

Mill Hill County High School

Head's Newsletter

2004-5, Issue 7

Tuesday 3rd May 2005

Italian Trip Praised

MY April 2004 Newsletter contained quotations from a letter written by the Managing Director of the travel company which organised our 2004 ski trip; the quotations were exceptionally complimentary about our students and the members of staff who led them.

This year, I received an equally complimentary letter from the MD of a different travel company, concerning the School's trip to Rome and Pompeii. I was told that the students were great ambassadors for their School and their country. The travel company MD was full of praise for the professionalism and dedication of the staff.

On one hand it is sad that good behaviour by students and good leadership by staff should be so unusual that they warrant comment. On the other hand, it is very gratifying that MHCHS's excellence in this regard should be so regularly recognised.

Please see the back page for a piece about the trip, written by Miss Marshall, the trip leader.

Our Finnish Link

FOR two days last week, my wife and I enjoyed the warm hospitality of Juha Sainio, Principal of the Nokia School, near Tampere in Finland. It is perhaps just as well that the hospitality was warm because the weather was not. There was no snow, but the lakes were still frozen and the temperature during the day was minus 2. The summers, I am told, are very warm!

Stephen Harris, a member of the Governing Body, founded the Finnish link and continues to nurture it. Mr Harris was also in Finland last week, interviewing students for the prize of a week's visit to Mill Hill. Two students (a girl and a boy of Sixth Form

age) were selected. We now need one or two families to host them. A return trip will be available. If you could host one or two delightful Finnish students for a week later this term, please let me know. Like most Finnish students, they speak excellent English.

**Wanted!
Host
Family(ies)
for two
Finnish
Students.**

The Guardian's Revision Guide

By Mr K Hudson

ON 22nd March 2005, *The Guardian* published a revision supplement for students, in its latest Education Section.

It featured an interview with one of our Year 12 students, Duncan Quigley. Duncan sat his GCSEs last summer and was very successful.

Reprinted below is Duncan's response to the questions that he was asked by *The Guardian's*

journalist who interviewed him.

"I used textbooks and the internet, mostly Bitesize (bbb.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize).

"The textbooks brought back memories of what we had done in class and Bitesize was a fun way to revise. Both stuck to the syllabus so it meant you did not spend an hour trying to decide what to do.

"The best method I used was reading a textbook or Bitesize, making two lots of notes and my dad testing me on them. I'd make more notes on the bits I hadn't quite learned and he would keep testing me until I knew them. I did not use a strict timetable.

I tried to revise every subject in order - some of it was a bit of a battle but I stuck to it enough to

cover all the subjects.

I had breaks to get my head back. I would watch a bit of TV or go to the cinema with friends. You get bored if you don't stop.

I started revising a good month or two before my GCSEs. I could have done with a bit more but, on top of the work I had done during the year, it was enough to get grades I was happy with".

German Exchange

By Rifah Esat (10H) & Yael Leveson (10K)

ON 23rd February 2005, we welcomed the German Exchange party over to London.

Everyone was looking forward to seeing their partners again and knew it would be a great week. They arrived at the triangle at around 5.30pm (half an hour earlier than expected), and it was an early night after a tiring day of travelling.

A good night's sleep and we awoke the next morning all excited about spending the day at the school.

The German party spent the first half of the day together taking a tour of the school and exploring London on the internet.

The English and German students spent forth lesson in mixed groups making 'buggies' out of materials in the hall, although a rude interruption from a fire drill soon cut these activities short! However, this still failed to spoil the great fun we had that day.

The next day was Friday and we all made our way to Oxford for a great day out together. We had a brilliant time touring the grounds of the university and shopping in the town by ourselves.

After a return home at 4.30pm,

it was a frantic rush to get ready for the disco three hours later. The disco was really good and we had great fun chatting and dancing until we were all exhausted.

On the weekend, we all did our own thing with our partners and, on Monday morning, we saw them off for a sightseeing trip around London.

On Tuesday, our German partners accompanied us to our first three lessons and, by forth lesson, it was time for the bowling trip that we had all been looking forward to. Everyone was upset that it was the last day but, despite this, we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

Evening came and a mad packing rush began to prepare for the early departure the next morning.

Wednesday morning saw us all up bright and early to wave our partners off at the triangle. It had been a fantastic week and left us looking forward to the next exchange.

We would like to say a huge thank you on behalf of everybody who took part, to all the teachers involved in the trip, Miss Jakubowski, Miss Chan and Mr. Vogt! THANK YOU!

