



Mill Hill County High School

Head's Newsletter

2006-7, Issue 2

Thursday, 19th October 2006

New Security Plans - Advance Notice

FOR some time we have been seeking ways to improve the security of the site. Modern school design normally allows for only one entrance to school buildings and this is permanently staffed. Office buildings mostly have similar security arrangements.

We have many buildings and entrances. The sort of single entrance security described above is unlikely to be possible until the

Building Schools for the Future programme reaches Barnet (in 2017!).

In the meantime, we propose to rebuild the main school gate and to incorporate a staffed reception/security office, with sight lines along Worcester Crescent. We have planning permission and are currently obtaining competitive quotations for the building work.

As with most site secu-

rity arrangements, access will be restricted and this may occasionally inconvenience parents. Security staff will have a list of expected visitors for each day and visitors without appointments will not be admitted unless the person they wish to see can be contacted and is available. Except where special arrangements have been made, or in cases of emergency, it will not be possi-

ble for visitors to park on site. Parents delivering items forgotten by their children etc. will be able to leave them at the gate.

I hope that parents will feel that the new arrangements will make their children safer and will accept that restricted access is an unavoidable part of this.

I shall give more details shortly, but in the meantime, I shall welcome comments on the proposal.

75 Year 7 boys attend football trials

By Mr M Randall

HOW do you choose a squad of 14 players for the first match of season from 75 trialists? This was the problem faced by Mr. Hallam and me during the first week of the new school term, but what a great problem to have!

The fantastic attitude of the new Year 7 students who attended the trial session made selection even more difficult, and has now led to the formation of 'B' and 'C' teams in order to provide opportunities for all to represent the school.

The performances of the Year 7 squad have so far

been extremely promising, with great amounts of commitment and skill being shown by all players. Many of the Match performances from Bertie Shelley, Oliver Shirbini and Captain Charlie Mabbet have summed up the tremendous spirit and ability within the 'A' team.

The most pleasing aspect of taking on the Year 7 team has been discovering the fantastic support network surrounding the squad. Head of Year Ms. Howard has been our most enthusiastic supporter at recent fixtures, whilst a number of parents and siblings have created a lively atmosphere at home matches! A number of Year 7 pupils have also carried out the valuable dual role of supporter/ball boy, all leading to smooth running and vibrant home fixtures.

The Year 7 Interhouse football tournament has also provided a showcase for boys and girls to show their skills recently, with great performances and support again coming from all angles, especially from tutors and pupils who have acted as referees and time keepers. Interhouse competitions for other year

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European Day of Languages

By Ms C Marshall

THE European Day of Languages was celebrated on 26th September with several events around the school.

A German film was shown in the library at lunchtime and a quiz was completed in form time by students, where they had to match the words "Talk to Me!" in 10 different European languages, ranging from German to Maltese to Azerbaijani.

The competition was won by 11L, who managed to get all of them right! The tie-breaker was to complete the phrase "Learning languages is a good idea because" and there was an impressive array of responses from "..... it removes the barriers between cultures" to "..... you become a world citizen" to "..... it makes you culturally aware, expands your horizons and it's fun!".

As a staff, we held a European lunch and many people completed surveys about their linguistic competencies.

Can you guess who speaks Croatian?

Which teacher can converse in Setswana?

And who can speak the most languages?

Corrections

FOLLOWING the A Level results report in my last Newsletter, I would like to make the following corrections and additions: Melvin Mezue (five As not four), Julia Warburton (four As and one B not three As and one B) and Justine Dattani, Michael Hagai and Panayotis Pachnis (four As not three).

Nikhil Kunder and Carl Walton are added to the list with three As apiece.

The mistakes came about because one subject did not appear on our downloaded computer report. I apologise to those concerned and offer my renewed congratulations.

In addition, Rakesh Vithalani has had two B grades raised to As, making three As in all. There were, therefore, 37 students with three or more As, not 34.

Science is in the News

By Mr R Davighi

ALL Key Stage 3 students will now be getting a new type of homework in Science. They will be required to do some research about one scientific news story in the media. It is up to students what they research but, hopefully, something current and of interest to them. The homework is not a long piece of work and should only take about 15 minutes.

Students can research from a variety of difference sources. I suspect the internet, newspapers and television will be good places to look. Pupils will be required to make a brief log of what they have been looking into.

What can parents do to help?

It would be great if parents could assist by pointing children in the right



direction.

