



THE MOUNT,
Mill Hill
International

Spring Term

WORLD BOOK DAY | TEN AND FIVE MILE CUP | SUMMER SCHOOL | JOURNALISM WORKSHOP | REVIEW

MESSAGE FROM

The Head



The Independent School Council has recently published their research looking at an analysis of 'mental toughness' in the UK independent schools. Their main findings are that pupils are controlled, committed, confident and like a challenge. I am pleased to note these characteristics in our own pupils at The Mount, Mill Hill International. Reading through this newsletter, we have plenty of evidence to illustrate this mindset in our pupils.

The teachers, tutors, Housemasters and Houseparents have strived to help pupils develop an attitude of mind which encourages pupils to believe that they are in control of what determines their ability to do things. It could be all too easy to blame circumstance for lack of achievement, but the resilience our pupils have shown in taking charge of their own learning, especially, for example, when their results of examinations have not been quite what they had hoped for, is truly inspiring to see. Managing our emotions in difficult situations is a life-long goal and, through an attention on mental health awareness, our staff have worked with pupils to face some tough challenges.

Aiming for committed pupils is at the heart of both the academic and extracurricular programme at School. Goal setting, committing to do things and sticking to those promises is a skill which we greatly value. As part of our commitment to giving, we introduced a digital inclusion programme jointly run by Age UK and The Mount, Mill Hill International where pupil volunteers and older people in the community come together at School every week. It is wonderful to see our pupils dedicate their free time to helping others learn how to use technology which we take for granted, such as navigating the internet and using mobile devices.

As we prepare young people for employment, we must think beyond academic qualifications. The acquisition of confidence is perhaps one of the most essential attributes they will need to succeed. It is thus deeply gratifying to observe how our pupils are building their self-confidence. Through the presentations they lead in our assemblies, volunteering to participate in competitions, student councils, and becoming School Ambassadors, visitors to the School are truly impressed at how articulate our pupils have become in such a short time.

I suppose the very fact that many of our pupils have left their own countries and families to come and study in the UK is already proof that they like a challenge. Being open to changing mindset indicates how well-equipped our pupils are to deal with stress, pressure, challenge and opportunity. Our own staff were put to the challenge the week before the end of the Spring Term when the ISI (Independent School Inspectorate) came to inspect The Mill Hill School Foundation. The staff worked very hard over the few days of the inspection and the pupils were a real credit to you and to the School. I would like to express my gratitude to all the parents for completing the ISI questionnaires. The Inspection Team found your contributions very helpful. We expect to receive the report some time during May.

Those parents and guardians of Year 11 pupils will no doubt be supporting their children and wards as they prepare for their GCSE examinations to be taken soon after they return in the Summer Term. The Deputy Head (Academic) has sent a suggested programme of study for the Easter holiday break which gives useful guidance and we welcome any feedback from this revision period. Although the revision schedule is not quite as onerous for our Year 9 and 10 pupils, we have included their holiday prep too.

The Summer Term promises to be full of activity. Clearly, the main focus of our Year 11 pupils will be to complete their GCSE examinations but after Half Term, when the majority of the exams will have been taken, there will be an interesting and valuable programme of study to equip our pupils with the skills for a successful Sixth Form. Year 11s can also look forward to the Summer Ball at the end of the term; this will be a wonderful occasion for them to formally celebrate the end of the school and they may wish to bring their dresses and suits from home when they return from their holidays (Black Tie dress code).

All parents and guardians are welcome to attend our Prizegiving held on Thursday 29th June 2017 and the invitations will be sent out soon. It is an expectation that all our pupils remain at school until the last day of term (Friday 30th June) but, should parents and guardians attend the Prizegiving, the pupils may leave with them after the event.

Here's wishing you all a Happy Spring break and I look forward to seeing you all at the end of the school year.

Ms S Bellotti

HAPPY PAKISTAN DAY

The 23rd March is an important celebration for Pakistani people because this is the date on which this country was created. We celebrated this by showing a presentation all about the people and culture of Pakistan in Tutor time and wished our Pakistani pupils 'ap ka din acha guzrae!'

Mr J Gale

DESIGNER MAKER USER EXHIBITION

Thirty pupils from MMHI enjoyed looking around the 'Designer Maker User' exhibition in the stunning new Design Museum Building in Kensington this Saturday. Pupils were given a task to find objects from the 20th and 21st centuries and then sketch and compare them.

Mr W Hughes-Caley



TEN MILE AND FIVE MILE CUP AT MILL HILL SCHOOL

This week a number of MMHI pupils took part in one of the largest and most popular sporting events in the Mill Hill School Foundation calendar - The Ten Mile Cup and Five Mile Cup races. This involves teams of 10 boys and 5 girls from each House competing in a relay race around a 1 mile course through the school grounds. The Ten Mile Cup started in 1979 and has been an annual event ever since. The Five Mile Cup followed in 2000.

