



# Mill Hill County High School

## Head's Newsletter

2006-7, Issue 5

Tuesday, 6th February 2007

### Eleven Oxford & Cambridge offers for Y13

I AM delighted to report that no fewer than eleven Year 13 students have secured offers of places at Oxbridge colleges. This is an unprecedented success. The previous record of seven offers was set two years ago, but this included students from two year groups, two students having applied after leaving school.

The range of subjects is gratifyingly wide, but pride of place goes to the Business Studies and Economics Department for a magnificent trio of offers.

All eleven students have multiple interests, many pursued to a notable standard and many fostered by the school. I give, below, some brief details of the successful students; perhaps younger students might be inspired by these.

Following directly on from the external endorsements of our overall A Level service and of our service to students with Special Educational Needs, detailed in my last Newsletter, these Oxbridge successes provide further evidence of the

school's ability to meet the needs of all its students, in this case, its most able.

Clearly, the most important factor in obtaining an Oxbridge offer is to be an able, multi-talented applicant, but if that was all there was to it, 50% of Oxbridge places would not go to independent school students, who account for only 7% of the school population. Our extremely well-managed Sixth Form offers academically excellent teaching, carefully planned programmes of Oxbridge

preparation, including a valuable collaboration with Mill Hill School, and high quality individual advice and guidance.

The students do still have to achieve top A2 grades, but, without wishing to tempt fate, it is rare for students who have Oxbridge offers to fail to be able to take them up.

I offer my heartiest congratulations to all these students and to the staff who teach them and who have prepared them for application and interview.

**Adamna Abalunam**—Law at King's College Cambridge. 10 A\*s at GCSE. 5As at AS in History, French, Chemistry, Maths and Latin. British & Nigerian nationality. Born in USA. Heavily involved in Black History Month organisation., including writing and directing a short play.

**Jed Cinnamon**—History at New College, Oxford. 6A\*s, 3As at GCSE. 4As at AS. Published in the *Watford Observer*. Commended in the Vallacott History Prize (Peterhouse, Cambridge) for an essay challenging Lenin's interpretation of WW1 as imperialist. Captained his football team for 5 years.

**Meera Ganeshadevan**—Chemistry at Oxford. 8A\*s, 2As at GCSE. 3As, 1B at AS. Chairs Sixth Form Council. Captain of Kingston Institute of Tamil Culture netball team.

**Andreas Georgiou**—Economics at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. 8A\*s, 2As at GCSE. 4As, 1B at AS, including full marks in AS Economics. Thinks he underachieved in Year 10 mathematics and science, but scored 100% in GCSE Science modules in Year 10! Exceptional footballer and keen on rugby and athletics.

**Sam Goldscheider**—Music at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. 8A\*s and 3As at GCSE. Grade 8 trumpeter and pianist. Orchestra, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Brass Group, many solo performances. Student at the Royal Academy of Music's Junior Academy since age 11. Karate black belt. Bilingual in English and Czech. Keen footballer.

**Jiho Han**—Engineering at Clare College, Cambridge. South Korean. 3A\*s, 3As, 3Cs at GCSE at Christ's College, within a year of moving to England from South Korea, with very limited English. Grade 8 pianist, who also gives lessons. Teaches Taekwondo. Last year, grew sunflowers and

planted them around the school.

**Amber Kenner**—French & German at St Catharine's College, Cambridge. Identical twin of Chloe, below. 7A\*s, 3As at GCSE. 4As, 1B at AS. Senior Prefect, member of Student Management Team, School Council, Student Appointments Board. Tutor at Kumon Mathematics Centre. Clarinettist in school bands. Involved in Toy Sweep, (a project to help disabled and underprivileged children). Member of FZY (political and cultural exchange with Israel).

**Chloe Kenner**—Economics at Pembroke College, Cambridge. Identical twin of Amber, above. 6A\*s, 5As at GCSE. 4As, 1B at AS (297 marks out of 300 in AS Economics). Senior Prefect, Millennium Volunteer, Peer Listener, Anti-Bullying Committee. Tutor at Kumon Mathematics Centre. Toy Sweep and FZY as above.

**Chris Kourra**—Chemistry at St Hugh's College, Oxford. 10A\*s, 1A at GCSE. 3As, 1B at AS. Senior Prefect, member of Student Management Team, (completely rewrote the school's break/lunchtime arrangements for lower school). Millennium Volunteer. British Chess Challenge (for 3 years).

**Pinal Parekh**—Medicine at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. 11A\*s and 1A at GCSE, including 100% in GCSE Science. 4As at AS. School Prefect, member of Student Management Team (charities). Millennium Volunteer. Volunteers weekly at Edgware Hospital.

**Anjali Shah**—Economics at Girton College, Cambridge. 6A\*s, 5As at GCSE. 4As at AS with full marks in 4 of her 12 AS modules. Member of Student Management Team, (charities). Runs Book Aid (unwanted books for African schools). Grade 7 keyboard.

## Year 11 Students and Motorised Transport

IT APPEARS that our various school policies do not make specific reference to the use of mopeds, motorised scooters etc., by Year 11 students, in order to travel to and from school. I think that this is because the question has not arisen before, certainly in my time at MHCHS or at any of the schools where I have previously worked.

Some interest in driving mopeds to school has arisen in the current Year 11 and we now need to clarify our policy accordingly.

I have absolutely no doubt that it would be madness for the school to permit Year 11 students to drive any form of motor vehicle to school.

This area is noted for

traffic congestion. The immediate approaches to the school are woefully inadequate for the volume of pedestrian and vehicular traffic created by the school.

