



Mill Hill County High School

# Head's Newsletter

2004-5, Issue 1

27th September, 2004

## Best examination results ever

THE percentage of students who achieved 5+ A\*-C grades at GCSE rose by 12% to 91%. *The Times* listed the schools which had the highest percentages of A\* and A grades and MHCHS came eighth out of the whole country's mixed comprehensive schools.

It is interesting to note that we are better

placed in the analysis in *The Times* than a number of schools which scored higher 5+ A\*-C percentages. There are ways in which schools can inflate their 5+ A\*-C percentages, for example by entering everyone for one or more Intermediate GNVQ courses which count as four GCSEs (we have offered GNVQ courses at Key Stage 4, but only as an option, taken up by relatively small numbers). Schools can hardly be blamed for playing the league table game, but the fact that our very high 5+ A\*-C rate is backed up with an excep-

tional percentage of A\* and A grades suggests that there is nothing artificial about it.

Our A Level results were almost exactly level with last year's high watermark. Again according to *The Times*, our average total point score was the third highest in London mixed com-

prehensive schools and fifteenth highest out of all the comprehensive schools in the country, mixed or single sex. This School does of course have a selective element, but it was interesting and encouraging to note that we outperformed over a hundred fully selective grammar schools.

I pay tribute both to the students for their hard work and determination and to the staff who prepared them so well, often giving assistance well beyond the call of duty to help individual students through difficulties or to inspire them to aim higher.

**GCSE A\* and A grades  
8th highest in country.  
A Level average point score  
3rd highest in London.  
(among mixed comprehensives)**

## Welcome to New Staff

AT the Oak Hill Campus, we have two new SEN teachers: **Kevin Grant** (University of The West Indies) and **Mirkka Jantti**, (University of Helsinki). They both worked at the Campus on supply and have now joined us permanently.

In the Special Needs department, **Deborah Battaglieri** (Michigan State University) has taken over Ms Tredler's Deputy SENCO position while she is on maternity leave and **Karen El-Shirbini**, who has worked at the school for some time in various teaching roles, will be joining the SEN Department. Four Learning Support Assistants have also joined: **Barbara Morton, Lorraine Smithers, Elaine Henry and Stephanie Savvides.**

**Marcus Jacobs** (Aston University, Birmingham) and **Oliver**

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**The Friends of Mill Hill County High School  
Firework Display  
Saturday 30th October 2004  
Full details on page 6 of this newsletter**

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**Oakley** (King's College, London) have joined the ICT Department. At the same time, the ICT Department has two new technicians, **Channa Fernando** and **Jitendra Gorasia**, who are here from the University of Hertfordshire on a year's secondment.

**Rosalind van Oosterom** (Brunel University), our new Head of PE, comes to us from Park High School, Stanmore. **Anthony Cruz** (St. Mary's University College) also joins the PE Department.

In the History Department, **Anna Hamilton** has been appointed Head of History; **Dominic Nalder** (Trinity College, Cambridge) and **Rosie Gill** (University of Nottingham) have joined the History Department.

Following Michael Crawford's decision to move to Cyprus, **Ross Styles** has been appointed Head of RS and **Tee White** (London University, Institute of Education) has joined the department.

In the Languages' Department, **Catherine Marshall** is now permanent Head of French as Ms Wolton has decided not to return to work after her maternity leave. **Alfons Vogt** has been appointed Head of German. **Catherine Thomson** (University of Aberdeen) joins the department from Bishop Stopford School, Enfield.

The Department is also joined by **Kate Webb-Jones** (Exeter University), **Nick Hamlyn** (Royal Holloway College, London) and **Bianca Jakubowski** (Queen Mary College, London).

Business Studies also has two new members of staff. **Dickon Edwards** (Nottingham University), and **Rahul Mahajan** (Cambridge University Business School).

**Amando Cipriano** (University of Lisbon) has been teaching at the Jewish Free School and has joined the Science Department.

**Jonathan Gunzi** has been appointed Head of Geography. We are very fortunate to have the services of **Jonathan Bird** (Imperial

College, London) teaching in the department for one term, pending the arrival of the permanent postholder, **Claire Heyworth** (University of Wales) who joins us in January 2005 from Matthew Moss High School near Rochdale and who was appointed too late to be able to start in September.

