



## THE MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL

APS/SCG

September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

We would like to congratulate Year 9 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

Whitenap Lane Romsey Hampshire SO51 5SY  
t: 01794 502 502 f: 01794 502 501 e: [info@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk](mailto:info@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk)  
w: [www.mountbatten.hants.sch.uk](http://www.mountbatten.hants.sch.uk) Company No. 07560175

## Head of Year Message

It has been wonderful to welcome back the year group into their third year here at The Mountbatten School. Year 9 is the coming-of-age year where students transition from Lower School to Upper School. It is already shaping up to be a busy year but one full of fun and exciting opportunities for all to have new experiences and further develop their own leadership skills. As always, I encourage all to take an active role in the wider school life of Mountbatten and get involved in as many of the extra-curricular clubs and opportunities on offer as possible.

Year 9 is special for many reasons. It is the first time that students have been able to focus their interests and study subjects that they themselves chose at the end of Year 8. Students who work hard and meet challenges head on, with resilience and determination, will ensure the best possible foundations for their GCSE years. Whilst undoubtedly exciting, it can be a daunting process for some so I would just like to assure you all of our whole-hearted support in regard to welfare and academic success, and of our commitment to answering and resolving any queries and concerns that may arise.

We are lucky to have an exceptional team of tutors working with the year group again this year and I know they will do their best to assist and support their tutees through the busy year ahead.

**Mr Waters**  
**Head of Year**

### Key Dates:

<b>Wednesday 28 September</b>	- INSET day
<b>Friday 25 November</b>	- INSET day
<b>Thursday 12 January</b>	- Year 9 Options Evening
<b>Thursday 26 January</b>	- Year 9 Parents Evening
<b>Monday 20 February</b>	- INSET day
<b>Monday 19 June</b>	- INSET day

### **Autumn Term**

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

### **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)

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## **English**

Our Lower School curriculum has been carefully crafted to help students develop their love of literature whilst effectively preparing them for their GCSEs. Year 9s study texts linked via the theme of identity and power. Students study a full novel, two plays and poetry. They begin by studying the 20th Century play *An Inspector Calls*. In Year 9, students study a number of full texts and are taught extended and academic writing skills. Students are taught how to understand and apply the social and historical contexts relevant to the texts they study. Students are also taught how to improve their transactional and creative writing.

All students are set weekly homework. 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 9 will be taught in ability sets. They will receive weekly online homework set on the Sparx Maths platform. This replaces the fixed task homework set on Hegarty Maths. 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 9, exams and the homework Year 9 students will be expected to complete, can be found on our Year 9 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!

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

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## **History**

This term, students will be learning about some of the most significant events of the Second World War, exploring the life of Winston Churchill and examining the causes and events of the Cold War. All homework and resources will be available on Google Classroom.

All Year 9 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**

During the first term of Year 9, students will investigate the role and impact of the tourism industry in driving improvements and development at different scales. Not only does this unit provide several links to a variety of career paths but will also allow for students to consider the impacts of Covid-19 on the tourism industry. Early in the Autumn Term, Year 9 students will also visit the New Forest National Park to collect fieldwork data to assess the impact of tourism in our local national park. A letter will follow shortly.

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 9 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 staff body and external coaches.

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

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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 9, our students are asked to put their existing knowledge to use by starting to create longer and more complex pieces of work and be creative in their thinking in order to reuse a wider range of language. As reading and listening tasks become more challenging, students' resilience and independence is being tested and developed constantly.

In Year 9, students will be expected to complete one homework task lasting 30-45 minutes each week. The task will be vocabulary learning from the latest vocabulary list in their blue exercise book. The vocabulary homework each week will be tested in class the following week to check learning. The second piece of homework will be a practice task, usually set on Google Classroom, with all the resources required.

### **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 really 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](#).

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## **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. Year 9 students will continue with their weekly careers education during tutor time, which culminate 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 a various lunchtime workshops with a broad range of visitors talking about their career, assemblies with employers and training (apprenticeship) providers, trips, as well as taking part in activities during National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week. We also organise visitors to come into lessons to support curriculum learning where possible. All upcoming events will be advertised on the Careers Google Classroom, the weekly newsletter and the Careers Department Instagram account.

Year 9 students will also be supported during the GCSE options process and can request a careers interview if required. This can be done via the student'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](mailto:sindy.shakya@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk)).

## **Finance**

A link to SCOPAY can be found on the school website. Please contact [finance@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk](mailto: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 guardian, you can get email summaries about your student's activity in Classroom.

If you have any IT issues or require any assistance, please contact IT Services at [itservices@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk](mailto:itservices@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk)

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