



Mougins School

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October 9, 2020

Dear parents and all in the community of Mougins School,

I hope that as Autumn and half term approach, you and your children are well. Students are now well settled into the new year, and routines have been re-established. Life is purposeful and energetic around campus, and although, perhaps happily (!), it is not quite as frenetic as the first three weeks, there is still great energy and buzz. I continue to have lunch with groups of students every day, and recently, by chance, have sat with groups of old and new students, who have quickly become friends. Today I had lunch with some Year Fours, and we discussed the intriguing possibility of unicorns nibbling the leaves at our hedges at night... I am still struck on a daily basis by how happy the boys and girls, and young men and women, are at Mougins School.

Here are a few notes on what has happened recently, and what will happen soon.

House Cross-Country, Monday 21 September

On Monday 21 September the first inter-house event of the year took place - the House Cross-Country. For the information of new parents, all the students in the School from Year 3 are divided into four 'Houses', as they are in an English independent school, with House Captains, and participate in competitions throughout the year which lead to a House Team winner. The teaching staff are house members too! Our Houses take the names of French artists, and have a House colour, and two House Captains. This year Maya Bacon and Michael Aspegrén head Renoir House (green); Picasso (red) is led by Madison Perkins and Arseniy Sakach; Matisse (blue) by Natasha Mavros and Alexander Pivovarov and Chagall (yellow) by Ella Hardy and Mihnea Sarb. After some fantastic performances across the school, many congratulations to Picasso (red) for winning the Cross-Country!

We have been discussing, in school, developing 'House spirit', and widening House competitions from sport (where there's already basketball, volleyball, badminton, football and sports day competitions) to inter-house music, debating and drama events as well. I'll keep you informed.

Support for those *communes* nearby affected by the recent floods

We will all have seen, either first-hand or on the media, the horrifying scenes of flood damage in *communes* very close to our own, and the School was pleased to be able to help a group of parents organise urgent supplies that were missing in the Red Cross storage in Breil-Sur-Roya. Thanks to the generosity of Mougins households nappies, baby food, pet food and other items were safely delivered to Menton. I can report that the response to the crisis has been so full that most collection centres currently have more donations than they can handle, so, for the moment at least, we are winding down contributions.. A huge thank you to all who contributed goods, or their time.

Primary School Harvest Festival, Friday 16 October

Each year the Primary School celebrates Harvest with an Assembly by the children. The children in Years 1-6 will be performing songs and poems and weather permitting this will be held on the Outside Field at 09h00 on Friday 16th October.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions on numbers, parents will not, unfortunately, be able to attend in person but we will video this and we will make it available for you to view. Students will be wearing Autumn colours.

The event supports the work of *Les Petites Soeurs des Pauvres* in Nice. This is a home for elderly people who have no financial support. It is beautifully run and the nuns are very devoted to the wellbeing of their residents. In order to help them we would ask you if it would be possible to donate any of the following items: dried goods (pasta, rice, etc.), tinned fruit and vegetables, cereals and biscuits, cake and chocolate. The non-perishable items can be brought to the Primary Building during the week commencing 12th October and will be displayed at the celebration.

Autumn Concert, Thursday 22 October, 5.30 for 6pm (provisional)

I am delighted to advertise our Autumn Concert, conceived and created by Ms Gossedge and Ms Lecoy.

Since the start of term, our keen music and drama students have been rehearsing tirelessly to prepare for the first concert of this academic year. We will have performances by the Junior and Senior choir, a new Barbershop ensemble, and a variety of soloists performing music from classical, jazz, rock and pop genres., as well as five short dramatic pieces. Hopefully this concert will be possible to watch live, but we must be prepared that viewing conditions may change, as we wait on the final go-ahead from the Préfecture. Currently we are able to offer 80 seats; in order to successfully reserve a seat, please email Anabela (to RSVP. We are happy to inform you that this concert will also be recorded, so if you miss your chance at booking a ticket, you can still watch the concert online from the comfort of your own homes.

Debating Society, Tuesdays after school

I am pleased, too, to announce the reappearance of the Debating Society, open to all Fifth (GCSE) and Sixth Forms. After we come back from half term, debating will take place on Tuesday afternoons after school, and those interested should get in touch with Ms Lecoy (h.lecoy@mougins-school.com). We have researched COBIS debating this year, but unfortunately all their events are online, and we would like, Covid notwithstanding, to have some decent, distanced face-to-face local events. We have thus been in touch with ASEICA at CIV, the ISN and the *Section Internationale* at the Institut Fénélon in Grasse, to organise an inter-school debating event. At the same time we are going to train students under the Model United nations format, in the hope that we will be able to attend a MUN event in 2021.

LAMDA update

Ms Lecoy and Ms Gossedge have also been working hard to restart the popular LAMDA music and drama sessions on Wednesday afternoons. We have now secured with LAMDA the weekend of Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 March for students to take LAMDA examinations and anticipate classes beginning in the new year, and the sessions will begin in January.

School photographs

The school photographers will be in on Monday 19 and Tuesday 20 October, taking individual pictures of the students, beginning in Nursery and working up to the Upper Sixth. On Tuesday morning before school he will take sibling photographs. If parents would like a sibling photograph, they should contact Elizabeth (e.ward@mougins-school.com). For any other questions regarding the photographs (there will be no whole-school picture), do also contact Elizabeth.

Secondary School Parents' Evenings

Could I give advance warning of year group Parents' Evenings for the coming two terms? To limit numbers on site, this year exceptionally we have made a few alterations. Subject teachers of Years 8 - 9, for this year only, will fill in student appraisal forms with grades for pupils in each tutor group, passing them on to tutors who will conduct meetings for these year groups. If a parent of a student in Years 8 - 9 particularly needs advice or feedback personally from a subject teacher, they should feel free to ask, via the Form Tutor.

For GCSE and A-level year groups (Years 10 -13) classes we will have normal subject teachers taking their own parent teacher evenings. Parents will be limited to six teachers and asked to prioritise subjects whose teachers they and their child would like to see. We will send out the detailed paperwork for each year group

Year Group	Date	Time	Place
Y7	Tuesday 3rd November 2020	5pm-8pm	Teachers' classrooms
Y9	Tuesday 10th November 2020	5pm-8pm	Form Tutor's Classroom
Y10	Tuesday 23rd November 2020	5pm-8pm	Teachers' Classrooms
Y12	Tuesday 1st December 2020	5pm-8pm	Teachers' Classrooms
Y8	Tuesday 11th January 2021	5pm-8pm	Form Tutor's Classroom
Y11	Tuesday 2nd February 2021	5pm-8pm	Teachers' Classrooms
Y13	Tuesday 9th February 2021	5pm-8pm	Teachers' Classrooms

Covid-19 update

I am pleased to report that fortunately we have had no further cases among the children or staff in the school, and am grateful to everyone for mask wearing, burdensome as it is. There is one slight change to procedures from Monday. To ease congestion we are now requesting that children in years 3,4, 5 and 6 come onsite in the morning through the main school gate. They must still wear their masks and will continue to have their temperatures checked.

With my very best wishes to you all,

Simon Hollands