



Mill Hill County High School

Head's Newsletter

2007-8, Issue 3

www.mhchs.org.uk

Tuesday 11th December 2007

Season's Greetings

On behalf of all the staff at MHCHS, I send all students, parents, governors and friends of the school my very best wishes for Christmas and for a happy and prosperous 2008.

Awards 2007

THIS year's Awards Ceremony will be held on 18th December 2007 in the Logan Hall at the University of London Institute of Education. We are delighted that The Baroness Coussins, mother of our Head of History, Miss Hamilton, has agreed to be our Guest of Honour and to present the awards.

Award Winners, their parents, members of staff and governors will make up the capacity audience of 932.

End of era - Dr James retires

THE END of this term sees the retirement of Dr James who has served the school for 36 years (and one term). In fact, Dr James has devoted her entire career to this school.

Dr James attended Penzance Girls' Grammar School and was awarded a 2:1 in English at London University. She obtained an MA in Modern Drama Studies in 1981 and a PhD in 1994. Arriving at Orange Hill Senior High School in 1971, as a Teacher of English, she was Head of English by 1981 and took over the same role at the newly formed Mill Hill County High School in 1984. Dr James was appointed Deputy Head in 1989 and has, therefore, spent just over half of her career in that demanding senior position.

It has been my privilege to work with Dr James in the final four years of her career. During this time she has demonstrated the administrative efficiency and effectiveness which I know have characterised her whole career. I have never known Dr James

miss a deadline, or overlook an important matter. On the contrary, she has often drawn my attention to developing concerns. A confidante and sounding-board for the worries and ideas of generations of colleagues, Dr James's wisdom, tact and diplomacy have helped to create the exceptionally harmonious atmosphere in the MHCHS staffroom.

Headship of a very large and highly successful school, such as MHCHS, would be impossible without the support of first class senior colleagues. You can never have too many people watching your back and blessed though I am by the exceptional senior managers with whom I work, I cannot be indifferent to the departure of as loyal a supporter as Dr James, who has smoothed my path from the moment of my appointment back in June 2003.

Generations of students, particularly in the Sixth Form, owe a debt of gratitude to Dr James for conveying to

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Ever larger audiences at lunchtime recitals

I AM very pleased indeed with the resounding success of the Music Department's lunchtime recital series this term.

Over 400 tickets have been issued to students at this term's five recitals, with audiences exceeding 100 on several occasions. In addition to the MHCHS students for whom the recitals primarily exist, audiences have included members of staff, governors, neighbours, former colleagues, friends of the school and primary school children.

I was very encouraged that two new members of the Music Department were brave

enough to give solo recitals, though they were so well received that bravery was clearly not required. Ms Maguire is pictured opposite performing astonishing four-mallet feats on the marimba and Mr Duffy dazzled us with his virtuoso oboe playing.

My thanks to Mrs McCanlis for her faultless organisation.

There will be recitals next term on 11/01/08 (the ever-popular Watson Trio - violin, soprano & piano), 25/01/08, 8/02/08 & 25/02/08.

Further details on our website, www.mhchs.org.uk.



Dance and Drama Activities

	LUNCHTIME	AFTER SCHOOL
Mon	Year 10 Dance Class	"Sweet Charity"
Tues	"Sweet Charity"	Year 9 Advanced Dance "Sweet Charity"
Wed	Mixed Dance Club Boys' Dance Club	Year 8 Advanced Dance Club Year 7 Advanced Dance Club "Sweet Charity"
Thurs	"Sweet Charity"	"Sweet Charity"
Fri	Drama Club	

Students conduct water audit

By Mr. R Davighi

24 STUDENTS at MHCHS are well on their way to obtaining a Bronze CREST Award (Celebrating CREativity in Science and Technology) after a day of coaching by Ted Casey, Education Studies Manager at Three Valleys Water and his team.

