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Mill Hill

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MILL HILL SCHOOL MAGAZINE. SPRING 2020

# Mill Hill Magazine





**Mrs Jane Sanchez**  
Head, Mill Hill School

**Welcome to the Mill Hill Magazine**

In the Summer Issue I encouraged you to ‘watch this space’ as we approached the end of that term; I hope that on reading this issue you will enjoy the coverage of all that has gone on since then.

We are delighted to provide an opportunity for the new Chief Executive Officer of the Mill Hill School Foundation, Antony Spencer, to introduce himself, and to give an insight into this newly created dedicated role, as well as sharing some key elements from his career to date. On the farewell side, we also feature the final House Drama competition under the leadership of the Head of Drama, David Proudlock, who retires after almost 20 years of outstanding service to the creative arts at Mill Hill. You will also find a fascinating insight into the past 30 years of Mill Hill life in the form of Housemaster of Collinson Peter Lawson’s account of his career over these past three decades (notably in the context of boarding) as he prepares for retirement this summer.

Other features reflect the diversity of what Mill Hill has to offer, both in the academic overview and the wide-ranging co-curricular reports which cover: the Sports Department’s specialist coaches; musical insights into our annual Nine Lessons and Carols service and the Chapel Choir’s trip to Truro; highlights in Art; the CCF’s contributions to the community; the girls’ Hockey trip to the Netherlands and Rugby trips to Dubai and Japan.

The Mill Hill community spans the globe, and I look forward to reporting in the next Issue on my January trip to Los Angeles and San Francisco, where I will be rolling up my sleeves alongside Registrar, Tony Binns, for 30+ scheduled appointments with international educational consultants, who will represent us to prospective boarding pupils from around the world. We will also be joining Old Millhillians at dinners in both cities, including some whom I taught!

It is also wonderful to be including in this issue a feature by the Chairman of the Old Millhillians Club on our long-standing links with St Bees School in Cumbria, one which has recently been rekindled since the relaunch of St Bees by the Full Circle Education group after two years of closure; their founder, Danny Wang, joined us for Foundation Day in September.

I hope that you will enjoy the magazine and that you will share it with friends and family.

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*Edited by*  
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**Front cover:**  
detail from the Wellbeing Room mural  
by  
Mr Valentino Vannini, Art Teacher



# Meet the CEO

Having taken up his post in the Spring Term, the Chief Executive Officer of the Mill Hill School Foundation, Antony Spencer, reflects on his new role.

by  
**Antony Spencer**  
CEO, Mill Hill School Foundation

As a child I didn't have a clear idea of future careers, and at university I wasn't much clearer. I was interested in business, and from studying PPE a career in banking or the Civil Service was a possibility. Teaching did appeal, and in my final year at Oxford I did some voluntary teaching at my old school, but the teachers were rather demoralised at the time and didn't promote the idea! Chartered Accountancy was recommended to me as a good grounding in business, and ultimately I spent eight enjoyable years working in various finance roles for some large companies.

This background has proved very useful in my teaching career, not just in my subject teaching (Economics and Business), but as I've moved into management positions I've found the business perspective and analytical skills to be helpful; schools ultimately aim to provide the best education possible for their pupils, and this involves a careful balancing of academic and financial priorities.

Schools are complex organisations with many, sometimes competing, interested

parties. Heads are rightly expected to know individual pupils and parents whilst being under pressure to develop a strategic focus; these demands are increasingly untenable, and the CEO role at Mill Hill is an appropriate response, allowing individual Heads to focus upon their own Schools whilst I maintain overall strategic oversight.

Beyond the role, the appeal of working here was due to the Foundation's ethos. I fully subscribe to the educational philosophy here, that academic excellence needn't come at the cost of a pupil's overall development, and that learning also takes place beyond the classroom. Happy, balanced young people with a range of interests and breadth of experiences are more likely to live fulfilling and productive future lives. Being part of a team, dealing with successes and setbacks with magnanimity, coping with adversity when taking on new challenges and valuing the individuality of others is all part of a great education. I will seek to nurture this precious ethos as I look to further develop all that the Foundation offers to the young people entrusted to its care.





# Academic overview

An excellent set of A Level results enabled a large proportion of the 2019 leavers to secure places at their university of choice in their chosen field of study, with over 35% of passes at A\*/A, compared to the UK average of 25%.



Amongst these were five pupils taking up places at Oxford or Cambridge, reading: PPE at Keble College, Oxford; Classics at St Benet's Hall, Oxford; Chemistry at The Queen's College, Oxford; English at St Catherine's College, Oxford; Medicine at Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge. There are three other Millihillians starting Medicine, at Imperial, Bristol and Glasgow; one is a 2019 leaver, and two left in 2018 and are joining after their Gap Years.

The Class of 2019 headed off to 40 different universities, which in order of popularity are: Bristol (8); Nottingham (8); Edinburgh (6); Loughborough (4); Birmingham (4); Oxford (3); Leeds (3); Newcastle (3); Warwick (3); LSE (3); King's London (2); UCL (2); Imperial (2); QMU (2); Royal Holloway (2); York (2); Exeter (2); University of the Arts, London (2); Sussex (2); Nottingham Trent (2); University of East Anglia (2); 15 additional UK institutions received one entrant apiece. Other pupils are studying in Denmark, Spain and the USA.

We were pleased to celebrate not only the pupils' academic achievement, but also the diversity of their interests, be it in university courses which are tailored to specific vocations such as Law, Journalism, Fashion Marketing, Engineering and Banking and Finance, or subject specific courses such as Chemistry, Computer Science, Geography, Maths, Philosophy and English. Given that our ethos is based on the principle of inspiring the minds of our pupils through learning beyond the curriculum, it is wonderful to see the pupil founder

of our Rocketry Society heading off to Southampton to read Aeronautics and Astronautics with Spacecraft Engineering. It is also encouraging to note that amongst our leavers' chosen fields of study are French, Politics and International Relations; we wish them well in shaping a bright future on the global stage!

We were also delighted to celebrate the excellent performance of the Fifth Form in their GCSE examinations. With 57% of passes at grades 9 to 7 (A\*/A equivalent), and 78% at grades 9 to 6 (A\* to B equivalent), this year's cohort has risen to the challenge with great success; 12 pupils are to be particularly commended for achieving nine or more grades 8 or 9 (A\* equivalent) and over a third of all passes were at these two top grades.

In other academic news, a huge amount of work was done over the summer by Mr Tomas Trhlik, Head of Mathematics and Timetabler, to ready the School for a new timetable featuring eight shorter, more focused 40-minute lessons per day. Alongside increases in teaching time in the Sixth Form, these changes have proven successful and popular with pupils and staff alike. We welcomed our first Fourth Form entrants from Belmont who did not take Common Entrance but followed a modernised Year 7-8 curriculum jointly planned by Heads of Department at Belmont and Mill Hill. The pupils have been highly stimulated by their studies and have arrived with improved skills to take on the challenge of their GCSE and pre-GCSE courses.

