



NEWSLETTER – 5TH JULY

REVIEW OF THE YEAR FROM MRS RICHARDSON, HEAD



Last night I returned from a trip to the First World War battlefields with a group of year 9 students. Like most school trips this was a mixture of extreme highs... and a few lows. **School trips**, for teachers, are an extraordinary privilege. They provide an opportunity to engage with students outside the classroom, and to get to know them in a very different way. Not only do students learn about other countries and cultures, but they also leave their comfort zones and learn a great deal about themselves. I would like to thank the students for being such good company – although past midnight, their company was rather less appreciated!

I would like also to offer my thanks to all staff who have accompanied students on trips this week and earlier in the year: the sixth form camping trip back in September – described by Mrs Lazouras as ‘Shrek’s swamp’; the New York trip in October; the ski trip; the Portugal trip; the Seville Spanish language trip; and last week’s trips for year 7 and 8 to Dorset as well as the battlefields trip. On these occasions, staff leave their own families and commitments behind in order to provide opportunities for students to enjoy travelling and spending time with their friends, making lifelong memories.

In September, which seems a very long time ago now, we returned to a school with some lovely **new facilities** - a new science lab, a new product Design / Textiles room, newly refurbished classrooms, touch screen Ben Q boards and most importantly new toilets! As ever we welcomed several new faces to the school, students and staff. At Easter we welcomed back Ms Smyth from maternity leave (and thank you to Mrs Trickey for covering her in the Assistant Head role). Mrs Mariottini went on maternity leave and we are delighted to report the safe delivery of a baby girl in June. We also said goodbye to Dr Diggory as Chairman of the Board of Directors, and were delighted to welcome Ian Davies as the new Chair.

It has been a busy year. One of the highlights – and I use that word cautiously - was the **ISI inspection** in November. The inspection team was both professional and approachable, and it was wonderful that they were able to recognise and acknowledge what a special place Mount House is. The inspectors particularly noticed the school’s focus on students as individuals, and the opportunities offered to students through the co-curricular programme as well as the student voice.

Each week we have a **whole school assembly** where we hear from a variety of members of our school community, as well as some inspiring external speakers. This year has been a



busy one. We were delighted to welcome the candidates from the Labour, Lib Dem and Green parties last week. Sadly, the Conservative candidate did not wish to come and speak to us, and having done background checks on the Reform candidate we felt their views were not aligned with the school and so rescinded our invitation. We were also inspired by the stories of Seyi Rhodes, a hugely successful presenter, producer and broadcaster with a powerful message about following your dreams and pursuing a career about which you are passionate. We also welcomed science magician Dr Matt Pritchard who entertained the students with a memorable presentation during science week. Students have the opportunity to address the school on these occasions, and we have had several excellent **Speakers' Corner** presentations on bullying, solutions to Russian-Ukrainian war and prisoners of conscience. In March, a group of students spoke about Neurodiversity.

The co-curricular programme continues apace; many of the 'old' clubs continue to be popular and are joined with those which are sometimes new, but sometimes just re-invigorated. This year, thanks to funding from the PTA, the retro gaming club has been enormously popular. Students have enjoyed games which staff and parents recall from their own childhoods. With the planned launch of an e-sports team next year, we look forward to further exciting developments in this area. This year the robotics club also entered the regional competition. Congratulations to Max Cute, Varun Halaria and Evan Fung who represented the school extremely well. It was evident when we arrived that we were the youngest team there, but this did not deter the boys. They quickly absorbed as much information as they could from the teams around them, asking questions and making new friendships. Their quick thinking and strategy got us to the dizzying heights of the top 10 for a brief moment, but we were eliminated in the first round of the knockouts. We have already registered two teams for the next robotics season and building has begun on a new game called High Stakes. We have also enjoyed the attempts of year 9 to beat Mr McCormick in scrabble club – thus far they have failed in their quest; but having taught them a few tricks he is now getting a little nervous!

In other co-curricular news, new to the sixth-form programme this year has been the development of **service learning** under the leadership of Mrs Allman. Service learning opportunities have included visiting pensioners in Chipping Barnet care home and a wide range of other opportunities inside school.