As part of their training, the students were coached how to audit their school for water use by examining consumption and conducting experiments on cleaning and saving water. They are now able to visit a local primary school to carry out a similar audit which will count towards their entry for the CREST Award.

The school is very keen to develop community links with local organisations, businesses and other schools.

The students have learned a lot and we are pleased to be working in partnership with Three Valleys Water. BA CREST is a nationally recognized accreditation scheme for project work in the fields of science and technology. Aimed at students aged 11-19, BA CREST awards encourage students to develop their scientific curiosity, problem-solving and communication skills.

Through a mentoring system, the scheme facilitates links between schools and industry or higher education. It enables students of all abilities to explore real scientific, engineering and technological problems for themselves and promotes work-related learning.

Annabel Mora, of Three Valleys Water, is pictured below with some MHCHS students.

No 605 Bus

I ANNOUNCED the above new bus service in my September 2007 Newsletter. About a month ago a parent wrote to Mr Battley, Chairman of the Premises Committee, to say that the scheduled arrival time at Marsh Lane of 8.12am was too late to guarantee arrival in school by 8.20am.

I duly wrote to Metroline and am pleased to report that they changed the timing of the service to depart 10 minutes earlier in the morning, with effect from 3rd December 2007.

I hope that this will be of help to students and parents and that more students will make use of the service, helping to reduce traffic congestion in the streets around the school.

Stops	am	pm
Edgware Station	7.35	4.04
Burnt Oak Station	7.44	3.52
Mill Hill Broadway Station	7.52	3.45
Marsh Lane	8.02	3.35

Exam Success

By Mr L Edwards-Stuart

FOLLOWING the report in the last newsletter about GCSE exam success, it has come to our attention that Louis Wheeler was also among the top performers in Year11, with 5.5 A* grades and 3.5 A grades. Congratulations to him and apologies for not including him in the last edition.

Cycling Triumph

By Mr L Edwards-Stuart

CONTRATULATIONS to Jake Shelley (12P-AHN), who won the over-16 British Schools Cycling Association (BSCA) National Hill Climb in Brighton on October 7th, despite only cycling seriously for 10 months.

Also an excellent runner, Jake has been entered for the Hillingdon duathlon in November.

Good luck Jake!



Dr James retires

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them her passion for English literature.

MHCHS has enjoyed strong and effective governance for decades and Dr James has contributed to this as an authoritative Clerk to the Governors, keeping everyone right.

It is an extraordinary fact about MHCHS that the many colleagues with long or very long service are all, without exception, key players in driving the school forward. Most schools, indeed most organisations, have long-serving staff who are going through the motions, awaiting retirement: not so here. Dr James is a prime example of a great servant of the school who is, at the time of going to press, with only a couple of weeks to go to retirement, as energetic and effective as I believe she has been throughout her career.

The Governing Body, the Senior Management Team and the staff are holding separate functions to mark this momentous occasion in the life of the school. I know that all parents and students will join me in wishing Dr James every possible happiness in what we hope will be a long and rewarding retirement.

Free cycling lesson

WOULD you like to cycle to school or improve your cycling skills?

Barnet Council's Road Safety Team are offering you a FREE two hour one-to-one cycle lesson if you are in Years 7, 8 or 9.

Please email janice.jones@barnet.gov.uk marking the subject "secondary school cycle training", with your full name, address and telephone number to receive an information pack and for the instructor to book a lesson at a time convenient to you.

Alternatively, please call 020 8359 7256 or 020 8359 7103.

Music Exams

Louis Naghten, Grade 5 Distinction (Piano)

Louis Naghten, Grade 5 Distinction (Drum Kit)

Matt Gunn, Grade 5 Merit (Theory)

Y7 & 8 Football

By Ms. R Jackson

Y7 AND Y8 Girls have been entered in the Barnet Football League and will be playing in matches on 12/11/07 (Hasmonean), 10/12/07 (Hendon), 14/01/08 (Compton), 04/02/08 (St Mary's), 03/03/08 (Bishop Douglass).

