



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

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 – Mr Waters

Thank you for your support with your child's transition into their second year at Mountbatten.

It has been lovely to watch the year group engage in all of the extra-curricular clubs and teams that the school offers, giving them a chance to display and enhance their many interests and talents. If your child has yet to sign up to a club, please encourage them to talk to their tutors about all of the wonderful opportunities available to them after half term.

It has also been fantastic to finally see the year group out on several school trips – from Geography field trips to English and Drama excursions to London; the year group have represented the school in an exemplary manner at every turn. I also need to say a huge congratulations to all who performed in, and contributed towards, the Autumn Concert at Romsey Abbey. If you have yet to attend one of these concerts then I would highly recommend doing so – the upcoming Carol Service promises to be a good one!

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

Monday 28 February - INSET day

Thursday 10 March - Year 8 Mini Options Evening

Thursday 24 March - Year 8 Parents' Evening

Monday 20 June - INSET day

Curriculum Updates and Extra-Curricular Opportunities

English

As we edge closer to Christmas, students will continue to explore the classic ghost tale by Charles Dickens - A Christmas Carol; by the end of the unit students will have an excellent understanding of the context in which the text was written and the messages Dickens' hoped to impart.

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

The first Dickens Museum and London tour trip went really well and we were really proud of the behaviour and interest our students demonstrated.

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

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.

Scrabble Club runs in the Library on a Thursday at afternoon break 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 J7. This is a joint venture between RE and English. 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

Following completion of Unit 1: Number in the first half term, students will complete work on Unit 2: Area and Volume, before moving onto Unit 3: Statistics, graphs and charts and Unit 4: Expressions and equations.

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.

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.

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

This half term students will be studying light and looking at chemical reactions and the periodic table. More detail and resources for students who miss lessons can be found [here](#).

All Year 8 students will sit an exam on 19 of November. This will be 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 have now completed their first assessment within the sport they have been following over the last half term. Students will be moving onto a new sport for the duration of this half term.

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.

The PE faculty would like to find out about any students that are competing at a high level of sport outside of school. The aim is for us to look at how we can support them in school and celebrate their achievements. If your child is competing at National or International level in any sport, we would be grateful if you could complete this quick [survey](#).

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

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

- **Junior Choir** – rehearsals Tuesday afternoon break in the Performance Studio. Open to all Year 7-8 students.
- **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 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.

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

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.*

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 afternoon 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 in 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 during afternoon break. Students will have the opportunity to explore computing projects using micro:bits, Raspberry Pis and learn Python programming skills.

Drama

Year 8 Drama Club will continue on Wednesday 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.

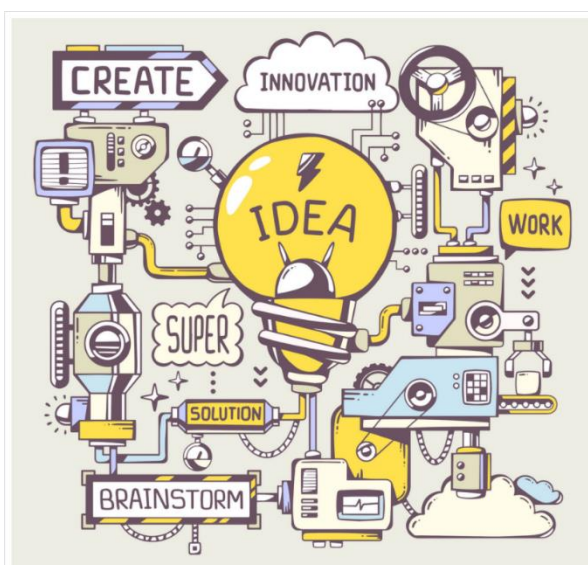
Any budding lighting and sound technicians can join ***Technical Theatre Club***, Friday during afternoon break.

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

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

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.

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



Sign up for ONE or MORE using the Google link

Technology Parent Taster Evenings		
(WEDNESDAY 4.00pm – 5.30pm)		
Dates	Subject	Content
24 November 2021	Resistant Materials	Design your own bespoke keying on CAD software (2D design). See your design manufactured via the laser cutter. Take home and impress your friends and family.
1 December 2021	Textiles	Try your hand at making textile Christmas decorations. Take home to decorate your home or a 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](#).

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

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.

History

Year 8 have been learning about the African Kingdom of Benin and the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

This half term, they will be studying the industrial revolution and the British Empire.

History Club runs every Friday during afternoon break in K4.

Geography

Well done to our Year 8 students on their leadership, cooperation and problem-solving skills during our infiltration enquiry on the school site and the fieldwork to Tadburn Meadows. This term we will continue to analyse our data as part of our studies on rivers.

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 Year 7, 8 and 9.

Religious Education (RE)

This term students have been studying Gandhi and asking 'what makes someone an inspiration?'. We have enquired into his work on civil disobedience through non-violent methods.

For the second half term students will be enquiring into Gandhi's work in India to fight for independence and his Hindu beliefs.

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

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

Year 8 are exploring healthy and unhealthy relationships with peers, including a focus on how new relationships are formed. This involves having key conversations about keeping safe in relationships, consent and the risks that are involved.

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

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