



# Mill Hill County High School

# Head's Newsletter

2006-7, Issue 1

Friday, 29th September 2006

## Welcome

BEFORE giving details of new staff and other staffing changes, I would like to mention that Mrs Caron Fitzgerald completed the Graduate Teaching Programme with us and has taken up a teaching post at Highlands School, Enfield.

I am delighted to welcome the following new colleagues.

**Ms Miriam Blythe** (Leicester Polytechnic), previously Head of Media at North Bridge Senior School has been appointed Head of Media. **Miss Dalia Carroll** (University of Kent), previously Teacher of Media Theory at Barnet College, has joined the Media Department.

**Miss Shubi Choudhury** (University of Westminster) and **Mr John Conteh** (University of East London) have joined the ICT Department.

**Miss Kathryn Poynting** (University of Birmingham), previously Assistant Curriculum Leader of English at Lea

MHCMS students excelled themselves yet again this summer. 90% of Year 11 achieved 5 or more A\*-C Grades at GCSE. This is only one percent behind our high-water mark of 91% in 2004, when the year group in question had been enrolled on the basis of 45% selection, compared with the 25% of this year and last.

The story with A Level is even more dramatic. Our percentage of A & B grades has gone up by 7%. This means that 3 out of every 4

Valley High School, **Miss Louise Clifton** (Loughborough University) previously Teacher of English and Drama at St Anne's Catholic High School for Girls, **Miss Fiona Doyle** (University of Westminster), **Miss Annabel Leech** (St Catherine's College, Oxford) and **Mr Spencer Hinton** (University of Warwick) have joined the English Department.

A Level grades awarded to MHCHS students were either As or Bs.

I am pleased to list 34 students who achieved 3 or more A Grades.

**4As:** Xenia Savva, Adam Cohen, Rory Kinane, Despina Muka, Melvin Mezue, Jayan Khatri, Ronke Abiodun.

**3As & 1B:** Charlotte Nolan, Zachery Moss, Julia Warburton, Paul Tomlinson.

**3As:** Daniel Potter, Danielle Agyeman-Badu, Isha Patel, Matthew Jefferies, Amit Patel, Victoria Jeffrey,

Justine Dattani, Asha Dalsania, Siddharth Sudunagunta, Shona Lavey, Carly Welch, Pritesh Vithlani, Thomas Somerville, Deepan Tailor, Dhruval Shah, Kim Weltman, Anna Mynett, Valentine Phillips, Minesh Shah, Karla Crome, Lewis Carpenter, Michael Hagai, Panayotis Pachnis.

Three of the four students with conditional Oxbridge offers were successful in gaining places.

Our students and their teachers are greatly to be commended.

**Mr Christopher Sykes** (University of Exeter) has joined the History Department.

**Miss Kate Gibson** (Middlesex University) has joined the Art Department

**Miss Caroline Leleux** (Nanterre University, Paris) has joined the Languages Department.

**Miss Deirdre Loughran** (Roehampton University) previously Teacher of Drama at

Townley School for Girls has been appointed Head of Dance & Drama.

**Dr Paul Morrison** (University of Edinburgh (BSc Hons) & University of Sheffield (PhD)) has joined the Science Department.

**Mr Francis O'Toole** (University of Salford) has joined the Maths Department.

**Ms Karen Purnell** (Middlesex Polytechnic) has

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Please Remember

The 20 mph speed limit between  
Marsh Lane and the school

The voluntary one-way system

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



Band members perform in Spain (Articles pp. 6 & 7)

## Calendar

### OCTOBER

### DATES FOR FUTURE FRIENDS/PTA MEETINGS

Sunday, 1st	Jan Harding Memorial Netball Derek Willet Memorial Football	Wednesday, 11th October	Friends PTA Meeting
Tuesday, 3rd	Jack Petchey Award Ceremony Trip to the British Museum Art Project Trip return	Saturday, 4th November	Fireworks Display
Saturday, 14th	French Exchange visit from St. Ann's School	Tuesday, 7th November	PTA Meeting
Wed., 18th	Autumn Concert, 7.30pm. Year 12 Study Skills Session	Saturday, 2nd December	Friends Christmas Fayre
Friday, 20th	<b>End of First Half of Term</b>	Tuesday, 12th December	Friends PTA Meeting
Saturday, 21st	French Exchange Depart		
Sunday, 22nd	Year 8 First Challenge Trip to Morocco depart		

