



THE MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL

HMC/SCG

September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We would like to congratulate Year 11 on a really great start to the new term.

We know that there is always a lot of information when you start a new school year. To make things easier for you, we have streamlined communication to reduce email traffic as we know that this can be overwhelming and emails can all too easily get lost in inboxes.

The rest of this letter provides important information from other areas of the school – you may want to save it somewhere safe for future reference.

Our new school website will be launched later this term. We shall also be sending out a weekly newsletter; this is currently in the final stages of development and we hope will further improve communication between school and home.

Don't forget to follow our school social media accounts on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Instagram has additional content, letting you see the daily life of Mountbatten through the 'stories' feature. You can see the best of these in our 'highlights'.

Why not make a cup of tea, settle into the sofa and peruse the latest updates from around the school.

Yours sincerely

Heather McIlroy
Executive Headteacher

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Head of Year Message

Head of Year

Welcome back Year 11. That has come around very quickly!

The year group have shown so much determination and resilience over their time at Mountbatten, especially in the last couple of years. I am sure they do not need reminding that these next three terms are the most crucial of their academic career to date.

Staying on top of their work, and making sure to ask questions, will help to reduce stress throughout the year, especially as we move closer to the exams. This will also allow them to maintain a healthy balance between their studies and their other interests outside the classroom.

You may have many questions regarding your child's academic progress. We want to assure you of our wholehearted support in regard to welfare and academic success, and of our commitment to answering and resolving queries and concerns you may have.

Mr Rice
Head of Year

Key Dates

Wednesday 22 September - *INSET day*
Thursday 4th November - *Year 11 Parents' Evening*
Friday 26 November – *INSET day*
Monday 28 February – *INSET day*
Thursday 7 April - *Year 11 Parents' Evening*
Monday 25 April - Thursday 16 June - *GCSE Exams*
Monday 20 June – *INSET day*

Autumn Term

Half Term	25 October – 29 October
Term Ends	Friday 17 December

Spring Term

Term Starts	Tuesday 4 January
Half Term	21 February – 25 February
Term Ends	Friday 8 April

Summer Term

Term Starts:	Monday 25 April
Half Term:	30 May – 3 June
Term Ends:	Tuesday 19 July

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English

Your child is studying English Language and English Literature, these are two separate GCSEs and our exam board is Pearson Edexcel. Students will be set two 45 minute homework tasks each week, these should be added to an English revision folder. We also use an online platform called GCSEPod which shares videos and quizzes to help students revise. All homework tasks and resources will be shared in your child's Google Classroom.

This term students will be studying 'Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde'. Students will need a copy of the play which we are able to offer to students for a school discounted rate of £3.00. If your child has Pupil Premium funding this text will be issued automatically. This text can be purchased via the school's online SCOPAY system accessed through the school website.

Maths

Year 11 will continue to be taught in sets. They will receive a standardised written weekly homework for the first half term that focuses on the retention of key skills. This will then be replaced with weekly exam papers beginning after October half term. GCSE revision guides/workbooks are still available for purchase via the school's online SCOPAY system if they were not purchased in Year 10. If you are unsure which tier of entry to purchase, please contact your child's teacher.

The first in-class written assessment (Paper 1 Non-Calculator) will take place the week beginning 27 September. Full details, including topic revision lists, will be made available on Google Classroom. The results of this assessment will be used to gauge progress and inform the Autumn Term monitoring.

Science

Students in Y11 are expected to spend 90 minutes completing homework for Science, though students who are off track may need to put in more time. All homework for Year 11 students is designed to promote a little and often approach to revision with the aim of consolidating and improving the revision resources made in Year 10. The exact work given will depend on students' set as they are preparing for slightly different exams. Detail of the exam content can be found [here for students in sets 2&3](#) and [here for students in set 1](#).

Every student in the year group will complete the quizzes allocated on the timetable [here](#). If students use the knowledge organisers and the advice in the link this will take no more than 40 minutes. The remainder of the time will be used for tasks allocated by the class teacher. This might include tasks such as learning knowledge organisers and preparing for end of unit tests. The aim of this homework is to consolidate learning in lessons by ensuring that students revisit material previously covered, research indicates this is the best method of ensuring that key ideas are remembered.

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Drama

In Year 11, students will begin the year by completing their Devising Drama logbook. This work equates to 30% of the final grade. Following on from this, students will be invited to a screening of Billy Elliot the Musical. We will be studying this production for the Live Theatre section of the written paper.

In November, we will begin preparation for the scripted exam. Students will be expected, where necessary, to rehearse after school. We expect this examination to be held in the final week of March.