Many readers will know that the School has been growing strongly for several years. With 780 pupils from September 2019, and more again from September 2020, we have been grateful for the support of the Court of Governors in recruiting into over 20 new teaching and non-teaching posts. It has been extremely exciting to welcome such a large number of highly committed new colleagues to Mill Hill. We have also had the opportunity to invest in some important renovations: part of the Murray Scriptorium, to become a proper teaching room for the rapidly expanding Computer Science & ICT Department; the former IT Services Office, to be a teaching room shared by Design Technology and Computer Science & ICT; the former Theatre Bar, now a base and green screen stage for the Video Production Society.

by  
**Mr Alex Frazer**  
Senior Deputy Head



“I remember every carol and anthem from every year, and I’ve been in it for eight years!”

# Nine Lessons and Carols

“Every year, when *Once in Royal* starts, I feel tingles down my spine – Christmas has started.”

Sure, there’s a huge buzz around the Mill Hill Christmas; House Hogs, Christmas Jumper Day, Secret Santa, the Christmas video but the annual carol service has a special place in Millhillians’ and Old Millhillians’ hearts!

From about June each year, messages begin to fly in regarding: specific pieces; the anticipated size of the tree; opinions on the use of battery powered candles for the choir procession; a quick alert letting us know that *O Come, O Come Emanuel* [is absolutely no substitute for *Once in Royal David’s City*; and an insistence “as is traditional” that the service begin with Grüber’s *Stille Nacht* sung from the antechapel.

From the choir point of view the, often tense, rehearsal finishes at 5pm, the Chapel is made to look immaculate, scores of candles are lit, music booklets are presented neatly in folders, the lights are dimmed, and the cassocks and surplices are moved to the changing area and laid out. About a dozen sopranos and trebles wolf their dinner down in under 20 minutes and then run to the Chapel for the 6pm ‘on the day’ audition for the *Once in Royal David’s City* solo. The competition is fierce, everyone is deserving, everyone

is capable but only one person gets to do it: there are always tears!

Our wonderful school Chaplain reminds us regularly that we are a Chapel and School that embraces ‘All faiths and none!’ What better expression of this than a sixty-strong Chapel Choir made up of Christians, Jews, Muslims, Catholics, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Atheists, Agnostics and Humanists – coming together to celebrate the birth of the Christian Son of God, a Jew born to Jewish immigrant parents, whose immediate death was ordered by an ethnic Arab of Jewish faith, ordained King of the Jews by the Romans, then visited by wise men (not necessarily three of them) – astrologers who could have been of any religion or faith.

The service itself is magical! The pews are packed with current parents, pupils, Old Millhillians, staff, friends all dressed in warm coats, waiting to sing their favourite hymns. Old Millihillian ex-choristers, and members of the Parents’ and OMs’ Choir are greeted especially warmly at the door and handed a special descant booklet so that they can join in the loud and high singing with abandon! The choir, having been rehearsing for

weeks, is full of excitement as they sing their hearts out for the duration of the service. Most choristers have invited an entourage of parents, grand parents, great aunt Gladyses, and next door neighbours! It is also not uncommon to look around and find ex-choristers mouthing along to the choir-only carols and trying desperately not to sing along accidentally.

At the end of the service, members of the choir, just for a moment, begin to show signs of tiredness from the nearly five hours of full concentration. However, they quickly snap back into focus as the Head walks to the lectern to read the final lesson. Subtle, excited smiles can be seen as members of the choir catch each other’s eyes knowing that the final big sing has arrived. The organist gives the choir a quick look and literally pulls out all the stops as the entirety of the congregation, at the very top of their voices, sings *Hark the Herald Angels Sing!*

by  
**Mr Kevin Kyle**  
Director of Musical Performance

What is wellbeing? Whilst it has become a hot topic nationally, both in schools and the workplace, it is not a particularly easy concept to define; various sources cite the achievement of happiness in their definitions, whilst others solely mention being healthy or, at the very least, feeling comfortable.

## Being well

by  
**Miss Jade Boyle**  
Assistant Head  
(Pupil Development & Wellbeing)

At Mill Hill we believe ‘wellbeing’ can simply be defined as being well; in body, mind and spirit.

Whilst we can define the term easily, we acknowledge that achieving such a state is difficult and maintaining it is even harder, especially when dealing with the day to day pressures and expectations from peers, family members, teachers, exams and social media, to name only a few. With this in mind, we have created numerous support avenues for our pupils to access to assist them to keep themselves mentally and physically well.

The most recent creation is the Wellbeing Wing, a new hub of support that can be accessed by all. Located at the end of the School House building, next to the Peter Collinson Heritage Garden, it is a remarkably calm and quiet space which pupils have remarked “doesn’t feel like you’re in School at all”. Here is where the Wellbeing Room can be found, alongside the two School Counsellors; the Director of Sport; the Activities Co-ordinator; the Head of PSHE; the Assistant Head (Co-curricular & Operations) and the



Assistant Head (Pupil Development & Wellbeing) – me. Grouping all of these key members of staff in one place shows pupils that wellbeing is both physical and mental and allows them to be easily accessed throughout the day.

The Wellbeing Room is perhaps the most exciting area in the new Wellbeing Wing and, whilst it is not yet officially open, it has been well received, with many pupils having already sought solace in there since September. Packed with plants and decorated in calming blues, greens and grey, the room affords picturesque views of the rolling hills of Totteridge and is filled with an array of relaxing seating options including giant bean bags. The Wellbeing Room offers pupils a time out from the demands of school and a chance to gain some headspace through mindfulness exercises, colouring, meditation, or simply sitting quietly and calmly.

The Wellbeing Room will be open, officially, once the Mill Hill MINDS mural has been finished in early February; its birds are already beginning to adorn the walls.





#### CHAPEL CHOIR TRIP TO TRURO

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be a professional singer? Every few years, as a pupil at Mill Hill, you get the chance to find out. At the start of September, pupils signed up to the Music School Choir Residency in Truro, open to any pupil involved with Music at Mill Hill; a rare opportunity to work alongside professionals. Mill Hill choristers travelled down to Truro for a week and sang daily as professional choristers in Evensong and Eucharist services; shoulder to shoulder with the professionals, our singers participated fully in every aspect of the Cathedral service, from rehearsing and singing to processing and chanting.

