



# Mill Hill County High School Head's Newsletter

2005-6, Issue 6

Monday, 13th March 2006

## The 'Arsenal Edition'

THERE is a very strong Arsenal Football Club theme in this Newsletter.

First, I had the pleasure of the company of David Dein, leading light at the club and Old Boy of the school, at lunch here on 3rd March 2006, when Mr Dein came to present awards to students in Year 9 and to talk to Sixth Formers.

Secondly, there is an article on Page 7 by Leo Malik, describing the Geography Department's link with Arsenal FC. This link, developed by Mr Gunzi, was the principal reason for Mr Dein's visit and I hope that a future edition of my Newsletter will give you more details of the superb work which is going on.

Thirdly, there are staff and student articles in this edition, describing a project to make a Channel 4 television programme, to feature the former Arsenal and England star, Ian Wright.

I am delighted for the school to have this illustrious connection with Arsenal FC. (One of my sons is impressed; he has maintained an unshakable loyalty to Arsenal during 7 years of life in Northumberland, where everywhere you look you see the black and white stripes of Newcastle United.)

Another of the school's illustrious connections can be seen in the advertisement on this page for the forthcoming RPO concert.

Sadly, I shall have to miss the event, because I am at the annual conference of the Association of School and College Leaders that weekend and duty comes before pleasure.

At the time of going to press, there are still seats available, but do not delay to book for what will be a splendid programme of popular classics, with food and wine thrown in.

I HOPE that you will read the piece on Page 6, describing the £250,000 which the Friends of Mill Hill County High School have raised over the past 10 years.

Although many parents have contributed to this total by attendance at func-

tions, purchase of raffle tickets etc., it has always been a comparatively small band of parents who have done all the organisation.

I hope that the level of success might encourage some more people to participate more actively.

## Friends raise £¼m

### Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

conducted by Gareth Wood

Hebrides Overture, Fauré Pavane, Holst St Paul Suite, Italian Girl in Algiers, Greensleeves Fantasia, Arrival of the Queen of Sheba, Marriage of Figaro Overture, Haydn's 104th Symphony

Saturday 18th March 2006, 7.30pm

Seats £24 from

[www.nickbattley.com/rpoconcert](http://www.nickbattley.com/rpoconcert)

## Ian Wright's Kids

By Archana Dorlikar (11H) & Victoria Mabbet (11K)

ON TUESDAY, 7th February, Mill Hill County had the pleasure of welcoming the England & Arsenal legend, Ian Wright. A group of Year 9 students were selected to participate in the preliminary events in his forthcoming programme to be shown on Channel 4 in the future.

A large number of students from other schools

also joined us on the day. To ensure the day ran smoothly, ten Year 11 GCSE students had the privilege of assisting the film crew with the events throughout the day.

Having the opportunity to meet Ian Wright was a very memorable experience. He was down to earth, giving up time to take pictures

*(Continued on page 4)*



# Jack Petchey Achievement Award

## January 2006

By Mr S Smith

THE winner of the Jack Petchey Achievement Award for January is Davy Ackerman of Year 9.

Davy was nominated by his entire form, a factor that weighed heavily among the School Council members, making the selection from a strong field of nominations.

Davy's form identified that he was helpful to other students in sport, academic subjects and in numerous extra curricular

activities.

Davy will be presented with his certificate in the year assembly and will be able to identify how to spend the £300 donated by the Jack Petchey scheme for this month.

Among other nominations received this month were Michael McDermott (Year 12), Lara Weismuller (Year 8), Sarah-Jane Spyrides (Year 10), Rory Kinane,

Charlotte Nolan and Kenny Yeung (all Year 13).

All were worthy nominations but the difficult task of choosing a winner was made by Mrs. Buoy and School Council representatives Hoby Abdel-Wahab and Wing Hei Au.

Thanks go to them for giving up their time and to all those who took the time to make nominations.

## The Singer Interview

By Mr M Singer

DANIEL Hardoon is a Year 7 student who has designed his own website. He spoke to Mr Singer earlier this week.

