



Mill Hill



8 MARCH 2022

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



THE MILL HILL SCHOOL FOUNDATION CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The Mill Hill School Foundation

The Mill Hill School Foundation comprises of seven schools, four are located in Mill Hill: Grimsdell (Pre-Prep), Belmont (Prep), Mill Hill School (Senior) and Mill Hill International. Cobham Hall is located in Kent and became part of The Foundation in 2021 and our most recent additions are Keble Prep and Lyonsdown School in North London. We also have a partnership agreement with Cophall School in Barnet.

Celebrating International Women's Day

This year, for International Women's Day, The Mill Hill School Foundation is celebrating exemplary pupils and staff in all our seven schools and our partner school (Cophall). We want to recognise some of our inspiring leaders, academic achievers and inspirational pupils and staff who have excelled in different facets of school life. Truly, all our pupils have qualities which are worth celebrating and we believe that the schools in our Foundation enable each pupil to reach their highest potential.

We have selected one pupil from each school, mainly to find out who is the most inspirational woman for them and why.

Our Foundation aims to work towards a gender equal world, free of bias, stereotypes and discrimination. We value and celebrate difference and are constantly aiming towards diversity, equitability and inclusivity.

We hope you will enjoy reading the successes of our pupils and staff, who have incredible achievements and have broken many boundaries.

Women in IT, Technology and STEM

We have Ms Prakash (Mill Hill International) and Ms Fleming (Keble Prep), who both work with IT and technology. They have excelled in their roles and demystified and introduced new technologies to their respective schools. They are role models to our pupils who want to pursue a career in STEM.

Budding Leaders

Many of our pupils are already displaying leadership skills and qualities. For example, Hanna (Mill Hill International) is seen as a pupil who can bring her fellow classmates together for a particular cause. Olivia (Belmont), along with her school friends created a girls cricket team.

Future Sportswomen

Natasha (Cobham Hall) has been inspirational in sport. She started a co-curricular pupil running club and has found innovative ways to make running a desirable and exciting activity. She's managed to get a number of younger pupils involved. Indeed, we already have incredibly successful staff members such as Ms Gibson (Mill Hill Senior) who plays for the England Netball team.

Dedication & Commitment

Some of our staff members have been highlighted for their commitment to their respective schools. For example, Ms Forde MBE, is committed to giving her pupils the best experience in school. She believes that every school can, and must, transform the life chances of their pupils.





**MILL HILL SENIOR
PUPIL**

HANNAH

UPPER SIXTH, MCCLURE

Hannah is a positive, proactive and incredibly humble young woman and a truly excellent role model to all pupils at Mill Hill School. These qualities, alongside her friendly manner, willingness to help and desire to improve things earned her the coveted position of Senior Monitor. Alongside this, Hannah was awarded the role of Hockey Captain, an exceptional and rare achievement and evidence of her ability to lead and inspire others both on and off the Hockey pitch.

Hannah is not just committed to School life but also to her academic studies shown by her impressive GCSE results and recent invitation to interview at Oxford, no mean feat whilst holding so much responsibility in School. Hannah's maturity, optimism and ability to connect with others makes her a genuine pleasure to work with and we are excited to see what she chooses to do in the future.

“A woman that I find hugely inspirational is Actress, UN ambassador and leading feminist, Emma Watson. She has started many campaigns such as the ‘HeForShe’ which encourages men to support the feminist movements and aims to raise awareness about violence and discrimination that women and girls experience all around the world.”



**MILL HILL SENIOR
STAFF**

MISS GIBSON

TRAINEE TEACHER OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Miss Gibson is our fantastic new Physical Education teacher. She is a form tutor, Head Netball coach and also Saracens Mavericks player in the Super league.

Miss Gibson was part of the Commonwealth England Team who won gold and is using her enthusiasm and expertise to promote Mill Hill Netball.

Miss Gibson continues to inspire pupils at Mill Hill School with her positive attitude and her bubbly nature. Miss Gibson engages in all aspect of Mill Hill life assisting in Burton Bank and aiding other major sports such as Hockey and Cricket. Miss Gibson is an inspiration to pupils and members of the common room, highlighting that if you work hard you can achieve.

“Serena Williams is my inspiration. As a young black girl, she inspired me to never give up no matter what barriers are presented on the journey. Plus, she’s the greatest tennis player of all time!”



MILL HILL INTERNATIONAL PUPIL

HANNA YEAR 11, COLINSON HOUSE

Through her leadership, Hanna brings much positive energy to Mill Hill International, from representation at the School Council to her role as Prefect. She is a great ambassador for the whole School community.

Her leadership qualities have been evident to all over the years. She has rallied against injustice and supported her fellow pupils around the school. Hanna places those around her ahead of herself. Her ability to connect with people is a strength that we all rely upon. She is a hugely positive influence on the boarding community, contributing to a sense of togetherness. Her enthusiasm and easy temperament has endeared Hanna to staff and pupils alike; Hanna has the characteristics of a good and strong leader.

“My mother is my inspiration. She grew up in a poor family, impacted by war, yet she never allowed that to affect her. She worked three jobs each day to pay for her university degree and ended up opening a business of her own.

