



Mill Hill County High School

Head's Newsletter

2005-6, Issue 3

Friday, 25th November 2005

Black History Month

I AM delighted to report the success of the many activities which were organised to celebrate Black History Month. A great many students from all backgrounds became involved and it was particularly pleasing when students, who had not previously involved themselves much in the extra-curricular life of the School, found themselves being drawn in.

The highlight of all the activities was a concert which I was unfortunately unable to attend, because of a prior engagement. Many staff did go and were deeply impressed by the quality and style of what was principally an event organised by students, under the guidance of Mrs Mansfield who has responsibility for increasing student participation.

Many students assisted with the planning and organisation, but the prime movers were Naomi Guyane and Andrew Asante, the latter being awarded the Jack Petchey Award, as detailed in Mr Smith's article on Page 8.

While we should always guard

against complacency, racial and religious harmony are strong features of life at MHCHS. For example, students from all backgrounds are accustomed to the religious festivals which happen at different times from the country's public holidays, they notice with respect the fasting of Ramadan, they enjoy the fun and the serious reflections of Black History Month, they appreciate the dancing at Diwali assemblies and they join in with School Christmas celebrations.

To a very large extent, students have a sense of unity and pride as members of the same School, while all are encouraged to observe and celebrate the traditions particular to their own backgrounds and, where appropriate, to help fellow students from different backgrounds to do likewise. Such are the blessings of a successful multi-cultural, multi-faith school and I think that the model has much to recommend it in our divided world.

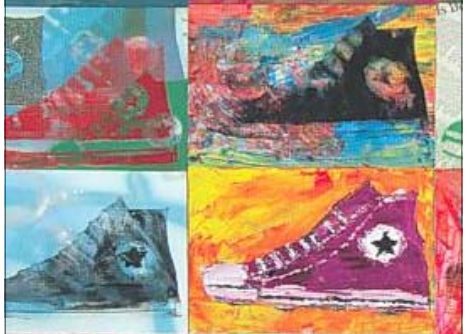
We continue to work to build upon this most positive feature.

Remembrance

OLD BOYS of the School, who were contemporaries of those Old Boys who died in World War Two, again graced our Sixth Form Remembrance Ceremony at which the appearance, deportment and contributions of members of the Sixth Form were outstanding.

In addition to the moving music and ceremonial, including the placing of crosses and Stars of David around the War Memorial, the Ceremony was enhanced by five readings, selected and read by members of five great religious faiths, prominently represented among those who fought on the Allied side all those years ago.

**Be Inspired
by the Next Generation**



Edexcel Art & Design Exhibition

7th - 11th November
at County Hall Gallery, London

This poster advertised an exhibition at the Saatchi Gallery, County Hall, celebrating this year's best GCSE and A Level art. We congratulate Claire Abbey, whose A Level work was exhibited.

Christmas Concerts

13th & 14th December 2005 School Hall,

7.30pm

Tickets £4.00

(Available from Reception.)

Trip to Victoria & Albert Museum

By Annette Davis (10H)

THE Victoria and Albert Museum is a very interesting place with sections containing various themes, but it is impossible to see it all in just one day. You are able to see not only historical but also contemporary artworks all throughout the museum.

When we visited the museum, we were looking out for pieces which were to do with natural forms as that is our topic. We saw very cultural pieces in the three sections we focused on, India, China and Japan. Most of the things were extremely old and there was a mixture of intricate and simple designs.

On the trip, we filled in a couple of pages of our

work journals from each section with sketches of different pieces to do with Natural forms. Beside each sketch we made a few notes about who made it, where it was made and when. We began to observe patterns that we see in designs as well.

My favourite part of the museum which we visited was China because of the detail they had in general. In particular, I liked the Chinese kimonos a lot.

In the India section, the pieces were very detailed. There were quite a few fabric designs on rugs, etc. In the Japan section, there were a lot of ornaments with flowers and animals. It was a very interesting day.

The Singer Interview

By Mr M Singer

AFUA Kokayi is a Year 10 student who joined the Girl Guides when she was in Year 6.

She spent 2 weeks in Germany during the summer holiday, taking part in an International Jamboree. She spoke to Mr. Singer about her experiences earlier this week.

A Jamboree is a huge camp with thousands of young people living under canvas and taking part in a wide variety of activities including swimming, community service projects, camp fires, crafts, singing and interacting with and getting to know young people from many other countries.

