



Mill Hill



Mill Hill Magazine 2024-25

Contents



04	THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE	06	1729 MATHS SCHOOL	08	ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE	10	EXAMINATION SUCCESS
12	PASTORAL OVERVIEW	14	OUR HOUSES	16	BOARDING	18	FAREWELL TO THE CLASS OF 2025
20	CAREERS AND NEXT STEPS	22	FOUNDATION DAY 2025	24	80 YEARS SINCE WW2	26	CHAPEL LIFE
28	LONDON SCHOOLS' FILM COMETITION	30	SCIENCE WEEK 2025	32	MUSIC	34	DRAMA
36	SPORTS	38	EDUCATION VISITS AND TRIPS	40	ENRICHMENT WEEK	42	VALETE
44	ARCHIVE	46	TRANSFORMING FUTURES THROUGH OUR BURSARY PROGRAMME	50	OLD MILLHILLIANS BACK AT SCHOOL	52	OLD MILLHILLIANS CLUB
54	SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS						

Mr David Benson
Head, Mill Hill School

Welcome to the Mill Hill Magazine

A warm welcome to the Mill Hill Magazine for the academic year 2024-25. Whether you are a current member of the Mill Hill community, or someone who is considering joining us in the future, I'm sure there will be plenty to read in the pages that follow that sparks your interest. As you will see, our fabulous School continues to go from strength to strength and is in robust health, despite the wider challenges independent schools have faced recently. We should be particularly grateful for this I think.

A major focus at Mill Hill over the past two years has been driving academic standards, so that we can confidently say that our pupils achieve excellent GCSE and A Level results in every subject, every year. The results this summer show that we have now turned a corner in this work. At GCSE, 28% of all grades were 9s in 2025, with 55% at 9-8 and 75% at 9-7. Equally strong were the A Level grades, with 25% A*, 50% A*/A and 80% A*-B.

These results are highly competitive across the independent and state sectors, and underline the significant improvements that have been made. It's clear that in the current era academics at Mill Hill match the high standards we set in all other areas, creating a powerful, rounded offer that sets pupils up for success at university and in the world of work.

None of this is to suggest that Mill Hill is a school where pupils are defined solely by the grades they receive. On the contrary, it's in our DNA to recognise a range of talents and abilities, and to nurture and celebrate all forms of success. It's precisely because we balance academics against other priorities that our pupils are so well set up for the real world, and this will always be the case.

On this point about wider education, I will let this year's magazine speak for itself. The contributions from each department demonstrate the sheer scope and variety of opportunities on offer to our current pupils, many of which take place outside of formal lessons. The passion of both pupils and staff is evident from the articles that follow, and I remain extremely grateful to them for the contribution they each make to our wonderful School.

I do hope you will take the time to read through some of these articles, to get a flavour of life at Mill Hill in this current exciting chapter. Thank you for your interest in our School and I can't wait to see what more can be achieved anew in the year ahead.

With best wishes,

Mr David Benson
Head, Mill Hill School

GCSE

%	9	9-8	9-7	9-5
2025	28	55	75	96
2024	18	41	66	94
2023	14	35	58	91

A LEVEL

%	A*	A*-A	A*-B	A-C
2025	25	50	80	95
2024	20	52	84	96
2023	11	38	66	85

Front Cover:
Valedictory Day 2025

What The Good Schools Guide says about Mill Hill School

THE
GOOD
SCHOOLS
GUIDE

The Good Schools Guide Review

“

On the school crest, the martlet, a bird always on the wing – an apposite symbol for continuous effort, so highly valued, whether in academic, sporting or co-curricular life. Well-established ethos to promote leadership and confidence, combined with new academic rigour, supported by an openness between pupils and teachers, equips pupils for life beyond the classroom.”

Academic



“

There's no doubt expectations have nudged up a grade or two under the new Head. GCSE results reflect this greater focus. A levels are particularly strong in English, drama, art, economics, computer science and politics, with excellent results too in the most popular A Level subject, mathematics.”

