

# Head's Newsletter

2003-4, Issue 6

27th February, 2004

## Introductory Remarks

THE first Newsletter of this calendar year was due to be printed on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2004, when the school was closed because of snow. I was anyway concerned that two rather old and faded photographs of Jan Harding would not reproduce well enough in black and white on our school machines, so I took the decision to have the Newsletter professionally printed that day, with the photographs in colour, so that we could meet the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2004 deadline. I also took the opportunity to have the Newsletter printed in a booklet format, rather than as single A4 sheets,

stapled in the corner. The Newsletter had been formatted to cover ten pages and there was insufficient time that day to reformat it to fill twelve pages, hence the blank inside front and back covers.

possibilities. At the same time, a professionally printed Newsletter may be more attractive to advertisers and advertising revenue could cover the costs.

## Advertising

RESPONSE to the new-style Newsletter has been highly favourable and I have decided to repeat the same format and printing method for this edition. As at present the School does not have the capacity to produce A4 booklets efficiently, though we are investigating the

My original proposal for 10 insertions for £200 was based on the costs of producing the Newsletter in School. If it is professionally printed, then this is really too cheap. However, I am already in negotiation with a number of potential advertisers, so the current price stands for the moment. One advertisement does appear inside this edition and I am

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## Emergency Contact System

REMINDER – if you do not wish to be included on the Friends' Emergency Contact List, please let us know, as per my letter to parents sent out at the beginning of February 2004.

### The Friends/PTA

#### INTERNATIONAL EVENING

Saturday, 13th March 2004

Doors Open 7 p.m.

In the Main Hall

Delicious foods from around the globe -

Entertainment—Licensed Bar—  
Raffle—International Quiz

See page 7 for further details

## Cambridge Places

Mr R Parker, Head of Year 13

I AM very proud to announce that the following students have been successful in gaining places at Oxbridge:

Victoria Flood	English	Clare College
Joel Samasuwo	Economics	Fitzwilliam College
Amanda Zambon	History	Queen's College
Michael Allen	History	Robinson College
Bhavini Dalsania	Economics	St Catherine's College

I wish each of these students every success in their forthcoming examinations. Well done!

## Maths Challenge

By Ms E Stewart

ON Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February, 60 Year 11 and 2 Year 9 students took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. We look forward to publishing the results in the next Newsletter.

## Business Studies and Economics Study Visit to Antwerp

By Mrs L Trinder

OUR visit to Antwerp took us via the town of Leuven to the east of Brussels, for our first factory tour.

The multinational Interbrew, welcomed us to their Stella Artois Brewery. The enthusiastic guides explained the brewing process as well as showing us around the main production areas. The students were surprised at how few workers actually ran the complex, the level of automation and use of

technology was very high.

Tuesday was our walking day, even more so because of wrong directions! However, the students took this in good humour and we had an interesting visit to the main Diamond Museum accompanied by some tourist board guides. This finished with an informative and interesting walk around the historic diamond quarter.

The port of Antwerp was simply enormous. We travelled around it by coach

and saw many of the industries that have set up in the area. As well as the import and export of many goods, there are major petrochemical and agricultural products industries which employ large numbers of people.

The weather was extremely mild and my recommendation for warm coats seemed out of place. The quality of the visits and the enthusiasm of the guides made it a visit to be remembered.

## Governors' Report

The Governors' will shortly be distributing a copy of their Publication Scheme, listing the classes of information which they publish or intend to publish, the manner in which the information will be published; and whether the information is available free of charge or on payment. Copies will be sent home with students.

## Geography Fieldtrips

By Mr J Gunzi

THE Geography Department has begun its busy fieldtrip season. The Year 12 group spent a week in Devon at the Slapton Ley Field Study Centre with Mr Gunzi and Ms Tai, collecting data for their coursework. A good time was had by all and remarkably the weather stayed unseasonably dry. Approximately 140 Year 7

students will enjoy a trip to London in early March and Year 8 students will be visited by Gina Rose, who will describe how she runs a school in Malawi on charitable donations from the UK. Gina is a remarkable young woman who helps students understand what it really means to grow up in one of

the poorest countries in the world.

