



THE MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL

HSL

October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Head of Year 11 Message

A very warm welcome back, Year 11. I can't quite believe I'm saying that! I can remember your first day at Mountbatten like it was yesterday.

Over the last four years we have been through much together as a year group; we have faced secondary school transition, mini-options, work experience and a global pandemic to name just a few! I have watched you develop into strong and resilient young adults and I am proud of you all.

Now that Year 11 has arrived, some of you may feel like your work here is done; I know that many of you will be ready for the next step. However, the most important work is about to start, as how you choose to spend the next 9 months will have a big impact on the rest of your life. Before long, we will be talking about college applications, exams and, of course, the most important event of the year...the Prom!

One more year. I need one more year of excellence from you all. One final push. I promise that if you come to school, try your best and work with staff, we will meet you every step of the way. There will be no greater reward for us than to stand with you all on results day, knowing that we all gave Year 11 everything we had. That day will come around faster than you think.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you luck in all of your endeavours this year. Put your best foot forward. Before you leave for school each day ask yourself: Is my uniform correct? Is my homework complete? Is there anything that may prevent me from being my best today?

Managing your workload through the year and asking for help when you are stuck will help to reduce stress, especially as we move closer to the exams. It will also help you to maintain a healthy balance between your studies and your other interests outside the classroom.

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Parents - 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. If you have a concern that sits in a curriculum area, please speak with your child's teacher. If your concern is of a pastoral nature, please contact your child's tutor.

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

Yours sincerely

Mr Stonehill
Head of Year 11

Key Dates:

Thursday 19 October	- Year 11 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 29 November	- INSET Day
Tuesday 2 January	- INSET Day
Wednesday 3 January	- INSET Day
Monday 19 February	- INSET Day
Wednesday 27 March	- Year 11 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 (Half Day)

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Summer Term

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

Curriculum Update

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 revision tasks each week, these should be added to an English revision folder to support students with their revision for their mocks and GCSE exams. We also use an online platform called GCSEPod which shares videos and quizzes to help students revise. All 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, students are preparing for their Spoken Language endorsement which will take place just after half-term. This is a short presentation written by the student and 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.

Maths

Year 11 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. Sets 1, 2 and 3 require the higher tier guides/workbooks and Sets 4a, 4b and 5 require the Foundation tier higher tier guides/workbooks. 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) took place during the week beginning 2 October. Details, including topic revision lists, are available on Google Classroom. The results of this assessment will be used to gauge progress and help to inform the Autumn Term monitoring.

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Science

Students in Year 11 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. For students in Set 1, details can be found [here](#).

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 preparing for their scripted exam. Students will be expected to rehearse after school. We expect this examination to be held in January.

In theory lessons, students study Section B of the written paper looking at the examination questions. Students may opt to purchase a study guide or revision guide to support them with their revisions. Students will also recap the Live Theatre component of the written exam.

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 **28 March 2024**.

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. We will be commencing the recording of performances from **Monday 15 January**.

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 9 February 2024** 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 hours, 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

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.

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.

Religious Education (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.

As we continue with the AQA 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, students will have homework and this will be a quiz with an additional piece from their class teacher. 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 the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

We follow the AQA GCSE Geography specification and there are a variety of resources available on our [subject website](#) and the AQA website to support revision. 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.

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Physical Education (PE)

During Core PE, Year 11 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

Students have already started work on a classroom based formal assessment (known as their 'NEA'), and this will account for 50% of their final GCSE grade.

We would like to make you aware of the following NEA deadlines for 2023-24:

<i>Investigate</i>	<i>- 2 October 2023</i>
<i>Design</i>	<i>- 15 December 2023</i>
<i>Make</i>	<i>- 9 February 2024</i>
<i>Evaluate</i>	<i>- 28 March 2023</i>

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

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 2023-24:

NEA 1 - 20 October 2023

NEA 2 - TBC

Computing

In Year 11, students will continue to study the OCR GCSE (9-1) Computer Science (J277) qualification. In the Autumn Term, students will be studying the remaining topics from Paper 1.

1.2a Memory of Storage, 1.3 Computer Networks, Connections and Protocols, 1.4 Network Security and 1.6 Impact of Technology. We will also revisit key programming concepts from last year. Assessments will be taken at the end of every unit.

Students should continue to revise Paper 1 and Paper 2 topics using the resources provided on Google Classroom and the various revision resources for OCR GCSE Computer Science including: BBC Bitesize, Seneca, Isaac Computer Science and many more.

Students will receive homework every week which will be posted on Google Classroom, generally revision work on Seneca. 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 further develop 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 weekly homework lasting up to 60 minutes. 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 skill-based practice task.

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Business

Year 11 begin 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 visit and 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 rather than educated guesses. Any incorrect answers should be written in the back of their books and 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](#).

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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,
- balancing 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, recently. This was an all-day event where students successfully took part in a body language workshop, mock interviews and careers research.

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.

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 about 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.

If you would like to contribute to the school's careers provision by talking to students about your job or business, or 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.

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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.

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