



Mill Hill

MILL HILL SCHOOL MAGAZINE. AUTUMN 2018

Mill Hill Magazine





Mrs Jane Sanchez
Acting Head
Mill Hill School

Welcome to the Autumn Edition of the Mill Hill Magazine

I am delighted and honoured to be taking up the role of Acting Head of Mill Hill School, after the departure of Mrs Frances King whose contributions to the School and the Foundation will be featured in the next issue.

Built as our School is on the site of the house and garden of internationally celebrated botanist Peter Collinson, we are fortunate in having reminders of the wonders of nature and its capacity for renewal right on our doorstep, with many of the trees he planted still surviving. This June saw the opening of our Collinson Heritage Garden featured in this issue, stocked with dozens of the plants introduced to the UK from the States by Collinson, who died 250 years ago in 1768.

Sharing Collinson's pioneering and adventurous spirit, we are also pleased to feature an interview with the mountaineer and explorer Tori James, our guest speaker on Foundation Day. The key message which our four pupils identified from their conversation with Tori, is that with determination we are capable of great things and the key to achieving these is perseverance and an acceptance of failure along the road to success.

These principles are demonstrated in many of the articles in this issue, from our Partnership trips to India and Zambia – the first of which I was delighted to lead this year – to the many and varied options in Activities Week, our lively programmes in Music, Drama and Sport, along with our own Welsh mountaineering activities with the Combined Cadet Force in training for the gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, for which Tori herself is an ambassador.

Our school motto, '*et virtutem et musas*', which we have interpreted as '*instilling values, inspiring minds*', brings together learning and character, and as our Chaplain puts it in his article on *Shared Values, Personal Beliefs*, 'Chapel is a place where we celebrate the human values which unite us and enable our school to flourish,' bringing us back to our natural theme.

I hope you enjoy the magazine and wish you a happy and fruitful year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'J Sanchez', written on a light-colored background.

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TORI JAMES

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Edited by
Mr Tony Binns

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Peter Collinson's Heritage Garden



Tori James

Interviewers
Keshini Kendall
Rita Cherchim
Abigail Ravindran
Tasniem Shanavazi

Four Mill Hill pupils enjoyed the opportunity of a sneak preview of our Foundation Day Guest Speaker, mountaineer and adventurer Tori James, in a recent Skype interview which was, in itself, an inspiration for them.

Q As a motivational speaker what do you motivate people to do?

A I am a believer in everyone being capable of more than they think, once they step out of their comfort zone. It is about getting people to think hard about what they are passionate about, whilst recognising that it is okay to be nervous about a challenge. From a learning perspective, and in career development, most progress takes place when you step outside your comfort zone. I deliver between 50 and 60 talks a year, and I've spoken on almost every continent in the world.

Q How long have you been mountaineering for?

A My very first job after graduation was with British Exploring, which is the longest running expedition charity that exists in the UK; today it is still running expeditions for 16-25 year olds. As an 18 year-old I also went to Iceland with British Exploring and that was where I got my first taste of doing glacier travel and ice climbs; then it was through working with them that I got to go to Arctic Norway and Svalbard in the High Arctic.

Q What got you interested in being the Ambassador of Duke of Edinburgh awards in Wales?

A I am a huge supporter of the D of E awards; I did my bronze, silver and gold. It is an incredibly powerful thing for a young person to complete – everyone gets to choose exactly what they want to do so it shines a light on you as a person and what you are passionate about. It also demonstrates that commitment to an activity is what will get you results and ultimately achieve the rewards; not to mention the friends you can make and places you visit.

Q What was it like being the first Welsh woman to climb Everest?

A The challenge itself was divided into two halves, the preparation and the expedition; in some ways the preparation stage, which lasted 18 months, was the hardest part. I had to train six days a week and get really fit and to raise enough money to go; the total cost for me alone to go on the expedition in 2007 was £54,000. I had to seek sponsorships from companies, hold events and save up my own money; in the end I only secured a large amount of the funds that I needed one



week before I was due to fly out to the Himalayas.

At various stages, I struggled with the altitude, often getting bad headaches, and had to deal with the cold and sleep deprivation. Everest itself is a two and a half month long expedition; a long time living in a tent with no hot showers! When you're climbing any high mountain you don't simply go from the bottom to the top then back down again. You have to go up then down, again and again; continually retracing your steps is incredibly difficult.

Tragically every year people lose their lives on the mountain; there were numerous fatalities in 2007 and one that my team came particularly close to. On that day I spent a lot of time thinking 'is it worth it?', 'why am I here?' and I thought about giving up. When death is that close, you realise it's not all about standing on the summit and waving a flag: you think about your life and family.

Q Do you have any further challenges planned for the future?

A I have recently become a mum, so I'm taking some time out from the big expeditions, but absolutely, I would love to do some more challenges. The ones that inspire me involve human power alone; long-distance journeys, in the mountains, on skis, in kayaks, on bikes... I discovered that I am an ancestor of Admiral John Lord Stoke who sailed on The Beagle with Charles Darwin. Lord Stoke charted the coasts of Australia and New Zealand and also named Mount Cook. I would love to walk and sail in his footsteps...

One piece of advice I would give is to not to fear failure – I will be coming to your school to give a talk on my successes but I should also be telling you about all the things I failed at – because to be successful you need to fail numerous times, which is very important to remember.

Tori's Story

Tori James, at the age of 25, became the first Welsh woman to climb Mount Everest in 2007. Tori stars in the BBC documentary 'On Top of the World' and she is also the author of 'Peak Performance'.

In 2005 she was a member of the Pink Lady PoleCats, the first

all-female team to complete a grueling 360 mile race to the Magnetic North Pole.

In June 2014 Tori was part of the Beeline Britain team who became the first to travel in a straight line from Land's End to John O'Groats. This 1,100km journey involved a recordbreaking sea kayak, road cycling, mountain biking and hiking and is documented in the award-winning film

"As The Crow Flies". Tori lives in Cardiff. She is a motivational speaker and consultant delivering leadership training, team and youth development projects. Tori is an ambassador for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Wales and Girl Guiding UK.

www.torijames.com
[@torijtweets](https://twitter.com/torijtweets)



Sophia (U6) reciting *The Garden* by Andrew Marvell (published 1681)



Dr Russell Cowan, OM



Mr Joel Fry, Curator of Bartram's Garden

We honour horticulturalist and amateur botanist, Peter Collinson FRS (1694-1768), who lived in The Ridge Way House, the School's first home from 1807 to 1825.

The Peter Collinson Heritage Garden

"It was my pleasure to take Dr Benjamin Franklin to meet Mr Collinson at Mill Hill. Such a garden!" wrote Daniel Solander, favourite pupil of Carl Linnaeus and later Assistant Keeper at the British Museum, in 1767. The house they visited was Raidge Way House, the home of Collinson from 1749 until his death in 1768. The house came with eight acres of land into which Collinson painstakingly transplanted all his treasured plants, shrubs and trees from his previous home in Peckham, south of London. He created what he called his "Best Garden" while the land to the west sloped down and was populated by his trees. This he called "The Field" from where he could see the woods that belted London and could just make out the palace of Windsor Castle in the far distance. This house was to become the first home of the School from 1807 until

the magnificent School House building was opened in 1825.