We had to learn a substantial amount of unseen music every night, with only an hour's practice beforehand. With such a tight rehearsal schedule, there is very little time to go over music a second or third time. Our pupils soon learned the discipline of raising their hand if they made a musical error to acknowledge to the director that it did not need to be rehearsed. Pupils also learned to speak up if they had difficulty and needed to rehearse a specific piece of music. The trip was a great success and our pupils worked extremely hard all week and were showered with praise by the clergy, professional singers and members of the congregation. It was not all intensive concentration, however; we managed to fit in trips to the Poldark Mine, the Eden Project, Land's End, the Minack Theatre, Flambards Theme Park and Pendennis Castle. We returned home musically and culturally fulfilled – and quite exhausted!

by  
**Mr Kevin Kyle**  
Director of Musical Performance



# Out and about...

The educational visits programme at Mill Hill continues to offer our pupils a huge variety of choice and opportunities.

by  
**Mr Tom Vercoe**  
Assistant Head  
(Co-curricular & Operations)

A quick reflection on the October Half Term 2019, saw an amazing 20% of our pupils enjoying school visits during their holiday period. This included 43 Senior Rugby players, who toured Japan during the Rugby World Cup, whilst the U15 Rugby boys also toured Dubai and Abu Dhabi. In addition, the girls took two Hockey sides to Holland which was a fantastic mix of high level sport, culture and a bit of fun.

Away from the sporting endeavours, our musicians travelled to Truro and became the Resident Choir in the Cathedral for the week, performing so well that they were asked to come back again next year. In addition, a contingent of CCF cadets travelled to Crowborough Training Camp in order to have their subject knowledge and instructional technique assessed for their Army/Navy/RAF Proficiency Certificates and to gain promotion. The

term ended with a highly successful Art trip to New York.

Excitement now builds towards forthcoming trips over the remainder of the 2019/20 academic year. These include trips to Cern (Physics), Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, La Manga (Golf and Tennis), San Sebastian, Rouen and Montpellier (Modern Foreign Languages), and our Overseas Partnership trips to Zambia, Zimbabwe and India. Then, of course, we have the extravaganza that is Activities Week in late June, which offers our pupils 36 different choices during the last week of term. Finally, congratulations to Lyla, Ben, Theo and Rory who successfully applied for our six week Sporting Exchange experience with the Sunshine Coast Grammar School, Australia. It's certainly an exciting time to be a pupil at Mill Hill School!



# Making history

The House Drama competition is, in my opinion, the best event Mill Hill School puts on. Having been part of the competition since the Fourth Form, I jumped at the chance to direct the Priestley House play.

In Priestley, House Drama was a huge deal for us having got to the final last year and a huge group of Sixth Form pupils who were devoted to performing. After looking at the cast we had in Priestley I chose to put on an adapted version of Alan Bennett's *The History Boys*. The play being a perfect mix of comedy and drama gave the cast so much to play with when we started rehearsing.

Our play which consisted of many talented actors and actresses, spanned all the years at Mill Hill. The cast consisted of Daniel A, Jessie W, Will J, Adam C, Luke M, Amelia B, James R, Zack H, Oliver C, Minar H, Sonny S and Gillies M. Working alongside us were our tech team, who were Ella K, Jessie B, Nasan S-R and Syon S-R. These pupils were pivotal in adding the finishing touches to the production.

Our biggest hurdle when rehearsing the play was the French scene, which entailed the whole cast pretending to be in a house of ill repute whilst only speaking French; the comic potential of the scene was fully exploited! The astonishing acting exhibited not only by our leads but also by the other cast members secured our victory in the competition.

After years of being so close, winning this year's House Drama was the biggest achievement of my school career and was a wonderful way for me and the rest of the Upper Sixth in the cast to cap off our last performance in the School. Overall, the experience was incredibly rewarding, working with pupils of all years and sharing our love of Drama.

by  
**Leonardo Shaw**  
Upper Sixth



Mr Proudlock is pictured with two of the winners of the previous House Drama competition won by Cedars. His legacy as Head of Drama for almost 20 years is acknowledged in the Valette section.







# Art news



An update from the Art Department on recent activities.

## REMEMBRANCE

We were inspired by the contemporary artist Christian Boltanski for our Remembrance Service artwork this year; a Frenchman born to Catholic and Jewish parents in the aftermath of the Second World War, and for whom the commemoration of the dead and the possibility of life after death are enduring themes of his work. A Sixth Form representative was chosen from each house to plant the 125 bells on wire stems in the Chapel Garden. They were: Hessam G (Collinson), Luke F (Murray), Nita K (Cedars), Chess G (Atkinson), May S (New), Elias C (Winfield), Lucas T (School), Luis S (McClure), Chris T (St Bees), Danyal Z (Burton Bank), Zoe B (Priestley), Ollie H (Weymouth) and Agne C (Ridgeway). Each bell also had a typewritten name tag attached, to commemorate every one of the 124 Millhillians who died in the Second World War and also the Millhillian who was

killed in the Falklands War. In front of the whole School gathered on the quad, Fourth Form pupils came forward and presented the bells with solemnity and poise. All we could hear as they were brought up to us was silence and the tinkling of bells, a sound which Boltanski described as the “music of the soul”, thus reminding us of the enduring influence of each human life.

## BELMONT

In November, keen Year 8 Art pupils from Belmont came to MHS for an Art lesson. Inspired by Frida Kahlo, they drew from a ‘Life & Death’ themed still-life, over symbolic inky backgrounds. The pupils were excited to be in the Senior School and had lots of questions! They worked beautifully, with enthusiasm and total concentration. The result was a set of individual and considerate drawings. We look forward to seeing them again.

## MURAL

Last academic year I approached Mrs Sanchez to ask how I might be involved in Mill Hill MINDS – I saw such lovely initiatives by the group (origami message birds, colourful statement badges and cupcake activities) and wanted to support them in an Art context. Mrs Sanchez showed me a room where she wanted a mural painted – I had found our spot! After lots of discussion and planning with the MINDS Group, we decided on an image of an open window with birds. Their concept is to symbolise escapism, being able to accept others as they come and go from your life and the feeling of freedom. The birds are already in the Mill Hill crest; we simply chose 19 (for the year 2019) local North London species of bird to fly around the walls, sit on the dado and inside the bookcase. All the birds are unique and encourage reflection on what it is to be happy in your own skin. The

artists involved are: Xena R, our organiser and Chair (Weymouth), Jay J (Priestley), Dylan R (Cedars), Andrea T (McClure), Mariia D (Murray), Nick J (Weymouth), Veronica M (Weymouth) and Francesca G (Atkinson). Madison W (Weymouth) has been our photographer and cake-baker! Mr Vannini, Miss Stoller, Mr Lockwood and Miss Randell have all painted a bird, as well as Mrs Bailey who loves to paint when she is not teaching Physics! The mural is a work in progress; in the spirit of wellbeing we are not enforcing a strict deadline, however, we expect to unveil our artwork in Spring 2020. Watch this space!

by  
**Miss Lucinda Randell**  
Head of Art



# Meet the sports specialists

Mill Hill School Sport have been busy over this past year adding to their already strong department of specialist coaches.

by  
**Mr Aaron Liffchak**  
Director of Sport

We are delighted to announce the appointment of 11 new specialist staff who have already made a huge impact on our core sports teams this season with our Senior Hockey and Rugby teams reaching new heights in their respective national competitions. Whilst our elective sports including Cross Country, Basketball, Fives, Golf and Badminton have all celebrated local success, we are looking forward to watching these sports develop further with the help of our new and existing coaches.