**Anisa Ismail** (Sheffield Hallam University) has joined the Mathematics Department.

**Rebecca Smith** (College of St Mark & St John, Plymouth) has joined the Media Department.

**Tim Dainty** has added responsibility for sociology to his existing role as Head of Year 9 and **Katie Brown** (University of Manchester) was appointed after the beginning of this term to teach sociology and fills the last gap in

our teaching staff. Ms Brown qualified a year ago and has been doing supply teaching in East London while pursuing a postgraduate degree course.

**Sharon Sacofsky** has joined as Work Experience Co-ordinator, **Susan Wynn** as part time D&T Technician and **Rosanna Innocenti** as Department Secretary in the Main Office.

As I said in my July Newsletter, I feel that the net effect of the changes of staff this summer will be to strengthen the School and I am sure that you would wish to join me in extending a warm welcome to all new colleagues and in hoping that their association with this fine School will be highly rewarding.

IN ADDITION to the five existing members of staff mentioned above, the following new appointments are announced in approximate order of appointment: **Keith Hudson** has kindly accepted the 'Black Spot' responsibility of Educational Visits Co-ordinator; I am delighted to announce that **Pete Jackson** has been confirmed as Head of the Oak Hill Campus, having run the Campus in an acting role since Christmas, with conspicuous success in very challenging times. **Jamie McGloughlin** is confirmed as Deputy Head of Campus and **Steve Hatch** continues as i/c KS3; **Sylvia Tai** is confirmed as permanent Pastoral Director KS4 and Head of Careers; **Natalie Lorkins** is Head of English; **Lyndsey Clarke** is Second in Dance & Drama; **Jon Bradford** is i/c Head's Challenge; **Chris Woolf** is Second in English; **Tony McConnell** is Second in History and has also taken on responsibility for 'Gifted and Talented' students; **Amanda Monaghan**, flushed with success as the Head of the Year 11 to have produced the best ever results, is taking a break from pastoral work and will be i/c KS3 English; **Leonie Howarth** takes on the role of Head of Year 12 and retains overall responsibility for the Biology Department; **Emma Porter** has accepted a post of responsibility in biology; **Martina Mansfield** adds the important new responsibility for Student Participation and Equal Opportunities to her already formidable range of responsibilities; **Lisa Chan** is Assistant Head of Year 10; **Helen Galloway** is Assistant Head of Year 11; **Luke Edwards-Stuart** and **Christina Martin** are Assistant Heads of Years 12 & 13, respectively; **Jackie Reynolds**, another colleague with multiple and changing responsibilities has added responsibility for the Graduate Teacher Programme and Beginning Teachers to her portfolio.

As with newcomers, I am sure you would wish to join me in wishing all new postholders every success in their work.

## Y8 inter-form competition

By Mr T Dainty

CONGRATULATIONS to 8H, the winners of the inter-form competition. They managed to achieve over 500 credits during the year – an incredible achievement.

As a reward Ms Harrison and I took them ten pin bowling on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July.

Well done to you all.

## Student Insurance

THE Friends' Committee has provided me with details of an insurance scheme, covering among other things, accidental injury to students at school, at home, on the sports field and on holiday.

Benefits range from £100,000 to £300,000 and premiums range from £20 to £40 per annum.

Interested parents may obtain further information from:

**HSBC Insurance Brokers Ltd  
School Division  
Rockwood House  
9-17 Perrymount Road  
Haywards Heath  
West Sussex RH16 3DU  
Freephone: 0800 318 312**

## Year 10 Science Field Day Report

ON 5<sup>th</sup> July 2004, a group of Year 10 students travelled with Miss Sood, Mrs Howarth and Ms Price to Epping Forest Field Centre on a biology field trip.

Whilst there, we were divided into groups and went pond dipping. We discovered many different pond creatures, examined and researched them and then prepared to make a small presentation on our chosen species.

In the afternoon session we started an investigation on the distribution and abundance of freshwater invertebrates in the pond. We then went on a long walk into the forest to get to Colne

Valley pond where we spent our afternoon collecting results. We then continued our investigation back at the field centre.

Despite a health and safety briefing and despite being instructed to look after resources, Iman still managed to fall into the pond, losing the clipboard and becoming drenched with pond water. Nikoo also managed to get one leg stuck in the mud after being told it was deep!

We want to say a big "thank you" to the Science Department for making this trip really enjoyable whilst being very educational.

## Mathematics Masterclass

By Shweta Patel (Y?) and Sona Bavisha (Y?)

YOU can imagine that when we were asked to mentor a group of 25 junior school children in mathematics, our faces simultaneously filled with dread. It's fair to say that spending any day with a handful of screaming 10 year-olds is not everyone's cup of tea! However, with the added challenge of co-ordinating a maths workshop, it seemed like an impossible task. Surprisingly, the day was a com-

plete success and the 10-year-olds quickly put the 10 A-level students to shame.