In recognition of this association of Peter Collinson with Mill Hill village and the School, the Mill Hill Peter Collinson Heritage Garden has been created and was opened on 21st June 2018, the 250th anniversary year of his death. The Guest of Honour was Mr Joel Fry, Curator of the Bartram Garden in Philadelphia, USA, acknowledging the close friendship and collaboration enjoyed between John Bartram, a Quaker farmer and keen naturalist, and Collinson over almost 40 years. Bartram collected the seeds and cuttings from numerous flowers, shrubs and trees growing in the states to the east of the Appalachian mountains from Florida in the south to as far north as Lake Ontario, and these were sent by sea to Collinson for

which Bartram was paid 5 and later 10 guineas per box. The contents of Bartram's Boxes were distributed by Collinson to a wide list of clients, including the Duke of Richmond, the Duke of Bedford, Lord Petre of Thorndon Hall in Essex and Philip Miller at the Chelsea Physic Garden.

The location of the Heritage Garden is essentially that of Collinson's "Best Garden" and it is planted with 52 of the 182 species of flowers, shrubs and trees he introduced into the British Isles during his lifetime. Installed in the garden is a sign which tells visitors a little about Collinson and the creation of this garden, together with a plan of the plants and where they are located. In addition, a beautifully illustrated catalogue and a Visitors' Guide will be made available to visitors to the Garden.

The Garden at the School is the only commemorative garden to Peter Collinson and provides an opportunity for botanists and horticulturalists from around the world to see and appreciate the contribution he made to gardening in this country and elsewhere in the world. He was part of the early years of the Age of Enlightenment and was a leading figure in the formation of the Landscape Movement. The Garden will provide also a space for teaching opportunities and for quiet study and reflection for the pupils. The Mill Hill School Foundation can be justly proud of its association with this remarkable man and for enabling the creation of this special space within its grounds.

by
Dr Russell Cowan
Chair of the Project Team

"We were delighted that Joel Fry, who has been Curator and Historian at Bartram's Garden, the home of John and William Bartram, since 1992, could join you. You will all be captivated by his research and knowledge of Bartram family legacy and the plant exchanges across the oceans. His visit to the Mill Hill School provides the opportunity to connect with research at great gardens and institutions in England.

Congratulations to Mill Hill School on this great achievement! We look forward to continued dialogue and exchange."

by
Ms Maitreyi Roy
Executive Director of Bartram's Garden



We reflect on a successful if unpredictable year of results at GCSE and A Level.

Academic overview

2018 was always going to be the biggest year for public examination reform, with around half of A Level subjects and most GCSEs being examined under new specifications for the first time. Reform will complete in 2019 with the last handful of subjects at both levels. It is widely agreed that reform has made A Levels and GCSEs harder: A Levels, because the assessments are end-of-course, bringing together two years of learning in more synoptic ways; GCSE, because the course content itself is more challenging.

Our 2018 A Level cohort, larger and more varied in some ways than the Class of 2017, acquitted themselves well in the context

of the new examinations. We are delighted that our leavers are going on to such a wide variety of courses and higher education destinations, including Cambridge, UCL (where ten are starting), the Dyson Institute of Engineering & Technology and the IED Design School in Barcelona. 2018 saw our inaugural Psychology A Level students sit their examinations, alongside our second Computer Science A Level group; both subjects are now firmly on the map at Mill Hill. We also celebrate the results at A Level and GCSE of the first pupils to have transferred from The Mount, Mill Hill International into, respectively, the Lower Sixth and Remove in September 2016.

At GCSE, the mystery of numerical grades extended to most subjects, having broken cover in 2017 with English and Maths. The results had been hard to predict but, in the end, we were satisfied and encouraged by the overall standards achieved by the Fifth Form. It will take the outside world some time to understand the nuanced difference between 7 and 8, 8 and 9, but we know that the overwhelming majority of the cohort did themselves proud and are able to start their Sixth Form careers with confidence.

by
Mr Alex Frazer
Deputy Head (Academic)



New staff members

MR JAMES DICKIN joins the Senior Team in the post of Deputy Head (Pastoral). As an Englishman in New Zealand for the past 16 years, following his early career in the UK, he has served as a Head of PE and a Housemaster before becoming Deputy Principal at Nelson College, a leading boys' boarding school on the South Island. A former professional rugby player, Mr Dickin took his undergraduate degree at Exeter University and has also been awarded a Master of Professional Studies in Education at the University of Auckland.

MISS GERALDINE BOOTH joins as Head of Geography. A graduate of Manchester University, Miss Booth has taught at Queen Elizabeth's Boys' in Barnet since 2008, the last five years being spent as a Head of Year. She has also completed her MA in Education.

MISS SAMANTHA PYE joins as Second- in-Department for Mathematics. Following her degree at Reading University, she joined the staff of Douay Martyrs Catholic Secondary School in Ickenham where she coordinates Mathematics at Key Stage 3 for five years.

MISS MAYA BAHOSHY is The Foundation's inaugural Head of Innovation. Miss Bahoshy studied Physiological Sciences at Oxford and International Development at George Washington University in Washington DC. She has also trained as a Mathematics teacher. Her wide interests are reflected in a varied range of appointments and projects that she has undertaken in the UK and overseas.

MR ANDREW BERG joins to teach Religious Studies and to lead the PSHRE programme. Mr Berg studied Philosophy at Southampton University and has ten years of experience in the maintained and independent sectors, most recently as Head of Religious Studies at Bancroft's School in Woodford Green, Essex. Mr Berg is a Mill Hill resident and Foundation parent, with children at Belmont and Grimsdell.

MISS SOPHIE BATSFORD joins the Biology Department. Miss Batsford was educated at Leeds University. She has taught for 2 years at Ashmole Academy.

MR RICHARD DWECK also joins the Biology Department. An Old Millhillian, Mr Dweck studied at Leeds and has previously taught at Duff Miller College and Mill Hill County High School. Recently he has been employed outside education, in a business development role.

MRS VIKITA HARIA joins the Mathematics Department. She attended Cambridge University before teaching over the last ten years at a number of schools in Middlesex.

MISS CHARLOTTE JOSSELIN joins the Modern Languages Department to teach French and Spanish. A French native, Miss Josselin trained to teach in Sheffield and taught in the state sector for five years before spending the past five years at the Colombo International School in Sri Lanka.

MR WILLIAM NORMINGTON joins the Geography Department as a Newly Qualified Teacher. A graduate of Oxford University, he worked in environmental consultancy before training to teach.

MS ANN REID joins as a teacher in the Learning Support Department. She studied Language and Linguistic Science at York University and has 25 years of experience of teaching in North London schools. Ms Reid will also teach some classes in the Modern Languages Department.

MRS JULIA SANITT joins us to teach German and French. She studied at Bath University and has taught Modern Languages at a number of North London schools, most recently at Henrietta Barnett. She has experience as a Head of Department and as Chair of Governors of a primary school.

MISS MEERA SHAH joins as a Teacher of Economics. Miss Shah studied at the University of Hertfordshire and the UCL Institute of Education before teaching for three years at Watford Grammar School for Boys.