Additionally, there has been an enormous success in raising the profile of, and funds for, the charity **WOHA**. A group of students entered the Wings of Hope Achievement Awards, a national social enterprise competition created in order to get UK students involved in helping other students less fortunate than themselves.

20 year 9 students completed their bronze **Duke of Edinburgh** award expedition, and to fulfil the volunteering requirements of the award they have been running a practical science club for year 5 pupils from Monken Hadley Primary School.

In sport, we have entered a wide range of **ISA competitions**, including **netball, football, hockey, cross-country, skiing, swimming, athletics and table tennis**. Next year we will be



adding skiing to the school's wide range of ISA sports teams. This year we have been fortunate to invite hockey coaches from Southgate HC, Hadley Wood Tennis Club and Tottenham Hotspur to lead specialised sessions for our students with year 11 having a few sessions with the Tottenham Hotspur scout. In football, the under 16 boys reached the final of the plate competition and were named runners-up.

When highlighting individual achievements, I apologise sincerely if I have forgotten anyone, as we love to celebrate our students, but achievements of this year include:

- **Imogen M** winning a bronze medal in the U19 ISA indoor ski championships;
- **Isabella D** representing the ISA North London team, competing in the year 8 girls individual breaststroke and medley relay. She gained a personal best in the breaststroke and finished in fourth place. Isabella also took part in the English Schools' Swimming Association summer meet where she swam the 50m, 100m and 200m breaststroke and achieved two long course personal bests, finishing in third place in the 100m breaststroke in the 13-year-old girls age category;
- **Theo W** taking part in the 54-mile bike ride from London to Brighton in September 2023;
- **Anna C** completing the 26-mile Shine Night Walk for Cancer Research also in September 2023;
- **Amelie H** competing at the All England show jumping competition at Hickstead;
- Lizzie J training with the British Showjumping academy;
- **Alicia K** coming third in the Survival of the Sickest skateboard competition in January 2024;
- **Leo R** winning the school parent-student-staff golf tournament with his dad.

We hosted a **primary schools' cricket festival** for the third year in a row, with year 5 students from local primary schools joining us on Hadley Common for a day of cricket. This provided a wonderful opportunity for our year 10 students to be sports leaders, and all those involved received much praise from the primary school teachers.

In January a group of students in years 7 & 8 took part in the **London Move Now Paralympic Festival**, led by Kate Grey (former Paralympic swimmer) and Jenna Downing (Inline Skating World Champion). Students took part in a variety of activities, and some students from Mount House were awarded medals for demonstrating the values of the Olympics and Paralympics throughout the event.

Back in October, the PTA and PE Department worked together to organise the annual **Moveathon**. Sessions were led by Personal Trainer Chris Antoni, who put both students and staff through their paces. The benefits included physical fitness, supporting others, community building and teamwork.

There were some exceptional performances during both the field and track events on **Sports Day** last week. The results were as follows:



4th place	Oak	(431 points)
3rd place	Cedar	(461 points)
2nd place	Holly	(474 points)
1st place	Ash	(481 points)



The **Sports Cup** is awarded to **Junior G**, a student who has represented the school in hockey, football, cross-country and cricket - always giving his best with some outstanding performances, and a great attitude to team and individual sports. He was fantastic on Sports Day, winning 100m, 200m, 300m, 800m and he was the year 10 male athlete of the day for Sports Day.

In **music and drama**, we enjoyed Alice in Wonderland back in March and more recently a wonderful summer concert.

Joel R received the school **Music Cup**: he is one of the most reliable musicians in the school who conducts himself in such a professional manner. He attends every rehearsal well prepared, and he has made a great deal of progress as a drummer, bass player and guitarist. Joel has been a cornerstone of the hugely successful 'Phantoms' and I am grateful for his contribution to music at MHS.

Throughout the school you can see the wonderful art displays adorning the walls. Mount House is well-known for its art and is proud of all its budding artists, but especially **Rosa S-T**, who wins this year's **Art Cup**.

In years 7, 8 and 9, form prizes are awarded to students who have made an outstanding all-round contribution to the school. These are students who have worked hard in lessons and given their best. They have contributed to the wider life of the school through the co-curricular programme, and also they have shown the sort of community spirit which we value very highly. A full list of form prize winners is below.