“

75 per cent of leavers to Russell Group in 2024.”

“

There's no ceiling on what you can achieve if you want to do well,” says a parent: “They find that thing which makes each child shine bright, then polish it.”

“

Deep subject knowledge and passion for the subject lie at the core of teachers' work.”

“

Student effort is rewarded in spades: ad hoc catch-ups, lunchtime clinics, one to one support – nothing seems too much trouble for staff.”

“

Very thorough UCAS preparation,” says a Sixth Former, “with helpful conversations with heads of department, tutors and housemasters.”

Pastoral

“

Discipline has 'tightened up' under new head, the only grumbles from sixth formers no longer being able to go out at lunchtime. Universal approval, obviously, from parents.”

“

Sense of belonging is fostered by 'massively important' house system. Interhouse competitions – sport, music, drama or a show-stopping bake-off – are hotly contested and house identity is enduring: 'Which house?', the ice-breaker question when current pupils and Old Millhillians meet.”

“

Wellbeing wing is a calm space available to all, with 9am – 5pm access to mental health support, if referred or desired, from three psychotherapists.”



Co-curricular



“

Long-standing reputation for sporting excellence shows no sign of diminishing, especially with energetic director of sport and enhanced partnerships. All pupils have a chance to represent the school; indeed, source of pride is 'strength in depth.’”

“

Pupils are encouraged, indeed required, to engage with wide-ranging co-curricular activities. Over 200 clubs, from jewellery making to eco society (there's even a beekeeper on site), from astronomy to video production.”

“

If the 1729 Maths School is the right project at the right time, then Mill Hill is the right place. I hope that, like us, you can see the unique potential of the 1729 Maths School and share our passion and excitement for what we can achieve together.”

DAVID BENSON | Head, Mill Hill School



David Benson

1729 Maths School

The UK's first specialist maths school for boys and girls aged 11-18 opening in September 2026.

The 1729 Maths School's mission is to identify, nurture and develop world-class mathematical talent. They are actively looking for boys and girls with outstanding promise and a passion for maths, to help them flourish in an environment that is both challenging and supportive.

The 1729 Maths School will be part of the wider community of Mill Hill School and Belmont, Mill Hill Prep. The beauty of our 'school within a school' structure is it gives pupils dedicated space to nurture their maths talent with their like-minded peers, while also being fully embedded in the wider school community of Mill Hill.

MILL HILL AND BELMONT SELECTED TO LAUNCH A SPECIALIST MATHS SCHOOL

Mill Hill Schools were delighted to have been selected to launch 1729 Maths School, a school initiated and funded by

major supporters of maths education and research in the UK. 1729 will offer an outstanding, rigorous and highly ambitious maths-based education to pupils irrespective of family income. This opportunity will be complemented by a broad curriculum and an extensive co-curricular offering that comes from being part of the Mill Hill Schools family.

The 1729 Maths School will identify gifted mathematicians from an earlier age and develop them over a longer period. Through Purposeful Ventures, a not-for-profit charity, the 1729 Maths School has been initiated and is funded by Alex and Elena Gerko, major supporters of maths education and research in the UK.

The Founding Head of 1729 Maths School is Nick Hamshaw. He will be supported by David Benson, Head of Mill Hill School and Dr Susannah Abbott, Head of Belmont, Mill Hill Prep, alongside the wider advisory

board. There is every reason to be confident that, in just a few short years, 1729 Maths School will be a true centre of excellence, with over a hundred pupils flourishing both academically and socially.



Scan the QR code to discover more

“

I am thrilled to be the Founding Head of 1729, a school unlike any other, purpose built for children with exceptional mathematical potential. We're building a place where extraordinary mathematical minds can flourish and where curiosity lies at the heart of everything we do. Children who thrive at 1729 will be those with an insatiable appetite for new ideas, a natural ability to think in new and different ways and a fascination with challenging, unsolved problems. They will thrive when working independently and will grow when communicating and collaborating with like minded peers.”