Hockey season to date

By Mrs R Van Oosterom

THIS has been the most fun-filled hockey season so far at MHCHS. Previously it has been almost impossible to get schools to play against us. Our year 10 team believes this is because of their physical prowess, but really it is because very few schools in Barnet play boys' hockey!

MHCHS's hockey teams have been very committed since they started. They travel to Whitefields every Wednesday to train after school and get back to school late in order to make the most of their allocated time on the pitch.

King Alfred, near Golders Green, has been a worthy opponent ever since we met them at the Southgate Tournament two seasons ago. Our Y10 & Y11 teams played against them on October 3rd and although our team was winning up until half time, they lost 5-9. Our agile keeper, LJ, was voted Man of the Match, with goal scorers being Areeb and Farham.

Although King Alfred always play very well and usually beat us, our Year 9 team believed they could even the score. Not intimidated by a school with its own Astro turf pitch, our year 9 team went to their first match with King Alfred with new confidence after doing so well against their arch rivals, Compton, at the Borough Tournament. (Last year they lost quite considerably against them and have been steadily improving ever since).

Their first match went well, with our team improving throughout the match. They improved their marking and defending skills, not allowing King Alfred to use their triangles or run on to the ball. They worked out their oppositions' set pieces and managed to break several times and score through excellent team work and forward planning.

This was the most disappointing match so far for the year 9 team, as previously they have found it difficult to

finish. Even when they have had most of the play in a match, their actual goal scoring has been poor. However, this match was different and they played and scored very well. All their goals were well planned and deserved. To lose this match was a real shame. However, King Alfred played well as usual and wouldn't be outdone!

The following day Mill Hill County played King Alfred's Year 9 team. Our boys expected them to be better than their Year 8s, but refused to let this worry them.

Right from the start Mill Hill County went out to win. They used everything they had learned from their previous match and scored their first goal within minutes. This was a great achievement and gave our boys the upper hand almost straight away. They exploited this lead as the game went on and through determination from our defence and fantastic finishing by our boys upfront, Mill Hill County's year 9 team won their first match.

As usual, the boys voted for their team's Man of the Match, who was Azam Sheikh for the first match and Aqeeb Khan for the second. Particular thanks should go to Ijlal Husain and Areeb Khan, who gave up two evenings to come and coach the team during the match. They did a great job and I'm sure their input and encouragement helped the team achieve as well as they did.

This is the best I have seen our Year 9s play, and it was a real pleasure to watch and umpire. If they can use this as a base to work from they will be extremely successful in future matches. Now they have played two matches where they have scored well through good play, the only way is up! The Year 9, 10 and 11 teams have matches at the end of November which will now be more exciting than ever!

Please see the hockey page of the PE website for details of matches, scores and pictures.

Dance4Life AIDS Awareness Day

By Mr L Edwards-Stuart

ON MONDAY 17th September several MHCHS students of different ages and different year groups set off for the CC Club in Piccadilly Circus for the annual Dance4Life event.

Dance4Life is the official youth campaign of the World AIDS campaign, based on actively involving young people. Unlike many organisations which stand for a cause such as theirs, Dance4Life does not involve preaching; it is about dance, drumming, music, videos

and other media. The aim of Dance4Life is to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and the risks associated with it, in an attempt to battle against the stigma and break the taboos surrounding the pandemic.

The Dance4Life event involved students from different schools, eager to learn about HIV/AIDS. The day involved various group activities, memorising the Dance4Life's symbolic dance, and learning facts about HIV/AIDS, such as the following.

Almost ¼ of HIV-positive

people are between 15 and 24 years old. Currently 39.5 million people are HIV positive. 72% of adults and 85% of children living with HIV don't receive the treatment they need. Almost 6,000 people between 15 and 24 years old are newly infected by HIV each day.