Additional Comment By Mr A Vogt

A big thank you to all students involved, German and English.

They all showed excellent behaviour and great enthusiasm and were a delight to be with. That was the main reason why both weeks of the Exchange were so enjoyable and successful.

Apart from the staff already mentioned, I would also like to thank Ms. Howard, Mr Hill and Mrs. Shah (ICT) for their support.

We are looking forward to the German Exchange 2005/2006 and welcome students from present Years 7 to 10.

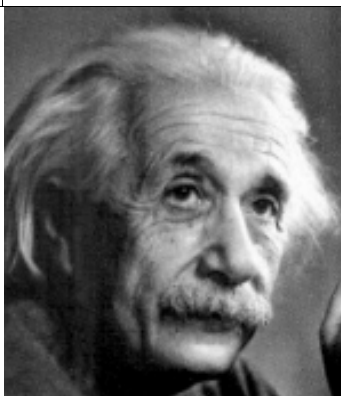
Present Year 7 students who would at the time of our visit to Germany (probably October / November 2005) be at the beginning of learning German would be hosted by German families in which English is spoken well so that communication would not be a problem.

Application forms and letters will be available at the end of April, so please ask your language teacher for details.

Einstein Year

Key Stage 3 Poster Competition - Who Was Albert Einstein?

By Mr R Davighi



Albert Einstein

E = MC²?

Relativity?

- ◆ Design a poster to let people know who Albert Einstein was and what he did.
- ◆ Posters are to be A4 size and can be done by hand or on computer.
- ◆ There will be a £10 book token for the best boy and girl in each year group, (7, 8 and 9).
- ◆ The overall Key Stage 3 winner will receive a £20 book token.
- ◆ The deadline for completion is the end of the first week back after half-term, (Friday 10th June).
- ◆ All entries to be handed to your science teacher.

Tsunami Aid

By Siyamini Sivananthan (13H)

IN the midst of one of the most globally devastating natural disasters of all time, the way in which everyone abandoned their winter festivities and rallied around to offer aid and much needed support unmistakably exemplifies what humanity is all about.

Our school has admirably followed suit in these acts of empathy and altruism for this great campaign of rebirth and rejuvenation. In doing so, we have united as a school community to raise a truly remarkable amount of money, which at present stands at an astounding total of **£3,209.00**.

However, as you may know, the DEC has now closed down its collection for immediate relief. The DEC has undoubtedly worked incredibly hard to restore some sense of order and provide the essentials for safe and hygienic survival. However, this does not mean that all the necessary damages have been repaired and that life within South-East Asia has returned to normality. Help in terms of long-term restoration for the devastated areas is still greatly needed.

Consequently, all the funds that the school has worked incredibly hard to raise would be used in whole to build an educational institute called the **'Early Learning Centre'**, a project initiated by the Tamil Rehabilitation Organisation Disaster Management Unit (DMU). As Assistant Director of Education with responsibility for Northern Sri Lanka, my uncle has been selected by this organisation to be in charge of providing care and education for all the Tsunami orphans within the affected regions and the 'Early Learning Centre' is a finalised project which is to be built for those that were orphaned by the Boxing-Day Tsunami, in the Northern provinces of Sri Lanka.

This inspirational centre is designed to be fully equipped with educational books and computers and is based around the fundamental aim of providing the children with a 'fair go' at life, something you or I can fortunately take for granted. Without such facilities which will provide safety, support and a decent education, these children would be sentenced to a life of

poverty, illiteracy and child labour. In conclusion, they don't stand a chance without our invaluable support.

So you see, these innocent children desperately need our help and, by providing funds to build the centre, we are now collectively creating a safe-haven for all the orphans who deserve some peace after enduring so much misery in their lives.

Straight after my exams, I am hopping on to a plane bound for Sri Lanka so that I can play an active role in helping to build and decorate the centre and, most importantly, to have the opportunity to play with and offer comfort to all the kids that we are helping.

Through all this, I will faithfully keep a video diary of all my experiences (highs and lows) during this trip so that people at MHCHS will get to 'meet' all the children and see exactly how all their hard fundraising work has been put to use.

I can indisputably say that the communities of Northern Sri Lanka are eternally grateful to all the funds that Mill Hill County High School has pledged. On behalf of them, I would like to humbly thank all of you for your support.

The organisers also assure me that if you were ever planning a trip to Sri Lanka, all the children and nearby communities would welcome you with open arms!

