



NEWSLETTER – 10th MAY

MESSAGE FROM MR CROSBY, DEPUTY HEAD (PASTORAL)

With exam season underway, I am sure all of us have our own memories of them – the silent exam halls, rows of desks and chairs, the ticking clock (still scares me today in the silence of a room), hours of revision (or staying up the night before an exam), exams that went well, and probably more starkly remembered, exams that didn't! One of my fears was the conversations immediately afterwards; boys in particular had a tendency of saying how well the exam went and everything they revised came up, whereas the girls were more measured and honest about their experience.



Whatever our view of exams, they are here for the foreseeable future. In a world with AI (Artificial Intelligence), and particularly with the arrival of the open access products like 'ChatGPT', aspects of education such as coursework may become a thing of the past. There have already been examples of pupils using these platforms to write A grade essays at the click of a button... a concerning thought for teachers around the world! Therefore, despite talk about significant exam reform, exams are unlikely to be going anywhere as the fairest way to assess children's understanding and progress. With that in mind, we have a collective duty to ensure our young people are prepared to perform well in any important exams they may have to take in their futures.

Understandably, our young people feel under pressure with the amount of school work and revision expected. In school, staff will continue working with students to provide guidance, advice and support about revision.

One of the key findings in a piece of research found that 'parental support is eight times more important in determining a child's academic success than social class' (TES, 2003). The good news is that you (the parent) don't need to be an expert in any of the subjects your child studies to make a real difference. Any encouragement and support you can offer at home will be hugely beneficial to your child's success in their exams and this will also help combat any potential negative stress.

"Parental support is eight times more important in determining a child's academic success than social class" (TES, 2003).

Here are some basic guidelines to support parents:

- **Ensure your child attends school regularly and on time**

90% attendance means one in ten days is missed; over the course of a school year this is the equivalent of four weeks and can be worth more than a grade!

- **Talk to your child about what they're learning**

Ask them about what they covered in class, any homework / coursework they have to do and deadlines they need to meet.

- **Contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns about your child.**

- **Be flexible and use the 80/20 rule**

If your child is sticking to what they are supposed to be doing 80% of the time, they will be doing it right.

For all our students across the school who are embarking on public exams or end of year exams, please remember exams serve another important purpose. The process of preparing for examinations helps ensure our young people build knowledge in their long-term memories, something crucial for future learning. Critics of exams will often say "why do children need to learn facts if they can just google it?" This is an attractive thought, but a very ill-informed one. Cognitive scientific research about how our brains work is absolutely clear – children need knowledge in order to think: without a broad web of knowledge in their brains to think with, children can't be analytical problem solvers, or effective critical and creative thinkers – and this is what we need in an ever-changing and complex world.

Here at Mount House school, we would like to wish all of our students the very best with their exams this year and the staff are always on hand to support in any way we can.

MEET YOUR PREFECTS

Senior Prefects: Aoife and Jessica

Aoife:

Hello! My name is Aoife and I have been at the school since 2018 when I started in year 7. I am currently in the position of Senior Prefect, jointly with Jessica.



Jessica (L) and Aoife (R)

**What subjects are you doing for A level?**

I am taking Textiles, Photography and Criminology. My favourite subject so far is Photography and I started this course in the beginning of year 12 after not doing it before. I'm currently looking into the topic of disorder and how to photograph it in different ways as there are many ways it can be interpreted.

My vision as Senior Prefect:

As Senior Prefect some of my visions for the school include:

- to have more day trips and fun activities
- to continue to support everyone to grow and develop at their own pace
- to introduce a wider variety of break-time foods at reasonable prices
- to have even more opportunities for community work and work experience
- to continue to challenge bullying and maintain Mount House as a safe space.

What are your hobbies outside of school?

I love to go shopping, bake and spend time with my family and friends.

Who inspires you?

My older sister inspires me, as she has recently travelled solo around south-east Asia. My sister taught me that it's okay to be independent and that it all gets easier once you get the hang of things! I really look up to the things she has been able to do and the people she has met and how confident she is in the challenges that she's faced.

Favourite food in the canteen?

My favourite food in the canteen is the sausage rolls at break.

Sum up your Mount House experience in three words:

Confident, loving and memorable.

What advice would you give to someone starting at Mount House?

Be yourself, it is very easy to find your feet as everyone is very welcoming. There will always be someone around to talk to, whether that's a friend, a teacher or me and Jessica!

Jessica:

Hello, my name is Jessica and I am Senior Prefect along with Aoife at Mount House School. I have been at Mount House since September 2022 from the start of year 11. In the short amount of time I've been at the school, I have been thoroughly supported and welcomed into the environment by students and members of staff.

**What subjects are you doing for A level?**

The subjects I am studying in year 12 are Textiles, Food and Nutrition and Criminology. My favourite subject is Textiles, which I only started doing as a GCSE subject in year 11 where the school helped me to get where I needed to be to be and submitted me for the GCSE. I am so proud to have my work on display in the Reception at school.