So far, Dance4Life is running in 11 countries: Egypt; Germany; Ireland; Kenya; Nigeria; Russia; South Africa; Tanzania; The Netherlands; the UK; and Vietnam.

By 2008, the following countries may join the pro-

ject too: Brazil; India; Mexico; Morocco; Senegal; Siberia; Sierra Leone; Turkey; Uganda; USA; Zambia; and Zimbabwe.

By the end of the event, students had become 'Agents of Change', united in their desire to fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic currently gripping the world. They hope to organise a number of fundraising events, in order to aid the international anti-HIV/AIDS campaign in the near future.

Student and Parent Surveys 2006-7

By Dr L James

THROUGHOUT 2006-07 the school continued to take feedback from students and parents via a variety of communication channels. These included the Friends (PTA), the School Council, internal surveys, external surveys and our communication/complaints monitoring systems.

This report focuses on the findings of our monitoring strategies and on developments that have taken place since the previous report.

Kirkland Rowell Parents' Survey

This survey was carried out in the Summer Term. 184 completed questionnaires were returned, representing a response rate of 26.3% of the random sample surveyed. We would like to thank those parents who responded, as your feedback helps us to track a very important aspect of how the school is perceived to be performing. We hope that more parents in the sample will take the opportunity to participate when such surveys take place again.

We were very pleased with an overall approval rating of 80.3%, slightly higher than 2006, putting the school in the survey's "outstanding" category.

Also very encouraging was the fact that over a third of parents whose children were not in their first year at the school said that the school had improved in the last year. Of the parents of new students, more than three times as many thought that the school had exceeded expectations than thought that it had fallen short of their expectations in some respects.

Respondents were most happy with Control of Bullying, School Discipline, Levels of Homework and Exam results.

Parents were also invited to write comments if they wished.

Complimentary Comments

Many of your comments were very positive about your child's experience of the school, the following being representative.

"Since beginning at MHCHS, my child has changed a great deal in a

very positive way. He has more direction and enthusiasm. He feels popular and happy and has developed a good sense of community spirit. He feels praised where praise is due and has respect for his school."

"Having had two children go through MHCHS, I have only praise for the school, staff and education they have received, both academic and wider. They have had their horizons broadened, had the opportunity to learn, challenge and be challenged and they have both loved every minute of it."

"My daughter has made excellent progress at MHCHS and the school has provided a wonderful learning environment."

"I find the school's overall governance, administration and academic performance very good."

The range of trips and visits offered by the school received specific comment in a number of other responses.

Concerns

Respondents were least satisfied with Choice of Subjects and aspects of school facilities.

Communication Survey

We would like to thank the 133 parents who responded to the October postal survey, 44% of those sampled. Your replies are very helpful to us in monitoring the standards on response times introduced three years ago.

Most parents had telephoned the school during 2006-07 and nearly half reported that their call had been answered within the time standard set. A minority of parents had corresponded with the school within the last year and the large majority reported that they had received a response within the target period.

A small minority of parents had had occasion to make a complaint during last year. As is the case in any organisation, we cannot guarantee to satisfy every complainant. However, we aim that all complainants should feel that their complaint has been taken seriously and received careful consideration. Our performance in this area will continue to be monitored carefully.

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Student & Parent Surveys 2006/7

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fully, with the aim of seeking improvements where indicated.

Compliments

Praise for school communications included respondents saying that they were "very happy with the services provided by the school"; that "When I have needed to speak to staff I have felt heard and dealt with properly"; also that school procedure is "worth commending. No complaints at all."

Concerns

Most of the concerns expressed were related to the telephone system introduced in 2005, which has been kept under review during the last year, leading to changes indicated under the "Improvements" section of this report.

Major changes have taken place in the school's ICT infra-structure, which will enable suggestions for improvements through the use of email and the content of the website to be addressed.

