



Mill Hill



Mill Hill Magazine 2022-23

Front Cover:
Remembrance Day 2022



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OLD MILLHILLIANS CLUB
One of the Most Active
Alumni Clubs in the UK

Welcome to the Mill Hill Magazine

It is once again a great pleasure to introduce the Mill Hill Magazine, which documents the many and varied endeavours, achievements and successes that have characterised the last twelve months. I doubt there are many schools as busy as Mill Hill and I hope that in the pages that follow you will enjoy reading about the highlights of the year, the areas our community holds dear, and glimpse the myriad ways our pupils have exemplified our School Motto – Et Virtutem et Musas – in everything they do.

At this year’s Foundation Day, I welcomed our guest speaker, Old Millhillian, Jamie Hartman (McClure, 1984-1989). Multi-award winner and 2021 Oscar shortlist nominee, Jamie has written, produced, and performed hundreds of cuts in the pop, singer-songwriter, and dance genres, working with a huge range of major label artists and top talent around the world. On the day, he presented awards to pupils in recognition of individual achievements across a range of academic and co-curricular fields, together with several named prizes to recognise outstanding pupil contributions covering a broad range of areas that make up school life.

The 2022-23 examination series was always going to be a huge challenge for our A Level and GCSE cohorts, who operated within a particularly challenging educational landscape. Not only were they impacted by the Pandemic itself, but they faced unprecedented challenges relating to a government drive to return to the 2019 benchmark for examination results. A squeeze on university places and demographic factors relating to a greater number of 18-year-olds competing for places than in previous years were also key factors for the Upper Sixth pupils. It is also worth noting that this cohort of pupils did not sit GCSE examinations in 2021, resulting in their first taste of external examinations being their A Levels.

Our Upper Sixth Leavers are to be congratulated on achieving a very good set of A Level results and on the university places which they secured, across a wide range of disciplines at prestigious institutions in the UK and overseas. Mill Hill returned results that were broadly in line with those of 2019, the government’s target for all schools, although the number of grades awarded in the 2023 series was some 15% higher. Two thirds of all passes were at grades A*-B with more than a third of all results being A*-A. 30 pupils achieved three or more A grades in their examination results. As always, the level of

support offered by our pastoral and academic teams was outstanding, and undoubtedly contributed to this positive set of results.

‘Finding your niche and achieving at the highest level’ is a key aspect of our educational mission and the outcomes for individual pupils illustrate this concept perfectly: Robert E-S (Atkinson) takes up his place at Oxford to read PPE; Gillies Macd (Priestley) takes up his place at Magdalen College, Oxford to read Ancient and Modern History. Danelle T (Burton Bank) secured a professional contract with Borussia Dortmund FC, having turned down several offers to universities in the USA, choosing instead to remain in Europe. Danelle also achieved outstanding A Level results, proving that it is absolutely possible to achieve academic and sporting success at the highest level, with the right attitude, work ethic and support framework; William B (Atkinson) has been taken onto a City apprenticeship with a prestigious finance company, one of only 5 young people selected from several hundred applicants. Nottingham was the most popular Russell Group destination of choice, with others, including Bristol, Leeds, York, Exeter and Birmingham, close behind. Outside of the Russell Group, there were strong acceptances, including to Bath, Reading, Leeds Beckett, Loughborough, Leicester, Sussex and City University, London. Ten pupils have chosen to study abroad, mainly in the US and Canada, one is off to join the Merchant Navy and several more have opted to follow a Gap year. This year group have done themselves proud!

The contribution of Ms Lesley Sharples, Head of University and Post 16 Guidance and former Head of Economics and Director of Sixth Form, cannot be understated, having supported this and countless previous generations of pupils in their applications to university at home and abroad. Ms Sharples left Mill Hill at the end of the Summer Term to relocate to her home city of Liverpool after 23 years of outstanding service to the school. We wish her well.

Our Fifth Form GCSE pupils also did themselves proud. We were very pleased by the overall standards achieved by this cohort compared very favourably to the 2019 results. The year group was 24% larger than that of 2019, making the results even more impressive. Outcomes at grades 7 and above are higher than those in 2019, as was the overall pass rate, with twelve pupils achieving nine or more passes at grades 9-8 and 57.8% of all pupils achieving at least 6 grades at 9-7.

We were delighted that more Mill Hill pupils than ever chose to continue their A Level studies here, and they are joined by a new cohort of pupils from other schools, including 19 from our sister school, Mill Hill International, who join us from both within the UK and overseas.

Our Senior Academic Scholars had a particularly busy year, with pupils across a range of subjects taking part in Olympiads and competitions, notably in the Sciences and Mathematics, with great success. Science Scholars took a leading role during Science Fortnight to foster a passion and love for Science amongst Mill Hill pupils, as well as developing their leadership and communication skills through their work with groups of younger pupils from both Belmont, Grimsdell and St Paul’s primary school; in History, the 1807 History Department Magazine continues to be an outstanding example of a high quality, pupil-driven academic publication which would not look out of place on the shelves of Waterstones! In PSHE, 55 Lower Sixth pupils completed the internationally recognised Mental Health Foundation Youth First Aid Course and in Computer Science and ICT pupils enjoyed significant success in nationally and internationally recognised competitions.

Our Lower School Academic Scholars were no less busy, with some stellar examples of engagement in academic activities; Art Scholars contributed to the Remembrance Day commemorations in November, creating an installation outside Chapel using rubbings of the names of the fallen taken from the Gate of Honour; Mill Hill’s Language Ambassadors worked all year on the creation of resources that enable them to visit St Paul’s School to deliver German, Spanish and French workshops to the Year 5 cohort, a hugely successful initiative which has undoubtedly sparked the younger pupils’ linguistic curiosity, motivating them to continue with the learning of languages, whilst our Music scholars went on tour to Paris, performed in termly scholars’ concerts and took part in the prestigious McClure Concert. Other notable activities centred around the English Department, with visits from theatre production company Drama Impact to help pupils in the Remove develop their understanding of Macbeth, and international best-selling author Sophie Hannah, who supported the Department’s drive to develop our culture of reading. Also visiting the school last year, was Joanne Harris, whose novel Chocolat was adapted into an Oscar-nominated film.

As ever, several members of academic staff left us at the end of the academic year, and we formally recognised their contribution to Mill Hill in our leavers' events and in the valetes in this magazine. There is one member of staff, however, whose contribution to the school deserves special mention.

After 36 years, or 108 terms, Mr Steve Plummer retired from Mill Hill School at the end of what has been an outstanding career in teaching. Mr Plummer is a brilliant Classicist and a gifted sportsman. He is also a warm, caring person and someone who is never afraid to speak their mind or stand up for what he believes in.

The passion many of our Sixth Form pupils have shown towards Classics in its various forms is, in no small measure because of Mr Plummer's innate enthusiasm, vibrant teaching and ability to bring the subject to life, often inspiring them to pursue their own love of Classics at university, with notable Oxbridge successes.

Throughout his time at the school, Mr Plummer had an immense impact on the pupils and staff he has taught, coached or supported, as a teacher and Head of Classics, the Housemaster of Priestley House, Head of Fives, and coach of Cricket and Hockey. He dedicated so much of his time to the pupils, the School, and the Foundation. On a personal note, Mr Plummer was a constant throughout my own time at Mill Hill, and I always appreciated his guidance and wisdom on matters of academia, pastoral care or School life. More generally, Mr Plummer stands out as one of the Mill Hill greats, and we shall miss him, although as we say goodbye to one Plummer, we welcome another, with Mr Plummer's son, Charlie (Weymouth, 2013-2018), joining the Common Room, as the Head of Foundation Fives!

Which provides an excellent segue into the Co-Curricular achievements over the course of last year, with the quality and variety of pupil engagement in our broad-ranging programme nothing short of remarkable. There are too many activities for me to mention in this article, but the following gives a flavour of a year packed

with endeavour, engagement, achievement, and growth.....

Members of the CCF took part in a hugely successful Annual General Inspection and Newcastle Competition, with the Inspecting officer, Captain James Ellen (School, 2002-208), extremely complimentary about the Cadets, particularly those from lower years who had not experienced this type of event before. The Corps of Drums acquitted themselves admirably in numerous parades and displays over the course of the year, including the St George's Day Parade at the Cenotaph and The Lord Mayor's Show; always a credit to themselves, their families and the school, we look forward to seeing them perform in future events.

Margaret's Mind, a musical featuring a huge number of pupils as leads and ensemble and written by our own Director of Theatrical Performance, Mr Gatherer, was a notable highlight in Drama's year. Professional lighting and a genuinely incredible band performing a difficult original score brought the show to life and ensured that the packed houses seen every night of its run were treated to a West End quality performance. Another highlight of the year were the winning performances which led to Grace C (Priestley) (Best Youth Actor) & Sam S (School) (Best Supporting Actor) winning awards at the inaugural London School's Film Festival Competition, held here at Mill Hill School. Mill Hill won the 2022 competition with its production 'Is This What You Wanted?', and we look forward to building upon this success in 2023.

The Video and Broadcasting Production Team had yet another impressive year, providing digital media services across The Foundation, including a 'day in the life' video planned, filmed and edited by Charlie A (Murray) and Fin McL (Weymouth), a highlights movie of the Grimsdell Open Morning activities, a live streaming event of the Belmont Open Morning as well as taking a leading role in staging the London Schools' Film Festival.

In Music, pupils fully engaged in a broad range of musical opportunities. A notable highlight being the Jazz Soiree at the 606 club in March. One other significant musical highlight, the McClure Memorial Trust Concert, brought together members of the Mill Hill Community, past and present, as members of The Foundation Choir, solo performers or as members of the gathered audience; raising funds for the Life Guardians' McClure Scholarship, this prestigious event showcased the very best of the musical life of Mill Hill, including, of course, our outstanding Director of Musical Performance, Kevin Kyle. Kevin left us in May, to take up his new role as

Director of the Aberdeen City Music School after 21 years of outstanding service to the school.

Sport has always played a significant part in the life of the school and 2022/23 was no different. There were numerous individual and team successes, demonstrating the breadth and depth of engagement, at school level but also on the regional, national and international stage.

At senior level, our girls were National U18 Girls Hockey Champions, with team mates Lauren D (Murray) and Chloe D (Murray), Sydney B (McClure) and Julia M (Atkinson) going on to represent the Hampstead and Westminster Talent Academy in the England Hockey Talent Academy Competition held in Nottingham last August where they performed very creditably with a top 6 finish against 24 other academies from across the country. Noah E (Winfield) was selected to train with the men's Chilean Rugby World Cup Training Squad whilst Danelle T (Burton Bank) become the first Asian female footballer to sign for German football club, Borussia Dortmund. Renee R (Priestley) represented Great Britain at the European U20 Championships in Jerusalem, claiming a silver medal in 100m. Indeed, the future looks bright for our athletes, with our junior athletes progressing to the ISA National Finals in Birmingham, where they brought home 2 golds, 4 silvers, and 4 bronzes. Olympic hopeful James C (School) achieved multiple major accolades in Sailing, most recently winning the National Championships in Scotland in the 200 sailing class, and as I write James is competing at the World Sailing Championships. In Cricket, Riva P (McClure) was selected to represent Middlesex Women's 1st XI and Hannah T-Y (Atkinson) their U18 Team, whilst Andre A (Cedars) played for the Arsenal Youth squad in the Elite Algarve Cup, building upon his success with the Arsenal U16s. Cristian R (Cedars), Max V (Atkinson) and Harris MacL (Cedars) played for their respective age groups in the Ice Hockey England U14 and U15 Teams, Rui Z (Murray) represented Great Britain in the European Cadet Circuit Competition in Budapest, Malaika O (Murray) won a Gold Medal in the London Regional Swimming Championships and Kim S (Murray) was selected to represent the Independent Schools Tennis Association Team, at Wimbledon. Martina B (Cedars) won the Gold Medal in the Barnet Cross Country Championships and was also selected to be part of the Hampstead and Westminster Hockey Talent Academy, whilst Sophia B-O (School) secured her place in the U15 London Pulse Netball Academy. Alex C (Murray), Eoin F (McClure) and Oliver B (Winfield) played for the Saracens Academy in their respective age groups, whilst Alec M (School), Joseph C (Weymouth), Orhan K

(Murray), Ruben A (Atkinson) and Jonah K (Cedars) were all selected for the London Irish Academy. The list goes on!

Our Senior Basketball Team were winners of the U18 London School League, the U18 Rugby 7's Team ran out winners of the Gordon's Rugby Competition and the U16 Team won the Middlesex County Cup. The 1st Golf Team reached the National ISGA Plate finals and came 2nd, with Kyle R (McClure) winning the individual competition. The U14B Girls Netball Team were the only unbeaten Netball Team over the season, the U15A Girls Hockey Team won the Tier 2 County Competition, the U14 Rugby 7s Team were the London Oratory Cup Winners and the U14A Boys Football Team were unbeaten. There is no doubt that 2022/23 was a golden season for sport.