In **Maths**, we entered the UK Maths Trust Challenges at junior, intermediate and senior level. We congratulate all who took part and particularly **Miku Y** in year 12 (bronze certificate) in the senior mathematical challenge. In the intermediate mathematical challenge, **Reuben T** in year 9 was awarded a silver and 'Best in Year'. **Sofie B** in year 10 won bronze and 'Best in Year', and **Alice R** in year 11 won silver and 'Best in Year'. Silver awards went to **Thomas G** (year 9), bronze awards to **Florence S** (year 9), **Renuk Y** (year 10), **Luca G** (year 10), **Oscar M** (year 10), **Athena D** (year 11), **Deni I** (year 11), and **Anna C** (year 11). In the junior challenge, **Ena O** in year 7 won 'Best in Year'. Silver awards went to **Parsa M** and **Oscar R** (year 7), bronze to **Isabella B** (year 7), and in year 8 to **Jacob H**, **Yaqub F**, **Erin P** and **Maximillian C**. Particular congratulations to **Varun H** who won the gold award, was Best in School and qualified for the second round, known as the Junior Kangaroo.

Several students elected to take part in the **EPQ**, with a variety of interesting topics such as the impact of the Match Girl Strike of 1888, the influence of nuclear weaponry and how



sexism has influenced the portrayal of women in art. Additionally, this year we introduced Global Studies into year 9, which has been a huge success. As part of the course, the development of research and presentation skills has been integral. Additionally, the course encourages students to look out into the world and examine a variety of issues such as migration and the right to asylum, as well as the challenges of food security.

In **Science** we once again had a student prepare and write the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge paper: **Oscar M** in year 10. He sacrificed many lunch times to complete past papers and learn chemistry topics from GCSE, A-level and even up to university level. He enjoyed the paper very much, particularly the question involving Newman Projects and solving a spiral torsional conformation problems for stacks of carbon sheets in three dimensions. Oscar was awarded the copper certificate, which for a year 10 is remarkable, considering he competed against year 12 students across the country. We had a wonderful new science technician, Mrs Khamar, join us this academic year. Her expertise has been greatly appreciated and has made a large impact on science lessons. Since covid, we have been increasing the number of science labs, which has led to more practical work. (in 2022-23 we carried out 126 practical science lessons; in 2023-24 this number was 304).

Geography has been busy under the leadership of Miss Colet, starting with pond investigations, coursework trips to Stratford and Epping Forest and year 7 creating drainage basin river models. In **Classics**, the year 10s again gave a masterclass to Hadley Wood Primary School, year 9 and 10 visited the British Museum Roman Legion exhibition, and year 12 visited Oxford and the Ashmolean Museum.

The **Cup for Languages** was awarded to **Florence S**, a student with natural flair as well as a work ethic which has meant that she has embraced what most students find most challenging – the grammar. She always pushes herself and participates in all MFL activities.

Each year, we also give out **awards for overall academic excellence** to the students in each year who have performed consistently well throughout the year. This year the cups are awarded to **Isabella B, Jasmine P, Thomas G, Sofie B, Athena, Darcie D** and **Luke D**.

The House Cup: following a review of house names led by the House of Equality, the new names adopted for houses are Cedar, Ash, Holly and Oak. House points are awarded to students for a variety of reasons including excellent academic work, great effort, acts of kindness, and representation of the school community. The individual students who have contributed most points to their Houses are as follows:

4 th : Oak	Vivi 320	Junior 180	Ava 170
3 rd : Holly	Brendan 260	Isabella B 230	William 150
2 nd : Cedar	Oscar 300	Isabella D 240	Ena 270
1 st : Ash	Purity 360	Nicholas 300	Sanvi 190



House activities this year included a history quiz, an RE competition, a singing competition, a House bake sale, a Leonardo da Vinci art competition, a classics competition, a global studies newspaper front page competition, and a music quiz.

The House Cup was won by **Ash House**, with a total of 4380 points.

Second was Cedar (4170), third was Holly (3910) and fourth was Oak (3170).



