

Mill Hill County High School

Head's Newsletter

2004-5, Issue 6

Monday, 14th March, 2005

Royal Philharmonic graces MHCHS

FEBRUARY 11th was a Red Letter Day for the School when we hosted a concert in aid of the St Paul's Church Restoration Fund, given by none other than the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

The concert was the brainchild of a member of the Governing Body, Nick Battley, whose wife manages the Mill Hill branch of PizzaExpress; because of this connection, PizzaExpress's own excellent pizzas were served to a very convivial gathering of orchestra and audience at the interval.

Popular classics included in the programme were Handel's *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*, Pachelbel's *Canon*, Barber's *Adagio for Strings*, Haydn's 85th Symphony and Mozart's 40th Symphony.

The orchestra numbered 25

players, the forces which Haydn and Mozart would have expected, and I have to say that the performance was something of a revelation to me. Our hall is a small and intimate setting, by comparison with most of the places in which the RPO plays, and the music had a freshness and immediacy which is often lost in the grand concert halls, more suited as they are to the huge orchestral forces of much 19th and 20th Century music.

I was surprised by the extent to which I was impressed by the virtuosity of the players, because this is something which, rightly or wrongly, most people usually take for granted. Again, I think that the intimacy of the venue made it possible to hear every note clearly and this highlighted the precision

and unanimity of the playing.

Mozart's 40th Symphony is a masterpiece with which I am really over familiar. In our own hall it sounded fresh and new. I felt sure, as I listened and watched, that this should not be the last time a world-class orchestra played in our hall.

My only regret about the concert was the fact that so few members of the School were able to attend. Some staff and students who saw part of the orchestral rehearsal in the afternoon said that although classical concerts were not really for them, they could hardly tear themselves away from the sheer excellence they were witnessing.

I do not know how or when the experience might be repeated, but if and when it is, I hope many of you will come and support it. Tickets to hear a world famous orchestra in a small venue are never going to be cheap, but if the programme is as well chosen as that of February 11th, the experience will be one which offers something that the great West End and City venues do not.

If we can repeat the experience, it would be better still if we could somehow arrange for the orchestra to play to students during the school day and even include some of our own students in some part of the evening event.

Nick Battley is greatly to be commended for his vision and bravery. Those of you who considered attending but decided against it missed a real treat!!

Sporting Achievements

By Mrs R van Oosterom

CONGRATULATIONS to several of our students who have worked very hard and excelled in their sports:

- | | | |
|----------------|---|--|
| Hayley Bryant | : | Selected for Football Association Middlesex Development Training |
| Giorgina Blake | : | Reserve for Football Association Middlesex Development Training |
| Davy Ackerman | : | Selected for South of England Ice Hockey Team |
| Lizy Harman | : | Winner of London Gymnastics Preliminaries |
| Emma Layton | : | Selected for English Schools Cross Country |
| Anna Wallace | : | Selected for English Schools Cross Country |
| Jake Wallace | : | Selected for English Schools Cross Country |

Intermediate Maths Challenge

By Ms E Stewart

AS a result of the Maths Challenge which took place on 3rd February, the following certificates were awarded:

Bronze

Andreas Phillips
Sian Baxter
Michael McDermott
Jonathan Weights
Jed Cinnamon
Sahar Pourdanay
Priya Chandarana
Abeda Din
Sam Hayhurst

Manish Tailor
Tom Matsuzaka
Mounir Mehhat
Pinal Parekh
Timothy Tao
Chloe Kenner
Frederic Kit
Pawel Tomaszewicz

Silver

Matthew Rupasinha
Adanma Abalunam
Rakesh Shah
Iman Teemul
Kavi Pitrola
Daniella Aristides
Andreas Georgiou
Mark Stapleton

Melissa Yiu
Samuel Goldscheider
Neill Patel
Chris Kourra
Usman Mir
Stefan Confalonieri
Ellen Gallagher

Gold

Sam Harding
Mehal Shah
Bijuri Patel

Hershiv Haria
Nayna Morjaria
Anjali Shah

CONGRATULATIONS to all students who were awarded certificates, especially to Sam Harding who was awarded Best in School Certificate. Sam and Mehal will also be taking part in the follow-up competition known as a "kangaroo" paper which is part of a European competition. This takes place on 17th March 2005. The final challenge of the year will be the Junior Challenge for Year 8 on Tuesday, 26th April.

Music Exam Successes - 2004

By Mrs M McCanlis

MANY congratulations to the following students who have been successful in the music exams last December and well done to everyone. (AB - Associated Board and GH - Guildhall).