Complaints

We continue to monitor the number and types of general complaints received during an academic

year and make comparisons with previous years. (More specialised complaints, for example, those relating to Inclusion or external examination issues, are not covered by the monitoring process.)

The number of complaints from parents about students' experiences in school remains low, as in previous years, and reflects the feedback provided by the 2007 parents' communications survey.

Of the 56 complaints received, the large majority related either to the curriculum or to administrative issues. A very small minority of complaints arose as a result of students' behaviour to one another. Complaints relating to the use of school sanctions were in similar small numbers. The very low number of complaints about homework was about the same as for 2005-06.

Other Indicators of School Performance

We are always pleased to receive positive feedback from parents and members of the wider community about the school and the experiences it offers to students.

Individual members of staff greatly appreciate the letters and cards they receive from students and parents at turning points in their academic careers.

It is especially gratifying to receive very positive feedback about our students from companies such as Pinnacle Travel who organise the February ski trip. They described our students as "first class and a real credit to the school and Party Leaders." Always welcome, too, are the positive commendations of our Year 10 students from Work Experience employers reported in an earlier edition of the Head's Newsletter.

Staff who organise trips and extra-curricular activities greatly value the appreciation shown by students and parents.

Changes Resulting from Feedback

Improvements to school security: the entrance to the school has been redesigned to include a security presence to oversee pedestrian access, traffic and parking. Electronic proximity cards have been introduced for Sixth Form students.

Improved arrangements for Year 12 induction were introduced as a result of a Year 12 focus group study carried out by ASH Qualitative Research.

A new catering company has been appointed to improve provision in response to student feedback.

Telephone system: the number of options on the menu has been reduced from 9 to 5. Parents should also see an improvement in response rates as a result of the answering chain introduced in the school office. Providing direct parental access to teachers' voicemail is currently under review; parents naturally expect a speedy response, but a teacher could easily have 30 minutes of messages and no hope of being able to listen to them all in the course of a full day, let alone respond properly.

In response to safety concerns, a policy on Student Motor Vehicle Drivers was introduced this year.

A new, separate Year 12 and 13 playground facility was built during the summer, in response to requests from the Sixth Form Council.

French Exchange visit to Verdun

By Ms S Jackson

OUR SECOND stay in Verdun was blessed again by warm, uninterrupted sunshine. Who would have thought that it would be too hot for a jumper in Northern France in mid-October!?

On 4th October, we were welcomed by the families, and were thrown into 'Frenchness' straight away.

The next day was spent at the school. The English students were taken on a tour by French students and attended a couple of lessons. Meanwhile the teachers were interviewed

by the local press (!) and treated to coffee and Madeleines by the Headteacher. In the afternoon, we all visited the Centre for Peace and after looking at many disturbing pictures of the 'Great War', we toured the town and up to the quaint old factory of Braquier Dragées (the French coated almond sweets traditionally bought for Christenings and weddings).

In the evening, we had drinks, crisps and tarts galore brought to school by the families and we were given first use of the school's brand new disco

equipment. The English danced the night away with the French and the floor was occupied all evening.

After a weekend with our families, we reconvened at the school to share experiences: shopping, theme parks, swimming, riding, parties, etc. We then spent the day in Le Zoo d'Amneville, which we seemed to have to ourselves and where many pictures were taken of students and animals.

Our last day was spent in Nancy, a university town nearby. We went shopping in the morning and then

had a picnic lunch in the beautiful golden Place Stanislas. In the afternoon, wearing both helmet and harness, we tested our skills and courage on a dizzying and ambitious assault course whilst others whizzed along the zip ride.

Not only were our students keen and interested but they behaved really well and did us proud in their respective families. Well done all. It was a real pleasure to take you to France. We are now eagerly awaiting the French students' visit to London on 28th April 2008.....

German Exchange October 2007

By Mr A.Vogt

54 STUDENTS and 4 members of staff experienced once again an enjoyable, active, educational and entertaining exchange visit to our partner school, Alfred-Delp-Schule in Hargesheim (near Bad Kreuznach).