Tsunami Committee

Melvin Mezue	(12F)
Reena Vanmali	(12L)
Josh Dubell	(12H)
Nikhil Kunder	(12L)
Joey Moore	(12H)
Michael Hagai	(12M)
Qasim Ali	(12J)
Panayotis Pachnis	(12J)

Tae Guk

By Kirsty Emmerson (8H)

TAE Guk is a form of self-defence which just eleven of us practise. I suppose you could call it a hobby but it is an important part of life, to be able to defend yourself.

It takes place after school on Thursdays at 4.30pm and is along the same lines as Karate and Tae Kwando. We learn blocks, punches, kicks and everything you would expect in self-defence. We also get graded and win prizes like belts.

Don't forget to visit our website at:
mhchs.org.uk

Among recent additions are a list of our current extra-curricular activities and the schools new complaints procedure.

Media News - TV and Young People

By Heena Tailor (12K)

SATURDAY, 19th March 2005. The day was full of excitement and inspiration as we reached "Capital Studios", East Putney. The day began with a talk from Reggie Yates and Fern Cotton who currently present Top of The Pops. They revealed to us their experience within TV and why they enjoyed it so much. Personally I thought it was interesting how their personalities didn't seem to alter when they were not on air!

Later, we experienced the technical side of T.V. This included getting up close with camera and sound equipment. I found that although programmes themselves are entertaining and, as the audience, we expect a range of shots and angles, there is a lot more involved in putting a programme together, e.g. construction of lighting, sound, different mics, cameras, earpieces.....it was a real eye opener.

There also was a 'Career Surgery' which gave us the chance to talk individually to people within the TV industry. This included directors, editors, researchers, producers, etc. and many more profession-

als.

During lunch, we had the opportunity to act as presenters. We were given exactly two minutes to present our chosen situation. I chose a live report from the MTV Music Awards and, even though presenting looks and seems easy, it wasn't. Speaking, thinking and smiling at the same time whilst talking to a fixed time and coping with many distractions is especially challenging.

2.00pm and still two more workshops to go. First, a researching skills workshop. This gave us a brief insight into the role of a researcher on a live entertainment T.V. show. Next was a creative skills workshop where we tried to come up with a new T.V. show. This may seem easy but when we began coming up with ideas we realised they had already been done. Lastly, a screening of everyone's presenting experience concluded the day.

On the whole, I had an inspiring, informative and exciting day which opened my mind to the wide range of careers in television.

Scouts Aired on The Big Toe Radio Show

SCOUTS are hitting the airwaves on BBC7's Big Toe Radio Show. Stephanie Van Der Wens (8M) and Gabriella Simler (8Q) from Edgware were guests on the show presented by Kirsten O'Brien and Adrian Dickson. DJ Manny Norte gave

the Edgware Scouts a quick lesson on the art of 'mixing and scratching' while Simon Carter, Head of Public Relations at The Scout Association, was quizzed on the International Friendship Award for groups.

Review of the Mini Music RockFest... the Second

By Liad Janes (Y11)

ON Thursday, 24th February, the annual conglomeration of musical talent took place. Months of "meticulous" planning and glostick sales kicked off in the form of the second Mini Music Rock Fest.

Created by ColourHouse (who recently won the BX FM competition and played live in Brent Cross Shopping Centre), who were joined by The Hush (third place in the Xfm Rock School competition) and Headspace, the headlining band at the Aftermath festival.

The Fest was created to help two of the members of ColourHouse (Liad Janes on drums and Josh Saunders on bass) to raise £3,000 each for their World Challenge Expedition.

Despite the weather threatening to ruin everything, it displayed

a sinister generosity, not too dissimilar to that of Captain Birdseye and, in the end, it did not snow Much! Even fuses blowing during Headspace's set could not stop the rock.

An extended drum solo from Alex Nathan kept the crowd entertained whilst the problem was hastily sorted out.

All three bands played incredible sets with original material and some roaring covers, including "Superstitions" (Stevie Wonder) from The Hush, "Privilege", Incubus from Headspace and "Play that Funky Music" - Wild Cherry from ColourHouse.

The finale of the night saw both ColourHouse and Headspace coming together to perform a joint effort of "Sunshine of your Love" by

Cream, which included two drum kits being used and a drum battle; two guitarists, a guitar battle and a grand total of three vocalists.

The some 200 strong crowd that turned up were brilliant, applauding every song with as much enthusiasm as if it were the first of many, cheering in all the right places and putting up with a brief spell of snow.

A gargantuan Thank You is required to all the staff and parents that helped out with the gig. Without them nothing much would have happened.

A good time was had by all, decent money was raised. The glosticks did not sell out so they will be on sale soon.