The site is organised like a miniature town, with different national groups taking responsibility for organising elections, the operation of a port and also education and entertainment.

In Germany this summer, there were guides and scouts from places like Russia, Poland, Macedonia, New Zealand, Kazakstan, Britain and many more.

Girl Guiding helps each person to make the most of their individual talents, skills and interests. It sets out to channel these abilities in a positive way by developing a sense of tolerance and teamwork, working with and for others.

The International Jamboree in

Germany this summer was attended by 4,500 people.

We set out on 27th July 2005, flying to Berlin from Heathrow, taking a train to Wolfsburg, then transferring by bus to the campsite at Vineta. There were a limited number of places so I had to apply through several different stages.

The selection is based on guiding skills like camping, survival and the ability to make friends and communicate with others. Costs are met by fund-raising and money available from the Guiding Association.

The main age group in Vineta was 14-25. Each national group had to make a presentation about their own country to the other groups. As well as activities within the camp, we also spent time helping to divert a river to avoid the future risk of flooding in the local area. We also visited an otter sanctuary and learned about how these amazing creatures live

in the wild.

We all had to share tents, which could take as many as 20 people. My tent had five people and we all got on pretty well. We went to bed when we wanted to and generally got up at about 9.00am each day.

The facilities were pretty basic with a stand pipe for washing, Portaloos and the opportunity to shower when we went swimming. It took us about 20 minutes to walk to the swimming pool.

We ate breakfast in the open air and this was usually cereal, bread and jam and a drink. Hot food was cooked on camping Calor gas burners and we had things like chilli con carne and rice dishes for our main meals. Nobody went hungry because there was a big supermarket on site!

I made many new friends and still email some of them.

We spent our final few days sightseeing in Berlin and then returned to the U.K.

Music Department News

By Ms A Bailey

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who have worked extremely hard during the first half-term of this school year: *Samuel Rice (7M), Rosie*

O'Callaghan (8L) and Olivia Goldring (9J).

Their efforts have been rewarded with a certificate and credit from the Music Dept..

Design Team set Their Sights On Olympic Gold

By Zoe Collinson & Harriet Wigmore (Year 9)



From left to right: Jesse Liu, Mr McKay, Sara Velmi-Gardner, Stephen O'Sullivan, Afua Kokayi, Harriet Wigmore & Zoe Collinson.

IT STARTED as a competition within School to design logos, a name for a construction company and a section of a park in our area.

The best two entries from each year were then chosen by Mr. McKay and accepted to take part in the final six month challenge - to design a section of the 2012 Olympic Park in Stratford.

On 6th October 2005, Mr. McKay took the design team which consisted of six Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 students to Stratford to take part in the Construction Enterprise Challenge 2006.

We all made an early start travelling by minibus to Stanmore station and then commuted with the rush hour crowd to Stratford in East London where we were warmly welcomed to Stratford

Old Town Hall.

During the morning session we were given further information and instructions about the future design tasks that lay ahead, which included designing more logos, parks and questionnaires. This would continue until February of next year.

We were also given information about the current plans for the town and told more about how the 2012 London Olympics would affect and benefit Stratford.

The overall winning design team will win an all expenses paid trip to the Eden Project in Cornwall next year.

In the afternoon, we were introduced to Sarah, our architectural mentor. She works with the company who built the famous 'Gherkin' in Central London.

National Poetry Day

By Mrs A Monaghan

THURSDAY, 6th October, was National Poetry Day. We celebrated by writing a whole school 'Recipe' poem that listed all the ingredients that go into our school. Here is the best suggestion:

Recipe for Mill Hill County High School

Take 36 Year 7's, oozed out of the oven at 180c, screaming about the homework being too hard and over 1,000 students in all years yelling for tuck.

Mix them up and throw all in the queue at the same time, heat and add angry teacher until boiling, allow to pour over the edge and throw in some really naughty students for extra spiciness.

Add a dollop of loudness and leave to simmer with a tired teacher for an hour.

Add a pinch of interrupting every thirty seconds, stir vigorously with a touch of uniform and a tablespoon of homework in a mixing pot of races and religions learning together in harmony.

Leave to freeze in the chilled playground for an hour & a half, serve with a garnish of excellent exam results and relief.