Piano

Hannah Back	Grade 2	Distinction	AB
Shivani Patel	Grade 1	Distinction	AB
Rebecca Guinchard	Grade 2	Merit	AB
Jeremy Caplan	Grade 2	Pass	AB
Lisa Frenzel	Grade 2	Pass	AB

Flute

Pieter De Jong	Grade 6	Merit	AB
Tanya Virdee	Grade 5	Distinction	AB
Chandni Chotai	Grade 4	Pass	AB
Emma Mercer	Grade 2	Pass	AB
Fiona Ma	Grade 1	Merit	AB
Firyal Teemul	Grade 5	Pass	AB

Saxophone

Lauren Stevens	Grade 4	Merit	AB
Charlotte Hamilton	Grade 3	Pass	AB
Sean Zhou	Grade 2	Merit	AB
James Rees-Hunt	Grade 2	Pass	AB
Bethany Tubb	Grade 1	Merit	AB
Toby Walton	Grade 3	Pass	AB
Natalie Goh	Grade 5	Merit	AB
Paul Tomlinson	Grade 6	Honours	GH

Oboe

Miranda Narcin	Grade 4	Pass	AB
Alex Grossman	Grade 1	Pass	AB

Trombone

Siyamini Sivananthan	Grade 7	Merit	GH
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Drumkit

Anuj Vekaria	Grade 2	Honours	GH
Ciaran Gallagher	Grade 2	High Honours	GH

Clarinet

Greg Monk	Grade 7	Distinction	AB
Tom Matsuzaka	Grade 7	Pass	AB
Niamh Hayes	Grade 5	Pass	AB
Sarah Comaish	Grade 4	Pass	AB
Sian Baxter	Grade 3	Pass	AB
Alex Evangeli	Grade 1	Pass	AB
Sneha Shah	Grade 1	Pass	AB
Meera Shah	Grade 2	Pass	AB
Nikita Longdon	Grade 3	Pass	AB
Siobhan Hardy	Grade 4	Pass	AB
Andrew Trigg	Grade 3	Pass	AB
Matthew Mullineaux-Sanders	Grade 3	Pass	AB
Amber Kenner	Grade 6	Merit	GH

Singing

Zoe Littleton	Grade 1	Pass	AB
Alex Hamilton	Grade 1	Pass	AB
Valentina Anastasiou	Grade 2	Pass	AB
Sophie Hewitt	Grade 4	Pass	AB
Amy Bloom	Grade 4	Pass	AB
Harriet Wilczynska	Grade 2	Pass	AB
Danusia Vaz-Ennis	Grade 2	Merit	AB
Sophia Guinchard	Grade 2	Merit	AB
Alex Cane	Grade 3	Merit	AB
Jennifer Reece	Grade 4	Merit	AB
Greg Monk	Grade 8	Merit	AB
Sonam Kakkad	Grade 1	Merit	AB
Isabella Van Braeckel	Grade 1	Distinction	AB

Theory

Jonathan Back	Grade 3	Distinction	AB
Alessandra D'Almo	Grade 3	Merit	AB
Alex Mattocks	Grade 3	Pass	AB

Cyber Bullying

By Mr D Worthy

THE children's charity Childline took 31,000 calls from bullied children in the year to March 2004, up from 21,000 in the previous twelve months. Despite all the efforts of schools, including Mill Hill County High, it seems that the problem will not go away.

Part of the problem is that children are finding new ways to harass their peers. As well as name calling in the corridor, or provocation in the playground, children now have the option of bullying by text message, e-mail, chat room or even via specially constructed hate websites. This is the age of the cyber bully!

The victim may be alone in his or her room being constantly bombarded with nasty messages but with no-one present to offer comfort, help or support. Texting is a form of psychological bullying with the messaging being used to exclude children socially or to turn a victim's friends against him or her.

The use of websites, created by the students themselves, to bully and intimidate is a serious concern.

We have only had two or three cases of website bullying at MHCHS and we are determined that this menace will not become the problem which it is in many other schools.

The school will use its full range of sanctions, including long periods of fixed term exclusion, to punish offenders even on the first offence. Our reason for taking this type of offence so seriously is that these offences, by definition, represent deliberate, premeditated unkindness, often, though not necessarily, involving conspiracy between two or more students.

Students are strongly advised not to become involved in this sort of activity as a joke because if the victim is hurt or offended, then the fact that it was intended as a joke will be no defence.

It is difficult to track the bullies down, although it can be done, and they should realise that much of this sort of activity is illegal, breaching either the 1984 Telecommunications Act or the 1984 Harassment Act.