Keep an eye out!

Music Department - Spring Term 2005

By Mrs M McCanlis

CONGRATULATIONS to all music students who have achieved the following successes in their exams.
AB - ABRSM Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, GH - Guildhall School of Music, LCM - London College of Music

Piano

Jonathan Back	Grade 1	Merit	AB
Alessandra D'Almo	Grade 5	Merit	AB
Gabriella Scanio	Grade 2	Pass	AB
Miranda Narcin	Grade 2	Pass	AB
Hayley Oberlander	Grade 2	Merit	AB
Joshua Burrows	Grade 3	Pass	AB
Leon Geis	Grade 3	Pass	AB
Ruth Ashworth	Grade 7	Merit	AB
Thomas Matsuzaka	Grade 3	Pass	AB
Aida Rodriques	Grade 5	Merit	AB
Alex Grossman	Grade 4	Pass	AB

Flute

Yasemin Narcin	Grade 4	Pass	AB
Hope Mears	Grade 4	Pass	AB
Natasha Brierley-Downs	Grade 4	Merit	AB
Helena Reut-Hobbs	Grade 6	Distinction	AB

Trombone

Sam Mercer	Grade 6	Pass	GH
Yusuf Narcin	Grade 5	Merit	AB
Josef de Jong	Grade 7	Merit	ABRSM

Trumpet

Joe Tofield	Grade 8	Pass	AB
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Clarinet

Vicky Dixon	Grade 4	Pass	AB
Amy Loewenthal	Grade 4	Merit	AB

Singing

Hayley Bryant	Grade 2	Merit	AB
Malissa Tang	Grade 6	Pass	AB
Emily Simons	Grade 4	Distinction	AB
Ming Yue Lee	Grade 6	Pass	AB
Deborah Berenson-Perkins	Grade 8	Merit	AB

Violin

Connaine Quinn	Grade 5	Pass	AB
Zara Speller	Grade 2	Pass	AB

Cello

Lara Weisweiller-Wu	Grade 4	Pass	AB
Jasmine Perkins	Grade 3	Pass	AB

Keyboard

Mehal Shah	Grade 4	Honours	LCM
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Saxophone

Fiona McCanlis	Grade 7	Merit	AB
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Theory

Emily Simons	Grade 5	Distinction	AB
Kamile Rudaviciute	Grade 1	Distinction	AB
Emily McEvoy	Grade 2	Merit	AB
Jennifer Reece	Grade 3	Pass	AB

Science Activities Evening

By Mr W Quaye



ON Thursday, 3rd March 2005, a group of Year 7 parents invaded the Science Department with a view to finding out what their sons and daughters got up to in Science lessons.

After a brief welcoming by the Headmaster, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Davighi explained the purpose of

the evening.

As part of the celebration of "Science Week", the Department of Science put on a series of activities that pupils in Year 7 experience in their 'normal' Science lessons.

Activities were divided into Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Parents had a 'hands on' experience of a typical Science lesson and asked questions as we went along. All the parents had fun, especially when testing for hydrogen gas and also using one of the Department's interactive white board.

In spite of the heavy work commitments, the following members of staff gave up yet another of their evenings to ensure that everything ran smoothly:-

Ms E. Porter
Mr R. Davighi
Mr J. Bradford
Mrs L. Howarth
Mrs C. Matthews
Mr L. Edwards-Stuart

Thank you all for your hard work in making the evening a success.



World Challenge – Buxton Trip

By Yinsey Wang (Ex-Mill Hill Student)

WHEN a person leaves school, they always say they will stay in touch with the people who have touched their hearts, say that they will be "best friends forever" and repeat many other clichés alongside that. However, usually contact is lost.

Yet this definitely isn't the case with my situation. Luckily, I have the World Challenge Expedition as a way of keeping close to those who were and still are important with me.

The weather was more inconsistent than usual for UK weather; it was very snowy when I arrived in Mill Hill... so yes, we expected the worst for Buxton which is further up North. The minibus journey took a while, but when we arrived the most beautiful scenery awaited us. Vast sheets of white snow extended the horizon of endless hills, the air was fresh, and everyone's cheeks seemed to flush a light shade of pink in the cold air. Beautiful, but cold!

When we arrived, we were introduced to our instructors, who would accompany us for most of our training expedition. In my team – "THE A-TEAM!", the instructor Danny showed us roughly what to do in different situations that might face us in Argentina. We were set team leaders who would give instructions to everyone else and this position rotated around so that most of us got the chance to be in power! However, everyone actually did a great job and we found great leaders even in people who would usually come across as shy.