If even a handful of students had permission to park mopeds on the school site, there would inevitably be accidents. I do not wish to sound critical or superior when talking about my Year 11 students. No doubt the vast majority of them would be highly responsible and competent drivers. Some, however, would succumb to the temptation to show off, to race, or to give other students a go on their moped, possibly as a result of unfair peer pressure. Those risks are in addition to the normal risks of grossly over-

crowded streets and from bad driving by others.

I would like to make reference to the policy on Sixth Form driving, which is currently under review. Sixth Formers are permitted to drive to school, subject to some restrictions. A very small percentage do. In the past year, there have been five accidents in the streets around the school, involving three cars, one motorcycle and one scooter, caused, I believe, by student error. Crucially, there were no injuries in the accidents involving cars, but the motorcycle/scooter accidents produced a case of ligament damage and a fractured leg. The accident rate, considering the small percentage who drive or ride motor ve-

hicles to school, is alarmingly high and I am only referring to accidents which occurred on our doorstep.

It is for these reasons that I make explicit a policy which has been generally understood but not previously written down.

**Year 11 students may not drive mopeds or other motorised vehicles to school.**

It follows that no parking facilities will be provided.

I very much hope that parents will welcome this policy as an important source of protection for their children. As in all matters, I shall be very happy to receive parental comment.

## Southgate Hockey Tournament

**By Monty Tang 8P**

ON Thursday, November 30th 2006, the Year 8 Boys' Hockey Team went to the Southgate Tournament to compete. Sadly, our team did not come anywhere in the tournament, but we played with pride because we know we tried our best throughout the tournament.

With every match our team improved but apparently not enough. Each of the matches lasted 10 minutes one way and continued throughout the afternoon with four minutes between each match to talk about positions and tactics.

Although schools from any area could enter, one of our toughest oppositions was Compton High School. They were highly skilled and also they were good sports. After they won the match they shook our hands and complimented our playing skills. Although we did not come anywhere this

time, we will train hard and will be ready and waiting to win next year!

The following people were playing in the Southgate Tournament for Mill Hill County:

Azam Sheikh, Monty Tang, Imran Choudhury, Aqueeb Khan, Aleksei Kumar, Sam Rice, Nikesh Patel, Anish Patel, Lee Hall.

**By Mrs van Oosterom**

AFTER many changes in the hockey team this year, the boys played a warm up match this season at Compton. Unfortunately, they were faced with an opposition of club players who regularly train on AstroTurf during their lessons. The lads enjoyed the game and took it as a welcome practice for the impending tournament, where schools from all over the area play.

This served to highlight points the team could work

on in order to succeed against teams of this standard in the future. They knew that Compton was to be one of the teams they would play at Southgate, and were keen to improve against them on the day.

During the following few weeks the team trained very hard every Wednesday, working on their basics and team play. As they were not used to playing together and some members were new to training this year they were looking forward to gelling as a team at the tournament.

When they arrived at Southgate AstroTurf, Trent Park, they warmed up as a team and were determined to enjoy the afternoon. After their performance at the last match they had some key points to work on, and in their first game they began to achieve their first target. They were set a team target every match, which they met every time.

Although the afternoon

was very tiring, with seven matches and the only breaks between matches being the 4 minute change over, the team got better every match and improved on their tactics and game play each time.

They really enjoyed the afternoon and teams that we drew against or had a very close match with were keen to have rematches. The team have continued to train hard every week and are keen to show how well they are playing together, so watch this space for rematches!

A special well done goes to Imran, who was voted 'Man of the Tournament' by the team.

Southgate Hockey Club are looking for new players in their junior section, so check out:

[www.southgatehc.org.uk/](http://www.southgatehc.org.uk/)

for more information.

# Jack Petchey Award Scheme, Autumn 2006

By Mr S Smith

THE Jack Petchey Award Scheme is now in its second year of operation at the school. The Jack Petchey foundation provides a financial input into the school, on a monthly basis, in recognition of the contribution made to the school or the local community by young people.

Students receive a certificate in school and, at the end of the year, are then invited to a Barnet presentation evening where winners from all the Barnet schools participating are awarded a medallion to recognise their success.

At Mill Hill, nominations are received from both staff and students. Parents, too, can make nominations, with the nominations box being placed in reception so it is accessible to parents visiting the school. Once nominations are received, a monthly winner is selected by a panel of three consisting of one member of staff and two student representatives of the School Council.

The monthly contribution to the school is £300 and the student who wins the award is able to nominate

what they wish the money to be spent on. Over the last year this has included the purchase of a couple of digital cameras, new tennis nets and other equipment for PE, benches, additional resources in the Library and equipment for Technology.

During the course of last term, nominations were received for Deborah Kaiser 13H, Francesca McGloughlin 11K, Cameron Borhani 11F, Lara Kendall 12F, Christiana Obasola 9L, Vicky Dixon 10H, Sophie Hewitt 12P, Oreolutofunmi Agbaniyaka 7F, Elizabeth Haxhikadrija 7F and Mehjabeen Mohamed 9L.

However, the monthly winners selected by the panel were as follows:

**September** – Adio Kokiya of form 8K. Adio was nominated by his form supported by Mr Randall, Mr Mulligan and Ms Thomson. Adio's form noted his commitment to 'whole school' life. He has been involved in a number of areas: Spanish Club, football and rugby clubs. He gave up his time to referee the Year 7 House football, makes a significant contribution to the form and is always ready and willing to carry out tasks in the classroom.

**October** – Rachel Kettle of form 13M. Rachel was nominated by Katie Andrews and supported by other members of the Sixth Form for the contribution that she made to the organisation of events during Black History month.

