



## THE MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL

APS/SCG

September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

We would like to congratulate Year 11 on a really great start to the new term.

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 Message

### Head of Year

A very warm welcome back Year 11. That has come around very quickly!

I was so impressed by the dedication and determination shown by the year group in their first year of Upper School. Nelson Mandela once said that 'I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it.' This year courage is going to be our theme. I cannot say that this year will not have challenges; what I can say is that we will be there to support your child through their last two and half terms at The Mountbatten school. I am sure they do not need reminding that these next terms are the most crucial of their academic career to date. We want to work with you to help our students to progress successfully in life.

I am very excited to watch all that students achieve this year as they continue to put their best foot forward in terms of behaviour, uniform, effort and work. Staying on top of their work, and making sure to ask questions, will help to reduce stress throughout the year, especially as we move closer to the exams. This will also allow them to maintain a healthy balance between their studies and their other interests outside the classroom.

You may have many questions regarding your child's academic progress. We want to assure you of our wholehearted support in regard to welfare and academic success as well as our commitment to answering and resolving queries and concerns you may have.

I would like to wish all Year 11 students a happy, healthy and successful final year here at The Mountbatten School.

**Miss Seward**  
**Head of Year**

### Key Dates:

<b>Wednesday 28 September</b>	- INSET day
<b>Thursday 20 October</b>	- Year 11 Parents' Evening
<b>Friday 25 November</b>	- INSET day
<b>Monday 20 February</b>	- INSET day
<b>Monday 24 April - Friday 16 June</b>	- GCSE 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

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## **Summer Term**

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

## **CRY Screening Opportunity**

Our CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) screening for Year 11 will take place on Wednesday 2 November. Sue Fisher (formerly Standing), along with our students, continue to raise awareness and monies for young people to be screened. Sue's son, Phil, was an ex-Mountbatten student who sadly lost his life in 2012 to Sudden Death Syndrome. As I'm sure you will appreciate, this is something incredibly important to us as a school. In keeping with our school motto, 'we care' and want all of our students to be safe.

On average, it costs approximately £50 per student to be screened. Whilst we would love to offer every student the chance to be screened, sadly (due to the cost), we are only able to offer 100 Year 11 students a screening this year. This money has been raised by Sue and her loved ones. More will be raised by our Year 11 students in the coming weeks.

Letters will be released with the ebulletin on Friday. Parents/carers will have from 3.30pm to apply. It will be on a first come, first served basis. If you are unsuccessful, then please be aware that there are always local screenings that you can attend, but please note, you will be charged.

If you have any questions, please contact me on the school email: [info@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk](mailto:info@mountbatten.hants.sch.uk)

## **English**

Your child is 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, these should be added to an English revision folder or completed in their blue homework book. We also use an online platform called GCSEPod which shares videos and quizzes to help students revise. All homework tasks and resources will be shared in your child's Google Classroom.

This term students will be studying 'Journey's End' in English Literature. All students will be provided with a copy of the text, 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 £2.50, this will allow students to make important annotations around the text to aid with both their classwork and revision in Year 11.

In English Language, we will soon start preparing students for their Spoken Language endorsement which will take place before Christmas. This is a short presentation written by the student marked by their teacher. Students achieve either a pass, merit or distinction and it is a required element of the English language course. Further details about the assessment will be provided to students in class in a few weeks.

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## Maths

Year 11 will continue to be taught in ability sets. They will receive a standardised written weekly homework for the first half term that focuses on the retention of key skills. This will then be replaced with weekly exam papers beginning after October half term. GCSE revision guides/workbooks are still available for purchase via the school's online SCOPAY system if they were not purchased in Year 10. If you are unsure which tier of entry to purchase, please contact your child's teacher.

The first in-class written assessment (Paper 1 Non-Calculator) will take place the week beginning 26 September. Full details, including topic revision lists, will be made available on Google Classroom. The results of this assessment will be used to gauge progress and help to inform the Autumn Term monitoring.

## Science

Students in Y11 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 11 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 10. The exact work given will depend on students' set as they are preparing for slightly different exams. Details of the exam content can be found [here](#) for students in sets 2&3 and [here](#) for students in set 1.

Every student in the year group will complete the quizzes allocated on the timetable [here](#). If students use the knowledge organisers and the advice in the link this will take no more than 30 minutes. The remainder of the time will be used for tasks allocated by the class teacher. This might include tasks such as learning knowledge organisers and preparing for end of unit tests. The aim of this homework is to consolidate learning in lessons by ensuring that students revisit material previously covered, research indicates this is the best method of ensuring that key ideas are remembered.

## Drama

In Year 11, students begin the year by studying for the Live Theatre component of the written exam. For those students who have not yet completed their Devising Drama logbook, they will be invited to attend after school support sessions as this work equates to 30% of the final grade.