She has never forced me to be someone who I’m not. She picks me up when I make mistakes and lifts me even higher when I achieve my goals. Everyday I feel grateful to have grown up by her side.”



MS PRAKASH

HEAD OF DIGITAL LEARNING

Ms Prakash is a force to be reckoned with and yet her fierce expertise, relentless pursuit of efficiency and sheer grit and determination to provide the very best for pupils and staff alike, is coupled with a generosity of spirit and human warmth that is rare and to be cherished. Nothing is too small and every problem is fixed and it is all done with good grace, humility and kindness. I admire her and value her support, which is unflinching and yet subtle and selfless in its delivery.

In joining MHI, Ms Prakash has brought to our international community, boundless energy, an ever ready 'can do' attitude and has demystified the world of IT for those of us who are novices. She is truly a good person.

“Jacinda Ardern is one of the most inspirational leaders for me. She supports Maori rights, feminism and same-sex marriage. When she was elected as the leader of New Zealand Labour party, the party was inundated with donations. She pursued a happiness budget to prioritise wellbeing alongside GDP and economic growth. She also gave birth while in office; a high-flying career and a family are not mutually exclusive.”

MILL HILL INTERNATIONAL
STAFF



COPTHALL SCHOOL
PUPIL

SASHA

YEAR 13

Sasha embodies all our school values. From the moment I began working at Cophall, she has been supportive to all staff and the school community. Sasha shines brightly as an exemplary pupil. She is respected by her fellow pupils as she leads by example and continues to stand up for others. Pupils would learn a lot from using Sasha as a role model due to her hard work and wanting to be a positive representative of women in general. Sasha has naturally progressed to Deputy Head girl and School President and would excel at any role given to her.

“A woman in the public eye that I find constantly inspirational is politician Alexandria Acasio Cortez. Her focus on social reform and equality, whilst highlighting the value of public voice, affirms the place of women in politics.”



MS FORDE MBE

HEAD TEACHER

Ms Forde's title speaks for itself. She received an MBE in 2021 for 'Services to Education' in the New Year's Honours List.

In 2020, Ms Forde won the TES Head Teacher of the Year Award for her decisive leadership and transforming Copthall into a top secondary school in the north of London.

Ms Forde has been tireless in promoting her school and being a positive role model, for example, by climbing Snowdon to raise money for Copthall and raise awareness of the important issue of school funding. She is also a mentor to other black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) teachers struggling for promotion.

“One of the most inspiring women for me is Maya Angelou. A woman whose journey was not easy, coming from a humble beginning to reciting a poem for a presidential inauguration. Her books move me and inspire me in equal measure, I would love to have met her!”

COPTHALL SCHOOL
STAFF



KEBLE PREP
PUPIL

ETHAN

YEAR 6

Over the last two months Ethan has been performing in an opera called 'The Cunning Little Vixen' by Janacek in The London Coliseum with the ENO - the English National Opera. He has been developing his singing and acting skills over the last four years and it has been his dream to perform on stage in the West End.

Ethan and Keble were naturally delighted when he was successful in his application to perform with the ENO. He had to pass two rounds of auditions and then participate in several months of rehearsals.

Ethan was involved in two out of the three Acts in this opera. The first performance was an emotional day for the whole cast and company. Ethan says: "I could hardly contain my excitement as I peeped through the curtain before the first performance started. I did not feel nervous during any of the performances; I felt proud and honoured to represent Keble Prep and I loved every second of the rehearsals and performances. I hope to be able to have another opportunity to perform in the West End in the future."

"The woman that inspires me the most is Harriet Tubman. She was born into slavery and helped hundreds of enslaved black people escape slavery through the Underground Railroad during the American Civil War. I find her courage and determination inspiring."



**KEBLE PREP
STAFF**

MS FLEMING

DIRECTOR OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Karen joined Keble in 1995 and has worked across all age ranges throughout her time here.

As Director of Digital Learning, her achievements include implementing the one-to-one iPad initiative across the school from 2011; introducing various digital systems to support teaching and learning at Keble, including Google Classroom, Arbor, Seesaw; and leading the school's remote learning programme during the pandemic.

However, her greatest achievement has been to set a great example both to colleagues and pupils. Effective leadership is about demonstrating kindness and compassion, and in doing so, calmly and supportively enabling pupils to fulfil their potential. Karen epitomises this approach to leadership. Her passion is to help pupils develop their learning by setting challenges, encouraging self-reflection and supporting initiative and problem solving.

“I’m torn between Ada Lovelace, the English mathematician who created the world’s first computer programme in the 1800’s, and Hilary Clinton for her inspiring leadership in supporting women’s rights and her achievements in extending healthcare to children of millions of low income families. Both women have succeeded in enabling others to develop, progress and achieve for themselves.”



HANNAH

YEAR 6, HEAD GIRL

Hannah is exceeding expectations as a Year 6 pupil at Lyonsdown. She enjoys challenges, tries her best and perseveres when she finds a task challenging, she shows maturity and resilience at School and has been an exemplary Head Girl. She is a highly respected pupil by both staff and her peers. Hannah sits on the School Council and is often found debating various subjects within the School.

