rice Roasted Aubergine and Courgettes Carrots Dessert Chocolate Mousse	Soup of the day served with freshly baked bread Dish of the day Breaded cod With Tartar sauce Or Salmon and dill fish cakes with tartar sauce and Lemon Vegetarian Option Tandoori Quorn and Vegetable Indian Wrap Snack Option Jacket Potatoes Or Fresh Pasta Served With Crispy Potato Wedges Garden Peas Crunchy Salad Dessert Carrot cake with cream cheese frosting