Improved awareness through PSCHE and assemblies is a practical approach to dealing with the problem and it is made clear that this sort of activity will not be tolerated in school. Incidents are dealt with quickly and with punishments fitting the crime.

It is vital however that we encourage the victims to be courageous and share their experiences with a responsible adult. They can often save the evidence by saving or printing the offensive or upsetting material.

It is important that the issue is discussed both in school and at home so that the children who are being victimised feel secure in coming forward.

Little Shop of Horrors

By Mrs Martin & Mr McCanlis

DRAMA, Dance & Music are proud to present "Little Shop of Horrors" as this year's school musical.

Set in a downtown suburb of America called "Skid Row", we follow the extraordinary rise of Seymour Krelbourn from mild mannered florist to successful botanist, all because of a strange plant that

brings him fame and fortune. Everyone is thrilled for Seymour but no-one knows his secret, that the plant feeds on blood!

Having only had nine weeks to produce the show this year, it has certainly been a frenzy of activity to maintain the standard and high quality of performance work Mill

Hill County is renowned for.

We have, however, risen to the challenge and "Little Shop of Horrors" is proving to be a lively and very entertaining musical. With crazed dentists, money-grabbing florists and a giant plant that wants to take over the world, it's a show not to be missed.

Christmas Theatre Treat

By Mrs S Nicopoulos

DURING the long, cold and dark days of December 2004, before we went off for our Christmas break, Ms. Whitten and myself headed off with sixty of our Year 12 and 13 students for the bright lights of London's theatre land.

We obtained tickets, at reduced rates, for the play "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" starring both

Christian Slater & Frances Barber.

As well as the theatre experience, the play had a distinct link to the topic that the Year 12 students had been studying as a part of their AS Level Psychology course, to be examined in January.

Although often humorous, it dealt with the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness from a psy-

chiatric point of view but also at the level of human experience.

We were really pleased to hear from the students that they had thoroughly enjoyed the experience and it is always rewarding to be able to take a subject from the classroom and examinations and show that it exists as an issue in real life for many people.

Ski Trip 2005 - Civetta, Italy

By Ms Hamilton

CIVETTA's imposing magnitude yet intricate beauty makes it the centrepiece of this part of the Dolomites. The imposing yet delicately beautiful mountain overlooks the harmonious Lake Valzoldana as it winds through the valleys created at the feet of Civetta and her surrounding mountain companions.

On Saturday, 12th February, Mount Civetta stood peaceful, in all its glory. The swirling, light, crisp fresh air wound itself slowly around peak after peak, bringing with it news of impending change and upheaval..."that's right" it whispered, "Mill Hill invasion to arrive tomorrow". The mountains sighed in their wise, old way, knowing that tomorrow their sweeping white body parts would be touched and changed by 79 new little bodies.

Mount Civetta, the oldest and widest of all the peaks, smiled to herself. However, as she knew that while she and her friends would be affected for the shortest of moments, the 79 little bodies (and maybe even a couple of their teachers) would be changed forever.

Having finally made it halfway across Europe, coach bound for over 24 hours, we all piled into the ski-hire shop at the foot of Civetta on Sunday night. We were excited about finally unfolding our almost concertina like bodies into vertical, nearly human positions and some of us were even a little excited about getting our skis, our tickets to exploring as much as we could of the 80 kilometres of runs that the mountain range above us offered.

Waking the next morning, we trudged back from our beds to the exact same point, this time to hit the slopes for real. A buzz of excitement (or was it snoring?) swept through the crowd as each skier prepared to be tested and placed. "Oh!" cried the female contingent "just which buff instructor will I get?". Eyes slowly began to open and testing started. Not the most rigorous of processes followed but, by lunchtime, seven groups had materialised. Here follow a few highlights from their week on the peak.....

"Matt's Monsters" saw mostly Y10 lads take on the Sixth Form ladies but we must not forget Archanna who gave the boys a serious run for

their money with her daredevil approach to.... any jump she could find actually! A good stack (that's a tumble to our older readers) seemed to become the pinnacle of a successful run for this lot.