This could mean showing a newspaper article, pointing out something on the news or perhaps just having a conversation about a scientific topic.

Peace One Day

By Mrs M McCanlis

BACK in July 2006, we were approached by Mrs Narenthira, NASUWT representative at MHCHS, (NASUWT in collaboration with Youth Music, a UK-wide charity and Peace One Day) to participate in this event by singing the Song for Peace: 'No Wars Will Stop Us Singing' by Don Black and Debbie Wiseman.

The ultimate aim was for this song to be sung by as many children and adults on this day in a bid for peace everywhere.

As 'International Peace Day' would take place on Thursday 21st September, and Year 7 would be in the Main Hall for their assembly that day with Ms Davis, we agreed that it would be a good opportunity for the whole of Year

7 to take part in this national agenda.

Ms Bailey, Mr McCanlis and I rehearsed the Song for Peace with all our Year 7 classes, Vocalists and Senior Vocal Group, from the beginning of September in readiness for this particular assembly.

Ms Davis introduced the assembly followed by the whole of Year 7 joining together with the Vocal Groups to create an uplifting performance of 'No Wars Will Stop Us Singing'.

This was followed by a sketch of members of Ms Davis's Year 11 English pupils delivering a message to make peace with each other.

Altogether this was a very meaningful assembly, and fantastic to have the whole of Year 7 taking such an active part in an assembly so early on in their time at MHCHS.

A further reminder about

**The 20 mph speed limit
between Marsh Lane and
the school**

**The voluntary
one-way system**

**IN Hankins Lane
UP Ramillies Road
OUT Glenwood Road**

Football

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groups will begin in the near future!

Teams from all year groups have been entered into various competitions, with Mr. Oakley (Year 8), Mr. C. Sykes (Year 9), Mr. Hallam (Year 10), Mr. A. Cipriano (Year 11), Mr. D. Edwards (Seniors) and Mr. M. Jacobs (Girls Yrs 7, 8 & 9) all contributing to the effective management and development of Mill Hill County High School's Footballers.

Extra Curricular Activities

Autumn Term 2006

By Mrs R van Oosterom

	<i>Morning</i> 7.30am-8.15	<i>Lunch</i> 1.20-1.50	<i>After School</i> 3.30-4.30
Monday		Volleyball – all years ERH	Yr 9 Rugby BMN Trampolining B Squad Training RVM/ZWN Fixtures
Tuesday	GCSE + A level + A Squad Trampolining RVM Yr 7 5-a-side Football (playground) CMY	Yr 7 Netball ERH Interhouse HSL/MRL Senior Basketball SHM	Senior Rugby BMN Yr 8 Football OOO Yr 7 Netball ERH Hockey – mixed Away on astroturf RVM/HSL Fixtures
Wednesday	Trampolining A Squad training RVM	Yr 8 Netball ERH Yr 10 Basketball SHM Interhouse HSL/MRL	Senior Football DES Yr 8 Netball ERH Yr 7 Football MRL Girls' Football MJS Yr 10 Rugby BMN Yr 7 Netball ERH Fixtures
Thursday	Trampolining B Squad SHM	Yr 9+10 Netball HSL Yr 9 Basketball MRL	Tae Guk (like Tae Quondo) £5 International Instructor 4.30-6.00 Yr 10 Football SHM Yr 11 Football ACO Yr 9 Football CSS Yr 7+8 Rugby BMN Senior Netball ZWN (week 1 only) Girls' hockey (in school) RVM Fixtures
Friday	Table tennis SLE	Senior Netball ZWN Yr 9 + 10 Touch – mixed ERH+BMN Girls' Basketball (Qualified Coach)	<i>TO BE ADDED:</i> <i>9+10 Netball after school HSL</i> <i>Senior Netball after school ZWN – week 2 variable</i> <i>Year 7+8 Boys' Basketball</i>

The Gateway to Eden



Left to right: Miss Heyworth, Jesse Liu (9K), Harriet Wigmore (10P), Sara Velmi-Gardner (9K), Afua Kokayi (11L), Zoe Collinson (10G), Stephen O'Sullivan (11L) and Mr McKay.

By Jesse Liu (9K) and Sara Velmi-Gardner (9F)

IT was only the second day back at school, yet we were already going on another holiday. Back in March of this year we had won the Construction Enterprise Challenge 2006. Our prize was a two day, all expenses paid trip to the Eden Project in Cornwall.

On arrival, we were tempted by the largest conservatory in Europe. The hot and sticky tropics biome alone is quoted as being ten times larger than the Palm House at Kew.