I first started using a PC when I was 5 years old. I saw pages on the web and wanted to make one myself. When I was about 9, my cousin helped me to design my own website.

Its purpose is to provide help for pupils in Primary schools who are preparing for their Key Stage 2 SATs. It has tips about learning and revising, like what to do on the night before an examination. It has

sample questions and receives quite a few emails from pupils asking for help and advice.

My Dad helped with the type of information to put on it and we also used other websites, together with work that I'd done myself at school.

Initially we were quite busy with it, especially closer to the examination times and we expect to be quite busy again closer to February and March.

We publicised the website by contacting newspapers and radio stations. I was interviewed by the

"Ham and High" local newspaper and also by BBC London Radio. A feature also appeared in the "JC".

Most of the site is free but, for an online annual registration fee of £5, people can access tests and other information. So far, about 20 people have signed up but we anticipate this figure to rise.

The website address is:

[www.satsguide.com](http://www.satsguide.com)

I might end up working in computers when I am older but that's a long way in the future!

## Music Students of the Half-Term

By Ms A Bailey

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

Rhianna Ganly-Thomas (7H)  
Lara Weisweiler-Wu (8Q)  
David Vaughan (9J)

Their excellent efforts in classroom music have been rewarded with a credit and certificate. Well done.

## A CHORUS LINE

TICKETS are now available for this year's musical 'A Chorus Line'. Tickets are £6.00.

The production runs from Monday, 3rd April to Thursday, 6th April at 7.30pm.

Further details will be given in a letter to all students.

A huge Thank You to all the cast and people involved. It has been a lot of hard work, but will hopefully be worth it. Good Luck...!!!

# Royal Academy of Arts Life Drawing Workshop

By Julia Metz (13G)

ON Thursday, 2nd February, the AS and A2 Art classes took part in a life drawing workshop held by the Royal Academy of the Arts.

The workshop lasted all day giving us time to experiment using charcoal and different drawing styles. For the past two years, we had a female model so it was a bit of a surprise for me and my classmates when a male life model turned up this year.

The workshop is obscure, with the model, Miles, using props from the drama costume cupboard in his poses. Although guided by a leader giving us ideas and time frames for our draw-

ings, everyone came out with different work.

Part of the workshop I found particularly interesting was when we got into the positions Miles was holding to feel the weight distribution and which muscles are strained. We then used this in our life drawings.

Every student who took part in the workshop came out with around twelve drawings of varying sizes, styles and perspectives. All in all, I found the workshop very interesting and useful as part of our course. Although it only lasted one day we all gained a lot from it.



## Environmental Action

By Mr J Gunzi

**Environmental Action Committee.** DUE to the number of environmental initiatives in school, it has been decided to start an Environmental Action Committee. Its tasks include keeping an overview of all activities, planning new activities and communicating those activities. Current members are:

Francesca McLoughlin (10K), Hollie Howe-Watson (10J), Michael Hagai (13M), Stephen O'Sullivan (10L), Afua Kokayi (10L), Emily Balsdon (10F), Natan Janner-Klauser (7J), Henry Yau (7Q),

Mark Farragher (7H), Mr. Gunzi, Mr. Wyatt and Mr. Singer.

If you have any suggestions or ideas about environmental activities in school, please contact Mr. J. Gunzi.

**Wild Flowers Meadow Talk.** Francesca McLoughlin (10K), Hollie Howe-Watson (10J) and Mr. Gunzi attended the talk on Thursday, 23rd February, organised by Three Valleys Water Environmental Education Department.

The talk was led by Mr. Flowers, who provided us

with some crucial information on how to continue the restoration of the meadow in the school grounds.

A big thank you to Hollie and Francesca for giving up their free time.

**Bears Network (Barnet Environmental Action for Real in Schools).** Mill Hill County High School has now joined the BEARS network, which is run by Barnet's Sustainability Officer, Stuart Gadsden. The BEARS meet once a term to discuss ideas for environmental action in schools.