MISS JADE STOLLER joins the Art Department. She studied Jewellery Design at Edinburgh University and continues to create pieces for clients. Miss Stoller has 3 years' experience in state schools in Glasgow and West London.

MR MAX TRAEGER joins as a Newly Qualified Teacher of History and Politics. An Old Millhillian, Mr Traeger studied at York before training to teach at Durham.

MISS CORINNE WINKLER joins the Geography Department from Green Spring Academy in Shoreditch. She studied at Nottingham University before entering the education sector through the Teach First programme.

MR LUKE FLETCHER joins the EAL Department. A graduate of York University and an IELTS expert, Mr Fletcher has taught English as an Additional Language for many years in Thailand, Spain and London. A keen sportsman, he will also coach football and cricket at Mill Hill.

MR PHILIP POTTER joins us as House Parent of the newly refurbished St Bees boarding house, having worked in a number of boarding schools and the Ministry of Justice. Mr Potter is a graduate of the universities of Stirling and Portsmouth.

MR ALEXIS DE SOUSA has returned, having been French Assistant in 2015-16. He studied Modern Languages at Université Blaise Pascal in Clermont-Ferrand and acting at the Conservatoire Régional de Bordeaux While at Mill Hill he will pursue his training as an actor.

MRS CHARLOTTE DICKIN joins as Co-ordinator of Girls' Games prior to which she was working in Nelson College, New Zealand. A graduate of Brunel University, Charlotte completed her PGCE at Exeter University.

MR STEVE WALTERS is a graduate in Education from the University of Canberra, Australia, and joins us as a Cover Supervisor and as a member of the Sports coaching team.

The following Graduate Assistants join us to support a range of activities including sport:

Caitlin Morrell
Kyle Bowes-Taylor
Lawrence Haywood
Megan Kennedy

Shared Values, Personal Beliefs

Chapel is a place where we celebrate the human values which unite us and enable our school to flourish.

by
Revd Dr Richard Warden
Foundation Chaplain

Not only is our wonderful Chapel the architectural jewel in the crown of Mill Hill School, it is a place where other treasure is to be found, both moral and spiritual, as week by week we meet together as a community to start the day with a blend of silence, music and inspiring words. Mill Hill is a gathered community from many parts of the globe, a microcosm of a wider pluralistic society where we have the joy and privilege of discovering the differences and the common ground between us, thus preparing pupils for adult life.

Chapel is a place where the personal beliefs of pupils and staff alike, from many faith perspectives as well as the Christian tradition, can be respectfully shared for the edification of all. Crucially, it is a place where we celebrate the human values which unite us and enable our school to flourish. It is a hallmark of the importance of Chapel that so many pupils are willing to speak to their peers about things that matter, and we are grateful to all who enlighten us during the year.

Recently Jessica Charles and Lotte Levy shared their experience of joining a group of Jewish pupils on a life-transforming pilgrimage to some former Nazi concentration camps, including Auschwitz, noting that;

"The lessons we have learnt from this trip are not and should not be exclusive to

Jews. We are all a part of this world and hence we share responsibility to ensure the past doesn't repeat itself."

Hearing of their profound experiences moved us all, thus enabling us to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

During Ramadan Younus Rahman and Irfan Ali shared their experiences of keeping the Muslim fast, which involves them getting up in the middle of the night to eat and drink in sufficient quantities to keep them going for the whole of the following day. Such impressive commitment enabled them to appreciate more fully the blessings of life, coupled with an empathy for the poor, for whom going hungry is a year-round daily reality.

Such profound insights and challenges are also reflected in our wholehearted singing of Christian hymns. "Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways" helped us to amend our lives to ensure that anti-Semitism, racism or prejudice of any kind will not be found within us or with our school. And the hymn "When I needed a neighbour, were you there?" based on the Parable of the Good Samaritan, challenged us to find ways of identifying with the suffering in our world, so that we can reach out to those in need.

Shalom. Salam. Amen.



In the sunshine of late June, Mill Hill School pupils enjoyed an amazing four days of Activities Week.

A hive of activities

by
Mr Tom Vercoe
Assistant Head
(Co-curricular and Sports)
and
Mrs Sarah Ward
Activities Co-ordinator

The week saw our pupils choose from a list of 64 different trips, activity days and challenges.

The opportunities ranged from our partnership trips to Zambia and India lasting almost three weeks, completing the open water scuba diving course; competing in the MHS Bake off competition and visiting the battlefields in northern France and Belgium.

The adrenaline activities proved a popular choice with many of our pupils. We enjoyed memorable days on the Olympic white water rapids course, whilst others learnt to master indoor sky diving. However, perhaps the most enjoyable memory for some was watching the Fourth Form laughing with glee whilst chasing a group of teachers around the woods peppering them with paintball pellets.

At the other end of the octane spectrum, pupils learnt to relax with days of well-being and enjoyed the culture and education that our brilliant capital city provides, with trips to the V & A, Tate Modern and National Science Museum amongst others. Whilst other pupils enjoyed exploring their artistic side with creative writing and journalistic workshops, other pupils wrote, directed, produced and acted in the first ever MHS Film.

At the end of the four days the children had time to reflect on key lessons learnt and skills that they have had to develop during the week of challenges, fun and adventure. A truly wonderful end to another fantastic year at Mill Hill School.



Sports Scholars: a day in the life...

by

Mr Aaron Liffchak
Assistant Director of Sport

“I’m getting to do what I love and for a lot of people my age their dreams don't become a reality.”

SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

The Sports Scholarship Programme is one of the Sports Department’s proudest developments in recent years. We currently have over 50 pupils who are being helped on their way to local, national and international success thanks to a holistic programme which focuses on various attributes including: building a physical foundation; creating a mental toolkit; increasing knowledge base in performance nutrition; developing mental resilience and understanding effective recovery protocols.

‘Being a Mill Hill Sports Scholar is tiring and a lot of hard work, but I wouldn't trade it for anything in the world. Through the Scholarship Programme I have learnt everything from how to become more powerful to how to cook my own recipes and meal plans.’

Floren Kay
Murray House

The purpose of the Scholarship Programme is to help attract more top sports performers to Mill Hill School and provide support to those pursuing both sporting and academic excellence. Our Scholars demonstrate discipline, application and talent which enables them to perform at the top of their game in both a sporting sense and in their academic pursuits. There are over 50 pupils at Mill Hill who wake up earlier, work harder, and do more in a day than many.

‘I’m getting to do what I love and for a lot of people my age their dreams don't become a reality. To get an opportunity to work with the calibre of staff within the Scholarship Programme from professional sporting backgrounds is amazing: I have to pinch myself every morning!’

Matthew Mahoney
Sixth Form Sports Scholar, Burton Bank

DAILY DIARY FROM HENRY GIBSON Fifth Form Sports Scholar, Priestley House

6.15am

I woke up early today, need to make sure I get the early bus into school for my conditioning session with Mr Oakes and Mr Lee

7.30am – 8.00am

Tough anaerobic conditioning session, preparing me for my county trials coming up in a few weeks. My other friends will probably have just woken up!

8.30am – 8.50am

Chapel with my housemates in Priestley, an opportunity to sing with our energetic Director of Music Mr Kyle! Feeling awake after my morning run though...