**ZOE  
LEVIN**



**Coaching Experience:**  
British Gymnastics & Trampoline Coach Level 2, Schools Tennis Coach Award, Squash Coach Level 1, Schools Cricket Coach Award, County and National level Athletics Coach.

**Playing Experience:**  
GB Triathlon and Duathlon 2011-2020, World Duathlon Champion, County and National Cross Country and Athletics Runner, Middlesex County Trampoline, Middlesex County Squash, National Tetrathlon and British Eventing.

**Coaching & Playing Goals:**  
I'd like to see my personal bests being broken by the athletes whom I coach.

**What are you most looking forward to with your coaching at Mill Hill?**  
Helping Mill Hill become a top competing school in athletics.

**Sporting Highlight:**  
Winning gold at the World Duathlon Championships in 2019 and winning the Cross Country Championships at the age of 16.

**Describe Mill Hill Sport in three words:**  
Competitive, inspiring, inclusive.

**GARETH  
HATHERLY  
HURFORD**



**Coaching Experience:**  
London Scottish 1st XV Assistant Coach, Saracens Academy Coach, Middlesex County Coach, Wasps Ladies, Premiership Head Coach, Italy National Rugby League Assistant Coach.

**Playing Experience:**  
Bath Premiership Academy, Cambridge/Worthing RFC National 1.

**Coaching & Playing Goals:**  
To be a leading practitioner in talent identification and talent development, supporting players and coaches to achieve success in both their sport off-field interests.

**What are you most looking forward to with your coaching at Mill Hill?**  
Working with members of staff who, regardless of their experience, want to learn and grow whilst having the pupils' development and growth at the centre of the way they coach at Mill Hill.

**Sporting Highlight:**  
Playing for Mill Hill Staff XV v Old Millhillians in the 150-year anniversary match on Top Field.

**Describe Mill Hill Sport in three words:**  
Inclusive, enjoyable, memorable.

**JENNIFER  
STEPHENS**



**Coaching Experience:**  
Marist Hockey Club New Zealand Division 2-4, Southgate Hockey Club National Hockey League, Mill Hill First XI Coach.

**Playing Experience:**  
Marist Hockey Club, Canterbury Hockey, New Zealand Training Camp, Southgate Hockey Club.

**Coaching & Playing Goals:**  
Promote our First XI Hockey girls to Nationals in 2020. To keep my club team in National League next year.

**What are you most looking forward to with your coaching at Mill Hill?**  
Seeing the pupils develop their Hockey over their time at Mill Hill.

**Sporting Highlight:**  
Winning silver at the Nationals, Lee Valley 2019.

**Describe Mill Hill Sport in three words:**  
Future looking bright.

**ZOE  
GRIFFITHS**



**Coaching Experience:**  
Level 1 Hockey Coach, Sussex County Selector, U18 Winning Indoor Hockey Nationals Coach, U18 Finalist Outdoor Hockey Nationals Coach.

**Playing Experience:**  
Sussex County Player, Junior HiPAC Player, Regional Performance Centre, Durham University 1st XI, Southgate Hockey Club.

**Coaching Goals:**  
Progress to Level 2 coaching award, developing my coaching of new skills at lower level Hockey.

**What are you most looking forward to with your coaching at Mill Hill?**  
To see players develop a love and enthusiasm for Hockey, encouraging them to show initiative in learning and practising new skills.

**Sporting Highlight:**  
Playing in a mixed game of Hockey with both my mum and brother in the same team. It was certainly an experience I will never forget.

**Describe Mill Hill Sport in three words:**  
Inclusive, thriving, competitive.



MELISSA LANCASTER



**Coaching Experience:**  
Level 3 Rugby Coach, RFU Coach Educator, RFU Coach for Dorset and Wiltshire, Dorset and Wilts Ladies’ 1st XV, U18 and U15 Rugby Coach.

**Playing Experience:**  
Bournemouth University Women’s Rugby 1st XV, Saracens Women’s 1st XV Team.

**Coaching Goals:**  
Being a part of sport for years to come, whilst becoming Head Coach of 1st XV or Rugby Sevens Team.

**What are you most looking forward to with your coaching at Mill Hill?**  
Seeing the pupils learn, improve, show passion and enjoy their sports.

**Sporting Highlight:**  
Playing for the best Women’s Rugby Club in the country and being part of winning the inaugural Tyrrells Premier 15s Championship.

**Describe Mill Hill Sport in three words:**  
Family, heart, fun.

IMOGEN WONG



**Coaching Experience:**  
Captain and Coach to Netball teams at MHCHS, Captain and Coach to the Women’s and Mixed teams at Swansea University Ultimate team.

**Playing Experience:**  
University Regional and National competitions, Reading Ultimate Frisbee, outdoor Regional and National competitions. U24 Great Britain Mixed Team competing in the U24 World Championships in Heidelberg, Germany.

**Coaching Goals:**  
To develop a cohesive team that works hard for each other and enjoys representing the School.

**What are you most looking forward to with your coaching at Mill Hill?**  
Working alongside brilliant coaches who put their all into their team and contributing to the development of sport at Mill Hill.

**Sporting Highlight:**  
Representing Great Britain in Ultimate Frisbee.

**Describe Mill Hill Sport in three words:**  
Just keeps growing.

TIM MCKENZIE



**Coaching Experience:**  
6 Years as a Tennis Coach.

**Playing Experience:**  
Tennis – Regional Senior Men’s, Rugby 1st XV, Football 1st XI, Cross-Country & Athletics Regional Representative.

**Coaching Goals:**  
Help develop Tennis at Mill Hill School, by increasing the number of players whilst increasing the quality of their play.

**What are you most looking forward to with your coaching at Mill Hill?**  
Working with, and helping, aspirational young tennis players fulfil their potential.

**Sporting Highlight:**  
Becoming regional Tennis Champion.

**Describe Mill Hill Sport in three words:**  
Success, pride, inclusiveness.

LUCY SHEFFIELD



**Coaching Experience:**  
Southgate Hockey Club U8, U12,U16, Tennis Coach, Conway LTC.

**Playing Experience:**  
Regional & National League Hockey Player, BUCS gold medal for Durham University.

**Coaching Goals:**  
To develop hockey at Mill Hill, helping it become one of London’s best.

**What are you most looking forward to with your coaching at Mill Hill?**  
Seeing the younger years grow year on year.

**Sporting Highlight:**  
Getting promoted into National Leagues playing for Southgate Hockey Club.

**Describe Mill Hill Sport in three words:**  
Inclusive, varied, committed.

LAWRENCE HAYWOOD



**Coaching Experience:**  
Menzies School 1st XV and 7s Coach New Zealand, Strength & Conditioning Coach.

**Playing Experience:**  
Rugby League: Coventry Bears, London Broncos Rugby Union: Chippenham RFC.

**Coaching & Playing Goals:**  
To stay part of the sports I love for as long as possible.

**What are you most looking forward to with your coaching at Mill Hill?**  
Helping the pupils at Mill Hill reach their full potential.

