



THE MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL

HMC/SCG

September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We would like to congratulate Year 7 on a really great start to the new term and their new school.

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

Whitenap Lane Romsey Hampshire SO51 5SY
t: 01794 502 502 f: 01794 502 501 e: info@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk
w: www.mountbatten.hants.sch.uk Company No. 07560175

Head of Year Welcome

Welcome to The Mountbatten School!

Before the summer holidays, I was lucky enough to meet many of our students at their primary schools and I am pleased to say that the excellent first impression they made on me then, continued throughout both their transition days.

Making the transition from Primary to Secondary School is a huge task. It can appear daunting for so many people. What I hope is that over the next few weeks, students come to know our school for what it is: an amazing place to grow, to learn and to meet new people.

I am very excited to watch all that students achieve this year as they continue to put their best foot forward in terms of behaviour, uniform, effort and work. Students have been given a target of reaching 20,000 house points as a year group by Christmas and every student has a big part to play in reaching that goal. There are students with over 10 epraise points already!

If you do have any queries, please contact your child's tutor in the first instance who will be happy to help.

Mr Stonehill
Head of Year 7

Key Dates:

Wednesday 22 September - INSET day

Monday 20 September – Hillier Arboretum – (Tutor Groups: 7LST, 7CWN, 7PWR, 7RGY, 7JBY)

(Letter to follow shortly)

Tuesday 21 September – Hillier Arboretum – (Tutor Groups: 7RLE, 7EPK, 7JFR, 7SHL, 7SFN)

(Letter to follow shortly)

Thursday 14 October – Meet the Tutor Evening

Friday 26 November – INSET day

Thursday 17 February – Year 7 Parents' Evening

Monday 28 February – INSET day

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

Whitenap Lane Romsey Hampshire SO51 5SY
t: 01794 502 502 f: 01794 502 501 e: info@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk
w: www.mountbatten.hants.sch.uk Company No. 07560175

Summer Term

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

Curriculum Update

English

Every Lower School year group studies a variety of texts that have been carefully chosen to ensure students develop an awareness of literature from different ages and perspectives. In Year 7, to reflect their own new experiences, the texts studied are linked through the theme of 'new beginnings and journeys'. To begin with, students will study a retelling of Homer's epic poem 'The Odyssey'. Students will also be encouraged to complete creative writing inspired by the text. The end of unit assessments require students to revise key details of the text and write an extended response to an open question for which they have been prepared in class.

Year 7s are taught in their tutor groups throughout the entire year. They are set weekly and fortnightly homeworks. Every week, students are set 10 vocabulary words to learn. Students are expected to learn the meaning of these words using the website Quizlet. Every week, their teacher will post a link to these words. The website allows students to use a variety of techniques to learn their meaning. These will be tested in class every week. Students should also attempt to learn the correct spelling of the word but teachers will always focus on testing the meaning. We encourage students to create a Quizlet account using their school email address. This allows their teachers to see what revision has been done as homework and can support students who find learning new words difficult to demonstrate their efforts. One other homework related to the curriculum will be set every fortnight.

The English department are extremely lucky to have use of our wonderfully well-stocked Library. All Year 7 classes have one lesson per week in the Library. This lesson is an important opportunity for students to enjoy reading a modern text as a class.

Maths

Year 7 will be taught Maths in their tutor groups for the first half term. There will necessarily be a large focus on Number topics to ensure that students are secure in these and can apply their skills to non-routine problems. Some data handling topics will also be covered in order to support other subjects such as Science and Geography. At the end of this period, students will sit a baseline assessment that will be used to place them into sets following the October half term break. Each student has been set up with an account for the 'HegartyMaths' online platform from which they will be set weekly homework tasks. Details of each week's homework will be explained verbally in class and shared on Google Classroom.

Whitenap Lane Romsey Hampshire SO51 5SY
t: 01794 502 502 f: 01794 502 501 e: info@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk
w: www.mountbatten.hants.sch.uk Company No. 07560175

Science

An overview of Science in Year 7, including how we set homework, what is expected of your child and how they can maximise progress:

[Click here to access the Year 7 student website](#). Your child can access this website from the student portal and can find a range of information, such as topics they will study this year, homework timetable, BBC Bitesize and Quizlet links to help with revision and details about exams. It allows access to all of the resources used in lessons, including presentations for every lesson and worksheets. Therefore, if your child happens to miss a lesson due to absence, they can use this website to catch up on missed work.

[Click here to access Science information for parents' website](#). You can also access this website from the parent portal and it contains curriculum information, homework timetables, exam information and guidance on helping students to develop good study habits. We hope you find this useful.

At the start of every topic your child will receive a 'knowledge organiser' to stick into their book. This is an A4 sheet containing the minimum knowledge required to access the topic. An example can be found at [this link](#) and all knowledge organisers are available on the student website. Throughout the year, your child may be set homework to learn a knowledge organiser in preparation for the topic ahead. Research shows that this is an effective way of improving progress. Your child's class teacher will explain how to do this.

Students are expected to spend 40-60 minutes each week completing Science homework. This will consist of tasks set to support work completed in class and a weekly online multiple choice quiz set according to [this timetable](#). These quizzes are intended to help embed the key ideas taught in lessons and are intended to be completed with students using their notes and the knowledge organiser for the topic. The pass mark is therefore 90%. Students are expected to make as many attempts as necessary to reach the pass mark. They are strongly advised to use the feedback provided once the test is submitted to copy correct answers into their next attempt allowing them to concentrate on correcting any questions where they have made errors.