8.55am – 10.40am

History and Geography lessons.

10.45am – 11.00am

Opportunity to top up the batteries at break time in the Dining Hall, using some of the meal ideas we came up with in our scholarship lecture on performance nutrition.

11.05am – 12.55pm

Academic PE lesson, perfect opportunity to put theory into practice!

1.00pm – 2.00pm

Quick lunch with friends in the Dining Hall quickly followed by my Pilates lesson with Ms Mattinson.

2.20pm – 3.40pm

Games lesson, rugby training with Mr Liffchak, Mr Lee and George Kruis (British and Irish Lion). Big game at the weekend vs our local rivals.

3.45pm – 4.45pm

My timetabled sports scholarship session with the rest of the scholars in my year group. It's great getting to push myself against the best athletes in the year!

5.00pm – 7.00pm

Get all my homework done quickly to ensure I can get a well-earned dinner and rest before another busy day tomorrow!





The Music School at Mill Hill provides the music for over 230 performances every year, ranging from classical orchestral music to jazz, musical theatre and pop.

Music for all

by
Mr Kevin Kyle
Director of Musical
Performance

We are lucky to have a strong number of post Grade 8 standard pupils who can deliver top level performances, and our Scholars' concerts, singing competitions, and instrumental competitions showcase these pupils' talents brilliantly. Many of these musicians receive top level training both at Mill Hill and at Saturday performance conservatoires and can perform to an exceptionally high standard both as soloists and ensemble musicians. Helping guide the development of pupils who have committed themselves to achieving the highest standard of performance is an obvious pleasure for any music teacher, but this process is all the more enjoyable because these pupils, with their high-level training, can self-teach for much of their practice time, allowing for coaching sessions to focus on the interpretative and communicative aspects of the performance rather than solely the technical.

Creating an enjoyable environment for all musicians of every standard is a goal that is shared by all staff and pupils involved in the Music School. Our annual instrumental music competition is divided into experience-based categories to allow every pupil the opportunity to reach the final in their own ability-based category. It is exciting for the audience both in the auditorium, and at home or abroad (watching on the live-stream) to see the beginners compete for their category prize, the Grade 5 ability level pupils compete for theirs, and the post-Grade 8s compete for their own prize. The Farrow singing competition also celebrates all levels of

ability, and detailed feedback is given to every candidate by an adjudicator with considerable professional singing experience.

Offering a wide range of ensembles is key to creating a meaningful musical environment for all standards of musician, and with almost 20 different ensembles to choose from, pupils are able to find the standard and style that suits them. We also have ensembles such as the Shout Band that cater for 'any instrument, any ability' and over the course of each term the ensemble collectively arranges its chosen song: in the summer term of 2018 the Shout Band needed to create a piece for two drum kits, two E flat alto saxophones and a ukulele! The performance was a huge success.

Our annual tours also require all musicians to be involved, so special arrangements are created to incorporate every performer, so that any pupil who wishes to take part in the tour can be involved. A particular highlight was when our choir of fifty pupils performed to an audience of over a thousand at Montserrat Abbey, some of the musicians were very experienced and some had never performed in a concert before.

The Mill Hill Proms, our final concert of the academic year, hosted by the Parents' Committee, involved all our musicians. Concerts of this scale rely on the dedication and support of all the staff and parents involved, many of whom have devoted hours to rehearsing and arranging the music. A huge thank you must go to them.

The Drama Department has been extremely busy this year training pupils for new examinations at both GCSE and A Level.

Drama highlights

by
Mr David Proudlock
Head of Drama

We have chosen the OCR Examining Board and we are generally pleased with the content of their syllabuses. They have provided us with a challenging but interesting curriculum.

We have been to see a number of top shows in the West End and elsewhere, including *Blood Brothers*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Things I know to be True*, *The Libertine* and *Don Juan*. We have also performed some effective shortened versions of well-known shows, including *The Good Doctor*, *Maria Marten*, *The Machine Gunners*, *The Crucible*, *Journey's End* and *Kes*.

All 45 pupils studying for both GCSE and A Level Drama this year have also presented their own Devised Dramas, showing high achievement and imaginative group work.

Another highlight of Drama this year was the House Drama Festival, where nine house presented self-directed plays over three nights. The eventual winners were Cedars, winning the competition for the first time



with a thoroughly entertaining production of *Dr Faustus*, directed by Upper Sixth Former Isabella Ward. Over 150 pupils took part in this festival and they are to be congratulated on a very high standard this year.

A Fourth Form production also took place this year. *Fairy Tale Courtroom* demonstrated just how talented our pupils are. This bodes well for the immediate future. Many of you will be sorry to hear of the departure of Mrs Stimler at the end of this academic year. She has brought imagination and great intelligence to her work here over the past four years and we wish her well in her new school where she will take up the challenging role of Head of Drama.

Finally, it was great to receive the news that two of our Sixth Form pupils, Roan Reid and Theo Sergiou, have been accepted by the National Youth Theatre. They are to be congratulated on their fantastic success against competition from hundreds of others competing. A great way to round up an exceptional year in Drama.



Pupil achievements

A snapshot of the many achievements of Mill Hill pupils in recent months.

ATKINSON



RUBY ATKINS

Ruby has demonstrated unwavering commitment to the hugely successful English Society in School. She is a stalwart member and a wonderful advocate for the celebration of literature. The manner in which she leads sessions is truly praiseworthy. She is exceptionally well-read and her presentations are engaging and informative.

ZAK DEMETRIADES

Zak has now qualified and competed in the national trampoline finals in for three consecutive years. This achievement in itself is exceptional and marks Zak out as one of the top eight trampolinists in the country in his age bracket.



JAMIE SIDWELL

Jamie took his Grade 8 Piano Exam a few weeks ago and passed with Distinction. He is now going to work towards a Diploma. Jamie started playing piano at the age of seven and has played in numerous concerts. In the years to come he has ambitions to become a composer.

BURTON BANK

MATTHEW MAHONEY

Matthew joined us in September 2017 and has made huge strides in the short time he has been with us. A Saracens Academy player, Matthew has gone from strength to strength on and off the rugby pitch. As we embark on a new academic year, Matthew has been appointed as 1st XV Captain and Head of his boarding House, Burton Bank.

ROAN REID

Roan has gained a place in the National Youth Theatre, the competition for which is huge. Roan has been working during the holidays, preparing to perform in several shows in the West End and elsewhere. He is one to watch, following in the footsteps of Daniel Sharman (*Teen Wolf*), Harry Melling (*Dudley Dursley*) and Nancy Wallinger (*The Play that Goes Wrong*), all of whom attended Mill Hill School.

CEDARS

AMELIA PERKS

As the winner of the Girls' 100m race on sports day in June, Millie holds the title of 'the fastest girl in the school'. Whilst she has been characteristically modest about her achievement, she has worked hard on a weekly basis in athletics training over the summer term. Well done Millie!

NATASHA PHILIASTIDES

We are delighted that Natasha was offered a place on a prestigious, Ivy League summer school course at Brown University, America. She aims to study in the US after her A levels and the course, entitled 'The Psychology of Good and Evil', will undoubtedly provide excellent preparation for this.