NICK HAMSHAW | Founding Head, 1729 Maths School



Nick Hamshaw

17 29

**MATHS
SCHOOL**

Mill Hill

WHY 1729?

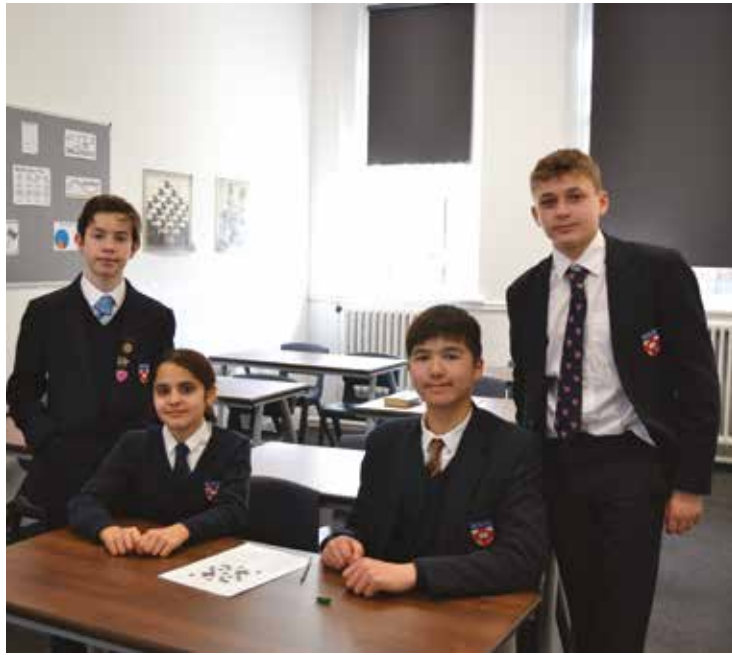
1729 is well known in maths circles as the 'taxicab' number – or the Hardy-Ramanujan number, which came from a conversation over a hundred years ago involving mathematicians G.H. Hardy and Srinivasa Ramanujan.

As later told by Hardy: "I remember once going to see him [Ramanujan] when he was lying ill at Putney. I had ridden in taxi-cab number 1729 and remarked that the number seemed to be rather a dull one, and that I hoped it was not an unfavourable omen. "No," he replied, "it is a very interesting number; it is the smallest number expressible as the sum of two cubes in two different ways."

The number 1729 is also a wonderful number in maths. For example, it is a Harsad number in base 10 and it's also the first Chemick-Carmichael number! And for anyone wondering if the year is also significant; it was the year Newton's Principia was first published in English. ■



Srinivasa Ramanujan



Celebrating Academic Excellence at Mill Hill School

The old saying goes, “Fix the roof while the sun is shining,” and following last year’s outstanding academic achievements, this year’s focus has been on recognising, sustaining, and building upon that excellence across the School.

A great deal of time has been dedicated both in classrooms and Houses to developing pupils’ metacognitive and revision skills-encouraging them to ‘think about thinking’ and take ownership of their learning by identifying areas for meaningful and lasting improvement. Alongside this, there has been a strong emphasis on deepening and broadening disciplinary knowledge, nurturing a genuine love of learning and a drive for academic enrichment.

This commitment was exemplified in the Scholars’ Symposium, which brought together Humanities and STEM scholars to explore the impact of artificial intelligence in today’s world. The event featured a dynamic mix of staff and pupil led seminars and

workshops, sparking thoughtful discussion and collaboration.

Our pupils continued to shine in external competitions. Twelve Lower School pupils earned Gold Awards in the Intermediate Maths Challenge, and our Physics scholars were highly commended for their innovative piezoelectric project presented at the University of Westminster.