Additionally, fieldtrips for Year 8—Kew Gardens in April; Year 10—Dorset in May; and Year 9—Switzerland in July, are coming up fast.

## Piece from Mr Fowler

By Mr G Fowler

### Ski 2004

By Miss H Galloway

THE 2004 school ski trip to the resort of Marsella in the Spanish Pyrenees, during the half term break, was a resounding success. There was plenty of snow, and for the most part the sun shone brightly. On the first skiing day the temperature was a wonderful 25 ° C. There was a real camaraderie amongst the students and they quickly gave themselves group names. The Snowplough Slowies, (The beginner's group who made excellent

progress throughout the week), The Dominos, (Look out for the reason why on the ski video), The Sexies, (Aptly named after their easy eye on the instructor), the top intermediates named themselves after their favourite ski lift, or so they claimed!, and Santa's Little Helpers (Mr Fowler can explain this one for you.) Great fun was had on the slopes by all of the groups, and everyone's skiing improved enormously. In fact Sam Moore felt so confident

that he decided to lead his beginners group off down a blue run instead of a green. They all coped admirably and Sam tried to claim afterwards that it was an accident. We believe you Sam!

Snow fell on two of our skiing sessions, which made visibility poor at the top of the mountain. Fortunately we could always rely on Mr Smith's bright orange hat, which he failed to coordinate with his vast array of

luminous socks, to act as a beacon through the mist. Further down the mountain, Mill Hill students knew they were on the right track, as they could not fail to recognise Michael Hagai's stylish, retro yellow ski jacket! The advanced group had a wonderful time skiing off piste through the trees, and Katherine Harris is now seriously considering a career as a tree hugger! On one such woodland occasion, Mr Smith picked a fight with a large rock, and although he put up a good fight, we have to admit that the rock won. Ms Irvine's group's instructor proclaimed that he had never taught a beginners' group which had made so much progress so quickly. Danny Fabrizi obviously felt that his group were taking an unreasonably long time reaching the bottom of the mountain and shot off through the trees to investigate a short cut. He arrived at the bottom and patiently waited for the other skiers to glide calmly down the slope.

The students really enjoyed skiing alongside the teachers and laughing at our mistakes, but the quote of the week has to be from Chris McDermott. When he found himself trapped in a four-person chair lift with Mr Smith, Mr Hudson and Ms Tai, he said, "This is the worst experience of my life." Come on now Chris was it really that bad? The supremely dedicated Mr Woolf caught many of our ski experiences on camera. I say

dedicated, as a witness to the time when he took a nosedive into deep snow, and despite being buried from head to foot, managed to keep his arm up and the camera safe and dry. Mr Smith, Ms Stewart and I helped out with the filming with some, but not total success. I spent a lot of time filming snow and Mr Smith filmed for a substantial period with the lens cap on. Thank goodness for editing!

Off the slopes was nearly as much fun as on. The hotel was excellent with great food and good facilities at our disposal. Georgia Greenham and Victoria Mabbett flew the flag for Mill Hill by winning the table tennis tournament. They cruised to victory with a resounding win over Dean McQueen and Duncan Quigley. Ms Howard also did her best in the tournament but was widely proclaimed to be rubbish! Mill Hill also came a respectable second during crazy night, (don't ask) despite a valiant attempt by some of our students to bribe the judges! We had a fantastic evening at the local skating rink and a wonderful time at the karaoke event at the hotel. Mill Hill students really shone, with excellent performances from Jessica Costin, Claire Morgan, Suzie Jones, Georgia Greenham, Adele Roberts, Georgia Millful, Florentina Argenio and Nicole Aristides. The star of the show however, was none other than our very own Duncan Quigley. Boy can the

boy sing. (Even with gum in his mouth.) The disco gave our students another opportunity to impress, and Michael McDermott reigned supreme, with his unique version of the funky chicken dance!