**November** – Mona Kalanter. She was nominated by the other members of her form, 9J, for the work that she puts into the school environment and as a member of the Environmental Club. Thank you to Mrs Mansfield, Raza Hassan and Kavya Kaushik who selected the winners from the nominations.

If you feel that there are individuals in school who have made a significant contribution to school or to local community life in any way at all, then please put their name forward in nomination in the new spring term. There is an awful lot done by very many students.

The Jack Petchey Foundation helps us to be able to recognise this in a small way but this is dependent on recognition being given by everybody across the school through the nomination process.

## Safe Use of ICT

By Mr D Worthy

RECENTLY I have been speaking to the students, through assemblies, about the risks that are associated with the use of the Internet.

I have particularly focused on: -

- the use of the technology to bully and intimidate others;
- the possibilities of adults using the Internet to make contact with children and solicit personal information from them;
- the risks associated with the students accessing 'inappropriate' websites.

In school we have a rigorous security system in place to protect the students and I am pleased to say that occurrences of this kind are rare. We also make use of software which enables us to

monitor the work that the students do. These risks are, of course, not restricted to the school environment and so I would ask that you ensure that your own security software is active and has the appropriate restrictions applied.

For further advice and guidance (for you and your children) I can recommend the following websites:

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)  
[www.KidSmart.org.uk](http://www.KidSmart.org.uk)  
[www.gridclub.com](http://www.gridclub.com)

Examples of software to help protect your computer are available at:

[www.marshall.com](http://www.marshall.com)  
[www.netnanny.com](http://www.netnanny.com)  
[www.cyberpatrol.com](http://www.cyberpatrol.com)

Thank you for your support on this issue.

## GCSE, AS & A Level Certificates available for collection

Mr K Hudson

ALL GCSE, AS and A level certificates for the 2006 series of examinations are now available for collection from Reception.

If these certificates are not collected, they will be returned to the examination boards by December 2008.

It is imperative that students collect their certificates. Failure to do so will undoubtedly cause problems when seeking college or university places and, similarly, employment.

All organisations have tightened recruitment procedures because of problems

of identity fraud and it is certainly the case that access to courses and the taking up of employment will be denied where evidence of public examination results cannot be confirmed.

Furthermore, in the past year we have had three cases of former students whose initial applications to emigrate have certainly failed because individuals cannot prove that they have the qualifications which they are claiming to have achieved.

Once collected, we would advise that certificates are stored very securely.

# The Singer Interview

By Mr M Singer

YUSUF Narcin is a Year 10 student who plays bass trombone in the National Children's Orchestra. He is also famous for appearing in Mr Ian Wright's television programme "Unfit Kids". He spoke to Mr Singer earlier this week.

"I first started to learn the tenor trombone during Year 4 at school. My parents encouraged rather than forced me and the choice of instrument was my own.

"I later switched to bass trombone during Year 8 as there was more demand for this instrument and I have continued with it ever since. I started euphonium during Year 9 because it's always handy to have a second instrument.

"I auditioned successfully for the National Children's Orchestra in 2003. You had to play two pieces in different styles. I chose a jazz piece and a romantic classical piece. You have to audition again in your second year, but this was successful, too.

"Although I am naturally quite a musical person, a huge amount of practice is needed in order to improve and, although the idea of having to practise might be a little daunting, once I get started, I enjoy every minute of it.

"Although it is fun to play, I don't listen to much classical music. My favourite piece is Scheherazade, by Rimsky-Korsakov. The part written for the bass trombone utilises the full range of the instrument and is very demanding to perform. It puts a lot of strain on the player's lips and this can lead to painful soreness!

"My favourite bands are "King Crimson", "Dragon Force" and "Primus". I think that all musicians, whether rock, pop, heavy metal or

classical, show great skill and expertise.

"I've been lucky enough to take part in several music tours to other countries. I went to Germany with the school Concert Band in the summer of 2005. It was great fun as everyone knew everyone else. We played to large audiences in bandstands and shopping malls.

"I joined the Barnet Youth Wind Orchestra in 2005 and we went to Verona in Italy in 2006. I'm also going to Paris with the Barnet Youth Brass Band in the summer of 2007.

"The most spectacular tour was a two week trip with the NCO during the October half term break last year. We went to China, visiting and performing in the main cities of Beijing and Shanghai. There was a lot of publicity for this trip on the Classic FM radio station, as they are one of our main sponsors.

"We played in the "Forbidden City" concert hall and also took part in the Beijing Music Festival. During this tour I played the euphonium because one of our performance pieces, the "Planets Suite", has a part for this instrument.

"Chinese television broadcast interviews with players from our orchestra in a programme which set out to interest young people in playing an instrument.

"There was a great feeling of independence during this trip, with audiences no longer made up of family and friends as often happens back home.

"On one evening, our concert coincided with one given by the BBC Symphony Orchestra on the other side of town. They

played the same programme as we did but we had a far bigger audience!

"My week tends to be pretty busy with rehearsals and music lessons. This is what a typical week might be like: -

Sunday Occasionally involved with a Klezmer band from my local synagogue.

Monday Euphonium lesson at school for 30 minutes and a 1 hour School Brass Group rehearsal at lunchtime.

Tuesday School Big Band rehearsal at lunchtime for 1 hour.

Wednesday Brass Quintet rehearsal for 1 hour at lunchtime and a Concert Band rehearsal after school for 1 hour.

Thursday: Barnet Youth Brass Band rehearsals from 5.00pm—7.00pm in North Finchley.

Friday Barnet Youth Wind Orchestra rehearsals from 5.00pm to 7.30pm in North Finchley.