One of the year’s highlights was the inspiring line-up of guest speakers who connected academic study with real-world careers. For example, aspiring medics met Dr Sebastian Lighvani at the Athenaeum Club, while future economists and engineers engaged with leading professionals in their fields.

Academic trips further enriched pupils’ subject knowledge. Highlights included filming and acting in Hollywood, exploring classical antiquity in Pompeii, hiking Mount Etna to study volcanoes, delving into particle physics in Geneva, and even encountering

the Pope in Rome. We’re especially excited about the return of the French exchange next year, reconnecting with our partner school in Rouen.

The year concluded with a stimulating enrichment week, offering activities ranging from cutting-edge sports science at Loughborough University to designing and programming electronic pinball machines.

Looking ahead, there’s much to be excited about. We’ll continue to enhance our scholars’ programmes, explore the potential of 1-1 devices in the classroom, and provide pupils with engaging subject and careers talks. At Mill Hill School, our academic programmes are thriving – and the future looks bright. ■

By
Mr Jonathan Huddleston
Deputy Head, Academic





A Summer of Academic Excellence: Celebrating GCSE and A Level Success

For our Fifth Form and Upper Sixth pupils, Summer 2025 will be remembered as a season of remarkable academic achievement. On both Results Days, the School was alive with celebration, as pupils gathered to mark the culmination of years of dedication, resilience, and hard work.

UPPER SIXTH TRIUMPHS

The first to receive their results were our Upper Sixth pupils, who faced the formidable challenge of maintaining and even surpassing the exceptional standards set by the 2024 cohort. We are delighted to report that they rose to the occasion with distinction.

- 25% of grades were awarded at A*-A 5% increase on last year.
- A*-A grades again touched the 50% mark, while A*-B grades remained consistent with last year.
- 45 pupils achieved exclusively A and A grades*, a testament to their academic excellence.

Their success was mirrored in an impressive array of university destinations:

- Two pupils will be heading to Oxford to read Mathematics and English respectively.
- 75% of the cohort will be pursuing degrees at Russell Group universities.
- Others will be studying internationally, including at Duke University (USA), and institutions in the Netherlands and Norway.
- Our thriving degree apprenticeship support programme continues, with placements earned at prestigious firms such as Goldman Sachs.
- A number of pupils will also be embarking on professional and sponsored sporting contracts, reflecting the strength of our co-curricular partnerships.

RECORD-BREAKING GCSE RESULTS

One week later, it was the turn of our Fifth Form pupils, whose results set a new benchmark in the School's academic history.

- 28% of all grades were at Grade 9, with 55% at Grades 9 or 8 (equivalent to the historic A*).
- These figures represent a 9% rise in Grade 9s and a 14% increase in Grades 9-8.
- 75% of all grades were between 9 and 7, showcasing the depth of achievement across the cohort.

- 28 pupils achieved at least nine grades at 8 or 9

It is with great pleasure that we welcome back the majority of our Fifth Form pupils to the Sixth Form, confident that they will continue to thrive and excel, both in the classroom and in their wider endeavours.

While our pupils rightly take centre stage in these achievements, we also celebrate the unwavering support of our teachers, parents, and guardians, whose guidance and encouragement have helped create the conditions for success.

These results reflect the rapid academic progress made at Mill Hill in recent years. Crucially, our pupils have balanced academic rigour with outstanding co-curricular accomplishments, proving that with the right climate for success, anything is possible. ■

By
Mr Jonathan Huddleston
Deputy Head, Academic





Pastoral Overview

Reflecting on the past academic year, we are incredibly proud of our Mill Hill community's dedication to the Movember cause.

IT'S OKAY TO NOT BE OKAY: MILL HILL SIXTH FORMERS LEAD INSPIRING FUNDRAISER

At Mill Hill School, we believe that courage, kindness and compassion are just as important as academic success – and our pupils continue to prove it. This term Charlie S, Joe R, Adam B, Harry E and Harry O (Upper Sixth) – along with the 1st XV Rugby team – have demonstrated exceptional leadership and empathy by spearheading a powerful campaign for Mental Health Awareness Week, under the resonant message: “It’s okay to not be okay.”