## Oxbridge

**FOLLOWING** my announcement in my February Newsletter, I am delighted to give details of this year's Oxbridge offers.

Three students have offers from Oxford: Charlotte Nolan, St Catherine's (history); Carl Walton, Balliol (mathematics and computing); Shona Lavey, Wadham (psychology).

Justine Dattani has an offer to read mathematics at Queen's College, Cambridge.

I warmly congratulate these students and their teachers.

## Our First Grading

By Kirsty Emmerson (9H)

On Saturday, 28th January, nine students came into the school to conduct their first grading in Tae Guk. We sat in front of three judges (not unlike The X Factor) and were made to run through blocks, punches and patterns, shield attacks and defence drills.

By our break, we were tired out.

When we returned to the fray, we were to do take-downs and a knife attack. Finally, it came to our last set - DESTRUCTION (breaking a board with our feet), which we didn't know about. However, it was generally a success.

Two hours after we started, we had practically collapsed on the floor!

Two weeks later, we got our results. We passed! Well done to everyone who took part, for their courage and stamina, and Thank you to Mrs Van Oosterom who arranged it all.

# Extra Curricular Activities

## Spring Term 2005-6

	Morning 7.30-8.15	Lunch 1.20-1.50	After School 3.30-4.30
<b>Monday</b>	Year 7 Cricket nets	All yrs Volleyball ACO	Yr 7+8 Netball ERH/KDE Yr 8 Cricket nets ACZ Yr 7 + 10 Rugby BMN/GHS/HFT Fixtures
<b>Tuesday</b>	GCSE + A level Trampolining ACZ	Yr 8 Netball KDE Yrs 7+ 8, Badminton SHM	Yr 11+SEN Rugby ACZ Girls' Football CMY Hockey (Astroturf) RVM Fixtures
<b>Wednesday</b>	Trampolining Squad Training RVM	Yr 9-13 Trampolining (1 <sup>st</sup> 16 changed) RVM GCSE Swimming SHM/ERH Yrs 9,10, 11, 12, 13 Badminton ACZ	GCSE Theory Revision Club Room M2 ERH Yr 8 Rugby BMN Yr 10 Cricket nets SDH Fixtures
<b>Thursday</b>	Trampolining Squad Training SHM	Yr 10, 11 + Sen Netball PES  Girls' Basketball SHM	Yr 7 Netball ERH 3.30-4.30pm Gym <b>Tae Guk</b> (like Tae Quondo) £5 International Instructor 4.30-6.00 (badminton until 4.30 with MSR Yr 9 Rugby BMN
<b>Friday</b>	Table Tennis All Years LET	Yr 7+8 Trampolining (1 <sup>st</sup> 16 changed) RVM Touch Rugby ERH/BMN	Fixture Parkor RVM

Other football with ACZ as required  
Year 9 cricket / Year 11 cricket / Senior Cricket RVM - nets to be arranged

## Ian Wright's Kids

(Continued from page 1)  
with fans and sign autographs. Ian also cracked a few jokes and, let's face it, although ageing he is still

INCREDIBLY buff!

We know for a fact that both staff and pupils were extremely jealous. He has superb dress sense; wear-

ing a gorgeous green matching outfit – hat, shirt and jumper, not forgetting the wellies!

We would like to thank

the Channel 4 film crew and the PE Department for requesting our presence during the day, in which we are much honoured.

## South of England Schools Trampolining

By Mrs R Van Oosterom

MANY congratulations to Stefan Confalonieri and Manish Taylor who competed in the South of England Trampolining Competition on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2006.

The brave pair competed against the best school performers in the South, after the team came second in the London Schools' competition and got through to the next round.

Unfortunately, fate was not smiling on the team as they prepared for the competition, as at the last minute one of the team was injured and one was very ill. This left only one performer!

As this was a team event, Stefan could not compete on his

own, so we enlisted the help of Manish Taylor who was happy to step in at the last minute to save the day.



