

Mill Hill County High School

Head's Newsletter

2004-5, Issue 4

Wednesday 15th December, 2004

Season's Greetings & Charter Mark

ON behalf of all the staff at MHCHS, I send all parents, students, governors and friends of the School my very best wishes for the Christmas holiday and for a happy and prosperous New Year.

I am very pleased to be able to announce that the School has just been re-awarded the Cabinet Office's *Charter Mark Standard for Customer Service Excellence*, following assessment last month.

The assessor concluded that, "MHCHS is an outstanding school that offers a very good service to all its customers. It is a genuine 'learning organisation' that builds on the success and achievements of all

students." The assessment was "both enjoyable and memorable for our Assessor".

We are judged to have "a strong ethos of caring for individual students, achieving very good academic results but also enabling students across the ability range to achieve their potential. Students with special educational needs receive outstanding

support. The School has been able to promote inclusion."

Our "newly improved website offers an exciting opportunity for conveying information in interesting and eye-catching formats."

My thanks go to all whose work led to this outstanding endorsement and to Dr James who so successfully masterminded the rebidding process.

Please visit our new website
www.mhchs.org.uk

The Hush - Rockschool Competition

By Mrs M McCanlis

IT is very rare that Mr McCanlis and myself frequent clubs in Leicester Square, particularly at 7.00am and on a school day! However, this was certainly an exception and an experience neither of us wanted to miss.

It was due to the success of four of our Year 11 musicians, Jonathan Weights, Josh Barber, Leon Geis and Fabio D'Oliviera who are members of the group, The Hush. Johnny had been interviewed live on XFM radio by Christian O'Connell as he was so impressed by the group's recording of the cover version of Purple Haze by Jimmy Hendrix.

As a result of text voting last Tuesday, The Hush came top with



an incredible 1,610 votes. The top five bands were invited to The Marquee Club in Leicester Square to perform their winning song in front of a panel of four judges - Connor McNicholas, Chris Salmon, Lauren Laverne and Arthur Baker.

Mr McCanlis, Fiona and myself arrived at the club at 7.00am on Friday, 26th November, to support our very talented band. They were running a little late with

sound checks and were eventually allowed in at 8.00am. Inside the club, we joined the parents and friends of our band and wished the boys good luck.

The atmosphere in this nightclub was electric, the adrenalin was flowing and there was great excitement all around.

Each of the bands performed in reverse order of the voting and the judges made individual comments after each performance. The Hush really did themselves proud, a brilliant performance which had everybody moving to their music. The judges commented on the fact that it was obvious that all four were

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good musicians and that they were very impressed, particularly Arthur Baker, with their cover version. Their comments raised our hopes that the boys were in with a good chance. However, in the end, they were voted third by

the judges.

To us, The Hush are WINNERS!

They have come a long way in a short period of time and performed fantastically.

They have done themselves and our school proud. I am sure

this success is just the beginning for The Hush.

Thanks too go to the boys' parents who have given their utmost support to the band.

Well done guys, you were brilliant.

WATCH THIS SPACE!!!

Salter's Chemistry Camp

By Christopher Kourra, 11J

ON Tuesday, 3rd August, 50 lucky students from all over England, some from Northern Ireland, Wales and even Belgium met at the University of Manchester. As we were all from 50 different schools nerves were jangling at first, but friends were easily made. We got the full uni experience, staying in the Dalton-Ellis Hall dorms.

The chemistry then started; a forty minute walk to the lab every morning and back again in the late afternoon. The lab was equipped with amazing hi-tech equipment and explosive chemicals. We got to use both. The experiments were like never before. One employed our knowledge of

material science to make a crash helmet for an egg. One of the more exciting activities involved tie dyeing a T-shirt blue. Weird and wonderful patterns could be made.

We also experimented with making our own dyes from raw materials like carrots, leaves, beetroot, onion skin and even crushed beetle. Another exciting activity was to carry out hi-tech forensic tests to solve a murder in the village of Blackrock.

