



THE MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL

APS/SCG

September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

We would like to congratulate Year 8 on a really great start to the new term.

We know that there is always a lot of information at the beginning of 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 Message

As a new member of The Mountbatten School - Head of Year team, it has been lovely over the past few weeks to hear glowing reports of how well Year 8 settled into life at Mountbatten last year.

I would like to take this opportunity to briefly introduce myself - I have been teaching PE and English for 9 years, predominantly in Kent, and have recently been appointed as the new Head of Year 8. I am very much looking forward to getting to know Year 8 and the wider school community over the next couple of weeks and will be working closely with students, and my colleagues, to ensure a smooth transition for us all into the new school year.

This year the school's theme is to demonstrate "Excellence" in everything that we do. Year 8 will be challenged to apply this theme to the high standards that we set every day. This may be through the presentation of themselves and their uniform, the effort and pride taken in their school work and homework, the courage to try new clubs through our vast extra-curricular programme and in the behaviour and manners that we look for our students to uphold consistently.

With such a talented year group, I am certain we will have lots to celebrate over the coming year, both academic success and the development of key behaviours in our 3D curriculum too.

I would like to wish all Year 8 students a happy, healthy and successful second year. I look forward to working with you all over the course of the year ahead.

Miss Jupp
Head of Year 8

Key Dates:

Wednesday 28 September	- INSET day
Friday 25 November	- INSET day
Thursday 2 March	- <i>Year 8 Mini Options Evening</i>
Thursday 16 March	- <i>Year 8 Parents' Evening</i>
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)

English

Our Lower School curriculum has been carefully crafted to help students develop their love of literature and prepare them for the work required in the years ahead – the texts studied in Year 8 never fail to inspire students to enjoy reading and encounter new ideas. The Year 8 texts are linked through the theme of response and rebellion. Students begin by studying the classic Victorian text ‘*A Christmas Carol*’ by Charles Dickens. Students are given numerous opportunities to read non-fiction texts, to write creatively and to write extended pieces in an academic style.

Year 8s are taught in the same groups for English and Humanities. 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.

Maths

Year 8 will be taught in ability sets. They will receive personalised weekly online homework set on the Sparx Maths platform. This replaces the fixed task homework set on Hegarty Maths in Year 7. 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 8, the November and summer exams and the homework Year 8 students will be expected to complete can be found on our Year 8 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](#).

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!

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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 be exploring the African Kingdom of Benin before learning about the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. They will then study the impact of the Industrial Revolution and the British Empire in the 18th and 19th centuries.

All homework and resources will be available on Google Classroom.

All Year 8 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 8, students will evaluate how likely Romsey is to flood in the future. This includes a fieldwork trip to our local river to collect data as part of their investigation - we would highly advise bringing your wellington boots if you have them as there may be an opportunity to get into the river!

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 8 are taught in sets and will follow a curriculum specific for their set. During the academic year students will take part in six sports one per half term.

At the end of each unit of work students will complete a practical assessment.

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.

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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.

Year 8 language learners will learn how to manipulate and use essential grammar skills that are the foundation of the language. They also learn about cultural differences by learning about French and Spanish speaking cities/countries. Students watch authentic videos and read authentic texts about the lifestyle of people in different countries around the world thus developing their curiosity about different cultures.

Students will be expected to complete one vocabulary learning homework task, lasting 30 minutes, every other week starting from the second week of 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. 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.

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](#).

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.

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.)

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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.

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.

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