**Sporting Highlight:**  
Being selected for the Wales Students’ Rugby League squad.

**Describe Mill Hill Sport in three words:**  
Inclusive, energetic, innovative.

CHANTELLE MIELL



**Coaching Experience:**  
Rugby Coaching for Saracens Foundation & Saracens High School, Level 2 Rugby Coach, Level 2 Rugby Referee.

**Playing Experience:**  
Somerset County Rugby Player U15–U18, England U18s 7s Squad, England U20 XV Squad, 5 World Series with England Sevens, Bristol Ladies 1st XV, Saracens Ladies’ 1st XV.

**Coaching Goal:**  
Become a level 3 coach, become Director of Rugby and become part of a small group of Level 4 female coaches. Help grow girls’ Rugby at Mill Hill School.

**Sporting Highlight:**  
Tyrrells Premier 15s Championship winning team with Saracens, debut for England 7s in Sydney.

**Describe Mill Hill Sport in three words:**  
Best school ever.

RIKI HOULDEN



**Coaching Experience:**  
Cambridge University Eton Fives Club.

**Playing Experience:**  
Men’s Open Finalist. Four time National U25 Champion. Ranked 6th nationally.

**Coaching Goal:**  
To help school pupils discover the joy that Fives offers, see them continue to enjoy the game for years to come.

**What are you most looking forward to with your coaching at Mill Hill?**  
Seeing pupils of a wide range of ages, backgrounds and ability levels all enjoying being on court.

**Sporting Highlight:**  
Captaining Cambridge University to victory at the 2016 Eton Fives Varsity Match.

**Describe Mill Hill Sport in three words:**  
Fun, playful, competitive.

“ The energy and enthusiasm our new staff have brought to our already strong department has led to exciting new initiatives and helped broaden our provision for pupils. Pupils will benefit further from their specialist coaching, mentoring and experience; many of them have played and coached professionally. We have taken a holistic approach to our recruitment this past year and I believe we have the team in place to reach new heights in sport at Mill Hill School. Watch this space! ”

MR AARON LIFFCHAK  
DIRECTOR OF SPORT



# Joining forces

During November, the CCF was particularly busy and took part in four major events within the space of a week.



by  
**Major Anthony Norrington**  
Contingent Commander  
of the Mill Hill School  
Combined Cadet Force

The Royal British Legion invited six Mill Hill School cadets to read prayers at the opening of the annual Garden of Remembrance at St Paul's Cathedral, one of the four centrepieces in the capital. It was attended by over 150 VIP guests including the Lord Mayor of London, Master of the City Livery Companies, representatives from the City's Armed Forces, and other key London institutions. The service in the Garden was followed by a parade of Standards accompanied by the Band of the Coldstream Guards. This year, the commemorative event was open to the public for the first time, making this a significant event and our involvement a rare privilege. The cadets were immaculately turned out, read beautifully and proudly represented Mill Hill School.

The following Saturday, the Corps of Drums once again performed in the Lord Mayor's Show which was a thoroughly exciting event to be part of. Incredibly, the

Show has an uninterrupted history of over 800 years, since King John's Mayoral Charter to the citizens of London in 1215 decreed that the Lord Mayor of London must present himself to the Sovereign on assuming office. Today the Lord Chief Justice receives the Lord Mayor on behalf of the Sovereign at the Royal Courts of Justice. The event has now become a unique combination of state procession, military parade and carnival. There were 150 serials, 7,000 participants which included 1,800 military personnel and 1,800 children. There were 200 horses, 140 motor and steam driven vehicles and 24 carriages forming a procession three miles long! It is the longest parade in both distance and time that the cadets take part in and it was broadcast live on BBC1. The actual length of the route is nearly one and a half miles, which is a long way to carry heavy musical instruments, play them continuously and maintain a smart military appearance. The cadets were very well



received by the hundreds of spectators that lined the route and they should be very proud of their efforts.

The following day the Corps of Drums were back on parade for the London Borough of Barnet's annual Remembrance Sunday Parade. This prestigious and important local event, comprised of a march from the local Army Reserve Centre, along Barnet High Street to St John the Baptist Church for a service of Remembrance. After the service the parade marched back from the church to the Army Reserve Centre paying compliments to the Deputy Lieutenant of Barnet, Mr Martin Russell.

The parade consisted of Army Reserve soldiers from 240 Transport Squadron RLC (V), ex-servicemen and women and representatives from the CCF, Army Cadet Force, Sea Cadet Corps, Air Training Corps, Scouts and Guides. The Corps of Drums led the parade and also performed

a static routine to gathered guests at the Army Reserve Centre. During his speech, Martin Russell complimented and thanked the Corps of Drums for their commitment and professionalism, particularly for performing so well at two significant public events one after the other. In closing, he said the cadets were a great credit to the School, which drew an enthusiastic round of applause from everyone present.

The Call to Remembrance at Mill Hill School is the most significant event that cadets take part in, and for those in the Upper Sixth that are still in the CCF, participation in the Guard of Honour is an immense privilege. The cadets' appearance and drill was smart and polished and they contributed greatly to the success of the event and are commended for devoting the hours required for training and committing themselves to such a special School event.





# Living the dream

Approaching retirement after 30 years’ service at Mill Hill, Housemaster of Collinson, Peter Lawson, looks back with fondness at the changing face of boarding.



I am but the tenth Housemaster in Collinson’s 117-year history. I hope this ratio attests the stability and wellbeing of the ship and all who have sailed in her.

Indeed, on my arrival in 1989 from Merchant Taylors’, I was struck by the uniqueness of the heartbeat of this school in London, so many of whose rhythms played out according to a rural boarding model, even though by then 55% of the boys no longer lived in. In fact, the first day House, Murray, had opened in 1933, a time at which the current preponderance of non-residents would have been unimaginable.

Until well into the 1990s there was boarders’ Chapel every Sunday. Indeed, the whole School followed routines – such as Sunday parents’ meetings – only extant in boarding schools. Into the new millennium, between October and February, we still had, twice a week, what was called Winter Timetable. On these days, everyone piled out onto the sports field at 14:00, thence into class from 16:15 until 17:45. It is difficult to defend this on

all-important academic grounds, and many a pupil fell asleep in one of my razor-sharp twilight lessons, but it was very bonding.

Saturday School – another traditional emblem of boarding – had always seemed too sacred for the abattoir, but it was unexpectedly discontinued as recently as 2012. The decision was wholly justified by the developing constituency of the School and made the pace of learning more business-like, but the idiosyncrasy had not been without its allure and its calm.