**Stefan Confalonieri & Manish Taylor**

However, when the boys arrived, a

look of horror descended upon Manish's face as he saw the standard of competitors and realised just what he'd let himself in for! Not to be outdone, both boys warmed up and practised their routines vowing to do their best for both their school and themselves.

When the time came for the competition, both Stefan and Manish gave the competition their best shot, pushing themselves to do the best routines they could.

Although neither of them got through to the next round, both boys enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to the next competition to be held on the 28th February :-

“The Barnet Championships”.

## Middlesex Schools Championships

By Ross Sambrook (Year 11)

EARLIER this month a small group of athletes from Mill Hill County High visited Harrow Public School to compete in the Middlesex Schools Championships.

Any athlete to finish in the top six would go on to compete in the English Schools representing Middlesex.

### Middlesex Results

U17 Boys : Jake Shelley (2nd)  
Ross Sambrook (6th)  
(*Out of 53*)

U17 Girls : Emma Layton (9th)  
Christina Micanovic (35th)  
Annette Davis (33rd)  
(*Out of 45*)

U15 Girls : Emma Mercer (37th)  
(*Out of 49*)

U13 Boys : James Riley (38th)  
(*Out of 61*)

Barnet Results for the teams we entered:  
U17 Boys : 4th

U17 Girls : 2nd  
U15 Girls : 4th  
U13 Boys : 7th

By Mrs R Van Oosterom

CONGRATULATIONS to everyone who competed for the school.

Special congratulations to Jake Shelley and Ross Sambrook who both qualified for the English Schools' Cross Country Championships.

## Senior Barnet Football Cup

By Mr A Cruz

A SEMI-FINAL football match was held against Finchley Catholic High School. It was a very close match with FCH up 1 nil and us then equalising. We then scored to make it 2-1. We finished 2-2 at the end of 80 minutes.

We then played extra time with ten minutes each way, the first

team to score winning the match. Both teams came close to scoring, but failed.

It was nineteen minutes into extra time before we played for penalties. FCH had a corner and everybody came back to defend. Unfortunately, however, FCH managed to score from the corner.

Our boys played extremely well throughout all stages of the Barnet Cup but we were knocked out one game before the final.

Congratulations to the team's effort and commitment throughout the whole game. I look forward to next year's cup games. Hopefully, we will go all the way next time.

# Jan Harding Memorial Award - Ski Trip 2006

By Mr S Smith

PRIOR to her death in January 2004, Jan Harding (former Head of PE) had organised the school ski trip for a number of years.

In recognition of this our tour company, Pinnacle, presented to the school a trophy to be awarded after each trip in her memory. This was to go to the student who contributed something extra to the trip irrespective of skiing ability.

As Head of PE, not only did Jan encourage sporting excellence, she promoted participation and had high expectations of students' behaviour and attitudes. This award, therefore, is entirely appropriate.

The ski trip in February to Spain was the largest party the school had ever taken. 122 students and 15 staff took part and, once again, the behaviour of the party did the school proud.

A description of the trip will be produced elsewhere. On the final evening, the staff met to deliberate on the award. As last year, all staff were asked for their nominations and, from these nominations, a winner was voted upon.

The following students were nominated, some more than once. The comments are from staff who nominated students.

**Lisa Boakes** - "Constantly looking after younger groups and taking care of others".

**Jake Harle** - "Unsung hero of the ski trip because he is one of those permanently cheerful, supportive, calm and mature kids. His group had the best atmosphere of all I skied with as he was always at the back looking out for those slightly weaker than him. He did injure me but I couldn't have been KO'd by a nicer bloke".

**Lauren Cardoe** - "Very good natured and friendly. In the ski group, she was very attentive, tried really hard, was very positive and added to the spirit of the group by encouraging others".

**Daniel Shine** - "For skiing at the back of the group all week and picking up everyone's poles. He showed real spirit when injured".

**Pippa Milfull** - "Full participation. Enthusiastic skier even when struggling, always encouraging others

and eager participant in all après ski".