We worked in different groups for each experiment so we could get to know the other students. As well as the experiments, we had a morning visit to a chemistry plant, which dyes and treats tex-

tiles and paper. We learnt a great deal about the chemical industry on this trip.

For entertainment one evening, we had a lecture by a pyromaniac lecturer who liked to make his own gunpowder and liquid oxygen; he liked to burn and explode almost anything he could get his hands on— all in the name of Science!

That was not all. On the nights we went to the cinema to see Shrek 2, we had two games of ten-pin bowling and an action packed evening of sports. We also had hours of free time every day, so it was not all work. This was a unique experience that I will never forget.



Mill Hill County High Dry Ski Club

By Mrs A Davighi



THE Ski Club meets fortnightly at the Gosling Ski Centre, Welwyn Garden City, on Wednesday evenings from 7.00pm onwards.

Lessons are available for the complete beginner and intermediate skiers. Recreational skiing is also available.

Places are available

for the Spring term.

If you are interested, please see Mrs. Davighi in the Design Technology block for more details

Mini Cooper Business Studies Trip

By Nana Agyei (13F)

ON a sunny and semi-early Friday morning, 15 ever-enthusiastic Year 13 students and 2 members of staff set off in the mini bus, eager to explore the Mini Cooper factory at Cowley, Oxford.

After all seat belts were checked, a quick headcount and our request for 'sounds' met by Mr Hudson, we were on our way! The journey passed in what seemed like a matter of minutes as we were occupied by the professionalism of Mr Hudson's driving and a spontaneous game of 'Name that road sign'!

Due to impeccable timing and organisation on the part of the teachers, we arrived with time to spare and were treated to hot drinks at the rest stop. With our hands warm and our enthusiasm revived, we made our way to the factory.

Upon arriving, everyone noticed the vast number of Mini Coopers in the staff car park and undoubtedly there were a few career changes made in that instant!

Our tour guides, Giovanni and John, greeted us in the reception area and presented us with our somewhat colourful attire of orange overalls and goggles. There was an obvious hesitation to put these on!

After a quick group photo (which we all happily posed for in our very flattering orange overalls), we were off to the screening room to view a DVD on the history of the Mini and its successes over the past few years. We then moved to the "(works) Mini Bus", which took us to our tour of the whole factory.

On the tour, it was interesting

to observe our knowledge from the classroom being applied to real-life scenarios. We were all impressed by the efficiency of the just-in-time system in place and the team building facilities they have.

The most striking aspect was the use of automated technology; millions of pounds worth of robots, rather than hundreds of workers. Car production in the 21st century is certainly capital intensive. It is also a very clean (and green) environment – not a drop of oil or grease anywhere and everything possible is recycled.

The tour ended with a short quiz and I am sure that Miss Dyer will always remember that Mini Cooper engines are imported from Brazil! After such a fascinating tour there was only one question on everyone's minds – How much discount do staff receive?!

We made our way back to the reception area and indulged in some retail therapy, although Jay was unable to purchase his 'Mini' T-shirt, as it was too small!

Indisputably, everyone left the factory knowing what they wanted to include in their letters to Father Christmas this year – a Mini Cooper!

All the students would like to thank Miss Dyer and Mr Hudson for a memorable trip.



Children in Need

By Gillian Yew (13K)

"CHILDREN in Need" took place on the 19th November 2004.

We successfully managed to raise over £1,200 through the amazing support of all the students and staff involved in organising various activities throughout the day.

Examples of these included staff leg waxing, a cake and gift sale, individual sponsored activi-

ties and fancy dressing for the Sixth Formers.

Of course, thanks must also go to anyone who donated money; every penny made the total sum possible. Look out for the next newsletter to see how the money you raised has been spent.

Again, thank you to everyone, including the premises staff, who helped organise the day as this

was truly a very successful and exciting event.



Black History Month

By Naomi Gyane (12P)

CONTRARY to popular belief, Black History Month isn't just for black people!

Of course, it is based on the origins of black people. It is about the trials and tribulations of the black race but is also to educate and therefore create an understanding by all people about where black people have been, their contributions to society and their successes.