My vision as Senior Prefect:

As Senior Prefect, one of my visions for the school is to get the departments more involved in competitions such as the ISA textiles and art competitions, as this would get more students involved and allow more people to know about the fantastic work we do here. I will also look into other subject competitions as well. Another idea I have is to bring more different types of mindfulness into the school, including a company that rents out mindfulness animals to schools for an afternoon.

What are your hobbies outside of school?

My hobbies outside school are going out with my friends, shopping and trying new fun activities with them, like new restaurants and baking or cooking.

Who inspires you?

The person who inspires me the most is my mum because she has always been incredibly supportive of me throughout my life and has always given me unconditional love.

Favourite food in the canteen?

My favourite food in the canteen is the hash browns at break or the lasagne at lunch.

Sum up your Mount House experience in three words:

Supportive, engaging, homely.

What advice would you give to someone starting at Mount House?

The advice I would give a new person joining Mount House School would be to put yourself out there and get involved, because if you want to reach your full potential you need to give some in to get some back. And ask for help, whether that is with your form tutor, another teacher or with me or Aoife. Everyone is here to help you on your journey.



Charities Prefect: Megan

Hello my name is Megan, I started the school in year 12, and I am the Charities Prefect.

What subjects are you doing for A level?

I am taking English Language, Art and Sociology. I find Art the most enjoyable as I love being creative.

What is the first thing you would like to do in your role?

The first thing I would like to do in my role is to get the school partnered with a charity, and to bring students together.

What are your hobbies outside of school?

Baking, going on long walks and spending time with my family and friends.

Who inspires you?

My mum as she always pushes me out of my comfort zone, and is always supportive of me.

Favourite food in the canteen?

Sausage roll.

Sum up your Mount House experience in three words:

Friendly, supportive and educational.

What advice would you give to someone starting at Mount House?

Always be friendly, don't be afraid to get involved.

Cedar House Captain: Darcie

My name is Darcie. I joined Mount House in year 9 and I'm Cedar House Captain.

What subjects are you doing for A level?

I'm taking four A levels: Classics, Criminology, Politics and Chemistry. I'm also doing an EPQ on 'Whether or not organ



Megan





donation should be made mandatory in the UK'. It is hard to say which subject I most enjoy as they all push me to do different things, but if I had to choose, I would say Classics. I have always been obsessed with the subject, and wonderful teachers like Mrs Fallon and Mr Crosby only push me to work harder.

What is the first thing you would like to do in your role?

I would like to bring life to school events like sports day and continue my efforts to help my house win!

What are your hobbies outside of school?

I have many hobbies outside of school, including but not limited to hockey, reading, writing, baking and long-distance running.

Who inspires you?

My mum, as she's taken care of my brother and me on her own. She pushes both of us to do our best in anything we attempt, while simultaneously working full-time. And competing in and winning major cycling events such as The Ardechoise at 130 km, 178 km and 220 km and the Tour of Cambridge.

Favourite food in the canteen?

My favourite food in the canteen are the vegetarian hot dogs for lunch, but for break definitely the white chocolate cookies!

Sum up your Mount House experience in three words:

Progressive, welcoming and genuine.

What advice would you give to someone starting at Mount House?

Mount House is unlike any other school. With the school being small, there is a place for every individual to thrive. As you step through our doors, you're not just entering a building, but joining a vibrant community that feels like family. Here, every face is a friend waiting to be made, and every teacher a guide eager to inspire. So, work hard, and be kind.

Oak House Captain: Vani

Hello, my name is Vani. I have been at Mount House since year 7 and I am the Oak House Captain.

What subjects are you doing for A level?

I do Maths, Economics, Physics and Computer Science. I think Physics is an interesting subject but also enjoyable because of the experiments we do.



What is the first thing you would like to do in your role?

My vision for my House is to win sports day. I would like to be a team leader and encourage students to participate in House competitions. The first thing I want to do is to get to know students from my House.

What are your hobbies outside of school?

I love baking with my sister; I also do self-defence and I teach it to younger kids.

Who inspires you?

My parents inspire me in life because they want the best for me in my future.

Favourite food in the canteen?

The hash browns during break.

Sum up your Mount House experience in three words:

Enjoyable, supportive and inclusive.

What advice would you give to someone starting at Mount House?

Get to know people, try out different activities, stay organised, ask for help when needed, and enjoy the time in school.

Ash House Captain: Molly

Hello, my name is Molly and this is my first year at the school.

What subjects are you doing for A level?

Psychology, Sociology, English Literature, and out of all my subjects I find Psychology the most interesting.

What is the first thing you would like to do in your role?

I would really like for my House to win some more competitions.

What are your hobbies outside of school?