Motivated by personal experiences and a desire to support others, the team led the Sixth Form and wider school community in a wide-reaching effort to raise awareness and funds for Movember, a charity focused on men’s mental health and suicide prevention. Their campaign raised an incredible £6,975, earning Mill Hill a place in the top 10 UK schools for Movember fundraising.

The campaign included a packed programme of events designed to engage, challenge and unite the school. Highlights included a chilli eating challenge, a bake sale, a mixed netball tournament, and an unforgettable ice bucket challenge in 3°C temperatures. Pupils also took on an ambitious team challenge – cycling, skiing, rowing and running the distance from Mill Hill to France, ultimately covering a staggering 650km and surpassing their target.

Chapel services throughout the week were used to reflect on the importance of mental wellbeing, encouraging honest conversations and emotional awareness. Above all, the campaign’s main message was clear: no one should suffer in silence. Pupils were urged to speak up, check in on each other, and understand that seeking help is a sign of strength.

In recognition of their outstanding efforts, Joe, Charlie and Adam were invited to the Movember Awards Night in London. Their

campaign has left a lasting legacy at Mill Hill – one of empathy, openness and action. We are incredibly proud of what they’ve achieved. Their message continues to echo across our community: “It’s okay to not be okay” – and it’s even better when we face it together. ■

by
Miss Jade Boyle
Assistant Head (Pastoral)



Scan the QR code on your phone to find out more about our Movember fundraising



“

I’m really happy with how it’s gone. It’s been a successful campaign and it’s great there’s such widespread support within the School. So many people have been supportive with the issue, and they’ll continue to support Movember when they leave school, when they leave university, when they start their job.

We want to build recognition. Being able to speak to each other solves so many problems – it’s about not being alone or by yourself. I think that is the best way of solving absolutely everything.”

JOER | Upper Sixth





Our Houses

THE WHOLE HOG: A HOUSE-UNITY SPECTACULAR

In the wake of a fiercely competitive Sports Day (round 1), pupils were treated to a brand-new, never-before-seen event: The Whole Hog. Designed to unite all twelve Houses after a day of high-octane rivalry, this extravaganza marked a new chapter in pupil-led celebration – and it did not disappoint.

Spearheaded by a dynamic team of Lower Sixth leaders (with a quiet guiding hand from Mr Sheppard), The Whole Hog brought everyone together in a festival of food, fun, and full-throttle entertainment. From the moment the first burger hit the grill on the Head's Lawn, it was clear this wasn't going to be your average end-of-term wind-down. Lawn games offered a relaxed option, but the energy soon ramped up with a spirited 5-a-side football tournament and the chaotic joy of "Sponge the Teacher". Crowds gathered as teachers gamely took their place

behind the screen – Mr Down proving immensely popular as always – and faced the sponge-based consequences.

Elsewhere, Ninja Warrior-style inflatables tested pupils' strength and silliness in equal measure, while the Head's Lawn pulsed with music from none other than special guest Mr Traeger – or, as he's better known behind the decks, DJ Traegz.

But the undisputed showstopper of the afternoon? A full-scale laser tag battle on Top Field, orchestrated by the CCF and complete with camo netting, smoke grenades and tactical missions. For many, it was the highlight of the term.

More than just a party, The Whole Hog was a celebration of collaboration, community and creativity. True to its name, this event didn't do things by halves – it went the whole hog in every possible way. And if the smiles were anything to go by, it's a tradition that's here to stay.