## English/German Art Project, 2nd - 5th July 2006

By Mr A Vogt & Mrs S Young

FOR four days at the beginning of July, an Art Project took place that included 8 students from MHCHS and 8 students from our German partner school, Alfred-Delp-Schule Hargesheim.

The German students arrived late on a Sunday evening. For the following

two days the students went to visit art galleries and look at London venues from the artist's point of view.

During the days, all the students sketched interesting places, sights, objects, drew, took photographs and notes in order to use this material in a final presenta-

tion/exhibition in the Art Department. The quality of the work, so quickly created, was truly outstanding and a credit to the talent and enthusiasm of all the students.

It was also a great experience to find that such a project can take place across language barriers, thanks to

shared languages: English and German.

Our students have been invited to return to Germany for a similar experience this term.

Thanks to Mr Glover, who took over the artistic leadership and to Mr Hudson for his support.

## Art Website

By Mrs S Young

PLEASE visit the Art Department's website <http://www.mhchs.org.uk/art.shtm> to download our ONLINE GALLERY and RESOURCE BANK.

On the site visitors will be able to view students' work from all our Schemes of Work.

Visitors will also be able to view a selection of resources for each scheme at Key Stages 3 & 4. Key Stage 5

work will be available for viewing soon.

As well as helping students collect useful information for projects, it will keep parents informed about Schemes of Work.

I am very grateful to our former colleague Andi Moot for spending a huge amount of his time learning how to set up a website and developing this wonderful resource for the school.

## Day of Languages

By Miss C Marshall

EUROPEAN Day of Languages takes place on Tuesday, 26th September, the purpose of which is to draw attention to the benefits of learning languages.

We look forward to organising events to celebrate this and are pleased to announce that we are now able to offer Spanish and Italian enrichment lessons to Sixth Formers with the aim of getting them to a level in which they

could "get by" in the language over the course of the year.

We also look forward to the return visit of the French Exchange before half term and to the German Exchange in November.

For details of either of these trips, please contact Mrs S Jackson (French Exchange) or Mr A Vogt (German Exchange).

# Sixth Form Girls Economics Competition

By Mr R Mahajan

TOWARDS the end of the last academic year, some of our 6th Form girls competed in an economics challenge held against Hasmorean High School for Girls.

The challenge consisted of a round of questions on current affairs and economics, followed by an economics based country presentation.

Mr Edwards and I are delighted to report that our students won. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the students pictured here for their excellent teamwork and

outstanding performance, particularly on the Economics presentation:

Our girls were awarded USB flashdrive keys as prizes and Chandni Badiani was awarded a digital camera for best overall presenter.

The evening included a most excellent buffet supper and barbecue.

We are very grateful to Hasmorean High School's teachers and students for being such excellent hosts, and we look forward to our boys competing against the Boys' school in due course.



**From Left: Mr Mahajan, Crystal Farrara, Tejal Dhutia, Chloe Kenner, Lesley Waldock, Anjali Shah, Miss Boden (Hasmorean), Uthara Pillai, Chandni Badiani and Mr Edwards.**

## Enterprise at MHCHS

By Mrs L Trinder, Enterprise Coordinator

THROUGHOUT the school year, various groups and individuals get involved in fundraising for a range of good causes. These are mostly linked to charities but another major area is the number of students taking part in the World Challenge who work on various activities at break and lunchtime.

In the summer term, a Stationery Stall opened successfully and will continue to run this year. Both Year 10 and Year 8 students have been involved in this.