This year we saw the move from what was previously the Friends of Mount House to a formal and registered **PTA**. Registering as a charity is a significant undertaking and I would like to thank the committee for all their work on both this and also the events they organise and the fund raising they undertake. The year started with the Moveathon and was closely followed by the Family Bingo night. The Quiz night in February was won by the staff team who took the trophy by the narrowest of margins and on the basis that the Head knew how long the Hundred Years' War had lasted. We had a fantastic Comedy night in February and have also enjoyed a Festive Fair in December and last week's Summer Fair. The PTA supports the school in numerous other ways: with second hand uniform sales, easter eggs, post-exam ice creams, medals for the golf competition and much more. I am delighted that the PTA has raised over £10,000 this year, all of which will come back into school for the benefit of students.

The final award of the day is the **Head's Endeavour award**. This is entirely my choice – and I sometimes feel that although I am apparently the boss, many decisions are made for me. This is a privilege which makes all the hard work worth it, and there are several students who thoroughly deserve this award. Today though, I am pleased to make this award to **Áine S**, who has been at Mount House from the start. In that time, she has made a powerful contribution to the school, notably in music and drama where she has starred in school plays and been a huge contributor to concerts. In her academic work she has had to be incredibly resilient and determined in the face of numerous challenges. Throughout her time here, she has been a kind, generous and supportive student – the sort of person who goes about their business with regard for others and in an understated way.

To all those students who are leaving us, we wish the very best of luck and we hope that they will stay in touch and come back to visit us. We say farewell today to some staff: to **Miss Hopping** and **Miss Dalcher** who, as graduate teachers, have had an enormous impact on PE, in SEN and in music. We also say goodbye today to **Miss Cosham**, **Miss Buckland**, **Mrs Roy**, **Mr Van Leeven**, **Mr Brozny** and **Mr Gallagher**. We thank those staff for all their hard work over the last few years and wish all those who are leaving us the very best of luck in their new endeavours.



FULL LIST OF PRIZES AWARDED

Form prizes – year 7, 8 and 9

7ACH	Oscar, William, Daniella
7FDI	Ena, Aliah, Vivi
8ABU	Gautam, Ben, Florentia
8PBR	Yuna, Isobel, Varun
8VBA	Tilly, James, Purity
9LCO	Wako, Ava, Florence
9SHA	Reuben, Beatrice, Amirali
9SSI	Kerensa, Tyler, Lizzie

Subject prizes – year 10, 11, 12 and 13

YEAR 10:

Art	Ava A
Biology	Zach H
Business	Kiyan L
Chemistry	Rina A
Classics	Oscar M
Computer Science	Renuk Y
English	Chrissy J
Food Tech	Sadhra S
French	Sotirios P
Geography	Amelia M
History	Paris T
Latin	Alice W
Maths	Nicholas D
Music	Oscar M
PE	Sofie B
Physics	Renis M
RE	Harvey T
Spanish	Will A
Textiles	Lilly M

YEAR 11:

Art	Emily H
Biology	Carys J
Business	Lancelot D
Chemistry	George C
Classics	Reuben W
Computer Science	George C



Drama	Thibaut S
English	Athena D
French	Athena D
Geography	Robert H
History	Anna C
Maths	Anna C
Music	Joel R
PE	Rocco M
Photography	Tiger H
Physics	Oreoluwa B-A
RE	Katherine C
Spanish	Oma O
Textiles	Melisa R

YEAR 12:

Art	Megan M
Biology	Thomas F
Business	Ayan S
Chemistry	Miku Y
Criminology	Freya C
Classics	Darcie D
Computer Science	Vani P
Economics	Waleed A
English	Aaron B-R
Maths	Miku Y
PE	Freya C
Photography	Aoife T
Physics	Miku Y
Politics	Darcie D
Psychology	Molly E
Sociology	Megan M
Spanish	Pedro F
Textiles	Jessica Y

YEAR 13:

Art	Rosa ST
Biology	Katie G
Business	Olivia A
Chemistry	Janan K
Criminology	Luke D
Classics	Emily D
Computer Science	Newton Y
Drama	Raphaella D