For the first two days, we had to climb torturous hills with 64 litre rucksacks, through snow that would literally range in-between 2-12 inches thick (I think I fell down about six times, bringing poor Stuart down

with me as he tried to help out), and cook our food by melting ice because the water jugs froze overnight. The boys even used snow to wash their cutlery! It was so cold hardly anyone got any sleep, except the lucky exception of Miss Tai who was as "smug as a bug." Yet, us, the girls, our spirits were kept high with gossiping through the early hours of the morning, even though we were so tired!

The feeling of triumph really hit us once we had finished the trip. We cooked our own food, we learnt how to budget our money, and most of all we travelled miles by foot! Also, thanks to our mathematicians, we had enough to get fish and chips on the second day.

On the way home, we realised what we were able to accomplish together as a team. Even from this one weekend, I grew closer to those I had left behind and gained a better understanding about the people I was not very familiar with before. At times there was some unevenness in our timing and our travelling up hills, but after all that strenuous exercise and the feeling of your legs giving way to the weight of our huge backpacks, I think everyone felt a glow of pride that stood out even when mixed in with absolute exhaustion. Not only that, for that weekend, I felt I was part of Mill Hill again.

I greatly recommend World Challenge as it is definitely worth it all. Being in a team with people is one thing, but getting to work with them so closely in a way that they all count on each other, and help each other in worlds outside of your daily life really creates bonds that will stick with you for many years to come. By overcoming physical obstacles you challenge your mental ability to keep on going and not to give up and learn how to encourage others to do the same. Even I, who have left the school, still feel connected to these people in a way that exceeds the daily "hello" that you get from each other just passing down the corridor. It was a great experience and I enjoyed it a lot.

Hockey Trip

By Matthew Catchpole

ON Tuesday, 1st February, some of the school hockey team went to Southgate Hockey Club to watch Oxford vs Cambridge and a couple of other teams play.

The day was very enjoyable and we had lots of fun. We learnt a lot from watching the matches; for instance, new types of passes and flicks.

The day was as follows:

10.00am Oxford v Cambridge Old Boys & Girls Match

12.30pm Marlborough v

Gresham

2.00pm Oxford v Cambridge Men's Match

4.00pm Oxford v Cambridge Ladies Match

All the games were very interesting and fast paced. At the start of the day not many fans were around but when it came to the big matches many came to watch.

At the end of the day, we had a quiz on the matches we saw and the winner won a gum shield.

The 'A' Team



Our Fabulous Day Out

By Orhan Deniz & Bilal Ansari

We WOKE up hoping today was going to be a good trip. This was the first time that we had been on a trip with Mill Hill County High School and we were the first blind students to go on an MHCHS Y7 trip.

We were told to go to registration as normal. After registration, we were put into our groups. We were both in Group 1, which was the blue group. We got onto the coach and it took approximately one hour to get to the Natural History Museum.

When we arrived there we explored different types of rocks and volcanoes. We then went to the shop. As it did not sell anything that we really wanted, we decided to have some lunch.

Afterwards, we went to a workshop where we got

to feel the animals, shells, fossils and all different types of plants. Orhan liked feeling the snakeskin whereas I liked the feel of the hedgehog.

Then came the most exciting part of our journey. We went on a boat ride to Greenwich where we had a great time. On the boat, we heard the history of all the bridges we went under and the history of the river. Everybody was really excited.

Unfortunately, when we reached Greenwich we had to walk up a very big hill. Both Mrs. Welton and Orhan were very tired when they reached the top. We went to the observatory whilst the rest of the students drew sketches of what it looked like. To end the day, we got to stand on what is called the Meridian Line.

Music Department Student of the Half Term

By Ms A Bailey

February's Winners:

Michael Wise	Year 7
Archie Bashford	Year 8
Stephen O'Sullivan	Year 9

March's Winners:

Jonathan Back	Year 7
Francesca Ehrnreich	Year 8
Yonnica Lau	Year 9

CONGRATULATIONS to all!

They have received a certificate and credit for their excellent efforts



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The Singer Interview (Schermuly)

By Mr M Singer



William Schermuly 1857 - 1929

IN the last two or three years, many families have become interested in tracing their family trees. Occasionally, people have discovered interesting and often, very surprising facts about their ancestors.

People who have made important discoveries or become famous in their own lifetimes, but whose stories have gradually been forgotten by all except their own families, are having their stories retold

for the benefit of all of us today.