In the next few weeks a open. Both of these enterprising activities will be run

**Can you make time for us?**

The Business Studies and Economics Departments are always on the look out for subject related visits outside school and for speakers who would be willing to come in. Business Studies is taught from Year 10 and Economics from Year 11 and all years can be involved in Enterprise. If you work in or own a business which would be of interest to our students, please make time to give us a call.

from the Marketplace, which is the area between the Library and the ground floor Science corridor.

It is anticipated that all future fundraising and sales of tickets, etc., will be based in that area.

We also run a branch of the HSBC bank. The school bank has been successfully run by Year 10 students for 2 years. The bank is open on Tuesday lunchtime in BS1.

*Look out for more details in school.*

## Welcome

*(Continued from page 1)*

joined the Design & Technology Department.

**Mr Martin Randall** (University of Wales, Institute Cardiff) and **Miss Harriet Saberwal** (University of Essex) have joined the PE Department.

**Miss Sarah Stewart** (Leeds University) has joined the RS Department.

**Mrs Michelle Taylor**

has joined us as a Learning Support Assistant and **Mr Andrew Cunningham** as a Resource Officer.

**Miss Laura Wynne** has joined the Clerical and Technical Staff as 6<sup>th</sup> Form & Exam Secretary

In addition to the above, internal appointments are as follows. **Mr Timothy Dainty** is KS3 Pastoral Director, **Miss Catherine**

**Marshall** is Head of Languages and Head of French, **Miss Colette Murphy** is Head of Sociology, **Miss Emma Porter** is Head of Biology. **Mrs Maureen McCanlis** is Acting Director of Music and **Ms Alice Bailey** Acting Assistant Director of Music. **Mrs Janet Wright** is 2nd in RS and **Ms Bella Mackie** is 3rd in English. Head of Year posts are

filled as follows: **Mr Luke Edwards-Stuart**, Y13, **Mr William Quaye**, Year 11, **Miss Lisa Chan**, Year 8 (Maternity Leave Cover). Assistant Head of Year posts are filled as follows: **Mr Chris McKay**, Y7; **Miss Ellie Chrispin**, Y8; **Mr Clive Engelbert**, Y11; **Miss Fiona Tobin**, Y12. **Mrs Amanda Monaghan** is an Advanced Skilled Teacher.

# School Policy Change

By Mr S Smith

AS a result of recent communication between the Barnet Borough Police and local schools, there will be a change to the school policy in respect of items that should not be brought into school.

Contained within this newsletter is a list reminding all parents of items which they should ensure their children do not bring to school.

The Police inform us that 50% of all robbery victims are of school age. 33% of robbery victims are between 13 and 16 years old. An individual between 14 and 16 is approximately 10 times more likely to be the victim of robbery than an individual between 20 and 50.

As children tend today to carry with them to school more and more expensive items, this has increased the potential that they will be robbed going to and from school.

Unfortunately, students from many schools in Barnet in the last year have had this experience. This is despite the fact that in most schools the rules forbid mobile phones, iPods and MP3 players, all of which can be disruptive to the learning process in class.

The following paragraph

is taken from a letter distributed by the Police to schools following consultation.

'Barnet Police are advising parents to consider whether it is in their child's best interests to take expensive personal property to and from school.

'Furthermore schools do not want such items brought to school, as they are not needed in school, are highly valuable goods that are easily lost or stolen and can frequently cause serious and unnecessary difficulties for children and teachers.

'Because of this, if your child brings such equipment into school in breach of the school's code of conduct the school may confiscate such items. These items will only be returned to parents/carers who will need to come to school to collect them.'

As a result of this the following will now apply in school:

If any item is confiscated in school it will be placed in an envelope in the School safe with the student's name on it. Parents or carers will be able to collect this item from the school reception between 8:30 am and 4.00 pm. The office staff will be instructed to ask for proof of identity be-

fore handing any items over.