DAVID WANG

Keen to pursue a degree in engineering, David was offered a place at Glasgow University's Engineering Summer School. The experience will give him invaluable insight into a broad and demanding academic field which should stand him in excellent stead when it comes to applying for a university place.

COLLINSON



CHING KWOK

Ching has done a marvellous job in charge of Collinson's cadets, winning Best Caller in the Newcastle Competition for an unprecedented second year running. She also contributed to the extraordinary Beating Retreat spectacle put on by the CCF.



JUNHAO ZHU

The Collinson Centennial Plate was inaugurated in 2003, and is awarded, with the winner's name engraved on it, to the House member who contributes most fully to House endeavours. Junhao has been involved in everything we have done, including the Ten Mile Cup, the House Play and the Newcastle Competition.

MCCLURE

NICK BOUNDS

Nick was chosen as the keeper for the London Youth Games U16 water polo team representing Barnet. On Saturday 16/06, the team took second place at the London Youth Games upsetting a number of more established teams. It was a fabulous performance for the team.

GEORGIE WARD

Georgie regularly attends equine clinic in Scotland for a week in the Autumn term. This has helped her compete in many competitions this year, placing in many and gaining rosettes for herself and Casper.

MURRAY



DANIEL BECKETT

Daniel was taken to Belmont school to coach golf with Mr Halford and proved to be a great hit with the pupils, coaching them in basic golfing techniques. Daniel showed great confidence and rapport with the pupils.



IMOGEN PRIOR

Has just been announced as Senior Monitor for the first term this year. Imogen is a well-respected pupil and is involved in many aspects around the school, including CCF, School Council, 1st team girls sport and many more areas. We wish to congratulate her in the new role.

MURRAY



ELLEN BAUMRING- GLEDHILL

Winner of the lower school Gundry Composition prize. Ellen continues to prove she is a distinguished musician and not only does she perform in many instruments, she also has won a prize for music composition. Well done Ellen!

NEW HOUSE

ADELE GARBUTT

A very promising golfer Adele has played in many competitions this year. She has assisted Mr Halford on many occasions at Belmont and Grimsdell encouraging younger pupils to take up golf, her skill and enthusiasm was greatly appreciated.

SONJA LI

Sonja was one of only thirty students selected to participate in a two night residential Food Science Summer School at the University of Leeds where she had a chance to find out more about the science of food, whilst enjoying the full University of Leeds experience. Well done Sonja!

PRIESTLEY



TYLER COHEN

On the 25th June Tyler Cohen, Priestley UVI and former Head of House, was invited to present his A level DT Project at the Royal Society to a group of judges in the final of this year's Teen Tech Competition. His exoskeleton, designed to reduce tremors for those with Parkinsons' Disease, was created with the support of Stanmore Aspire Centre. His project received critical praise and was eventually awarded the top prize of £1000 by Theoretical Physicist, Jim Al- Khalili. The final award will be presented by HRH the Duke of York at Buckingham Palace later this year. This represents the School's third win in this competition over the past two years.

RHYS CONNOR

Typical Priestley boy? Rhys is no slowcoach in the academic fast lane of Priestley and Mill Hill. He has just achieved 9 straight A*s in his end of year exam. He is also a good all-rounder playing rugby for the U15 A team and for the Eton Fives team. In his spare time he is also British National Champion in Martial Arts.



TASNIEM SHANAVAZI

Having come to England from Afghanistan in 2012, she was awarded a full academic scholarship and enjoys the complete experience and life style offered by Mill Hill. No slouch academically, Tasniem has just achieved 9 A*s/As in her end of year exam and says that she is particularly proud of her A* in English which has been her weakest subject. Tasniem has ambitions of going on to study Medicine at university. She also enjoys the school and house sports programme and is looking forward to the house Music competition next term.



RIDGEWAY



TAL GOLDSTEIN

Staff and students at Mill Hill were lucky to witness an extraordinary work of Performance Art by Tal Goldstein (Ridgeway LVI). Tal's work explored and subverted the theme of modernism and featured a giant graphic score marked out on the floor of the Chapel, which Mr Kyle and Mr Brignell walked along as they sang. Tal designed the costumes and composed the piece. It was a special and unique experience that deeply affected all who saw it.



QIRUI (CLAUDIA) ZHAO

Claudia won the prestigious Academic Achievement Major Prize after a year of impressive curricular accomplishments while studying for Mill Hill International's One Year GCSE course. Claudia explored all her subjects beyond the IGCSE curriculum, demonstrating an infectious passion for Maths in particular.

SCHOOL



EDDIE HILDEBRAND

This year Eddie Hildebrand has been playing for Hertfordshire county, Mill Hill XI, Mill Hill U15 and his club, Old Elizabethans. His first Hertfordshire game this year was against Surrey and he bowled 3 overs, went for 9 runs and got a wicket! Also in this game he got a run out of someone who was on 110! His best performance all season came in the U15 (in one of his 2 appearances) against William Perkin School. He managed to get 5 wickets in 4 overs and only conceding 13 runs, which included a hat-trick! He has also been training with Hertfordshire every Friday. It is an amazing achievement for a Remove pupil to play for the 1st XI.

LUCAS TABERNA

Lucas has been interested in fashion for many years. He is a self-taught at sewing and takes inspiration from Alexander McQueen, Demna Gvasalia and Matthew Williams. He loves art and his ambition is to study fashion and design at Central St Martins. Over the past few months he has been designing, sewing and styling his own clothes, showcasing them on Instagram (@tabverna) and is working on a website to present photos of his pieces with information about the design. Denim Reworked Nylon Bomber Jacket, Reworked Levi's 501, Leather Thigh Wallet.

WEYMOUTH

THEO OGDEN

Nominated for the "Best Young Football Blogger/Vlogger" at the National Football Blogging Awards. Theo now has 61,000+ subscribers and over 15 million lifetime video views. This summer he headed out to the world cup in Russia where he will be vlogging for his YouTube channel as well as doing bits for Russia today.



CHARLIE PLUMMER

Congratulations to Upper Sixth Charlie Plummer (Weymouth) who has been awarded National Young Player of the Year Award for Fives. This ends what has been a fantastic school Fives career for Charlie. He was shortlisted amongst top young players from all around the country and then voted winner by the public. He was nominated for not only his contribution to school Fives but also his contribution to the Old Millhillians team, playing in division one of the adult national league where he had a very impressive record of winning 12 out of the 13 matches he played.

I had the honour of receiving my Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award from HRH the Earl of Wessex at Buckingham Palace.



A golden handshake

by
Darragh Woods
(Atkinson 2013- 2018)

Being a direct entrant to the Gold Award, it took me just over 18 months to reach this point. To complete, a candidate needs to undertake 18, 12 and 6 months of volunteering, playing a sport and developing a skill respectively, two 60km 4-day expeditions and a week-long Residential Trip. My Sections were largely centred around hockey: I coached an U10s team for my Volunteering Section, I played hockey for well over 12 months and umpired it for 6 months. For my Expedition, my team and I journeyed around the Cambrian Mountains in Wales – near Devil's Bridge – while Mill Hill's Overseas Partnership to Tamil Nadu counted for my Residential Trip, although longer in duration and perhaps more exotic than this Section was required to be.