If your child achieves 100% in all quizzes throughout the year, they will become part of the '100 club' as recognition of their resilience and hard work.

If you would like additional information please contact your child's Science teacher.

Music

The benefits of learning a musical instrument are well documented, and include improved academic attainment, social mobility and a sense of wellbeing. For this reason, in an ideal world, Mountbatten School would like every child to be learning an instrument. It is not too late to request music tuition for your child!

The Music Department offers lessons on a wide variety of instruments and voice. We have some instruments which are available to hire.

Whitenap Lane Romsey Hampshire SO51 5SY
t: 01794 502 502 f: 01794 502 501 e: info@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk
w: www.mountbatten.hants.sch.uk Company No. 07560175

The lessons cost £95 per term (£120 for individual piano lessons). Students eligible for Pupil Premium funding pay half this amount. If you have signed up for music lessons, they should be paid as per the details on your contract via your SCOPAY account.

Please contact the Music Department for more information
clare.loadman@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk or complete a Music Tuition Contract [form](#).

History

This term, students will explore the life of Lord Mountbatten before moving on to medieval history, starting with the Norman Conquest.

All homework and resources will be available on Google Classroom.

All Year 7 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 are really looking forward to the year ahead and hope your child comes home with the many questions we have been exploring in lessons.

Each week, the students will be set a homework task, this will be in Google Classroom in addition to the students writing it in their planners. Each homework should take 30 minutes and no more, if it is taking more or less time please let the class teacher know so that the homework can be adjusted.

Geography

In Geography, we aim to foster passion, curiosity and intrigue for the natural and man-made world whilst developing critical and sustainable thinking among our students.

During the first term of Year 7, students will explore the UK through the eyes of a geographer whilst developing their geographical skills. Later this term, Year 7 students will investigate the factors that influence our weather and climate. This will include creating an at-home weather recording station to collect local weather data!

We 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.

Physical Education (PE)

Year 7 will be taught in tutor groups during the first half term. During this period students will be tested in a range of fitness tests and across a range of team and individual sports. We use this data to then set your child based on their practical ability.

Whitenap Lane Romsey Hampshire SO51 5SY
t: 01794 502 502 f: 01794 502 501 e: info@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk
w: www.mountbatten.hants.sch.uk Company No. 07560175

After October half term, students then follow a curriculum covering a range of different sports for the remainder of the academic year. Students will take part in the activity for a half term developing and mastering skills before completing an end of unit assessment.

Students will undertake five sports across the remainder of the academic year and complete an end of unit assessment in each.

Our extra-curricular programme offers students the opportunity to take part in a raft of sports.

We strongly encourage students to get involved in a club to engage them physically, socially and mentally. You can find what sports we have on offer through our [PE website](#).

The majority of the clubs are free to access and students will receive tuition from an experienced staff body and external coaches.

Design and Technology (D&T)

In recent years we have asked parents to support the work we do by making a voluntary financial contribution towards the costs of the students' project work (Graphics, Resistant Materials and Textiles). This enables students to keep the project work they make when it is finished. It also lets them embark on some costly project work that normally would not be possible.

We are very grateful for the continued support of parents at The Mountbatten School and would like to ask for parental support again this year. Please could we ask that you make a voluntary contribution of £15.00 in support of your child's work. We cannot stress enough that this support is greatly appreciated and does make a big difference to what we can offer to your child in terms of their Design and Technology experience. If you are unable to pay the full amount, then any payment will be greatly received.

To maximise your donation, we are going to be claiming gift aid. In doing so the school will benefit from additional income. You can make your donation via your SCOPAY account by clicking on 'Design & Tech Contribution 21/22'. And if you are happy for us to claim the gift aid on your donation please click the link [here](#) and complete the Google form.

Food Technology

Students studying Food Technology will be required to bring ingredients to their practical lessons. Teachers will inform students about what is needed one week in advance. This will form one part of their Design and Technology rotation. We ask that ingredients are weighed out at home and are brought to school in suitably sized containers for storage. Please could you also ensure that your child is provided with an empty container to take their cooked food home in and that this is clearly labelled with their full name and tutor group.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents/carers and students that our Food Technology classrooms are 'nut free', so please ensure that no nut products are sent in with ingredients.

Whitenap Lane Romsey Hampshire SO51 5SY
t: 01794 502 502 f: 01794 502 501 e: info@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk
w: www.mountbatten.hants.sch.uk Company No. 07560175

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

Our Lower School schemes of work have been written with the view of developing our students' communication skills, encourage collaborative work and collaborative thinking, problem solving and resilience and build in curiosity for the wider world.

In Year 7, students are encouraged to become confident communicators by asking and answering questions across a variety of topics. They also learn how to give opinions and how to agree and disagree with each other in a respectful way.

Students will be expected to complete 2 homework tasks lasting 30 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.

All Year 7 students will shortly be emailed their library login details in order to access the Library catalogue remotely, to browse and reserve books, write and read book reviews.

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.

Whitenap Lane Romsey Hampshire SO51 5SY
t: 01794 502 502 f: 01794 502 501 e: info@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk
w: www.mountbatten.hants.sch.uk Company No. 07560175

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.

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.

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.

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.

Whitenap Lane Romsey Hampshire SO51 5SY
t: 01794 502 502 f: 01794 502 501 e: info@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk
w: www.mountbatten.hants.sch.uk Company No. 07560175

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.

Whitenap Lane Romsey Hampshire SO51 5SY
t: 01794 502 502 f: 01794 502 501 e: info@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk
w: www.mountbatten.hants.sch.uk Company No. 07560175