Sewing, crochet and golf.

Who inspires you?

My friends.

Favourite food in the canteen?

Focaccia bread.

Sum up your Mount House experience in three words:

Enjoyable, welcoming and supportive.

What advice would you give to someone starting at Mount House?

It's a very supportive school where a lot of people are willing to help you.

Holly House Captain: Joba

Hi my name is Joba, and I've been here at Mount House for five years now, since year 7. It's been an inspiring journey filled with learning and growth. Recently, I've taken on the role of Holly House Captain, where I'm excited to help out with the school community grow.



**What subjects are you doing for A level?**

As a sixth form student, I find myself taking on three challenging A level subjects: Mathematics, Physics, and Computing. Out of all of these subjects, Physics stands out as the most captivating and enjoyable. Taking part in various practical experiments as part of the AS course has been incredibly engaging and has deepened my understanding of the subject. However, it's worth saying that while Physics is enjoyable, it also presents significant challenges, making it the most demanding of the A levels I'm taking.

What is the first thing you would like to do in your role?

I have many visions for the role of Holly House Captain, but first I would like to increase the engagement between the students and their House by planning more events. I plan to do this by taking account of student opinions for House events so that more students are willing to take part.

What are your hobbies outside of school?

My hobbies outside of school involve boxing and gym mostly.

Who inspires you?

My inspiration for everything I do is my older brother as he is the one who always encouraged me to become as successful as him.

Favourite food in the canteen?

My favourite food in the canteen was when they made panini for lunch - I hope they will bring this back.

Sum up your Mount House experience in three words:

Exciting, inclusive, dynamic.

What advice would you give to someone starting at Mount House?

Respect others, your classmates, teachers and parents as respect and kindness can will be reciprocated if given honestly.

Vex Robotics High Stakes Competition 2024-25

With the Vex World Championships completed in Texas last week, we had the official announcement of the new game for the 2024-25 season - High Stakes.

<https://www.vexrobotics.com/competition>

The launch of next season's game means that schools across the world will be scrambling to come up with their new design for the regional competitions that begin in the autumn. Keeping to size restrictions, teams can add anything that they want to their robot in order to maximize their points in the game.

In High Stakes, the game pieces are coloured rings that need to be placed on either the mobile goals or one of the static goals surrounding the playing surface. Teams will need to design a robot that will be able to quickly and efficiently place the rings onto the various types of goals including the one "High Stakes" pole at the top of a four-foot structure in the centre of the playing service.

We have been busy brainstorming new ideas for the season using our newly acquired Pneumatic Device, courtesy of the fundraising from the PTA. It can hold up to 150PSI of pressure allowing it to rapidly fire a small piston. Students will have fun seeing how they can incorporate this device in their new designs for High Stakes.

We are looking to have at least two teams for the new season so if you are interested, please come to the Robotics Club, after school every Tuesday in Room 9, or see Mr. Brozny or Mr. Gallagher for any questions you might have.



PE

Athletes of the week:

Year 7	Will
Year 8	Purity
Year 9	Mikey
Year 10	Nick

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

This week 22 students in year 9 took part in their bronze Duke of Edinburgh training day which was led by A to Z Expeditions.

Throughout the day students took part in a variety of activities, including learning how to cook using a Trangia, how to assemble and disassemble a tent, how to plan a route card and the importance of safety when on their expedition.

A special mention to Beatrice and Louis who demonstrated sound knowledge throughout the day.

The expeditions will take place in June.

NEWS FROM THE PTA

Our next event is the **Summer Fair on Friday 28th June**. Planning is underway and we look forward to receiving your support in helping to make it a fun afternoon. Further information to come.



Parent Teacher Association

MOUNT HOUSE



Further to the success of the Comedy Night held in March, we would like to extend our thanks once again to Mark Maier (MC on the night, artist and year 7 dad) for his very kind donation of the pet portrait, which has been completed and you can see here.

If you are interested in Mark's work, or would like a portrait of your pet, you can contact him directly at markmaier@sky.com.



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**





HOLIDAY HOCKEY CAMPS AT SOUTHGATE HC

Bookings are now being taken for all camps during May half term and in the summer holidays.

Early bird discounts are available if booked more than two weeks in advance.

Please visit the hockey camps page on the website: www.southgatehc.org.uk



UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE – ENGLISH TASTER LECTURE

The University of Hertfordshire will be running an online English Taster Lecture for year 12 and 13 students which is free to attend.



Topic: Gothic Masterclass: The Dark Side of Literature

Date: Wednesday 15 May 2024

Time: 17.00 - 17.45

www.herts.ac.uk/study/open-days-and-events/undergraduate-events/online-events/subject-sessions



Weekly Menu

Week 2

MENUS NEXT WEEK

Monday

Soup of the day
served with freshly baked bread

Honey Glazed Chicken wings
with
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

Dessert
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