The icing on the sporting cake came in the form of a formal partnership being announced between the Saracens Group and the Mill Hill Education Group (the new brand name for The Mill Hill School Foundation) which will provide a clear pathway to develop talented young Rugby players within the school, with aspirations to play for the Saracens Men's team. Stage two will be to maximise opportunities for pathways for female athletes who can progress into the Saracens Women's Rugby setup and Saracens Mavericks Netball squads.

I often say that from the day our pupils join Mill Hill, we prepare them to leave, developing the soft skills they need to succeed in their chosen path in life. Pupil Voice is a fundamental part of this preparation and there is no doubt in my mind that pupils took full advantage of the opportunity to 'make a difference' and to improve school life for those around them in 2022-23. The School Council met regularly to raise any issues they may have had in school, to make valuable suggestions for improvement and to provide feedback on life at Mill Hill. The Food Council worked closely with catering staff to give feedback on pupil experiences of the catering offer, always front and centre of every pupil's mind, and the Boarders' Council was hugely productive under the expert guidance of Mr Meakin, the newly appointed Assistant Head (Boarding).

Leadership activities also play an important part in a pupil's preparation for life beyond Mill Hill, and the school provided endless opportunities for pupils to develop their skills on their journey through The Foundation. Last year was no different! Whether through the School's Monitor and Prefect structure, taking on roles of responsibility in areas of Co-Curricular activity, being members of numerous groups and societies, including Community Action, Charity

Committee, Eco Society, or engaging in the plethora of other opportunities to lead, our pupils stepped up to the plate, developing those essential 'soft skills' necessary for life beyond school. A cornerstone of a Mill Hill education!

The symbolic release of the doves as the culmination to the annual Upper Sixth Leavers' Valedictory celebrations was particularly moving this year as I, too, was invited to release a dove in anticipation of my semi-retirement in December! As I tell the pupils and their parents each year, like the doves, there is a strong homing instinct which brings many of our pupils back to Mill Hill events time and time again, due to the enduring connections and friendships forged during their time at the school. What has always struck me most at school and Old Millhillian gatherings, formal or informal, has been the diversity of talents, interests, and ages but also the strong sense of unity, of belonging and of shared values and a willingness to give back; a thread which links Millhillians through the generations.

It has to be said that I am immensely proud of our pupils, current and past, and all that they achieve; throughout my career, I have stuck firmly to my belief that education is about high aspirations, breadth and balance, personal development, and adopting a genuinely holistic approach which supports our pupils through the metaphorical 'Adolescent Tunnel', ready to take their place in the world. These sentiments are echoed by William Winfield in his Headmaster's report in the 1998-1999 School Magazine, where he writes "I believe you share my view that exam results alone are not the means by which we should judge the quality of education..... Please do not assess the quality of any school on the basis of crude statistics. If boys and girls were to come to Mill Hill to merely score A grades, then why not stay at home and take a distance-learning course via the internet? At Mill Hill, we prepare your children for university and for a professional career beyond. But we also want to give them qualities and values which will stand them in good stead throughout their lives: leadership, independence, responsibility, charity of thinking, moral and spiritual strength of purpose, awareness of others, service to society; qualities or values which all appear in the Aims and Objectives of this Foundation."

Indeed, our pupils are the future leaders and each of them is, in their own unique way, contributing to the Mill Hill legacy. Our job is to nurture and support them along their journey and our message to them throughout has been, and will continue to be, a simple one: to set their bar high; let moral integrity and strong values be their guide; face life's challenges with resilience and fortitude; share their journey and connect with others and, above all, be kind, open hearted and inclusive.

Sir John McClure would have been the first to insist that what we refer to now as his legacy depended upon the support, efforts and inspiration of those around him. Looking back on my time at the school, it is hard to believe just how far we have come in the past 20 years, with the commitment, energy and engagement of pupils, staff, parents, governors, Old Millhillians and others central to individual pupil, whole school, and Foundation, success. The support of my family has also been fundamental.

What has driven me on all these years, and I suspect many other Heads before me, has been a profound love for this remarkable school which generations have done so much to develop, and whose legacy I am determined to continue in my new role in the Development Office. Having been the recipient of such unstinting support throughout my time at Mill Hill, it is now my time to give back, as I seek to raise much needed funds for bursaries and buildings with the goal of benefiting current and future generations of Millhillians.

And so, as we look to a bright future for 2023 and beyond, having achieved so much within Mill Hill School and across the Foundation in recent years, and with many exciting and ambitious plans in the offing, I am more convinced than ever that we are on a path to continued success and that the best is yet to come. That I have been, and will continue to be, part of this wonderful journey is both a joy and a privilege and will remain with me as the undisputed highlight of my forty years in education.

Et Virtutem Et Musas.

Mrs Jane Sanchez
Head, Mill Hill School



Academic Overview: A Year of Learning, Growth and Achievement

The academic year 2022-23 has been both exciting and rewarding. Capitalising on the opportunity to have a school year untarnished by the pandemic and its aftermath, the academic team at Mill Hill has been able to promote its new vision, with incredibly satisfying results.

This has been a year with teaching and learning at its heart. Pupils have been ready to learn and challenged by 'no hands up' questioning, encouraging them to be active learners in the classroom. They have developed their metacognitive skills through structured and targeted feedback and a focus on study and revision skills that they have very recently been able to put to good use in their summer work programmes. Furthermore they have been exposed to high levels of expectation in the classroom and challenged to aspire to the very highest outcomes, irrespective of their starting points.

The Common Room has dedicated considerable time to promoting pupil progress through a commitment to personal development. Teachers have engaged in regular learning walks in and beyond their departments and matched their observations to pupil voice and book study, to better understand how to logically structure learning and maximise progress. Significant thought has been devoted to reflecting on personalising learning to individual pupil needs. This has been allied with timely, relevant and accurate assessment to ensure each and every pupil knows how to improve.

Most excitingly, our teachers have embraced the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues at Belmont, Mill Hill Prep with the shared aim of enhancing the knowledge-rich curriculum at Key Stage 3. Sharing best practice and curriculum planning across both schools bodes well for the future learning pathways of all our pupils.

And there is more to come. Mill Hill has embraced the potential of digital learning and AI in the classroom and in how pupils access learning and this will be further explored and nurtured in the year ahead.

As we look to an exciting future, our commitment is to build on these strong established foundations, to be even more rigorous in the application of these key principles, and to seize the myriad opportunities presented by our commitment to pedagogically sound classroom practice to ensure that every single child is motivated and dares to succeed at their highest level. ■

by
Mr Jonathan Huddleston
Deputy Head (Academic)

“ Mill Hill has embraced the potential of digital learning and AI in the classroom and in how pupils access learning and this will be further explored and nurtured in the year ahead.”



ENRICHMENT OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Our pupils' learning continues beyond the classroom. This could be hearing from inspirational figures such as bestselling author Sophie Hannah, receiving prestigious academic awards or embarking on trips.



Lower Sixth Form pupils studying A Level Politics were invited by the Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Civil Service Simon Case to visit 10 Downing Street. They were given a tour of the historic building and spoke with Simon to find out more about his role and life in the civil service.



International bestselling author Sophie Hannah spoke to our pupils about her life as an author.



Sarachi E (Winfield) received a Gold Award in the British Physics Olympiad Intermediate Physics Challenge. This is a massive achievement, almost 6000 pupils participated in the challenge with only 16% achieving a Gold Award.

Examination Success

Mill Hill Pupils are once again able to celebrate a fine set of results in the summer examinations of 2023.

These days it seems the learning journey is never straightforward, and this year's cohort were no different. The pandemic had seriously impacted the Fifth Form's first year and had completely ruled out the Upper Sixth's GCSE Year. On top of this was the decision to 'reset' grade boundaries to 2019 with very little mitigation. This has meant some 73,000 fewer top grades at A Level and some 300,000 fewer at GCSE were awarded this year when compared to 2022. It is therefore testament to our pupils' resilience and vitality that they have overcome such adversity and done so well.

First to receive results were our Upper Sixth pupils on a blustery day in mid-August. They did not let themselves down, with our A* (10.7%) and A-A* (37.3%) very much in line with the 2019 cohort, and the overall A*-B percentage higher at 66.7%. 30 pupils achieved at least 3 A or A* grades in their results, a fine example of the all-round excellence of our pupils.

With the gradual return to normality, it has been truly wonderful to witness the ambition of our pupils in terms of course choices and destinations. Once again we are able to celebrate Oxbridge success alongside a renewed passion and daring for overseas study. A staggering nine intrepid pupils will this year be embarking on studies

in North American universities with a further pupil studying fashion in Paris. In total almost half of all pupils will be reading subjects at Russell Group universities while others have chosen alternative career-based routes, such as successfully securing prestigious apprenticeships with City firms or careers in the Merchant Navy. Whatever their destination we wish all our 'new' Old Millhillians engaging and happy next steps and look forward to celebrating their future successes.

The following week, our wonderful Fifth Form were able to finally receive their reward for their efforts over the last two years. We are delighted to report 14.2% of entries were awarded the coveted 9 grade and over a third received an 8 or 9, the equivalent of the old A*. Our 9-7 percentage comfortably exceeded the 2019 results with 57.8% of all entries receiving these grades. We look forward to welcoming almost all of our pupils back into the Mill Hill Sixth Form for 2023-24 and to those whose learning journeys lie elsewhere, we wish them a wonderful future and thank them for their many contributions to the School. ■

by
Mr Jonathan Huddleston
Acting Deputy Head (Academic)

Aberdeen **Bath** Birmingham **Birmingham City** Bristol **Brunel** Cardiff **City, University of London** Durham **East London** Edinburgh **Essex** Exeter **Heriot - Watt** King's College London **Kingston** Lancaster **Leeds** Leeds Beckett **Leicester** Liverpool **Liverpool Hope** Loughborough **Manchester** Manchester Metropolitan **Newcastle** Nottingham **Nottingham Trent** Oxford **Oxford Brookes** Point Blank Music School **Portsmouth** Queen Mary **Reading** Royal Holloway **Sheffield** Southampton **St. Andrews** Surrey **Sussex** UCFB **UCL** University of the Arts London **Warwick** Writtle University College **York**





Pastoral Overview: The Pillars of Mill Hill School

Central to our Pastoral Programme is the acronym PILLAR, we try to ensure that the pupils live these values and are reminded of them via Chapel Services, House Assemblies, PSHE lessons and within their day to day life at the School.

PRIDE...

is never more evident than when pupils are representing their School or House. When the First XI Hockey Girls achieved National Success in the Hockey finals in Nottingham this year, the sense of camaraderie and pride was second to none within the whole squad.

INTEGRITY...

is shown on a day to day basis by pupils at Mill Hill School, defined as the ability to hold oneself accountable, it is a vital characteristic in succeeding at the highest level possible.

LEARNING...

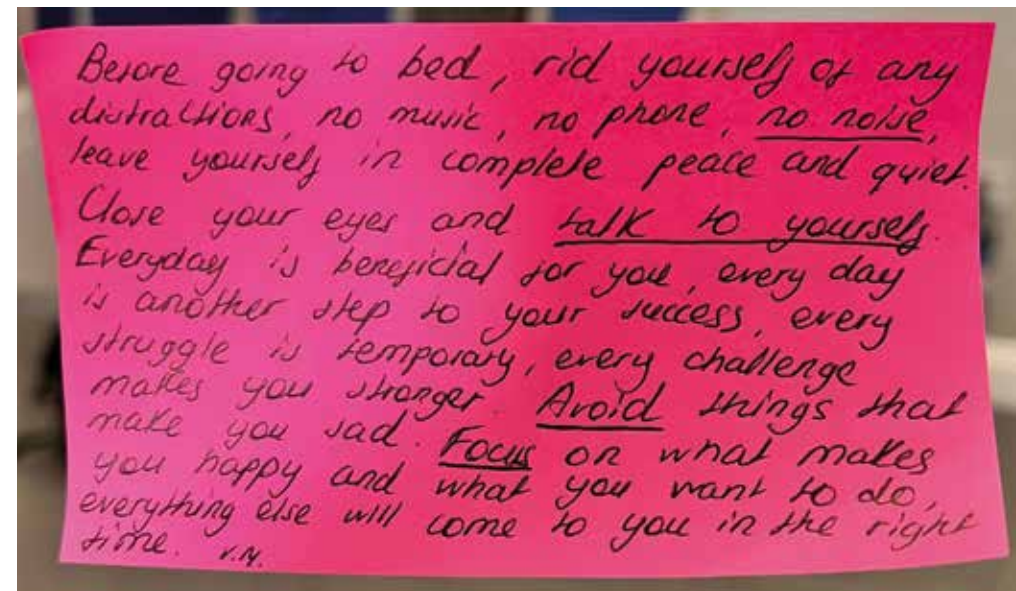
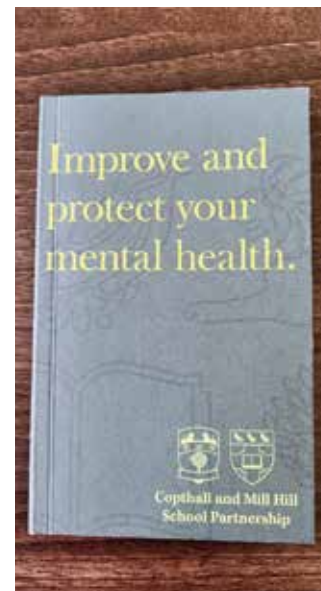
is central to all we do at Mill Hill School, both inside the classroom and out, all pupils should be able to reflect on a busy year and to set challenging goals for the next academic year.