The journey there was eventful – lots of delays on the M25, reached the ferry just in time, then had a flat battery just across the border into Germany, and still reached our host school only an hour late. Our host families and partners welcomed us, like every year, with a great deal of hospitality and open arms.

The first day at school was divided between getting to know the school itself ('modern', 'spacious', 'very light', what, no uniforms...', '... and they go home at 1.25 p.m.!') were some of the re-

marks of our students), doing activities to further the contact between English and German students ('let yourself fall backwards, eyes closed, in a circle of 10 people who you might not know very well – and they caught you') and attending two school lessons with our partners.

The combined trip of English and German students took us on the second day to Eltz castle and the town of Koblenz. The weekend was spent with the partners and their families, and activities included the exploration of the Rhine valley, trips to various towns, bowling and cinema visits, harvesting of apples and grapes and turning them into juice and much more. One of the highlights was the Monday trip of only the English students to the Holiday Park, a theme park

with a scary rollercoaster, but no queues at all as we had the park almost to ourselves.

On the last day before the departure we went to the town of Wiesbaden and visited the 'House of the Senses'. This is a villa in a park which offers experiences of our various senses (sight, hearing, touch etc.) in a great variety of ways. One impressive example was the Dark Room, a non-alcoholic pub offering 12 fruit juices, and the whole room being completely pitch-black. So imagine ordering your drink, speaking to the barkeeper or the person next to you, drinking, paying – without seeing anything!

In the evening we said farewell at the pot-luck buffet and the disco. The return trip provided us with a visit to a chocolate factory

and the daunting prospect of suddenly getting all students off the coach and through immigration whilst hoping that the ferry would wait for us just a little longer.

It was a great trip, our students were a lovely, positive and brilliant group, and the feedback from our German partners was extremely positive. So thanks to you all – and congratulations on the amount of German you used. Thank you to Ms Jakubowski, Ms Krebs and Mr Hill for accompanying the group, the excellent coach driver, Gary, and everyone in the school who helped to make the trip possible. A final thank you to our German partners and their families for all their efforts and their hospitality. We are looking forward to their visit to MHCHS in February 2008.

What is Your Dream?

By Mrs A Monaghan

WHAT is your dream?

Most of our students want world

peace, an end to racism and world poverty. But there were some that wanted something a little different! October 4th was National Poetry Day.

The theme of National Poetry Day this year was 'Dreams'. Teachers and students were asked to share their dreams.

Teachers' Dreams

My dream is

To be more decisive I think?

A school without children

My own bed

A crisp autumn sunset, with family and friends at my side

To create resources and photocopy them by magic

To float in a glass of wine

For Blackburn Rovers to win the Premier League – Again!

That I could have more time to dream

To play paintball at school

To be constantly surrounded by huge mountains

To win the election!

No responsibility and a live-in chef

To sleep on a cloud of candy floss

To win the Poker World Championship

To win the World Trading championship

For my ambition to match my imagination

The Students' Dreams (Well, some of them!)

My dream is to become what no-one else could be

To win the bottle competition for once this year

To change and make an impact on people's lives

To own a Bentley, to meet Snoopy, to be the best that I can be

To meet McFly and Elvis, Orlando Bloom and Wayne Rooney

To be Spiderman, action man, a nurse, a millionaire, a footballer, musician, actor, dentist and an author

To touch my chin and my elbow together

To have more time to talk

To eat Jamaican bacon

To see the world through the eyes of an eagle, to see the sea through the eyes of a fish

To have family and friends and people to love

To help people learn and to carry on learning
Hopefully dreams really do come true!

7L's Dreams seemed to sum up the dreams of the students from Year 7 to Year 13.

Our dreams are to have world peace and to stop Global Warming

To stop wars, to help people around the world to find a cure for cancer.