**Archana Dorliker** - "Gave great help to younger students and was generally very helpful".

**Josh Pearson** - "Did not complain when he was being held back by his group. Responded well when pressured to perform to see if he could move up. Overall cheery disposition and positive attitude".

**Georgia Ronald** - "For sorting out the ski cage for the older years. For being cheerful & enthusiastic about skiing. For being willing to help out with the younger students".

**Chris McDermott** - "Unfailingly positive. Cheerful under duress. Helps others in his group. Contributes to group spirit in all activities".

**Sam Lacey** - "Constantly positive attitude and supportive to other students".

In nearly every way, the ski party was a pleasure to be with. In the whole week, there were very few occasions when any negative comment had to be made to any student.

In a very good group, the

above students stood out for individual members of staff, though it would have been possible to nominate at least a dozen more students.

Following the vote, the student selected to receive the second Jan Harding memorial award was Chris McDermott of Year 11. The presentation will be made to Chris in school assembly.

Congratulations should go to all the students for their behaviour and their efforts on the ski slopes.

Sincere thanks also to all the staff who participated on the trip and worked extremely hard to ensure that everything went as smoothly as possible - Ms. Howard, Mr. Davighi, Mr. Woolf, Ms. Chan, Ms. Hamilton, Mrs. Stopps, Ms. Tobin, Mr. McKay, Mrs. Harris, Mr. Oakley, Mr. Roper, Ms. Heyworth and Mr. Edwards-Stuart.

A special thanks to Mr. Hudson for leading the trip and ensuring that it was organised in such an efficient and professional manner, allowing all the students and staff to enjoy a rewarding and successful trip.

## The Friends' £1/4m - Now we need your help

ARE YOU aware that the astonishing £250,000 raised over 10 years has been used to buy many items which enhance every student's daily life at MHCHS, including the minibus, the grand piano in the hall, trampolines for the gym, camping equipment for field trips, library books, the Sixth Form plasma screen—to name but a few?

Organising and running events is hard work. Deciding

which events to run is sometimes even harder. We need more parents to become active members of The Friends to build on our past success. We need all of you, parents, students and staff to tell us what kind of events you would like to see organised.

Did the FIREWORK DISPLAY light up your skies? Tell us!

Was the FASHION SHOW more the model for you? Tell us!

Is the QUIZ EVENING the answer you are looking for? Tell us!

Or was the INTERNATIONAL EVENING simply a world apart? Tell us!

Better still, do you have any ideas for an event? Maybe a karaoke evening? How about our very own Kenwood with

music and a picnic? What about a summer BBQ? An auction? A jazz fest? Our own football world cup....you name it; we'll consider it. Just remember, it should be something that the whole school community can enjoy, which will help us to raise *loads* of money.

All you have to do now is email your brilliant idea to the email address in the shaded box. We're waiting to hear from you now.....

**CHARLIEMCMILLAN4@aol.com**

# Calendar

## March

Tuesday, 14th	Geography Masterclass
Wednesday, 15th	German Exchange Students Depart
Saturday, 18th	Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Concert 7.30pm in School Hall
Thursday, 23rd	Year 12 Parents' Evening
Tuesday, 28th	Year 9 Shakespeare Workshops
Thursday, 30th	Dress Rehearsal for the School Musical (A Chorus Line)
Friday, 31st	Year 7 Geography & Science Trips to London

## April

Monday, 3rd	School Show
Tuesday, 4th	School Show RS Masterclass
Wednesday, 5th	School Show
Thursday, 6th	School Show
Friday, 7th	Staff v School Netball Staff v School Football <b>END OF TERM</b>
Monday, 24th	<b>START OF TERM</b> Inset Day

## Year 9 Geography Trip to Arsenal

By Leo Malik (9L)

ON the 8th and 9th February, 229 students travelled to Highbury Stadium, the home of Arsenal Football Club. The itinerary for the day included a football session and a tour of Highbury Stadium. The basis for the field trip was to analyse environmental quality around Highbury and the soon-to-be Emirates Stadium.