LEADERSHIP...

has been ably demonstrated throughout the year by our Senior and Boarding Monitors, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them and to wish them all the best for their future studies. They have been, of course, supported by the wider School Staff and Upper Sixth as a whole who have provided superb role models for younger pupils.

ACHIEVEMENT...

will not only be celebrated at Results Day but all through the year. While examination results give an external measure, it is always important to ensure that your personal progress is such that you can reflect on personal achievement.



RESPECT...

for both yourself and others is a fundamental value that we strive to ensure is demonstrated by all members of our School community.

I look forward to seeing our pupils and staff continue to demonstrate these values as we move into the new academic year. ■

by

Mr James Dickin
Deputy Head (Pastoral)



“ Our Upper Sixth Form pupils are moving onto the next exciting chapter of their lives with many successes, experiences and accomplishments behind them. I wish them all the best of luck and hope they stay in touch.”

Farewell to the Class of 2023!

Our Upper Sixth Form pupils enjoyed a variety of events to celebrate their time with us.



In May, we said farewell to our Upper Sixth pupils as they embarked on study leave to prepare for their A Level examinations.

On Thursday 11 May, the Sixth Form Team organised a fun day for the pupils. It involved a final assembly in the Theatre where pupils watched a video montage of their Leavers' photos. The photos were interspersed with farewell poems, which created an emotional atmosphere. The assembly culminated with the pupils receiving their Leavers' hoodies. A barbecue at the Cricket Pavilion followed this, where pupils were treated to delicious food, listened to music, played games and enjoyed bouncy castles!

On Friday 12 May, the Upper Sixth Valedictory Service and Celebration took place. The day started in the Chapel, where pupils and staff gathered for a final service. The service was led by Mr Kyle (former Director of Musical Performance); a particularly emotional day for him as this was his last Valedictory Service before

leaving Mill Hill. The Service included readings from the Senior Monitors and Monitors and uplifting singing, made more poignant by the School Choir's accompaniment. Finally, the Housemasters and Housemistresses read out the Leavers' names as part of the Valediction which brought an emotional close to proceedings.

The pupils were then joined by their parents and walked to the Sports Hall for the final Valedictory Celebration. The event started with a quote from 'Little Gidding' by T.S. Elliot, followed by the 'Welcome' from Mrs Sanchez (Head). The teachers said farewell to the pupils via a video montage to the words of 'If' by Rudyard Kipling. Finally, Mr Cambridge (Teacher of Religious Studies) and Mrs McKay (Head of Psychology and Sixth Form Coordinator) read 'Desiderata' by May Ehrman. The readings were extremely powerful, and the pupils appreciated the advice they offered.

Next, Yassin A Z (Priestley) sang a powerful rendition of 'Stars' from Les Misérables by

Claude-Michel Schönberg and Alain Boubilil. The Senior Monitors gave their final speeches about their time in The Foundation and the memories they have created.

After the Celebration, pupils and parents made their way up to Top Terrace for the symbolic release of the doves and a final farewell from Mrs Sanchez. The leavers sang 'Toreador's Song' by Bizet and were accompanied by international opera singer Rodney Earl Clarke and Mr Kyle. The pupils and parents then enjoyed the rest of the afternoon, with further refreshments and a delicious buffet lunch, as the pupils gathered farewell comments in their Leavers' yearbooks. Prior to the celebrations the pupils' yearbooks had been filled with pictures and quotes of their choice to encapsulate their time at the School.

The day was a perfect chance to reflect on their journey across our schools and celebrate their achievements. Our Upper

Sixth Form pupils are moving onto the next exciting chapter of their lives with many successes, experiences and accomplishments behind them. I wish them all the best of luck and hope they stay in touch. ■

by

Mr John Barron
Assistant Head (Sixth Form)





Building Partnerships for Positive Mental Health

We introduced a Mental Health and Wellbeing Summit with Copthall School, one of our partner state schools, to support the wellbeing of pupils, parents and staff across both Schools.

At Mill Hill School we pride ourselves on offering outstanding Pastoral Care and believe that pupils can only achieve their very best when their wellbeing is placed at the heart of all that we do. Mill Hill School's focus on teaching pupils to maintain a healthy, balanced and positive lifestyle is evident throughout our curriculum and in the day-to-day care we provide pupils.

The importance of wellbeing and good mental health is something one of our partner schools, Copthall School, a local secondary state school for girls, also believes in. Together we created a two week long programme for pupils, staff and parents that focused on supporting wellbeing across both Schools. Pupils received workshops, lectures and visits from experts in their fields on a wide range of topics linked to maintaining good mental health. The Summit involved 16 guest speakers, reached over 1600 pupils and 300 staff, and resulted in 75 Lower Sixth Form pupils achieving their Mental Health First Aid Certificate.

The Summit opened with the entire school meeting with either Iain Mahoney or The Well HQ. Iain presented to each year group about the dangers of addiction. He used his personal experiences of substance abuse and the challenges he faced on his subsequent road to recovery to teach pupils how poor choices can easily become habitual without awareness. Iain finished the session by talking about recovering from adversity and returning to a positive path. One Fifth Form pupil said: "It was a great talk... having people present their first-hand experiences really gets the message across. It was extremely heartfelt."

The Well HQ is an organisation which equips women with information about their bodies to help make their lives fitter, healthier and happier. The Well HQ and Dr Emma Ross delivered an insightful session named 'Sport in her Shoes' to Belmont, Mill Hill Prep, Mill Hill School and Copthall School pupils. Pupils learnt how to work with their bodies, especially their menstrual cycle, and not against them to

enhance performance on the sports field and in day-to-day life. The Well HQ also delivered sessions to staff which focused on their wellbeing and professional development. Dr Ross taught staff how to manage the menopause, look after sports injuries and support girls to excel in sport.

Feedback from pupils across all year groups was overwhelmingly positive. One pupil said: "Just wow and thank you for the opportunity". A Remove pupil told us that: "the day was a great opportunity to learn about how to look after our health and wellbeing and think about how to get the best out of our performances on the sports field". An Upper Sixth pupil also summed the event up nicely: "I had never really thought about these aspects of my life in such a way, it was a great presentation for us all to be involved in."

Our Remove pupils welcomed Poetry Slam Champion and motivational speaker Zohab Zee Khan. Through electrifying performances of his poetry in The Chapel, Zohab delivered messages about making

positive decisions, accepting oneself and never giving up. One pupil said that they: "really enjoyed his stories and how he kept trying to be the best at something he really loved doing."

The Fourth Form met with Nathan from The Self Esteem Team. Nathan spoke about his experience as a teenager of being bullied and subsequently becoming a bully. His anecdotes highlighted how humans often pass on negative feelings to one another when our self-esteem is low. He gave advice about how to get to know yourself so you can embrace your interests and be proud of who you are. In turn, this builds your confidence and promotes better relationships so that you do not need to rely on validation from others. A Fourth Form pupil commented that: "Nathan's talk was really interesting and helped solidify how important it is to view yourself with respect and in a healthy way."

Alongside lectures and seminars, we also offered wellbeing sessions to pupils and staff which focused on the importance of sleep, diet and physical activity. Activities such as massages, fitness classes, Tai Chi lessons and smoothie making bikes (a particular crowd pleaser!) reminded everybody of the need to maintain balance in their lives.

Parents were able to access a variety of online webinars utilising our subscriptions to 'Let's All Talk Mental Health' and Elevate study skills sessions. We were delighted to host Abi Foster from Elent who presented a webinar on student loans for parents. The session helped parents to navigate through the process from application to post university payment options. Abi is the founder of Elent Financial Education and has created a programme of workshops and presentations to support young people and their families at what can be a stressful time. Abi has a passion for education and a wealth of knowledge having worked in high-profile organisations and we look forward to continuing to work with her.

The Summit also benefited staff who participated in various events to enhance their wellbeing. These included art therapy classes, self-care seminars and professional development sessions on topics such as neurodiversity and managing mental illness in schools.

We were thrilled to welcome our keynote speakers Natasha Devon and Dr Pooky Knightsmith. Natasha spoke about the various issues facing young people today and how educators can support them through these challenges. Dr Knightsmith

gave an inspiring talk about how to foster a sense of belonging in the school community and make sure every pupil feels "heard, held, healed and proud to belong." We are excited to invite her back to hear more about improving attendance and participation.

Whilst it was a privilege for us to hear and learn from experts, perhaps the most important element of the Summit was that it afforded our pupils, staff and parents the opportunity to sit alongside each other and learn from one another's lived experiences, something we are keen to promote especially in the post pandemic era.

We believe that the Mental Health and Wellbeing Summit: Copthall School X Mill Hill School succeeded in equipping pupils and staff with essential information and techniques to look after their wellbeing now and in the future.

MENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION FIRST AID COURSE

Alongside the Summit, 55 Mill Hill School Lower Sixth Form pupils completed the Mental Health Foundation First Aid (MHFA) course. To date this is the largest cohort to undertake the training for the internationally recognised course. We are proud to see so many of our young people investing in ways to support themselves and one another.

The Mental Health First Aid course was developed to empower people to spot signs of mental ill health and offer first aid support. By improving mental health skills, confidence and access to support, the training assists in reducing stigma, increasing wellbeing and encouraging people to thrive. The pupils are now looking at several initiatives that they can deliver to support our entire school community.

The Lower Sixth pupils have seen this as an opportunity to launch a new group called 'Look Up' which focuses on mental health and is led by Juliette M (Winfield) and Rosie P (Cedars). As a School, we see the value of such courses and pupil led initiatives. They are a fantastic way to develop the language around mental health and an opportunity for us all to reflect on our own wellbeing. We look forward to seeing all that this group of pupils will achieve over the coming years and the inspiration they will be to others. ■

by

Mrs Charlotte Dickin

Head of PSHE

Ms Jade Boyle

Assistant Head

(Pupil Development and Wellbeing)

“ We believe that the Mental Health and Wellbeing Summit: Copthall School X Mill Hill School succeeded in equipping pupils and staff with essential information and techniques to look after their wellbeing now and in the future.”





Chapel Life

The Mill Hill Chapel plays a central role in School Life, as well as being the most instantly recognisable and iconic building on the School site.

The Chapel is a place for thought, reflection, support, and self-discovery for the whole school community. All pupils and staff of all faiths or none are welcomed in the Chapel where the atmosphere is one of mutual respect and tolerance. Chapel Services are formal occasions led by the School Chaplain along with contributions from our pupils and staff. The School community enjoys vibrant hymnal singing and we are fortunate to be able to listen to Chapel Strings, Chapel Brass and the Chapel Choir during our weekly Chapel Services. The hope is that our Chapel Services will add value, life, and hope to our community in a range of ways which underpins our school aims and ethos.

Throughout the year, there were some notable annual services including celebrating our Foundation Day, Act of Remembrance, Nine Lessons and Carols, Summer Evensong and the Sixth Form Valedictory Service. All these events had a common thread of gratitude, hope, and the love for one another, which stems our existence as a foundation which aspires to build values for life.

Also this year, we have had some inspiring Chapel Services led by the members of Mill Hill Community. Our staff and pupils delivered vibrant, thought-provoking and educative Chapel Services. We celebrated the range of cultures represented at Mill Hill with Services reflecting on Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Diwali, Ramzan, Christmas and Advent, Chinese New Year and Navruz. These services symbolise our diversity with the Chapel being instrumental for bringing the heart of faith and values together whilst helping to build healthy and supportive relationships at Mill Hill.

As a school, we are very proud of our Pillar Values, and this year some of our Chapel Services sign-posted our thoughts and reflections about the values which define our existence as a school community. We also held Chapel Services to help educate, remind and act on some of the key current global issues including Anti-Bullying, Mental Health Awareness, Environment Conservation, and Charities. These services played a vital role in the school year with each having a clear, active plan

for the community to undertake in their daily lives. There were many other popular occasions for us to celebrate and reflect: pondering on the joy of reading during World Book Day; the spirit of discovery during Science Week; the flair for languages throughout Languages Week; the need for equality and equity on International Women's Day; and the powerful, moving and sad memories of the Holocaust during Holocaust Memorial Day.

