



THE MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL

HMC/SCG

November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope that you have had a restful half term. It has been wonderful to welcome students back to school this week, with the vast majority of students looking really smart and wearing their uniforms with pride. We wrote to you towards the end of last half term about school uniform, thank you for your support with this.

During the break, we have had new covered areas built to allow students to shelter from more autumnal weather, with one more still to come in the next few weeks. As the weather becomes more inclement, we would like to remind students to wear their coats to school.

Covid vaccinations are taking place this week for all 12+ students, thank you for the prompt return of your consent forms. As we head into winter, we are mindful to keep disruption from Covid to a minimum. As such, please can we remind you to continue with the biweekly use of Lateral Flow Tests. We would also encourage students to wear masks around the school site and to continue to make regular use of the hand sanitiser stations.

The rest of this letter is a roundup of everything you need to know from around the school for your child.

Yours sincerely

Heather McIlroy
Executive Headteacher

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Head of Year – Mr Stonehill

As we approach the end of our first half term, I would like to thank you all for the wonderful support you have shown since students started in September.

The transition from primary to secondary school is never easy, but I am pleased to say that all of our Year 7s have adapted and responded to the new challenges of secondary school with tremendous amounts of resilience and independence.

It was lovely to be able to lead a trip again as we took the whole year group to Sir Harold Hillier Gardens - the students demonstrated excellent leadership, team building and problem-solving skills in a day that I know was very much enjoyed by all of the students - and the staff!

The year group are 16250 house points into their 20,000 target by Christmas. I am really trying to encourage the year group to get to 40,000 house points by Christmas - a challenge I am sure they will all rise to.

A reminder that your child's tutor is your first point of contact if you have any queries. Please email info@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk with the subject line FAO Tutor Name.

Key Dates

Friday 26 November – INSET day

Thursday 16 December – monitoring reports issued

Thursday 17 February – Year 7 Parents' Evening

Monday 28 February – INSET day

Monday 20 June – INSET day

Curriculum Updates and Extra-Curricular Opportunities

English

Students will complete their study of The Odyssey before moving on to study an introduction to Shakespeare's Clowns and Villains where they will explore extracts from some of his most engaging and famous plays.

Students continue to have weekly vocabulary words set via Quizlet which are tested each week.

Each week there is a 'Word of the Week' which is displayed around school on our screens and also within tutor sessions. You can find the word on our Social Media platforms. It would be lovely to spend some time discussing the word with your children and trying to use it in your family conversations.

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Scrabble Club runs in the Library on a Thursday lunch time to polish those word skills and get that elusive triple word score.

Creative Writing Club runs after school on a Thursday in the Library and is an opportunity to improve writing skills and take part in writing competitions.

Book Club runs in the Library on Friday lunch time.

Debate and Philosophy Club (Debosophy) runs after school in classroom J7. This is a joint venture between RE and English departments. We are working towards attending both the Philosothon and Debate competitions.

The Library

Library log-in: All students have been sent an email with details of how to log in to the school library remotely. Students can then browse the library catalogue, reserve books, see their borrowing history, write their own reviews and read book recommendations from other students.

Maths

Students will be placed into ability sets after half term following the recent baseline assessment.

The ability sets are not fixed and there may be some movement between classes as we review the sets on a regular basis. However, it is intended that the majority of students will remain in these sets for the remainder of the academic year.

Within these sets, students will cover the same units of work but the content covered will vary in depth and challenge according to the pace of the group.

The units covered are Unit 2: Analysing and displaying data, which they began before half term, Unit 3: Expressions, functions and formulae and Unit 4: Decimals and measures. There will be a short assessment following each unit of work, culminating in an end of term assessment, shortly before the Christmas break.

Weekly homework will continue to be set on Hegarty Maths. Each task set consists of a video with an accompanying quiz. It is recommended that students watch the whole video first before attempting the quiz as the content of the quiz matches the content of the video and is progressive in level of difficulty. Students have two attempts at each question within a given quiz with the option to seek help from the support video during the quiz. They can take the quiz as many times as they like in order to improve their score. If students score below 80% in their first attempt, the expectation is that they should watch the whole video and retake the quiz.

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We recommend that students use [Hegarty Maths](#) as an ongoing means of supporting their classwork and homework alike, as well as in preparation for more formal exams.