Elliot Schermuly is a pupil in Year 8. Earlier this week, he spoke to Mr Singer about his Great Great Grandfather, William Schermuly.

My great great grandfather was born in 1857. In the 1870s, he worked as a seaman on many different ships but finally left the sea and started a variety of jobs on land, beginning with the London Fire Brigade in 1880.

During these years he invented many simple devices but his greatest invention was brought about because he was so concerned about the huge and needless loss of life at sea, when ships would run aground in sight of land, but as many as 1000 sailors a year would drown, needlessly, because there was no way of rescuing them at the time.

Rescuers would have to watch helplessly from the shore as people lost their lives because there was no reliable way of connecting a life-line from the shore to the ship.

William decided to design an easy to use rocket system that a seaman could use in the worst possible storm conditions. It could be used from a wildly pitching boat to fire a line accurately to the shore.

He invented a special way of coiling the line which prevented

tangling; a problem known as 'flaking' and his rocket was water proof which meant that it would be much more reliable.

Unfortunately, it took a long time before shipping companies and the navy were prepared to spend the money necessary to equip all their ships with this essential life saving apparatus.

William spent many years trying to persuade the Admiralty & ship owners to take up his invention, the S.P.R.A., the Schermuly Rocket Pistol Apparatus, showing how easy it was to use by having his 8-year-old grandson demonstrate it.

Eventually his ideas were accepted and by the early 1920's he had set up his own company to manufacture the 'ship to shore' rocket device.

On January 1st 1929, William died, nineteen days after it was made compulsory, by the Merchant Shipping Line Throwing Act, for all ships over 500 tons to carry line throwers. William's life long dream to improve safety and save lives had been accomplished.

If you have any famous relatives, either ancestors or living, or an unusual hobby or past time, please give Mr. Singer your story.

Year 9 Shakespeare Workshops

By Miss T Purcell

ON Thursday 7th and Friday 8th April, Year 9 students were fortunate enough to be involved in some Shakespeare Workshops.

During these workshops they enjoyed some superb performances of different scenes from "Macbeth".

Students also had the opportunity to demonstrate their own acting ability by becoming involved in their own, slightly modernised, version of "Macbeth's future".

Before they performed, students contemplated the many decisions that the main character is faced with and chose what they believed to be the best one.

I am positive that this has been an extremely beneficial experience for the students, especially in terms of SATs preparation.



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CALENDAR

MAY

Friday, 6th	Year 10 2 yr GCSE Geography Field Trip Departs
Monday, 9th	Year 10 2 yr GCSE Geography Field Trip Returns
Saturday, 14th	Year 7 Head's Challenge Walk
	Training weekend for World Challenge Students
Tuesday, 17th	Year 10 DofE Expedition Preparation Evening
Thursday, 19th	D&T Masterclass
	Year 9 to Natural History Museum
Friday, 20th	Year 9 to Natural History Museum
Sunday, 22nd	Year 10 Practice DofE Expedition
Monday, 23rd	Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Group 1
Wednesday, 25th	Summer Concert 7.30pm
Thursday, 26th	Year 8 Trip to Science Museum

JUNE

Tuesday, 7th	Year 9 Camp Departs
Friday, 10th	Year 9 Camp Returns
Wednesday, 15th	Food Masterclass
Saturday, 18th	Year 9 Geography Field Trip Departs
Wednesday, 22nd	Dance Medley 7.30pm
Thursday, 23rd	Dance Medley 7.30pm
Friday, 24th	Year 9 Geography Field Trip Returns
Sunday, 26th	World Challenge– Student Training Day
Monday, 27th	Staff Training Day
	Year 11 Camp Departs
Tuesday, 28th	Start of Year 9 & Year 10 Exams

JULY

Friday, 1st	Year 11 Camp Returns
Saturday, 2nd	Year 9 Geography Trip to Switzerland Departs
Tuesday, 5th	Poetry and Music Evening
	Year 10 Science Trip - Epping Forest
Wednesday, 6th	Year 10 Science Trip - Epping Forest
	Maths Masterclass
Friday, 8th	Year 9 Geography Trip Returns
Saturday, 9th	PTA Summer Music Evening
Monday, 11th	Year 10 Work Experience Begins

The Jan Harding Memorial Award

For the student who contributes most to the school ski trip

By Mr S Smith

FURTHER to Keith Hudson's brief report in last month's newsletter regarding the Jan Harding Memorial Award, we would now like to give more details about the award.