During my time I have witnessed the gradual morphing of School House from boarding to day. In 1995, boys wept as their Winterstoke diaspora was scattered to other Houses to make way for Grimsdell, again such a symbol of the future. 1997 and coeducation saw the opening of Cedars House for girls’ boarding on the site of the Old Sanatorium (now New House). I feel this to have been the most important development in my time here. Both my grown-up daughters drew first breath as Mill Hill babies, were educated

here (Weymouth) and loved their honorary association as teenagers with Collinson House, which itself has had girls in the building since 2006, one year after I crossed the threshold.

In 2015 The Mount, Mill Hill International opened its doors and it was my privilege to have the whole of the incipient School in my pastoral care before integration across the Houses – the correct decision, given the growing demand for boarding at Mill Hill – a year later. 2015-16 has been the most exciting of my career to date.

The days of boys climbing with their trunks onto trains from home in far-flung shires for the journey to Mill Hill are long gone. But as my own wonderful time here approaches its coda, my wistfulness about the past is suffused by a sense of vibrancy that derives from the thriving beat of contemporary and cosmopolitan London boarding. The array of cultures and languages inside our doors now is the future; it cannot but energise all those fortunate enough to live what for me has been the dream.





# St Bees commemoration

## Mill Hill's War 1939–1945

For the duration of the Second World War, pupils of Belmont and Mill Hill were evacuated to Cumbria. For the same period, our school premises became a military hospital. Early in 2020 the Old Millhillians Club will publish a magazine in commemoration of those challenging times.

by

**Mr Peter Wakeham**  
Chairman of the Old Millhillians Club

On 30 September 1938, the UK Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain returned from a meeting with Adolf Hitler in Munich proclaiming "Peace for our time". The Heads of Belmont and Mill Hill were less than convinced. By the end of 1938, Arthur Rooker Roberts, Head of Belmont, had already moved Belmont pupils to Cockermouth and Dr Thomas Derry, Head of Mill Hill, had advised parents that in the event of war, arrangements were in place to re-locate pupils to St Bees.

Eleven months later Hitler invaded Poland and the Second World War began. Winterstoke Housemaster Warren Phillips, on summer vacation in Cornwall, received a telegram advising him not to return to North London, but to head to Cumbria to start preparations for receiving Mill Hill pupils. Within a month, Boarding Houses were in place, beds and desks had been purchased and a virtually seamless transition was complete.

Lessons were being taught, Rugby was being played and – amazingly – the Mill Hill Magazine was still being published. The pupils who edited those magazines thought they were reporting current school news and events. Little did they know they were also writing history. The articles are a fertile source of content describing how life went on as normal – and sometimes not so normal. During five years, pupils experienced four Heads (Derry, Rooker Roberts, Jacks (interim) and Whale) and also regular news of OMs killed in action. The St Bees story is compelling: the historical context, the memories and reunions of former pupils, the 2015 closure of St Bees School and its 2018 re-opening to a bright new future. The Old Millhillians Club is constantly seeking to modernise itself, but an occasional look back at its past is also important. The St Bees legacy is a story that the Club needed to tell.



*The Old Millhillians stained glass window in the St Bees Chapel, is soon to be mirrored by a St Bees window to be installed in the Chapel at Mill Hill.*





Nathan shares his experience as an internationally recognised bouldering champion.

# Getting a grip

Since the age of six, I have been rock climbing. Before that I was a competitive gymnast, but transferred to rock climbing due to the competitive nature, problem solving and just pure fun. I started competing when I was seven and in my first regional competition came 3rd in London. I was lucky enough to get invited onto the only performance squad in London at the time, which helped me progress over the course of six years. A lesser known fact about climbing is that it can actually be quite dangerous for younger climbers, since it puts a lot of stress on their body – especially the fingers. I am grateful for the coaches who helped go through this time without any injuries or problems.

At the age of 13, I came 1st in the Junior Bouldering Championships for my age group, which meant that I was elected for the GB team (the youngest age they allow on the team). This was around the time I started at Mill Hill School, and due to the distance I was not able to continue at the

same squad. In climbing it is not very common for people to have coaches as they get older, it is mostly a self-coached sport, so I decided to start training myself. A new climbing wall opened up near the School, which proved convenient for my training and I continued to get stronger and better.

During the next three years I competed for Great Britain on nine occasions, during which I placed 5th in Europe and 17th in the world. Climbing has allowed me to travel to amazing countries such as Austria, Poland and China, where I got to see fascinating cultures and also meet extremely motivated climbers. After this time I then took a break from international competitions for a while, yet still training harder than ever. From the age of 16 until you leave school, you are counted as a junior as well as a senior. This coming year will be my last year as a junior; after which I will have to transition fully into the seniors. It seemed like a perfect opportunity to get back into competitive climbing, so I entered

an open international competition in the Netherlands during the summer and won. This made me realise that I might still be at a reasonable level so I then went on to compete at the GB trials a few weeks ago. I was successful and I am now back onto the GB team, with the hopes to make use of my last year as a junior and hopefully compete for my country again.

I have put a lot of time and effort into my sport over the last 12 years; I train 5-6 days a week, up to 25 hours a week, but when you are up there competing on a stage, it makes it all worth it. The thrill you get when standing in front of thousands of people watching you as you try to get to the top of a seemingly impossible climb, with the pressure to do it first go, can never quite be explained.

by  
**Nathan Whaley**  
Upper Sixth





# New staff members

The following colleagues have joined the teaching staff in recent months.

**Mr Ayub Abdi** joins Mill Hill as a Learning Support Teacher. He studied Philosophy at Essex University and the Philosophy of Education at the UCL Institute of Education. He joins us from Harrow College and Uxbridge College.

**Miss Catherine Berry** joins the English Department. She studied English and Theatre at Sheffield University and trained to teach in the city. She joins us having successfully completed her Newly Qualified Teacher year at St James's Catholic High School in Stockport, Greater Manchester.

**Miss Jade Boyle** joins the Senior Team as Mill Hill's inaugural Assistant Head (Pupil Development & Wellbeing). She will teach English, PSHRE and Games; she is a keen Hockey player, coach and umpire. After reading English at Loughborough University, Miss Boyle trained at Haydon School, Eastcote, before moving to The John Lyon School, Harrow, where she has served as a Head of Year and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.

**Miss Ellen Brereton** joins the Mathematics Department. Having studied Chemistry at Manchester University, she trained to teach Mathematics at King's College, London. She joins us from Ashcroft Technology Academy in Putney.

**Mr Cory Cambridge** joins the Religious Studies Department. He studied at Newcastle University and trained to teach at Durham. Over his career at a variety of state schools in Birmingham and London, he has been a Head of Department, a Head of Year and a seconded member of the Senior Leadership Team at Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College. Mr Cambridge joins us following two years at Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School.