Before this year Mill Hill was not currently offering the scheme, but after pitching the idea to Mrs King, the Gold Award alone is now run in conjunction with the CCF. Although I am perhaps the first ever pupil to achieve a Gold DoFE while still at Mill Hill, hopefully more will soon follow as the first batch of Mill Hill Cadets walked their first expedition in early July.

Broadly, the DoFE is a highly valued Award which encourages teamwork, dedication and self-reliance, particularly on expedition. The ethos of 'getting involved' in different activities, especially at Gold, embodies the spirit of Mill Hill, so this is a fantastic addition to the School's co-curricular provision. Furthermore, the capable supervision by the CCF will ensure

that Cadets are fully prepared for the physical demands of the Expedition Section, but also supported throughout the 18-month programme.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the people who contributed to my DoFE within the School. Clearly, the teachers who gave their time to run the 2017 Tamil Nadu trip, especially our Trip Leader Mrs Sanchez, and the CCF Staff, namely Major Norrington and WO1 Albrecht, helped me complete the Residential Section and gave me the skills to be prepared for the Expedition Section. I would also like to thank Mr Bingham, Mrs Kaplan and the Tutors of Atkinson House for developing me into a person capable of achieving this Award.



by
Major Anthony Norrington

"If you don't listen to my advice and keep your eyes on your map, you will get lost!"

This, said by Aled Davies our expedition supervisor, did not take long to sink in! Several days after we broke up for the summer, 11 Fifth Form pupils ventured to the Cambrian Mountains for their Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold Practice Expedition. This was supervised by Aled and other members of his team from Expeditions Wales which proved to be a worthwhile investment as none of us could compete when it came to an intimate knowledge of the mountains; Aled has lived there all his life.

Our base camp was a beautiful spot by the River Severn near the town of Llanidloes, perfect for the training day to follow. This included a four-hour hike into the hills and an amusing inspection of rucksack contents. Choice of expedition food varied from some participants carefully preparing each day's food noting the calories, bagged and labelled in clear pouches, to others (you know who you are) who must have simply swept clear the first shelf they found in the kitchen at home and expected some kind of culinary magic

to take place in the Welsh hills. The actual expedition comprised three days' walking and two nights' camping, with the last night on a remote farm with lots of sheep and fantastic views. Despite the efforts of the day, the team still found the energy to climb the nearest mountain to stream the England game. What became apparent to those on the expedition was the importance of bonding as a team. Luckily, both teams were close friends beforehand and this proved to be invaluable under pressure. Both teams found themselves off track at least once, requiring big detours and consumption of valuable rations and water. This, combined with sweltering conditions, takes its toll on morale very quickly and any breakdown in the integrity of a team can trigger poor decision-making and turn a manageable mishap into a frightening emergency.

However, whenever we met the teams they were always in great spirits, taking turns to lead and map read. Despite blisters, packs weighing 18kgs and intense heat, they all excelled themselves and managed well when pushed beyond the limits of their comfort. They are looking forward to the 2019 qualifying expedition and can be rightfully proud of their achievements.

The Mill Hill School Foundation has received a donation of £1,000,000 this year, perhaps the first gift of this size for more than a 100 years; half is to be spent at Belmont and half at Mill Hill.

Development Office news

THANKS, A MILLION!

This is wonderful news and will make a massive difference to our ability to complete two major projects in time for September 2019. At Mill Hill the McClure Music School will undergo a major refurbishment. The Music School was opened in 1912 and named in honour of Sir John McClure the Headmaster of Mill Hill School and himself an accomplished musician and composer of classical music. This has meant that replacement of the ageing heating system has already taken place ensuring that this winter music-making will not be compromised by the inability of violinists to feel their fingers! Perhaps more exciting than this, however, is that the School's inspirational music staff led by Kevin Kyle are in consultation with the designers about exactly what the 'new' McClure Music School will look like. With music at the Mill Hill being such a vibrant feature of life here, this is fantastic news.

Almost half current Mill Hill pupils also attended Belmont. They will all remember, as will their parents, the gym which was built when Belmont had around 200 boys in an era when wall bars and climbing ropes were considered state-of-the-art. This gym suffered a major fire in November 2017 and since then work by designers, architects, planners and consultants mean that a new indoor sports facility should be started this autumn. This will be funded by insurance money, the Governors and a £1m fundraising campaign. It is great to know that the first half of that is already 'in the bank', and those to whom I have spoken believe that with this fantastic start the target is achievable. Those Mill Hill parents whose children enjoyed their time at Belmont might like to consider supporting this initiative.

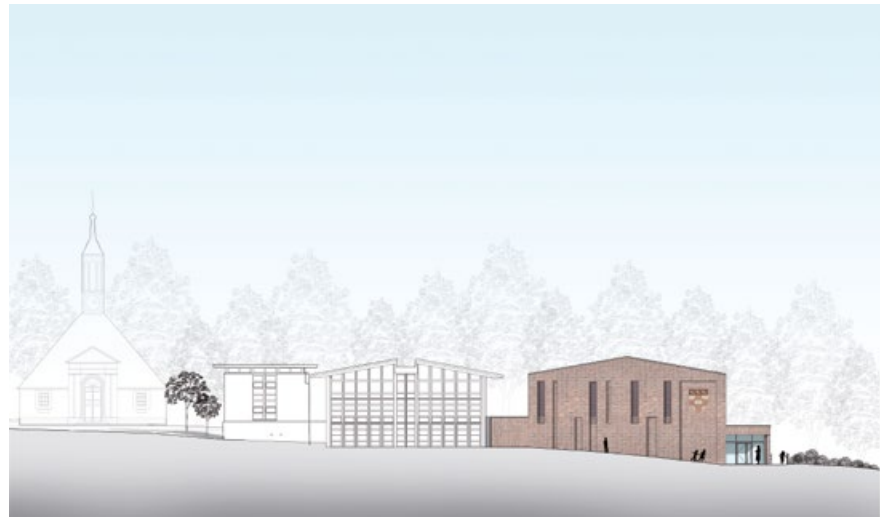
FOUNDATION DAY: VIRTUALLY GLOBAL

In the last issue of the Mill Hill Magazine I referred to the global village which is the Mill Hill community around the world. The best and latest illustration of this is Foundation Day 2018 when the events of the day will be streamed and subsequently available on YouTube and other media. This will mean that current pupils receiving prizes can be seen by their parents, wherever they are in the world. Foundation Day is also the day when the School invites its alumni to return and enjoy the School's hospitality and watch the Corps of Drums of the CCF and a range of sporting activities, and where the Old Millhillians Club can promote its activities to alumni and parents. This year all this action will be visible to alumni around the world and the School will be inviting them to get together and log in and join us, virtually, in the celebration.