In October, we will begin preparation for the scripted exam. Students will be expected, where necessary, to rehearse after school. We expect this examination to be held in March.

Finally, students will revise Blood Brothers and prepare for their written examination in June.

## Music Technology

Students have made a positive start to the course in Year 10 and have completed two out of three of the units. The final deadline for the 203 unit will be **Thursday 16 March 2023**.

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## 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. Having missed so many performance opportunities, it is essential that students attend all appropriate rehearsals and place a high priority on these. We will be commencing the recording of performances from **30 January 2023**.

Another 30% of the GCSE Music course is devoted to composition. Students have made a good start in this area during Year 10; we have set a departmental deadline of **Friday 10 February 2023** for completion of this work.

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 2023.

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

## History

At Mountbatten, 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 11 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 continue with the GCSE, students are now studying Paper 2. Paper 2 is a series of ethical issues that students will debate the morality of and apply the religious teachings they have studied in Paper 1. We recommend students have a revision guide and use the Kerboodle website to assist them with their studies. If your child does not already have a revision guide, these are available to buy from the school for £6.

Each week the students will have homework, this will be a quiz and an additional piece from their class teacher. We need to ensure that the students remember that every lesson counts and revision now will be of benefit later. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any queries.

## Geography

During the Autumn Term of Year 11, we will continue with our studies of human geography by exploring urban issues and challenges in Lagos, Nigeria and in our local city of Southampton. We will also investigate urban sustainability strategies which can provide links to a variety of career pathways and support the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

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We encourage students to purchase the revision guides and practice exam question booklets to support them in their independent studies. The details of these resources can be found on Google Classroom.

We would 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 11, during Core PE, follow a pathway curriculum. Students get the option of which pathway they follow. The pathway options are: competition, aesthetics, offsite and recreation.

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](#).

In Upper School we offer three accredited courses: AQA GCSE PE, AQA GCSE Dance & 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](#).

### **Design and Technology**

We would like to make you aware of the following NEA deadlines for 2022-23:

<i>Investigate</i>	- 1 October 2022
<i>Design</i>	- 16 December 2022
<i>Make</i>	- 10 February 2023
<i>Evaluate</i>	- 31 March 2023

If deadlines are missed or work is below the expected standard, then parents/carers will be informed.

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## **Food Technology**

Students will begin work on a classroom based formal assessment this term (known as their 'NEA'), and this will account for 50% of their final GCSE grade. The Food Department will explain the details of this to students and will provide parents/carers with further information about this in due course.

We would like to make you aware of the following NEA deadlines for 2022-23:

*NEA 1 - 21 October 2022*

*NEA 2 - 16 December 2022*

## **Computing**

In Year 11, students will continue to study for the OCR GCSE (9-1) Computer Science (J277) qualification. In the Autumn Term, students will be studying the remaining topics from Paper 1: 1.3 Computer networks, connections and protocols, 1.4 Network security and 1.5 Systems software.

Students should continue to revise Paper 1 and Paper 2 topics using the resources provided on Google Classroom and the BBC Bitesize revision resources for OCR GCSE Computing.

Students will receive homework every week which will be posted on 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)**

For their final year of French/Spanish, Year 11 students will be preparing for all aspects of their final exams, gaining an in-depth understanding of each of the four papers they will sit at the end of the course as well as continuing to develop further the skills they have built in the last four years. The completion of their weekly homework tasks is an essential part of their preparation and goes hand in hand with the classwork.

In Year 11, 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 11 begin the second year looking at content for Paper 2. The first unit is on 'Operations' covering topics including production processes, quality control, e-commerce, customer service and logistics. A visitor who works in production will be coming into school to speak to the students about their experiences and career path to enrich their understanding of the topic. Students will be assessed on the unit content after half term.

Homework will continue to be set as a Google quiz on Google Classroom. Students are encouraged to use their class notes to answer the questions, this will ensure students are making informed choices

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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 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](#).

#### **Careers**

For the past four years, Year 11 students have followed the Career Development Institute's framework for careers education, 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. In their final year students will continue with their weekly careers education during tutor time, focusing on choosing their post-16 options, preparing them to apply for college. To aid students in the process we have organised a Careers Fair (**29 September**) and have invited a range of colleges, higher education and apprenticeship providers to deliver assemblies to students. Help with also be available for students wishing to apply for an apprenticeship, although these are typically applied for in the spring term.

All students have now received at least one careers interview and we aim for students to have two one-to-one careers guidance sessions before they leave school. All resulting action plans are emailed home so that you are informed on what has been discussed during the meeting.

The Year 11 Careers Google Classroom has a wide range of resources to help students investigate the various options available to them. Please also check the weekly newsletter and the Careers Department Instagram account for event updates.

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