We walked around the huge winding paths seeing plants, thousands of miles

from home, brought to us under one roof. Along the way, we witnessed how the Project refused to use pesticides to control the menaces, but instead opted for Mother Nature's own pest-eating creatures.

We swiftly moved on to the beautiful Mediterranean biome, where flowers attracted many photographs and herbs attracted many noses. After a quick break, we marched steadily back up the hill, heads held high for the shop.

Huge banners of photographs of Mother Nature torturing life on earth were seen on one of the paths on the way. The pain. The fear. The sorrow. The sinister

silence, plus the disturbing images hypnotised us all.....until the optimistic Mr McKay and Miss Heyworth saved us from going insane and we cheerfully skipped to the shop.

An early 8am start (this was early for some!) the next day saw us eating breakfast and then strolling through the wonderful Cornish countryside to a secluded beach. Some of us decided to take shoes and socks off, roll up the trousers and soak our feet in the cold waters.

A dubious Mr McKay opted out of this life-threatening experience and instead skimmed stones on the sea.

After lunch in St Austell and with plenty of time until our train home, we headed for the park beside the station. Relaxing in a small, but elegant sun-blazed park put a smile on all our faces. The few hours we had glided by after playing Frisbee and St Austell station was our last stop in Cornwall.

When waving our good-byes to Cornwall, we celebrated our achievement on the train ride home and re-told competition memories from the last year.

Everyone had enjoyed the fantastic first prize and for us all this truly was a memorable way to begin our new school year.



Mill Hill County High Dry Ski Club

By Mrs A Davighi

Excellent training if you are going on the
School Ski trips, or just want to learn a
new sport.

**Lessons available for beginners,
intermediate and advanced skiers.**

**Held at the Gosling Sports Centre,
Welwyn Garden City, fortnightly on Wednesday evenings.**

*See Mrs Davighi for more details.
Design & Technology department.*

Everyone is welcome.



Practical Music Exam Successes

Summer 2006

By Mrs M McCanlis

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who were successful in their recent Associated Board Music examinations during the June/July session.

Our thanks go to the vocal and instrumental teachers who have devoted hours of tuition in preparing these students for their exams.

Eleanor Rattenburg	Singing	Grade 1	Merit	Rachel Christian	Violin	Grade 5	Merit
Amy Zambon	Singing	Grade 1	Pass	Annabel Wright	Cello	Grade 1	Pass
Natan Janner-Klausner	Singing	Grade 1	Pass	Lotus Perkins	Cello	Grade 3	Pass
Daniela Pulido Lopera	Singing	Grade 1	Pass	Lara Weisweiller-Wu	Cello	Grade 5	Pass
Amy Loewenthal	Singing	Grade 1	Pass				
Deborah Kaiser	Singing	Grade 2	Merit	Tess McNally-Watson	Clarinet	Grade 3	Pass
Lara Ozturk	Singing	Grade 2	Pass	Sarah Moore	Clarinet	Grade 4	Merit
Danielle Court	Singing	Grade 2	Pass	Meera Shah	Clarinet	Grade 4	Pass
Rosie O'Callaghan	Singing	Grade 3	Merit	Emily Simons	Flute	Grade 7	Merit
Kamile Rudaviciute	Singing	Grade 3	Merit				
Attalia Yaacov-Hai	Singing	Grade 3	Pass	Luke Deverson	Trumpet	Grade 3	Pass
Sonam Kakkad	Singing	Grade 3	Pass	Julia Denton	Trombone	Grade 3	Merit
Sophie Drimer	Singing	Grade 3	Pass				
Naomi Sassoon	Singing	Grade 3	Pass	Nuchi Okpora	Piano	Grade 1	Merit
Emily McEvoy	Singing	Grade 3	Pass	Miranda Narcin	Piano	Grade 3	Pass
Jennifer Reece	Singing	Grade 5	Merit	Jonathan Back	Piano	Grade 3	Merit
Rachel Mercer	Singing	Grade 5	Pass	Zoe Ganly-Thomas	Theory	Grade 5	Merit
Anaami Pandit	Singing	Grade 5	Pass	Andrew Wallace	Theory	Grade 5	Pass
Melissa Tang	Singing	Grade 8	Merit				

Music 'A' Level students attend BBC Young Musician of the Year 28th September 2006

By Mrs McCanlis

ONE of the modules at both AS and A2 Music is for students to prepare a recital on their main instrument.