From the mid 1990's, Jan accompanied the school ski trip and, in her final years, took on the overall organisation of the trip. Following her death, Pinnacle, the travel company who organises our trip, presented to the School a shield to award to the student who, in the opinion of the staff, contributed most to the trip.

On this first occasion of awarding the trophy, the eleven staff discussed the positive contribution of many students. A short list of 5 names was agreed upon. This difficult task left out many students who made a positive contribution; Ponle Odusina who, on his first trip, was not in a group with any of his year group but who made every effort to improve his own skiing while helping other younger students; Amy Munford who throughout the week displayed great enthusiasm and was equally at ease in talking with students or staff and Kavit Shah who always seemed on hand to help.

However, the 5 names on our final short list were Sophie Hewitt, Owen Hind, Ashton Josephs, Clare Lowenthal and Olivia Murphy. Below are detailed the reasons why each of these students was considered for the award; they all displayed the characteristics which were so valued by Jan and which she encouraged in all students whom she taught or took on school trips:

Sophie Hewitt. Despite injuring herself on the trip, Sophie repeatedly attempted to get back onto the slopes going out with a beginners group instead of her own. She remained positive throughout, never complaining at the times she had to sit out and was regularly seen to offer help to other students. She also was of great help to Ms Srzich when skiing with the beginners group.

Owen Hind. Owen was bright and positive throughout the trip. He was there to help with other younger students and showed great empathy with the staff. He put a lot of effort into his own skiing and showed a considerable degree of maturity throughout the trip, being especially helpful on the evening of the floodlit skiing.

Ashton Josephs. Despite a number of difficulties on the trip, somebody else taking her boots and then her skis, then breaking a ski binding, Ashton remained smiley and positive throughout. She was consistently kind to other students and was particularly good with the young lads on the trip. Staff frequently found her to be helpful and reliable; she was also a student who put a lot into her skiing.

Clare Lowenthal. Clare skied apart from her other two year 13 friends but remained very positive and was very helpful with the younger students. She looked to include all students and staff commented on how well she conducted herself, at times sacrificing her own skiing to help others.

Olivia Murphy. Olivia provided charming company throughout the trip, at ease talking to students and staff. She helped all students in her group not just friends. She helped staff with Year 8 students on the journey including being willing to give up her coach seat so younger students could sit together. She showed great enthusiasm throughout the trip.

Inevitably, perhaps with the nature of the award, it was older students who stood out. The staff recognise that all of the students on this trip represented the school in the best possible way and it was a thoroughly enjoyable week – more details of which are provided elsewhere. In the end, after a vote, it was decided that the award for this year would go to Ashton Josephs. Her name will be the first inscribed on the shield which will go on display in the area outside the main hall.

Work Experience - Prize Draw Competition

By Mrs S Sacofsky

THIS year a record number of students have done an "Own Find" for their work experience, with almost 120 choosing this route. The remaining students will choose places from the database of placements that the school has secured.

All students who correctly followed the "Own Find" process were entered into a Prize Draw for £50 worth

of Brent Cross vouchers.

I am delighted to announce that the winner of this competition was Niraj Patadia of 10L who has arranged to do his work experience at Argos in Edgware.

We wish Niraj lots of luck and hope that his work experience goes really well.

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April 2005

Dear Parents

RE: 'The Friends' of MHCHS PTA (Parent Teacher Association)

I have received some excellent feedback from the Friends quiz evening, held on March 12th and, of course, I am delighted that so many of us enjoyed ourselves. Our Quizmasters proved very popular and I wish to thank Sylvia Jones, Michele and Henry Moss for their excellent presentation. The support from Courtlands School was also very much appreciated. The food was of an exceptionally high standard and I wish to thank Colinette Webster for all her help in co-ordinating this area of the event.

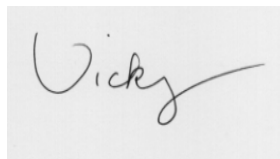
My sincere thanks go to the following people for supporting the PTA. Mr & Mrs Thompson, Mrs Matthews, Mrs Mann and Mr Mahajan for putting together our teachers' table. I was also very pleased to see so many of our governors in attendance. Thanks also go to our Caretakers who were very helpful throughout the whole event. A very big thank you to our sixth formers, it was so nice to have you all with us and, of course, I thank Mrs Charlie McMillan who co-ordinated the whole event. Finally, I must thank the parents who continually return to events time after time giving so much of their energy and expertise to the Friends. I am sure you will all be delighted to know that we raised very nearly £2,000.00 during the evening.