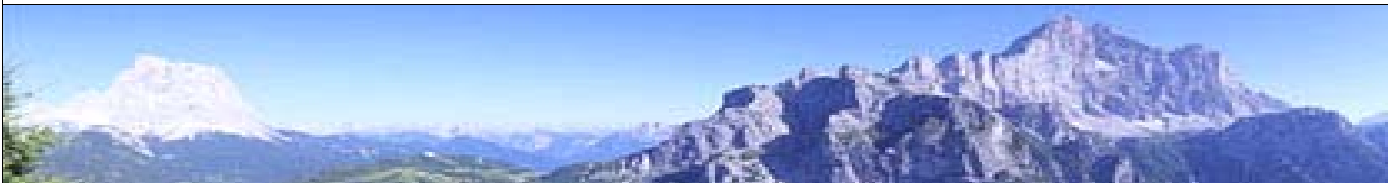
By the end of the week, it was bordering on an art form. Stack awards go to George Pugh for cunning, Robert Jones for consistency and Srdan Jovanovic for wearing a red helmet so we could still see him however deeply he got buried! You just can't stop V1th Form girl, Elena Savva. I mean that in its most literal sense; you really *can't* stop her. Braking is definitely an area for development, Elena; arriving at the bottom of the mountain does not count.

"The Angels" were easy to spot thanks to their pink sparkly wings and faces (thanks Amy, Laura and Olivia in Y11). With some of the most stylish skiing taking place in this group, these angelic movers were the ones to watch for both fashion and technique. Note to Michael Thompson, however: broken arms don't really fit the image. Suggestion from the girls: wrap the cast in sparkly pink material?

David Vaughan entertained the girls in Andreas' group (tough job Dave, but someone's gotta do eh?!). This group could not decide whether their highlight was Georgia Greenham flying down the mountain on her stomach (to the hilarity of her group and, also, rather surprisingly, herself) or finding out that off-piste snow can have quicksand-like qualities and many getting rather unsurprisingly buried. Red helmet anyone? Someone in this group also mastered the art of 'projectile ski launching while stacking'. On a less dangerous note, Leighann Henry deserves special praise for her tidy skiing manner - Congrats.

"The Sexy Beasts" (when asked if ironic, they assured me it was snow joke) made, like many of our beginners, outstanding improvement as the week progressed. They were promoted to red slopes within hours of skiing for the first time, no small feat, as the lack of fresh snow meant that unexpected icy patches could catch you out at significant moments, couldn't they Peter Mehmet!

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Peter had obviously attended the Georgia Greenham ski-school hours earlier.

Of course, Peter improved the move slightly by making sure his stomach was bare as he hurtled down the run (still not sure how you managed that, mate?)

A special mention goes to Jordan Davis for his astonishing ability to remain upright while landing ski-jumps. (Arguably, he just stood out because all around him his group fell like raindrops, only to be submerged into the pool of snow beneath. If there is any doubt about this, be assured, the evidence is on film - Thank you to Mr. Woolf). Ponle Odusina is also commended on his startling progress over the week, a true natural.

Fabio's beginners must also be praised for their considerable progress during the week. To ski a black slope in your first week on skis is a pretty impressive achievement, but is it better than watching Josh Dubell do ski-jumps? A controversial issue This group would like to give special thanks to Claire Lowenthal for her help and support of so many of its first timers.

The first time beginners had a changeable relationship with the dreaded blue slope. Having finally mastered the nursery slopes by mid-week, they were taken rather shakily to the next level.

The first time they tried it, they all descended on their bottoms and were not too enamoured at the mountain's bottom either.

Once again and, by their third attempt, they all got down without falling over once. For a group that had been outdone by a two year old on the nursery slope on the first day (no joke), this was an *outrageous* achievement. Well done to all!

Marco's group seemed to want to measure success in accidents (Parental note: No child in this group actively sought to injure itself; this is a sarcastic post-event analysis). William Pairpoint - top marks for throwing yourself down a mountain (twice), contusion and all (that's a bruise to you and me) and still demanding to ski the next day; just the kind of grit and determination required from a Mill Hill skier (with less of the throwing yourself down a mountain for future reference Will).

With so many skiing highlights, there is almost no time to mention the consistently brilliant apres-ski best bits, but here goes. 'Night Skiing' - Wow! Ice-skating - Srđan, is there anything you do standing up? Karaoke - a weird yet highly entertaining choice of song, Y8 boys?? Ski video - Mr. Woolf, thanks for your awesome footage. We can ski but we can't hide! A true entertainment delight. Miss Irvine and Miss Srzich, thanks for co-ordinating evening activities, a nightly success. Thanks to Miss Galloway and Miss Howard for managing those coaches and to Mr. Davighi and Mr. Fowler for their all-round effort.

Thank you also to the Matron (oops, I mean Miss Tai) for her outstanding medical care.

Finally, Mr. Smith & Mr. Hudson: this incredible trip would not happen without the outrageous amount of effort you both put into its organisation and on behalf of all the staff and students who were lucky enough to be a part of it, we salute you!

(P.S. Can I go next year please..?).