Saturday Royal College of Music from 9.00am to 5.00pm. This includes a 45 minute bass trombone lesson, a musicianship



theory lesson, a piano lesson and symphony orchestra and brass decet rehearsals.

"I was selected to take part in the television programme called "Unfit Kids"

with Ian Wright, after 30 school PE departments in Barnet were asked to choose children who disliked PE.

"A final group of 8 was then chosen to take part in the programme after racing against each other. They agreed to do the film sessions on a Tuesday evening, my only free evening of the week.

"I still found it difficult to attend all the sessions because this was my only opportunity to see friends and relax, so I didn't turn up to a few.

"As you might have been able to tell from the programme, I didn't like it and really didn't see much point in it. The only enjoyable thing was being able to say and do more or less what I wanted to, as, unlike school, the film makers had no real control over us.

"I enjoyed being non-conformist, undisciplined and disruptive! The down side was being approached by total strangers on the bus with the line: "Don't I know you?"

"With so many things going on each week, my school work has suffered and I will give up a lot of these activities this year, in order to concentrate on my GCSEs.

"The NCO only has players up to the age of 14, so this has been my final year with them. In future, I have a choice of entry into either "Encore", which is made up of ex-NCO members, or the National Youth Orchestra, which will require two rounds of auditions. The National Youth Orchestra has played at the annual BBC Promenade concerts at the Royal Albert Hall.

"I would very much like to have a career in music when I am older, perhaps working as a sound engineer which would combine my two greatest interests, music and I.T."

# First XI Half-time Review

By Mr D Edwards

TWO wins, two draws and a loss during the months of November and December was a fine return for the school first XI. A sign of the quality and ambition of the squad was that they feel disappointed not to have done better.

Comprehensive wins over Isleworth, 4-1, and last year's champions Southgate, 7-5, were excellent results. Against Isleworth, Mill Hill played an attractive brand of football and were rewarded with goals from Georgiou (2), Hayes and

Taylor. Raymond Soko took the man-of-the-match award.

The 7-5 result showed a lot of spirit and attacking flair. Justin Phil-Ebosie's pace caused plenty of problems for the Southgate defence and there was a fine hat-trick for Manish Taylor in this hugely entertaining game.

Further goals came from Justin, Jack Prowse, Jack Brown and Chidi. This victory completed the home and away double over the trophy holders.

Both games against Alexandra Park were par-

ticularly frustrating. Mill Hill led in both games with a minute to go but conceded late equalisers due to a combination of nerves, over cautious defending and 'unfortunate' refereeing decisions.

The very last game before Christmas brought little festive joy as Mill Hill succumbed to a useful

Woodhouse team. Mill Hill took an early lead and piled on the pressure for much of the game but ended up losing 2-1 despite having some great chances to win.

A great first half of the season puts the team in a fine position for a real chance of reaching one of the all important top 4 play-off places.

Top Goal Scorers	Goals
Georgiou	6
Chidi	5
Taylor	5
Brown	2
Raymond	1
Hayes	1
Prowse	1
Phil-Ebosie	1

Appearances	Starts	Sub	Total	Goals
Borna	8		8	
Brown	8		8	1
Raymond	7		7	1
Hayes	7		7	1
Weintroub	7		7	
Prowse	7		7	1
Chidi	7		7	5
Constantinou	6	1	7	
Georgiou	6	1	7	6
Demetris	5	2	7	
Taylor	5	2	7	4
Andreas	4	3	7	
Edoman	3	2	5	
Phil-Ebosie	3	2	5	1
Stopps	2		2	
Horsley	2		2	
Burke	1	2	3	
Aihme	1		1	

TEAM	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	Points	Points Percentage
Latymer Upper	2	2	0	0	5	1	4	100%
West London Ac	9	8	0	1	32	11	16	89%
John Lyon	5	4	0	1	10	6	8	80%
Finchley CHS	12	9	1	2	33	19	19	79%
Uxbridge	7	5	0	2	20	10	10	71%
Woodhouse	11	8	0	3	28	16	16	73%
Latymer (Edm)	6	4	0	2	27	11	8	67%
<b>Mill Hill</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>65%</b>
Harrow College	5	3	0	2	12	7	6	60%
Card Vaughan	6	3	1	2	8	9	7	58%
Enfield	7	4	0	3	11	9	8	57%
Ashmole	11	4	3	4	24	18	11	50%
Fortismere	12	5	1	6	28	37	11	46%
St.Ignatius	7	3	0	4	15	9	6	43%
East Barnet	13	4	0	9	25	41	8	31%
Southgate Coll	5	1	1	3	11	17	3	30%
Bishop Stopford	7	2	0	5	11	15	4	29%
Alexandra Park	8	1	2	5	14	28	4	25%
St.Dominic's	5	0	1	4	6	20	1	10%
Christ's College	6	0	1	5	7	14	1	8%
Drayton Manor	7	2	0	5	4	20	4	0%
Isleworth/Syon	6	0	0	6	5	23	0	0%

# Mill Hill County Students Enjoy Success at the London Schools' Trampolining Championships

By Mrs van Oosterom

FOR some students, this was the first opportunity to participate in an official trampolining competition – a scary prospect!

On Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2006, twenty-one students arrived at Harlington Sports Centre in West London. After an hour's journey, students were both apprehensive and tired.

Due to a flood at the original venue for the competition, the venue had been changed at the last minute. This was a distinct disadvantage for most of our students, as the only trampolines available at the new venue were far bouncier than those at school. This was quite unfortunate as students had to spend their warm up turns getting used to the trampolines, rather than perfecting their routines ready for the impending competition.