## FORBIDDEN ITEMS

- Mobile phones (a 1 hour Saturday detention will automatically be given should a mobile phone ring during school time or should students be found receiving a text message).
- Walkmans, iPods or any other item playing recorded music.
- Radios or mini TVs.
- Video or computer games
- Cameras or other valuable items (unless the student is carrying written permission from a member of staff).
- Any item for sale at school (unless a member of staff has given written permission e.g. a cake sale for charity)
- Alcoholic beverages
- Abusive, discriminatory or obscene literature or pictures
- Chewing gum
- Cigarettes, matches, lighters or cigarette papers
- Fireworks
- Drugs or any other illegal substances (medicines prescribed by a doctor, should be left

with the School Officer & taken only as prescribed)

- Knives, air pistols or other offensive weapons.
- Water pistols or other items which may cause disorder or damage to people or property.

If illegal items are brought to school, we are likely to need to inform the Police.

This list is not exhaustive and the Head reserves the right to make additions or amendments when necessary.

We do not wish to be Draconian or alarmist. We have remarkably few problems with any of the prescribed items and there have been next to no instances of the detection of illegal items in recent years. We also acknowledge that there is a world of difference between carrying a mobile telephone and carrying a knife. However, we hope that parents will accept the advice of the Police and that you will see this list of "don'ts" not as an indication of trouble at school, but as evidence of the school's determination to anticipate future dangers, to ensure that students are as safe as we can possibly make them and to ensure that learning is not be disrupted.

# Barnet Athletics Championships

By Larissa Quinn (8M)

ON 4<sup>th</sup> July, a team of fifty-five athletes from our school competed against eighteen other schools in the Barnet Championships.

The day was long and tiring, but the whole team agreed that it was worth the effort. The tension and the excitement in the atmosphere made us even more

determined to win.

When we arrived at Copthall Stadium we all thought the day would be hot and sticky, but as the afternoon went on, a thunderstorm struck! Luckily, none of the events were interrupted and the day proceeded as planned.

The whole team enjoyed

the day immensely and are very pleased that they were present. Everyone tried their best in the events they participated in. We were all grateful for each other's support.

Although overall neither the boys nor the girls won a trophy, we did very well in several events.

We came first in the Year 7 girls' relay; Year 7 boys' high jump; Year 10 boys' 800m; Year 10 boys' shot; Year 10 girls' 300m; Year 10 girls' 800m and the Year 9 girls' hurdles.

We also came in the first eight in forty-five out of ninety-four events.

# Year 10 Work Experience 2006

By Mrs G Aouya

YEAR 10 spent the last two weeks of last term in a cross section of the work place. Many students found their own placements working with companies in which they had a special interest, or a future career connection. Placements were diverse and touched many sections of the employment world.

It was an exciting time with over 240 students out learning new skills and experiencing the new environment of a work setting: different expectations; strange faces; new journeys. At times it was hugely exciting and at others maybe mundane, but perhaps that's what the work place is like.

I have received so much wonderful feedback from students and employers via the "Employer's Report". The remarks were constructive and full of credit for the students and certainly the school too. Employers also gain much from the experience.

Below are some of the comments. It was very hard to choose which ones to publish; there were so many positive reports. Well done to all, and thank you to all the employers, some of whom were friends of friends of MHCHS families.

**Ben** a competent and diligent worker.

**Ian** is an extremely bright fellow. He has the capacity to grasp complicated concepts very quickly and the 'raw' legal reasoning skills to spot the issues and the follow up questions. He is probably destined for the Bar".

**Amabelle** works well in an office environment and is able to show initiative when necessary. Excellent!!!!

**Sherese** is a very enthusiastic and cheerful person. She worked hard and kept busy all the time"

**Rachel** has been hard working and enthusiastic. It has been a pleasure to have her".

A very successful placement. **Emma** worked very hard despite very hot weather affecting the workforce. She has a delightful personality and interacts well with clients and colleagues. She is positive about all she does and tackles jobs with determination, being a quick learner. I was impressed with her attention to detail when doing cleaning, painting and trackside work.

**Nana** showed great commitment and drive towards her work, she did her work methodically and analytically. She is capable of working under pressure in preparing bundles for Barristers (counsel). She is polite and has good listening skills, shows initiative and is a very confident student .