Foundation Day will also see the first use of the new hymn books in Chapel. Chaplain Richard Warden came to the Development Office with the idea of replacing the elderly and much-repaired Chapel hymnbooks. We felt that a number of Old Millhillians and parents past and present might like to be involved with this by paying for the dedication of the hymnbooks to their parents, children or former teachers. This has proved to be the case: donations have exceeded the target, meaning that the print run has been increased on the original number and there will be some spare hymnbooks for when the first ones cease to be fit for purpose.

by

Mr Nick Priestnall
Director of Development



An artist's impression of the proposed new Sports Hall for Belmont



The value of networking

The Old Millhillians Club provides our pupils and alumni with many opportunities for professional networking and for gathering socially.

by

Mr Dick Lidwell
(Murray 1959-64)
Chair of the Old Millhillians
Club Careers Committee

The world of work has become far more fragmented with the growth of smaller entrepreneurial organisations, global markets, increased mobility, and the decline in a 'job for life'. It is often quoted that around 60% of jobs are never advertised, existing within 'The Hidden Job Market'. To improve your chances of being successful you need to develop networking skills, alongside the more conventional methods of researching careers and jobs, to uncover unadvertised opportunities, and market yourself.

But how as a pupil might you set about developing these networks? Think creatively about who you know. Talking to your family, your friends' parents, would be a start, but you may already have some ready-made networks, eg, in societies, sports clubs etc. Sometimes it takes a bit of confidence to strike up conversations, but most people enjoy talking about what they do for a living. Such informal conversations not only help you to understand what goes on in work, its conventions, and what might be of interest, but also, people get to know you,

what you might be able to offer, and may introduce you to others who may assist. These networks may produce dividends in finding holiday jobs too.

It's useful to keep a record of your contacts and any outcomes, and always remember to thank people for their help. In the future as a student, or once in work, join networks such as 'Linked-in', alumni associations, and other professional groups to develop your career.

The Old Millhillians Club has been active for many years in running an annual series of well attended networking events covering a wide range of different occupational areas including: The Medical Professions, Engineering, Media, Legal, Property, Accountancy and Finance. Sixth Formers are encouraged to attend relevant events at the Club's expense. These events are designed to provide networking opportunities within their fields, but also to give insights to others who may be thinking of changing career.

Valete

We bid farewell to the following colleagues, whose valued contribution to the life of the School is recognised here.

Hannah Ashman
Although Hannah Ashman’s time with us as Head of Geography was relatively short, her impact was felt across many areas of School life. Unfazed by managing two former Heads of Geography within the department, she brought great reflection and imagination to the development of this subject, leaving us with refreshed curricula, fieldwork and classroom ideas, expanded pupil numbers and a bumper crop of Sixth Formers keen to pursue Geography at university – no doubt inspired by her own exceptional teaching.

Alongside her work in Geography, Hannah was a skilled Sixth Form Tutor in Atkinson, and embraced our co-curricular programme - contributing with dedication to athletics, cross-country, hockey and the Partnership Trip to Tamil Nadu. Owing to her partner’s career in the Armed Forces, Hannah has relocated to Dorset, where she has taken up another Head of Geography role. We wish her every happiness and success.

Mr Sam Baldock

Sam Baldock
Sam Baldock has contributed three years to Mill Hill as Assistant Head (Teaching & Learning), and what fantastic years they have been! A lesser person would have needed at least double that to make the same impact, particularly on the way the School thinks and talks about the art of teaching and how young people really learn. Sam has enhanced our professional development activities and moved us all onto the digital learning platform, Firefly. He has remained an inspirational Biology teacher and a source of excellent advice to pupils and colleagues.

Around the senior management table, Sam has been an endless wellspring of energy and good ideas about many of the practices that make the School function. He has been roundly appreciated by those he managed, both veteran and novice. Great fun to work with, he has provided incredible support to me as Deputy Head (Academic), a post he deservedly takes up in his own right at Bedford School.

Mr Alex Frazer

Alison Bignell
Alison Bignell was one of the first people I met when interviewing to join Mill Hill; her warmth and evident sense of humour suggested good things about the School. Working closely with her as Head of Science and Biology, I realised such humour also denoted Alison’s deep humanity, kindness, perspective and common sense.

After securing worthwhile improvements in the workings of the Science Faculty, and amplifying the idea that pupils should enjoy their learning as a means to succeed, she answered the call of McClure House in 2015 and replaced the big shoes of Graeme Turner with a style all her own. Instantly popular with pupils and parents, she managed to convey tough messages home while also advocating powerfully for members of the House when she saw they needed her support. A great turnout at her last hog proved the esteem in which she is held.

We wish Alison well at her new post in Cambridge.

Mr Alex Frazer

Catherine Carlton
Catherine began working here in the Autumn Term of 2012, engaged to support the learning of a profoundly deaf pupil who had recently joined the School. She is a strong advocate for children with a hearing impairment, and brought her invaluable experience to the role providing one-to-one guidance and caring direction. She set up a signing group in her own time, and it is testament to her energy and enthusiasm that many of the peers of the pupil she was supporting wanted to learn to sign, resulting in a memorable carol service in which the group presented a signed version of ‘Silent Night’. Catherine then moved on to become a cover supervisor and tutor in Cedars House, bringing to both positions the qualities of care and firmness. We thank her for the time she has given to the school, and wish her well as she explores pastures new.

Mr Jason Lewis

Virginie David
Virginie joined us nine years ago from Copthall School. She has worked tirelessly in the French Department across all year groups and her pupils have gained a great deal from her professional and expert teaching. Her pupils and tutees hold her in high regard. She has also been involved in the various French exchanges that have taken place, ensuring that everyone gains the most from the experience.

Her involvement in School House spans across all age groups and she has always formed strong relationships with those in her charge. She was caring to the extent that she visited one of her tutees in hospital after he broke his leg. The Far East draws her back every year, and her new position as a French teacher in Ghana is her first step towards her dream of teaching there. As she embarks on her new adventures we wish her the best of luck.

Ms Sally Bull

Armande Fryatt
Armande has been at Mill Hill School for eight years. She fast became a highly valued member of the Learning Support team teaching pupils across all year groups and doing most of the Learning Support school-based assessments. She is a very committed learning support teacher with a wealth of experience which she brings to her teaching. Her knowledge has been invaluable in helping to tackle some of the more challenging issues that we have had to deal with over the years. She has developed

strong relationships with many of her pupils, who appreciate their time with her each week and will miss her.

In the last couple of years she expanded her role by becoming a Tutor in Atkinson House. She took this role very seriously and tried to help those with difficulties, helping them with their organisation – not always an easy task.

Armande will be particularly missed by all of us in the Learning Support Department and we wish her every success for the future.

Miss Lisa Silverman

Bärbel Hazeldine
Bärbel arrived in 2010 to take over the German Department, and from her first day has been a model of, without going down the route of German stereotype, efficiency, professionalism and great warmth. She is a highly supportive colleague, a brilliant organiser of academic trips to her home city of Leipzig, and a calm and caring teacher.

In Leipzig, courtesy of a network of colleagues and friends, students and staff alike had a fascinating learning experience, in places as diverse as Bach’s house, the BMW factory, and a Robotics Fair. Her enthusiasm for teaching permeated through her students, as well as encouraging idlers such as me to attempt to learn German. Latterly she has also held the role of Senior Tutor in Priestley. Moving closer to home in Kent, Bärbel will continue to enthuse students with a love for German.

Thank you for all this, and being a great friend.

Auf wiedersehen.