However, everyone remained very positive about their routines, and rose to the challenge. As many other competitors were club trampolinists, they had the advantage of already being used to the trampolines; but that did not put our students off. They enthusiastically tried out the choice of trampolines and quickly adapted to the pressured atmosphere in the sports hall.

The London Schools' Trampolining Competition was a difficult competition to begin with, as it is always extremely official, with five qualified judges and one senior judge per panel and an efficient and well structured atmosphere. Participants only have one attempt at each of their two routines in official competitions and are heavily penalised if they make a

mistake. This added to the pressure that the students were under, especially for those who have not experienced a competition before.

Throughout the day everyone gave their absolute best in both their routines and their many hours of preparation paid off as they executed their routines with as much precision as possible. Students were aiming to get better marks from their second routines, even though for most students the second routine was the harder one. It was really refreshing to see students concentrate on what they could do to improve in their second routines and helping each other out with tips. This mature approach to their routines proved to be very effective for them, as most students improved greatly in their marks.

This year's results were the best so far in this competition. Three of our teams and one individual qualified for the Zonal round of the competition, meaning that they will be competing against the top competitors from all the other regions in the South of England. This is a huge achievement, especially for one team and one individual as this was their very first trampolining competition.

## Results:

U13GNOVICE	26th	Rebecca Freeman
U13BNOVICE	6th	Adam Morqrane
U13BNOVICE	7th	Dion Laughton
U13BNOVICE	9th	Thomas Freeman
U13BNOVICE	10th	Marcello Cruz
U13BNOVICE	11th	Osimo Unoarumhi
U15GNOVICE	9th	Charlotte Lloyd
U15GNOVICE	10th	Charlotte Gomm
U15GNOVICE	14th	Jesse McDonagh
U15GNOVICE	15th	Sheli Epstein

U15GNOVICE	19th	Lara Ozturk
U15GNOVICE	28th	Natasha Wood
U15GNOVICE	30th	Jacqueline Yong
U15GNOVICE	Points Scored	Pip Milful
U15GNOVICE	Points Scored	Charlotte England
U15GNOVICE	Points Scored	Emma Mercer
U15GNOVICE	Points Scored	Alex Luke
U15BNOVICE	5th	Elliot Walton
U15BNOVICE	10th	Sam Duggan
U15BNOVICE	11th	Jayvon McGlone
U15BNOVICE	12th	Jake Pearce

## Qualifications to the South of England Trampolining Championships on the 20.01.07

Daniella Nacul – 4<sup>th</sup> Individual.

Shelli Epstein, Charlotte Lloyd, Jessie McDonagh, Emma Mercer - 2<sup>nd</sup> Team.

Dion Laughton, Adam Moqrane, Mauricio Cruz, Tom Freeman - 2<sup>nd</sup> Team.

Elliot Walton, Jake Pearce, Jayvon McGlone, Sam Duggan – 3<sup>rd</sup> Team.

Thank you to Miss Rentsch and all the parents who helped out on the day, and to Mr Hallam for helping to train the squads.

During the exam period, squad training will be Tuesday & Wednesday mornings for all squads, and then will return to normal after the exams: A squad – Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, B squad Monday & Thursdays after school.

The next competition will be the Barnet Championships in March. Club for non-squad members will begin after the exams, so please check the PE website regularly for details.

## Would you like a signed Arsenal shirt for £1?

AS part of the Year 7 Football Team's fundraising efforts, I am pleased to announce that we will be running a competition to win a signed Arsenal FC home shirt. You can win this fantastic prize by buying a raffle ticket from Mr. Randall in the PE department; tickets will also go on sale at various points around the school so keep your eyes open for more information!

The shirt has been signed by the entire 1<sup>st</sup> team and comes complete with a certificate of authenticity. Thanks must go to the Charity Department at Arsenal FC for donating the prize and many thanks to Freddie and Joe Miles for their support in organising this.

You can buy as many tickets as you like and the competition is open to all! Dig deep for a good cause!

# Physical Education Department Website

By Mrs van Oosterom

THE Physical Education website is finally up and running! It contains several pages which include clubs, sports pages, School Sports Partnership, Key Stage 3 + 4 pages, GCSE and A Level pages, and achievements of our students. You can access the website directly from the School Homepage via a link on the top left.

The GCSE and A Level pages contain resources for students to use to help with

their course or with their revision. The KS3 + 4 pages contains information about what students will study in PE and downloads, such as homework tasks and option forms. The Achievements page contains exceptional individual or team achievements and an Honours Board with both students' national or regional achievements.

We need your help to keep it accurate and up to date, so if any person has anything to add to that page

or remove please come and let us know.

There is a page for each sport that has fixtures, which will be updated as often as possible, showing results and pictures.

All Interhouse information will also be placed on the website from time to time, so you can see how your house is doing all year round. The Sports Partnerships page will also have information on the SSCo programme currently being run throughout the

Borough. Mill Hill County were fortunate enough to join this programme in September 2006, enabling us to increase links with local primary schools in our partnership and provide extra coaches for all the schools in our partnership.

Your suggestions about making the website better or more user friendly would be very welcome. This is your website and we want you to enjoy using it! Please see Mrs van Oosterom if you have any suggestions.

## Girls' Football

By Mr M Jacobs

BACK at the start of the new school year, football trials were held for girls in Years 7 to 10.

Over 40 girls turned up to show off their skills and to try and get into one of the two teams that Mill Hill County has entered into this year's Barnet Girls' Football

League.

After weeks of intensive training, the first match that the girls played ended in narrow defeat to the London Academy. Despite the obvious disappointment, the girls put in a great performance, especially considering that it was their first competitive match.