Persian Success

By Mr T Dainty

IT gives me great pleasure to congratulate one of our students at Mill Hill County High, Shaadi Valadkhani (10K), on recently passing her GCSE in Persian.

Shaadi achieved an A in her GCSE and, given that this was taken in her own time, it shows both great commitment and determination, which is most commendable.

Congratulations and well done!

Sarah was very enthusiastic and we look forward to seeing what she will think of our ideas in the coming months.

Finally, we were shown the plans and photographs of the proposed Stratford Olympic Site. At the present mo-

ment in time it is a huge flat, sandy plain, but the ideas for it looked spectacular.

All in all, it was a great day and we would all like to thank Mr. McKay for taking us and committing himself to working with us over the next few months.

A Glorious Win for the Year 7 'A' Team in our First Rugby Tournament

By Chris and Michael (Year 7)

ON WEDNESDAY, 18th October, the Year 7 rugby team set off for a tournament held at Compton school. Our first fixture of the day was against Compton 'B'.

After a very hard fought first minute, Carl opened the scoring with a try (his first of seven!). The match ended with a comfortable win for Mill Hill County with a final score of four tries to nil.

After a short break, our next match on the road to glory was against the Compton's 'A' team.

With a lead at half time of three tries to nil, the match looked to be in our hands. With Compton 'A'

only being able to pull a try back in the closing stages of the match, the final score was three tries to one.

After another well deserved break, the battle of the Titans continued with Mill Hill County 'A' taking on the Mighty Mill Hill County 'B'. After a tight first half, the scores were tied.

With our pride at stake Mill Hill County 'A' managed to steal the win with a great run from the half way line in the dying seconds of the match.

For the decider of the tournament, we would have to win this next game to win the tournament

so we were nervous in the 'A' team, although we were playing the Compton 'C' team.

In the gruelling first half we managed to pull one try out of the bag in the last minute. In the second half we brought on some fresh players to whip up two easy tries at the end for a confident win.

This left Mill Hill County 'A' team the winners of the tournament and our 'B' team in a respectable fourth position. Not bad for our first match!

The Team consisted of Michael, Leon, Jedi, William, Lewis, Robert, Ross, Carl and Chris.

Cross Country Results

By Mrs R Van Oosterom

Well done to all students who have competed so far this term. Results are as follows: -

Barnet League – Boys' Race 1

James Riley – 3rd in Year 7 race
Robert Pope – scored points in Year 7 race
Adam Denton – 2nd in Year 8 race
Ross Sambrook – 1st in Year 9+ race
Jake Shelly – 2nd in Year 9+ race
Rhys Lewis – 3rd in Year 9+ race

Barnet League – Girls' Race 1

Elleanor Mousley – scored points in Year 7 race
Larissa Quin – scored points in Year 7 race
Gina Johnson – scored points in Year 7 race
Lara Ozturk - scored points in Year 8 race
Sophie Peutrill – scored points in Year 8 race
Anna Wallace – 3rd in Year 9 race
Emma Mercer - scored points in Year 9 race
Emma Layton – 3rd in Year 10+ race
Florentina Argenio - scored points in Year 10+ race

Barnet League – Boys' Race 2

James Riley – 9th in Year 7 race
Jamie Hayhurst – scored points in Year 7 race
Mahmoud Aka – scored points in Year 7 race
Lee Hall – scored points in Year 7 race
Aqueeb Khan – scored points in Year 7 race
Alex Kumar - scored points in Year 7 race
Arian Borani - scored points in Year 8 race
Adam Welton - scored points in Year 8 race

Areeb Khan – 3rd in Year 9 race
Jake Shelly – 1st in Year 10+ race
Ross Sambrook – 2nd in Year 10+ race

Barnet League – Girls' Race 2

Shelli Epstein - scored points in year 7 race
Eleanor Mousley – scored points in year 7 race
Larissa Quinn - scored points in year 7 race
Lara Ozturk - scored points in year 8 race
Sophie Peutrill – scored points in year 8 race
Jessica Taylor - scored points in year 8 race
Olivia Wigmore – scored points in year 8 race
Anna Wallace – 1st in Year 9 race
Emma Mercer - scored points in year 9 race
Harriet Wigmore – scored points in year 9 race
Charlotte Rice - scored points in year 9 race
Jade Dereve – scored points in year 9 race
Anusha Sareen – scored points in year 9 race
Vicky Dixon – scored points in year 9 race
Josette Shilling – scored points in year 9 race
Emma Layton – 2nd in Year 10+ race
Annette Davis – 9th in Year 10+ race
Florentina Argenio - scored points in year 10+ race

The Barnet Cross Country Championships are on Thursday, 12th January 2006 (2pm start) at Cophall Stadium.

