

# Mill Hill Magazine





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**Welcome to the Mill Hill Magazine**

It is once again a great pleasure to introduce the Mill Hill Magazine and it has been an even greater one to witness and share in the many endeavours and successes that have played out in the most challenging of circumstances during the past year. The production of this edition has, however, been tinged with sadness following the sudden death of Mr Tony Binns, the magazine's editor, at the start of the summer holiday; I am sure, though, he would have approved of the final publication.

The magazine's contents tell the story of a year of recovery, of a school finding its feet and seeking to re-set after the global pandemic, but also of a school determined to celebrate key events and figures in its history, notably the centenary of the death of Mill Hill's longest standing Headmaster, Sir John David McClure (1891-1922).

For me, the opportunity to celebrate the life and legacy of Sir John David McClure in 2021-22 was a particular highlight. As part of this, the beautifully produced special supplement to the Old Millhillians magazine, The Martlet, to mark this important milestone, brought together a range of perspectives on 'The Maker of Mill Hill', Sir John David McClure and is certainly worth a read, to fully understand the significant impact of this exceptional man.

Looking back on the past year, I am immensely proud of every Mill Hill pupil, not just for their own personal achievements, but for the resilience they have shown together in facing the challenges of the pandemic. Although I do not wish to suggest that every personal challenge will have been overcome, or that we are, as it were, out of the woods just yet. Reflecting on the year gone by, my own sense is that the Autumn and Spring Terms were amongst the most challenging of recent years as we sought to 'recover and reboot' but that, thankfully, by the Summer Term of 2022, we were well on the path to recovery; and entering Autumn Term 2022, school life does feel more like the Mill Hill of old.

I firmly believe that a Mill Hill education provides exceptional breadth and balance, equipping pupils for life now and in the future through the numerous activities, experiences and opportunities exemplified in the pages of this magazine. Looking back at the year there are so many examples of pupil achievement and independence of spirit, both inside and outside the classroom, reflecting the ethos at the heart of all we do. So much has been achieved on the academic front across all age groups in the past year. Face-to-face teaching is now, thankfully, back in the classroom and educational visits – including residentials at home and abroad have once again begun, providing much needed stimulus after the pandemic.

Those pupils sitting external A Level and GCSE examinations in 2022 certainly demonstrated that hard work, focus and determination to overcome myriad challenges after this period of disrupted learning have borne fruit; they achieved an outstanding set of results by any measure, setting themselves up perfectly for the next stage of their lives and proving to be wonderful role models for our younger pupils.

On the co-curricular front, from the pupil-directed High School Musical, which played to packed houses, to the Eureka competition, a pupil-led Dragons' Den-style event, there were numerous examples of pupils taking a lead or, just as importantly, working as a team. The launch of girls' Rugby was another triumph for those pupils involved, with Inter-house Drama, the production of Julius Caesar and the Chapel Choir being further examples of pupil involvement and achievement. And, of course, it goes without saying that the dedication and professionalism of our teaching and support staff, who are always prepared to go above and beyond for their pupils, were key ingredients for success.

What Head could reflect on pupils' seizing the many opportunities on offer (or even creating their own!) with anything other than pride? I have no doubt that Sir John David McClure would also have approved, and his spirit is very much with us today. He too was immensely proud of his pupils and stuck firmly to his belief that a Mill Hill education is about balance and personal development, a genuinely holistic approach.

As we reflect on McClure's legacy and the ways in which it remains alive today, it strikes me that what motivated him above all was a profound love for this remarkable school which he did so much to develop, and for the beautiful grounds in which it is set. As I enter my twentieth year at The Mill Hill School Foundation, and fifth year as Head of Mill Hill School, I share with Sir John a love of The Foundation and what it stands for – nurturing the potential of every pupil, seeing the best in them, and supporting them in their journey through adolescence to adulthood. I am always moved by the transformative effects of a Mill Hill education between entering the School in the Fourth Form and heading off after A Levels, examples of which are illustrated so beautifully on every page of this publication.

Enjoy!

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

# Sir John David McClure

**Sir John David McClure.**  
100 years. A living legacy

“ Every Headmaster appointed to Mill Hill over the past 100 years has had to follow in John David McClure’s shadow. No one imprinted their legacy on the School more than he. His personality, his faith, his intellect, and his public reputation have never been equalled. Those who followed fulfilled their duty by sustaining the School and the values that McClure left behind.”

—  
**WILLIAM WINFIELD, HEAD, MILL HILL SCHOOL (1995–2007)**



“ We found him a splendid friend and he gave us much of his companionship.”

—  
**A BOY RECALLS FIRST IMPRESSION OF SIR JOHN MCCLURE IN 1891**

## HIS LEGACY

Of all the influential figures from Mill Hill’s illustrious past, it is arguably Sir John McClure whose presence can be felt most keenly today.

McClure was responsible for expanding the School’s educational horizons. Despite being a man of mathematics, he made sure the halls were filled with music, he encouraged pupils to look to the stars through the study of astronomy, and he infused the cricket field with his deep passion for the sport.

It is thanks to McClure that we remain anchored to our motto of “*et virtutem et musas*”. All Mill Hill pupils will recognise

the essential human values that he espoused, and all have benefited from his promise to inspire minds through educational excellence.

Fundamentally, McClure is remembered as an honourable, determined man whose dedication to our School became the foundation for its success. His was a life not just lived at Mill Hill, but lived through Mill Hill.

That is why we remember him today and why he will continue to be remembered long into Mill Hill’s future. ■

## HIS STORY

McClure came to Mill Hill in 1891 at the age of 31, a graduate of Trinity College Cambridge. He was from industrial north England and was a child of the Victorian age.

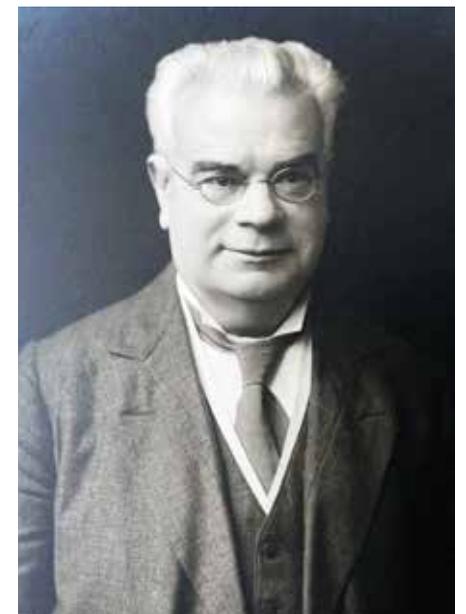
At the time, the School was enduring a difficult and unsettling period; it sought not just a Headmaster, but a true leader. In McClure, the School’s governors had discovered a relatively unknown quantity: without extensive teaching experience but with the desired non-conformist credentials and in possession of exceptional academic talents.

McClure approached his professional calling with sincerity, honour and a sense of great duty, demonstrating an

unwavering devotion to Mill Hill’s pupils and its cause. Under his stewardship, the School thrived beyond expectation, with pupil numbers significantly increasing by the outbreak of the First World War.

As a teacher, McClure was a man of real presence and voice, respected and revered by all at Mill Hill. At the same time, he was a man of compassion with a sharp wit.

The pupils’ affection for McClure and their faith in the institution of Mill Hill is evident in their wartime correspondence. It is telling that at a time of such desperation, uncertainty and fear, it was McClure that provided them with a beacon of reason, certainty and hope. ■



# How his memory lives on...



**Sir John David McClure.**  
100 years. A living legacy

McClure Memorial Trust.

1 Initiated by the Old Millhillians Club in 1922/23 following the death of Sir John McClure

2 The first scholarship was awarded in 1928

3 Life Guardians donate approximately £11,000 per year to the Scholarship

4 Around 120 Life Guardians make an annual contribution

5 One pupil is awarded the McClure Memorial Trust Scholarship a year

## Sir John McClure's presence is still felt by our pupils today.

Sir John McClure's legacy is a thread that is deeply entwined in Mill Hill's identity, running through everything from our architecture to the values that guide every new pupil and Old Millhillian.