Communities thrive in a calm, supportive, and listening environment and the Mill Hill Chapel has embodied these priorities in its fullest this year. Our hope and prayers are for this community and the Chapel to be a beacon of light and love for everyone around us. ■

by

Mr Victor Selvaraj
Transition, Induction
and Mentoring Coordinator





Lights, Camera, Competition!

This year, the inaugural London Schools' Film Competition took place at Mill Hill School.

The London Schools' Film Competition (LSFC) was launched by Mill Hill School in March 2022 to provide a fair and balanced filmmaking competition. Too many competitions are restrictive regarding narrative, mandatory product placement and other factors. Therefore, the LSFC was established to give schools a platform to demonstrate their skills in the best light. The competition was fierce, and all entries were strong contenders for the best short film.

Entry in the first year was by invitation only, and we had 15 entries with seven final submissions. The competing schools were Mill Hill School, Mill Hill International, Hitchin Boys' School, King Alfred School, Cleeve Park School, Harris Science Academy of East London and The Jewish Free School (JFS).

Head of Video Production, Samuel S (School), wrote, produced and acted in our entry. Starring alongside Samuel were Grace C (Priestly), Mr Alexander Gatherer (Director of Theatrical Performance) and Ms Pam Wright (Teacher of Drama). Making up Samuel's principal film crew was Noah K (McClure), who directed; Sammy M (Weymouth), who edited and worked as director of photography; Bo F (Priestley), who

headed production design; Max M (McClure) as principal cameraman and Blake M (Murray) as first assistant director.

The competition closed to entries in December, and a judging panel of industry experts was formed. Vincent Woods was one of the judges. He is a veteran actor, writer and director and set up London North Studios in Mill Hill. Joining Vincent was Paul Raschid, a film director specialising in supernatural and interactive films and George Blagden, an established actor who has starred in Versailles and Vikings, amongst numerous other roles.

The awards evening took place on Friday 24 March. This was the inaugural year of the competition and, much could have gone wrong, but I am delighted to report that the evening went without a hitch! After a welcome reception, we were treated to a gala dinner, expertly provided by our fantastic in-house Catering Team and former Head Chef David Pomeroy. The dessert bar was particularly successful amongst pupils and the perfect way to calm all the teenage nerves. With our stomachs fed, we assembled in the Patrick Troughton Theatre to watch the submitted films. Of the entire viewing time, 45% was taken up with Mill Hill School's entry. At the end of the night, Mill Hill School

came away with four awards which are listed below.

- > Best Screenplay: Samuel S (School)
- > Best Youth Actor: Grace C (Priestley)
- > Best Supporting Actor: Samuel S (School)
- > Best Overall Short Film: Mill Hill School

The judges were incredibly impressed with all the entries, but Samuel and Grace's acting was given special praise. Looking back on the journey of creating our short film, which first started late last academic year with Samuel's basic script, the time has flown by so quickly. It took over 56 hours to film (all undertaken during evenings and weekends) and more than 40 hours to edit. I am so proud of what our pupils have achieved and the Mill Hill community should rightly celebrate our win! ■

by

Mr Lee Minett

Head of ICT and Computer Science
and Foundation Digital Media Coordinator



“ Mill Hill School's passion for filmmaking is so wonderful, and the judges were delighted to be involved in such a wonderful competition.”

PAUL RASCHID,
COMPETITION JUDGE

“ It was a lovely evening, and I was delighted to be a part of it. Congratulations on arranging such a fantastic event – it was a real tour de force! Everyone at Mill Hill International is already looking forward to next year's competition.”

MS BELLOTTI,
HEAD, MILL HILL INTERNATIONAL

“ Thank you so much for putting on such an amazing event. We were thrilled with the awards won by King Alfred School, but the event itself was magnificent. Our pupils really enjoyed the whole evening, and we're very keen to participate in the future.”

MS JEMIL,
KING ALFRED SCHOOL



Highlights from Science Fortnight

We celebrated Science across The Foundation with various events in classrooms, labs and beyond to inspire young minds.

A group of duckling eggs arrived on Monday morning, and by Tuesday evening we had welcomed a few new fluffy members of the Science Department! Before the weekend, all 10 of the ducklings had made their entrance. The ducklings enchanted pupils and staff, and their sweet peeping was a day brightener for everyone. One set of ducklings visited my home for the weekend, where they swam in a bathtub which thoroughly amused my grandson, whilst the other set kept Miss Lilley (Assistant Housemistress, Ridgeway) and pupils in Ridgeway House company. At the end of Science Fortnight, Mrs Granger (former Mill Hill School Librarian) adopted two of the ducklings to add greater variety to her duck flock at her new home. The rest of the ducklings returned to the farm they arrived from. Throughout the two weeks, Year Five pupils from Belmont, Mill Hill Prep, St Paul's School, a local state school and Keble Prep, visited Mill Hill School. Pupils were divided into groups and enjoyed Biology, Chemistry, and Physics sessions.

In Chemistry, pupils participated in a colour extravaganza. With the help of Lower Sixth Form volunteers, they performed flame tests and marvelled at the bright colours produced by seemingly 'normal' metals. Pupils also made lava lamps, and it was

great to see them rejoice as the coloured bubbles bounced in their test tubes. Finally, one of our Lower Sixth Form Chemistry and Biology Scholars, Ishani S (School), regaled each group with a rainbow fizz demonstration. Ishani said the pupils: "loved the coloured bubbles produced and marvelled at how they rose to the top of the biuret tube."

In Physics, pupils completed a series of tasks to break out of an escape room. The tasks involved using optics and coloured filters to reveal the properties of colours and light. Once they had escaped, the pupils were awarded a very special Mill Hill School Science Week pencil. Teachers of Astronomy helped pupils create a solar system using balloons representing planets. Seeing the younger pupils learn about different planets' sizes and unique characteristics was fantastic.

In Biology, pupils were asked to join the astronaut testing group to determine whether astronauts were healthy enough to enter space. Pupils identified astronauts with diabetes by testing for glucose in their 'urine' using dipsticks. To determine which astronauts were suffering from nephrotic syndrome, pupils investigated their protein using the 'Biuret test'. Finally, a dipstick test for red blood cells was carried out.

A positive test identified those astronauts suffering from glomerulonephritis.

Sadly, all but one of our astronauts proved too unhealthy for the journey into space. We will continue to search for viable space travellers in the future! According to Lower Sixth Form Biologist Lara Z (Macgregor), the experience "gave pupils an insight into how Biology works and hopefully inspired them to become Biologists themselves!"

Year 6 Belmontians also visited us to celebrate Women in Science. Rotating through five activities, they celebrated famous women Scientists. Mr McKenzie (Teacher of Physics) organised a bridge construction project. The project highlighted the innovative engineering approach created by Sarah Guppy, who designed one of the world's first suspension bridges called the Clifton Suspension Bridge. At another station, pupils decoded the names of famous Women Scientists using word puzzles.

Pupils also celebrated the work of Alice Ball, who discovered how to make an oil molecule 'water soluble', meaning it could mix with water. She did this by combining the oil with certain alcohols, which became known as the 'Ball Method'. In the Chemistry Department we celebrated Ball's work by

making lava lamps with pupils. In Physics, pupils experimented with optics, including colour filters, to reveal the hidden world of colours, the nature of light. They also learnt that this type of research initially led to many medical, telecommunication advancements and weather forecast applications.

Miss Batsford (Teacher of Biology) led pupils through the work of Rosalind Franklin. They discussed the genetic material held within each nucleus. Their theoretical knowledge was put into practice when pupils investigated their own cheeks, where nucleus cells are prominent, using a light microscope. Pupils also created DNA models from sweets using the structural details Rosalind Franklin first made clear using X-ray technology in the 1950s.

Chemistry Teachers and Sixth Form pupils visited the Grimsdell, Mill Hill Pre Prep's Reception Class. The youngest pupils enjoyed a rainbow fizz demonstration and used lemon juice and washing soda to change the colours of vegetable-dyed filter paper. These were then used to create beautifully coloured paper Easter bunnies. The Grimsdell Year 2 pupils also visited the Physics Department where, under close supervision, they carefully followed a series of instructions to convert a myriad of electrical components into a robotic bug!

At Mill Hill School, Lower School Science and Academic Scholars were invited to a Zoom discussion with Phillip Broadwith, Business Editor for Chemistry World Magazine. Mr Broadwith outlined his unusual career from chemistry into journalism with humour and insight; pupils found this broad application of a science degree very interesting.

The Lower Sixth Biologists attended a series of interactive lectures delivered by renowned scientists and communicators. These were coupled with a session offering tips for examination success. Our pupils found the day inspiring and motivating. Kayra L (Burton Bank) described it as an "outstanding day!"

The Medical Society members attended the Old Millhillian Medical Professions Event where they were treated to a lecture by an American physician on his research into using stem cells for personalised medicine. Pupils were amazed at the fast pace of medical research and the evening left them even more eager to achieve their goal of completing a medical degree. Lower Sixth Form Medical Society member Hirruithy K (Murray) reported that it "was a nice way to network with people experienced in the medical field". A fellow aspiring medical student, Asal S (Ridgeway) reported "It gave me further insight into the field of medicine and strengthened my determination and commitment to study medicine."

Dr Dusza (Head of Physics) inspired Mill Hill School pupils by discussing his love of Quantum Physics during all four Chapel Services throughout the week. My cat, Amy, proved to be the star of the show as she emerged unscathed from the 'sealed' box in a dramatic recreation of Schrödinger's cat experiment, leaving everyone both amused and relieved. The Fortnight ended with a 'Biology Bakes' competition; Miss Lilley won with her anatomical cookies of the heart, brain, colon, liver and other organs.

Overall, Science Fortnight was a massive success, and it was wonderful to see pupils from our different schools come together for such engaging and informative sessions. ■

by

Dr Kate Damberg
Head of Sciences and Biology

“ I am always thrilled to combine medical knowledge from my past career as a paediatrician with common tests for the presence of biological molecules ... It is a perfect link between Biology and medicine for young minds!”

DR KATE DAMBERG,
HEAD OF SCIENCE AND BIOLOGY



The McClure Memorial Trust Concert

A night to remember.

On Thursday 16 March 2023, The McClure Memorial Trust Concert took place. It brought together the choirs from Mill Hill School and Belmont, Mill Hill Prep, the Parents and Old Millhillians Choral Society and The Foundation Staff Singers. The orchestra was made up of exceptional players from the Glyndebourne Tour Orchestra and conducted by the former principal conductor of the Glyndebourne Tour, Old Millhillian (OM) Ben Glassberg (McClure, 2007-12). Simply put, it was a historical evening, and the performances were spectacular.

The occasion started with a bang, as Ethan Lieber's (McClure, 2016-2020) fanfare, performed by our guest musicians, set the tone for the night. The audience was then treated to a spellbinding performance of the 'Elgar Cello Concerto', featuring our OM soloist and BBC Young Musician String Finalist Ellen Baumring-Gledhill (Murray, 2015-2020). The combined performance of our soloists and orchestra, crafted by Ben Glassberg, delivered an unforgettable rendition of a famous cello work. Next, the combined choirs sang a touching hymn written by Sir John McClure himself during his time as Headmaster of Mill Hill School.

After an interval, all 175 singers, our guest orchestra and four professional soloists, led by Ben Glassberg, performed a unique and exciting rendition of Handel's 'Messiah'. The excitement among all the performers was clear and they delivered an unforgettable and magical rendition of the work.

The performance concluded with a sensational encore of 'I Was Glad' by Parry, leaving the audience in no doubt that this was a special event from start to finish.

One of the most remarkable aspects of the event was the beautiful venue chosen to host it. The concert took place at Holy Trinity, Sloane Square in Chelsea which provided the perfect backdrop for such a special concert.

The concert was not only about delivering a top-notch performance but also about coming together for a worthy cause. All proceeds from the event went towards supporting The McClure Memorial Trust. The Trust is committed to helping talented pupils access a quality education at Mill Hill School which would otherwise be unaffordable. The event clearly demonstrated the extraordinary musical talent of the Mill Hill community and The Mill Hill School Foundation's commitment to helping others.

Julian Pollock (Priestley, 1983-1988), the Head of The Life of Gurdians and Old Millhillian commented "The Life Guardians were delighted to support such a fantastic event. It was a memorable evening in an inspiring setting with an excellent programme of music put together by Mr Kyle and brilliant performances by Old Millhillians and many others. It was a privilege to be part of such an event which brought together and showcased the talents of The Mill Hill School Foundation community.

Thanks are due to so many people, but in particular, I would like to thank Lord Glendonbrook (School, 1955-57) for his incredible generosity in underwriting the event. As a result, all the money raised will go towards funding future McClure Scholarships. In total, The McClure Memorial Trust Concert raised £50,000. This money will be used to top up the existing Life Guardians' annual contribution to the McClure Scholarship. The scholarship covers 100% of the fee for pupils entering the Sixth Form who will make an outstanding contribution to school life. Given how the money has been raised, we hope that for the next few years, the fund will be able to support Music Scholars."