Having **Amy** around was an absolute pleasure. Her time-keeping, appearance and work related skills were top class. She will be surely missed!!

It was a pleasure to have **Sian** at our agency for this placement.

**Sangeeta** has been a conscientious and dependable work experience student. We hope she has learnt how a busy office works. We all wish her well for the future.

**Piers** has been very bright and helpful. He has been a pleasure to have around.

**Joe** is a thoughtful individual who was very enthusiastic about learning what we do in Virology (academic and NHS). Very good presentation on HIV in Africa.

**Alan** has been a pleasure to

have as part of our team for the last week. He is enthusiastic, punctual and dependable. He has completed every task we have asked him to do with enthusiasm, no matter what it was. If he ever decided on a career as a vet or nurse he would have a job within this group.

An excellent & enthusiastic placement. **Francis** quickly fitted in with the team and in just two weeks took on the role of reception very competently.

Many students will make an "own find", but many rely on the school's database of placements. The more choices we have, the better it is for students. We want to build strong new links with employers.

I would like to use this opportunity to ask anybody who would be interested in finding out more about taking a Work Experience Student to please call:

Mrs Gill Aouya on  
(020) 8238 8206.

We need 240 two week placements for Year 10 in July 2007. We are also seeking 3-5 day placements for Year 12 in a subject they will likely pursue (time and days flexible).

# Middlesex Athletics Championships Results

By Mrs van Oosterom

## Year 7

100m Heat – Sonny Bailey-Aird 4<sup>th</sup>  
200m Heat – Christian Nnochiri 6<sup>th</sup>  
80m Heat – Sherainne Scott 3<sup>rd</sup>  
80m Final – Sherainne Scott 3<sup>rd</sup>  
High Jump Final – S Ayodele 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Long Jump Final – Jazmine Clarke 3<sup>rd</sup>

## Boys' Relay Team – 4<sup>th</sup>:

Ryan  
Sonny Bailey-Aird  
Gerel  
Christian Nnochiri

## Girls' Relay Team – 3<sup>rd</sup> + Broke Championship Record:

Jazmine Clarke  
Sherainne Scott  
Shewa Ayodele  
Sola Ayodele

## Year 8/9

400m Heat – Adam Welton 4<sup>th</sup>  
100m Heat – Toyin Peters 2<sup>nd</sup>  
100m Final – Toyin Peters 7<sup>th</sup>  
Hurdles Final – Vicky Dixon 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Year 10/11

1500m Steeplechase – Ross  
Sambrook (1st)

800m – Emma Layton (2nd)

300m Hurdles –  
Christiana Michanovic (3rd)

# Music Trip to Calella, Spain

By Hannah Back (12F) & Jonathan Back (10F)

ON the afternoon of Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2006, 44 enthusiastic year 7-13 students gathered at school.

After waiting much longer than expected for the coach to arrive, and taking shelter in the shade of the Sports Hall, we all loaded our instruments and suitcases into the coach and trailer.

At around 3.30pm we set off for the Costa Brava, Spain, and after an eventful ferry ride, plus a sleep deprived 24-hour coach journey, we arrived at our hotel.

That evening we all sat down to a long awaited meal, and were allowed on to the beach for some free time, including a game of volleyball.

On Monday morning, even though we were all tired - we don't think *anyone* had any sleep that first night - we set off for "Water World" in Lloret de Mar. The park certainly lived up

to our expectations, as we all saw towering water rides the minute we arrived. Added to the day's hilarity was Mr Webb's stunning performance as he walked down the water slide.

That evening we had our first concert, after some initial trouble with our wonderful "coach changing room", plus feeling a little nervous, our first concert was a success.

Tuesday morning was spent touring the famous Barcelona FC Stadium; the Stadium holds around 110,000 spectators and although the shop and museum proved to be popular, Andrew and Duncan's "interview" had to be the highlight of the day.