After School

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The Meadow Restoration Scheme

By Leanne Moses (13H)

THE Meadow Restoration scheme continued during half term when dedicated sixth formers returned to dig up the remaining bramble roots, cut down small oaks, remove litter and dig out tree trunks.

It was an exhausting day and 6 bags of rubbish were removed from the site. There were even signs of

natural life as the day progressed, participants taking part in worm throwing and bird-watching!

The meadow is being brought back to its former glory but there is still lots of work to do and we look forward to updating you on the progress of the meadow.

Many thanks to Mr. Gunzi for

supervising the day and bringing chocolate biscuits and hot drinks!!

Many more volunteers are needed for the continuing success of the scheme and after-school sessions will soon be running (when the weather brightens up).

Please ask Mr. Gunzi for details or watch out for notices.

Jan Harding Memorial Ski Award

By Mr K Hudson

THIS new award which has been provided by Pinnacle Travel in memory of our former Head of PE, Miss Jan Harding, is for the student who makes the most positive contribution to the school's annual Ski Trip.

The winner of the award will have been expected to show responsibility, cheerfulness and helpfulness throughout the trip - quali-

ties and characteristics that Jan so valued.

The award is certainly not given for skiing ability, though this year's winner, Ashton Joseph (12P) is an extremely competent skier as well as being an outstanding role model for other students.

This year in Civetta, Italy, the staff accompanying the trip nominated five students for the award.

The others nominated were Claire Lowenthal (13K), Olivia Murphy (11K), Owen Hind (10M) and Sophie Hewitt (8J).

Our congratulations are offered to those nominated, but in particular to Ashton. Miss Harding would have been very proud of you all.

The award is an engraved 'shield'. It will be displayed in the Main Foyer.

Year 11 Public Speaking Competition

By Mr McConnell

CONGRATULATIONS to Sam Harding, Michael McDermott and Adamna Abalunam in Year 11. These three students participated in the Year 11 Public Speaking Competition run by the English Speaking Union.

Sam, our lead speaker, prepared and delivered a humorous and well argued take on whether or not United States' imperialism

is paternalistic, concluding that the USA is actually more powerful as an economic and cultural force than as a political force.

Michael chaired a session on whether we should be proud to be British (apparently we should), and Adamna asked excellent questions of the speaker in that round. The three performed well.

Unfortunately, they were just

pipped to a victory by University College School.

I look forward to auditioning them for the Sixth Form Debating Team next year.

Many thanks to Mr. Woolf who allowed parts of his Critical Thinking lessons to be devoted to preparation for this event and to the enterprising students and parents who came to support us.

"Homeless" Donations

By H Howe-Watson (9J) & G de Oliveira (9M)

DURING the month of December, Year 9 students collected a large quantity of non-perishable foods to be donated to the homeless for the Christmas season.

On Monday, 13th

December 2004, a lady called Ann, from Homeless Action in Barnet, came into our assembly to tell us a bit about the charity and what it involves.

This was the occasion when we pre-

sented her with our donations. We feel this was a great success and we hope to do it again in the future.

We would like to extend our thanks to all in Year 9 who took the time to contribute.

Proshare Competition

By Mrs L Trinder

Many students in Year 12 and some in Year 10 took part in this year's Share Investment Competition. Four Year 12 students, Daniel Isaacs, Philip Meyer, Owen Connolly and Craig Clayton, came 37th out of 4,000 teams and moved into the 2nd round of the competition. We await news of progress. Well done for reaching this far!

Free School Meals

By Mr K Hudson

IT has come to my notice that some students who are entitled to free school meals have not been claiming them.

If they had, then they would not only have received free school meals but also, on application to myself, some financial assistance for many school journeys, whether day trips or residential.

In addition, for sixth formers who are in receipt of free school meals, it has been possible also to get grants to assist with their studies.

To the best of my knowledge, the children of any family which is in receipt of Income Support or Income-Based Job Seeker's Allowance, are entitled to free school

meals. The children of Asylum Seekers are also entitled to this means-tested benefit. Free school meals can obviously provide a saving for a family.

Free school meal vouchers do not have to be spent on a hot meal in the school canteen; they can be exchanged for any drink or cold food purchase at lunchtime. I would wish to reassure parents that the arrangements for the distribution of free school meal vouchers are very discrete and that they should certainly not cause students any personal embarrassment.

I would definitely encourage any parent who believes his or her child might be entitled to free

school meals to make an application.

The application process is very simple. Application forms are available from Mrs. Fasuluku at Main Reception. On completion, the form must be returned to Mrs. Fasuluku who will then get the claim authorised by the Local Authority.