Black History Month is a celebration in which all can participate, no matter what their origin.

During the month of October, pupils organised a range of performances and exhibitions in order to coincide with Black History commemorative events around the country.

Most notable was the poetry reading, where pupils of all ages

and staff recited the works of well known and unfamiliar black poets or delivered their own profound and remarkable material in an exclusive session.

Also, throughout the month, every year group showcased their own interpretation of Black History.

Year 7 staged a fashion show of African clothing, Year 8 expressed themselves in the form of dance, Year 9 accomplished the sounds of gospel music, Year 10 was indulged with singing, dancing and an amazing display of African drumming and Year 11 was also treated to dancing.

Due to an overwhelming response to the events that took place in the month of October, the pupils with the support of the teachers are now executing an

evening performance that will lend a hand to emulating the success of Black History Month.

The date of the performance has yet to be settled, but you are all welcome to rejoice and be a part of the origins and the future of Black History.

THANK YOU to all who took part in Black History Month.



Senior Maths Challenge

By Ms E Stewart

On Tuesday, 9th November, over 120 Sixth Form Mathematicians took part in this National Competition.

There were 25 multiple choice questions in total (marks are deducted for wrong answers). Students are encouraged not to "guess".

Thank you to the PE Department for making the Sports Hall available to us.

The Singer Interview

By Mr M Singer & Max Hayhurst (9J)

MAX Hayhurst is a Year 9 student who competes regularly in biathlon and triathlon competitions.

"I've been doing biathlons and triathlons for the last two years after a friend, who was National Champion for his age group, told me about them.

"There are several age groups with different distances for each. In the biathlon, in my age group, which is 13-14 year olds, I have to do a 1 kilometre run, followed by a 5-kilometre cycle, and finish

with another run of 0.5 kilometres. I do four training sessions a week for swimming at a pool in Kentish Town, two training runs and one training cycle at Hillingdon, which all take up quite a lot of time!

"I am a member of a biathlon association called the Hillingdon Tristars and I compete in roughly one biathlon each month. I also do triathlons, which comprise a 500-metre swim, a 10 kilometre cycle and finish with a 3-kilometre run. I compete in tri-

athlons roughly once every three months.

"Most of the competitions I've been involved with so far take place in the London area but I competed in the National Biathlon Championships in September this year and came 21st out of 500!

"I can certainly recommend this to people who are keen and dedicated and who have lots of stamina!"

N.B. If you have an interesting or unusual hobby, please speak to Mr Singer about it.

Season 5 of Fantasy Football

By Mr K Bulman

THE League is now about 6 weeks old and there have been a few overall leaders.

It is disappointing that this is the smallest league that this school has been able to put together and there has been an especially poor turnout from years 10 and 11.

This is particularly sad when you consider that more than 100,000 students and teachers in more than 2000 schools nationally are taking part this year.

The first transfer window will have already closed by the time you read this but don't panic; transfer window #2 opens on the 24th January 2005.

The overall lead has changed a few times already and at the time of going to press, the present leader is **Matthew Walters of Year 9.**

The other year group leaders are shown in the display panel below.

Within the next couple of weeks the first set of Manager of the Month Certificates will be given out in assemblies.

Don't forget to check out the relevant pages on the website www.schoolsfl.com to see how you are doing. Good Luck everyone!

Name	Team Name	Year	Points
Mr Bulman	Saints GE 2005		65
Adebayo Ayodele	AHA fc	7	58
Chiraag Pitrola	Golden Wonders	8	74
Matthew Walters	Wehttam's Warriors	9	83
Ross Sambrook	The G Men	10	70
Lester Wyatt	Lezo's Barmy Army	12	82

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Calendar

December 2004

Monday, 13th	Year 7 Form Tutors' Parents' Evening
Tuesday, 14th	Christmas Concert
Wednesday, 15th	Christmas Concert
Friday, 17th	End of Term

January 2005

Tuesday, 4th	Start of Term
Tuesday, 18th	Ski Trip Meeting for Parents
Wednesday, 19th	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Sunday, 23rd	World Challenge Training Day
Wednesday, 26th	ICT Masterclass
Monday, 31st	Music Parents' Consultation
	Start of Anti-Bullying Week