Witnessing so many Old Millhillians come back to participate in the choir and perform individual solos was incredible. The concert was one of the largest in Mill Hill School's history and an excellent tribute to Sir John McClure. The event was a true testament to the power of music and the passion that unites us all. The event will be remembered as one of the most exciting performances in The Foundation's recent history. Delivered in the heart of Chelsea, with a top-notch orchestra, choir, and soloists coming together to perform for a good cause. It was a night that will be remembered for a long time. ■

by

Mr Kevin Kyle

Former Director of Musical Performance



“ It was a pleasure and a privilege to play the 'Elgar Cello Concerto'. Mill Hill School has always supported my development as a musician. For this reason, playing such a moving concerto to a full church, with an incredibly warm audience from the Mill Hill School community and beyond was wonderful. I will cherish and look back on the concert with great fondness for many years to come.”

ELLEN BAUMRING-GLEDHILL
(MURRAY, 2015-2020)
CELLIST

“ It was such a pleasure to conduct the concert and reuniting with familiar faces was fantastic. It was a great evening, made all the better by knowing we were raising money to help widen access to a Mill Hill School education.”

BEN GLASSBERG
(MCCLURE, 2007-12)
CONDUCTOR



Original Writing Dominates the Stage



Amélie R (School) sang these words in the closing moments of this year's original musical, 'Margaret's Mind'. Over fifty pupils, including representatives from each House and year group, took to the stage across three nights to present a powerful story about the trials and tribulations of adolescence and the journey towards self-love. Amélie and Zoe (Priestley) led the cast as older and younger versions of Margaret, who was battling against social anxiety and low self-esteem.

The production celebrated the Performing Arts talent at Mill Hill School. A score featuring two dozen original songs, ricocheting between rock, pop, jazz and rhythm and blues styles, was played immaculately by an eight-piece pupil band. The band was brilliantly led by

Musical Director Mr Siebertz. Miss Buckingham's (Dance Teacher and Choreographer) electrifying choreography included moments of ballet, street and contemporary dance which were a treat to watch. It also provided more profound insight into Margaret's loneliness, which was stunningly illuminated by Sammy M's (Weymouth) diverse lighting design.

The theme of women recognising their worth continued with our Lower Sixth Form production of 'Nora: A Doll's House'; Stef Smith's adaptation of Ibsen's groundbreaking masterpiece. Frankie M (Murray), Grace C (Priestley) and Emily R (Murray) portrayed Nora across three different decades. Throughout the play, all three of the Noras realise their value outside the housewife role that her husband Thomas seems keen to confine her to. The cast

“ You'll be fine,
Because some way down
the line,
You'll see how bright you
truly shine...
... It just takes time.”

thrived in tackling a challenging script that demanded deep interrogation of the character's psyches. Overall, the performance was a fantastic showcase of Mill Hill School's acting talent.

Our Lower School production of 'Pride and Prejudice' completed the thematic trilogy. Sofia L (Priestley) wrote a fantastic original script based on Jane Austen's novel. She also expertly co-directed the piece alongside Miss Turner (Teacher of English). Sofia's script transported the action to 1910s England. The backdrop of the suffragettes' campaign for the vote added new poignancy to Elizabeth's budding love-hate relationship with Mr Darcey, who was played by Scarlett R (Priestley) and Edward I (Weymouth) as they engaged in heated discussions about women's rights.



'Diamond Princess' is an original cruise ship comedy by Mrs Wright (Teacher of Drama) which was a hilarious and uplifting conclusion to an innovative year of original writing. The production featured an ensemble cast and musical performances which highlighted the breadth of acting and musical ability across the School. It was a pleasure to see many Fourth Form and Remove pupils making their stage debuts and delighting the sold-out crowd.

We were thrilled to offer pupils LAMDA lessons and examinations for the first time this academic year. The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) examinations are a fantastic way to learn communication and performance skills which help to grow confidence. Our pupils threw themselves into the lessons and many were entered into examinations during their

second term of study which is a testament to their hard work and dedication.

During Activities Week we welcomed Konflux Theatre to Mill Hill School. Their Drama practitioners created a spectacular performance with a dozen pupils in just three days. The show investigated the power struggles and politics surrounding the Battle of Hastings.

Outside of School, I am delighted to report that we made the most of London's West End theatres throughout the year. Our pupils enjoyed a variety of shows such as 'Newsies' (Wembley Park Theatre), 'Not One of These People' (Royal Court Theatre), 'To Kill a Mockingbird' (Gielgud Theatre) and 'The Play That Goes Wrong' (Duchess Theatre).

We look forward to welcoming many of you to our next production, 'Blue Stockings', in the new academic year before the much-anticipated House Drama Festival returns in November. ■

by
Mr Alexander Gatherer
Director of Theatrical Performance



Sports

We were delighted to announce our partnership with Saracens this year. This exclusive partnership will establish a performance pathway for Saracens Academy players at Mill Hill School.

This fantastic partnership will provide a clear pathway to develop talented young rugby players within the school, with aspirations to play for the Saracens Men's team. It will then extend further to maximising opportunities for female athletes who can progress into the Saracens Women's rugby setup and Saracens Mavericks netball squads.

Saracens has a strong 'build from within' mentality and the partnership will allow us to invest even more time in our pupils who have huge potential and drive. Equally important are our shared values; an aspiration to build caring, determined, hardworking, passionate, and well-rounded individuals. This partnership offers an opportunity for academy players to play together throughout school years to build the foundation for future professional rugby and netball careers.

The Official School Pathway partnership will also see both Saracens and Mill Hill Schools commit to the sharing and utilisation of each other's training facilities. With the Saracens world-class 5G pitch, alongside our capacity

for boarding and extensive indoor and outdoor sports facilities which includes a fully equipped conditioning centre, the partnership provides opportunities for school and academy teams across both Men's & Women's rugby and Women's netball, plus community sports camps and residential offerings.

The pathway programme is led by Chris Bajak, a dual-appointed Head of Performance Rugby for both Mill Hill School and Saracens, focused on building the Mill Hill rugby programme, providing continuity in coaching philosophy, and ultimately signposting key players for the Saracens Academy programme.

Working alongside Saracens, one of Europe's most successful rugby clubs, will inspire and excite the communities across all our Schools. Saracens have a proven track record of developing players from grassroots to an elite level from the UK and across the world, and I am delighted that we have partnered with such a renowned club. This exclusive partnership ensures our pupils will

receive the highest level of support whilst bolstering the already highly skilled Sports Department. We are incredibly proud of the portfolio of links and partnerships we have developed with professional clubs across many of our core sports, including Middlesex Cricket, Southgate Hockey Club and Tottenham Hotspur Football Club. We continue to drive innovation and collaboration in all that we do, and the partnership with Saracens makes certain this remains central to our practice.

The ultimate aim of the partnership is to encourage sharing of philosophies, coaching expertise and community outreach to develop North London sporting talent and ensure all emerging athletes are well supported, encouraged and nurtured. Means tested bursaries and scholarships will be made available to families to ensure this opportunity is open to the most talented applicants. ■

by
Mr Aaron Liffchak
Director of Sport & Rugby



“ I am very excited to be part of two forward thinking and ambitious organisations. Saracens Academy has been developing some of the best rugby talent in the country for many years, and Mill Hill School has traditionally nurtured the brightest minds in the classroom and on the sports field.”

CHRIS BAJAK,
HEAD OF PERFORMANCE RUGBY,
SARACENS GROUP AND MILL HILL SCHOOLS

“ At Saracens, it is as important to us to develop our players off the pitch, as well as on it, and education forms an important part of this. The world-class education provided by Mill Hill School will give our academy players a great opportunity to learn and develop.”

PHIL MORROW,
SARACENS GROUP GENERAL MANAGER

Valete

Thank you to all members of academic staff who left us at the end of this year. We are extremely grateful for all your hard work and the positive impact you have had on our pupils. Good luck for your next chapters.

Ayub Abdi
Learning Support Teacher
Ayub taught a range of SEN pupils across the school. He developed a very good rapport with many of his pupils and helped them to gain in confidence. I know that he offered a lot of support to colleagues and I am sure will be missed by both colleagues and pupils. He has now moved to Saudi Arabia to take up a position as a Learning Support Teacher and we all wish him very well in his new job.

by
Lisa Silverman

Aaron Bennett
Residential Graduate Assistant
Aaron Bennett is a multi-talented Sports Graduate Assistant who has significantly impacted multiple areas of the School. With his unwavering dedication to Athletics, Football and Hockey, Aaron has successfully mentored and elevated numerous Sports Scholars, helping them soar to new heights in their respective fields.

Beyond his coaching roles, Aaron has been a valuable asset to the Physical Education Department, readily stepping in to teach and impart his knowledge to pupils whenever required. His ability to effectively communicate complex concepts in an accessible manner has made him a favourite among both pupils and colleagues.

Aaron now embarks on completing a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), his decision to pursue further academic qualifications reflects his unwavering commitment to lifelong learning and his desire to make a lasting impact in the field of education. With his coaching expertise and innate ability to inspire and motivate others, Aaron is poised to become an exceptional teacher, positively influencing pupils’ lives in the classroom.

by
Mr Aaron Liffchak

Jessica Curtis
Acting Housemistress, Murray House; Teacher of Spanish and French
Many people in the school community will be familiar with Miss Curtis. She was with us since 2019, which may not sound like a significant amount of time, but her impact has been nothing short of remarkable.

Miss Curtis was not only a phenomenal French and Spanish teacher, but also demonstrated her commitment to excellence in various roles, such as leading the Spanish Theatre Competition, carrying out her Masters Research exploring innovative approaches to improving speaking skills, and creating the Language Ambassadors programme from scratch. Her dedication also shone through as the House Mistress of Murray House.

Miss Curtis has now assumed the role of Head of Spanish at Habs Girls, and she is more than ready for this new challenge. She will be dearly missed here, but her enduring contributions to our school will continue to make a positive impact. We extend our heartfelt thanks and best wishes for your future endeavours.

by
Mr Jay Norbury

Alexis De Sousa
Languages Assistant French and Eco Coordinator
We are very sad to say goodbye to our French Assistant, Alexis, at the end of five years exemplary service to the School. During that time, Alexis has inspired and enthused countless pupils, perfecting their spoken French under his tutelage and benefitting from his extensive cultural knowledge.

Alexis’s experience has been invaluable in the French Drama Competition, and his passion for environmental causes has led him to taking on the Eco Coordinator role in conjunction with his responsibilities in languages. Alexis is taking the next step in his teaching career at Paddington Academy, where he will continue to engage and inspire another generation of linguists. It is hard

to imagine The Modern Foreign Languages Department without Alexis, and he will be greatly missed.

by
Mr Jay Norbury

Tate Edwards
Teacher of Mathematics
Tate joined Mill Hill School in September 2021 and quickly established herself as a vital member of the Mathematics Department, teaching both GCSE and A Level classes. Tate regularly provided GCSE pupils struggling with specific topics extra guidance during lunchtime support sessions. Tate is particularly strong in finding online resources and worksheets to promote progress rather than relying on a textbook, and her classes were extremely engaged as a result.

Outside the Mathematics Department, Tate contributed to the Charities Committee and helped organise meetings and events to help fundraise for deserving causes.

Tate is a well-liked and friendly member of the Common Room, and we are sorry to see her go. We wish her all the best with the next stage in her life, both with her upcoming wedding and new career path.

by
Mrs Emma Lockhart

Debbie Green
Learning Support Assistant
Debbie worked predominantly with SEN pupils in the Fourth, Remove and Fifth Form. She was outstanding in her support work and would always pick up if there were any issues with the pupils. She was an outstanding team player and would always go the extra mile to support the department in whatever way she could. Whilst she is a great loss to us she has taken up a job at the Dwight Academy as an EAL teacher, which I am sure she will do very well in.

by
Lisa Silverman

Zoe Griffiths
Head of Classics
Zoe Griffiths is more than just a teacher. She is passionate about Classics and has significantly increased the Department’s popularity since taking charge. Zoe has set the bar very high as a Head of Department, with its pupils all benefiting from her attention to detail and love for her subject.

She has also arranged many trips, including the recent trip to Greece, which all pupils enjoyed tremendously. Zoe has also worked tirelessly as Senior Tutor of Atkinson House. Like her Housemaster, Daniel Bingham, and the pupils in the House, she is ferociously proud of Atkinson House.

She has undertaken her duties with total dedication and has formed great relationships with the pupils in her House. Beyond the classroom and her in-house responsibilities, she has thrown herself into the School Games Programme and is particularly passionate about coaching our Hockey Teams.

Zoe is the most incredible asset to Mill Hill School, and we shall miss her greatly. However, our loss is Blundell’s School’s gain, and we wish her well as she begins a new chapter in her life down in the Southwest. Zoe has many friends in Common Room who care about her a great deal and will all be grateful for a perfect excuse to visit Devon in the school holidays!

by
Mr Richard Hinton

Steph Isaacs
Teacher of English
Steph joined us in 2006 and shared the responsibilities of a full-time position with Sue Owen. Given her impact, energy and drive, it’s surprising to remember that Steph works here part-time.