Finally, students will revise Blood Brothers and prepare for their written examination in June.

Fine Art and Photography

All students will begin the second half of Unit 1 this term. All the information for the second project 'Concealment' will be available on Google Classroom.

At the end of last term, students were encouraged to finish their Year 10 project work as much as they could. Over the next few weeks, we will be identifying those that are behind in this work and will be expecting their attendance at after school art clinics to make sure they complete this missing work. Students' Year 10 project, combined with the new work that we start in Year 11 this week, will make up 60% of their final grade and so it is important that all students reach their full potential. Please encourage your child to bring in their folders and final pieces this week so we can mark their work.

Music Technology

Students have made a positive start to the course in Year 10 and have completed two out of three of the units. The final deadlines for the remaining units will be communicated via Google Classroom once they have been released by the exam board.

Music

The performance aspect of the GCSE Music course accounts for 30% of the final grade, so your child should be working on an appropriate repertoire with their instrumental/voice teacher as well as practising on a regular basis at home. Having missed so many performance opportunities, it is essential that students attend all appropriate rehearsals and place a high priority on these. We will be commencing the recording of performances during the Autumn Term.

Another 30% of the GCSE Music course is devoted to composition. Students have made a good start in this area during Year 10; we have set a departmental deadline of Monday 14 February 2022 for completion of this work.

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The final component of the GCSE Music course is the Listening and Appraising paper, which accounts for the final 40% of the qualification. This 1.5 hour, written examination will fall in the GCSE period in May/June 2022.

If you have signed up for music lessons, they should be paid as per the details on your contract via your SCOPAY account.

History

At Mountbatten, we follow the Edexcel GCSE History specification and study the following topics: 'Crime and Punishment and Whitechapel', 'Weimar and Nazi Germany', 'Early Elizabethan England' and 'Superpower Relations and the Cold War'.

Revision guides are published by Pearson and Hodder and can be purchased through the school. All homework and resources will be available on Google Classroom.

All Year 11 students are welcome to attend The History Club which will run one afternoon break each week. Please ask your History teacher for more details.

Religious Education (RE)

We have set up a new Google Classroom that all students will be invited to join, and this will have example answers, Looms on specific topics and revision resources to help students. If your child does not already have a revision guide, these are available to buy from the school for £6.

Each week the students will have homework, this will be a quiz and one additional piece from the class teacher. We need to ensure that the students remember that every lesson counts and revision now will be of benefit later. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any queries.

Geography

During the Autumn Term of Year 11, we will continue with our studies of human geography by exploring urban issues and challenges in Lagos, Nigeria and in our local city of Southampton. We will also investigate urban sustainability strategies which can provide links to a variety of career pathways and support the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

We encourage students to purchase the revision guides and practice exam question booklets to support them in their independent studies. The details of these resources can be found on Google Classroom.

We would encourage our students to engage with Geography in the news as this will closely link with what we study in class and will deepen their geographical understanding. All lesson and homework resources are available on Google Classroom.

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Physical Education (PE)

In Upper School we offer three accredited courses: AQA GCSE PE, AQA GCSE Dance & OCR Cambridge Nationals Sport Studies.

Students follow this course for two years and each course has practical and theoretical elements. For further information about each of the courses please refer to our [PE website](#).

All resources and homework are shared on Google Classroom.

Revision guides are published by Pearson and Hodder and can be purchased through the school.

Design and Technology

We would like to make you aware of the following NEA deadlines for 2021-22:

Investigate - *17 September 2021*

Design – *17 December 2021*

Make - *7 March 2022*

Evaluate - *8 April 2022*

If deadlines are missed or work is below the expected standard then parents/carers will be informed.

Food Technology

Students will begin work on a classroom based formal assessment this term (known as their 'NEA'), and this will account for 50% of their final GCSE grade. The Food Department will explain the details of this to students and will provide parents/carers with further information about this in due course.

Computing

In Year 11, students will continue to study for the OCR GCSE (9-1) Computer Science (J277) qualification. In the Autumn Term, students will be studying the remaining topics from Paper 1: 1.3 Computer networks, connections and protocols, 1.4 Network security and 1.5 Systems software.

Students should continue to revise Paper 1 and Paper 2 topics using the resources provided on Google Classroom and the BBC Bitesize revision resources for OCR GCSE Computing.

Students will receive homework every week which will be posted on Google Classroom. Revision guides are available via school or can be purchased from many retailers – please check that you are purchasing the OCR J277 specification with examination from 2022.