The Ten Mile Cup was won by a very strong team from Atkinson House who even beat the male staff team by over a minute. Burton Bank finished second placed House and this included an excellent lap of 6:12 from Amir-Ali (MMHI Year 9) who was one of the youngest participants in the event.

Collinson's Girls triumphed in the Five Mile Cup for only the second time in the history of the event (and the only Boarding House to win it). The winning team included MMHI Year 11 pupil Essence who ran a strong first leg and Yuemei who brought the baton home on the last leg to delight of her fellow Collinsonians.

This year MMHI had 18 pupils and 1 staff member racing for their respective teams. Special mentions to Pierluigi (5:55) and Maria (7:17) who were the fastest MMHI pupils overall. Mr Heseltine (6:35) will be stepping up his training programme in readiness for next year's event!

The MMHI participants were as follow:

Burton Bank: Amir-Ali, Heidi and Yulia.

Collinson House: Timofei, Mohsen, Junhao, Evgenii, Haoming, Dimitris, Essence and Yuemei.

Ridgeway House: Pierluigi, Avgust, Ales, Mustafa, Jade and Madeleine.

St. Bees: Maria

Male staff team: Mr Heseltine

Mr M Heseltine

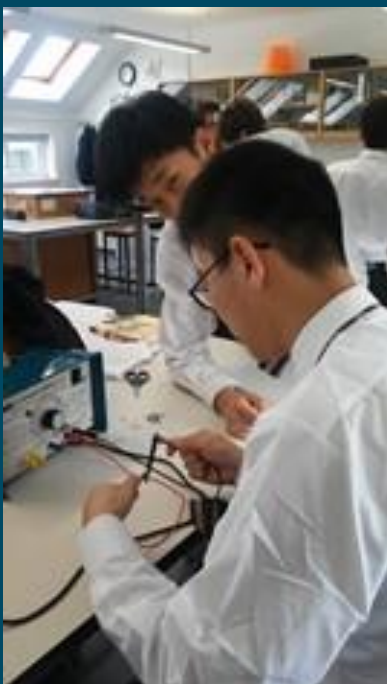
SCIENCE WEEK

In an era where access to technology is 'limitless' and the ability of people to connect with one another as well as with information systems has been made easy through the use of 'apps' it is surprisingly easy to forget the science which has facilitated this revolution.

Science week at MMHI has taken a step backwards in time, by allowing pupils to connect with sensory perceptions by using simple experiments which allow pupils to explore their surroundings. To this end pupils have built spectroscopes to observe the line spectra created by neon lights in the classroom, determined whether they are 'supertasters' by examining their tongue papillae, used engineering skill to construct straw aeroplanes and simple hovercrafts, made 'junk-yard cameras', and looked at surface tension in liquids by making a milk rainbow.

These activities have offered a 'back to basics approach to science', prompting enthusiasm and a desire to learn a little about the real science behind the projects.

Dr Biswas



MMHI COLLABORATES WITH GRIMSDELL FOR WORLD BOOK DAY 2017



As part of MMHI's celebration of World Book Day, a select group of Year 9 and Year 10 pupils took part in a performance of the beloved Julia Donaldson book: 'Room on a Broom'.

The pupils had rehearsed and planned their performance in the confines of their MMHI English classroom for weeks prior to the actual day, getting invaluable teacher feedback on their vocal projection, movement and use of props.

On World Book Day (2nd March 2017) the 'Room on the Broom players' walked up to Grimsdell pre-prep school. After one final rehearsal, they were faced with their audience: Grimsdell's year one and year two pupils. MMHI rose to the occasion. The narrators (Ethan, Emerson, Dimitri, Evgenii) guided the children through the story of the witch (Berfu) and her cat (Ekaterina) who let a dog (Yinting), a bird (Nuriya) and a frog (Yintong) on their broom; they repay this kindness by saving her from a dragon (Bardia). The witch thanks them and creates a special broom that compliments them all. It is a story of acceptance and inclusion that particularly resonated with our philosophy at MMHI.

The Grimsdell pupils were spellbound and their teacher later said that the pupils "did brilliantly" with "clear, expressive voices and confident acting" she added that "the children thoroughly enjoyed watching them and certainly loved the choice of story!" The 'Room on the Broom' players themselves later said that they had really loved this unique experience and they were happy that Grimsdell did too.

We look forward to more collaborations with Grimsdell in the future and would like to thank them for welcoming us and being such an appreciative audience.