Mr Andrew Homer

Duncan Hine
Duncan was an excellent teacher. The students recognised this when he arrived in January 2012. It was no mean feat to win over his new classes, give them confidence and steer them to examination success in five months. Duncan is a traditional school master, equally at home on the games field and in the classroom. He is a passionate rugby coach, and after two years was given responsibility for the 1st XV. He gave a new sense of direction and self-respect to the squad and was rightly proud of his

achievements in the two years he spent at the helm. He derived immense satisfaction from this this aspect of his job so his leaving was only a matter of time after structural changes left him without an appropriate role. Duncan has taken up a position as Head of Politics at Oundle. We wish him every success in his future endeavours.

Mr Mark Dickinson

Nicholas Hodgson
Nicholas Hodgson retires after 25 years at Mill Hill and a grand total of 36 years in teaching. He was, variously, Housemaster of Murray (2008-16), Master I/C Cricket (2004-08) and Head of Geography (1993-2011) and always a highly engaged and engaging teacher of geography. Pupils of all ages and ability, but especially those in the Upper Sixth, appreciated, sometimes reluctantly, his determination to avoid spoon-feeding and to make pupils think for themselves.

But he was so much more than a classroom teacher. He made a willing and wide-ranging contribution to the life of the School: no one went with the Fourth Form trips to Barcelona more often and he was also a regular on the annual Rouen exchange. His time as a ‘thugby’ coach and on the hockey field was short and sweet but his contribution to cricket has been massive and consistent, working with Daniel Bingham and the U14s until he took over the 1st XI in 2008. In the Common Room he is the driving force behind the Friday football and the brains behind the football sweepstakes.

It was he who introduced us to the geographical delights of Walton-on-the-Naze, but his real fieldwork passion and expertise was in the Yorkshire Dales. He came to love the School’s Field Study Centre in the village of Dent and wrote movingly about the place and its people when the centre was closed in 2004. He is a man of careful routine and habit: it will be interesting to see how he copes with the freedom of retirement!

Mr David Woodrow

Andrew Granath
Mark Twain’s ‘The report of my death was an exaggeration’ is a very apposite quotation in Andrew’s case. Having coaxed him out of retirement in June 2016 and written his vale last year, I had to call upon his services once more. It was salve once

again and our fortune that Andrew came to the rescue. He quickly got his head around a completely new History syllabus and a new Politics specification providing reassurance to the students at a difficult time with his vast knowledge and experience. So thank you once again Andrew for a crucial two months at Mill Hill.

Mr Mark Dickinson

Laura Miller

Laura Miller joined Mill Hill in 2015 and she has been an extremely popular teacher of Religious Studies. Her pupils have flourished through her fine intellect, philosophical training and expert teaching. In addition, she has excelled in her pastoral roles, firstly as Sixth Form Tutor in Atkinson for two years, and then in her final year where she combined two challenging roles of Senior Tutor in McClure and Sixth Form Coordinator to the whole Sixth Form.

She has given ‘above and beyond’ to whole School activities. As well as setting up dance and gym classes, she has led the Debating Society, initiated two TedX Talks events, edited the School Magazine, been on two School Partnership trips to Zambia, as well as speaking powerfully in Chapel on two occasions. She will be greatly missed by the whole Mill Hill community - staff, parents and pupils - but our great loss is Eton’s huge gain where she will become the first ever woman to teach in the College’s large Religious Studies Department.

Revd Dr Richard Warden

Valerie Miner

Valerie is a stripling when viewed against my field of experience. She arrived in 1991 having taught Economics a few traffic cones away at Brentwood. She began part-time, having two lovely young daughters at home, but was quickly considered indispensable enough to be entreated to raise her hours and then run the department.

She headed up girls’ Games at a critical time during which we were creating co-educational credibility prior to opening our doors to girls throughout the Foundation some 20 years ago. Fittingly, shortly afterwards in 1999, she took charge of Cedars House and did a magnificent job caring for its 28 boarders. I have seen no area of the School that has surpassed it in terms of the good order of the community playing out not via infrastructural construct but rather through mutual respect and an understanding of human kindness. Her girls would not countenance incurring her displeasure, trusting her as their advocate and protector.

Valerie’s contributions are too manifold to enumerate here. They include a stint as a superbly incisive Chair of Common Room, but the most important was in the classroom, her pedagogical awareness being intuitive and outstanding. Moreover, her sunny disposition should blind no one to her attributes as a high-powered and surgically analytical economist. Her pupils recognised their fine fortune in being taught by her. And may I add that we have been even luckier to have known her as a colleague? Valerie has made Mill Hill a better school and leaves with our love as she moves on now to the next exciting phase of her life.

Mr Peter Lawson

Andrew Ross

At their Valedictory in May, certain Upper Sixth artists informed me that Mr Ross was their clearest example of a “woke” teacher at Mill Hill. Quite a thing, I felt, to be in your last term of teaching and identified by some of the most switched-on senior pupils as relentlessly up-to-date and on top of phenomena of the new.

Those same Upper Sixth were babes in arms when Andrew became Mill Hill’s Head of Art in September 2000. Eighteen years later, he leaves just as enthused as ever about inspiring young artists and seeking out visual art in its multiple iterations. He is going not because he has had enough, but because he is ready to be an artist again in his own right, living and working in the house he has spent the last few years restoring on Menorca.

Andrew’s legacy is the visibility and importance of his subject at Mill Hill, something which is not a given in selective independent schools. Here, the quality and variety of pupils’ work stand out at all levels, emerging from the individualised teaching and constant challenge to think

developmentally that Andrew has established as the raison d’être of the Art Department.

Off-campus, Andrew has continuously engaged pupils in gallery visits around London and overseas to New York, Venice and other destinations. Not only have pupils displayed immense loyalty to him and his team; they have also chosen Art-related degrees in their droves, and this is perhaps what Andrew has been proudest of above all.

Mr Alex Frazer

Raluca Sandu

Raluca joined Mill Hill in September 2015 as a teacher of Mathematics and was deservedly promoted to the post of the second-in-charge of the department in her final academic year with us. She has been an inspiring, enthusiastic and knowledgeable teacher always aiming to ensure that all appreciate and master the subject. Due to her calm and caring nature, she has also been a true inspiration for the trainee teacher in her care. In the department, she will be remembered as a devoted advocate of using graphical calculators in teaching Mathematics.

Since joining the school, Raluca has also involved herself in the Games programme and many pupils have had the privilege to improve their tennis skills under her supervision. Whilst very sorry to see her move on from Mill Hill, I am unreservedly grateful to her for the immense contribution she has made to the department and the school, and wish her every success.

Mr Tomas Trhlik

Liz Stewart

This is the second time we are saying good bye to Liz; I am indebted to her for postponing her retirement and re-joining the Maths department in January 2016. Her excellent subject knowledge and experience in the classroom have been well received and greatly appreciated by every one of her students. She has always been a team player and involved herself in a range of activities with other colleagues; walking coast-to-coast and supporting a Three-Peak Challenge team, for example. Liz leaves with our sincere thanks; we do hope she stays in touch with her many friends at Mill Hill.

Mr Tomas Trhlik



Instilling values, inspiring minds
millhill.org.uk

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