McClure had a transformational effect on Mill Hill, steadying the School early in his tenure before enabling it to flourish. By 1907, it had become a high-achieving, nationally recognised public school, welcoming Prime Minister Mr Campbell-Bannerman as guest of honour for its centennial celebrations.

Today, McClure's impact can be felt in the Collinson and Ridgeway boarding houses. He inspired the building of the new Chapel and the conversion of the old Chapel into The Large. He oversaw the development of the Marnham Block, the Winterstoke Library, the Fives Courts, the Music School and the Gate of Honour.

His death prompted the formation of the McClure Memorial Trust, a charitable organisation set up to fund bursary places for pupils to attend The Mill Hill School Foundation. ■

# A life well lived

**1860**

>Born in Wigan, 9 February.

**1878**

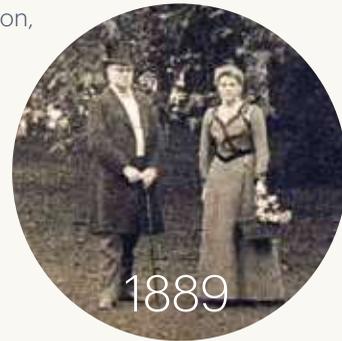
>Master at Hinckley Grammar School, Leicester.  
>Gained a BA in Intermediate Arts from London University.

**1886**

>Graduated LLB Cambridge.  
>Awarded Walker Prizeman at Trinity.

**1889**

>Married Miss Mary Johnston, 15 July.



**1890**

>Called to the Bar, 17 November.

**1895**

>Mill Hill Chapel Devotional Services Book published.

**1900**

>Elected member of the Senate of London University.

**1904**

>Joint Hon Secretary Incorporated Association of Headmasters.

**1910**

>Elected to Committee of Incorporated Association of Headmasters.



1902

**1914 – 1915**

>Appointed President of the Incorporated Association of Headmasters.

**1914**

>War breaks out.  
>In August, appointed President of the Mill Hill War Service Association.  
>In November, appointed Chairman of the Education Sub-Committee and Professional Classes War Relief Council.

**1922**

>Died at Mill Hill School on 18 February, aged 62.

**1876**

>Matriculated at London University Entrance Exhibition at Owens College, Manchester.

**1888**

>Graduated M.A. Cambridge.  
>Appointed Professor of Astronomy at Queen's College, London.

**1898**

>The new Chapel consecrated on Foundation Day.  
>The Large opened.

**1902**

>Elected to Council of Mansfield College, Oxford.

**1912**

>With McClure's backing, Belmont opens as a Junior School.  
>Music School opens at Mill Hill School.  
>Formation of Teachers' Registration Council.  
>McClure celebrates 21 years as Headmaster.

**1920**

>Appointed Chairman of the Corporation of Trinity College of Music.  
>Received the Freedom of the City of Wigan.

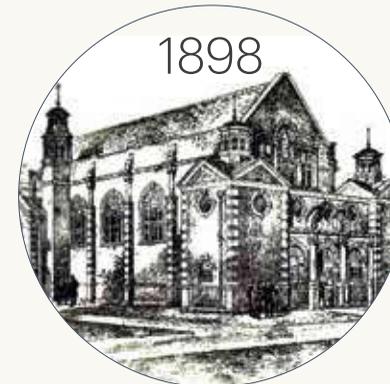
**1882**

>Won Goldsmith's Scholarship to Trinity College, Cambridge to read Mathematics.

**1891**

>Appointed Headmaster of Mill Hill School, aged 31.

**1898**



1888



1891

**1907**

>Prime Minister, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman is guest of honour at centenary Foundation Day, marking the transformation of a minor public school into a nationally recognised Public School.



# A concert of concerts

## The Music School put on a spectacular show!

Sir John David McClure was Headmaster of Mill Hill School between 1891–1922. Within the Mill Hill community, he is known as ‘The Maker of Mill Hill’. During his 31-year tenure, he increased the number of pupils by seven times. He also oversaw the fundraising and planning of many areas of the school, including our Chapel and the Music School. He is remembered in many ways, but the war memorial outside our main school entrance is at the forefront of most people’s minds. It was built to commemorate the 200 Old Millhillians who died in the Great War and is a very special part of our grounds.

Sir John McClure was a lover of music and a formidable musician. He is also the architect of a musical tradition that we still celebrate at Mill Hill School today, with our annual roster boasting over 250 musical performances, 800 separate ensemble rehearsals, 8000 individual instrumental vocal lessons, and more.

How do you mark the centenary of an individual with so many passions and talents? Clearly, the way to commemorate the centenary of such a musical titan is with a concert to beat all concerts! Putting on a huge concert is a significant undertaking at any time but restarting live music after a worldwide pandemic creates unprecedented challenges. Nevertheless, The Music School was more than willing to take up the gauntlet for such a worthy cause.

After many hours of meetings discussing the format of the event, we settled on a tribute concert that would embrace the music that McClure loved, coupled with more modern music that would engage our contemporary community in a way he might have enjoyed. Our venue was to be a perfectly formed stage area that ran alongside Top Field. No one had ever considered it as a concert venue, probably because it was far too big

to imagine as a stage for any sort of musical production! The guests would enjoy a picnic with their families on Top Field, eating and drinking delicious food and drink created by our catering team, facing this gargantuan stage, serenaded by pupil-led jazz.

The day began with fantastic Old Millhillian events and a packed timetable of testimonial sports matches. This was followed by a wonderful commemorative chapel service, a display by the Corps of Drums, and the planting of a tree in the Music School Garden. All that was left was for the Music School to bring the event home. Every single musician was called in for the evening – a Saturday evening no less! A sea of singers made up of The Foundation Chapel Choir, Belmont Singers, Parents and Old Millhillians Choir, Staff Members, 180 boarders, singers from guest schools, and a choir from Cobham Hall opened the concert. Almost 400 singers sang Zadok the Priest,

Hallelujah Chorus, Vivaldi’s Gloria, Highlights of Gilbert and Sullivan (a particular favourite of McClure’s) and an especially written Beatles Medley. Mill Hill had never seen anything like it!

The Orchestra took the baton next, keeping the audience enthralled with a performance of ‘The Carnival of the Animals’, featuring a special guest appearance from Old Millhillian Ellen Baumring-Gledhill (BBC Young Musician String Finalist). Ellen took time out from her busy conservatoire schedule to wow pupils and audience alike with her rendition of ‘The Swan’.

Finally, as it became dark, both our Jazz Bands, combined with the talent of Charlie (Fourth Form, Murray) on decks, brought the evening to a close with an hour of non-stop dance music. Of course, no centenary celebration of this magnitude would be complete without an impressive firework

display and a colossal ‘100’ sign was set alight for all to see. There are so many wonderful things to celebrate about Mill Hill in 2022. We hope that McClure would be proud of our modern-day music tradition, our commitment to challenging ourselves musically, performing to the highest standard, and striving for joyful experiences. ■

by

**Mr Kevin Kyle**  
Director of Musical Performance

“ There are so many wonderful things to celebrate about Mill Hill in 2022.”



# Old Millhillians take on our sports teams!

“ To come back to where I have so many fond memories of running out onto the hallowed turf with my old school friends was a moment I will treasure for years to come.”

**OLD MILLHILLIAN**

**FINAL SCORES**

**Cricket:**  
MHS 1st XI vs OM XI. MHS wins by 14  
**Touch Rugby Tournament:**  
OMs beat MHS winning 6-5  
**Hockey:** MHS 1st XI vs OM/Staff 1-3

The McClure Centenary Celebrations were packed with gripping sports matches between past and present pupils (and a staff hockey team).