HOUSE SHIELD 2024-25

If there is one word that sums up the 2024-25 House Shield competition at Mill Hill, it's relentless. From the first House Hockey match in September to the final track event on Sports Day, pupils poured their energy into every challenge thrown their way. What unfolded was a year-long battle of talent, tenacity and teamwork that went right down to the wire-and ended with a remarkable result: a shared House Shield victory for McClure and Atkinson.

The House Shield is no ordinary trophy. Pupils earn points through a rich and varied mix of House events, commendations, and the average of individual effort grades across the year. With such a broad framework, the competition rewards not just athletic ability, but creativity, consistency, and character.

This year began with a bang. McClure made their presence felt early, taking the House Hockey title and putting in a commanding performance in the much-loved biennial House Music competition. Their rendition of Where is the Love left a lasting impression, while victories in events like Netball and the Farrow further cemented their early lead. Meanwhile, Atkinson were building quietly but steadily, keeping within touching distance through strong classroom effort

grades, podium finishes in General Knowledge and Top of the Bench, and their always-reliable team spirit. Across the year, pupils took part in an incredible range of competitions: the Newcastle parade (won by Murray), the new House Golf (claimed by Priestley), and the fiercely contested Spelling Bee-which Atkinson eventually won, finally knocking Collinson from their longstanding spot on the podium.

Innovation was also in the spotlight this year, thanks to the launch of Dragon's Den: Pitch Your Idea 2025. Led by Mrs Stoll, with Mr Malik, Ms Joplin and a Lower Sixth judging panel, the competition encouraged entrepreneurial thinking. Burton Bank took top honours with their QR-coded silicone food storage idea, "Store and More", while Atkinson impressed with their "Smart Pass" ID system and McClure rounded out the top three with their "Snap Safe" valuables case.

While McClure looked poised to run away with the title, the final weeks of the summer term told a different story. Under the strategic eye of Mr Bingham, Atkinson House rallied. They clawed back points through commendations, effort grades, and mass participation, coming into Sports Day trailing McClure by just eight points. It all came

down to the athletics finals-and in true Atkinson fashion, they delivered. With a final surge on the track, Atkinson matched McClure's tally exactly.

It was a moment of stunned celebration (and some quiet disappointment): joint champions. A fitting conclusion to a year defined by perseverance, inclusion and House pride.

We also celebrate the incredible team effort of Cedars, who were crowned Sports Day champions. Their all-in approach-where everyone contributed regardless of previous experience-was a perfect reminder of what the House system stands for.

Congratulations to McClure and Atkinson, our 2024-25 House Shield winners. Whether leading from the front or charging from behind, both Houses showed us the power of collective belief and unshakeable determination. This was not just a competition-it was a celebration of everything we value at Mill Hill. ■

by
Miss Jade Boyle
Assistant Head (Pastoral)



Boarding

Boarding continues to be at the heart of the Mill Hill community. This year, we expanded our offer to include Part boarding – designed for families who want more flexibility during the school week.

BURTON BANK

It's been a fantastic year in Burton Bank with plenty to celebrate. We are renowned for our wonderful House Hogs and at Christmas we took a trip to central London to Piccolino's to eat delicious food and dance downstairs. In the Spring we also took pupils to El Vaquero, which was a great way to come together as a House and enjoy mountains of delicious meats.

Favourite trips this year included Thorpe Park alongside the very enjoyable theatre trips to see Wicked and Starlight Express. Pupils also spent an afternoon of go-karting which was very fun! Sporting events are very popular in our House and pupils really enjoyed

inter-house events such as volleyball which brought out lots of competitive spirit (even though we came second). A huge well done to our French pupils who hosted the House for a "taste of France" evening with an array of French cuisine and music.

The Summer House Hog in the garden was a big hit, with a pizza van, ice cream van and inflatables for all the boarders to enjoy. We ended the academic year by celebrating 150 years of Burton Bank on a lovely and warm Saturday in June; a proud moment in our House's history.

by
Mr Adam Parker
Assistant Housemaster



COLLINSON

It's been another memorable year in Collinson House, filled with laughter, music, and togetherness. We kicked things off with a high-energy trip to Flip Out, followed by festive ice skating at Somerset House and a delicious meal at Browns.