Mrs Barnard

MILL HILL SUMMER SCHOOL



Preparation and planning is well under way for our second year of Summer School which runs from 3rd July to 28th August this year. With bookings from 11 different countries so far, we are looking forward to creating our own mini world which has English at the heart of everything we do.

Our Intensive Academic and English plus Activities programmes are designed for boys and girls aged 12-17 who will be joining British Boarding Schools and for those who wish to sample a British education in the summer.

The Summer School timetable comprises 15 hours of English per week, with a further 15 hours per week divided equally between creative activity classes and either Mathematics and Science or Sports. Creative activities include music, art, drama and I.T.

Courses last either 2, 4 or 8 weeks and enable our students to consolidate their knowledge of academic English, whilst gaining an insight into life in a British boarding school.

A lively programme of sports and social activities ensures that all students are occupied and entertained each evening, with two sports based events each week, a weekly evening trip to London and a range of social activities such as talent show, quiz and disco and film night.

Each week there are two full-day excursions, one to nearby London and the other to attractive destinations such as Brighton, Cambridge, Oxford and the Harry Potter Studio Tour.

If you know of anyone who would like to join in the fun and make summer 2017 one that they will never forget, please ask them to contact me, Emma Jennings, Director of Summer School on: elj@millhillinternational.org.uk

Ms E Jennings



VISIT FROM KAGOSHIMA KONAN HIGH SCHOOL

On Thursday 9 March we were delighted to welcome for a second time a group of Japanese Year 12 pupils. They had lunch with The Mount, Mill Hill International pupils then toured the campus of the School, led by pupils from Year 9 and 10, and then finally presented to our pupils on topics including how they prepare against the threat of earthquakes and how they are both measured and monitored. Our pupils were fascinated to hear how earthquakes occur in Japan and how earthquake drills as commonplace in Japan as fire drills in the UK.

A link with Mill Hill is particularly interesting for Kagoshima Konan due to the connection with Ernest Satow, who held a significant post as a British diplomat based in Kagoshima during the years 1862-1869 when Japan was changing from rule by the Tokugawa shogunate to the restoration of Imperial rule. Satow was also a keen student of Japanese culture and calligraphy.

As was the case last year, we welcomed our Japanese visitors, expressing the School's hope that the link with Kagoshima Konan will continue for many years to come. Ms Bellotti was pleased to receive gifts from one of the visiting teachers of the origami covered clams and beautiful calligraphy.

BREAK TIME CONCERT



On Thursday 23rd March we had our Termly Coffee Morning Concert. This concert featured our Year 11 GCSE Music students performing solos and duets which was recorded as part of their GCSE assessment. A highlight of the concert was a performance by Penelope and Abir who performed Takiari, a traditional Bolivian Dance.

Ms D Derry

PERSIAN NEW YEAR



On Monday 20th March the MMHI community joined together to celebrate Nowruz, the Persian New Year. Of all the Persian national festivals, the New Year celebration is one of the most important and embodies a wealth of ancient rites and customs.

Our Persian pupils gave a very informative and interesting assembly about this wonderful occasion and created a symbolic Haft Sin. This ceremonial table is called the 'cloth of seven dishes', each one beginning with the Persian letter Sin. The number seven has been sacred in Persia since the ancient times, and the seven dishes stand for the seven angelic heralds of life-rebirth, health, happiness, prosperity, joy, patience, and beauty.

Natalie, our Chef, created a wonderful lunch consisting of all sorts of Persian foods and delicacies; which was much enjoyed by all.

Mr J Gale

WORLD SLEEP DAY

World Sleep Day

Sleep Smarter. Live Better

2017

On Friday 17th March it was World Sleep Day and this gave us an opportunity to highlight the importance of a good night's sleep. With this in mind, Happy Sleepers came in to present to the Boarding Community on Sunday 19th March. These sessions were carried out in the Burton Bank TV room.

The topics that were covered are:

- What sleep is and why it is good for us
- How sleep is different for teenagers
- What happens when teenagers do not get enough sleep
- What causes poor sleep and how to develop good sleep habits
- Who to go to for further support about sleep
- Dangers of sleepy driving (for the older pupils)
- How to make healthy choices about sleep for study, for work and social integration

Mr J Gale

NATIONAL MATHS CHALLENGE

In this our second year taking part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge as The Mount, Mill Hill International we have surpassed the achievements of the previous year. With the size of the student body almost doubling since last year, we decided to have twice the number of entries for the 2017 UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. This year the pupils earned 22 awards (9 gold, 7 silver and 6 bronze) up from the 16 prizes that we had last year. Among the prize winners 9 of them qualified for the second round of the competition, six for the Pink Kangaroo round and three for the Intermediate Maths Olympiad round, Maclaurin category. One individual from the team, Yuemei, has been selected for invitation to a UKMT Summer School following an excellent performance in this year's Intermediate Mathematical Challenge. The Summer School will be held at Oxford University, Balliol College, 20-25 August 2017.