Economics	Luke D
English	Áine S
Geography	Áine S
History	Anastasia M
Maths	Rosa ST
PE	Imogen M
Arts, Craft and Design	Olivia A
Physics	Sorcha vL
Psychology	Katie G
Textiles	Imogen M

Awards for contributions to school life

Sports	Junior G
Arts	Rosa ST
Music	Joel R
Languages	Florence S

Awards for academic excellence

Year 7	Isabella B
Year 8	Jasmine P
Year 9	Thomas G
Year 10	Sofie B
Year 11	Athena D
Year 12	Darcie D
Year 13	Luke D

Head's Endeavour

Áine S

Speech Day contributions from:

Will A	Ena O
Nathaniel A	Vani P
Vivi B	Oscar R
Isabella B	Áine S
Darcie D	Aoife T
Leo F	Shanar K
Evan F	Eve H
Owen F	
Kerensa H	
Peter M	
Brendan N-W	

ACTIVITIES WEEK

School Trip to the First World War Battlefields

The year 9 trip to the First World War battlefields was an unforgettable experience. One of the most interesting aspects of the trip was learning about the different types of graves. The contrast between the Allied and German cemeteries was striking; the Allied graves were uniform and meticulously maintained, while the German graves often had multiple names on each stone, creating a more somber and collective memory. This difference was quite thought-provoking, especially when we delved into the psychology behind the designs of these memorials.

We also visited inclusive sites, with Notre Dame de Lorette St Nazaire a highlight on our first day, particularly the Muslim graves of the French First Moroccan regiment. At Essex Farm cemetery we learned about the Jewish tradition of placing pebbles on gravestones, adding another layer of cultural understanding to our experience. The detailed explanations about how cemeteries are made and maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) were fascinating. The uniformity and care taken in creating these resting places are a testament to the respect given to those who sacrificed their lives.

Walking through the trenches, particularly when it was raining, was a poignant part of our trip. It gave a glimpse into the harsh conditions the soldiers faced and helped us appreciate their bravery and endurance. The Musée Somme 1916 in Albert provided us with an in-depth look at trench warfare, complementing our trench experiences with educational exhibits. The tunnels at Sanctuary Wood were another highlight. Exploring the narrow, dark passageways helped us understand the strategic and psychological aspects of underground warfare. It was eerie to navigate the same paths soldiers once did, knowing the fear and uncertainty they must have felt.

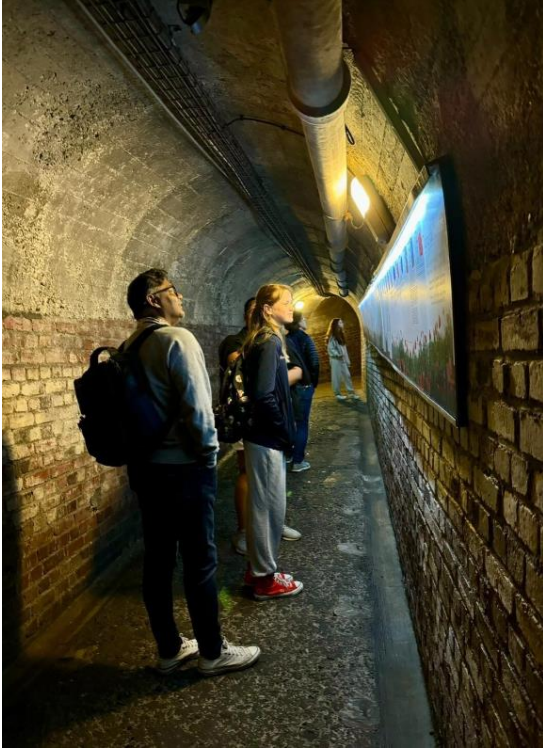
A particularly memorable moment was finding the name of Fleur's great-great-grandfather on the Loos Memorial. Alan Rolfe was one of many thousands of men who gave their life but whose remains were never found. Visiting Tyne Cot cemetery near Ypres, the Menin Gate and the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing on the Somme with a total of 16,897 recorded names. At Essex Farm Advanced Dressing Station, we learned about the work of John Macrae, and it was also fascinating to learn about facial reconstruction surgery during, highlighting the medical advancements prompted by the conflict.