Science

This half term students will be studying the first topics in chemistry and biology. More detail and resources for students who miss lessons can be found [here](#).

All Year 7 students will be assessed on their understanding of the initial units of the course on 23 or 24 November, the date depends on which class they are in and will be confirmed by the class teacher. This will be a formal test sat in class, in exam conditions.

It is important that students prepare properly for this exam as it will be used along with the summer exam to help decide sets for next year. Details about the content and revision tips can be found [here](#).

Physical Education (PE)

Students will be placed into ability sets after half term following a rigorous 7 weeks of fitness testing and game-based activities.

The ability sets are not fixed and there may be some movement between groups. However, the majority of students will remain in those sets for the remainder of the academic year.

In the last two weeks prior to the Christmas holidays your child will have the opportunity to take part in Interhouse Sport. Students will work within their house teams in a range of sports over the two-week period. All points gained will work towards the Interhouse Cup, which will be presented to the winning house at the end of the academic year.

We are now offering students the opportunity to sign up for paid extra-curricular clubs for next half term. Those clubs are run by PBED members of staff. If you wish to sign your child up for Basketball then please follow the instructions below:

Step 1: Go to pb.schoolactivity.co.uk

Step 2: Choose the icon for Junior courses

Step 3: Choose activity 'Basketball'

Step 4: Complete your details and pay.

Music

We are already working towards our Christmas performance commitments. Having had such a long period without rehearsals it is essential that students attend regularly in the lead up to these

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important events in the school calendar. We are keen to recruit more members to the following groups:

- **Junior Choir** – rehearsals *Tuesday Lunchtime* in the Performance Studio. Open to all Year 7-8.
- **Wind Band** – rehearsals *Wednesday after school* until 5pm. Open to woodwind brass and percussion players grade 3 and above.

Mountbatten Community Choir is open to all parents and friends of the school, the Mountbatten Community Choir meets from 7.00-8.30pm in the Main Hall every Thursday evening during term time. No audition necessary. This is a great fun choir to join and no prior experience is required, costing just £40 per term. Please contact the Music Department by email for more information: clare.loadman@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk

Music Lessons

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.

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 note that if you wish your child to take instrumental lessons they will require an instrument to use at home. If you are struggling to get hold of an instrument, please contact the Music department to see if we are able to help.

For more information please contact clare.loadman@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk or complete a Music Tuition Contract form.

Christmas Events:

27 November: *Switch-on of Christmas Lights. Wind Band in Romsey Town Centre.*

10 December: *Late Night Shopping. Wind Band in Romsey Town Centre.*

15 December: *Mountbatten Annual Carol Service, Romsey Abbey.*

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Congratulations to all the students who took part in the Autumn Concert on 19 October in Romsey Abbey. After such a long period without performance opportunities this was an absolute triumph. Thank you for all of your hard work and commitment. You were a credit to your school.

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

MFL Homework support club with Languages prefects - When: Tuesday morning break. Where: classroom - B14. Bring your food, homework and any questions that may you have along and our wonderful prefects will help you to complete your work.

Mandarin Club - runs in classroom B16 from 3.20 to 4.20pm, every Tuesday, after school. Come along after school to learn some Mandarin and learn all about Chinese cultures with our Mandarin teacher Miss Fan.

Computing

All Year 7 - 9 students are invited to ***Lower School Computing Club*** in classroom IT1 on Tuesday - afternoon break. Students will have the opportunity to explore computing projects using micro:bits, Raspberry Pis and learn Python programming skills.

Drama

Year 7 Drama Club will continue on Monday afternoon break.

Musical Theatre Club runs on Thursday afternoon break.

If students would like to help make props and set for Mary Poppins, they can join Mrs Vickerage in J1 on Tuesdays from 3.30 - 4.30pm.

Any budding lighting and sound technicians can join ***Technical Theatre Club*** Friday during afternoon break.

There will be a number of theatre trips throughout the year, please monitor your email for details of these trips.