It was a real honour to welcome Old Millhillians back to Mill Hill for the McClure Centenary Celebrations. Old Millhillians and current pupils came together to compete in a variety of sports matches. It was wonderful to bring our community together and the games were played in true Millhillian spirit.

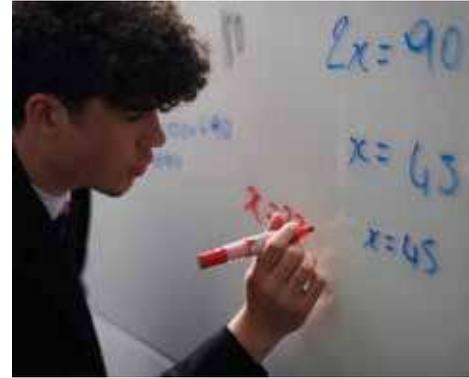
The day commenced with a team of Old Millhillians facing the Mill Hill 1st XV. This was shortly followed by a fiercely competitive touch rugby tournament with numerous Old Millhillians entering teams against our senior rugby players. Finally, our U18 girls 1st XI played in a tight affair against a mixed staff side, which featured international players!

We were left feeling encouraged by the unique sense of togetherness that was felt by all. I am looking forward to bringing our pupils, staff and Old Millhillians together for future sports fixtures, it was wonderful to see them play together and build strong relationships.

by  
**Mr Aaron Liffchak**  
Director of Sport



“ What impresses me most of all is Mill Hill’s wonderful holistic ethos, the staunch belief that our pupils should achieve success at all levels, personally, socially and intellectually.”



# Academic overview

a brave new world...



The world of education has lived through three years of unprecedented challenge and Mill Hill has not been immune to its effects. It has therefore been both life-affirming and invigorating to see the many happy faces of Mill Hill pupils as they collected their examination results over the last two weeks of August. What stood out was their stoic recognition of having experienced an at times traumatic period in their lives but also, more importantly, a defiant determination to look forward to a brighter and more hopeful future.

Mill Hill School has also embraced this attitude. We are looking to the future with ambition and driving forward ever greater outcomes.

It has been my great privilege to have joined The Foundation in January 2022, initially as Director of Studies and now as the Acting Deputy Head (Academic). In my short time at The Foundation, I have been buoyed by the relentless ambition, drive and determination of my

colleagues to achieve the very best outcomes for the pupils in the School. What impresses me most of all is Mill Hill’s wonderful holistic ethos. This is the staunch belief that our pupils should achieve success at all levels: personally, socially and intellectually.

Our academic priorities for this year are ambitious yet realistic as we strive to capitalise on the positive lessons learned from Covid-19 and our pupils’ desire to move on. Foremost in our priorities is a three-pronged strategy to further develop rigour and consistency in classrooms and the wider school. Through a focus on being active learners, on ensuring we provide effective feedback and on a relentless drive to ensure pupils share our highest expectations. Furthermore, the alignment of our assessment methods and reporting systems will help us to forensically analyse pupil performance and continue to provide meaningful interventions. This will help us to inform parents and carers about their child’s progress.

We are also excited to build further on our digital strategy, as we look to utilise all the valuable knowledge gained from the successful switch to online learning.

Finally, we are delighted to enhance our incredibly strong links with the other schools within The Foundation, as we revise and strengthen the knowledge-rich curriculum that runs through Key Stage 3.

Our academic targets are ambitious yet appropriate. Above all, they are focused on one single non-negotiable: that all our pupils deserve the opportunity to thrive and excel. ■

by

**Mr Jonathan Huddleston**  
Acting Deputy Head (Academic)





Arts Bournemouth **Bath** Birmingham **Brighton** Bristol **Cambridge**  
 Cardiff **Durham** Edinburgh **Essex** Exeter **Glasgow** Imperial College  
**Institute of Contemporary Music Performance** Kent **King's College**  
**London** Lancaster **Leeds** Leicester **Liverpool** London Institute Banking  
 & Finance **Loughborough** Manchester **Newcastle** Northumbria  
**Nottingham** Nottingham Trent **Oxford** Oxford Brookes **QMUL**  
 Royal Holloway **Sheffield** Southampton **St. Andrews** St. George's  
**Strathclyde** Surrey **Sussex** University of Arts London **UCL** UEA  
**Warwick** Westminster

# Examination success

Celebrating academic success following unprecedented times.

“ We wish all our pupils the very best for what we are sure will be an exciting and successful future.”

Upper Sixth and Fifth Form pupils at Mill Hill School should be proud of what are an exceptionally positive set of public examination results this year. After two years' hiatus, punctuated by centre-assessed, then teacher-assessed grades, lockdowns, online learning and a frustrating wait until the Spring of 2022 to find out if the examinations would even go ahead, it is no surprise that many pupils were slightly apprehensive about receiving their results in August.

Yet, the hard work, relentless optimism and steely ambition to succeed has borne fruit. We are delighted to be able to celebrate what are ultimately our most successful A Level public examination results on record. More than one in five grades achieved the coveted A\*, with 46% at A\*-A and 75% at A\*-B. These compare highly favourably with the national averages of 36% and 62%. An incredible 26 pupils achieved at least two A\* grades in their results with many more achieving at least one.

This wonderful success has been mirrored in leavers' destinations. In total 76% of pupils will be proceeding to their first or second choices of university, and the overwhelming majority of other pupils have sourced excellent courses through clearing, some even securing more coveted places as a result of their exam success. The destinations of leavers are a rich and varied mix. We are delighted to celebrate two successful acceptances to Oxbridge, two pupils who will be embarking on careers in medicine, and an exciting and diverse range of other choices. These range from the more traditional subjects such as History, Modern Languages or Biochemistry, to courses in Adult Nursing, International Hospitality Management, Songwriting and Trading and Shipping.

Once again, our pupils' interests have spread beyond the country's borders, and Millhillians will next year be found in Switzerland, New York and Boston. 72 pupils will be attending Russell Group Universities. The most popular destinations are Loughborough (11),

Nottingham (10), Leeds (9), Manchester (7) and Bath (7), all universities notable not only for their academic strength, but their rich cultural and sporting programmes. In total, pupils will be taking places at an incredible 48 different UK institutions. For those pupils not going directly to university this year, an exciting range of careers, jobs and gap years await.

This success was mirrored a week later in our GCSE examination results. 19% of all grades awarded were the highest grade, a 9, with 38% of grades awarded 9-8 and 60% awarded 9-7 (again comparing highly favourably with a national average of 26% and an independent school average of 53%). Grade 7 has replaced the A grade, with 8 replacing A\* and 9 an indication of exceptional performance.

In terms of pupils achieving the nationally recognised 'standard pass' of grade 9-4, 98.5% of results met the standard (compared to a national average of 73% and 92.5% in the independent sector). An incredible 17

pupils achieved nine or more passes at grades 8 and above. This is a truly outstanding achievement.

While this is the peak in terms of grades, it must be noted how proud Mill Hill School is of all its pupils, who have overcome unprecedented challenge to succeed in their GCSE results this year. It is important that each and every young Millhillian recognises the hard work and effort that went into attaining their grades. While the greatest recognition is undoubtedly to be given to the pupils, the support and guidance of parents, carers and teachers should also be applauded. Whether the next step in each pupil's learning journey is Mill Hill School Sixth Form or whether it is a new beginning with an alternative provider, we wish all our pupils the very best for what we are sure will be an exciting and successful future. ■

by  
**Mr Jonathan Huddleston**  
 Acting Deputy Head (Academic)

# Our Music Graduate Assistants

A great addition to the department.

Miss Freya Perry

Mr Edward Driver

Mr Harry Pateman

“ The addition of Graduate Assistants to the Music School over the last six years has been a hugely enriching experience for all of us and we look forward to working with our new appointees in the new academic year.”