Our standout moment of the year was undoubtedly House Music – our ensemble's rendition of Stairway to Heaven earned a special mention from the judges, while our group performance of Somebody That I Used to Know was hailed by many staff as the day's favourite. Family quizzes were, as always, a joyful feature of House life – with Roman R's (Year 11) editions proving fiercely competitive and endlessly entertaining.

As we bid farewell to a number of our pupils, including the Upper Sixth who were my first cohort of pupils when I became Housemaster, we also say goodbye to Mr Halford, Mr Whitley and Miss Caister (who joins Ridgeway as Assistant Housemistress). Thank you all – you've made Collinson House something truly special.

by
Mr Stuart Hendy
Housemaster



MACGREGOR

As we wrap up another incredible year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the journey we've shared. It has been a year filled with creativity, laughter, growth, and unforgettable memories. I am immensely proud of every single one of our girls – not just for their achievements, but for the way they've supported one another, grown in confidence, and embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm and heart.

We were thrilled to come second in this year's Interhouse Music Competition! The girls poured their energy and talent into their performance, and the result was a show-stopping display of teamwork and musical flair. Our budding artists truly outdid



RIDGEWAY

As the Summer Term draws to a close, another school year in Ridgeway House comes to an end. Our pupils are heading off for a well-deserved summer break, having completed their summer exams. The Year Upper Sixth and Fifth Form pupils approached their exams with admirable focus and energy throughout the term and are no doubt already enjoying the summer!

This has been a truly positive year for Ridgeway. A strong sense of team spirit has been evident in all House activities, and the



themselves this year, taking first place in the Interhouse Art Competition. The creativity, originality, and attention to detail in their work were simply outstanding. This year wasn't just about competitions – it was about connection. Our whole-house boarding trips were a highlight, giving the girls a chance to relax, bond, and make lasting memories. A special mention goes to our trip to the seaside, where the sun, sea (well a bit), and sand brought out the best in everyone. We ended the year on a high with a thrilling trip to Thorpe Park! The laughter, screams (of joy!), and shared excitement were the perfect way to celebrate a year of hard work and friendship.

While we're proud of our achievements, what

truly matters is the growth and joy we've seen in our girls. Watching them mature, socialise, and support one another has been the most rewarding part of the year. Whether it was a quiet chat in the common room or a shared laugh on a trip, these moments are the heart of Macgregor House.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. I wish you all a restful, joyful summer, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting chapter in the life of Macgregor House.

by
Ms Karen Justice
Housemistress

unity among pupils has been outstanding. We are proud to currently hold the Boarders' Cup, which has inspired the House to come together and achieve memorable interhouse victories in events such as the Boarders' Bake Off, Rounders, Table Tennis, and by leading the MHI Commends totals for the entire year.

Beyond the classroom, our students have made the most of an exciting range of trips and activities from ice skating at Somerset House, to Flip Out, Watford, Southend, escape rooms, go-karting, and paddle boarding. It has been fantastic to see the

boarders embracing new challenges and making the most of every opportunity.

I wish you all a wonderful and restful summer holiday. To those moving on to new adventures, I wish you the very best. Dream big and stay true to yourselves. And to those returning in September, I look forward to welcoming you back for another exciting year at Mill Hill, here in Ridgeway House. ■

by
Mr Mark Fryer
Housemaster





Farewell to the Class of 2025

We say farewell to our Upper Sixth pupils who are moving onto the next exciting chapter of their lives.

The Valedictory Celebration for the Class of 2025 was a truly fantastic day. The sun shone brightly, the Mill Hill site was at its most beautiful, and what made it especially meaningful was the presence of so many parents and families who joined us to mark this important milestone.

