



NEWSLETTER – 28TH JUNE

MESSAGE FROM MR CROSBY, DEPUTY HEAD (PASTORAL)

This week has been a busy one! We have had two extended assemblies featuring Chipping Barnet candidates from the Greens, Labour and the Lib Dems (all parties were invited) and students were given an opportunity to engage with current issues directly and vote on the policies that most appealed to them. On Tuesday morning family members of artist Sir Frank Bowling delivered a workshop on his work to our year 7s and 8s. We have had an induction afternoon for our incoming year 7 students; a taster afternoon for our incoming year 9 students; and a school open morning (a huge thanks to our year 7s and 8s for playing a crucial role as tour guides and setting such a wonderful example). Year 11s enjoyed their prom at Mill Hill Golf Club on Monday, while our year 13s attended a leavers' dinner on Wednesday evening. This morning it was sports day and this afternoon, the PTA summer fair... I need to take a breather! All of these opportunities provide a range of experiences for our young people to broaden their horizons, build relationships and practise vital life skills.



We also had the pleasure of having ten (yes, you read rightly... ten!) police officers visit us this week. Rest assured this was all pre-planned and there was no emergency to contend with. This follows on from the previous week where the whole school attended an extended assembly on 'Knife Crime and its Prevention' from the Josh Hanson Trust; the message from the mum of a knife-crime victim will hopefully live long in the memory of our students. On Tuesday this week we had four members of the TSG (Territorial Support Group) come in and display all their armoury to small groups of our students, including a dog called Hera. Those who had the privilege of participating in the workshop, gained a brilliant insight into the work of our front-line police and their day-to-day challenges.

Part of the reason for us allowing the police to work alongside our students is to build a relationship between young people and the police. On Monday the Safer Schools Team delivered a range of workshops to our year 7-10 cohort. The talks were fluid and students asked a range of questions, but the brief focused on the following themes:

- Year 7: being a bystander and your responsibility when it comes to crime.
- Year 8: social media and online safety.
- Year 9: violence against women and girls.
- Year 10: an open discussion around criminal activity (this session overran as year 10s were asking so many good questions).



They also started the day by delivering a whole school assembly on sexual extortion (commonly known in the media as 'sextortion'). This happens when victims are forced into paying someone they've met online not to forward compromising images of them. Globally there has been a huge increase in reports of young people being victims of financially motivated sexual extortion. So much so that the National Crime Agency's Child Exploitation and Online Protection centre has issued an alert in education settings across the UK in response to this threat. Sexploitation is usually carried out by organised crime groups based overseas who are typically motivated by money. These groups target all ages and genders; however, a large proportion of recent cases have involved male victims aged 14-18. It is worth saying that parents continue to ask what is the best way to safeguard their child online. The reality is that having ongoing conversations is best: continue to talk to your child about their online behaviours (the sites they like to use, and what they like and don't like and any concerns about being online) and help them to navigate when to unfollow, block or report. For help starting this conversation, please click [here](#) for support.

It is vitally important to circulate some streetwise safety messages for you to reiterate at home, ahead of the summer holidays:

- Keep phones and valuables out of sight when out and about.
- If phones are necessary, use both hands to secure a phone (there has been a sharp rise in phones being snatched).
- When having to use a phone, stop in a safe place with good awareness of surroundings and avoid distractions whilst using phones. Distraction methods (such as holding a menu over your valuables whilst talking) are used by criminals.
- Limit the use of AirPods and other headsets which advertise the presence of high value phones.
- Be aware of belongings and surroundings in theft and robbery hotspots including Southgate and Oakwood.
- Report any incidents to police promptly when it is safe to do so – 999 in an emergency, 101 in a non-emergency or online at [met.police.uk](https://www.met.police.uk).

Like you, all we want is for our young people to remain safe and happy. We hope you continue the conversation at home and always welcome your input into what we provide at school, as well as sharing your experiences, as it will help guide our provision going forward.

We wish you a safe and peaceful summer and look forward to your return in September. For those moving onto pastures new, as Mrs MacDonald said to the year 13s at their leaving dinner on Wednesday night: even when students leave us, we are still here to support, even though you have physically left the building.

ENGLISH SCHOOLS SWIMMING SUCCESS

At the weekend I went to the K2 in Crawley and took part in the English Schools' Swimming Association summer meet.

I swam the 50m, 100m and 200m breaststroke. I got two long course personal bests and finished in third place in the 100m breaststroke in the 13-year-old girls age category.

Isabella



SIR FRANK BOWLING

On Tuesday, year 7 and 8 were visited by members of Sir Frank Bowling's family. Sir Frank is a renowned abstract artist and students have been studying his work in their art lessons.