Our Graduate Assistants are highly qualified and capable musicians starting their careers, having recently graduated from university with a Music degree. Career musicians have studied music from an early age and are experts at their instruments. They also read and write music fluently, and have a thorough understanding of the GCSE Music and A Level courses. Working as a staff member in the Music School requires us to communicate in the written and aural language of Music, therefore a high level of musical literacy is essential.

The Graduate Assistant Programme allows the school and its pupils to benefit from their considerable musical experience and expertise. It also enables our graduates to work in a music-related teaching-based role without necessarily committing to a long-term teaching career.

#### MR HARRY PATEMAN

Over the last few years, the graduate programme has provided valuable insight for our staff. During Mr Pateman's time at Mill Hill, he decided to become a teacher. A space became available across two schools in The Foundation for the 2022-23 academic year. Mr Pateman will now split his time between Belmont and Mill Hill School and teach from Year 7 up to Upper Sixth.

#### MISS FREYA PERRY

Miss Perry joined us in September 2020, after graduating from The University of Manchester. She was an instant hit with pupils, staff and parents. Miss Perry became heavily involved in our orchestral scene, running her own ensembles and working with our choirs. Miss Perry was appointed to her role in the middle of the

pandemic and had to adapt to an online teaching world. She quickly became the heartbeat of our digital output. Miss Perry produced high-quality videos and broadcasts of concerts, and ran the 2020 staff Christmas video. During her time with us, Miss Perry developed an interest in artist management within classical music and has smoothly transitioned into a new role as Assistant Artist Manager at Askonas Holt.

#### MR EDWARD DRIVER

Having completed his music degree at The University of Birmingham, Mr Driver joined us as a brass and jazz specialist. Mr Driver has been a huge inspiration to our pupils over the last year, running the Big Band and other ensembles, providing cutting-edge compositional expertise and support to our GCSE and A Level pupils and creating specific arrangements and compositions for our events. Much of the success of our summer McClure Concert was thanks to his creation of an unconventional performance idea – a combination of the Jazz Bands, 90s Dance Music, and a pupil DJ on Top Field! Mr Driver has been awarded a coveted scholarship place at the Royal College of Music to study postgraduate composition this September.

The addition of Graduate Assistants to the Music School over the last six years has been a hugely enriching experience for all of us and we look forward to working with our new appointees in the new academic year. ■

by

**Mr Kevin Kyle**

Director of Musical Performance

# After a short interval...

Drama returns to our stage!



“ The House Drama Festival was a true testament to our pupils’ creativity, innovation and teamwork, which was evident across all the Houses.”

As the lights dimmed to blackness and members of School House strode onto the stage of The Large, the sense of anticipation was palpable. It was the opening night of Mill Hill’s celebrated House Drama Festival. This was our first piece of live theatre in almost two years, and it is hard to imagine a more triumphant return.

Over three nights, eleven plays produced and performed by members of each House took to the stage, entertaining audiences with an eclectic mix of comedy, tragedy, and everything in between. Over half the pieces were original works written by our pupils. These included Atkinson’s end-of-the-world family drama titled ‘If You’re Reading This’, Cedar’s ‘The Last Rehearsal’; a meta-performance depicting the turbulent creation of their own House Drama play, and School House’s ‘Hey Alexa’; a timely horror comedy about a sentient smart device.

Three plays were invited to perform again in the grand final. Weymouth’s ‘007’ was a hilarious spoof of the world’s most famous spy films, and McClure’s ‘Inherit the Wind’ was a gripping courtroom drama based on

a true story. Finally, Priestley’s ‘Our Last Hope’ was an epic original play following two former boxers whose friendship is put to the test when they discover a promising protégé.

Our two guest judges, theatre producer Poppy Parker and Pobol Y Cwm star Owain Huw, declared Weymouth House the winner of House Drama 2021. They praised the comic timing, strong female characters, and how each cast member was given a chance to shine. Massimo (Weymouth, Remove) was given the inaugural House Drama Spirit Award for his commitment to the play and unwavering support of others. The Festival was a true testament to our pupils’ creativity, innovation and teamwork, which was evident across all the Houses. The House Drama Festival will return in late 2023, with many pupils already planning their theatrical masterpieces! ■

by  
**Mr Alexander Gatherer**  
Director of Theatrical Performance



# From Troy to Ancient Rome

A diverse pair of productions light up the stage.



“After a remarkable year of ambition, accomplishment, and teamwork, Drama at Mill Hill is set to be even more exciting next year (if that’s possible)!”

There was more pupil innovation in March, as two members of Lower Sixth, Lois (Priestley) and Georgie (Priestley), took on the ambitious project of directing their own production of High School Musical. Anticipation for the show was so great that all three performances sold out well before opening night!

Theo (Remove, Weymouth) and Rhona (Fourth Form, School) were cast as Troy and Gabriella, leading a forty-strong cast. Lois and Georgie worked tirelessly to devise complex dance routines and were tasked with the even more complex challenge of teaching them to the cast! The directors were praised for creating an infectious joyous piece of theatre and coaching younger pupils through the process. The comedic chemistry between Sydney (Remove, McClure) and Sam (Remove, School) was a particular highlight, and special mention must go to Livvy (Remove, Winfield)

and Dominic (Fifth Form, McClure) for stepping in to perform roles with just a few hours’ notice.

Our Lower School production of Julius Caesar followed in June. Huxley (Remove, McClure), Mina (Fourth Form, Atkinson), Sasha (Fourth Form, Cedars) and Aliyah (Fourth Form, School House) led the cast as Brutus, Cassius, Caesar and Mark Antony respectively. During the rehearsal process, the cast took a trip to Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre to watch a production of the play. This was highly inspiring and helped to develop their own interpretations of the characters. The technical elements of the show were designed and operated masterfully by Max (Lower Sixth, McClure) and Noah (Remove, Atkinson).

This was the first Shakespeare play to be performed at the School in recent memory, and the cast was applauded for their comprehension and confident delivery of Jacobean verse. This highly contemporary production will remain in the audience’s memory for a long time to come.

After a remarkable year full of ambition, accomplishment, and teamwork, Drama at Mill Hill is set to be even more exciting next year (if that’s possible)! It will see the grand opening of our new Theatre Studio, which will provide an intimate performance space for showcases, monologues, and other smaller pieces of work. The Spring Term will see Mill Hill School’s first original musical, with dozens of pupils staging an entirely new piece of theatre. The show, ‘Margaret’s



Mind’, is an ode to dreams, friendship and the importance of loving who you are. It is set to be the biggest event of the theatrical calendar, and we look forward to welcoming you to the show’s premiere! ■

by  
**Mr Alexander Gatherer**  
Director of Theatrical Performance



“ It’s been a great privilege to serve The Mill Hill Foundation this year and I feel that the Chaplaincy is in a good place as I hand on the baton to my successor.”

# Inspiring minds across our schools

## Our Reverend shares his reflections on a wonderful year.

It’s been a year of Chaplaincy on the move. Taking up this new role has allowed me to develop ministry across the five schools in The Foundation. At Grimsdell we’ve explored values from ‘The Grimsdell Way’ in year groups and class assemblies. Towards the end of the year, we gathered in The Heritage Garden to celebrate the wonderful environment of our school and the legacy of Peter Collinson.

Tuesdays were spent at Belmont taking Chapel services. This involved mastering the art of speaking to pupils in person and via Zoom at the same time! During break times I had wonderful conversations with pupils on the Quad and reflected on the Chapel theme for

the day. These conversations often continued over lunch and on the sports field where I’ve helped to coach football and cricket. Joining Year 7 on their Lake District trip this year was a personal highlight. I loved taking an impromptu evening Chapel service on the shore of Lake Windermere. This backdrop was beautiful and breathtaking, which left us feeling inspired.

Weekly lunches at Mill Hill International gave me an opportunity to build relationships and support our international community. Every two weeks or so I also visited Cobham Hall. Located in the beautiful Kentish countryside, it was a privilege to take assemblies in the ornate surroundings of the Gilt Hall. Having a Chaplain has been a new experience for Cobham Hall and they have welcomed me with open arms.

