



**MOUNT HOUSE  
SCHOOL**

*inspiring* every  
individual



Coeducational  
academic  
excellence,  
where  
everyone is  
known, cherished  
and challenged



**MOUNT HOUSE  
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# SCHOOL VISION

Mount House School is an independent school for the 21st century where children develop into confident learners. At Mount House, every individual is valued and each child's unique talents will be identified and nurtured. Students leave as able, articulate, balanced, caring, and well-rounded individuals with a genuine love of learning, ready to take on life's challenges and opportunities, aware of the needs of others and confident in their ability to make a difference.

Mount House expects pupils to be the very best they can be and inspires them to make their best even better. In leading the School the Head, Executive Principal and Directors are guided by a wider view that the pupils are on a journey of learning and personal development and Mount House has a profound responsibility to treat each pupil as an individual in meeting all his or her academic, pastoral, and social needs and co-curricular interests as she or he progresses to university and adulthood.

Our overarching aim is that Mount House is a happy and successful School, with an excellent record of GCSE and A level results and an outstanding record of students achieving places at top universities. The School is equally concerned to foster the wide range of skills that help young pupils grow into capable adults with a sense of self-worth. Mount House supports pupils to strive for academic excellence within a clear framework of personalised pastoral care and well-being that brings success without stress.

# AIMS OF THE SCHOOL

To ensure Mount House School achieves its vision, it has developed the following aims to guide every aspect of school life. The aims are not in a particular order but are equally valued.

1. To provide an enriched 21st century curriculum which prepares pupils for life at university and beyond in their chosen careers.
2. To promote independent learning, critical thinking, leadership skills, collaborative working skills and creativity.
3. To inspire pupils in all aspects of their learning through specialist subject teaching, embracing innovative pedagogy, technology and IT.
4. To develop in each pupil a high degree of intellectual curiosity, beyond the expected levels of subject knowledge and high academic achievement, and to foster a life-long love of learning.
5. To provide outstanding personalised pastoral care with a strong sense of belonging to a safe, caring, inclusive and happy environment in which everyone feels valued.
6. To promote an interest in the arts, music, drama, dance and public speaking and to encourage and challenge pupils through a stimulating co-curricular programme.
7. To promote the importance of physical well-being and team spirit through a culture of sport for all with a wide range of individual and team sports.
8. To promote the importance of being a responsible citizen and to develop an awareness of, and to contribute to, both the local and broader community.
9. To support all teaching and support staff, particularly through their continuing professional development, enabling them to promote Mount House as a community of leaders and learners which contributes to the wider field of education.
10. To work in close partnership with parents to provide the very best opportunities and support for the pupils.

The following six values will be integrated into all aspects of life at Mount House School:

# MOUNT HOUSE VALUES

- **Adaptable:** prepared for life at university and beyond in their chosen careers.
- **Supportive:** a community with a strong sense of belonging in a safe, caring, inclusive and happy environment in which everyone feels valued.
- **Principled:** promoting the importance of being a responsible citizen; developing an awareness of, and contributing to, both the local and broader community.
- **Inquisitive:** developing a high degree of intellectual curiosity, beyond the expected levels of subject knowledge and high academic achievement, fostering a life-long love of learning.
- **Resilient:** developing a growth mindset, being capable of taking knocks with a can-do attitude.
- **Excellent:** aiming for excellence and to make the best even better



# INVESTING TO SUPPORT EVERY PUPIL'S CONTINUED PERSONAL GROWTH AND SUCCESS

A number of positive changes are planned to benefit the pupils and staff and to help the School achieve its aims. These include:

## **A modern, inspirational and challenging curriculum**

- We will be looking at further developing the curriculum for all years to provide greater choice and to increase the focus on independent learning.
- For Sixth Form pupils we will be making a number of enhancements to create an exciting and enriched curriculum to benefit both current and future pupils.
- We will be further improving the curriculum for Forms 1, 2 and 3, focusing on personal development and introducing an element of Public Speaking.

