



THE MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL

DWS

October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Head of Year 10 Message

It has been lovely to welcome our Year 10 students back to school over the last few weeks. There has been a real sense of excitement and renewed engagement as the cohort have begun studying the core GCSE syllabi of English, Maths and Science as well as the option subjects they selected at the end of Year 9.

Our theme of the year is “Tenacity”, where students will be harnessing the strength and resilience needed to successfully embark upon, and continue to meet the demand of their chosen GCSE courses and extra-curricular commitments. Every year is a busy one at Mountbatten and Year 10 is no exception, with a whole host of planned activities, events, trips and, of course, lessons to look forward to.

More than ever, students will need to strive to find the balance between recreational activity compared with extra-curricular clubs and academic study. The best advice I give, is to start early! Students should draft and then redraft a study plan that works for them. ‘Little and often’ is my mantra and students should, of course, make sure to plan fun activities as a reward for the hard work that they have put in. Nothing too extravagant necessary here – just something small to look forward to and be motivated by.

Independence is an important characteristic for any Year 10 student as they navigate their GCSE years and begin to contemplate, and plan for, life after Mountbatten. However, I want to reassure you that students remain exceptionally well supported in all aspects of school life by their teachers, tutors and wider pastoral support team.

Wishing all students, a happy, healthy and productive Year 10 here at The Mountbatten School.

Yours sincerely

Mr Waters
Head of Year 10

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:

Thursday 23 November	- Year 10 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 29 November	- INSET Day
Tuesday 2 January	- INSET Day
Wednesday 3 January	- INSET Day
Monday 19 February	- INSET Day
Wed 19 June - Tue 25 June	- Year 10 Exams
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)

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 will be studying AQA English Language and Pearson Edexcel English Literature - these are two separate GCSEs. Students will be set two revision tasks each week which are set on a half-termly basis. The department use an online platform called GCSEPod which shares videos and quizzes to help students revise. Revision tasks will often link to GCSEPod. All tasks and resources will be shared in your child's 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

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 descriptive writing after October half-term.

Maths

Year 10 will be taught in ability sets. They will receive cumulative assessments throughout the year to ensure good progress is being made. 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. GCSE revision guides/workbooks are available for purchase via the school's online SCOPAY system. Sets 1, 2 and 3 require the Higher tier guides/workbooks and sets 4, 5 and 6 require the Foundation tier guides/workbooks.

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

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. The autumn 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 22 January 2024, [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 invest 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 students' 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 appropriate black leggings or black tracksuit bottoms when participating in these practical workshops. During this unit, students will be expected to rehearse weekly after school whilst producing their examination pieces.

Students will complete a logbook to support their practical work, this can be written or an audio/visual blog. These will be due by the Easter holidays. Students who do not meet this deadline will be expected to attend after-school support sessions as this work equates to 30% of the final grade.

In theory lessons, students will study the live theatre aspect of the written exam. They will be invited to watch a digital recording of Billy Elliot this half-term.

In the Summer term, students will study Blood Brothers and will be required to purchase a copy of the script. Please ensure you purchase the correct edition: ISBN 978-0413767707.

Fine Art

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 set 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

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

help with materials if needed. Fine Art GCSE sessions are on a Wednesday after school from 3.20-4.15pm.

Students' research and development work for Art 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.

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 wish 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 should have been sent out to you, 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.

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

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

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.

Year 10 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.

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 our [subject website](#) 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 our 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.

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 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.

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

Physical Education (PE)

During Core PE, Year 10 follow a pathway curriculum. Students get the option of which pathway they follow. The pathway options are: competition, aesthetics 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](#).

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.

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

Computing

In Year 10, students will be studying the OCR GCSE (9-1) Computer Science (J277) qualification. Students will start by revisiting the fundamentals of Python programming before studying a number of topics from both exam papers including Data Representation, Memory & Storage, and Algorithms. They will continue to have one programming lesson a week when studying other topics. Assessments will occur at the end of each topic.

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/> and other IDE programs are available. Students will receive homework every week, generally revision work on Seneca, 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 for GCSE French or Spanish. They will already know how to understand and express themselves in a wide range of topics and will continue to further develop their skills as well to thoroughly prepare for their final GCSE examination papers.

In Year 10, students will be expected to complete homework weekly, 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 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 and corrected.

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

Updates from around the school

Prince's Trust

Year 10 start the Prince's Trust course completing work on their own personal development. This includes identifying their strengths and areas for development before setting targets for them to work towards. After half-term, the focus moves to their career development and the process of applying for jobs. Students will be supported in producing a CV, completing an application form and preparing for interviews.

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.

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.

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

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 took part in the launch and early preparation of work experience, researched local colleges and prepared students for the careers fair and upcoming open events.

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. We will continue to invite students to one-to-one careers interviews, over the course of the year. 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 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.

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