



THE MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL

APS/SCG

September 2022

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 website, launched at the start of 2022, has an archive of all whole cohort and whole school letters as well as backdated issues of our weekly parent and carer newsletter.

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

Andrew Portas
Headteacher

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Head of Year Welcome

Welcome to The Mountbatten School!

It is a pleasure to start getting to know our new Year 7. They continue to make an excellent first impression at the start of this term, following on from the success of the first transition day before the summer holidays.

Making the transition from Primary to Secondary School is a significant milestone. The School recognises the enormity of this moment in time. 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 see everything that our Year 7 students will go on to achieve this year as they continue to put their best foot forward in all aspects of school life.

Year 7 have a Theme for the Year, which is "In it to win it". As a school we recognise the importance of extra-curricular provision and offer an extensive timetable of activities. This is where your child will be able to further pursue and explore the various passions that they may have. It is also where, for many students, they develop a sense of belonging and pride in their school. We will therefore be strongly encouraging all students to take part in a wide range of extra-curricular activities. We appreciate your support with this.

You may have many questions relating to the social, emotional or academic wellbeing of your child as well as their academic progress. Please contact your child's tutor in the first instance who will be happy to help.

Mr Rice
Head of Year 7

Key Dates:

Thursday 22 September	- Hillier Arboretum – X band (Tutor Groups: 7MJS, 7DCR, 7RAD, 7ERL, 7IBR)
Friday 23 September	- Hillier Arboretum – Y band (Tutor Groups: 7AWS, 7CBN, 7TAS, 7HHN, 7LHK/EPK)
Wednesday 28 September	- INSET day
Thursday 13 October	- Meet the Tutor Evening
Friday 25 November	- INSET day
Thursday 9 February	- Year 7 Parents' Evening
Monday 20 February	- INSET day
Monday 19 June	- INSET day

Autumn Term

Half-term	24 October – 28 October
Term Ends	Friday 16 December (Half Day)

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Spring Term

Term Starts	Tuesday 3 January
Half-term	13 February – 17 February
Term Ends	Friday 31 March

Summer Term

Term Starts:	Monday 17 April
Half-term:	29 May – 2 June
Term Ends:	Thursday 20 July (Half Day)

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.

Year 7s are taught in their tutor groups throughout the entire year. Every week, students are set 10 vocabulary words to learn as part of their weekly homework – this will also include a task related to their literary studies. Students are expected to learn the meaning of these words and we encourage them to use the website Quizlet. These will be tested in class every week. Further information and deadlines are available via Google Classroom.

The English department is 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 start the year taught in tutor groups and have recently been placed into ability sets. 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. Each student has been set up with an account for the Sparx Maths online platform from which they will be set personalised weekly homework tasks. Details of each week's homework will be explained verbally in class and shared on Google Classroom.

Science

Information about the content that will be taught in Year 7, the November and summer exams and the homework Year 7 students will be expected to complete can be found on our Year 7 website. It also provides resources to allow students to read ahead, catch up if they miss lessons and revise for tests. It can be found [here](#).

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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.

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: music@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk. Or complete our [Music Tuition contract](#) and email it to finance@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk

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.

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 our local area 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.

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.

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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 [school website](#).

The majority of the clubs are free to access and students will receive tuition from an experienced member of staff and external coaches. Clubs began on Monday 12 September.

We do have a number of extra curricular clubs run by external coaches. Students can sign up for those clubs via the following website: <https://personalbesteducation.com/juniors/after-school-clubs/>

If you wish for your child to join the Taekwondo club run by former Commonwealth Champion Max Cater, then you can sign up by completing the letter on our [school website](#).

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.

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 building 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 one vocabulary learning homework task, lasting 30 minutes, every other week starting from October half term. The vocabulary homework will be tested formally in class to check learning.

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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, and at morning and afternoon breaks for students to browse and change books. Every student can borrow 4 books for 3 weeks. We have a wide variety of books to loan out and are always happy to receive recommendations/requests to provide new books that we do not have. It is important that students develop good habits of personal responsibility and renew or return their library books on time, ensuring that all of our students can enjoy the library and the range of books that we offer.

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.

epraise

We use a system called 'epraise' in our school. This software is designed to improve student engagement and motivation and to support parental involvement. It has proved very popular with teachers, parents/carers and students alike.

We would like to remind parents/carers that you too can have an epraise account to access information about your child. There is a great app so that you can receive notifications when they receive an epraise point, demerit or detention on your phone.

Please use the email address you have given us to set up an account. Hopefully you will find this process straightforward and easy. Please see our [FAQ guide](#) if you do experience any problems. There is also a parent guide to epraise [here](#) and a useful video about how to get started with epraise [here](#) .

Once logged in to epraise, there are a couple of resources which you might find useful:

Careers

The Mountbatten School's careers programme is broadly based on the Career Development Institute's framework, which covers the following six learning areas: grow throughout life, explore possibilities, manage career, create opportunities, balance life and work; and see the big picture. From Year 7, students receive weekly careers education during tutor time, which culminates in the annual Work Enrichment Day in June/July where students take part in a variety of careers activities during the day. In addition, students have access to various lunchtime workshops with a broad range of visitors talking about their careers, assemblies with employers and training (apprenticeship) providers, as well as taking part in activities during National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week. All upcoming events will be advertised on the Careers Google Classroom, the weekly newsletter and the Careers department Instagram account.

Whilst one-to-one careers interviews with our Career Adviser are routinely scheduled with Year 9 students and above, all students are able to request a careers interview, if required. This can be done via your child's tutor or the school's Career Leader Mrs Shakya.

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If you would like to contribute to the school's careers provision by talking to students about your job or business, are able to offer a work experience placement to our Year 10 students or are a former student yourself and would like to feature on our alumni information wall, please get in touch with Mrs Shakya (sindy.shakya@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk).

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 parent/carer, 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.

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.