Steph is a hugely loved and respected teacher and colleague. She is generous with her time for any struggling pupil (or indeed staff member), and her passion for English teaching is only matched by her compassion for others.

When passing her door at a break or lunchtime, Steph can often be spied upon working one-to-one or with a small group of pupils who may be struggling with some aspect of their English studies. She wants the best from them and is always prepared to invest her time and expertise for their benefit. Steph has always taught Fourth Form and English GCSE sets and is an expert in these crucial parts of the English curriculum. Therefore, her pupils know she is affording them the best advice, guidance and direction; they love Steph’s lessons and are fiercely loyal to her.

As a colleague, Steph is always reliable and incredibly organised. Fierce and highly principled, Steph nonetheless understands others’ views and situations, always

allowing for these. She has a generosity of spirit that is valuable in anyone, but especially so in a colleague. We’ve all benefited from that, but no more so than her three Heads of Department: myself, Emily Kaplan now Karl Vadaszffy

Steph’s teaching at Mill Hill School is not her only role. Outside School Steph is also a popular and much-in-demand tutor. She teaches many pupils from various local schools, including two of my children who have both been on Steph’s books. Just like our Millhillians, Steph’s tutees love her teaching. Steph puts in serious hours with her tutoring, teaching well into the evenings, usually after a long day at Mill Hill School, and working some Saturdays. That’s before she does all her marking! The next day, she’s ready to do it all again. All her pupils are lucky to have access to her knowledge and expertise.

Steph is now heading to retirement, although this is only relatively, given the continuance of her private tutoring. The English Department will miss her sorely – sometimes we post pleas to each other – ‘has anyone got some resources on so-and-so or any ideas on how to teach this topic’. Steph is often first to reply, furnishing an attached lesson plan or set of notes that are of immediate help. I for one will miss turning to her for ideas and strategies.

Most of all, we are losing a passionate advocate for our subject, a strongly loyal member of the Common Room, and with all that her daily dose of warmth, humour and patience.

by
Mr Richard Searby

Alex Kafetzis
Teacher of PE
Alex joined us in January 2022 in a temporary role and quickly became a light in the Physical Education Department. We were sad to see him go at the end the Spring Term, but his desk wasn’t quiet for long as he returned for the academic year 2022-23.

Alex’s infectious energy transpired in the classroom where he taught GCSE and A Level Physical Education. He also thrived in the Games Department, taking pride in coaching various sports teams, including Rugby, Football and Tennis teams. Alex’s commitment allowed him to form meaningful relationships with pupils, who greatly appreciated his dedication

to improving their skill and understanding of each sport. We wish Alex well in his future endeavours to complete his teaching training.

by
Ms Mel Lancaster

Emily Kaplan
Teacher of English
Emily is a long serving member of staff at Mill Hill School and the English Department. Emily has become, in Shakespeare’s words, “an ever-fixed mark” in the Mill Hill School firmament.

Delivering her teaching to the highest of standards has always been her trademark but Emily has also got involved in other parts of school life. For example, Emily has served as Atkinson House Tutor for many years and worked very closely with Housemaster Daniel Bingham to help Akinson House pupils thrive.

Emily was Second in the English Department for a year before stepping up to run the whole department from late 2019, a role she held for almost three years. Her tenure as Head of Department was punctuated by the pandemic when so much of our teaching had to be delivered remotely. Running a core department in a major school is challenging at the best of times, yet Emily rose to this superlatively, leading her team from the front in the most difficult of circumstances.

Despite the pandemic she managed to put many of her plans in place. Emily got us even more organised and supervised the English Department’s move to a newly dedicated premises at the top of the Main Building.

Emily was an excellent Head of Department, and she is most importantly the finest of English teachers. If she was

given a set to teach all the pupils in her groups would receive a Rolls Royce service. The pupils themselves knew this, and there was often lobbying by them to be placed with her. Passionate about literature, and in particular women’s writing, her teaching is infectious, sparkling and always incisive. Her pupils, like her colleagues, have always held Emily in the highest regard and respect.

After such long, dedicated service to Mill Hill School, Emily is shuffling a couple of stops down the Northern line to join Highgate School, where their pupils will enjoy the wonderful teaching and pastoral care that our pupils have enjoyed.

by
Mr Richard Searby

Jude Kerswill
Teacher of English
Jude joined the English Department for a one year’s fixed-term contract after the sad passing of Tony Binns. During his short time at Mill Hill School, Mr Kerswill was a popular teacher of Fourth Form English classes as well as PSHE lessons for A Level pupils. His lessons were always creative and engaging and, in supporting the school’s drive to develop its reading culture, he shared his passion for reading and creative writing with enthusiasm. In addition, he was heavily involved in promoting diversity across the curriculum and wider school community.

by
Mr Karl Vadaszkky

Kevin Kyle
Director of Musical Performance
It is with a mixture of pride, sadness and excitement that we say farewell to Kevin Kyle, our much loved Director of Musical Performance, as he embarks on a new chapter, taking the helm at the Aberdeen City Music School.

Kevin’s tenure at Mill Hill has been nothing short of extraordinary. He took over the reins of the Music School in 2014 and his legacy is etched firmly in the Schools fabric for many years ahead. Under his guidance, Mill Hill’s Musical Programme has flourished beyond imagination. From leading music tours to captivating cities like Amsterdam, Belgium, Barcelona, and Paris to overseeing a multitude of orchestras, bands, choirs, and ensembles, Kevin has been an unwavering force of musical excellence.

One of Kevin’s most remarkable achievements has been the orchestration of around 250 musical performances each year. This prolific output not only showcased the depth of talent within the Mill Hill community but also left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of attending these breathtaking events. Kevin’s dedication to his craft and his ability to inspire musicians of all ages is unrelenting. He is such an uplifting person and we will miss the energy, humour and passion that was always bursting out of him as he went about his business. On his final day, there was a strange mixture of sorrow, delight and Bow ties around the School, as we came together to wish this very special man and his family all the best in the future.

As Kevin takes on the role of Director of the Aberdeen City Music School, we have no doubt that he will push that wonderful institution onto new levels of performance. His experience, expertise, and unparalleled passion for music make him the perfect choice to nurture the talents of the next generation of musicians.

In closing, we extend our sincerest congratulations and best wishes to Kevin Kyle on this new chapter of his exciting career. Aberdeen City Music School are very fortunate to have him.

by
Mr Tom Vercoe

Katie Lennard
Teacher of Art (Maternity Cover)
Katie Lennard joined us in October 2022 to teach our artists in Fourth Form, Remove and Lower Sixth in Mrs Haberman’s absence. Miss Lennard’s classroom was always a calm, thoughtful and considered environment. The Sixth Form in particular benefitted from her innovative and high-level thinking concepts; coming from a Fine Art background she introduced some exciting and artist references, both motivating and inspiring our pupils. Miss Lennard goes on to teach at UCL Academy; she will also continue her own practice as a Fine Artist, specialising in installation and performance-based art.

by
Ms Lucinda Randell

Laura Lilley
Teacher of Biology
Laura proved herself as an exceptional addition to the entire Mill Hill School community. Not only did she bring impressive expertise to the Biology Department, but she also developed an integral presence within the boarding community at and brought incredible amounts of enthusiasm, ability, and wit to all her interactions with pupils.

Laura’s lessons demonstrated not only her vast knowledge, but also her ability to present topics and concepts in a manner that pupils could both relate to and understand. In addition, Laura has been a stalwart supporter of the use of IT in creative ways and was one of the main teachers who ensured our entire department was confident with the use of all Microsoft products throughout the pandemic, but especially OneNote and Microsoft Forms in a way that pushed our department to the forefront of the school in IT skills and implementation.

Laura stunned the entire school with her willingness to partake fully in all activities offered by the school. An integral member of the Ridgeway House, Laura proved she always put pupil wellbeing first and fostered trusting relationships with the entire boarding community. Laura burst into the games community by successfully coaching U16A Netball and U18 Tennis. Laura then quickly volunteered to join CCF and became a valued member of the Corps of Drums and more recently, moved into the position of authority within the Navy section. Laura has attended numerous CCF camp trips both during term and holiday time, freely giving up her own time to the benefit of numerous pupils. In addition, Laura joined five other members of the teaching staff on a trip to Dubai combining U15A and B Netball with U15A Rugby and Laura was instrumental in supporting pupils who found the post-Covid trip somewhat more intimidating than they had expected.

As EPQ coordinator, Laura approached this new responsibility with her usual confidence and determination and helped to further develop the programme into an area of strength for the school.

We will sincerely miss Laura’s enthusiasm, expertise and focus on pupil wellbeing and wish her all the best in her new role as a Biology teacher at Pocklington School.

by
Dr Kate Damberg

Abbie Macleod
Residential Graduate Assistant
The Music Department welcomed Abigail (Abbie) in September 2022 as a Music Specialist Graduate Assistant. Abbie took over the leadership of the Big Band, Chapel Wind Ensemble, and Glee Club, as well as singing in the Choir and running Music School concerts.

Reflecting on her time at Mill Hill School, significant highlights include her organising our jazz excursion to the 606 Jazz Club in Chelsea and co-running The McClure Memorial Trust Concert in March. Abbie has been a large part of the boarding community and Music School this year, working very closely with staff and pupils.

A special mention must go to Abbie for taking over the reins of Musical Performances so expertly in the Summer Term because other staff members left the School.

Abbie is moving on to study a Law conversion course at Leeds University. We hope she thoroughly enjoys the course and wish her the best of luck.

by
Mr Arijit Chakravarty

Anna Murphy
Teacher of Drama
Anna joined Mill Hill in September 2011 and very soon became a highly valued member of the Drama Department. She came here with her husband John and lived on the school site before moving away after their son Teddy was born. She began by being a Tutor in Collinson House with important boarding duties before moving on to Cedars House and then eventually McClure House.

Anna was a great success in her role of Head of Community Action. This involved providing fun activities for young carers and giving the local elderly some very enjoyable parties. Her leadership in the staff pantomime provided enormous fun and excitement for members of the Common Room who were willing to come along and join in the organised chaos. Many friendships were forged, and much laughter was heard during these happy times.

Anna’s successful teaching in the Drama Department has been both professional and encouraging to her pupils. Her dedicated leadership were particularly

evident when she took up the role of acting Head of Drama after David Proudlock retired. She rose to the challenge admirably during the difficult period of lockdown and beyond. Her calm and efficient manner will undoubtedly bring her much success as she takes up her new job as a highly experienced and passionate Head of Drama at Haberdashers Girls Senior School.

Anna has given a great deal of her love, time and energy to Mill Hill School. We shall miss her dry sense of humour and wisdom. We wish her the very best of luck in her role beginning in September.

by
Mrs Pam Wright

Will Normington
Teacher of Geography
Will joined Mill Hill in 2018 as he began his career as a Geography teacher, and he quickly established himself as a well-respected member of the department. His subject knowledge and passion for his subject is impressive and he instilled this in his pupils. In addition to developing excellent relationships with his Geography pupils, Will kept his tutees engaged in his time in both Collinson and Winfield Houses with activities such as debates, escape rooms and Task Master competitions. Will has been a fantastic contributor to the wider life of the school by coaching U15 Cricket Teams; assisting the Higher Education team with UCAS, Oxbridge and Apprenticeship applications; and supporting trainee teachers in his role as ITT and Induction Coordinator. Will also dedicated a significant amount of time to help and support the whole staff body in his role as NASUWT Representative, which has been invaluable. He will be greatly missed by all at Mill Hill, and we wish him the very best for the future as he begins his next chapter in Leeds and Harrogate.

by
Mrs Daniella Forster

Rachel Obadia
Teacher of French and Spanish (Maternity Cover)
Rachel has been with us since November 2022 as a maternity cover teacher of French and Spanish. Rachel stepped in at short notice to take on a large cohort of GCSE and A Level pupils. Throughout her time at Mill Hill School, she has worked assiduously to provide them with the

strongest possible foundation for success in their exam years. We wish Rachel all the best in her future endeavours in teaching and in her next role as a translator and interpreter at the Israeli Embassy.

by
Mr Jay Norbury

Steve Plummer
Teacher of Classics
Steve epitomised a passing generation of schoolmasters, who embodied values harking back to the days of the gentleman amateur. He shaped generations of young minds with his erudition in the classroom and his insistence upon teams playing in a Corinthian spirit on sports pitches and Fives courts. Steve had an innate sense of proportion and decency and no time for vaingloriousness. He insisted upon the highest standards in and out of the classroom and was that breed of schoolmaster who could entertain with memorable anecdotes, whilst providing a first-rate classroom experience. Many of his pupils have distinguished themselves in their pursuit of Classics beyond Mill Hill. He generated an affection which has lasted with many of his ex-pupils well into their later lives, not least amongst the OM’s Fives community. Steve doesn’t suffer fools gladly, and once fixed by his gimlet eye and arched eyebrow, you knew that you had to be on your mettle, ready for his mischievous sense of humour. Steve has always been deeply kind and thoughtful, looking out for his pupils’ welfare first and foremost, and that of his friends and colleagues. When I first met him 30 years ago, improbable though it now seems, he was running Cricket, Fives and Hockey in addition to Classics, so was quite a presence in the School. He regularly ran trips to Pompeii, and Hadrian’s Wall where he was the tour guide, and I had the pleasure of accompanying Steve on memorable Hockey tours to Amsterdam. But it was his time as Housemaster of Priestley which Steve often reflects upon most fondly,

when his particular character and inimitable style of leadership could flourish in a house system where Housemasters were relatively free to create their own distinctive ethos and more resembled mini fiefdoms. Steve was a constant in an era of rapid change and, whilst latterly he may have found himself out of step with changing trends – not least the onslaught of information technology – his pupils always revered him because he was first and foremost, completely authentic, caring and very learned. Schools change rapidly and memories soon fade, but Steve should and will be remembered for his 36 years of splendid, unselfish service, not least amongst those who had the privilege to work with him and be taught by him. Steve’s dedication to Mill Hill School can never be gainsaid and the School owes him a deep debt of gratitude.

by
Mr Mark Dickinson

George Seller
Head of Economics and Business
George has been a valued Mill Hill School community member for the past four years and we are very sad to see him leave. During his time at the School, he contributed immensely to various roles and left an indelible mark on staff and pupils.