February

Wednesday, 2nd	Business Studies Trip to Antwerp
Thursday, 3rd	Year 8 Parents' Evening
	Intermediate Maths Challenge
Thursday, 10th	Full Governors' Meeting
Friday, 11th	English Masterclass
	End of Half Term
Saturday, 12th	Ski Trip Departs
Sunday, 20th	Ski Trip Returns
Monday, 21st	Start of Half Term - Inset Day
Wednesday, 23rd	German Exchange Students Visit

March

Wednesday, 2nd	6th Form Concert
	German Exchange Students Leave
Thursday, 3rd	Religious Studies Masterclass
Friday, 4th	World Challenge Training
	Weekend in Buxton
Wednesday, 9th	Year 12 Parents' Evening
Thursday, 10th	Dress Rehearsal for School Show
Friday, 11th	Year 7 Geography Field Trip
	Maths Masterclass
Saturday, 12th	Interview External Candidates to the 6th Form
	Friends' Quiz Evening
Monday, 14th	School Show - Up to 17th March
Friday, 18th	End of Term

*Vicky Churchill c/o the Friends
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December 2004

Dear Parents,

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

My sincere thanks go to everyone who helped at this year's Christmas Fayre. In particular, I would like to thank Mrs. Trinder and all the Year 11 students who worked very hard organising and running their own stalls as part of their GCSE exams.

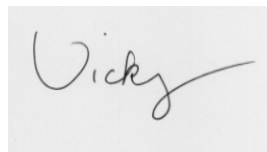
I would also like to thank our caretakers and office staff who always support the Friends. This year, The Fayre came upon us almost directly after our very successful Fireworks in late October, which meant that many parents have been working constantly for weeks planning and organising these two events. This year has been a marvellous year for the Friends and now a well deserved rest is in order for everyone.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all parents, teachers, staff and students a very happy and peaceful Christmas Break.

The Friends' next meeting will be combined with our AGM on Wednesday 12th January 2005.

With my very best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



VICKY CHURCHILL
Chairman of the Friends/PTA

DON'T FORGET

Reserve your tables early for our very popular

QUIZ EVENING

Call Sally on 020 8346 4735

Saturday 12th March 2005

Target 2.0 Economics Competition

By Mr Rahul Mahajan

I AM delighted to report that several of our Year 13 Economists were entered into the Target Two Point Zero national schools Monetary Policy competition.

The competition is run jointly by the Bank of England and *The Times* newspaper.

The objective of the competition is to demonstrate one's ability to run the UK economy in order to keep inflation at its target of 2%.

Our team presented its conclusions to a panel of professional economists. The team consisted of Komal Bhuchhada, Tina Raja, Mirah Shah, Sareeka Shah, Bambos Sofianos and Christopher Weights.

Another school, with very significant prior experience of the competition, won. Nevertheless, the judges felt that our presentation was the most creative of the bunch.

Given that this was the school's first go in this national competition in the last six years, the team's performance was commendable.

As part of the presentation, the team did a role-play by taking on the roles of important decision-makers. Special mention must go to Bambos Sofianos. He had borrowed my briefcase to help him look the part.

Despite the fact that Bambos failed to crack the combination code on my brief-

case in order to extract his cue cards, he managed to pull off one of the most remarkable acts of improvisation that I have witnessed.

This was a highly productive competition and we will undoubtedly be entering some of our current Year 12 economists next year.



Music Exam Successes

By Mrs M McCanlis

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who have recently passed their music exams: **Associated Board**—Josef De Jong (Trombone) Grade 7 Pass, Hugo Webster (Trumpet) Grade 5 Pass, Zoe Cowan (Trombone) Grade 2 Pass, Fiona McCanlis (Piano) Grade 8 Merit, Hannah Luder (Piano) Grade 4 Merit; **Trinity College**— Alex Nathan (Percussion) Grade 8 Distinction.

Please remember: the roads around the School have a

20 mph Speed Limit



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