Born in Guyana (then British Guiana) in 1934, at 19 years old Bowling moved to London. He went on to study painting at the Royal College of Art alongside David Hockney and R.B. Kitaj. After graduating with a silver medal, he spent the next 60 years criss-crossing the Atlantic between studios in London and New York. Maturing into a master of his medium, he developed a visionary approach that fuses abstraction with personal memories. Now 90 he still paints every day, experimenting with new materials and techniques.



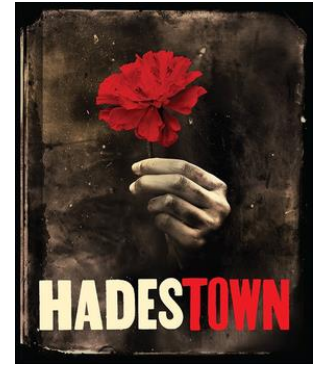
Students were given a fascinating presentation and were able to ask questions about the artist's life and work.

We are so grateful to Professor Dorothy Price (Jasmine's mum) for introducing us to Sir Frank's family. A wonderful opportunity for the art department at Mount House.



CLASSICS TRIP TO HADESTOWN

Last Thursday Classics students from years 8-13 took a trip to the West End, to see HadesTown musical at the Lyric Theatre. In recent weeks GCSE Classics students have been studying the last topic in their year 10 course on 'Journeys to the Underworld'. This musical tells the heart-breaking story of Orpheus and Eurydice - the divinely inspired musician (Orpheus) who lost his love (Eurydice) and ventured to the underworld to bring her back to life. He sings to persuade the king and queen of the dead (Hades and Persephone) to allow him to reunite with his love.



The performance helped us to further our knowledge of the myth and characters. The show itself was visually stunning and captivating. The actors' voices were outstanding, and they brought the characters to life incredibly well. The set design also created the perfect dark and eerie atmosphere to compliment the story. Personally, my favourite part was the ending because, despite being hugely tragic, it was beautifully acted and still came as a shock despite already knowing the outcome. Overall the experience will not be forgotten, and our school was very lucky to have the opportunity to attend.

Amelia,
year 10.



GENERAL ELECTION ASSEMBLIES

Mount House hosted two General Election assemblies this week. On Monday we welcomed Dan Tomlinson, the Labour candidate, to our school assembly. He addressed the school about Labour’s policies and reasons why we should vote Labour. Students asked him numerous questions including why the Labour Party will impose 20% VAT on independent school fees! His speech was well received, gaining a supportive round of applause.



On Thursday it was the turn of the Liberal Democrats and Green Party candidates to address our students about their party manifestos and policies for the future. Both candidates spoke eloquently and answered questions from students including why the Liberal Democrats voted to increase tuition fees for university students in the 2010–15 coalition.

After the presentations and question time conducted by Darcie, Aoife, Waleed and Aaron from year 12, all students were given the opportunity to vote for any of the seven parliamentary candidates in Chipping Barnet.

The result of our Mount House constituency vote was as follows:

Green Party	53
Labour	38
Liberal Democrats	26
Reform	11
Conservative	8
Re-join the EU	2
Independent	0

A special thanks goes to Thomas, Rueben, Eve, Ava, Josh, Saffron, Lizzie and Owen from year 9 and Ms Bailey for all their help with the hustings.

Mr Allman

THEATRE IN EDUCATION (T.I.E.) WITH MONKEN HADLEY PUPILS

For our T.I.E. project, we planned, rehearsed and performed a short piece of drama to 23 year 5 Monken Hadley primary school pupils. We initially visited them at their school to find out their interests. This helped us determine the appropriate genre to create for them and so for our second workshop, here in our drama studio, we involved the students by allocating them to one of three groups: a murder mystery; a wacky comedy sketch based on an election and involving zombies; and a haunted mansion exploration.

The year 5s had the opportunity to help determine the ending by feeding back to us their creative ideas. We were then able to develop these ideas by embedding drama skills such as physical theatre, freeze frame, narration and role-play.

Perhaps one of the most fun aspects of the afternoon was inviting the pupils to choose an appropriate prop or costume piece for their character and using the lights to create atmosphere. All the pupils enjoyed the collaboration and the response we received from Monken Hadley was very positive.

Fred, year 9





PHYSICS BOAT COMPETITION

In the past few weeks each year 8 physics class has competed in pairs to make the paper boat that could withstand the most weight before sinking. They had to apply what they had learnt about pressure in liquids earlier this year to be successful.



HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION

During the busy period of our summer concert, Mr Whitehouse gave the students a pop quiz for their House music event. The rounds included name the artist and song, missing lyrics and '8 bit'. The results are as follows (out of 132):

Holly	94
Cedar	85
Ash	79
Oak	75



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