**Miss Eleni Maria Chalepa** joins as a Teacher of Computer Science & ICT. She studied at the University of the Peloponnese in her native Greece and has worked in schools there and in London. She will in due course complete her PGCE through Buckingham University, as part of her work at Mill Hill.

**Miss Georgia Conlon** also joins the English Department as a Newly Qualified Teacher, fresh from her PGCE at the UCL Institute of Education. Following her degree in English and Drama from Queen Mary, University of London, Miss Conlon's early career was in publishing and media imagery.

A former student teacher at Mill Hill, **Miss Jessica Curtis** returns to the Modern Languages Faculty to teach Spanish and French. Her degree is in Hispanic Studies from Nottingham University and she joins us from Highbury Fields School.

**Miss Ruksan Emirali** also joins the Mathematics Department. She studied Applied Mathematics at Nottingham University and trained to teach at King's College, London. She joins us from Mill Hill County High School and is already familiar with Mill Hill as an Officer in the CCF.

**Mr Matthew Godwin** is the third new member of the English Department. Having read English at Southampton University, his early career was as a digital analyst at Accenture. He turned to teaching in 2016 and joins us from Davenant Foundation School in Loughton.

**Miss Zoe Griffiths** joins the Classics Department. After studying at Durham University, she taught for two years at Cranleigh School in Surrey. She has spent the past year working at the Houses of Parliament and returns to teaching at Mill Hill, where she will complete her PGCE through Buckingham University during her first year in post.

**Mrs Samantha Hadley** joins the Geography Department. Having read Social Anthropology, Development and Geography at Edinburgh University, she trained to teach at Oxford before joining Teddington School in South West London. From there Mrs Hadley moved to Vietnam to teach at the British International School in Ho Chi Minh City. She has also completed her MA in Development Education and Global Learning through UCL.

**Miss Zubayda Hagi** joins the Sciences Faculty as a Newly Qualified Teacher specialising in Chemistry. Miss Hagi grew up locally and is a former pupil of Copthall School and UCL Academy in Swiss Cottage. From there, she studied Biochemistry and Genetics at Nottingham University.

**Mrs Michaela Knowles Barron** also joins the Modern Languages Faculty as a Teacher of German who will additionally act as German Assistant, providing oral lessons. A German native, she studied Business Administration at the Berufsakademie in Mannheim and Multilingual Communications at the Technische Hochschule in Cologne before working for a number of internet firms in the UK. In addition to her work at Mill Hill, Mrs Knowles Barron teaches at Birkbeck College, University of London, and the German Saturday School in Islington.

**Miss Zoe Levin** joins the PE Department. She studied Human Biology at Oxford Brookes University before training to teach Science and PE. She joins us from South Hampstead High School. Miss Levin represents Great Britain at Triathlon and Duathlon.

**Miss Laura Lilley** joins the Sciences Faculty to teach Biology. A graduate in Ecology, Evolution and Behaviour from Durham University, Miss Lilley comes to us from Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls, where she has taught since 2016. Her early career was in wind farm development, and she is a keen sportswoman.

Formerly a Graduate Assistant, **Mr Liam Oakes** takes up a teaching position in the PE Department and will complete his PGCE through Buckingham University during his first year in post. He studied Sport and Exercise Science at Hertfordshire University.

**Mr Daniel van Noordwyk** joins the Design Technology Department. He studied at the University of Pretoria before working as a teacher and a civil servant specialising in road safety in his native South Africa. He moved to the UK in 2002 and has taught in the state and independent sectors, notably at Berkhamsted where he was a Housemaster. He joins us following a year at JCoSS.

**Miss Roslyn Sanby** joins the Computer Science & ICT Department. She will also be teaching Mathematics. She has degrees in Computer Science and Mathematics from the University of Cape Town, where she also trained to teach before moving to the UK. She joins us from La Retraite Roman Catholic Girls' School in Clapham Park.

**Mr George Seller** joins the Business Education Department to teach both Business and Economics. He will also teach some lessons at MMHI. Having studied Business and Marketing at Sheffield Hallam University, he trained to teach at the UCL Institute of Education. He joins us from The John Lyon School where he has been Head of Aquatics alongside his role teaching Business and Economics.

**Mr Akram Bou Shamseddine** joins the Sciences Faculty to teach Physics. Following his studies, he taught in his native Lebanon before moving to international schools first in Egypt and then in the UK. He joins us following five years as a Teacher of Physics and Mathematics at Ashwicke Hall School in Wiltshire, where he has also been involved in boarding.

**Miss Lucy Sheffield** joins the History & Politics Department. Having grown up locally, attending The Latymer School, Edmonton, Miss Sheffield read History at Durham University and trained at the UCL Institute of Education. She is an enthusiastic sportswoman and musician.

**Mr Robert Taylor** also joins the History & Politics Department. A graduate of Leeds University in Chinese and History, his early career was in marketing and communications in Shanghai. He turned to teaching in 2015 when he joined Reading Blue Coat School. He comes to Mill Hill following a year at Holland Park School.

**Miss Greetje Wijnstok** is the third new member of the Mathematics Department. She studied Mathematics as well as Interior Design in the Netherlands, where she grew up, before training to teach Mathematics. She has taught in the Netherlands and the UK since 2008, and joins us from Mount House School in Barnet.

**Mr Valentino Vannini** joins the Art Department. After a lengthy career in the fashion industry in his native Italy and the UK, Mr Vannini moved into education in 2015. He originally studied at the University of Bologna, and trained to teach at the UCL Institute of Education. He joins us from The Warren School in Romford.



# Valete

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

## Ms Megan Kennedy

Megan leaves MHS to complete a Physical Education PGCE after completing a year as a Graduate Assistant. Huge thanks go to Megan for all her efforts in Sport/PE, particularly in the swimming pool, where she spent countless hours working with the swim squad. The reinstatement of the inter house galas was solely down to her hard work and vision. Another huge part of Megan's role was living and working in New House, where she will be greatly missed.

## Miss Andrea Klein

Miss Klein has worked with us since January 2009 as a teacher and assistant in the German Department. She has not only taught German, collaborating successfully for many years with the German teachers here at Mill Hill, but has also coached and inspired our students through difficult oral examinations, and has formed an integral part of the Modern Languages Faculty. Her contributions to the working life of the faculty have always been well thought out and underpinned by a high degree of professionalism. Miss Klein takes her retirement from German teaching in order to focus on her work outside school as a therapist and life coach. We have no doubt that the experience and enthusiasm that Andrea used to motivate her students will lead to great success in her continuing endeavours. She will be missed by colleagues and students alike.

