



THE MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL

AJP

October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Head of Year 9 Message

It has been lovely to welcome our Year 9 students back to The Mountbatten School and witness the sense of excitement as the cohort embarks upon the mini-option subjects they have selected! Our theme for the year is “ASPIRE”, where we will be challenging the students to reflect upon their ambitions whilst demonstrating strength, pride, independence, resilience and engagement in all of the opportunities that come their way.

Year 9 is set to be a busy one, with a whole host of opportunities, events, trips and, of course, lessons to look forward to! In particular, we are aiming for the whole cohort to complete their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) award, a huge undertaking, but one that will benefit every individual for many years to come. This is an excellent opportunity for students to develop important skills and life experiences and I would encourage all Year 9's to take an active role in the wider school life, taking part in extra-curricular clubs and activities to support their DofE endeavours.

Demonstrating independence is an important part of becoming a Year 9 student as they prepare themselves for the GCSE years. However, I want to reassure you that students remain exceptionally well supported every step of the way. In pursuit of academic and personal excellence there may be times when the process can feel a little daunting but I feel incredibly proud to work alongside both our tutor and pastoral teams and, together, we will continue to provide assistance and support to the Year 9 community to ensure a happy, safe and successful year ahead.

Yours sincerely

Miss Jupp
Head of Year 9

Whitenap Lane Romsey Hampshire SO51 5SY
t: 01794 502 502 f: 01794 502 501 e: info@mountbatten.school
w: www.mountbatten.school Company No. 07560175

Key Dates:

Wednesday 29 November	- INSET Day
Tuesday 2 January	- INSET Day
Wednesday 3 January	- INSET Day
Monday 19 February	- INSET Day
Thursday 11 January	- Year 9 Options Evening
Thursday 25 January	- Year 9 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 18 June	- INSET Day

Autumn Term

Half-Term	23 October – 27 October
Term Ends	Friday 15 December (Half Day)

Spring Term

Term Starts	Thursday 4 January 2024
Half-Term	12 February – 16 February
Term Ends	Thursday 28 March

Summer Term

Term Starts:	Monday 15 April
Half-Term:	27 May – 31 May
Term Ends:	Tuesday 23 July (Half Day)

Whitenap Lane Romsey Hampshire SO51 5SY
t: 01794 502 502 f: 01794 502 501 e: info@mountbatten.school
w: www.mountbatten.school Company No. 07560175

Curriculum Update

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 9 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. Details of each week's homework will be explained verbally in class and shared on Google Classroom.

Sparx Maths is an online platform that supports all students with independent learning of Maths that is personalised at a level that will optimise progress and develop confidence.

To ensure a successful experience with Sparx Maths homework, please take note of the following:

- Your child's class teacher will post the homework instructions and a link to the Sparx platform on Google Classroom. Students will have one week to complete it.
- If your child encounters challenges while completing their homework, we encourage them to watch the support videos which accompany each question. If further assistance is needed, students must reach out to their teacher for help with specific questions in advance of the deadline. This can be done in class or via email.
- Homework is considered complete when your child achieves a 100% score on their personalised tasks.
- Students who achieve 100% on their homework will be rewarded with an epraise point.
- Once the compulsory homework is complete, students have the opportunity to continue their learning by completing their personalised Target and XP Boost tasks.
- You will be sent important notifications related to Sparx Maths homework via email, so please ensure that your email addresses are up-to-date with the school.

Whitenap Lane Romsey Hampshire SO51 5SY
t: 01794 502 502 f: 01794 502 501 e: info@mountbatten.school
w: www.mountbatten.school Company No. 07560175

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](#). The website also provides resources to allow students to read ahead, catch up if they miss lessons and revise for tests.

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, The 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: musicdepartment@mountbatten.school. Alternatively, complete a Music Tuition contract and email it to finance@mountbatten.school.

Here is the music extra-curricular information for all students: [Extra-curricular Music 2023-2024.pdf](#)

Drama

Year 9 gain an insight into how GCSE Drama works. Students will study a number of new skills, including Physical Theatre. Due to the practical nature of the lessons, students will need to change into PE kit or ensure they are wearing shorts under skirts.

There will be a number of opportunities for students to become involved in extra-curricular activities throughout the year. If students would like to develop their acting skills and public speaking, they may wish to join our LAMDA programme which provides small group acting training after school.

History

In History, our aim is to inspire young historians who are curious and excited to learn about the past so that they have a better understanding of the world we live in today.