## **Delivering exceptional teaching and learning**

- Alongside developing a management structure to support the very best teachers, we will be funding and encouraging a leading Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme.
- We will be developing tools to enable use of the School's IT provision both at School and at home, creating a stronger and more connected community and learning environment.

## **Improving our sports provision**

- Over the course of the next year we will develop the sporting provision to benefit all pupils.
- Plans are in place to access excellent facilities within a short drive of the School. Both girls and boys will be able to

participate in Football, Netball, Rugby, Hockey, Swimming, Cricket, Athletics and Cross-country running with additional sports to be added over time.

- We will be improving the facilities for changing to ensure all pupils have access to comfortable and modern changing spaces.
- Longer term plans will focus on expanding the 'on site' offering for sport.

A number of changes are planned over the summer to benefit the pupils and staff and to create an enhanced environment. These include:

## **Creating inspiring learning spaces**

- We will be initiating a renewal of all classroom areas: repainting where necessary, improving flooring where necessary and installing new furniture to bring all classrooms up to a consistent standard.
- The Library will be improved with the addition of new shelving and furniture.

## **Enhancing our community spaces**

- The Dining Room will have a complete face lift - with new furniture, serveries and an improved food offering.
- The Sixth Form area will be refreshed to create a more modern study space for our most senior students. We will create defined spaces for individual study, as well as a social space and cafe in which Sixth Formers can enjoy a greater sense of independence.

- We will begin a programme of locker replacement to ensure students are confident their belongings are securely stored.

## **Improving our teaching and learning infrastructure**

- All of the school PCs will be replaced, both stand-alone ones for teachers' use in classrooms and those situated in the IT suite. There will also be provision made for a mobile laptop trolley to increase access to technology in the School.
- There will be an ongoing focus on the music and drama areas which will begin with the purchase of a new lighting rig for the Drama studio.





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# DIRECTORS OF MOUNT HOUSE SCHOOL



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## Chairman: Dr Colin Diggory

BSc (Hons) PGCE MA EdD CMath FIMA FRSA



Colin is a former Headmaster who retired after 8 years as Head of Alleyn's School (IAPS, HMC) Dulwich, and 11 years as Head of Latymer Upper School, (IAPS, HMC), Hammersmith. During his Headship at Latymer he founded The Latymer Preparatory School and introduced coeducation. He has 34 years' experience teaching in the independent sector at Manchester Grammar School, St. Paul's School, Merchant Taylors' School, Northwood, Latymer Upper School and Alleyn's School.

Colin graduated from Grey College, Durham University with a 1st Class Honours in Mathematics. His doctoral thesis on independent school leadership, organisational structure and effectiveness was awarded an Open University Vice-Chancellor Award for Education and Language Studies. As a Chartered Mathematician, Colin is a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications and is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

Colin has been a Chief Examiner at A level, an Ofsted assessed Lead Inspector of Independent Schools, Chairman of the HMC London Division, founding Chairman of the HMC Junior Schools Group, a Governor at state and independent senior and junior/preparatory schools and a Trustee of two charitable trusts.

Since retiring as a Head in 2010, Colin has been Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Radnor House Group, established the same year, which owns two independent schools: one in Twickenham for boys and girls aged 7-18, which he helped set up in 2011; and a coeducational school in Sevenoaks for ages 4-18 (formerly Combe Bank Girls' School).

He also works as a Senior Consultant advising on Headship recruitment and helping schools to plan strategy and manage change. In his free time, Colin and his wife enjoy walking around London, on the South Downs and Mallorcan hills and spending time with their five grandchildren.

## Executive Principal: Toby Mullins

BA, MBA



Toby has been a Headmaster for 20 years. He started his career at King's Bruton, became a Head of Department and Boarding Housemaster at Framlingham College and then spent two years as Academic Deputy Head at Churcher's College. He was appointed Head at Seaford College in 1997, when the school had 292 students and a poor reputation in the local market. In the following 15 years, Seaford embraced full coeducation, gained full HMC membership, increased in roll to 650 (including the creation of a Prep School) and is now one of the most popular schools in the area.