Not only was he involved in Swimming, demonstrating his passion for sports, and encouraging pupils to excel, but he also served as a Senior Tutor for Priestley House, providing guidance and support to pupils under his care. Additionally, George played a crucial role as the Digital Lead for the School, ensuring a smooth transition to online platforms during the challenging lockdown period. His efforts in rolling out training for Microsoft Teams and OneNote, among other initiatives, aided the entire school community in adapting to the new digital landscape.

For the past two years, George held the Head of Department for Business and Economics position, where he demonstrated exceptional leadership skills and drove the department forward. His commitment to fostering a conducive learning environment and innovative teaching methods greatly benefited staff and pupils. Furthermore, George’s infectious sense of humour and his ability to bring laughter and joy to any situation made him an esteemed colleague. He consistently made time for others and his presence had the remarkable ability to brighten anyone’s day.

As the academic year ended, George bid farewell and returned to Hertfordshire to take on a new role as a Teacher of Business at Berkhamsted School. His impact on the Mill Hill community is immeasurable, and both pupils and teachers will keenly feel his absence. George’s professionalism, kindness, and unwavering dedication made him admired and respected by all who enjoyed working with him. Mill Hill School will not be the same without him, and we wish him and his family every success and happiness for the future.

by
Mrs Geraldine Clarke

Lesley Sharples
Head of University and Post School Guidance
Lesley joined Mill Hill school as the Head of Economics and Business Education, with the additional responsibility of Resident Tutor in September 2000. She has given The Foundation 23 years of high quality dedicated service ever since.

Lesley held the positions of Director of Sixth Form and Head of UCAS over many years, whilst also running the department and contributing to the Co-curriculum Programme. In 2016, her position was transformed into her more recent role of ‘Head of Higher Education and Post School Guidance’ which she approached with a level of professionalism and dedication, that resulted in her becoming an expert in all aspects of Post School Guidance.

Lesley has supported countless pupils at Mill Hill to achieve their Higher Education aspirations over the years, with expert advice that always remained contemporary. Under her guidance pupils have gone on to study a vast range of courses at an impressive array of institutions both at UK and International Universities.

Through her dedicated approach she leaves the HE Programme, guidance and provision in an incredibly strong position for the newly formed Sixth Form Team to take over.

We wish Lesley the best of luck in her new ventures as she leaves Mill Hill to be closer to her family on the Wirral.

by
Mr John Barron

Ben Siebertz-Willett
Residential Graduate Assistant
Ben joined us in September 2022 as a Music Specialist Graduate Assistant. He hit the ground running by conducting the Jazz Band and Chapel Strings. Ben also sang in the Choir and musically directed the school musical Margaret’s Mind. As the year progressed, he took over running the flight simulator package and our school recording studio. Ben took on all these responsibilities in addition to his regular boarding and Music School administration duties.

Ben has been appointed as the full-time Librarian for the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, and we wish him every success in his new role.

by
Mr Arijit Chakravarty

Gwydion Wiseman
Coordinator of Fives
Gwydion Wiseman, the Coordinator of Fives at Mil Hill School, has been instrumental in developing the Eton Fives Programme. With his unwavering dedication, Gwydion has taken numerous pupils to the National Finals and witnessed an unprecedented surge in interest for Fives at Belmont, Mill Hill Prep and Mill Hill School.

Gwydion’s impact extends beyond Fives, as he has played a pivotal role in various aspects of the School’s Sports Programme. He has generously contributed his expertise to Hockey and Tennis. He has been an invaluable mentor in the Sports Scholarship Programme, guiding and inspiring the Sports Scholars to reach their potential.

Gwydion has embarked on a new career, pursuing a Physiotherapy Degree. This decision reflects his passion for helping others and his commitment to positively impacting the physical wellbeing of individuals. With his extensive sports knowledge and dedication to excellence, Gwydion is poised to become an exceptional physiotherapist.

by
Mr Aaron Liffchak



Introducing The Mill Hill Education Group

“ All our schools have an unrelenting focus upon high academic standards and believe this can happen whilst developing the breadth of talents all children possess. We prepare them for the challenges of future life by shaping their intellect and humanity, which underpins our group motto of *Instilling Values and Inspiring Minds.*”



Back of original Mill Hill School building

WHAT IS THE MILL HILL EDUCATION GROUP?

The new brand name for The Mill Hill School Foundation. We are a charitable collection of independent schools. Our aims of instilling values and inspiring minds have been a key focus since the founding of Mill Hill School in 1807.

All schools share an educational philosophy around developing thoughtful and responsible pupils with a global outlook. School life combines academic rigour with a breadth of opportunities to develop young people able to flourish in an ever-changing world.

SHARED BENEFITS

A family of schools united in a charitable purpose and a shared ethos. Our non-conformist roots are reflected in each school having its own individuality, whilst enjoying the benefits of working

together. These benefits include sharing with colleagues in other schools what works best in and out of the classroom and our central expertise in areas like finance, marketing, human resources, compliance and safeguarding.

Several schools have joined the group in recent years, so we are now one of the larger groups of charitable schools in the country. This scale brings stability and security to all our schools.

Despite our size, we retain a clear focus on the importance of every individual pupil. Having access to support across the schools frees up the Heads to focus even more on the needs of every individual child in their care, because this is, ultimately, the reason the group exists. ■

by
Mr Antony Spencer
CEO



Mill Hill, 1895



Belmont, 1900s



McClure 1977, some of the first girls at Mill Hill



Grimsdell, 1995



Keble Prep 2023, becomes co-educational

HISTORY OF THE MILL HILL EDUCATION GROUP



1807

Mill Hill School opens.

1912

Belmont opens as the Preparatory School to Mill Hill School, having previously been a Junior Boarding House for the School.

1975

Mill Hill School becomes co-educational in Sixth Form.

1995

Grimsdell, Mill Hill Pre Prep opens in former Winterstoke House, a former boarding house for Mill Hill School.

1997

Mill Hill School and Belmont become fully co-educational.

1998

The Mill Hill School Foundation is formed.

2013

The Mount merges with The Mill Hill School Foundation.

2015

Mill Hill International School (formerly The Mount) opens, offering a day and boarding school for International pupils aged 13-17.

2021

Cobham Hall, a boarding and day school for girls aged 11-18 in Kent, merges with The Mill Hill School Foundation.

2022

Keble Prep an independent boys school for ages 4-13 in Winchmore Hill, North London merges with The Mill Hill School Foundation.

2022

Lyonsdown an independent girls school for ages 3-11 in Barnet, North London merges with The Mill Hill School Foundation.

2022

Cobham Hall becomes co-educational in the Sixth Form.

2023

Mill Hill Education Group becomes the brand name for The Mill Hill School Foundation.

2023

Keble Prep becomes fully co-educational and introduces a Pre Reception Nursery.

2023

Grimsdell, Mill Hill Pre Prep opens full-day nursery.

2023

St Joseph's In The Park, an independent preparatory school in Hertford for girls and boys aged 2 to 11 joins the group.

A Better Chance Bursaries

Our bursary fund broadens access to a Mill Hill education and transforms young lives.

Since joining The Mill Hill Education Group in January this year, I have had the pleasure of meeting dozens of pupils and Old Millhillians who have benefitted from 'A Better Chance Bursaries.'

In every case, these individuals clearly lay out the advantage that a Mill Hill School education provides. They speak about the many opportunities to excel, the incredible support they received from staff members, the special and lasting friendships that were fostered during their school days and their heightened ambitions as a result of their time at Mill Hill School.

The growth of our bursary fund is vital in enabling more young people to fulfil their potential at our School. To every individual who has supported A Better Chance Bursaries over the years, and to those who continue to support regularly, thank you. If you would like to find out more about the Bursary Fund, please do get in touch via email lucia.hull@mhsfoundation.uk or call **07720 682232**. You can be assured that whatever the magnitude of your gift, it will help to transform young lives at Mill Hill School.

Simply put, Mill Hill School Bursaries change lives. One such pupil is Evelyn, and she has kindly agreed to share her story. ■

by
Mrs Lucia Hull
Director of Development



EVELYN TAYLOR
(WINFIELD, 2019 – 2021)

I grew up on an estate in north-west London with my mum who is a single parent and a nurse. The estate was a harsh environment, with gang culture and poverty. My mum worked around the clock, and I went to the local comprehensive school for my GCSEs. It was a non-selective school, and I wasn't the best in class, but I tried my hardest just like my mum was doing.

As English is not my mum's first language, I have always helped her with paperwork and financial difficulties, particularly when she was made redundant. This exposed me to working within the law as I was thrown into reading legal texts, completing legal forms, and supporting her to find new employment. This experience, coupled with regularly witnessing the police being called to the estate, increased the prominence of the law in my life.

Since I was nine years old, I have known that I wanted to be a lawyer. I realised that to get there, I needed to go to a supportive school and an excellent university. At my secondary school, I was in a class of 30 pupils where if you were doing well, the teachers would let you get on with your work with little targeted support.

On my bus journey home from school, I would pass Mill Hill School and look at the pupils in their smart uniforms, with their hockey sticks and sports bags. When researching Sixth Form Schools to guide me into higher education, I came across Mill Hill School's website and thought 'What's the worst that could happen if I applied?'

At first, I did not tell my mum about my application for a bursary; she was always busy working, and I didn't want to bother

“ I would like to thank every single donor who has supported and continues to support A Better Chance Bursaries. You make it possible for people like me to attend to the School and it has transformed my life. Thank you for believing in me, and all the other pupils who have benefitted from a bursary.”

her, particularly if I did not get in. However, I quickly realised I would have to tell her as the school needed a financial statement.

I remember getting the news that I had been offered an interview and thinking to myself, 'This is my one opportunity, I have to give it my all'. I spent every minute I could preparing for the interview.

When my mum and I received the phone call to say that I had been offered a place with a full bursary, everything in the world stood still. This was the first time I realised that anything is possible. I might not be the best or brightest, but I was deeply passionate about my subjects and was committed to my future.

Joining Mill Hill School in September 2019 was a big adjustment. My History and Politics teacher, Mrs Bradley (née Shaw) could tell I was a little behind the other pupils and offered to stay after school to help me catch up. I could not believe her kindness and support.

When I first considered applying to the University of Cambridge, I had a conversation with the Sixth Form and Higher Education staff to talk through the application and interview processes. I decided to apply because I thought, much like my journey to Mill Hill School, 'What's the worst that can happen?'

I had never visited Cambridge but eventually decided to apply to Downing College, not because of its reputation as the 'Law College', but because of its architecture – the pillars reminded me of the ones outside Mill Hill School's Dining Hall. It might seem strange to have chosen my college for purely aesthetic reasons, but it certainly shows my fond memories of Mill Hill School.

One week before my law interview at Downing College, my mum was unfairly dismissed from her job. I remember receiving the news and being in dismay about the very real consequences of this. In addition, we did not have Wi-Fi at home, so I was unsure how I would complete my interview. Thankfully, Mrs Bradley kindly offered to let me use her classroom. Through these challenges, I held on to the belief that my passion to study law and hard work was going to help me reach the future I wanted and that it was going to change my life.

Cambridge released all their offers on the same day, and I remember continually checking my email inbox. When I had not heard by the end of the school day, I worried that maybe it wasn't going to happen. At 15:51 I received the email and my life changed again at that moment and I was accepted onto the course.