The 10-year-old 'mathematicians' were chosen for their capability at this often ropery subject by their own primary schools.

With their introduction by our very own able mathematician, Dr Mahdmina, the workshop set off with great pace, beginning with the 'oh so simple' relationship between the corner size and volume of the cubes – easy enough I'm sure you'll agree. It was then full steam ahead to the awkward division of fractions and decimals; the aim was to challenge them, but it seemed as if this was as mundane as an everyday chore! We definitely needed to step things up a little: make them think – a lot!

By the end, with their ecstatic looks reading as though maths CAN actually be 'fun' and still brimming with energy, they were settled down in the canteen, finally allowing us some peace and



After School

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Arvind Saren

Tel: 077 3608 2523 Email: stlcltd@tiscali.co.uk

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# Armed Forces Youth Day

By Victoria Mabbett (Y?)  
and Lara Kendall (Y?)

ON 16<sup>th</sup> July, a small group of students was lucky enough to participate in an all expenses paid armed forces youth day trip, organised by Miss Tai.

When we arrived we couldn't believe how much time and effort had been put into this educational day out for over 3,000 interested school groups.

There were numerous attractions and educational stalls, some of which were to encourage us to consider a career in any aspect of the armed forces.

There were several stalls where you could have a go at hands-on activities, which you would need and use in the forces.

These stalls also taught us many interesting facts and information we would need if we were planning on joining up.

Throughout the day we travelled between stalls gathering information about the army, Ministry of Defence and other services. During the day we were given various merchandising gifts including hats and bottle openers.

The trip was truly inspirational and has given us all the information we wished to learn. We would like to thank Miss Tai, and all the other members of staff, for such a successful day, and for giving us this wonderful opportunity.



**The Support Service for Children with Special Needs**

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All posts subject to Enhanced Police Disclosure Check

## Drop-off Point

Some parents follow the practice of dropping their children off anywhere in Ramillies Road when traffic comes to a halt and I have been asked to suggest that all parents do likewise. Although this might involve students in a short additional walk (a good thing in itself in these sedentary days) it would greatly decrease the time drivers spend queueing.

## Music Successes

Natalie Owen (9P) passed Grade V Theory in the summer and

The School has first class facilities available at competitive rates. We hire these out for weddings, conferences, lectures, a wide range of sporting activities, evening classes and parties. Catering facilities are available.

Please contact the Lettings Manager for further details.

Telephone: 020-8959 0017 Fax: 020-8959 6514

# Year 9 Business Studies Challenge

By Ms R Dyer

ON 7th July, 14 Year 9 students who had opted to study GCSE Business Studies in Years 10 & 11 took part in a day that gave them an insight into business.

The day was arranged by the Barnet Education Business Partnership. Other schools from within the Borough also took part.

Each school team was given a

different case study which investigated an area of business, such as human resources, marketing, finance or production. The students worked with a teacher from another school and a person who was employed within the field which they were investigating. The challenge was to learn as much as possible about an area of

business in relation to their case study. At the end of the day the students presented their work to everyone who had taken part.

Unfortunately, MHCHS students did not win the challenge. However, they learned a lot from the day and put on a fantastic performances.

By Arpana Trivedi (10Q) and Pooja Shah (10P)

A LETTER was sent around to classes for All Year 9 students who were taking Business Studies GCSE to attend a meeting for a BS Challenge Trip. We did not know anything about the subject, however, Ms Dyer assured us that there were many other Year 9 students who were clueless about the subject as well, so we thought we would give it a go. All the students taking part met in the car park after first registration. We were all full of excitement and eager to find out what the rest of the day would be like. When we arrived at Hendon University we felt quite intimidated as there were many other schools whose students seemed confident. We were introduced to a problem which we had to solve and come up with a presentation. We were given two helpers. When we were allocated our room we sat down and got to work straight away. We brainstormed ideas of different ways of presenting our solution and we came up with the theme of Blind Date! Our helpers were very pessimistic about the idea and advised us not to go ahead with it. However, being determined NHCHS students, we kept our spirits up and continued working on our idea. Everyone had a part, including Cilla Black, Uncle Graham and many more.