Obviously, even if children have an entitlement to free school meals there is absolutely no need for them to use their voucher. They can still continue to bring a packed lunch if they wish.

However, entitlement should bring the benefit of financial support for students on most school journeys.

Opening of the School Bank

By Mrs L Trinder

THE opening of the bank took place, as planned, on 8th February. Over 100 students collected application forms and many of these were returned on 22nd February when the bank re-opened after the half term break.

All students who opened an account received an electronic organiser as a thank you from HSBC.

It is not too late to open an account so come to BS1 on any Tuesday to see the bank staff.

Year 10 Business Studies stu-

dents are currently staffing the bank and the following students deserve a special mention for their hard work: Adam Ali, Aarti Dalsania, Husain Khaki, Alisha Malholtra, Daniel Sands, Pooja Shah, Arpana Trivedi & Juliette Wilson.

The Singer Interview

By Mr M Singer

JODIE Caudle is a Year 10 pupil who has been show jumping since she was four years old. She spoke about her sport to Mr. Singer earlier this week.

I have been riding horses for 11 years now. I got my first horse when I was nine and my second horse when I was ten. I started jumping with my second horse and have been winning trophies regularly ever since.

In recent years, I have taken part in BSJA (British Show Jump-

ing Association) events, which are more demanding, and money prizes can be won.

I have qualified for the finals of the "Blue Chip" and "Scope" events since 2003 and hope to do so again this year.

I have also jumped at "Pony of The Year" and just missed qualifying for the "Horse of The Year Show" last year. I have got through the first two rounds this year so far.

I compete most weekends, trav-

elling to events in places up to a two hour radius from London. A horsebox is used to transport anything up to three horses at a time. It can also sleep four people and has its own shower, toilet, T.V., DVD, heaters and cooker. The box is kept at the stables.

I visit the stables every day to look after my ponies and spend a great deal of time training.

Training sessions, under my trainer Ross Irvine, can last up to three hours.

Active Sports Hockey in Barnet

By Mrs R Van Oosterom

SINCE October 2004, Mill Hill County has participated in some hockey coaching held at Whitefields on Tuesdays after school.

Barnet schools were invited and MHCHS took advantage of the kind offer. Students compete to get seats on the minibus for each training session. They join with Whitefields students and are coached by Mrs. Van Oosterom and Lindsay, a qualified coach who kindly gives up his time to develop hockey in the borough.

These sessions have built confidence in both schools' students, resulting in greater performance and matches. After this coaching became established, Active Sports in

Barnet decided to get involved and build up the sessions in Barnet to include more schools.

From now until the 27th April, there will be hockey coaching on a Tuesday at Whitefields School and on a Wednesday at East Barnet School. Sessions run from 4.00pm until 5.00pm and all students who go to school in Barnet are invited.

There will be a minibus going on Tuesdays from MHCHS, as has happened since October, but any student who wishes to make his or her own way there will be welcome at either centre.

Mill Hill Hockey Club are keen to create a junior section and are hoping that these sessions will lead

to students enjoying hockey enough to join the club. They are currently trying to arrange matches with other clubs and our students will be able to participate in these.

The team for Barnet for the Heathrow Games this year will also be selected from those who attend these sessions.

These sessions are available to students of any year, beginners through to advanced, boys and girls. I hope anyone who would like to try hockey or who would like to increase their skills and competitive element will take advantage of this excellent opportunity.

Junior Sports Leadership Award

By Greg Monk (12G)

AT the beginning of the school year, myself together with six other Year 12 students, namely Sarah Reynolds, Justine Dattani, Carly Welch, Sophie Walker, Rory Kinane and Christian Kourtis, began the Junior Sports Leadership Programme as part of our enrichment studies.

The award is nationally recognised and is an excellent way to build on leadership skills as well as improve your self-confidence by means of leading a sports session.

The course covers theory work such as the role of the official in

sports and what constitutes fair play within sport.

Our first task, before commencing any practical work was to discuss these topics. We discussed how we could organise a session successfully, making instructions clear to the people that we are leading but also making tasks challenging so participants could make progress within the sessions, for example, developing a skill such as tackling.

This all seemed fairly straightforward but, as we were to discover, leading an actual PE session

is no easy task. Showing your authority as the leader whilst creating a fun and enjoyable atmosphere is a difficult task!

We completed all the theory work by Christmas and have now begun practising leading some sessions. Our first attempts were a little bit daunting to say the least, but with help from Miss Wilson and Mrs. Van Oosterom, I am sure our confidence will grow soon enough and, hopefully, it won't be too long until we complete the four sessions required to gain the qualification.