That afternoon was spent shopping in Barcelona, leading into our second concert. This concert was our latest one, beginning at 10.30 pm; it went superbly. We were all in high spirits as we sang our rendition of

Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" on the coach journey back to the hotel.

Wednesday was another day we were all looking forward to, although not all of us were sure what this "Sealife Park" entailed, we were delighted to discover that there were in fact more water rides.

We were determined to make our last concert count. The whole band, as well as Brass and Woodwind group put in the effort and produced a fantastic evening.

Once we arrived back at the hotel that night, a Presentation and Karaoke event had been organised at the 'Beach Boys Club' in Calella. We all had great fun - such memorable acts included Alan's version of "Barbie Girl" whilst sporting a lovely blonde wig, and Mr Webb, Emily and Fiona's performance of "Wannabe" by the Spice Girls. However, Duncan's professional rendition of "Flying Without

Wings" melted everyone's hearts.

On Thursday, we all got up and packed the last of our suitcases and were allowed to have free time to spend on the beach or shopping in the souvenir shops. At around 4pm, everything was packed and we left the resort for the long and noisy coach journey home. After having a good breakfast on the ferry, we arrived back at school earlier than expected.

A huge "Thank you" to Miss Ross for helping with all things percussion, Mr Webb and Ms Bailey for their organisation of and running Senior Woodwind & Brass Group, and our drivers who made long journeys fun.

Lastly, an enormous "Thank you" to Mr and Mrs McCanlis, who made the entire trip possible. Let's hope that there will be another tour next year!

## Photos of Music Trip 2006 to Calella, Spain



# Concert Band Tour To Calella, Spain

## 15th to 21st July 2006

By Mr D & Mrs M McCanlis

THANK you to Hannah and Jonathan for the detailed account of the main events of our Band Tour.

As 'Leaders' we were rather apprehensive that the location, hotel and concerts would match the standard of last years' tour to Boppard, Germany. However, we need not have been concerned as our hotel was situated right on the promenade in Calella with some of the rooms having a sea view! The buffet service at meal times catered for all tastes, although the packed

lunches were quite limited in variety.

The main focus of our tour was, of course, the concerts themselves, which you have already heard were extremely successful.

The organisers of the concerts showed their appreciation by presenting us with a commemorative engraved plaque at the end of our first concert in Lloret de Mar, and also with an information book on the town of Pineda de Mar where our last concert was performed. We received

many favourable comments on our playing and we attracted a good sized audience at each of the concerts, particularly the late evening concert at Tossa de Mar where the atmosphere was quite electric.

It is always so rewarding that a strong bond forms between all year groups of those who have participated in the Band tours, as well as increasing their musical experiences of performing abroad. The Band, indeed, sounded fantastic. Well done to all, and thank you

for your loyalty and commitment to the Band – without you it wouldn't happen!

A huge 'thank you' to Ms Bailey, Mr Webb and Miss Ross for leading groups, contributing to all the music, and for helping supervise our Band members whose behaviour was impeccable. A final 'thank you' to parents who, have encouraged their children, have been taxi drivers in the final weeks of term, and have unstintingly supported us throughout. Here's to next year's tour!

## Extra-curricular Musical Activities

Day	Lunchtimes (1.20-1.50)	After School
<b>Monday</b>	Choir (Yrs 7-9) Brass Group Senior Percussion Group Production (Spring Term)	Orchestra 3.30-4.30 Production (Spring Term)
<b>Tuesday</b>	Jazz Group Vocalis Junior Percussion Group Production (Spring Term)	Junior Band 3.30-4.30, Production (Spring Term)
<b>Wednesday</b>	Electric Guitar Group Flute Choir World Music Group Production (Spring Term)	Senior Woodwind Group 3.30-4.30 Production (Spring Term)
<b>Thursday</b>	Classical Guitar Group Mixed Voice Choir Senior Brass Ensemble Production (Spring Term)	Concert Band 3.30-5.00 Production (Spring Term)
<b>Friday</b>	Senior Vocal Group String Group Production (Spring Term)	Production (Spring Term)



# Acrobat Document