“My most inspiring woman is Mae Jemison. She’s achieved so many things: she was the first black woman to travel into space as an astronaut, she’s a doctor, a dancer and she’s also an engineer and scientist too! I admire Mae Jemison so much, she’s achieved all of her dreams and that’s incredible!”

LYONSDOWN SCHOOL
PUPIL



MRS COWIE

YEAR 5 FORM TUTOR AND ART DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR

Mrs Cowie graduated from Central St Martins and then trained as a teacher. She then set up her own successful design business creating greeting cards; she pursued this for 17 years and then joined Lyonsdown School, where she has been for the last eight years.

Mrs Cowie is very passionate about anything creative; we can often hear her saying to the girls' "anything is possible, have a dream and do it!"

"I'm most inspired by Coco Chanel. Her designs were revolutionary in the 1920s; she pushed boundaries and was a courageous woman! Coco Chanel introduced the legendary collarless jacket and well-fitted skirt. She managed to get women out of structured clothes and corsets, to reveal their legs and ankles. She also pioneered trousers for women after the First World War. Chanel went from rags to riches and remained determined and resilient as a girl growing up through hard times in an orphanage."

**LYONSDOWN SCHOOL
STAFF**



ELSIE

YEAR 2

Elsie has been selected to join the swimming squad at Barnet Cophall Training Scheme. She is one of the youngest children selected to swim for the squad and trains very early in the morning!

“My most inspiring woman is my mummy because she is the first best swimmer in my family and always makes good dinners.”

GRIMSDELL PRE-PREP
PUPIL



MISS DAVEY

NURSERY TEACHER

Miss Davey started as a Teaching Assistant in Grimsdell. She was so brilliant that the school supported her to complete her teaching degree. She worked hard to complete her teaching degree with the assignments and all her placements whilst working in school. Miss Davey successfully completed her degree and now runs the Nursery team with huge success. In addition to this, Miss Davey gives up her time and volunteers for Noah's Ark Hospice as a companion to siblings of children who are terminally ill in the hospice.

“I am inspired by my Mum: she brought up 4 children on her own and is a cancer survivor.”

GRIMSDELL PRE-PREP
STAFF



COBHAM HALL
PUPIL

NATASHA

YEAR 11

Natasha has been inspirational with sport. She started a co-curricular student running club and is actually making running fun, getting a good number of younger students involved. She leads by example with her dedication and commitment to sport. Natasha has also taken part in school productions and completed her silver DofE. She receives academic commendations regularly for her attitude and performance. She is an excellent role model but works hard to be where she is.

“My most inspiring woman is Malala Yousafzai. I admire her bravery and fearless character. She isn’t afraid to fight for girls’ education, to have a voice and chase her goals.

She was quoted as saying, ‘When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful’. Her resilience and determination are what inspires me to become an independent and powerful young woman. If I put my mind to it, anything is possible.”



COBHAM HALL
STAFF

MISS WILLIAMS

**HEAD OF HUMANITIES, HISTORY TEACHER AND
DIRECTOR OF MODEL UNITED NATIONS (MUN)**

An excellent role model to our students, Miss Williams is a supportive and inspirational leader, leading with care and dedication. She believes in working together as a Faculty and collaborating to run a strong team. Miss Williams took on MUN when the activity was launched at Cobham Hall and built it from the ground up into one of our most popular co-curricular clubs, often taking students to conferences at other schools and supporting their achievements.

“Helen Roseveare was a Christian missionary who built hospitals and medical training centres in the Congo, serving the local people despite a lack of medical resources.

During the Congolese Civil War, she suffered brutality but she returned to the country to help with the rebuilding of the nation and continued to serve the people there until her retirement in 1973.

Her self-sacrificial love for others, resilience and commitment to her Christian faith inspire me to live out my faith in everyday life.”



BELMONT PREP
PUPIL

OLIVIA

YEAR 8

We are very proud of our Head Girl Olivia at Belmont Preparatory School. She has shown exemplary leadership skills and is an inspirational young girl.

She has a friendly, can-do attitude, for example, she has started an all girl's cricket team along with her friends.

“There are so many inspirational women it is hard to choose, but I would have to say, my Mum! She started her own upholstery business from our garden shed. Now she has grown the business and I am always really excited to hear all about it when she comes home from work.”



BELMONT PREP STAFF

MARLENE

CATERING MANAGER

Marlene is Chef Manager at Belmont and has been here exactly 10 years. It is the first school in which she has worked. Prior to this, she always worked as a chef in hotels and restaurants (where she said she was sometimes the only woman).

Her job involves the organisation of the kitchens, the menus, the deliveries and produce. She believes in motivating her staff and encouraging them to persevere.

Her greatest achievement is owning her own house because she said that both of her parents came to this country as immigrants with one suitcase each. To have the career she has and own a property is a great achievement.

“My inspiration is Mary Seacole because for so long soldiers weren’t looked after properly when they were wounded but she actually made sure wounds were dressed and learnt more about medicine so she could look after people. You should always speak up for yourself and show that you are capable of doing a good job.”

Instilling values, inspiring minds
millhill.org.uk