As the biggest school in The Foundation I’ve spent the majority of my time at Mill Hill School. We’ve developed a programme for Chapel services that has seen lots of pupils and staff helping to lead on our ‘Pillar Values’. We’ve marked key moments including our Call to Remembrance Service, Christmas Carol

Service, Valedictory Service, CCF Dedication and a Centenary Celebration for Sir John McClure.

It’s been a great privilege to serve The Mill Hill Foundation this year and I feel that the Chaplaincy is in a good place as I hand on the baton to my successor. ■

by  
**Reverend Antony Wilson**  
Foundation Chaplain



“ The role of a Pupil and Boarder Councillor involves dedicating time to both School and societal change; a significant undertaking, and one to be extremely proud of.”

# Pupil Voice

## You Said: We Did.

In May, our Pupil and Boarder Councillors came together for a special Pupil Voice Breakfast with Mrs Sanchez. This was an opportunity for pupils to showcase the incredible and thoughtful work they have put into improving School life and to convey their ideas for the future.

This academic year, the Pupil Council has worked in conjunction with the Equality Society and LGBTQ+ Society. They have focused on inclusivity and support for their fellow pupils. Among the items raised, the Councillors asked for free sanitary products and all-gender toilet signs, increased curriculum time to be spent on PSHE, exam support groups, increased information about our reporting opportunities and signposting of appropriate language to pupils. All of these have now been successfully actioned. Our pupils' dedication to transparency has also ensured that the Head's Letter is now also sent to pupils and, next academic year, more pupil focus

groups are to be established, to further promote inclusion and diversity in the School curriculum and beyond.

Pupils were active in making these changes. Their efforts included meetings with Mrs Dickin to discuss PSHE, and leading Assemblies and Chapels on wellbeing, equality and role of the Council.

The Boarder Council has also focused on the welfare of the boarding community. They created a questionnaire to understand more about the hopes of our boarders. This feedback has helped us to prepare exciting activities for the next academic year. It has also promoted staff to ensure that the majority of full-boarding weekends occur before exam periods. This will allow pupils to focus on revision and exam preparation.

The Boarder Council has also contributed to the school menu throughout the year. They met with our Executive Chef and



Head of Catering to organise dish choices and to ensure leftover food is donated (food waste is composted or donated to create animal feed pellets). Additionally, the Councillors organised boxes of spare sanitary products for pupils who may have lost their luggage whilst travelling.

Repairs across the school grounds were also a focus. Many of these repairs have now been completed, including new lights on Wills Grove and resurfacing of Farm Road. The Pupil Council and Boarder Council's duties are hugely important in ensuring an enriching environment for all pupils. Alongside their meetings, our Councillors have interviewed and toured with prospective Teachers, nominated pupils for the Unsung Hero Award, and participated in a 'Game-Changers' event to send letters to the Mayor of London.

Equality and LGBTQ+ Societies, as part of Pupil Voice, have made an enormous impact on School life too this year, with



the organisation of International Women's Day events, charity events (including a bake sale for the mental health charity Mind), and the establishment of an Equality Society at Belmont, with events for both groups of pupils to come in the new academic year. After the success of our celebratory Pupil and Boarder Council Breakfast, Mrs Sanchez arranged for another four to be organised over the course of next year, highlighting the importance placed on Pupil Voice at Mill Hill School. ■

by  
**Ms Georgia Conlon**  
Pupil Voice Coordinator





# Media at Mill Hill

A pupil perspective on video production.

“ The Video and Broadcasting Production team is comprised of dedicated pupils who document various events that shape The Foundation. The School has invested heavily in providing industry-standard equipment, affording our pupils a valuable experience in a world shaped by media and its influences.”

**MR LEE MINETT,**  
**HEAD OF ICT AND COMPUTER SCIENCE**

At Mill Hill School pupils are encouraged to get involved in a range of clubs and activities. This creates an environment where each pupil's interests and talents are nurtured. A great example of this is our pupil-led Video and Broadcasting Production Team, which I have had the pleasure of leading this year.

The Video Production Society (VPS) is a co-curricular activity where pupils learn film-making techniques and create projects. The teaching is structured in a similar way to industry-level courses because pupils gain a mix of theoretical knowledge and practical skills.

This year we created 'Brothers', a short film about two disadvantaged teenagers driven apart by a rift between their parents. This project allowed us to tackle delicate subject matter with tact and develop industry skills such as on-location shooting, following call sheets and on-set etiquette.

The Video and Broadcasting Production Team (VBP) are a small group of pupils who document events across The Foundation and put them into digital form. This involves posting on the School's YouTube channel, making promotional videos and more. I have had the pleasure of leading the team this year. Editing these videos helps us to improve our technical and creative skills which are key to filmmaking.

The Call to Remembrance service at Mill Hill School was our first major project this year. We used a variety of videography techniques to document the event. Storyboards were created to plan and communicate shots to the team. We also used maps and imagery to better understand our filming locations. It has been wonderful to see the team improve their skills and create excellent videos for our School community to enjoy.

Our society noticed a lack of film competitions specifically aimed at schools.

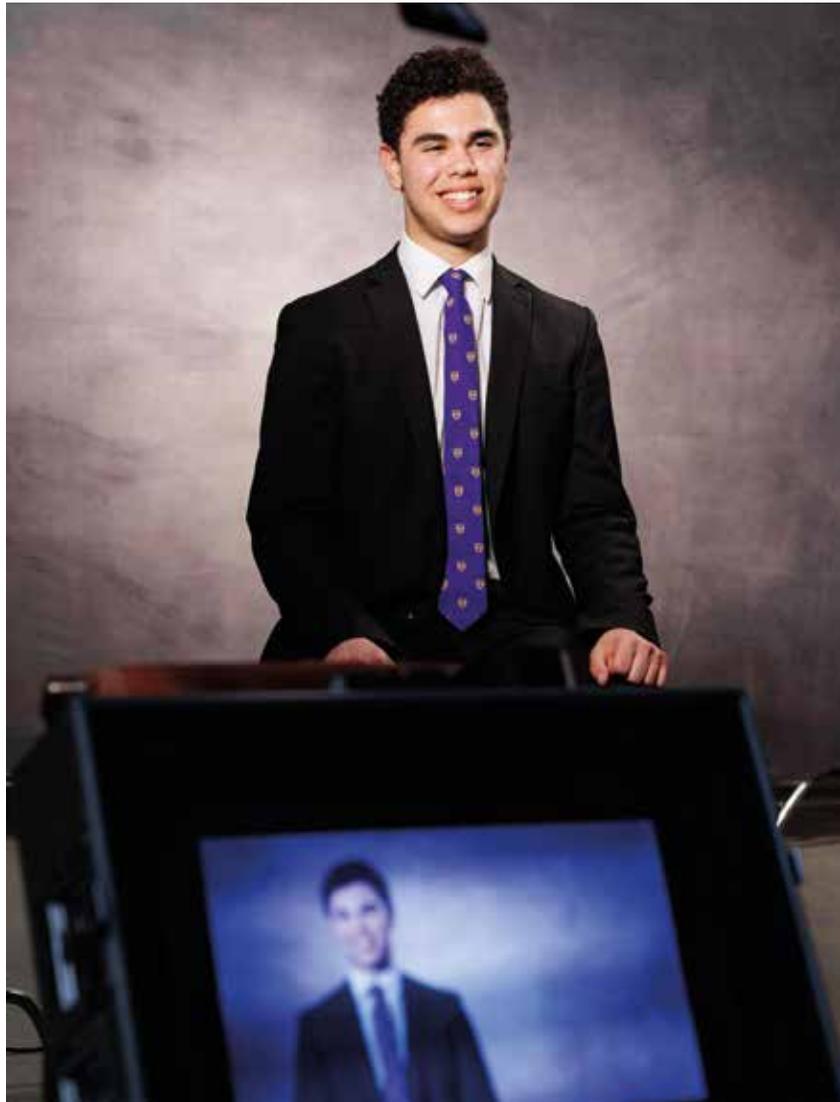
We decided to do something about it. This year is the first 'London Schools Film Competition', run by Mill Hill School. The event will conclude with a dinner in March 2023 where the finalists will come together and share their passion for film. I am looking forward to returning from university to attend and celebrate young talent.