Early in January, the

girls' second match was against Hasmorean School. The tough weeks of training finally paid off and 'Woman of the Match', Amy Glynn, inspired the team to a 3-0 win. Well done to every member of the squad who played their part in that match.

Since the trials at the start of the year, training

has been held regularly on Wednesday afternoons and we often get a turnout of more than 20 girls.

Training is open to anyone from Years 7 to 10 and we are always on the look out for new talent, so please do come along if you would like to get involved with the squad.

## Going, Going, Gone!



Following on from the article on the previous page, the above is a photograph of the Arsenal 'T' shirt going for just £1.00. Don't delay .....

## Barnet Schools Cross-Country

By Mr B Mulligan

ON a wet, wild and windy day 34 students from Mill Hill County travelled to Cophthall Stadium to contest the Barnet Schools Cross Country Championships.

Although the weather conditions were dismal, each student stood up to the challenge and set a fine example for their school.

Throughout the afternoon there were some excellent results in just about every age category.

The Year 7 boys did particularly well, winning the team championship by achieving 1st place (Vernon Mwaanga), 3<sup>rd</sup> place (Josh Malena), 4<sup>th</sup> place (Michael

Callegan) and 6<sup>th</sup> (Oliver Shirbini).

The Year 7 Girls were fortunate to have Hanifa Alakija finish in 7<sup>th</sup> place.

In the Years 8 and 9 category, the boys also received some pleasing results with 2<sup>nd</sup> (Bertie Shelly), 3<sup>rd</sup> (Adam Denton), 5<sup>th</sup> (Kyle Vassall) and 10<sup>th</sup> (James Riley). These results, plus the other boys who also ran well, enabled them to receive the top team award for that age category.

Although there were only two girls competing in the Year 10 girls division, both Anna Wallace (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Emma Mercer (4<sup>th</sup>) did extremely well.

The senior boys could only manage to field two boys, Ross Sambrook (1<sup>st</sup>) in the U19s division and Andrew Wallace (1<sup>st</sup>) in the Year 10&11 division.

As you can clearly see, there were many excellent results from not only the top place runners but everyone who competed on the day.

Those students who managed to be placed in the top fourteen now have the opportunity to travel to Harrow School on the 8<sup>th</sup> February to run in the Middlesex Schools Cross Country Championships.

Well done to all those involved.

# Sources of feedback 2005/6 and our response

By Dr L James

THROUGHOUT 2006-06 the school continued to take feedback from students and

parents via a range of communication channels. These included the Friends, the School Council, external surveys and the systems

introduced in the previous year to monitor the way the school communicates with parents and responds to concerns and complaints.

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

## Kirkland Rowell Parents' Survey

THIS survey was carried out in the summer term. 254 completed questionnaires were returned, representing a response rate of 36.3% of the random sample surveyed. We thank those parents who made returns, 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 will take the opportunity to do this when such surveys take place in future.

We were very pleased with an overall approval rating of 80% and to note that a third of respondents

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 twice as many thought that the school had exceeded expectations than thought that it had fallen short in some respects.

In response to the questions sections of the survey, respondents were most happy with the delivery of School Discipline, Control of Bullying, 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, the following being representative: *"I am very pleased at the high standard of education ----- is receiving from Mill Hill County High School. He is very happy and enjoys attending school. He has made lots of friends and has become much more confident.."; "We have been very pleased with the school in every way. Great leadership, management and super teachers - all very dedi-*

*cated and caring. Our daughter is thriving and happy, and being encouraged to reach her potential."*

Other parents made specific comment about the range of extra-curricular activities.

### Concerns

The respondents to the survey questions and those who commented were least satisfied with School Security, Communications and aspects of school facilities. These are areas which the School had already begun to address, of which details will be given in the final section of the report.

## Communications Survey

WE WOULD like to thank the 131 parents who responded last term to the postal survey, 44% of the number circulated. Your replies are very helpful to us in monitoring the standards on response times introduced two years ago.

Most of those who responded had telephoned the school within the last year and only about half reported that their call had been answered within the standard set.

A minority of parents who responded to the survey had corresponded with the school and the large majority of these parents reported that they had received a reply within the target period.

A small minority of par-

ents reported making a complaint during 2005-06. Half of the responses to the complaints met the service standards, indicating that we still have some way to go here.

In a well-run organisation, complaints and expressions of concern should mostly be dealt with by the individual members of staff concerned, but a small number are addressed to the Head, who invariably conducts exhaustive enquiries and responds comprehensively.

No organisation can guarantee to satisfy every complainant; sometimes we have to agree to differ. However, it is our aim that all complainants should feel that we have taken their

complaints seriously and given them careful consideration. We will continue to monitor our performance in this area and seek improvements where indicated.

As with the Kirkland Rowell Parents' Survey, our Communications Survey gave you the opportunity to comment.

### Complimentary Comments

Praise for school communications included comments that the respondents were happy with the service, that the service was "very good", "All staff very helpful at all times", also that "The school is very efficient at dealing with letters and telephone calls."

### Concerns

These mainly included

problems respondents had experienced the telephone system introduced in summer 2005. The evaluation of this system will take into account the comments received

### Suggestions

Suggestions for improvements through the use of email and the website are being referred to the appropriate persons for consideration.

Improvements to Sixth Form accommodation are already under consideration in the plans for a major extension to the Sixth Form centre.

### Complaints

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

## Feedback Continued

comparisons with previous years.

The number of complaints from parents about students' experiences in school remains

low and reflects the picture given in the recent parents' survey. Of the fifty-seven complaints received, the majority related to experiences

to do with the curriculum. Complaints relating to the use of school sanctions came next, followed by issues arising from students' behaviour

to one another.