To stop cutting down the rainforests and to make the world a better place

To stop pollution

To have no more street crime

To help poor countries and stop poverty

To give knowledge to ALL in the world

To retire a happy, healthy person

To save a whale

To watch TV all day

To stop Multiple Sclerosis

To build more schools

To be a runner and to get to The Olympics

To be a guitarist, a footballer, an international horse rider, a lawyer

To work in a celery factory

To help other people be happy!

Effort finally pays off for Y9 Hockey Team

By Monty Tang (9P)

ON WEDNESDAY 10th October 2007 Mill Hill County High School went to play at Compton School for a hockey tournament. In the tournament we played against St. James's, The Compton, Whitefields and Finchley Catholic. Mill Hill's hockey team played valiantly through the tournament and improved throughout, playing better in each game.

We have several matches coming up, and will endeavour to work on our goal scoring at training in order to prove that we can work as a team to score against our next opponents. In this tournament the team voted Parin Yadav, from 9P-SWL, Man of the Match. He had not come to training yet this

year and had not practised with the team; yet played superbly as a midfielder.

The players on the day were Azam Sheikh, Aleksei Kumar, Monty Tang, Lee Hall, Nikesh Patel, Parin Yadav and Sam Rice.

The Match Scores were:
MHCHS v Whitefield's 0-0
MHCHS v St. James 0-1
MHCHS v Compton 0-2
MHCHS v Fin. Catholic 0-1
Mill Hill v King Alfred

On Tuesday 6th November the Year 9 Mill Hill County Hockey Team went to King Alfred School to play their Year 8 Team. After a very exciting match, with outstanding play on both sides, Mill Hill lost 5-3.

We played for forty minutes in total but at 10 minute intervals we stopped for a team talk. Each quarter saw the team improve and

eventually begin to put King Alfred under pressure as we began to score against them.

The team decided that Man of the Match that day was Azam Sheikh from 9P-SWL. We voted for him because of his valiant attempts to score and for generally playing well in that match. The team was really disappointed after losing, especially after playing the best we had all season.

Then on 7th November we played King Alfred again but this time we played their Year 9 Team. With Azam and Lee upfront, Nikesh and Aqueeb in midfield, we had a team of attackers, now used to working together. In defence we had Imran in goal; Monty, Alex and Parin on pitch – again, a force to be reckoned with. Again we played for

40 minutes and within in the first 10 minutes King Alfred scored. However, within minutes we came back, scoring 2 goals; both by Aqeeb. This put us in the lead, but king Alfred caught up and by the last quarter the score was 3-3, the 3rd goal also scored by Aqeeb. Then in the last 4 minutes, in an exciting climax, Parin ran up and took a rebound from their goal keeper, flicking the ball in to score the winning goal.

We then held off attack after attack from with some great saves from our defence. The final score was 4-3 to us. As the whistle sounded Mill Hill's hockey team really cheered. We couldn't believe it! Now we really are looking forward to future matches to prove we can do it again.

Music Department

(Continued from page 8)

self energetically into school activities, with no airs and graces.

Autumn Chamber Concert

This was our first concert of the academic year and took a slightly different format from previous years. We have decided to stage our larger ensembles at the end of term concerts, so that they have longer to prepare and may attempt more challenging repertoire. The mid-term concerts will be for smaller ensembles and soloists and the Autumn Chamber Concert was the first of these.

Being only 6 weeks into the new academic year I initially thought that there would be a problem in finding enough 'quality' items for performance. However, I need not have worried since there were some outstanding performances.

Mrs Findon's Brass Group opened the concert with a rousing performance and the Lower School Trumpet group's performance was equally confidently executed. Daniel Fitch and Alon Solomon gave very confident performances

of their respective trumpet solos. There were very musical performances from each of the woodwind soloists, Sarah Comaish, Katie Beer and Rosie O'Callaghan. The Year 10 GCSE Woodwind group have only been rehearsing since the start of this term and gave a well balanced and competent performance of music from Peer Gynt.

