



Mill Hill

Instilling values, inspiring minds

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Mill Hill School

Virtual Open Morning -
Webinar Questions & Answers
Saturday 8 May 2021





Summarised below are the responses to the questions asked during Mill Hill School's Virtual Open Morning held on Saturday 8 May 2021.

What is the ownership and governance of the School?

Mill Hill School was founded in 1807 and is now part of the Mill Hill School Foundation. The Foundation has charitable status and is a group of 5 schools: Mill Hill School (Senior), Belmont (Prep), Grimsdell (Pre-prep), Mount Mill Hill International (MMHI) and Cobham Hall School (joined the Foundation in February 2021). The Court of Governors provide governance for all Foundation schools, rather than there being a separate governing body for each school within the Foundation. The Court consists of unpaid volunteers drawn from a diverse range of backgrounds and occupations to provide strategic oversight of the charity. The Foundation's Executives team (the CEO, the Heads and central senior managers) report to the Court and representatives from each of our schools are members of the Court. In addition, there are sub-committees who oversee specific aspects of school business - details of these committees and the members can be found on the School's website.

Academic Questions

If we want to do IB, does that mean doing GCSE or do they go through the International School?

We do not offer the IB at Mill Hill. In the Fifth Form pupils sit GCSEs and in the Upper Sixth pupils sit A Levels.

What support do you have in place for children that have high-functioning autism?

Our Learning Support department provides guidance for how to best meet the needs of our pupils. This guidance takes the form of internal and external training, regular meetings with appropriate members of the teaching staff and formal written plans. Support for the needs of an individual is managed on a pupil by pupil basis.

Does the School make provision to help bilingual (French/English) children maintain both languages?

The School will look to offer opportunities to enhance the proficiency of both languages for the pupil. However, we do not offer first language lessons in any languages other than English.

Can you provide some insight into how meeting the pupil at his/her needs (paraphrasing one of the tenets) is implemented in practice?

The strength of our pastoral system via our house system, underpins everything we do to meet our pupils' needs and to ensure they maximise their individual potential across all aspects of school life.

From an academic perspective we work to meet the needs of individual pupils and offer a broad range of extension activities, such as the Chemistry 'Top of the Bench' competition or to engage in creative writing opportunities. We provide a varied selection of activities so all pupils can find something in which they will shine, and if they need additional support for their learning the Learning Support department will guide our teachers in how to best meet the needs of the pupil. Our ethos is to encourage pupils to get involved and make the most of these opportunities.

How much homework is given to the fourth formers? How many hours per day?

Pupils in the Fourth Form receive, on average, one and a half hours of prep a night.

Are there any plans to offer Mandarin?

We are currently exploring our offer at GCSE and A Level, with a view to considering new subjects.

Admissions Questions

Please can you confirm how many pupils are at Mill Hill?

Currently 843 rising to around 900 pupils from September.



What is the boy/girl ratio for Year 9 entry?

Just over one third girls and two thirds boys.

Approximately how many external applications do you receive for Year 9 entry?

Approximately 180 applications.

What is the percentage of children that come from Belmont vs. other prep schools vs. state schools?

We have about 50 plus pupils every year who join us from other schools, and 120 or so from Belmont. These are a mix of state and independent schools, as well as joiners from overseas. We are proud of the broad diversity of our pupil intake in the Fourth Form, and we are very familiar with inducting pupils well, wherever they come from. Pupil feedback in this respect is that they feel part of the family very quickly.

How many pupils are in the individual classes? What is the maximum class size?

In the Lower School (Fourth Form through to the Fifth Form) it depends on the subject. Maximum in core subjects would be around 20-24 (though this is frequently around 16), in option subjects such as Music or Classical Civilisation, this can be just four or five in some cases. Typically, at A Level, classes are between 5 and 12-14 pupils, depending on the subject.

How many forms and tutor groups are there for Year 9 entry?

There are eight Day Houses and four Boarding, each House will have Fourth Form intake. New pupils tend to remain in Houses together for the first term to aid integration and then they are split in to smaller groups for tutoring.

How often do chance vacancies come up?

We run a well established Chance Vacancy process; typically there have been around 30-50 candidates for 5-10 places which have come up.

Do you have to sit an exam to come up from Belmont?

There is no exam to sit. Transition is dependent on academic progress and behaviour at Belmont.

Do you have a sibling policy?

Where two candidates are similarly deserving of a place preference is given if one of them has a sibling in the Foundation.

Does the entrance exam provide provisions (extra time) for dyslexia?

Yes.

What are the percentage of children coming from state school to 13+?

Most 13+ candidates are at prep schools, with just a handful from state schools though we do, of course, welcome all applications. A much higher proportion than this enters the Foundation at 11+ from state primary schools - details available from Belmont.

Co-curricular & Sports Questions

How does Mill Hill support arts activities other than Drama and Music?

One of the five activity categories is titled 'Creative', which feature heavily on our programme. This includes numerous Art related sessions, Origami, Robotics, Photography and many more. In addition to this, there are also two Dance activities a week, which are completed in the newly refurbished Studio. In addition to the weekly activities, there have been recent Art Trips to Spain and New York, and the Art Department run a four-day programme in Activities Week and compete very successfully in the national 'ARTiculation' competition.

How many sessions of sport activities do pupils have each week? 2 hours, 4 hours...?

There isn't one answer to this, as pupils will do varying amounts. However, if we look at the minimum that might help. Each week pupils have one Games afternoon (2 hours), one PE lesson (40 minutes), one after school session and Saturday Sport for the majority (1.5 hours). Then there are all the extras. The busy pupils could choose to be doing well over 10 hours of sport a week at MHS.



Operations Questions

How long is the typical school day?

The school day starts with registration at 08:20 and runs to 15:45 or 16:30 depending on the year group and the day of the week; after school activities are available from Monday to Friday and for Fourth Form and Remove (Years 9 and 10) are compulsory on Thursday and Friday.

Please tell us about the bus services, are they available after school to help children travel back home? We live near Archway in North London.

The Mill Hill Express Bus Service runs six routes for pupils aged 7 – 18 years. The service brings pupils into school in the morning and takes them home after school. For more information on specific locations and pricing, can I please direct you to the page on the School's website, which can be found under the Admissions tab.

Pastoral Questions

What is the dynamic amongst the pupils in the Sixth Form? Do you deal with bullying?

Hannah and Kahil responded saying that the dynamic was good for pupils in the Sixth Form.

Mill Hill is a diverse school and it is important that all pupils can find their sense of belonging, be it on the sports field, in the classroom, in their House or in many of the activities we offer. We have robust policies in place and always deal with situations when reported to us. We continually review our processes as appropriate.

Sixth Form Questions

Please can you confirm the split of where pupils go to following Mill Hill - university, apprenticeships etc.?

The majority of pupils go on to University in the UK, with an increasing number being successful in their applications to the US and Canada. The most popular university destinations over the last few years in no particular order are Edinburgh, Bristol, Nottingham, Birmingham, Exeter, Leeds, Glasgow, Oxford, UCL and Imperial. We have a very small number who take gap years and go off to work and travel in countries such as New Zealand. There is also a small number that go through the apprenticeship route and we have had pupils go off to work with Dyson and Cisco through the apprenticeship degree route.



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