



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 Ravenhill

Year 9 have started their journey back to normality exceptionally well. I have been impressed by our students' resolve and desire to get back learning in the classroom, with minimal fuss. Extra-curricular activities have come back and have gone from strength-to-strength. They have been a long-awaited remedy to the monotony of life in lockdown. Life has returned to The Mountbatten School for Year 9 and the buzz is back!

I would like to thank parents, carers and students for being so supportive of one another and creating a first-rate learning environment. I mentioned in my first general message that Year 9 is an important year as it sets a solid foundation for success. It is with a tremendous source of pride that I see so many Year 9 students receiving large numbers of epraise points each week. This demonstrates that well rounded, young adults are emerging and engaging with our shared values in the 3D curriculum.

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 13 January - Year 9 Options Evening
Thursday 27 January -Year 9 Parents' Evening
Monday 28 February - INSET day
Monday 20 June - INSET day

Curriculum Updates and Extra-Curricular Opportunities

English

This half term, students will begin to study a wide range of poetry centred around the theme of 'identity'. Through a range of poets from the 20th and 21st century such as Maya Angelou and Carol Ann Duffy, students will explore how poetry can reflect and respond to how individuals exist within society. Students will also study autobiographical writing this half term.

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.

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

Scrabble Club runs in the Library on a Thursday 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 during Friday afternoon break.

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

Students will be working on a half term-long unit on Algebra. An assessment on the Number work covered in the first half term will take place in the first week of the half term.

Weekly standardised written homework will continue to be set. It is vital that students follow the clear instructions given on each task. The expectation is that students show a clear and complete written method that communicates their mathematics effectively when answering these questions. This practice of “showing workings/calculations” not only helps teachers more easily identify misconceptions (and therefore address them) but enables students to secure method marks in national exams.

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 revisiting energy and looking at how formulas can be used to calculate what is possible and how efficient processes are. More detail and resources for students who miss lessons can be found [here](#).

All Year 9 students will sit a science exam as part of a wider series of exams in the first 2 weeks of the January term.

It is important that students prepare properly for this exam as it will be used along with the summer

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

exam to help decide sets for next year which will decide which GCSE courses students follow for science. 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](#).

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 during afternoon break 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 7-8.30pm 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

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

£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.

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 morning break. Where: classroom B14. Bring your food, homework and any questions that you may have along and our wonderful prefects will help you to complete your work.

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

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

Students will be studying Computational Thinking and Programming over the next two half terms. To support their in-class learning, it would be useful for students to have access to Python at home. Python IDLE can be downloaded for free from <https://www.python.org/>.

All Year 7-9 students are invited to **Lower School Computing Club** in 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

Musical Theatre Club runs on Thursday during afternoon break. If students would like to help make props and set for Mary Poppins, they can join Mrs Vickerage in classroom J1 on Tuesdays, from 3.30 - 4.30pm.

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

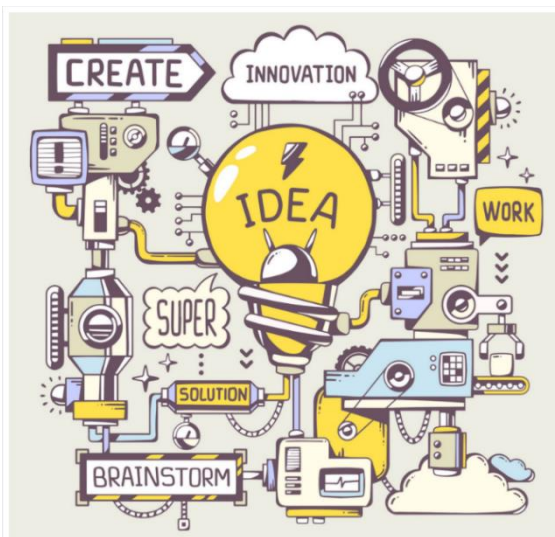
There will be a number of theatre trips throughout the year, please monitor your email for details of these trips.

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.

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.

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



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 places are limited!

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 keyring 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](#).

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.

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

History

Year 9 have been learning about the Second World War, the life of Winston Churchill and post-war Britain. This half-term we will be studying The Cold War and the Vietnam War.

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

Geography

Well done to our Year 9 students for their outstanding leadership, cooperation and curiosity during the New Forest fieldwork. This term we will continue our studies of National Parks and eco-tourism using the fieldwork data that we collected.

Students will also be studying eco-tourism and development in The Gambia, the host country to one of partnership schools. There will be a fundraising opportunity coming up for our Year 9s to raise money for students in our partnership school to pay for school fees and resources to support Gambian students in attending school. The Geography Department will keep you updated on when this will take place.

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.

For students who would like to experience higher academic discussion and debate, **GeogSoc** is running on Tuesdays in classroom J6. These sessions are aimed at developing oracy and critical thinking skills through seminar-style sessions.

Religious Education (RE)

What a wonderful start Year 9 have had in RE! We have been enquiring into some of the arguments for the existence of God. From the 'Design Argument' to 'Pascal's Wager', students have then evaluated which of these arguments is the most convincing.

For the second half term the students will be questioning whether an all-loving God can exist if there is suffering in the world? This is known as the problem of evil.

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

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

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 9 are exploring what constitutes a healthy or unhealthy relationship with peers, including how 'groups' can affect our behaviour and the influence of peer pressure. This involves key conversations about risks, including carrying knives and the use of drugs and alcohol.

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

Leadership Skills Programme 2021-22

This year we are offering up to 75 students in Year 9 and Year 10 the opportunity to take part in the Leadership Skills Programme. The programme has been designed to develop vital leadership skills via practical learning using English, Mathematics or Science sessions. It will include tutored sessions on Tuesdays after school and students will demonstrate their leadership skills by teaching a lesson to Year 7.

Successful completion of the programme will lead to the award of a Level 2 Certificate in Leadership and Team Working. This award is recognised by colleges when applications are made. In addition to the qualification, the programme is designed to improve students' confidence, motivation and attainment in core GCSE qualifications. The programme will also prepare students for prefecture.

The taught element of the course will be delivered in after school sessions on a Tuesday evening. These sessions will run from 3.15 until 4.20pm, with the first session taking place on **Tuesday 4 January 2022**.

To offset the cost of course materials and registration of the qualification, there is a cost of £15.00 per participant. If your child would like to take part in this, please follow the link to complete the registration form: [Leadership Skills 2021-22 Registration Form](#). Payment for this course can be made through Scopay. Please follow the link: <https://www.scopay.com/login.html>. For Pupil Premium students, the cost of this course will be covered by the school.

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

Please could we ask for both the registration form and the online payment to be made by **Wednesday 24 November 2021**. If the course is oversubscribed, places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

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