There were very competent piano solos performed by Prinal Vadgama, Tina Luo and Helen Chua. A very entertaining piano duet, "Tea for Two" was performed by Alessandra D'Almo and Fiona Ma.

Two sixth form Music A Level students added to the variety of solos with Dimitri Pachnis performing a bass guitar solo, "Some You Win" and Mark Simmonds performing a classical guitar solo "Sons des Carrilhoes". The ensemble groups included performances from the Lower School Choir, the Flute Choir, the Junior Percussion Group, the Vocal Group and the Senior Brass Ensemble performing.

There were two striking innovations.

The 24 strong World Music Group performed "Rhythmic Medley" (African drumming) arranged and led by Rachel Maguire. It was an incredibly well coordinated performance involving a number of drumming solos in a well-structured arrangement. We also were treated to a solo performance on the Gu Zhung, a traditional Chinese instrument, performed by Xiyu Cheng in Year 7; this was most enthralling.

The 'pièce de résistance' was the Finale from the Bruch Violin Concerto performed by Jisang Choi, more than ably accompanied by Don McCanlis. I have never witnessed a more professional performance at Mill Hill County High School or one which was so deeply moving.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Music staff involved in producing this concert – Ms Heaney, Ms Maguire, Mr Duffy, Mr McCanlis, Ms Dodd, Mrs Findon and Mr Webb – for their specialist tuition and for nurturing the talents of our young musicians at this Autumn Chamber Concert.

MHCHS computers go to Ghana not dump



A FORMER temporary member of staff, Mr Mainoo, who had grown up and been educated in Ghana, contacted Mr Lambert about our out-of-date computers.

We have a programme of renewal and replacement, which is designed to ensure that we do not have computers over three years old in the school. This is not extravagance; the rate of change in computer technol-

ogy, the generally reducing cost of new hardware and the high cost of maintenance mean that our three year renewal programme is cost-effective as well as educationally desirable.

Normally we have to pay to have 3 year old computers removed, but on this occasion, Mr Mainoo said that he could arrange free transport, if we would donate our old computers to

Rockies International School, Accra.

It was the summer holiday and Mr Lambert made a unilateral decision of which I thoroughly approve. Our computers can be seen in the above photograph.

I have had a very appreciative response from the Rockies School. I do not yet know if anything more will come of this contact, but I hope that it does.

We are lucky to have an IT Technical Manager of Mr Lambert's expertise; needless to say, the hard disks were completely cleared of school data before shipment.

If any parents have experience of the opportunities and, perhaps, pitfalls of this type of international cooperation, I should be very pleased to hear from them.

MHCHS musicians shine at home and away

By Mrs M McCanlis

AS MR THOMPSON mentions on the front page, two of our lunchtime recitals this term were given by new members of the department. Mr S Duffy is a first class oboist, trained at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama. Ms R Maguire, a first class percussionist, trained at Leeds University and in Texas. Her programme included an unusual piece for hand drum and voice To The Gods of Rhythm by Nebojsa

Jovan Zivkovic.

Jacob Moriarty performs at the Coliseum

It was with great interest that four Music staff and six A level students went to the English National Opera to hear Jacob Moriarty perform in Mozart's Opera 'The Magic Flute'. Jacob sang towards the end of Act 1 as one of the three boys performing a short trio and then again, his main appearance, in Act 2. The three boys sang a trio which rang brilliantly through the Coliseum – we were so proud of Jacob

who obviously did not find the auditorium at all intimidating keeping his pitch perfectly, and justly deserving the rapturous applause both at the end of the aria and during the final bows. We all thoroughly enjoyed the opera and by the time of going to press we shall have heard Jacob in another operatic role at the Coliseum in 'The Turn of the Screw' by Benjamin Britten.

There is nothing of the Prima Donna about Jacob, who throws him-

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