



## 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 Marshall**

Thank you for your support with your child's transition into Upper School. It's been a real pleasure to hear how well students have started their GCSEs and what they have been up to outside of school.

Over ninety Year 10 students took part in the Open Mornings in October, and it was nice to recognise their involvement with hot chocolate and waffles at the end of last half term. I look forward to sharing more Year 10 success stories over the next year and hopefully catching up in person at one of the many sporting and musical events.

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](mailto:info@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk) with the subject line FAO Tutor Name.

## **Key Dates**

<b>Friday 26 November</b>	- INSET day
<b>Thursday 18 November</b>	- monitoring reports issued
<b>Thursday 25 November</b>	- Parents' Evening
<b>Monday 28 February</b>	- INSET day
<b>Monday 13th June - Friday 24th June</b>	- Year 10 Exams
<b>Monday 20 June</b>	- INSET day

## **Curriculum Updates and Extra-Curricular Opportunities**

### **English**

In English Literature, students will complete their study of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet this half term and learn how to answer a GCSE style question which requires them to know and understand the whole play.

In English Language, students will study a wide range of 19th Century Fiction, ensuring they are able to answer analytical questions in response to unseen texts.

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 during afternoon break to polish those word skills and get that elusive triple word score.

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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 during afternoon break 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**

Higher tier students (sets 1-3) will complete a unit on graphs, focussing on quadratic and cubic graphs. They will then move onto a unit of work that focuses on the following: perimeter, area and volume, plane shapes and prisms, circles, cylinders, spheres, cones; accuracy and bounds.

Foundation tier students (sets 4-6) will be working on units that focus on: straight line graphs, real-life graphs and transformations (reflection, rotation, translation and enlargement).

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 completing the units that will be examined in their ‘paper one’ exams. Resources to support students who miss lessons or need to revisit some content can be found [here](#) for set 2&3 and [here](#) for students in set 1.

There will be a formal assessment for Y10 students in the week commencing 14 February

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2022. Additional detail will be sent out closer to the time but an outline of the content of the exam along with revision guidance can be found [here](#).

### **Physical Education (PE)**

In Sport Studies your child will be preparing for the Unit 1 Contemporary Issues exam, which will take on Monday 10 January.

Your child is continuing to be taught the specification during lessons and will soon be receiving a revision guide to support them with the exam.

Over the next few weeks, your child needs to revise the key content and ensure all mock exam papers are completed.

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](http://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 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 7-8.30pm 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

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£40 per term. Please contact the Music Department for more information [clare.loadman@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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)**

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

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## Computing

Students are continuing to study for the OCR GCSE (9-1) Computer Science (J277) qualification. In the first half term students have studied 2.2 Programming Fundamentals and undertaken various project work using Python.

Students have been assessed on their understanding of 2.2 in their first double lesson of this half term. This half term, students will look at creating and testing robust programs and looking at aspects of defensive design in Unit 2.3. 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/>.

## Drama

Please ensure that students have purchased their copy of the Blood Brothers playscript.

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.



## **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**

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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](#).

### **Geography**

**GeogSoc** is running on Tuesdays in J6 for Upper School students. These sessions are aimed at developing oracy and critical-thinking skills through seminar-style sessions, using current articles, podcasts and videos that explore Geography in the news.

### **Religious Education (RE)**

What a wonderful start to the GCSE the Year 10's have made. So far this term, students have enquired into the key beliefs of Christianity.

In November, students will have their first assessment, we will let them know the specific dates for each class.

The second unit of the GCSE that we will study is called Christian Practices. In this unit students apply what they have learnt about the beliefs of Christianity to how Christians practice these beliefs.

We would recommend students have a revision guide at home to help them, but they do also have access to the website 'Kerboodle'. This allows students to have online versions of the textbooks we use in class. If they need any help with this please ask them to speak to a member of the RE Department.

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## **History**

Year 10 have made a great start to their GCSE studies. This term they have been learning about living conditions in Whitechapel in the late 19th century. This half term, they will move on to a new topic: Weimar and Nazi Germany.

History Club runs every Friday during afternoon break in K4. All year groups are welcome.

## **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 10 are exploring key relationship values and how these can lead to healthy relationships. Key conversations about their rights, including consent and the impact that the media can have on young people, will be taking place.

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.

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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.

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](mailto:youngcarers@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk)

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