



## THE MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL

APS/SCG

September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

We would like to congratulate Year 10 on a really great start to the new term.

We know that there is always a lot of information at the start 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**

Welcome back! A new academic year beckons and I am very excited to be re-joining an old year group of mine for their 5 remaining terms as a Mountbatten student. The next 2 years are perhaps the busiest and most important ones yet. It will not be long before students are in the full swing of coursework, homework, revision and mocks. The GCSE examinations always come around faster than you expect (it feels like yesterday that they were all tiny Year 7s!) and it can be a difficult and stressful time for both you and your child.

You may have many questions regarding your child's academic progress. I would like to take this opportunity to assure you of our wholehearted support in regard to welfare and academic success, and of our commitment to answering and resolving the queries and concerns you may have.

**Mr Stonehill**  
**Head of Year 10**

### **Key Dates:**

<b>Wednesday 28 September</b>	- INSET day
<b>Thursday 29 September</b>	- Careers Fair
<b>Thursday 24 November</b>	- Parents' Evening
<b>Friday 25 November</b>	- INSET day
<b>Monday 20 February</b>	- INSET day
<b>Mon 12 June - Fri 23 June</b>	- Year 10 Exams
<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**

Your child will be studying English Language and English Literature, these are two separate GCSEs and our exam board is *Pearson Edexcel*. Students will be set two 45-minute homework tasks each week which are completed in a separate blue homework exercise book. We also use an online platform called GCSEPod which shares videos and quizzes to help students revise. Homework tasks will often link to GCSEPod. All homework tasks and resources will be shared in your child's Google Classroom.

This term students will be studying Shakespeare's famous tragedy, *Romeo and Juliet*. All students will be provided with a copy of the complete play, however, they will be required to return these in good condition (with no annotations) at the end of their GCSE studies. If students wish to read and annotate their own copy, this is available to purchase via SCOPAY at a cost of £3.50, this will allow students to make important annotations around the text to aid with both their classwork and revision in Year 11.

English Language studies will begin with imaginative writing after October half term.

## **Maths**

Year 10 will be taught in ability sets. They will receive cumulative assessments throughout the year to ensure that at least good progress is being made. Students will receive a standardised written weekly homework that focuses on the retention of key skills. This is posted on Google Classroom and should be completed with full workings in the back of their exercise book. GCSE revision guides/workbooks are available for purchase via the school's online SCOPAY system.

## **Science**

Students have been placed in sets based on the exams that we expect them to take at the end of Year 11. This year, students will continue to study the material they will need for these exams. Term will begin with a recap of the key material covered last year.

The first of 2 important assessments will take place in the week commencing 30 January 23, [additional detail can be found here](#).

Students in Year 10 are expected to spend 60 minutes completing homework for Science, though students who are off track may need to put in more time. All homework for Year 10 students is designed to promote a little and often approach to revision with the aim of consolidating and improving the revision resources made in Year 9. The exact work given will depend on the student's set as they are preparing for slightly different exams. Additional information can be found [here](#).

## **Drama**

In Year 10, students begin their Drama course by starting the Devising Drama unit. This comprises 40% of the final grade. Please ensure that students have either Mountbatten leggings or black tracksuit bottoms when participating in these practical workshops. In the forthcoming weeks, students will be given the opportunity to purchase a GCSE Drama kit, which they may wear for practical Drama lessons. During this unit, students will be expected to rehearse weekly after school whilst producing their examination pieces.

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## **Fine Art and Photography**

In Year 10, students' first project is titled 'Collections and Curiosities'. This overarching theme initially inspires teacher-led work in class that recaps their artistic skills and then moves on to more independent project work as the course progresses. Our course is 60% coursework, so from the start students are producing work that counts towards their final grades. Beginning well by being enthusiastic, organised and staying on top of deadlines is a great way to ensure success.

Homework is weekly and will be set on Google Classroom. Students are expected to spend an hour a week on their ongoing independent project work. To help with this, we offer after school clinics where their teacher will be on hand to support with additional direction and help with materials if needed.

Students' research and development work for both Art and Photography is presented on black A2 card. We do ask students to purchase their own portfolio to enable them to transport the work to and from school. We sell these portfolios along with 'art packs'. These are materials that we feel will benefit students working at home. In Photography it is useful if you can purchase your child a personal SD card, however, we do have these at school (although they cannot take these home) so this is not an essential.

There is no expectation that you must purchase portfolio packs from the school. You may, however, find the products that are supplied are more expensive through other providers should you need to purchase them separately. We do purchase our packs at a discount through an educational supplier, non-profit to the school, so we believe these are value for money. A letter detailing portfolio options in a couple of weeks, so please look out for this.

## **Music Technology**

Over the NCFE Music Technology course, students will be exploring the music technology business, different musical styles and music in the media. Students will be receiving weekly homework to support any learning. Students are encouraged to use the Mac suits outside of lesson time to support their development with music technology.

## **Music**

The performance aspect of the GCSE Music course accounts for 30% of the final grade, so your child should be working on an appropriate repertoire with their instrumental/voice teacher as well as practising on a regular basis at home. Please make contact with the Music Department if your child is not receiving regular lessons on their instrument/voice.