If anyone would like to participate in cross country but has not done so yet – don't worry, we still want you! Please see a member of the PE department as soon as you can.

Extra-curricular PE Activities Autumn Term 2005

	Morning 7.30am-8.15	Lunch 1.20-1.50	After School 3.30-4.30
Monday		Volleyball - all years ACO Running Club - All years Rory Yr 8 Basketball SHM	Yr 7+8 Rugby BMN Yr 9+10 Rugby HFT/GHS Fixtures
Tuesday	GCSE + A level Trampolining RVM	Yr 8 Netball KDE/ERH Yr 10 Basketball BMN	Girls' Football CMY Senior Rugby ACZ Yr 9 Football DES Hockey - mixed Away on astroturf RVM Fixtures
Wednesday	Trampolining squad training RVM	Yr 7 Netball ERH Yr 11 Basketball SHM	Senior Football ACZ/BMN Yr 11 Football SHM Fixtures
Thursday		Senior Netball PES Yr 9 Basketball ACZ	Tae Guk (like Tae Quondo) £5 Interna- tional Instructor 4.30-6.00 (badminton until 4.30 with MSR) Yr 10 Football TDY/LET Yr 7 Football SHM Year 8 Football BMN Fixtures
Friday	Table tennis LET	9+10 Netball RVM Senior Basketball SHM Yr 9 Touch - mixed ERH+BMN	Parkor RVM

Other practices may be arranged. Please check the notice boards in the PE Department.

Rugby - The Game They Play in Heaven!

By Mr B Mulligan

AS THE rugby season starts to heat up, Mill Hill County High is on path to becoming a force in the Barnet Borough.

This year there will be teams for Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and Opens which will play a number of fixtures against other borough schools.

The coaching panel hopes to

raise the profile of rugby in the school by welcoming to the game both new players and those who have played before.

If you have never played before, training sessions are set up to introduce and practise the skills needed to become the next Jonny Wilkinson.

So, if you're wanting to have fun

with friends, get a little dirty and show off your masculinity in the process.....rugby is the game for you.

Training session times will be passed on to form teachers and posted on the PE noticeboards.

Teams will be given further details regarding fixtures at their training sessions.

MHCHS and Arsenal Football Club

By Mr J Gunzi

THE GEOGRAPHY Department has set up a partnership between MHCHS and Arsenal Football Club.

The partnership involves the development and trialling of Key Stage 3 Schemes of Work featuring aspects of Arsenal Football Club in order to promote geographical learning.

A Year 9 module is planned for the half term after Christmas, whilst Year 8 will be taught a different module the half-term before Easter.

The partnership will be beneficial for our students in a

number of ways:

- Arsenal will provide excellent resources and detailed information which allow for excellent geographical learning.
- Year 9 students will be allowed to visit both the old stadium and the new site (the level of access depends on the ongoing building works). Please note that this visit will be in February and not in December (final dates are to be announced).
- Arsenal will provide football coaching after school during the time that modules are being taught.

• Arsenal officials will visit the school at the end of each module to thank MHCHS students for their participation.

• All students who have worked well will be given a certificate, and one student per teaching group will be given an Arsenal Shirt. Two of those nine students will win a pair of tickets to an Arsenal game in Highbury.

Finally, our school will be contacted if spare tickets are available for a given game.

Students in Year 8 and Year 9 will be told how to apply for those tickets if they become available.

Mill Hill Netball

By Mrs R Van Oosterom

MILL HILL has six netball teams competing in this year's Barnet League Competition.

All the teams have started the season off in spectacular fashion. The Year 7 teams have been strong competitors alongside the Year 8 team, who are currently undefeated.

In the Year 9 competition, Mill Hill has only played one match, but the level of standard suggests that the season will be a successful one for the girls. The Year 10 and

the Senior girls have not let the School down; they are also dominating the competition.

Well done to all the girls who have competed so far. Keep up the good work and continue to train hard together.