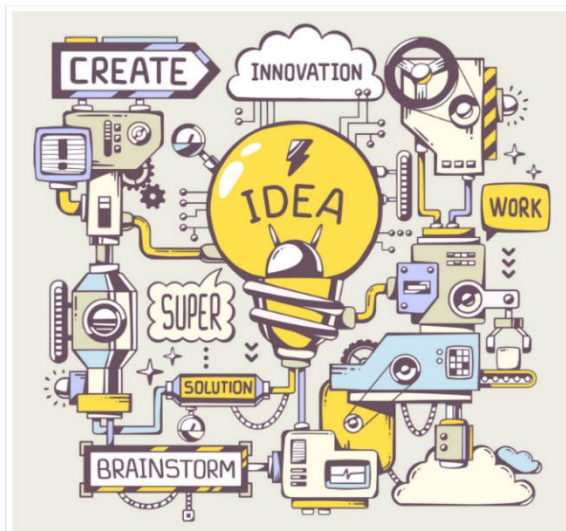
Design and Technology and Food Technology

A reminder that food rooms are nut free - please do not send in any ingredients that contain nuts (e.g. Nutella, pesto). Please ensure containers are large enough to fit the finished food in and are clearly labelled with the students name and tutor group.

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Food Club will continue on a Wednesday after school. We will be looking at a range of different sweet and savoury dishes with a Christmas theme.

Textiles Club will start on Thursday 4 November, after school. We will be looking at different Textiles techniques to create some Christmas crafts.



Technology Parent Taster Evening

Have you ever wondered what your children do at school all day?

Then why don't you come and visit the Technology Faculty and try out some fun, free projects! Over 3 weeks, we will be covering Resistant Materials, Textiles and Food. 4.00 – 5.30pm.

Be quick as place are limited!

Sign up for ONE or MORE using the Google link below.

Technology Parent Taster Evenings

(WEDNESDAY 4.00pm – 5.30pm)

Dates	Subject	Content
24 November 2021	Resistant Materials	Design your own bespoke key ring on CAD software (2D design). See your design manufactured via the laser cutter. Take home and impress to your friends and family.
1 December 2021	Textiles	Try your hand at making textile Christmas decorations. Take home to decorate your home or giveaway as an early Christmas present.
8 December 2021	Food	Try your hand at making pasta from scratch. Learn the tricks and techniques for bellissimo pasta! Take home and enjoy.

You can sign up for these Parent Taster Evenings [here](#).

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.

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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.

History

Year 7 have been learning about the life and legacy of Lord Mountbatten. We have been really impressed with the quality of their news reports and obituaries.

This half term, we will be studying the Norman Conquest before moving on to the medieval period.

History Club runs every Friday during afternoon break in classroom K4.

Geography

GeoClub is running every Tuesday in classroom J9 during afternoon break. Do join us for environmental improvement projects, discussions on current events, documentary viewings and Geography competitions. GeoClub is open to Years 7, 8 and 9.

Religious Education (RE)

This term students have been studying an 'Introduction to RE'. They have produced wonderful poems on what it means to show forgiveness.

For the second half term students will be looking into the life of Nicky Cruz, and questioning what it means to forgive in society today.

Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE)

As you will be aware, all students follow the RSHE curriculum which was shared with parents/carers in the summer term. This term, each year group will be exploring their own content with a focus on discussion. Oracy is at the heart of these lessons. These lessons are focused on equipping our children with the knowledge and understanding to lead happy and healthy adult lives.

This has been a big change for students and teachers and we would like to know students' opinion on the work done so far - especially with regard to whether we are covering topics that are useful and of interest to them and whether they are delivered in a way that makes the subject accessible. We have written a survey which will shortly be put on tutor group 'Google Classrooms'. The results of the survey will give us important feedback and shape the way that RSHE is delivered at our school. We

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would really appreciate it if you could encourage your child to complete this survey before the deadline date of Friday 12 November.

Year 7 have been exploring the challenges of adolescence and considering what healthy, and conversely unhealthy, relationships with peers look like. This includes the topic of bullying, with a specific focus on cyber bullying given the amount of time young people now spend online.

For further information about the RSHE curriculum, please see our website.

Young Carers

Our Young Carers group is back up and running from this half term. The group will run every Monday break in classroom K1 with Miss Seward and is open to all year groups. If your child is a registered young carer, or you think they may be a young carer because they are undertaking additional responsibilities around the home due to a parent or sibling's illness or disability, please encourage them to come along on a Monday.

We also have Romsey Young Carers and No Limits in school on Monday 8 November running a drop-in clinic during morning and afternoon break, in the Community Lounge, should your child want to come and get some more information or support. If you would like to contact us at the school, please email youngcarers@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk

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