I am truly grateful to Mill Hill for giving me access to such fantastic resources and opportunities. I am thrilled to say that I have secured an unconditional offer to study filmmaking at university. This would not have been possible without the support and professional cinematography equipment provided by the School. ■

by

**Jonathan**  
Upper Sixth, Weymouth,  
Head of the Video and Broadcasting  
Production Team

“ I am truly grateful to Mill Hill for giving me access to such fantastic resources and opportunities.”



# Pupils on set!

An overview of our latest film project.

#MillHillMoments

Follow us @MillHillSenior

The film was directed by the incredibly talented agency, Affixius. It brings together our school community: 'a community to which you will always belong'. The film features some of our youngest pupils at Grimsdell through to our oldest pupils at Mill Hill School's Sixth Form, along with generations of Old Millhillians (which include some of our teachers, entrepreneurs, a barrister, a professional cricketer, actors and more). It was lovely to film some families together too; those who attended the school and now have children at The Foundation.

The film involves our current pupils and Old Millhillians offering advice to those who are starting out on their journey at one of The Foundation's schools. Ahead of the filming, we conducted research across all schools and Old Millhillians to establish what advice they would give new joiners to the school. This was then turned into a script to ensure that the statements of

“ The filming process was incredibly rewarding and we are pleased that our pupils and Old Millhillians participated in it!”

'advice' were authentic. The advice in the script captures the essence of Mill Hill School. For example, one of our pupils said: "If you're passionate about something, tell the school - they'll find a way to make it happen." It was fantastic to hear those being filmed resonate with the script as they read out the lines and we would quite often hear "this one is so true!".

The filming process was incredibly rewarding and we are pleased that our pupils participated in it! Thanks must go to all of our pupils and Old Millhillians who contributed to this project. We are looking forward to sharing our film with you (along with some bloopers!). Follow us on social media to watch the film once it is launched. ■

by  
**The Mill Hill School Foundation  
Marketing Team**



“ This year, I have been extraordinarily impressed by our pupils’ willingness to get involved and selflessly give up their time for others.”



# Community Action

Highlights from this year’s outreach programme.

As Covid-19 restrictions eased, our pupils were able to participate in more projects to support our local community. This year, I have been extraordinarily impressed by our pupils’ willingness to get involved and selflessly give up their time for others. The feedback received from our charity partners has also been unanimously positive.

The Remove Community Action group met every Friday after school and achieved huge amounts across a range of projects. Highlights included producing 90 handmade Christmas cards and gifts for the elderly participants in the Good Neighbour Scheme. Between January and Easter, they also met up with nine elderly ladies who spoke with them as part of our first Life Stories project. It was wonderful to see our pupils provide companionship to vulnerable residents of Barnet and build fantastic cross-generational friendships. The project concluded in the Summer Term with a wonderful tea party. Our pupils volunteered to be waiters and waitresses and provided some beautifully-sung entertainment! They also presented each of the ladies with a personalised storybook about their lives.

These were created based on the conversations they had with our pupils throughout the term.

Our pupils also supported schools within The Foundation. Ten Fourth Form artists volunteered at Grimsdell’s Parents’ Day in June to help guide the pupils to paint whilst offering their own creative input on the theme of ‘under the sea’. The Grimsdell Parents’ Association told us that: “they were a big hit with Grimsdell pupils! And they were a joy to be around.”

Each Wednesday during the Autumn and Spring Term a small group of Remove and Lower Sixth pupils visited Mill Hill International to assist with the AgeUK ICT Volunteering Project. Pupils worked with local elderly residents to provide technical support with everything from keeping in touch with loved ones to online shopping.

This Summer Term our first cohort of Lower Sixth volunteers went to Belmont. They assisted with literacy and enjoyed listening to readers twice a week. They also ran a much loved story-time session for Year 3

and 4. Feedback has shown that this project helped develop our pupils’ patience, gratitude and people skills.

The Lower Sixth is our busiest cohort for Community Action. This year has seen an unprecedented number of pupils being involved in six different projects. Particular highlights for 2021-2022 are the Saracens Disability Sport Partnership and a new partnership with Barnet Young Carers. On Mondays, after school, Mr Barron led trips down to the StoneX Stadium and the Sarrie’s Skills Club where our pupils supported young people with autism and helped to facilitate their enjoyment of sport. Pupils reported that the experience gave them confidence and helped strengthen their empathy, teamwork, gratitude and practical skills.

This year has seen a new partnership develop with Barnet Young Carers. This organisation supports children aged 5-18 with caring responsibilities in their homes. Many of them also come from homes that are struggling with poverty and other social issues. A team of Lower Sixth pupils planned



and delivered a two-hour fun workshop for 17 young carers aged 5-11, providing much needed respite from their responsibilities. John Gribbon, Activities Manager from Barnet Young Carers, writes: “I just wanted to say a huge thank you to you and all the volunteers yesterday for providing such a great session for our young carers. All who attended had a great time and I was really impressed with the variety of activities for young carers and how well the pupils engaged with the children throughout.”

Finally, Sixth Form volunteers visited Grimsdell three days a week to work as volunteer play assistants in our Pre-Prep’s wrap-around care programme. Our pupils said that this experience was a lot of fun and an excellent way to take a much needed break from the pressures of Sixth Form life, and it also taught them patience, empathy and valuable teamwork skills. ■

by  
**Mrs Anna Murphy**  
Community Action Coordinator





“ The Sports Scholarship Programme delivered on all counts and more. The Performance Team are all incredible and have supported me in becoming a better athlete. This has helped me to achieve my life-long dream of playing football for my country.”

**DANELLE TAN, BURTON BANK, LOWER SIXTH,  
SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL PLAYER**

*Singapore's youngest ever goal scorer*



“ The Sports Scholarship Programme has allowed me to succeed on the international stage. It has driven parts of my performance that I would not have been able to develop without the programme. This includes my nutritional and mental skills.

The Performance Team have so much experience I can learn from and they always push me harder to unleash my potential.”

**JAMES CROSSLEY, SCHOOL HOUSE, LOWER SIXTH,  
GREAT BRITAIN YOUTH SAILING SQUAD**

# Our Sports Scholarship Programme

If your dream is to be coached by those who have played at the highest level, to be nurtured, encouraged and given every opportunity to excel, then Mill Hill is the place for you.

Our Sports Department is blessed with outstanding facilities and top coaches. This creates the perfect environment for our pupils to thrive on the pitch, in the gym and beyond. Mill Hill's Sports Scholarship Programme develops young talent and nurtures their passions. This is done through the use of personalised support plans, innovative training techniques and access to the very best equipment.

## WHAT DOES OUR PROGRAMME HAVE TO OFFER?

**Strength & Conditioning Training:** Delivering bespoke and tailored support for high-performing individuals via a journey of technical mastery underpinned by the process of ingraining, expanding and exploring physical motor abilities.

**Performance Analysis:** There is nothing more powerful than giving pupils the ability to learn through analysing their own footage. With access to industry-leading performance analysis technology, pupils take responsibility for their own learning and development across their respective sports.

**Sport Psychology:** Improving the health and wellbeing of our Scholars by teaching them positive coping methods, increasing their emotional intelligence and developing an understanding of their own emotions, behaviours and thought patterns. This content is delivered through a series of workshops, group sessions and 1:1s.

**Performance Nutrition:** Creating effective dietary behaviours within our Scholars so they can independently support their academic and sporting performance, as well as their development and health, through food.