Outreach Programme - 4th Feb.

By Matthew Godfrey (12S)

THE Outreach Programme gave some GCSE and AS, A Level students an opportunity to see what it was like doing figure drawing from a 'live' model and to understand the techniques of life drawing.

The Royal Academy came in and provided us with drawing and colouring techniques and also helped us with our style of work. They gave us an opportunity you do not often get. Drawing someone in the flesh was not as bad as I thought.

Thank you Mrs Fitzgerald, for arranging such a worthwhile experience. "It really opened my mind to explore new and exciting techniques".

Y12 Tate Modern Visit - 7th Feb.

By Shuaib Ahmed (12H)

OUR visit to the Tate Modern was extremely useful for our AS Level Art & Design course project on 'Sense of Place'.

We were able to research certain styles and artists' work. There were many inspirational artists' works at the gallery which gave us an excellent opportunity to produce high quality transcriptions.

The highlight of the trip was the view of the River Thames. The scene was beautiful, especially with the excellent weather that was presented to us on the day.

Thanks to Mrs Fitzgerald, once again, for arranging such an enjoyable experience.

Season 5 of Fantasy Football

By Mr K Bulman

WE are well into this season now and the second transfer window has been and gone. Don't worry, there will be a final transfer window at the beginning of next term.

The overall lead has been changing regularly but back at the top at the time of writing is Matthew Walters of Year 9. In fact, there is a really good showing from Year 9 at the top of the table.

The FA Cup Competition is also now up and running, the present leader is George Colman of Year 7.

The managers of the month for January are as follows:

Year 7	Sam Pepper	Premier All-Stars
Year 8	Areeb Khan	The Untouchable
Year 9	Michael Paroussos (also Whole School)	Finchley United
Year 10	Ross Sambrook	The G Men
6th Form	Richard Sarsby	Footballers United
Staff	Mr Roper	Top Team

By now you should have received certificates for both January and the previous two months. These have already been distributed, so if you know you have won and have not yet received a certificate, please come and tell me.

Don't forget to check out the relevant pages on the website to see how you are doing.

www.schoolsfl.com

Good Luck everyone.



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Netball Report

By Tess McNally-Watson

OVER the last term, the A team has played four successful matches. Meanwhile, the B team has played three victorious matches.

Our first match was against Cophthall girls. We were all nervous because we did not want to let our team down. Despite our nervousness, we played extremely well and the A team managed to win 3-2. The B team also did really well and came to a draw of one all.

For both teams, all the other matches have been very successful. Here are the results:

<u>School Played</u>	<u>A Team</u>	<u>B Team</u>
Ashmole	4-0	10-1
Edgware	8-5	No Play
St. James	6-1	4-0
Cophthall	3-1	2-2
Friern Barnet	8-9	No Play
Whitefield	5-4	No Play

Team Maths Challenge

By Mr K Bulman

ON the morning of January 12th, eight teams of four students from Years 8 and 9 took part in the school Team Maths Challenge run by the UK Mathematics Trust.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and it was great to see so many students having a good time whilst taking part in various activities and puzzles, which were all aimed not at the individual but at teamwork. The winning team were:

Rose Allan
Eleanor Clark
Amy Dicketts
Marko Popovic
All from Year 8

This team will now go on and represent the school in the regional finals later this month at Kings College, London.

Thank you to all of the others who took part and, also, thank you to the following Sixth Formers who helped run the event:

Felice Cartz
Claire Graham
Siddharth Sudunagunta
Nikhil Kunder
Josef De Jong
Michael Hagai
Panayotis Pachnis
Asha Dalsania

CALENDAR

March

Monday, 14th School Show—Up to 17th March
 Friday, 18th End of Term

April

Monday, 4th Start of Term
 Staff Training Day
 Monday, 11th Y13 Battlefields English Trip Departs
 Y9 Shakespeare Workshop
 Tuesday, 12th Y9 Shakespeare Workshop
 PTA Meeting
 Wednesday, 13th Y13 Battlefields English Trip Returns
 Friday, 15th Engineering Project Celebration Day
 Thursday, 21st Partnership Evening
 Friday, 22nd Y12 Duke of Edinburgh Expedition Departs
 Saturday, 23rd Y12 Duke of Edinburgh Expedition Returns
 Monday, 25th Y7 Parents' Evening
 Thursday, 28th Take Your Children to Work Day