By lunchtime our spirits were still soaring, however our stomachs were yearning for food. We ate sandwiches and got straight

back to work. We had a final run through and were prepared for our performance. Sitting down we all felt very nervous, praying silently that we would not have to go first. Unfortunately, our luck failed and we were the first ones up. Our hearts beating, we gave a last glance at Ms Dyer who gave us a warm, understanding smile. It would be her first time watching us as well and we all wanted

to make her proud. Our performance was very successful; we got laughs from the audience and even 'aws' at the right times. Nobody made mistakes or came out of character. We all looked at each other with satisfaction written across our faces. Ms Dyer looked very pleased and we were all happy to make her smile. The other schools' performances were not as good as we expected as some we could not even hear and some were improvising on the spot.

After all the schools had performed, the judges were given time to make their decision. Our two helpers also came over to us and said, "It was very, very good." One other school passed us a note saying, "You lot have won."

However, we did not win, but overall we had a very exciting day and we would like to thank Ms Dyer and Mrs Trinder for taking us to the Challenge.

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Firework Advertisement

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

*Home 01923 289890  
Mobile 07850 553513  
e-mail [vicky@vickychurchill.com](mailto:vicky@vickychurchill.com)*

**September 2004**

Dear Parents,

**re: 'The Friends' of MHCHS - Parent Teacher Association (PTA)**

I am delighted to welcome Miss Tai to our next Friends' meeting on October 4<sup>th</sup>, who will be talking about the school's new peer listening group which is supported by the Friends/PTA. This is a subject that is of interest to very many parents and I hope to see many of you at the meeting.

Our firework display is advertised in this Newsletter. This will be followed up with the distribution of flyers; posters will be going up in School and surrounding areas in the community within the next week or two. We anticipate that this event will be very popular, especially as Cophall Stadium is not having a display this year. There will be a very limited number of tickets sold on the evening, so I do advise parents to book their tickets early. The Friends offer some good reductions on tickets purchased in advance, especially on our family ticket. Please see our advertisement for more details.

Please remember, our next Friends/PTA meeting will be on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October in the Library at 7.45pm.

With my very best wishes,

Yours Sincerely,

VICKY CHURCHILL  
Chairman of the Friends/PTA

## Calendar

### October

Sunday, 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Derek Willett Memorial Football Match
Monday, 4 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Meeting
Wednesday, 6 <sup>th</sup>	Full Governors' Meeting
Monday, 11 <sup>th</sup>	GCSE History Battlefields Trip departs
Wednesday, 13 <sup>th</sup>	Battlefields Trip returns
Tuesday, 19 <sup>th</sup>	Autumn Concert - Rehearsal
Wednesday, 20 <sup>th</sup>	Autumn Concert
Monday, 25 <sup>th</sup>	Half Term
Saturday, 30 <sup>th</sup>	Friends' Event – Fireworks

### November

Tuesday, 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Science Masterclass
Monday, 8 <sup>th</sup>	Staff Training Day
	Admissions Tests
Tuesday, 9 <sup>th</sup>	Senior Maths Challenge
Wednesday, 10 <sup>th</sup>	Sixth Form Concert
Thursday, 11 <sup>th</sup>	Sixth Form Remembrance Service
	PTA Meeting
Friday, 12 <sup>th</sup>	Year 10 English Field Trip
Saturday, 13 <sup>th</sup>	Admission Test – Music
Tuesday, 16 <sup>th</sup>	Autumn Drama Festival Dress Rehearsal
Thursday, 18 <sup>th</sup>	Autumn Drama Festival
Saturday, 20 <sup>th</sup>	Admission Test - Dance
Sunday, 21 <sup>st</sup>	Training day for World Challenge Students
Monday, 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 12 Geography Field Trip departs
	Year 11 Parents' Evening
	Engineering Education Scheme Launch Day
Wednesday, 24 <sup>th</sup>	GCSE English Theatre Trip
Saturday, 27 <sup>th</sup>	Admission Test – Music
	Year 12 Geography Field Trip returns

### December

Wednesday, 1 <sup>st</sup>	Full Governors' Meeting
Thursday, 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Maths Masterclass
	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Saturday, 4 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Music Auditions
	PTA Christmas Fayre
	Engineering Workshop departs
Tuesday, 7 <sup>th</sup>	Engineering Workshop returns
	Geography Masterclass
Thursday, 9 <sup>th</sup>	Year 13 Parents' Evening
Saturday, 11 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Dance Auditions
Monday, 13 <sup>th</sup>	Year 7 Form Tutors' Parents' Evening
Wednesday, 15 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Concert
Friday, 17 <sup>th</sup>	End of Term