This term, students will be exploring the life of Winston Churchill and examining the causes and key events of the Cold War. All homework and resources will be available on Google Classroom.

Whitenap Lane Romsey Hampshire SO51 5SY
t: 01794 502 502 f: 01794 502 501 e: info@mountbatten.school
w: www.mountbatten.school Company No. 07560175

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. Year 9 students enjoyed their fieldwork in the New Forest National Park to collect fieldwork data and assess the impact of tourism on our local National Park.

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.

RE (Religious Education)

Welcome to Year 9 RE! Our vision is to enable students to make meaning of the world they live in, through critical thinking, questioning and evaluating in order to empower students to make informed choices about worldviews and contemporary moral issues.

We are very excited for Year 9 to move to three lessons a week and start enquiring in more depth the philosophical issues for Autumn term. In this unit students will inquire into philosophical issues such as 'Does God exist?' and if God does exist what are the arguments to support this. Students will evaluate whether The Design Argument, The Cosmological Argument and Religious Experience give enough proof to support these views.

Each week the students will be set a homework, this will be in Google Classroom in addition to the students writing it in their planners. All resources that the students need will be on Google Classroom, and if you need anything please get in touch with your class teacher.

PE (Physical Education)

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/>

Whitenap Lane Romsey Hampshire SO51 5SY
t: 01794 502 502 f: 01794 502 501 e: info@mountbatten.school
w: www.mountbatten.school Company No. 07560175

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 Technology

Year 9 are taught in mixed ability option groups and will specialize in their chosen area of study, Resistant Materials, Graphics or Textiles. To help cover the cost of the products that the students make in design technology, we encourage parents to make a voluntary contribution, a letter with details of how to make a voluntary contribution will be sent out in due course.

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. 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, encouraging 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. A significant part of our Year 9 curriculum is also designed to encourage students to link language learning with the world of work and encourage them to think about how learning a language at GCSE can benefit their future education and employability.

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.

Whitenap Lane Romsey Hampshire SO51 5SY
t: 01794 502 502 f: 01794 502 501 e: info@mountbatten.school
w: www.mountbatten.school Company No. 07560175

Computer Science

Year 9 students will begin the year by studying Computational Thinking and Algorithms this half-term, before putting their knowledge to practical use with Python Programming after the break. Next term they will learn about the hardware inside a computer and about cyber-security; both the threats to networks and how we protect against them.

Students will be set homework weekly which should take about half an hour or so; this will be given via Google Classroom. The majority of content learned in Year 9 is part of the GCSE specification which means that any website or resource following the OCR J277 Computer Science specification would be useful for students, especially if they already want to take the course next year. Students can also download Python IDLE from <http://www.python.org> should they want to start programming already.

We run a Computer Science club on Thursday lunchtimes in IT2 - all are welcome!

Enterprise

This term we will be developing a wider understanding of enterprise and the elements that make enterprises work successfully. Students will learn about the reasons and purposes of enterprises and the skills required by an entrepreneur. Customer needs and market research are explored and students study how these tools can be used by enterprise owners to respond to the local and wider market.

Homework tasks will be set on Google Classroom and will involve tasks that build towards the summer term task of pitching a business idea.

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.

Whitenap Lane Romsey Hampshire SO51 5SY
t: 01794 502 502 f: 01794 502 501 e: info@mountbatten.school
w: www.mountbatten.school Company No. 07560175

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.

Students will continue to receive weekly careers education during tutor time, which was kick started with our Work Enrichment Day. This was an all-day event where students took part in the Tyre Challenge, designed to encourage their entrepreneurial spirits.

During the year we will continue to work with a broad range of visitors talking about different careers and training pathways, 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.

To support students with choosing their GCSE options, they will use the careers software Career Pilot during lessons and can request a one-to-one careers interview with our Career Advisor. 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 at ssa@mountbatten.school.

Finance

Payments for your child's trips, cashless catering and more can be made via [SCOPAY](#).

Please contact finance@mountbatten.school 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.

Whitenap Lane Romsey Hampshire SO51 5SY
t: 01794 502 502 f: 01794 502 501 e: info@mountbatten.school
w: www.mountbatten.school Company No. 07560175

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.

If you have any IT issues or require any assistance, please contact IT services at itservices@mountbatten.school

Whitenap Lane Romsey Hampshire SO51 5SY
t: 01794 502 502 f: 01794 502 501 e: info@mountbatten.school
w: www.mountbatten.school Company No. 07560175