Mr J Garsee



The following articles were produced and edited by the pupil journalists from MMHI who took part in the Journalist Workshop on Saturday 11th March 2017.

A DAY WITH ARTISTS



On Saturday 11th March 2017, A level and GCSE students who take art, gathered in the art workshop. Different people worked on different projects: some completed their work, some took a step forward and did extra work and others are got ready for the upcoming exams. We interviewed some to see what it is like and why they chose Art Workshop.

Q: Why did you choose this activity?

A: Because I do art as my GCSE and I feel that doing extra work will help me a lot.

Q: How do you think this helps you?

A: Well, we get the chance to finish our work, do some extra work and if we don't understand something our teacher can always help us.

FOOTBALL



Despite the grey, cloudy weather at Mill Hill on Saturday morning, eight international sporting talents gathered together to bring out a visual feast.

After dividing equally into two groups, an intensive match began. Both sides had a few chances at the beginning of the match. Mustafa continually challenged opponents' defensive line, and finally grasped a defender's mistake and hit the ball between the goalposts. On the other side, Austrian Ronaldo, Philipp quickly responded by skilfully driving through defenders and won one in return against god-like Italian goalkeeper, Lolo, who denied all the attempts by the opposition.

The final score on the board was 5-6, with Philipp scoring a game-winner in response to Mustafa's hat-trick.

After the match, we luckily got a chance to interview the best player of the match, Philipp.

Q: Another splendid performance by you today! How do you feel about being the best player of the match?

A: I'm very happy! You know, even though we struggled at the beginning to lead the board, all we needed to do was keep trying, because we believed in ourselves. Also, the teammates' support is very important. I couldn't win the match myself.

Q: Can you share some secrets about your success?

A: Haha, honestly I don't have much to say, but the key is to keep working hard because success is not how much talent you have, but how much time you devote to the game. Just work hard and believe in yourself, eventually you will get to reach your goal.

Clive and Mohsen

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY



DT workshop on Saturday is available for pupils choosing IGCSE Design and Technology. During the course, pupils spend their time on the online CAD software to make sketches and detailed drawing of their lamps.

They have their own project partners who are the staff at school who help by meeting with the designers to talk about their preferences. Pupils use the facilities in the workshop to help them build up their own lamp model.

We had a quick interview with Cherie Huang, one of the students on the DT IGCSE course. She chose DT because she likes to show her own ideas as well as making things. "I would say I prefer practical work than the theory since I gain a lot more through hand making and using the technology than just learning about it," said Cherie. She started to make her own lamp model at the beginning of the term and the deadline for completion

is at the end of this term. "Normally we use aluminium because it is light and much easier to bend comparing to other materials. MDF wood is also a good choice, since it is heavy and just appropriate for the base," said another pupil from the DT course, Frankie.

The breadth of facilities in the DT workshop such as the 3D printer and other equipment helps with modelling.



COOKERY

MMHI students were engaged in a cookery activity. The main course was pizza and included a diverse range of ingredients, from mushrooms to mozzarella. Each of the students added a part of their own culture to the dish. We took part in the activity and observed the process of the pizza making, we were also lucky to seize a chance to interview the pupils.

“Cooking might be hard, but it’s fun when doing it with friends,” said one of the boys.

“It’s going well so far and I feel it is not hard at all to make a pizza,” said Cathy He, one of the pupils who was extremely optimistic about the progress of her pizza. “I think it can help us to raise skills in other areas,” said Yanika, another attendee.

What was achieved after two hours was brilliant. We should thank those pupils who made such great effort in their cooking. It is Michelin star taste!

Penelope and Junhao

FOR THCOMING EVENTS

April 2017

Wednesday 19 April	EVE	Boarders Return
Thursday 20 April	0820	School Starts
Friday 28 April	1700	Exeat Weekend Begins

May 2017

IGCSE Examinations Begin (Timetable published separately)

Monday 1 May	EVE	Boarders return
2 - 4 May	All day	Interim Test for Years 9 and 10
Thursday 11 May		Interim Reports published
Friday 26 May	1700	Half Term Starts

June 2017

Sunday 4 June	EVE	Boarders Return
Monday 5 June	0820	School Restarts
Thursday 29 June	1500	Prizegiving
Friday 30 June	1300	School Year Finishes

July 2017

Monday 3 July		Reports Published
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August 2017