## Mr Cieran Lee

After two very successful years as a Graduate Assistant, Cieran is sadly leaving Mill Hill. During his time, he has helped revolutionise Strength and Conditioning at the School, through PE lessons, education of staff and the creation of a healthy culture amongst the pupils. Cieran has helped run both the 1st XV Rugby Team and the 1st VII Netball team and will be greatly missed (although the 1st teams might not miss some of his fitness sessions). He is also much loved in Collinson House and I know that the pupils and Mr Lawson will miss him immensely. We look forward to tracking Cieran's progress in the world of S and C and in particular his work with Saracens RFC.

## Ms Hyeji Lee

Hyeji joined the School as an Oxbridge graduate in September 2017 and it can be confidently said that she is one of the best mathematicians employed by the School in its recent history. Miss Lee can be described as a bit of a perfectionist who would rather not do a thing than do it without giving it a hundred percent. This philosophy transcribes into the way she thinks about her lessons as well as the expectations she has from her pupils. Being attached to a boarding house, many pupils had the opportunity to benefit from her knowledge of Mathematics when she was on duty there. Her life outside the School is closely connected with sport;

she would not hesitate to make a day trip to Paris to watch some world-class tennis, and she has also been a football season ticket holder for several years now. Such is her passion that she managed to sneak the names of many of her favourite players into the recent Maths exam she created. We are grateful for all she has done for Mill Hill and wish her all the best in her new job at Highgate School.

## Ms Caitlin Morrell

Caitlin joined us in September as a Graduate Assistant and has achieved her aim of gaining a university place on a Physical Education PGCE for the next academic year. Caitlin has been instrumental in the running of Games, delivering PE lessons, leading teams and assisting in the smooth running of Burton Bank. Caitlin has proved herself to be someone who can always be relied upon and I have no doubt that she will make a fantastic PE teacher in the years to come.

## Ms Hannah Murray

Hannah Murray joined Mill Hill in 2017 as a part time teacher of Art. She has successfully completed her NQT year whilst with us and is now embarking on a different educational journey altogether; Hannah is beginning an MA in Painting at the New York Academy of Arts in August 2019. This is a prestigious, highly respected and competitive Masters course – we are excited for her future in the art

world with this backing. Hannah will be sorely missed by pupils and colleagues; she is tenacious, an excellent assessor, highly efficient, imparts her painting skills with patience and passion and is a warm and engaging presence in the Art Department and McClure. We wish her all the best in her continuing painting career and thank her for her commitment and hard work. We are confident we will see her represented in an art gallery soon – watch this space!

## Mr Naishal Patel

Naishal arrived at Mill Hill in September 2017. He played a very full role in the work of the English Department, teaching across the curriculum in the Lower School and the Sixth Form. He set about his work with enthusiasm and this was a quality much appreciated by the pupils whom he taught. He loved the subject and he was also generous with his colleagues in sharing teaching resources that he had identified or created himself. As such, he was a collegiate team player and his contribution was much valued. His kindness and warmth of personality went a long way with his Sixth Form tutees also, and it was not unusual to see Naishal with a group of them in his classroom at any time of the day having a chat with him. His guidance to them with their UCAS personal statements was particularly valued.

Naishal has not just moved school but also continent, taking up a post as a teacher of English at the Dubai branch of North London Collegiate School. This will present a very different climate, meteorologically and culturally, challenges that Naishal will relish. We wish him every success there and in the future.

## Mr David Proudlock

As Head of Drama at MHS for 19.5 years – DSP worked tirelessly to build a vibrant team committed to getting the most from the pupils in his care, and to creating outstanding performances. His vision ensured the studio space was secured for the use of Drama pupils and this now offers a dynamic and much appreciated second production area.

David's school productions have always been full of energy and reflecting the collaborative approach that is his hallmark. We have most recently been delighted by the glitz and glamour of *Bugsy Malone* but other memorable productions have included *Oklahoma*, *Cabaret* (twice), *Oh What A Lovely War* and *Never Had It So*

*Good*. Other successful plays include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Our Country's Good*.

Three productions were performed at the Edinburgh Fringe to popular acclaim including *Kvetch* (with Daniel Sharman and Robin Green) and *The Luck of the Bodkins* (a PG Wodehouse delight). A number of successful alumni acknowledge the introduction to Drama they had under his care and his roll call of successes includes Rufus Hound and Hattie Morahan, Daniel Sharman and Harry Melling and Nancy Wallinger who recently appeared in the West End in *Groan Ups*.

David leaves a legacy of excellence; his pastoral care, commitment to his craft and warm-hearted inclusive approach have ensured the success of his department both in and beyond Mill Hill School. He is a larger than life character who will be sorely missed.

## Mr Steven Walwyn

Steven was one of the two new additions to the Maths Department that joined us in September 2017. During his two years with us he has involved himself in many areas of school life. These include being a tutor in McClure House, playing a role of a school football team coach as well as taking students on a trip to our partnership school in Tamil Nadu. However, his main involvement has been, without a doubt, within the academic department. We are grateful for all the efforts he put into teaching Mathematics as well as being an efficient Social Secretary of the department. Next academic year he will be working as a teacher of Philosophy at Cobham Free School in South London. This career move may be surprising to many people; however, Philosophy has always been a great passion of his and is clearly something he would like to teach and devote more of his time to. We wish him all the best.

## Mr Calum Watterson

Calum has been a core member of the Physics Department for eight years, offering invaluable expertise both to newer members of the department and careers advice to pupils – particularly those interested in Engineering. In 2011 Calum set up the School's Astronomy Club and in 2016 he introduced GCSE Astronomy as an option for pupils to sit over two years during activity time. Aside from his enormous contribution to the Physics Department, Calum has contributed much to the wider school community; as

Resident Tutor of Ridgeway for six years and through the School's Board Games Club, which has a loyal group of members. Through the club, Calum has given pupils the space to socialise and find their niche, bringing a welcome buzz to the department on a Thursday afternoon. We wish Calum all the best in his new role at Highgate and look forward to building a link between our schools' Physics Departments. Calum's extensive knowledge and experience is second to none; we will all miss his presence here – his ability to teach five classes at once (through sheer volume), the support and guidance he so willingly gives and the humour and wit he brings to social occasions.

## Ms Joanna Young

Jo joined Mill Hill at a slightly unconventional time of the academic year, picking up the reins in April 2016 following an unexpected early departure by her predecessor. She quickly adapted to the School and worked hard to establish herself. Pupils reacted well to her firmness and her passion for the subject, as well as her desire to help them, often giving up her own time to offer them extra assistance when needed. She came to play a very full role in the English Department. Apart from her teaching she ran, alongside Mrs Kaplan, the very successful English Society, and did much to put this increasingly popular activity on the school map. Latterly, Jo became the first appointee to the Second in Department role established in English. In this role she co-ordinated the running of the Fourth Form curriculum and was heavily involved in the running of the department more generally, offering good advice and support at all times. She was also a committed Senior Tutor in Atkinson House, so Jo's role in the School both academically and pastorally, was a full one. Jo left to take up a role teaching English at North Bridge House School, and we wish her every success in this post and in the future.



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