Having missed so many performance opportunities, it is essential that students attend all appropriate rehearsals and place a high priority on these. The extra-curricular timetable is available on all social media accounts and on the school website.

Another 30% of the GCSE Music course is devoted to composition. Students will need to produce two compositions by February half term in Year 11.

The final component of the GCSE Music course is the 'Listening and Appraising' paper, which accounts for the final 40% of the qualification. This 1.5 hour written examination will fall in the GCSE period in May/June 2024.

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If you have signed up for music lessons, they should be paid as per the details on your contract via your SCOPAY account.

## **History**

We follow the Edexcel GCSE History specification and study the following topics: 'Crime and Punishment and Whitechapel', 'Weimar and Nazi Germany', 'Early Elizabethan England' and 'Superpower Relations and the Cold War'.

Revision guides are published by Pearson and Hodder and can be purchased through the school.

All homework and resources will be available on Google Classroom.

All Year 10 students are welcome to attend The History Club which will run one afternoon break each week. Please ask your History teacher for more details.

## **Religious Education (RE)**

As we commence the GCSE course, students will have time to investigate the concepts of GCSE RE and we would love it if you would ask them what they have been learning in lessons. To help your child, we offer the OUP Religious Studies revision guide, this is available to purchase on the school system for £6. It is available elsewhere but normally costs £10.

Each week students will be set a homework quiz on Google Classroom plus an additional piece from their class teacher, we would recommend that students ensure that they catch up on any missed work.

## **Geography**

During the Autumn Term in Year 10, we will be exploring the interactions that exist within small-scale local ecosystems, with some close links to biology. We will then study the characteristics, opportunities, challenges and management strategies presented in tropical rainforest and cold environments, with Malaysia and Svalbard as our respective case studies.

We follow the AQA GCSE Geography specification and there are a variety of resources available on Google Classroom and the AQA website to support revision. We would also encourage students to purchase the revision guides to support them in their independent studies. The details of these resources can be found on Google Classroom.

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 10, during Core PE, follows a pathway curriculum. Students get the option of which pathway they follow. The pathway options are: competition, aesthetics and recreation.

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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](#).

Furthermore, students get the option to complete the Sports Leaders Level 2 and Dance Leaders Level 2 qualification during their Core PE lessons. This is a recognised qualification through Sports Leaders UK.

For those who have opted for an additional qualification, we offer three accredited courses: AQA GCSE PE, AQA GCSE Dance and OCR Cambridge Nationals Sport Studies.

Students follow this course for two years and each course has practical and theoretical elements. All resources and homework are shared on Google Classroom. Revision guides are published by Pearson and Hodder and can be purchased through the school.

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**

We are delighted that your child has opted to study Food. We will be working on developing and enhancing a range of high-level skills, and this will mean that your child is cooking on a more regular basis. We will give students ingredients lists one week in advance, and would like to stress how important it is that they bring ingredients to ensure they can fully participate in all lessons and make good progress.

We ask that ingredients are weighed out at home and are brought to school in suitable 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 and students that our Food rooms are 'nut free', so please ensure that no nut products are sent in with ingredients.

### **Computing**

In Year 10, students will be studying for the OCR GCSE (9-1) Computer Science (J277) qualification. Students will be studying topics from Paper 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming. In the first term they will be studying Unit 2.2 Programming Fundamentals and will undertake a programming project using Python.

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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/> or students can use the online Google Collaboratory application which can be accessed by logging into their Google school account.

Students will receive homework every week which will be posted in Google Classroom. Revision guides are available via school or can be purchased from many retailers – please check that you are purchasing the OCR J277 specification with examination from 2022.

### **Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)**

Thanks to the language skills they have acquired during Lower School, students are entering their Upper School studies well prepared to do a GCSE in French/Spanish. They will already know how to understand and express themselves on a wide range of topics and will continue to further develop their skills as well as to thoroughly prepare for their final GCSE examination papers.

In Year 10, students will be expected to complete one homework task, lasting up to 60 minutes, each week. One task will be vocabulary learning from the latest vocabulary list in their blue exercise book. The vocabulary homework will be tested in class formally each week to check learning. The second piece of homework will be a practice task.

### **Business**

Year 10 start the business course studying a general overview of the world of business. Understanding why people set up businesses, different business structures, market sectors, international trade and globalisation. Students will sit an assessment in the second to last week of the half term.

All homework for Business students is set as a Google quiz on Google Classroom. Students will have a week to complete it. There is a pass mark and students are encouraged to use their class notes to answer the questions as they have only one opportunity to complete the quiz. This ensures students are making informed choices rather than educated guesses. Any incorrect answers should be written in the back of their books corrected.

## **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 get 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.

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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. Year 10 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, the upcoming Careers Fair (**Thursday 29 September**), Work Experience (more information to follow) 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.

A large majority of students have already received a careers interview, remaining students will have the opportunity for one-to-one careers guidance throughout the rest of the year. If they need to speak to the Careers Advisor, please request an appointment via your child's tutor or the school's Career Leader, Mrs Shakya. All resulting action plans are emailed home so that you are informed on what has been discussed during the meeting.

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.

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## **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.

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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