The results of the Netball season are as follows;

Year 7 A Netball

Mill Hill 9 def St James 5
Mill Hill 5 def Hendon 1
The Mount 3 def Mill Hill 1

Year 7 B Netball

The Mount 9 def Mill Hill 3

Year 8 Netball

Mill Hill 13 def St James 1
Mill Hill 8 def Hendon 7

Year 9 Netball

Mill Hill 15 def Hendon 4

Year 10 Netball

Mill Hill 6 def London Academy Seniors 5
Mill Hill 16 def Hendon 12

Seniors – no results available

Football Results

By Mr T Cruz

1st Sixth

League Fixtures

Mill Hill 4	Bishop Stopford	- Won
Mill Hill 1	Uxbridge 3	- Lost
Mill Hill 2	Drayton Manor 2	- Draw
Mill Hill 4	White Hart Lane 1	- Won
Mill Hill 2	Alexander Park 5	- Lost
Mill Hill	Ashmole (DNP)	- Draw

Cup Fixtures (Barnet)

Mill Hill 5 Ravenscroft 4
Into Quarter Finals

Year 7 Football Fixtures

Finchley 5	Mill Hill 1	- Lost }
Hendon 3	Mill Hill 7	- Won }
London Academy 3	Mill Hill 4	- Won } League
St. James' 1	Mill Hill 1	- Draw }
Compton 3	Mill Hill 10	- Won }
Mill Hill 8	Compton 2	- Won }

<u>School</u>	<u>Year 8</u>	<u>Year 9</u>	<u>Year 10</u>	<u>Year 11</u>
Finchley	1-0 Won	0-10 Lost	0-3 Lost	1-2 Lost
East Barnet	2-4 Lost			
Hasmonean	7-3 Won			
Hendon	9-2 Won			5-2 Won
Edgware	3-0 Won	5-1 Won	2-8 Lost	2-3 Lost
Compton	3-1 Won		1-2 Lost	
St. James'	4-2 Won			1-1 Draw

Feedback & Improvements, 2004-05

By Dr L James

IN THE course of the last year, as well as taking feedback through our existing communication channels of the Friends and the School Council, we have put in place a number of systems to monitor aspects of the way the school communicates with parents and responds to concerns and complaints.

In the Head's December Newsletter, we shall report on the parent and student surveys carried out this year by external agencies. In the meantime, we can report on two of our monitoring strategies - the periodic communications survey and the annual feedback analysis.

October Communications Survey

We would like to thank the 122 parents who responded to the recent postal survey, 41% of the number circulated. Your replies were very helpful to us as a means of following up the standards for response times that were introduced in 2004.

Most of the 122 parents had telephoned the school in the course of the last year and the majority reported that their call had been answered within the time standard set.

Half of the 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 promised period.

A very small minority of the 122 parents reported

making a complaint during the last year. The responses to the majority of these complaints met the service standards.

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 considered them carefully. We shall continue to monitor our performance in this respect and seek improvements where indicated.

Positive Comments

Praise for the School included efficiency in handling enquiries and complaints, prompt response times, teachers phoning home to discuss problems, very good website and newsletter. One respondent commented that "The school maintains high standards of education & services".

Concerns

These mainly involved problems with communication, including the new automated telephone system, the operation of which we are keeping under review. Please let Mrs Daniel, the Senior Administrative Officer know if you have any particular concerns over this.

Suggestions

The following suggestions will be referred to the appropriate persons/groups for consideration:

Continued on Page 10

Jack Petchey Award

By Mr S Smith

MANY thanks to Adam Conroy-Smith (Year 9) and Amy Zambon (Year 7) who represented the School Council in selecting this month's winner, along with Mrs. Jan Buoy.

From the nominations received, Andrew Asante was selected as the winner for the leading of various meetings in relation to our Black History Month, for inspiring and organising other students and for helping to organise the successful Black History Month concert.

Other nominations received were for Nicholas Moulson of Year 7 for setting up an after-school sports club for Year 7 students on Friday and Ross Manning-Sambrook for his help in organising Year 10 boys athletics and his contribution to school sport.

As a result of his success in receiving this reward, Andrew will be presented with a certificate and will attend next year's annual award presentation for all Barnet schools. He will then be asked to

nominate a school project to which the £300 month's donation from the Jack Petchey Foundation can be put.

We would like to see more nominations. These can be put forward by staff, students and parents. Any student who has made a significant contribution to school or the local community can be nominated.