At AS level it is a mere six minutes, whereas at A2, students have to prepare a physically and emotionally demanding twenty minute recital.

By attending this concert it was the intention for them to gain an insight into the appropriate content of a recital, as well as an understanding of the likely expected standard of performance required for this particular module.

Jessica Brennan, BBC

Co-ordinator of the *Wigmore Series*, met us and offered us the chance to meet Cordelia Williams in person after the recital.

Cordelia is 18 years old, and has just completed her education at Chetham's School of Music.

Her demanding programme of Schubert's *Piano Sonata in A major*, D664; Hugh Brunt's *Absentia and Sphere* (world premiere); and Chopin's *Piano Sonata No.3 in B minor*, Op68, was impeccably executed, portraying emotion far beyond her years.

After the concert, we spoke to Cordelia and congratulated her on her

stunning performance.

Caspar Sutton-Jones asked Cordelia how many hours she practised each day, to which she replied, "About 6 hours each day leading up to the BBC Young Musician of the Year Competition, but normally around 4 hours." Our students were indeed quite astounded to hear this level of commitment to daily practice.

Cordelia Williams is certainly a name to look out for in the future. She is undertaking her first foreign tour in the Gulf States giving concerts and workshops in Oman, Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

However, in the very immediate future this extremely talented young lady is going to university to study French and Russian! Apparently, she may then go on to do a postgraduate year at Music College after gaining her languages degree.

We all thoroughly enjoyed this magnificent recital, and it gave our students the opportunity and thrill of listening to a 'live' concert.

Our students will attend a further 'Young Musician of the Year' concert on Thursday 5th October, when they will hear guitarist David Massey.

News from The Music Department

By Mrs M McCanlis

Vocal & Instrumental Tuition at Mill Hill County High School.

WE are indeed very fortunate to have a very dedicated team of 14 peripatetic music teachers here at MHCHS. This term we welcome Ms Julia Watkins to our team. She is a very experienced violinist and will be leading the String group as well as teaching the violin.

Below is a list of vocal and instrumental teachers, giving information of the day(s) and venue they teach at MHCHS.

<u>TEACHER</u>	<u>INSTRUMENT</u>	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DAY(S)</u>
Ms Dawson	Singing	MP1	Mondays
Ms Doecke	Flute	MP1 & Percussion room	Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
Mrs Findon	Brass	MP3	Mondays & Tuesdays
Mr McCanlis	Piano	MP3	Fridays
Mr Munro	Guitar	MP2	Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
Ms Rickards	Violin	MP2	Mondays
Mr Robinson	'Cello	MP3	Thursdays
Ms Ross	Percussion	Percussion room	Mondays & Tuesdays
Ms Sliwa	Piano/Theory	MP1	Wednesdays
Ms Smuts	Piano/Theory	MP6	Mondays & Tuesdays
Ms Ube	Singing, Piano, Theory	MP4	Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
Ms Watkins	Violin	MP2	Fridays
Mr Webb	Woodwind	MP5	Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays
Mr Zakarian	Piano	MP1	Wednesdays

Calendar

OCTOBER

Friday, 20th **End of First Half Term**
 Saturday, 21st French Exchange return
 Sunday, 22nd Year 8 First Challenge Trip to Morocco depart
 Monday, 30th **Start of Second Half Term**
 Year 12 Geography Trip depart
 Year 8 First Challenge Trip to Morocco return

NOVEMBER

Wednesday, 1st German Exchange Depart
 Friday, 3rd Year 12 Geography Trip return
 Monday, 6th INSET DAY
 Wednesday, 8th German Exchange return

Thursday, 9th Senior Maths Challenge
 Remembrance Ceremony Yrs 12&13
 Monday, 13th Science Masterclass
 Thursday, 16th Sixth Form Concert - 7.30pm
 Yr 10 Business Studies Trip to Coca Cola
 Friday, 17th Yr 10 Business Studies Trip to Coca Cola
 Monday, 20th National Anti Bullying Week
 WRL 'Learn to Earn'
 Tuesday, 21st WRL 'Learn to Earn'
 Autumn Drama Festival
 Wednes. 22nd Autumn Drama Festival
 Friday, 24th National Anti Bullying Week Ends
 Monday, 27th 6th Form Open Evening
 Music Masterclass

THE FRIENDS OF
MILL HILL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

FIREWORK DISPLAY

Saturday, 4th November

FLYER GOES ON THIS PAGE