The shopping trip, down the mountain in the local town, was an interesting event. It was cold and snowing so we only had forty-five minutes to make purchases. Despite this limited amount of time Ms Chan still managed to buy three tops, two cardigans and a pair of jeans. No wonder she was late back! Dean McQueen's shopping bag was odder still. He bought himself a potty! No, it was not a long way from his room to the toilet, the rooms were all ensuite, Duncan bought it to eat his morning cereal out of. (At least this is what he tells us.)

Overall Mill Hill students conducted themselves in a polite and respectful manner. Both the ski school and the hotel management remarked on their exemplary behaviour. They were wonderful ambassadors for the school and a pleasure to take away. Well done to you all. Finally, it has to be noted that despite many protests to the contrary, Mr Hudson did fall off the button lift! Roll on Ski 2005.

*(Please turn to the back page to see a picture of the Santa's Little Helpers group.)*

## News about Students

By Mrs N. Mann, Head of Year 7

ON Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> February, Nadav Karmazin was invited to the London South Bank University to a 'Table Tennis Excellence in Education Day'. He was one of just 14 students of school age who were individually invited from across the UK to participate in this event.

The day was intended to provide gifted table-tennis players with an insight into what it takes to compete at the highest level in this highly demanding sport, whilst maintaining good progress through all stages of education.

Nadav received coaching from top coaches that included Matthew Syed, England's No 1 and Commonwealth Champion. He had a very exciting and exhausting day and I congratulate him on being selected to participate in this very special event.

## PART TIME TELEPHONE WORK AVAILABLE

Are you looking for work to  
fit in with school hours?

Hours to suit  
We are a local Edgware office  
(5 mins from school)  
No experience needed  
Full training given  
Basic + guaranteed bonuses

Call Joan 020 8905 6120

## EASTER HOLIDAY REVISION COURSES

Daily Easter Revision Courses at Mill Hill County High School

GCSE, Year 10, and AS/A2 Level

The perfect way to prepare for your exams during the school holidays

20% Discount for MHCHS students on 2 subject courses or more

- Small Group Revision with enthusiastic tutors
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We guarantee pass grades or offer a FREE COURSE

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*Mobile 07850 553513*  
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*February 2004*

Dear Parents,

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

As you will no doubt be aware, on occasions such as bad weather and/or other emergency situations the school has to close at very short notice. I am delighted that the Friends are putting together an emergency contact list, which will be very useful to us all on these rare occasions. The system should be up and running within the next couple of weeks. Each form will have its own nominated parents who will contact other parents in an emergency to notify them of when the school will be closed. Once this system is set up, it will be very easy to update at the beginning of every academic year. I thank all parents who have offered to help with this system.

The Friends are very excited about our forthcoming '*International Evening*', when we will be delighted to welcome 'Xara' as one of our many star performers on this evening. Xara had a top ten hit just last year, and has worked with artists such as Busted, Atomic Kitten, Pink & The Sugar Babes. Many of our own students are also performing in their own capacity providing some wonderful International Themes. I welcome all parents and their families & friends to this evening where you can come and sample some delicious foods from all around the world, plus an international quiz, compiled and presented by the students. We will have our ever popular raffle and a licensed bar offering a wide selection of drinks to suit everyone. This will be a great opportunity to come and socialise with other parents and friends. Please see our enclosed flyer and tear off slip for details of tickets, and hurry!!!! as seats are going fast.

The Friends hold regular meetings for all parents who are welcome to come and discuss matters of interest to the school, or simply to listen to others. Our next PTA meeting will be on Thursday March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7.45pm in G1. I look forward to seeing you there.