Awards are on a monthly basis and nominations can be made in the second week of each month.

Fair Trade News

By Mr J Gunzi

The sale of Fair Trade chocolate continues outside the main hall at break time.

Last year's excellent Year 9 Fair Trade Team has now been joined by two Year 7 forms. Both 7F and 7P have taken up Fair Trade as their project.

The 28 Year 10 students, 7F and 7P, have been divided into ten

groups. Each group has two or three Year 10 students and four or five Year 7 students and is in charge of selling chocolate one day a fortnight.

Thank you to Mrs Mansfield, Head of Year 7, for setting up the project idea and to Mr Oakley (7K) and Miss Smith (7P) for all their help in setting up the rota, in

teaching about Fair Trade and in reminding the students to be there on the correct day.

The biggest thank you goes to all the Year 7 and Yr 10 students involved. They are doing a great job and are making a genuine difference to farmers who live in the poorer countries.

Well done!

Recycling News

By Mr J Gunzi

THE GEOGRAPHY Department has expanded the Recycling taking place in school.

Three Year 7 forms (7L, 7K, 7M) have taken up recycling as their project. They are very ably assisted by 23 Year 10 students. The recyclers have contacted Heads of Department and have distributed transparent recycling boxes around school.

Thank you to Mrs Mansfield, Head of Year 7, for setting up the project idea and for allowing the students to empty those recycling boxes during their Wednesday afternoon registration.

Thank you also to Ms Crispin

(7M), Miss Thompson (7K) and Miss Ismail (7L).



Finally, many thanks to Mr. Dainty for letting those Year 10 students out of Friday afternoon registration in week 2 to support the Year 7 form recyclers.

Most of all, well done to all the Year 7 and Year 10 recyclers, who are doing a fabulous job and are making a real difference to our environment.

The recycling logo competition has been won by Jai Morjaria (7L). His logo, shown on the left, will appear on all the transparent recycling boxes around school very shortly.

A big "Thank You" to Miss Chan for helping with the logo.

**Feedback & Improvements,
2004-05** *Continued from Page 7...*

- (1) Parents could contribute to a school bus to collect and drop our students.
- (2) Teachers'/form tutors' school e-mail addresses could be made available to parents.
- (3) Additional after-school clubs connected to subjects, e.g. Maths, English.

Complaints

In December 2005, the Governors approved the new Complaints Procedure for publication on the school website.

The number of complaints recorded in 2004-2005 from parents about students' experiences at school is low, reflecting the situation in the recent survey. Out of fifty-five complaints received, the majority related to experiences to do with the curriculum; issues over school sanctions and aspects of students' behaviour to one another came next.

The number of complaints about homework was very low, possibly reflecting increased SMT involvement in checking planners in 2004/2005.

There were no complaints in 2004/05 about new Year 7 teaching groups or about admission appeals.

We are also pleased to report that the numbers of complaints about the conduct of students outside the school environs had nearly halved compared with the 2003-04 figure. The continued support of parents on this matter would be appreciated.

There were no complaints about the behaviour of students using the 292 bus stops on the A1, though one or two parents have reported problems to us by other means. It will be recalled that increased staff supervision of this area was introduced last year.

There were fewer complaints about litter in the vicinity of the school, which continues to be the subject of periodic litter clearances by the school's Premises Team.

Only one complaint was received about the 2004 Open Evening arrangements. (Please note: the survey predated the 2005 Open Evening.)

Compliments

We are naturally pleased to receive positive feedback from parents and members of the community about the school and the experiences it offers to students. At an individual level, members of staff very much appreciate the letters and cards they receive from

students and their parents at turning points in their educational careers.

We also value the appreciation shown by parents and students for the hard work of staff who organise extra-curricular activities and events.

Equally, we are always delighted to hear the conduct of our students on school trips being commended by event organisers. This year, the excellent conduct of students on the Latin trip to Rome & Pompeii was the subject of notable comment by the travel group concerned.

The first Structured Revision School organised for Year 11 was very well attended by students and received much approbation from parents. Another first, the Music Department's Band Tour in July 2005 was very well received by students and their parents and by the German audiences.

The Friends' Association's most ambitious venture by the time of the survey, the Firework Evening in October 2004, proved to be a highly popular event attended by members of the local community and visitors from across the borough, as well as by our own students and parents. (Since this survey we have obviously had the 2005 Firework Display, which we believe was even more popular.)