The number of complaints received about homework was even lower than for the previous year.

## Other Indicators of School Performance

WE ARE always pleased to receive positive feedback from parents and members of the community about the school and the experiences it offers to students. At the individual level, members of staff greatly appreciate the letters and cards they receive from students at turn-

ing points in their academic careers.

We welcome the positive commendations each year of employers who receive our Year 10 students undertaking work experience.

We also value the appreciation shown by parents and students for the hard

work of staff who organise extra-curricular activities and visits.

It is also very gratifying to receive commendation by event organisers of the conduct of our students on school trips. This year the excellent conduct and attitude of the 120 students

who went on the February 2006 ski trip to Spain was the subject of notable comment by the manager of the travel company concerned.

Another visit, the Music Department's Spanish Tour, was very well received by students, their parents and by the local audiences.

## Planned changes resulting from feedback

- Improvements to School Security: plans have been approved for redesigning the entrance to the school that will include a security presence to oversee visitors and parking.
- Consultation with stu-

dents and teachers to bring the catering offer in line with national healthier eating requirements introduced in September 2006

- Additional cleaning staff to clean student toilets during the school day.

- Further developments in the structure of the Student Management team to enable initiatives from students across the school to be more effectively co-ordinated
- Increased opportunities for students to under-

take Latin as a second language in year 8;

- Changes to Year 12 block scheme to widen choice;
- Introduction of Microsoft applications qualifications in Year 12 as post-16 ICT Entitlement.

## MHCHS School Profile

By Dr L James

Not all parents may be aware that the statutory requirement for Governors to publish an Annual Report for Parents was replaced for 2004-5 by a requirement to produce a School Profile for on-line publication, using

a standard format with some headings pre-populated with data.

There was a delay last year in making the format available to schools to report on 2004-5. However, all schools were required to report on 2004-5 by 31st August 2006. If you would like

to see our School Profile for that year, please go to [www.schoolsfinder.direct.gov.uk/3025402/school-profile](http://www.schoolsfinder.direct.gov.uk/3025402/school-profile). This address also has links to information about our school and other schools.

The MHCHS School Profile for 2005-6 will be produced and published

once work on updating the School's Self-Evaluation has been completed. If you would like to give us feedback on the content of the School Profile, please write to me, Dr L James, Clerk to the Governors, at school, or contact me by email at [jamesl@mhchs.org.uk](mailto:jamesl@mhchs.org.uk).

## Reminder—Closure owing to Bad Weather

If the school has to close, a notice will be published on the website by 7.30am that day.

[www.mhchs.org.uk](http://www.mhchs.org.uk)

# Music Examination Successes

**Congratulations** to the following students who were successful in their recent Associated Board Music examinations during the November/December 2006 session. Our sincere thanks go to the vocal and instrumental teachers who have devoted many hours of tuition in preparing these students for their exams.

Lisa Frenzel—Grade 3 Piano (Pass), Nikoo Azhiminis—Grade 4 Piano (Merit), Jeremy Caplan—Grade 5 Piano (Pass), Hayley Oberlander—Grade 5 Piano (Pass), **Ruth Ashworth—Grade 8 Piano (Distinction)**, Anjali Shah—Grade 6 Keyboard (Merit), Elise Alcock—Grade 3 Singing (Pass), Natasha Matthews—Grade 5 Singing (Pass), **Ayumi Konno—Grade 6 Singing (Distinction)**, Annalise Koon—Grade 4 Violin (Merit), James Cross—Grade 8 Violin (Merit), **Yael Leveson—Grade 5 Flute (Distinction)**, **Kpmatjam Back—Grade 7 Flute (Distinction)**, Matthew Mullineaux-Sanders—Grade 4 Clarinet (Pass), Piya Yadav—Grade 4 Clarinet (Pass), Shaheeda Bernard—Grade 5 Clarinet (Pass), Siobhan Hardy—Grade 5 Clarinet (Pass), Olivia Wigmore—Grade 5 Clarinet (Pass), Christian Nnochiri Grade 4 Jazz Saxophone (Pass), Nathan Goh—Grade 2 Saxophone (Pass), James Rees-Hunt—Grade 3 Saxophone (Pass), Sean Zhou—Grade 4 Saxophone (Merit), **Katie Beer—Grade 5 Saxophone (Distinction)**, Toby Walton—Grade 5 Saxophone (Pass), Tim Tao—Grade 7 Saxophone (Pass), **Jonathan Back—Grade 4 Saxophone (Distinction)**, Kieran Oliver—Grade 1 Trumpet (Pass), Daniel Fitch—Grade 4 Trumpet (Merit), Alex Mattocks—Grade 6 Cornet (Merit), Zoe Ganly-Thomas—Grade 7 Trumpet (Pass), Andrew Theobald—Grade 7 Trombone (Pass), **Shira Jacobs—Grade 5 Theory (Distinction)**, Rosie de Jong—Grade 5 Theory (Pass), Olivia Stubbings—Grade 5 Theory (Pass), Anna Wallace—Grade 5 Theory (Pass).