I am very grateful for the community at Mill Hill School, from the staff members who supported and guided me, to the law alumni who shared their wisdom with me. I made life-long friends and the experiences I had during my time there will stay with me forever. I can say, undoubtedly, that I would not be where I am today without the support I received at Mill Hill.





The Engineer's Dinner – Bleeding Heart Restaurant



Club Annual Dinner – Honourable Artillery Company



Old Millhillians Cricket XI v Mill Hill School First XI on OMs Day



2012 Leavers' Reunion



Medical Professionals Networking Event



OMs Touch Rugby Tournament at Mill Hill School



Harry and Ted at the HAC



Old Millhillians Club

NON NOBIS SED SCHOLAE



2017 Leavers Reunion – The Adam and Eve

Our Old Millhillians Club omclub.co.uk is one of the most active alumni clubs in the UK. Over 50 volunteer Old Millhillians (OMs) worldwide help create a packed calendar of sports, reunions and career networking events throughout the year.

The Club benefits from five Sports Clubs; Rugby, Cricket, Ladies Hockey, Football and Fives, all of whom welcome new players, especially from the school.

The Club's flagship events include, Old Millhillians Day when OMs reunite at the school, the Annual Dinner in early October and a Summer Drinks Party in June. In the UK, there are four regional reunions, Class Leaver reunions, and pub nights for our younger OMs at their University cities. Overseas reunions are held in USA, Canada, South Africa, UAE, Hong Kong, Singapore and Australasia.

In addition, the Club gives high priority to the provision of career support to OMs and Sixth Form pupils. It has a dedicated careers website omcareers.co.uk which is full of

information to help OMs and pupils make better informed career decisions. Each year the Club holds Professional Networking Events with interesting speakers focused on several different career sectors. Sixth Form pupils are invited as guests of the Club. Recent notable guests have included Sir John Hegarty speaking about the 'Business of Creativity'; Johanna Kyrklund, Group Chief Investment Officer, Schroders; Amanda Stavri, Commissioning Editor, ITV; Professor Gautam Kalghatgi providing an alternative view on the practicalities of the 'Net Zero' target; and Dr Salvatore Viscomi MD, former member of Harvard Medical School's faculty who spoke about the virtually unlimited potential of stem cell therapeutics to treat a wide range of diseases.

All Mill Hill School leavers automatically become members of the Old Millhillians Club. ■

by
Peter Wakeham
(Burton Bank, 1960-65)
Chair, Old Millhillians Club



Reece and Aston at the Annual Dinner



Yasemin, Alara and Florence at the Club Annual Dinner – One Moorgate Place



Burton Bank reunion table at One Moorgate Place, with current Housemaster Graeme Turner



Old Millhillians Club Hockey

A Word from the Archives

150 Years of the Mill Hill Magazine.

In June 1873, the first ever Mill Hill Magazine was published. It was entirely run by pupils and created a way of communicating with alumni and keeping a record of the School’s history.

To begin with, the editors were quite cautious, and their first issue was published with only 20 pages. However, they were encouraged by the magazine’s initial success and an immediate second issue was published in July 1873, containing a whopping 56 pages! Photography was still in its infancy in the early years of Mill Hill Magazine and the pupils had to get creative with their content. The first editions contained translations from classic literature, such as Sophocles’ ‘Oedipus Tyrannus’, news updates and accounts of pupils’ holidays. Interestingly, the first edition included a ‘puzzles section’ which featured a ‘cryptograph’.

THE ORIGINAL PUZZLE
I. - DTBSTMYNKBX = PROGRESSION

Nxr umtkmy bh xpfmty bh zlkgI mngl
ujnxay tmcnjma jb zlkgel htecbzu
nggbtakxs jb n hkgma cnz ky n
dtbstmynkxb, nxa ky ne nygmakxs umtkmy
zlmx jlm xpfmtu kxgtmnym amygmakxs
zlmx jbm r amgtmnym

If you attempted to solve the puzzle, the translation can be found at the bottom of the page.

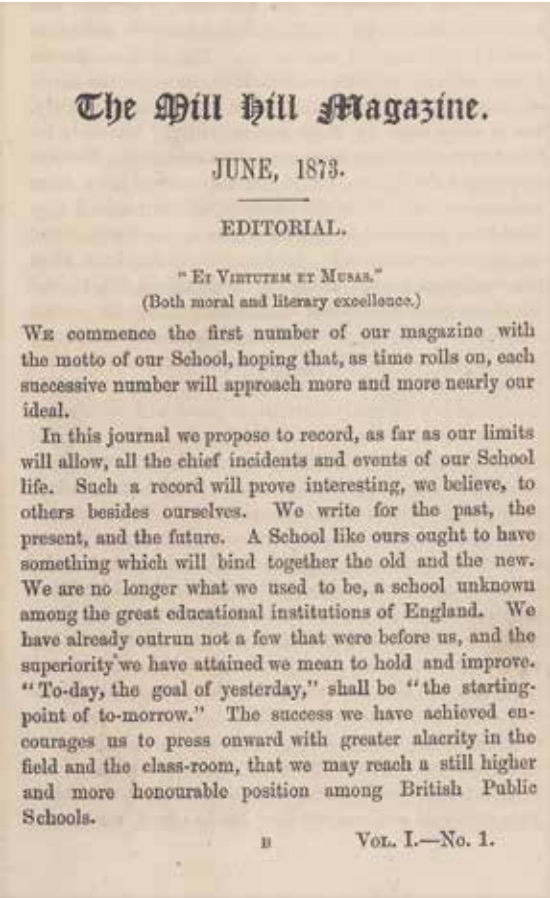
Moving on from the magazines’ early copies, the 50th issue of the Mill Hill magazine opened with quite the statement: “NOTHING.”

“There being nothing to talk about, let us talk about nothing. That is how I had intended to introduce 1923 to the Mill Hill Magazine.”

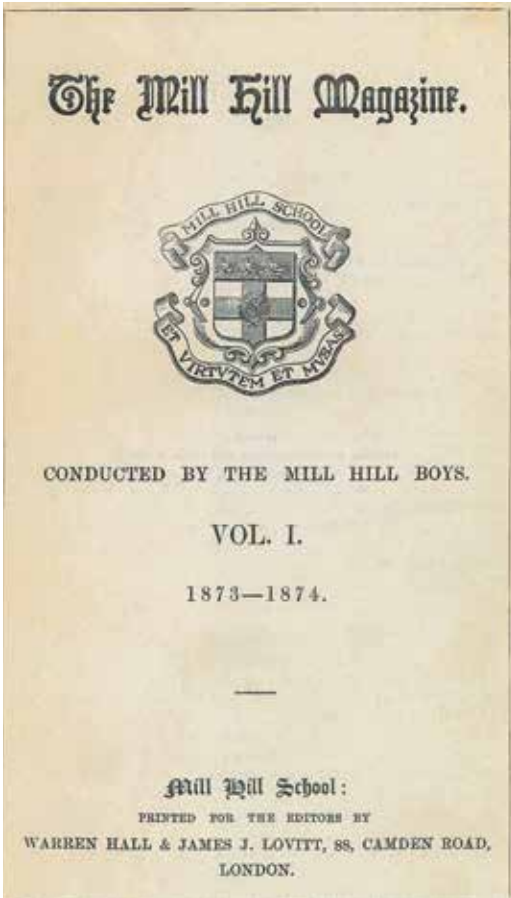
Thankfully, the editors seem to have found enough to talk about in this issue such as the news from the Wireless Society about their exciting new transmissions. It was also noted that “pocket money continues at an even rate”, despite the ongoing Scarlet Fever outbreak affecting ‘the market rate’.

Magazines from the 1970s are particularly special, as the editors changed the magazine format from an A5 book to a far larger, rectangular one. This enabled them to include larger fonts and bigger, more detailed photos. The editors commented on this decision at the end of the centenary issue which was published in 1972.

“The judgment, we leave to you. Ultimately, of course, the Magazine is a reflection of the School, and the enthusiasm with which it has been produced and contributed to does credit to the School and bodes well for the future”.



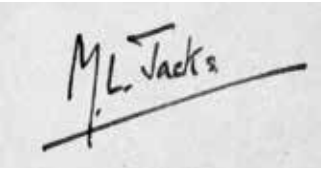
1873 Editorial



1873 Cover



July 1873



ML Jacks Signature 1923



Junior Race 1923

The Mill Hill Magazine has been an important part of life at Mill Hill School for 150 years and learning more about it has been fascinating. The magazine beautifully celebrates and documents the School’s events, pupils’ achievements and new developments. It is a pleasure to be a part of its history. ■

by
Miss Francesca Forte
Archivist



1972 Centenary Issue

Puzzle translation: any series of numbers of which each stands related to that which follows according to a fixed law is a progression and is an ascending series when the numbers increase, descending when they decrease.

Social highlights

1



QUEEN ELIZABETH II

We are deeply saddened to hear of the death of Her Majesty The Queen at the age of 96.

Queen Elizabeth II ruled for 70 years, longer than any other Monarch in British history, becoming a much loved and respected figure across the globe. She will be remembered for her sense of duty and devotion to a life of service.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all the Royal Family, our school community and the wider public during this difficult time.

(Image from Monday 1 July 1957, when Mill Hill School was honoured by the presence of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to mark the 150th anniversary of The Foundation).

#MillHillSenior

2



A WARM WELCOME!

We are excited to announce the appointment of David Benson as Head of Mill Hill School.

David, who begins the role in January 2024, is founding Principal of the award-winning Kensington Aldridge Academy, and Governor of Latymer Upper School. Named among the sector's 10 most influential people by the 2018 Times Education Supplement, David is a leading voice in the world of education, and we are delighted to welcome him into the Mill Hill family.

#MillHillSenior #MillHillMoments

3



NEW PARTNERSHIP

We are thrilled to announce our new partnership with @saracensofficial!

The partnership marks the start of an exciting new chapter for The Mill Hill School Foundation and Saracens Group.

#MillHillSenior #MillHillMoments

4



SNOWY PHOTOGRAPHS

We have really enjoyed receiving photos of our beautiful snowy grounds from our members of staff.

#MillHillSenior #MillHillMoments

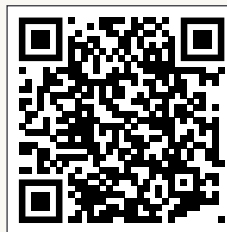
5



RAINBOW

This beautiful rainbow was captured earlier today by a member of the @millhillschoolenterprises team!

#MillHillSenior #MillHillMoments



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

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

6



GOLD IN HOCKEY

History was made yesterday when the Girls 1st XI Hockey Team took home gold at the Tier 4 U18 National Hockey Tournament in Nottingham.

After travelling up on Sunday evening, the team were ready to begin their campaign bright and early on Monday morning. The team finished top of their pool and went into the final with a draw and two wins under their belt, with goalkeeper Sasha (Fifth Form, Priestley) keeping a clean sheet.

The final saw an inspiring display of hockey provided to the many spectators who had travelled from all across the country to support. With the final score ending 3-1, the celebrations began. Chloe (Upper Sixth, Murray) also came away with the Top Goal Scorer of the Tournament Award, adding to the jubilant celebrations.

This accomplishment reflects the group's dedication, hard work, and passion for their sport and their school. Not only have the players worked tirelessly, but so have the staff coaching and management teams.

We couldn't be more proud and we can't wait to see where this sport takes us in the future.

#MillHillSenior #MillHillMoments

7



CONGRATULATIONS KIM!

A huge congratulations to Kim S (Murray), who was selected to represent the Independent Schools Tennis Association Team @istatennis against 'The All England Tennis Club' on Saturday 25 March, at @wimbledon. This is an amazing achievement and honour for Kim. He is one of only four senior boys across the country selected from the independent sector to attend this prestigious event.

#MillHillSenior #MillHillMoments

8



RUGBY TOUR

We were thrilled to hold our first-ever joint Netball and Rugby Tour to Dubai during Half Term. It was a huge success, with our pupils getting the chance to experience a different culture, play against a wide range of teams in some excellent matches and build an unshakeable bond with their teammates.

#MillHillSenior #MillHillMoments

9



INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY

Today is #InternationalNursesDay2022! Thank you to our fantastic school nurses for their tireless dedication to keeping our pupils healthy! We are incredibly grateful for your hard work, patience, and commitment to the health and wellbeing of our pupils.

#MillHillSenior #MillHillMoments

10



CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

Today marks the Coronation of King Charles III. As part of the same ceremony, his wife Camilla, the Queen Consort, will be crowned Queen Camilla. This special occasion is of great historical importance and will take place at Westminster Abbey. We wish everyone a wonderful weekend, whatever your plans may be!

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's passing last year marked the end of a truly outstanding reign, filled with incredible achievements and events. Mill Hill School was fortunate enough to host one such occasion in 1957, when the Queen kindly attended our 150th anniversary celebrations.

#MillHillSenior #Coronation @theroyalfamily



Instilling values, inspiring minds
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