In 2012 Toby was recruited to join the David Ross Education Trust (DRET) where he became Executive Principal running two academies. In late 2013, he led the successful DRET bid to start up a Primary Free School on the site of the senior academy in Northampton. In September 2015, Toby was recruited by the Reddam House group to setup their European flagship school in Wokingham, Berkshire.

Toby graduated from Leeds University with an Honours degree in Economics in 1982. He also has an Executive MBA from the London Business School. During his MBA course, he and a fellow student started up Homework121 Ltd, an online homework support facility for GCSE and A level students – one of the first of its kind in the UK.

Toby has been Chairman of the Independent Schools Council, Chairman of the Society of Heads, Chair of the Society's Education Committee and member of the HMC Education and Academic Policy Committee. He has been an examiner at A Level, an ISI Inspector, Chair of Governors in two Prep Schools and is currently on the Board of Trustees for the Children's Trust and Chair of Governors for their Special School.

Toby and his wife, Carol, have two grown up boys, who are themselves both teachers. He is a keen sportsman and has been a Level 4 Coach for England Hockey and has coached England International Teams at Junior level.



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## Director: Emil Gigov

FCA, Partner at Albion Ventures



Emil is a Partner at Albion Ventures and leads the firm's investments in the education sector.

In 2010 he helped set up Radnor House School, an independent school for boys and girls aged 7-18 located on the banks of the Thames in Twickenham. Radnor House was the first venture capital funded start-up independent school and one of a handful of schools to be rated Outstanding at its first OFSTED inspection. In March 2015 Radnor House acquired Combe Bank School in Kent, now renamed Radnor House Sevenoaks. The two schools will educate approximately 800 children from September 2017.

In addition to being a director of the Radnor House School group, Emil serves as a trustee of the Radnor Charitable Trust, an independent charitable organisation which supports families with limited financial means to send their children to Radnor House.

Emil is also a board member of several companies in the technology, healthcare and renewable energy industries, where he helps entrepreneurs build successful businesses. During his 17 year career as a venture capital investor, he has been involved at board level in more than 30 businesses in a wide range of economic sectors.

Emil's early career was with KPMG in London where he trained as a Chartered Accountant and subsequently worked in corporate finance with a focus on the media and leisure sectors. He is married and has two teenage daughters. Emil enjoys foreign travel, is an avid reader and keen skier and cyclist.

# INVESTING IN A BRIGHT FUTURE

The investor in Mount House School is Albion Ventures, an investor in smaller companies, backing entrepreneurs and managers in growing their businesses for the long term.

The Albion team has invested in over one hundred companies during its twenty year history and currently has some sixty investments in its portfolio. Education is a particular sector of focus and Albion has helped three groups to start-up and expand.

Two early years education companies have been formed, Dolphin Nurseries and Tender Loving Childcare, which together provided nursery care and education to over one thousand children. More recently Albion supported Radnor House School in Twickenham and helped Radnor expand through the acquisition of Combe Bank School in Kent.

Radnor House School in Twickenham opened its doors in September 2011. The School provides tailored education within a safe and caring environment, with strong emphasis on its four core values of excellence, perseverance, courage and respect. Since the site was originally acquired, more than £3m has been invested in the facilities to create a stimulating and engaging environment and provide access to the latest education technologies.

Radnor House Sevenoaks is the new name for Combe Bank School which joined the group in 2015. The School was historically a girls-only school but had announced its intentions to become coeducational shortly before the acquisition by Radnor. Student numbers are expected to be close to 350 in September 2017. Over £2m of additional investment in facilities has been made in the past 2 years, including new science labs, new IT infrastructure and computer suites, new parent café, sports facilities etc. The investment programme continues.

At the time Radnor House was established, Albion formed an independent charitable trust, the Radnor Charitable Trust. The trust has so far supported several students from disadvantaged backgrounds through their Sixth Form studies. More recently the Trust also provided support to senior school students

**To find out more about Albion Ventures visit [www.albion-ventures.co.uk](http://www.albion-ventures.co.uk)**

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