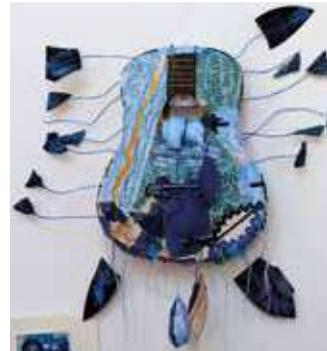
**Prehabilitation & Recovery:** Providing professional, fun, effective pre-rehabilitation and rehabilitation to facilitate the development of each Scholar's potential. This educates and empowers pupils to take ownership of their health both on and off the playing arena. ■

by  
**Mr Aaron Liffchak**  
Director of Sport



A Level

They make me happy



GCSE



# Art exhibitions return to Mill Hill

Exhibiting work is the culmination of a creative journey arriving at a destination.

“Exhibiting our pupils’ work gives the viewer a unique insight into what resides inside pupils’ minds. It takes courage to show other people your work.”

Our GCSE and A Level pupils’ exhibitions signify the end of their two-year courses. The Art Studio is transformed from a creative workspace to a presentation space. Large walls are put up and our pupils’ artwork is hung closely together. Putting different pieces in close proximity helps highlight each pupil’s unique artistic style and vision. This also creates a wonderful environment filled with colour, shape and a multitude of stories.

Our GCSE pupils were given themes such as ‘Skin’, ‘Fragments’ and ‘Geometric Form’. They tackled these briefs individually and embarked on their own creative journey. At A Level, pupils completed a ‘Personal Project’ which means they chose the direction of their project. This year the topics ranged from ‘Portraiture’ to ‘The Anatomy’ to ‘Dreams’ to ‘Morality’.

At Mill Hill, we believe it is important to celebrate our pupils’ creative journeys to showcase their achievements. This was especially important this year with pupils being unable to exhibit for the previous two years due to the pandemic. We hope the exhibition was a lasting memory for young artists and their families, friends and teachers who came to admire their art.

We asked our exhibition attendees whether exhibitions are important. Here are some of their responses:

- “Yes, because it showcases the dedication of each student”
- “Yes – a great exhibition transports you!”
- “Yes, because it allows artists to express themselves and help people to open their minds about different opinions and thoughts from other people”

- “Yes, it is important because it connects the artwork with the viewer”
- “They are because it allows for inspiration”
- “They make me happy”
- “Exhibitions are good so you can see new things”
- “Yes! Sometimes it’s very important for artists to get some feedback to continue their self-development!”

- “Broadens your mind”
- “Science helps people to live, Art makes life worth living”
- “Why not? The world is sad without art”
- “Yes! To celebrate your achievements!”

Showing artwork to friends, discussing it with family, hanging it on a wall or displaying it in a gallery are all important milestones in the artistic journey.

American artist Jeff Koons once said, “I remember being an art student and going to the Whitney in 1974 to see the exhibition of Jim Nutt, the Chicago imagist. It was then I transferred to school in Chicago, all because of that show.” Visiting exhibitions is just as valuable as exhibiting one’s own work. My very first exhibition visit at school was to see the infamous ‘Sensation’ exhibition at the Saatchi Gallery, London. This show had a lasting impact on me and gave me the drive to become an artist. It is clear to me that the joy of exhibiting is one widely recognised and important; long may it continue. ■

by  
**Miss Lucinda Randell**  
Head of Art

Miss Lucinda Randell



Miss Natalie Collins



“ Our pupils’ work is entirely their own, of course, and is an embodiment of their abilities and determination. However, facilitating that journey leaves us, as teachers, feeling entirely connected to it.”



Mrs Jade Haberman



# A word from our Art Department

Our Art Teachers share their experiences.

## MISS LUCINDA RANDELL Head of Art

My most recent paintings are not formally exhibited. In fact, they live at my mum’s house and are hung on her walls! When I visit my mum, the artwork surrounds me. This reminds me of the rewarding feeling which comes from simply nailing one’s paintings to a wall.

My first memory of exhibiting was at school but it is the exhibition at the end of my teacher training year that really sticks in my mind. I completed my PGCE in Secondary Art and Design at the University of Cumbria in 2010-11. The end of the course was marked by an exhibition which displayed the work of trainees on the course.

Friends and family were invited to see the projects we had delivered with our pupils in the schools where we trained. I proudly displayed my pile of folders containing

planning, theoretical research, essays and my reflective teaching log. However, I was even more proud to display the sculptures, paintings and other art pieces produced by the pupils I had supported during the placement. It was fantastic to exhibit work that was facilitated by me, rather than created by me. I feel the same pride at Mill Hill School exhibitions. Our pupils’ work is entirely their own, of course, and is an embodiment of their abilities and determination. However, facilitating that journey leaves us, as teachers, feeling entirely connected to it.

## MISS NATALIE COLLINS Teacher of Art

When applying for university, I was unsure as to what I wanted to pursue. My A Level choices were structured for Architecture or Engineering, but I didn’t enjoy drawing buildings. I decided to study for a Foundation Degree and was accepted to the University of the Arts, London (UAL).

UAL was my dream university; prestigious, academic, interesting and challenging at the same time. My degree work started in painting and I later specialised in photography and filmmaking. I chose to stay at UAL to complete my BA Hons in Fine Art and New Media. This course gave me a strong sense of space, light and composition. I was particularly interested in transforming decorative art into functional pieces. This involves recycling materials and older paintings into furniture and reshaping spaces into large-scale photographic installations.

My degree encouraged independence and critical thinking. It also exposed me to new materials and a range of processes and specialist workshops. Studying Art is fantastic because it encourages us to consider new possibilities, think beyond what we already know and communicate visually.

## MRS JADE HABERMAN Teacher of Art

For my degree show at Edinburgh College of Art I created a range of jewellery and products which focused on humour and played on everyday activities. One of the products I created was a series of digitally printed napkins, titled; Napkin Apparel. I was inspired to make the collection after living with several flatmates who were messy eaters. I wanted to play on the idea of tucking a napkin into your top to prevent spilling food on your clothes. I liked the idea of transforming a napkin into a humorous garment which could show some of your personality. I created a series of eight different fashion styles, ranging from more formal styles of a little black dress/suit and tie to a more relaxed headphones-slung-over-a-hoodie look. The napkins were then presented inside a cardboard pizza box which I screen printed to show which designs were

featured inside. Each box came with a selection of silver fork pins to hold the napkins in place. After my degree show, I exhibited at the New Designers exhibition at the London Business Design Centre. At this exhibition, I was asked for my napkin designs to feature in a book titled: ‘Humor In Craft’.

The author describes the contents of the book: “What happens when professional craft artists are allowed to let loose – when they get to explore their mischievous and irreverent sides? The topics range from the playful to the serious, but the message is always most enjoyable.” I was very excited to have my work featured in a book, especially one which featured artists who were all producing light-hearted, playful work. ■

# Social highlights

Here we take a look back at our highlights and most popular posts from our Instagram channel!

**1**



**ARMISTICE DAY**  
Yesterday, for the first time in two years, the whole school joined the Call to Remembrance, lining up in reverent silence in front of the School's Gate of Honour to mark Armistice Day, remembering and honouring all those who have fought and fallen for our freedom.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the pupils, staff, CCF, Governors of Mill Hill School and the Old Millhillians.

After the act of remembrance, guests, staff, Upper Sixth pupils and Old Millhillians attended a moving Chapel Service led by our new Chaplain, Rev Antony Wilson.

[#MillHillSenior](#)  
[#RemembranceDay2021](#)  
[#LestWeForget](#)

**2**



**GIRLS HOCKEY CHAMPIONS!**  
Congratulations to the Girls' U15s and U18s Hockey teams who are now county champions! Both teams will represent the county in the regional finals, well done girls!