Mrs Mansfield attended our last PTA meeting on Tuesday 12th April. She spoke to us about pupil participation in our school accompanied by one of our students. I was very pleased to learn that the school actively encourages students to have so much input into areas such as Charity and Community work. I am very grateful to Mrs Mansfield for bringing this to our attention. Remember, that the Friends can offer help in many different ways, for example with car share and transport. We also have a good collection of secondhand uniform available.

The Friends hold regular meetings with teachers, when all parents are welcome to attend to discuss or just listen to any issues of interest to our school. If you have a question about the school that you wish to put to the teachers, please let me know in advance of each meeting. During our next meeting we will be dealing with the Friends constitution. If you would like further details about this issue, please e-mail Pam Mitchell on Pam.mitchell@campdenconsulting.com

The Friends' next meeting will be on Tuesday 10th May at 7.45pm in the school library.

With my very best wishes.



VICKY CHURCHILL
Chairman of the Friends / PTA

Rome and Pompeii Trip

By Miss C Marshall

IN the early hours of Friday, 18th March 2005, thirty excited students went through check-in and passport control before boarding their flight to Rome. It was the first experience of flying for some students and there were some white knuckles gripping armrests during a turbulent landing!

Once we were through the airport, we met up with Alessandra, our tour director, and Salvatore, our driver, and headed straight for the Vatican. Our guide, Isabella, took us through the Vatican Museum to the Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica. She was very informative and a source of great amusement as she sang and hummed into her microphone, which fed directly into our earphones.

On Saturday morning we made another early start from our hotel by the coast to go into Rome for our guided tour of the Colosseum and the Roman Forum. After passing a demonstration (Fathers for Justice, Italian style – It was Father's Day that day), there was time for shopping on the Via del Corso.

Meeting up with our coach was hindered by yet another demonstration, as it had resulted in the square being shut off where we were supposed to meet. We made it back eventually and, after dinner, had a quiz on what we had picked up so far. This was won after a tease tie-breaker question: "What do the letters SPQR (as seen on the bins and manholes in Rome) stand for? Congratulations to the "Powerpuff Girls", including Toby and Michael, who knew that it stood for 'the senate and people of Rome', and even greater praise to the sixth form girls who knew the Latin phrase.

On Sunday morning we left for Pompeii. It was a long coach journey broken up by some Italian lessons from Alessandra. We were introduced to Italian geography and culture as well as a number of useful phrases such as "dov'è il bagno?". It was a real pleasure to hear the students using these and the prize for linguistic effort and achievement goes to Toby Walton, who progressed from speaking English in an Italian



accent to speaking Italian whenever he had the opportunity.

We spent a couple of hours looking around Pompeii with our guide, Sylvana. For all students, it was an opportunity to see what we have studied in situ. Many were surprised at how much had been preserved and there was a sense of awe to be walking in what is now a ghost town where so many people lost their lives.

That evening we played the spaghetti tower competition. Teams of six competed to build the tallest tower out of spaghetti and sellotape which would support the weight of an egg. The tension was high as some towers barely got off the ground, whilst others teetered precariously and threatened to send the egg flying. The egg was actually hard-boiled but nobody knew that. Michael's team were victorious.

On Monday, we visited Herculaneum; smaller than Pompeii and better preserved, owing to the fact that it had been buried under mud rather than ash, this was a real delight. Guided by Gino, we saw baths and sumptuous villas and you could really imagine wealthy Romans living it up by the coast. Poignant though were the casts of three skeletons clinging to each other in their final moments as a pyroclastic flow swept over them. Up until this point, Vesuvius itself had been decid-

edly elusive lurking under a blanket of cloud. However, as we drove up to the halfway point lava flows from the most recent (1944) eruption came into view.

One of the top five most dangerous volcanoes, its threat remains one of the worst as it is in the most densely populated area – 600,000 people live in its immediate vicinity. The question is not if it goes off but when, and indeed where, as the current crater only represents a small part of a much wider volcanic area extending out to Ischia and beyond Naples.

It was worth the steep walk up the mountain side to peer into the crater and see the steam rise as moisture came into contact with the crater's hot surface. Perhaps it was the thought of the magna chamber somewhere beneath us which made this one of the highlights of the trip.

Having returned to Rome that evening, we spent our final day at the Hadrian's Villa in Tivoli, just outside Rome. The ruins of the villa itself covered a huge area and were some of the tallest we had seen with theatres, lakes, colonnades and baths; everything an emperor could desire.

The trip was an unforgettable experience and the students were a credit to the school. My thanks to Mr. Woolf and Mrs. Webb-Jones for their assistance.