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Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

For their final year of French/Spanish, Year 11 students will be preparing for all aspects of their final exams, gaining an in-depth understanding of each of the four papers they will sit at end of the course as well as continuing to develop further the skills they have built in the last four years. The completion of their weekly homework tasks is an essential part of their preparation and goes hand in hand with the classwork.

In Year 11, students will be expected to complete 2 homework tasks lasting 40/45 minutes each week. One will be vocabulary learning from the latest vocabulary list in their blue exercise book. The vocabulary homework each week will be tested in class to check learning. The second piece of homework will be a practice task usually set on Google Classroom with all the resources required.

Updates from around the school

The Library

It is fantastic to welcome everyone back to the Library and meet all our new Year 7 students. We are open before tutor time, at morning and afternoon breaks for students to browse and change books. Every student can borrow 3 books for 3 weeks. We are passionate about loaning out our wide selection of vibrant books to our school community. Equally, we need students to develop good habits of personal responsibility and return or renew their library books on time, thus ensuring that a comprehensive range is available for all our students to choose from.

epraise

Last year, we introduced a new system called 'epraise' in our school. This software is designed to improve student engagement and motivation and to support parental involvement. It's proved really popular with teachers, parents/carers and students alike.

We would like to remind parents/carers that you too can have an epraise account to access information about your child. There is a great app so that you can receive notifications when they receive an epraise point, demerit or detention on your phone.

Please use the email address you have given us to set up an account. Hopefully you will find this process straight forward and easy. Please see our [FAQ guide](#) if you do experience any problems. There is also a parent guide to epraise [here](#) and a useful video about how to get started with epraise [here](#).

Careers

We would like to invite Year 10 students and their parents/carers to our annual Careers Fair on **Thursday 30 September**. The event will run from 6-8pm. In attendance will be local colleges and a variety of employers, informing students of post-16 opportunities available to them.

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College application deadlines and Open Event information can be found in this week's newsletter.

Finance

A link to SCOPAY can be found on the school website. Please contact finance@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk with any problems or queries. You need to make sure that you only buy the items you need, there will be items available to purchase that may not be relevant to your child.

Calculators and filled pencil cases are available to purchase via SCOPAY for all students at all times. We will endeavour to deliver the purchases to your child within the week, but this may at times take longer.

If you wish to change the daily limit of spending on your child's cashless catering account, you should write a note in their planner for your child to show the catering team.

IT Services

We would like to share a '[Parent Guide to Google Classroom](#)'. Google Classroom is an online platform that we use to set homework and will be used weekly by all staff and students. As a guardian, you can get email summaries about your student's activity in Classroom.

SIMS Parent is a system to view detailed information about your child(ren). We have shared a '[Parent Guide to SIMS Parent](#)' which goes into detail about setting up an account. IT Services will send an invitation email to create an account on Monday.

If you have any IT issues or require any assistance, please contact IT Services at itservices@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk.

Lockers

We have a limited number of lockers available for students. These are prioritised for GCSE PE students. If you would like to arrange a locker for your child, please contact attendance@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk.

Support with online homework

As you will know, school homework is increasingly set online. This has presented problems for some households, especially over the lockdown periods, but also during 'normal' times. We want to make sure that none of our students are disadvantaged by this and that we are doing our best to support households where it is needed. We have written a short questionnaire to ask parents/carers to tell us about the IT equipment their child is able to use at home and the quality of their Internet access.

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We would really appreciate you completing this [linked questionnaire](#) to help us get an idea of any problems there are and what action might be needed. All responses will be treated in strict confidence and not shared with anybody outside of our school.

This questionnaire is very similar to the one we sent out in the last summer term. Please only complete it if you have not completed a questionnaire like this before, or your circumstances have changed since then.

Lateral Flow Tests

The Department for Education has issued guidance stating that home testing should continue. Tutors have distributed a new home test kit. We are asking that all students complete a lateral flow test every Wednesday and Sunday evening. Please report your result to [NHS Test and Trace](#) and the school's [Google Form](#). Following a positive LFD test at home, a confirmatory PCR test should be booked online and the student should self-isolate while awaiting the result.

Transport

Bluestar have informed us that they have been keeping a close eye on the 654 and it is still struggling with traffic on Winchester Road. Therefore they are going to retime the morning 654 journey to start 5 minutes earlier from this Monday 13 September 2021. A revised timetable can be found [here](#).

To confirm:

- the 504 will be unchanged;
- the morning 654 will leave Chilworth 5 minutes earlier;
- the afternoon 654 will be unchanged.

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