We arrived at Highbury in North London at 9.45am and were immediately taken into the indoor football pitches. The different teaching sets were split into groups with different names - Almunia, Cole, Bergkamp and Diaby. I was in Cole and we started with a football session whilst the other groups left to go and either do an Emirates Stadium walk or go on to a Highbury tour.

The football session consisted of a warm-up and then some short games. When that finished, we moved on to analysing the environmental quality of five different sites picked out by students chosen by the group leader. Next, we had a chance to interview an employee and eat lunch.

My group's employee was a Player Mail Administrator. The job involved answering players' mail, communicating with players agents and organising special events. Afterwards, we were allowed to visit the club shop and have a tour of Highbury Stadium. We walked through the marble halls where a bust of Herbert Chapman stands, the first Manager at Arsenal F.C.

Moving further, we visited the stadium and saw how artificial sunlight producers positioned on the pitch keeps it always in the best condition. Arsenal's lead groundsman has won "Groundsman of the Year" four years running.

Finally, we visited the players' changing rooms where we had photos taken. Overall, the trip to Arsenal was amazing and we would like to thank the Geography Department for organising it.



# Ian Wright Comes to Mill Hill County

By Mrs van Oosterom

THERE was mass hysteria on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February, as the grape vine worked well at Mill Hill County. The ex-Arsenal football star, who was capped thirty-three times before retiring in 2000, had come to work in the PE Department all day and, as students and staff gradually heard about the celebrity's presence, they crowded round the sports hall to try and get a glimpse.

Channel 4 researchers contacted us before the Christmas break asking if we would like to participate in a television programme in which Ian Wright would work with Year 9 students who were not keen on sport. The idea would be to change their attitudes to sport by introducing them to experiences they were unlikely to have had before, with the students and their families working closely with Ian Wright.

The researchers came and met some of our students, interviewed them and gave them questionnaires. They shortlisted several of our students. The final decision, however, would be that of Ian Wright on the 'Sports Day'.

After interviewing students from schools all over London, the researchers chose our school to hold the Sports Day. The day would involve a morning of high jump and indoor javelin, and an afternoon of cross country running round the course at Moat Mount. Our selected students were split up, some being invited to the morning and afternoon sessions and some being invited only to the afternoon session.

Students from other schools joined our students, as did other Mill Hill students from Year 9, making up thirty in the morning and one hundred in the afternoon. The day itself began with Ian Wright meeting the morning students, talking to them about their lives and sport in general.

He also spoke to the teachers of

all the schools invited to ascertain why some of the invited students did not like sport. The students were then warmed up and taught the very basics of the high jump. This session finished with a knock out competition, with all the students' results recorded for future comparisons.

The students had a short break and then they were into their second session of the day. They each had three turns at throwing an indoor javelin the length of the sports hall. Their results were measured and their best result counted towards the competition.

After a lunch break, when students socialised and met students from other schools, the afternoon students started to arrive. Our GCSE students, who had been organising and recording all morning, checked the new arrivals in and set up the course for the afternoon.

By this time, the afternoon students were ready to go. The plan for the afternoon was explained to them, safety issues outlined and then Ian Wright spoke to them giving words of encouragement. They were marched out to Moat Mount, to our starting point.

The students were gathered together and Ian Wright started the race with a starting pistol. They battled their way round the course with varying levels of enthusiasm, following the directions given by our GCSE marshals.

Ian Wright was at the end of the course to welcome the students in. Our GCSE students timed all the participants and gave them a sticker with their place on it. The students then reassembled in the sports hall for presentations.

Several medals were distributed for performance in the day's activities and Ian Wright announced the students who had been chosen for the next round of

the television programme. Two of our students, one boy and one girl, were chosen to participate.

Ian Wright and the crew will be back in July to repeat the Sports Day, with the same students, in order to compare their results. In the time between now and July, Ian Wright will be working with the chosen students and their families, hopefully engaging the students in sporting activities.

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the Sports Day and special thanks to the GCSE students who helped out all day, organising and preparing for the events.