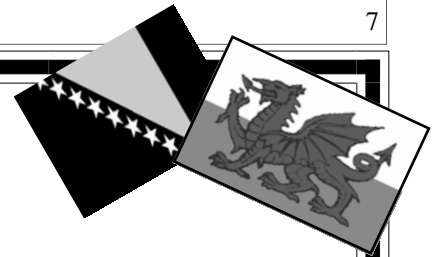
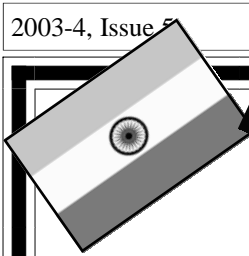
With my very best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

VICKY CHURCHILL  
Chairman of the Friends/PTA

## **HELP REQUIRED**

'The Friends' are looking for parents who can prepare Greek Food for their International Evening on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March. If you can assist us in anyway, please contact Sally Weights on 020 8346 4735. We are also looking for parents who can help serve food during this evening, if you can help in this area please contact Sally – Thank You.



The Friends/PTA  
Present An  
**International Evening**

*Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March*  
*in the Main School Hall, doors open 7pm*

Your chance to sample some delicious foods from around the globe  
This Fun Filled Evening Holds Something For Everyone  
**INCLUDING**

**CHART TOPPING STAR 'Xara'**  
*Song & Dance ~ An International Quiz*  
*Organised and presented by the students*  
*Drama ~ Music ~ Poetry*

~

*Come along, meet friends, parents*  
*and sample a variety of tasty treats!*

~

*Licensed bar will be available (no outside drinks)*

~

*All this, plus a chance to win some fantastic prizes in our delightful **Raffle***

**Tickets for the evening now on sale ~ Adults £8.50, Children £6.00 ~ No tickets sold on the door**

~

*This promises to be fun evening whilst raising funds for our school*  
*We look forward to seeing you on the night*

~

**To Book Your Seats:** *Please complete the tear off slip below and return it via the main school reception. Please mark your envelope with 'The Friends International Evening'.*  
**Tickets will be allocated via school and returned to you. PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH IN THE POST**

.....

*The Friends International Evening Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2004*

**PLEASE PRINT YOUR DETAILS**

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel No \_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Form \_\_\_\_\_

Number of adult tickets required \_\_\_\_\_ £8.50 per ticket

Number of Child tickets required \_\_\_\_\_ £6.00 per ticket

I enclose a cheque made payable to The Friends of M.H.C.H.S for \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian (please sign) \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

All Enquires Please Call Sally Weights on 020 8346 4735

## Calendar

This Newsletter can be found on the school's website: [mhchs.org.uk](http://mhchs.org.uk)

Request for ads in future?

### March

Thursday, 4 <sup>th</sup>	Year 7 Geography Fieldtrip to London Year 13 Comedy Theatre (Evening)
Tuesday, 9 <sup>th</sup>	Year 11 Study Skill Seminar
Wednesday, 10 <sup>th</sup>	Year 11 Study Skill Seminar Year 10 Oliver Twist, Lyric Theatre
Thursday, 11 <sup>th</sup>	Maths Masterclass in School
Saturday, 13 <sup>th</sup>	Friends' Quiz Evening
Wednesday, 17 <sup>th</sup>	Year 12 Herts University
Monday, 22 <sup>nd</sup>	RS A' Level Conference School Show Technical Rehearsal, 3.30—9.00 p.m.
Tuesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 12 Parents' Evening
Wednesday, 24 <sup>th</sup>	Full Governors' Meeting
Thursday, 25 <sup>th</sup>	School Show, first Dress Rehearsal, 3.30—9.00 p.m.
Friday, 26 <sup>th</sup>	Year 12 Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award departs
Saturday, 27 <sup>th</sup>	Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award students return
Monday, 29 <sup>th</sup>	School Show
Tuesday, 30 <sup>th</sup>	School Show
Wednesday, 31 <sup>st</sup>	School Show

### April

Thursday, 1 <sup>st</sup>	School Show Year 8 Take Your Children To Work Day
Friday, 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Staff v. School Netball, 1.30 p.m. Staff v. School Football, 2.30 p.m. End of Term, 2.30 p.m.

**N.B. The next Newsletter will be distributed on Friday, 2nd April not on the last Friday of March.**



Santa's Little Helpers Ski-ing group at Masella in Spain during the half-term break. (See article pages 3-4)