## Music Rehearsals

Lunchtimes (1.20-1.50)	After School
<b>Monday</b>	
Choir (Yrs 7-9)	Orchestra 3.30-4.30
Brass Group	Production (Easter Term)
Senior Percussion Group	
Production (Easter Term)	
<b>Tuesday</b>	
Jazz Group	Junior Band 3.30-4.30
Vocalist	Production (Easter Term)
String Group	
Junior Percussion Group	
Production (Easter Term)	
<b>Wednesday</b>	
Electric Guitar Group	Senior Woodwind Gp 3.30-4.30
Flute Choir	Production (Easter Term)
World Music Group	
Production (Easter Term)	
<b>Thursday</b>	
Classical Guitar Group	Concert Band 3.30-5.00
Mixed Voice Choir	Production (Easter Term)
Senior Brass Ensemble	
Production (Easter Term)	
<b>Friday</b>	
Senior Vocal Group	Production (Easter Term)
Production (Easter Term)	

## Peripatetic Teaching

By Mrs M McCanlis

WE ARE, indeed, very fortunate to have a very dedicated and talented team of 15 peripatetic music teachers here at MHCHS. This term we welcome Ms Christina Emmanuel to our team. She is a very experienced violinist and will be leading the String group as well as teaching the violin. Ms Emmanuel will be teaching on Tuesdays in MP1, and String Group rehearsals will take place in MU1, during the lunch hour.

## Christmas Concerts

WELL done to all our students who performed at the Christmas concerts last term and grateful thanks to our instrumental, vocal and Music classroom teachers who prepared their groups.

The Year 7 Choir, trained by Mr G Thompson, were absolutely fantastic, accompanied by a very professional band, performing a Music Hall Medley at the end of the first half, followed by Traditional Christmas Songs at the end of the Concert. Our students performed to packed halls on both evenings. A stunning end to the term!

Thanks to all who took part at Christmas. We now look forward to seeing you at our Spring Concert on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm in the Main Hall.

## Music Student Awards

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who have been chosen as 'Music Students of the Half Term': -

**Year 7** Adam Moqrane

**Year 8** Umar Hossain

**Year 9** Tess McNally-Watson

They will receive a certificate and credit for their excellent efforts in classroom music throughout the last half term.

## The Friends of MHCHS (PTA) AGM

THE Friends held their AGM on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2007. This year, three of the executive committee stepped down from their positions. Geoff Pope resigned after a year as Chairman due to work commitments, but intends to continue helping out whenever he can.

Charlie McMillan stood down as Vice Chairman after many years of dedicated service to the Friends and to MHCHS. Charlie has always been a calming presence in what has sometimes been a highly charged atmosphere as, for example, when the "team" struggled to get an event ready on time. Over the years Charlie has been one of a small band of people that have done so much more than their fair share. She will be missed from the committee but, I am sure she will continue to help out for a while yet.

Another member of our committee to step down in January was Vicky Churchill. What can one say about Vicky? For many years she has been the face of the Friends and therefore known to so many of you. As if five years as Chairman of the Friends was not enough, Vicky last year took on the role of events co-ordinator and set about the tasks involved with her usual dedication and energy. She has dedicated so much time and effort to the School and the Friends, and has helped so many people over the years, that she will truly be a hard act to follow.

So, the meeting was convened and new friends came forward to fill the vacancies. Mark Hyslop was appointed Vice Chairman, while Zari Islam and Alison Clare were appointed as joint Events Co-ordinators and Yours Truly was appointed Chairman. Of the "old hands", thankfully, Pam Mitchell agreed to stay another year as Treasurer, as did

Anne Fraser as Auditor and Josh Vadgama as Secretary.

The Friends is a registered charity that exists to raise funds for and support MHCHS. The members in the past have had more than some success, having raised more than £250,000 over the last 10 years or so. This money raised may be spent either supporting long term projects or on smaller current needs by sections of the school or even support groups within the school. Who decides how to spend the money? We do. That's the members of the PTA (all parents are eligible) at the usual monthly meetings. If you want to have a say on where the money goes, or question the committee or the teaching staff, or even want to find out what is happening, then that's a good reason to attend. If you would like to be sent reminders of meetings, please send me an e-mail.

On 17<sup>th</sup> March the Friends will be holding their first event of 2007, namely our famous Super Supper Quiz. All adults are welcome. Entry will cost £10 per person, which will include the rightly renowned Friends food. Please see the advert published within this Newsletter for further details. Other events are already being planned throughout the year, so please watch this space and feel free to come along and help.

Best Regards,

**David Drimer**

**Chairman of The Friends/PTA.**

e-mail: [daviddrimer@aol.com](mailto:daviddrimer@aol.com).

Tel.: 07759 036 844)

Do you know, by the time you finish reading this, ten more people in Africa have already died from AIDS. Yet, many of us continue on with our life, ignorant of the fact that millions are in dire need of our help. This is why sixth formers at Mill Hill County have decided to do something about the Plague consuming Africa.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> February, we will be holding a Global Fund Fundraiser consisting of

three parts to raise awareness about PRODUCT (RED) and their

goal to provide Retroviral Medicines to the millions in Africa suffering from AIDS, Tuberculosis and Pneumonia.

Our "Deal or No Deal" event will allow you to win up to £250 from the

very generous Banker and all money raised from ticket sales will be contributed to Global Fund. We will also be

holding a PRODUCT (RED) raffle where you could have the chance of

winning a limited edition PRODUCT (RED) iPod Nano or PRODUCT (RED) Motorola V3i.

Finally, we will be going around school with donation boxes for anyone else who would like to make a small contribution to PRODUCT (RED)'s cause.

Whichever way you would like to help PRODUCT (RED), PLEASE give generously and be a part of something that could change the lives of millions and make Africa not the country of Pain and Strife but the country of Cures and Hope!

**(PRODUCT)<sup>RED</sup>**

**IS COMING...**

**THURSDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2007**

**ATTACHED  
'SUPPER QUIZ'  
FLYER  
TO BE  
INSERTED  
ONTO THIS  
PAGE**