[#MillHillSenior](#)  
[#MillHillSeniorSport](#)  
[#MillHillMoments](#)

**3**



**HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL PRODUCTION**  
Our SOLD OUT, pupil-directed production of 'High School Musical' opens tonight! Break a leg to all the cast and our two pupil directors, Georgie and Lois (both Lower Sixth Priestley).

[#MillHillMoments](#)

**4**



**CHARITY SKY DIVE**  
This term's chosen charity was @brightideasfortennis. On Sunday 27 March Mrs Ward and Mr Barron did a skydive to raise money for the charity. We are incredibly proud of them!

Mrs Ward, Head of Tennis had the following to say:

"The skydive was the ultimate adrenaline rush! It was such an amazing feeling, I was stressed and exhilarated in equal measures. Now I know how Superman felt!"

This term we have enjoyed a variety of fundraising events, such as a non-uniform day and staff skydive!

We are delighted to announce that Mill Hill School has nearly raised £11,000 for the charity. Thank you so much to everyone who has supported this wonderful cause.

[#MillHillSenior](#) [#MillHillMoments](#)

**5**



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
Merry Christmas everyone! Here is a photo of our extremely hard-working Catering Team enjoying their Christmas lunch. After cooking up a storm and serving all of our delicious meals we'd like to thank them for their hard work throughout the whole year!

[#MillHillSenior](#)  
[#MillHillSeniorCommunity](#)

**6**



**A LEVEL DRAMA**  
A huge congratulations to our incredibly talented Upper Sixth A Level Drama pupils for their wonderful devising performances on Tuesday evening. The audience were treated to two original plays 'The Unravelling & Motionless' entirely written and directed by the pupils.

[#MillHillSenior](#)  
[#MillHillSeniorDrama](#)  
[#MillHillMoments](#)  
[#InstillingvaluesInspiringminds](#)

**7**



**U15 GIRLS' HOCKEY TEAM**  
Congratulations to the U15 Girl's Hockey team who are newly crowned Hertfordshire U16 Champions. They won all five of their games at the tournament and will now progress to the regional round of the Tier 1 England Hockey Championships. Well done!

[#MillHillSenior](#)

**8**



**A LEVEL RESULTS**  
We would like to congratulate our Upper Sixth pupils on their outstanding A Level results.

We are thrilled to announce that three quarters of all passes were at grades A\*-B, with almost half of all results being A\*-A, which is a testament to the hard work and talent of our pupils, teachers and parents alike.

We wish all of our pupils the best for the future and cannot wait to see what they go on to achieve!

[#MillHillSenior](#)  
[#MillHillMoments](#)  
[#ALevelResults2022](#)

**9**



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
Merry Christmas from all of us at Mill Hill School!

Artwork by Leo (Lower Sixth - Art Scholar 2020)

[#MillHillSenior](#)

**10**



**FOUNDATION DAY**  
On Saturday 25 September pupils, parents, staff, Old Millhillians and special guests came together to celebrate Mill Hill School's annual Foundation Day, an event we haven't been able to celebrate in person for two years due to the pandemic.

It was a truly wonderful sight to see our Chapel and school grounds full again, and although the sun didn't quite shine this year, the rain managed to hold off and the Prizegiving Ceremony took place in the open air on the Quad.

Our Guest of Honour, Evelyn Forde MBE, Head of @cophall\_school spoke passionately about her admiration for pupils in schools across the country who have demonstrated resilience and responsibility and valued relationships in the face of challenging times.

[#MillHillSenior](#)  
[#InstillingvaluesInspiringminds](#)  
[#MillHillMoments](#)



Scan the QR code on your phone to visit our Instagram page!



Keble Prep



Cobham Hall School

# A growing family of schools



Lyonsdown School

Our CEO Antony Spencer shares his thoughts on the growth of The Mill Hill School Foundation.



“ Families come in different shapes and sizes, and not all family members are the same. Our family of schools is similarly diverse, but what unites us is a common ethos, which is fundamentally centred on giving the best possible education to the pupils in our care.”

In recent years, a notable feature of education in this country has been the development of school groups. The trend largely started in the state sector. In seeking to bring the benefits of greater scale to the quality of education, Multi-Academy Trusts increasingly took the place of Local Education Authorities. Government policy is to ramp this up further, requiring Multi-Academy Trusts to be a minimum of ten schools, whilst trying to prise the remaining schools away from the Local Education Authority. The primary motivation for this is to address the challenge of leveraging up standards when resources are finite. This is a challenge we also face in independent schools, albeit from a higher resource base.

Independent schools have been involved in this consolidation activity, but the motives and methods are different. The independent school sector is broadly made up of three types of schools. Firstly, schools that are charities such as The Mill Hill School Foundation. Secondly, schools that are owned by an individual or family. Thirdly, schools that are run for profit. The last of these has been very active in acquiring the second group in cash transactions, often backed by venture capital debt. This has been particularly prevalent in the London prep school sector. This contrasts with The Foundation's activity. We have added other charities to the group through charity mergers. This transaction works where charities are aligned in their ethos and purpose, and doesn't involve a purchase. The Foundation simply acquires the assets and liabilities of the schools.

This is not a new initiative for The Foundation. Over seven years ago The Mount School merged with The Foundation and became Mill Hill International School, offering courses for

the three year groups up to GCSE. Mill Hill International is thriving, with pupil numbers increasing year on year and an excellent worldwide reputation for its standards. Such has been its success, we have reached the limit of our boarding capacity at Mill Hill, especially in the Sixth Form.

We are delighted that boarding is thriving; there are however no plans to build an additional boarding house because we believe we have reached the optimum number of pupils. As a result, we currently have a number of our Mill Hill International pupils going elsewhere for Sixth Form despite their desire to stay in The Foundation.

This is part of the rationale for the merger with Cobham Hall, an 11-18 boarding school in Kent, as it allows pupils to continue their education within The Foundation. We have recently received permission for it to become co-educational in the Sixth Form but it will remain all-girls up to Fifth Form. This will make it accessible to all Mill Hill International pupils.

The reason for the merger is somewhat different from the two latest schools to join The Foundation, Lyonsdown and Keble Prep, as they are day prep schools. However, as at Cobham Hall, the size and stability of The Foundation gives space for these schools to thrive. Parents are also able to select a school with confidence. This is based on The Foundation's reputation and the knowledge that schools will be well looked after over the long term. Given the current economic environment and the cost pressures seen by the sector, this stability can't be assumed in every school's case. So, the new schools in The Foundation support the growth in resources that enable us to invest in all of our schools. The additional scale also enables us to be more efficient by sharing back office functions across more schools.

This allows more resources to be deployed in the core teaching and learning function which is the heart of our purpose.

Having considered the resources part of the challenge, let's look at standards. Bigger groups of schools can leverage the quality of education provided by learning from each other. This can be by learning from initiatives introduced successfully by one school, or by individual subject teachers mentoring one another (this is typically far more effective than one-off external training courses).

Often in schools, there are silos of excellence that simply need to be shared for wider benefit. This is much more effective when it involves colleagues collaborating, rather than using external providers. For example, the outstanding outdoor learning programme developed in Grimsdell has been extended very successfully into Belmont and is being developed now in Lyonsdown, providing a network of staff supporting one another with new initiatives. Pastoral teams have been brought together to support each other and share experiences. The continuity between Key Stages of education is an increasing focus as we seek to make our pupils' educational journey seamless: success at GCSE and A Level really does start with a love of reading and confidence in numeracy in the earliest years.

Families come in different shapes and sizes, and not all family members are the same. Our family of schools is similarly diverse, but what unites us is a common ethos, which is fundamentally centred on giving the best possible education to the pupils in our care. In seeking to do that, we are collectively stronger as a family. ■

by

**Mr Antony Spencer**  
CEO, The Mill Hill School Foundation

Instilling values, inspiring minds  
[millhill.org.uk](http://millhill.org.uk)

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