May

Friday, 6th Y10 2 yr GCSE Geography Field Trip Departs
 Monday, 9th Y10 2 yr GCSE Geography Field Trip Returns
 Saturday, 14th Y7 Head's Challenge Walk
 Training Weekend for World Challenge Students
 Tuesday, 17th Y10 D of E Expedition Preparation Evening
 Thursday, 19th D&T Masterclass
 Y9 to Natural History Museum
 Friday, 20th Y9 to Natural History Museum
 Sunday, 22nd Y10 Practice Duke of Edinburgh Expedition
 Monday, 23rd Y10 Duke of Edinburgh Group 1
 Wednesday, 25th Summer Concert 7.30pm
 Thursday, 26th Y8 Trip to Science Museum

“Meet a Real Writer”

By Celine Gamble (7H)

IN our English lesson, on 27th January, Ellie Joyce (a real writer) came into the English lesson of 7E-09. Fortunately, Ellie Joyce was an aunty of Zoe Quinn, a student in 7E-09. Ellie came in and told us about the main structure of her book. She then told us what inspired her.

The book's name was “The Quest for the Grydhoch Stone”, a made up ‘viking’ sounding name.

Ellie's story has a mixture of reality and fantasy. There is a boy with asthma, a realistic problem, who goes back in time, which is fantasy.

Ellie Joyce built up her story over 2½ years and it is still not completely finished. She is never going to give up. The reason it has taken so long is because she planned it very carefully. She also, in that time, had to get to know

her characters really well, as if they were her best friends, she said.

Ellie, unlike some writers, writes anywhere possible. She said that she started the story in a hotel room when she was not able to sleep.

Ellie is now editing her book and hopes that it will get published soon. She is currently waiting for replies.

News From The Library

By Mrs M Perkins

News at your fingertip. All major national papers and much more to search from your computer, updated daily!

HAVE you ever read an article, thought this is great and put it aside just to later need it and not quite remember where you read it, which paper it was in, on which day and under which headline? From now on, this need no longer be a problem for you. The Library has just signed up to a new database that gives excellent news coverage via keyword search.

ProQuest Learning: Library contains a vast range of national newspapers, magazines and reference books, as well as a few international publications (e.g. New York Times, Wall Street Journal, OECD Economic Reports) which can be searched by title of the article or keyword in the text.

For any further details or a quick introduction on how to use the database, please come to the library.

This year's World Book Day was on the **3rd March**. As last year, there was a book sale at the library to give everybody a chance to spend their book tokens; Ottokar's of High Barnet came in on the 10th and 11th March.

Over the last few months, I have repeatedly been asked the same question by pupils and members of staff. “I have sorted out some books, do you want them for the library?” The answer is “Yes please!”.

Books you have enjoyed reading will always be a welcome edition to the library. Even if we already have a copy, the chances are it is well read and could very well do with being replaced by a newer version.

So before you make your way to the charity shop, think of us! The same goes for magazine subscriptions. We would be very happy to store back copies of any magazines you think might be useful and interesting.

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World Challenge - Training Hike in Bucks

By Roshni Malde (11J) and Jilna Shah (11F)

On the 23rd January the World Challenge Teams set off once again on one of their training days. Each person carried 10 kg in our back packs because we need to get accustomed to the harsh but rewarding trekking we will face on our once-in-a-lifetime experience in Argentina. The first half of the journey was mainly on flat pathways which was not too tiresome but the second half of the journey was mainly steep. The scenery was spectacular mainly because the weather was so bright and sunny. Thank-you to all the staff who helped us with our training, we had a great time.

**Staff Comment by
Ms Tai & Mr Edwards-Stuart**

We would especially like to thank Mr Hudson, Mr Cipriano, Mr Davighi and Mr Bradford, who accompanied us on this training hike and we commend the students for their perseverance in this important training period before the summer expedition.



Please visit our website

mhchs.org.uk

Among recent additions are a list of our **current extra-curricular activities** (as requested at a recent meeting of The Friends) and the School's new **Complaints Procedure**, paper copies of which are available upon request.



Business & Economics Studies Trip to Antwerp

By Mrs L Trinder

FORTY-ONE students took part in this year's visit to see industry at work and observe daily life in another EU country.

Our visit to the Stella Artois Brewery, Leuven, did not live up to the standard set last year and proved to be a disappointing start to the trip.

Fortunately, on a very sunny second day, we had a very informative visit to the port of Antwerp, one of the largest container ports in Europe.

Our trip was completed by a tour of the diamond quarter and a visit to the diamond museum.

Many students found the trip to be both beneficial to their study of business and economics as well as having an enjoyable three days away.

Thanks to Ms Dyer, Mr. Edwards and Mr. Mahajan for their hard work.