**Changes resulting from
comments and suggestions**

- (a) Introduction of examination revision guide for Year 8.
- (b) Landscaping of the area outside the new block and provision of additional seating.
- (c) In consultation with students & staff, the provision of healthier eating options in the canteen.
- (d) Increased involvement of students in school & community activities by the creation of a Student Management Team. An early success was the organisation of activities for Black History Month in Autumn 2004, followed by the introduction of student interview panels as part of the appointments process for new teaching staff. (Again, the survey does not cover the most recent developments.)
- (e) Increased involvement by students in environmental activities, including the local conservation area.
- (f) The introduction of security identity badges for all 6th Form students as well as staff.
- (g) New rewards schemes for students: Jack Petchey award. Excellent Citizen award.

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

Monday, 28th

6th Form Open Evening

DECEMBER

Thursday, 1st

Year 10 Parents Evening

Friday, 2nd

Year 9 Geography Trip to Arsenal (1st Half of Year Group)

Saturday, 3rd

Christmas Fayre PTA

Monday, 5th

Music Auditions

Yr 10 GCSE Textiles Trip - (Clothes Show Live)

Wednesday, 7th

Maths Masterclass - All Week

Thursday, 8th

2nd Abstract Reasoning Test

Friday, 9th

Year 13 Parents Evening & Review
Year 9 Geography Trip to Arsenal (2nd Half of Year Group)

Saturday, 10th

Human Rights Day

Tuesday, 13th

Christmas Concert 7.30pm

Wednesday, 14th

Christmas Concert 7.30pm

Friday, 16th

Carol Service

END OF TERM

*Vicky Churchill c/o the Friends
MHCHS
Worcester Crescent,
Mill Hill, NW7 4LL*

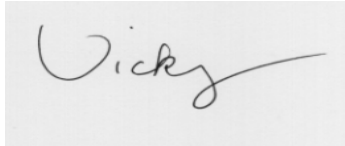
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November 2005

Dear Parents

RE: 'The Friends' of MHCHS/PTA (Parent Teacher Association)

This month, I would like to hand this page over to our events coordinator Paula David below. I shall offer my personal thanks in the next newsletter, which will be my final letter as chairman of the friends.



VICKY CHURCHILL
Chairman of the Friends/PTA

Dear All

RE: Fireworks

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the absolutely magnificent effort from everyone involved in our Firework Display this year. When Vicky asked me to co-ordinate this event back in January, I had no idea what I was letting myself in for. It has, quite simply, been a huge undertaking. However, the support, advice, willingness and encouragement of The Friends, not to mention the long hours of sheer hard work, which you have so cheerfully given, have made this job an absolute privilege.

In particular, I would like to congratulate the members of the Firework Committee, Charlie McMillan, Raj Bagai, Dominique Ozturk and, of course, Vicky Churchill for their unstinting hard work, superb support and endless Saturday mornings. We became such a regular feature for coffee mornings at The Orange Tree they eventually locked us out!

What I personally found so memorable at the event, was that all around there were parents, teachers, pupils and friends pulling together to make this an unforgettable night. We became a team, seamlessly committed to the success of the evening. It was truly humbling to be a part of it. Our live performers, who included the School jazz band, Colourhouse, The Angels, The Hush and Gypsy Lime thoroughly deserved the fantastic Reception they got from the crowd. What a fabulous advertisement for the School.

Well done to Julia Findon, who, along with Mr. Barron, Miss Tai, Dr. James and Mrs. Matthews made an excellent contribution from the teaching staff (who incidentally attended in record numbers). So too did many of our new Year 7 parents. A baptism by fire indeed!

I would also like to thank our sponsors - Howard Brothers, Crystal Clean Services and HSS Hire Service for their contributions to our evening. I must also give a special mention to our anonymous sponsor, who donated the very generous sum of £1,000 to this event. This gave us all a tremendous boost just when we needed it most and we cannot thank you enough.

Finally, there are three people who made this event possible. Firstly, Mr. Thompson for his total support and confidence. Secondly, Vicky Churchill, for her undying enthusiasm and belief and lastly, my husband Alan, our Bar Manager for the night, who, together with the rest of my family, has been quite long-suffering and an absolute rock. I am deeply grateful to each and everyone of you.

Paula David