Despite the sombre nature of our trip, we had plenty of fun moments. The coach rides were lively, filled with music and singing, which helped us bond as a group. The visit to the chocolate shop in Ypres was also great and we indulged in lots of delicious treats. The architecture and vibrant atmosphere of Ypres was great to experience, especially having seen images of the extent of the destruction during the war. The shops and lively streets offered a pleasant contrast to the sombre battlefield visits, allowing us to relax and enjoy ourselves.



Overall, this trip was a perfect blend of education and fun. It deepened our understanding of the First World War, honoured those who fought, and allowed us to create lasting memories with our friends.







While year 9 were in France and Belgium, years 7 and 8 had an enjoyable time in Swanage, Dorset.







Other Activities Week day trips included visiting the Royal Court of Justice, the Tower of London, the Natural History Museum, the Churchill War Rooms, the Imperial War Museum and climbing the O2.





YEAR 13 LEAVERS' DINNER

On Wednesday 26th June, the year 13 students and members of staff gathered at The Haven restaurant in Whetstone for a celebratory dinner. The students looked very glamorous in their party outfits, as did the staff! The dinner was excellent and afterwards they were presented with individual awards and a gift bag containing mementoes of their time with Mount House School. We wish them every success in the future.



SPORTS DAY

Sports Day 2024 commenced with breezy and cool temperatures – perfect weather for our keen athletes. Students from all four Houses arrived and took their stations inside their House pens, adorning their faces with face paint and eagerly awaiting the first race of the day. The day was a blur of speed and poor dad jokes from Mr Peara on the mic.



Well done to all students who took part. I would love to name each student who tried their best for their House. Instead, a special mention needs to be given to our Athletes of the Day and our Outstanding Performers of the Day, as well as everyone from Ash House, who won Sports Day. Well done!

Lastly, a big thank you to all teachers and parents who attended and helped out.

Mr Mather.

Athletes of the Day

Year 7:	Will L & Queenie M
Year 8:	Romario S & Poppy N
Year 9:	Henry D & Beatrice D
Year 10:	Junior G & Sofie B

Outstanding Performers of the Day

Year 7:	Ena O & Oscar R
Year 8:	Purity S & Varun H
Year 9:	Fleur C & Owen F
Year 10:	Rosie B & Harvey T



PARENTS, STAFF AND STUDENT GOLF COMPETITION

On Thursday 27th June, Mount House School held its second annual golf competition. Once everyone had eaten their fill of bacon sandwiches, it was on to the first tee. With some excellent (and some not-so-excellent) tee shots, we were off.

We are excited to announce that our winning pair, with a score of 36, was Leo R and his dad. Congratulations!

We're looking forward to hosting this competition again next summer, with hopefully even more people taking part.

Mr Mather.



SKIING TEAM

In September, Mount House School will be entering the ISA skiing competition. If your child is a competent skier and would like to take part in this, please let Mrs Hillcoat-Hyde know and include details about level and the amount of weeks skied. We will select our team from those who have emailed in.

PTA NEWS

Last Friday's Summer Fair was a huge success and we raised £1,075! We would like to thank everyone who donated items towards the fair and money towards the hampers. We would also like to thank the parents, staff and students who helped to make this possible.







More information will follow soon in the PTA end of year letter.



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DRUM LESSONS

Uche Bartels-Williams will be continuing to teach drum lessons for Mount House students throughout the summer and also once we return for term in September. Don't hesitate to get in touch for any further details or questions you may have via ucbew1@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE

Please add **Saturday 28th September** to your diaries. This is the key admissions event for the school and the students are always the highlight of any visit, which I am sure you remember from your own visits on open mornings.

This half-day event is considered a school day for all students and attendance is expected. In recognition, we offer students a half day at the end of the year at Christmas.

Thank you for your support in ensuring your children are with us on that morning and full details of the times and plans will be with you early in the autumn term.

AND FINALLY...

We wish students, parents and staff a wonderful summer and we'll see you on Wednesday 4th September.