The day began in the Chapel, where we gathered for a service that was both joyful and deeply moving. The hymns have never sounded louder, with such heart that a few tears began to fall even before the first reading. As part of the service, pupils heard from members of staff who have been central to their journey, many of whom have known them since their earliest days in the Mill Hill Schools at Belmont and Grimsdell.

Mrs Jane Sanchez read "Promise Yourself" by Christian D. Larson, offering this powerful encouragement:

"To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person you meet."

Mr John Barron followed with the traditional reading of the Old Millhillians Poem, reminding us all of the lasting bond between those who pass through Mill Hill's gates.

Later, in the Sports Hall, the celebration continued with warmth and emotion. Mr Kyles-Brown read "Desiderata" by Max Ehrmann, which includes the timeless reminder:

"You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here."

We also heard deeply moving musical performances from Tomos Graham, Alexander Hill, and Joshua Currie – each one a testament to the creativity and spirit of this year group.

Senior Monitors Sydney B, Manolo K, Donya S, and Joe R gave heartfelt, wise reflections

on the experiences they've shared and the challenges still to come. Their words captured the essence of this cohort – thoughtful, articulate, and full of promise.

It's hard to capture the character of this group in a single speech. That's why I turned to one of my favourite poems – Emily Dickinson's "I dwell in Possibility" – which I shared during the ceremony:

I dwell in Possibility –
A fairer House than Prose –
More numerous of Windows –
Superior – for Doors –

Of Chambers as the Cedars –
Impregnable of Eye –
And for an everlasting Roof
The Gambrels of the Sky –

Of Visitors – the fairest –
For Occupation – This –
The spreading wide my narrow Hands
To gather Paradise –

This poem captures something essential about the Class of 2025. They are outward-looking, curious, and full of ambition. Mornings were often punctuated by the "da ding" of Duolingo, conversations about geopolitics and global elections drifted across the quad, and more than once, we had to gently steer them back to their studies as they became engrossed in planning their interrailing adventures.

They also dream big. Sydney B and Gaby L take up their highly-prized places at Duke University, following a long line of Millhillians choosing to cross the Atlantic. Sascha B begins a prestigious degree apprenticeship at Goldman Sachs. Noah C continues his success with England Rugby – now at Under-20s level. An impressive number already run their own businesses. Many others are heading off to incredibly exciting opportunities at Oxford and across the Russell Group. It really is a case of "watch this space."

But perhaps most importantly, they are kind. Dickinson reminds us that those who dwell in possibility attract others who share their values. If I imagine myself as a fresh-faced undergraduate, I would be thrilled to find myself sitting next to a Millhillian – someone who would extend a handshake, be generous with their time, and make others feel seen and valued.

After the ceremony, we headed to the Quad to watch an outstanding performance by the CCF Corps of Drums, led expertly by Maya D, and then to the Head's Lawn. Jake S, Theo Mand Liv S provided the perfect soundtrack for food and drinks before the traditional release of the doves by the Senior Monitors – a moment that never fails to stir emotion.

We will miss them. They have contributed so much to our community – through their energy, their ideas, their humour, and their generosity of spirit. We know we'll be welcoming them back in the years to come,

ready to inspire future cohorts with stories of their successes and the paths they've forged. ■

By
Mr Jamie Clayton
Deputy Head (Sixth Form)



Scan the QR code on your phone
to view our Instagram page



Careers and Next Steps

Our pupils have been taking part in a wealth of Careers activities – from exploring future pathways through the PSHE curriculum, to hearing from Old Millhillians in different professions.

This year in Careers culminated in the inspiring Foundation Day speech from Natalie Campbell MBE, giving her Lessons in Leadership to the whole school, and the fantastic range of experiences pupils took part in over Enrichment Week.

NETWORKING WITH THE OLD MILLHILLIANS

We have seen the involvement of Old Millhillians in the Careers programme continue to grow and offer pupils a real-world insight into a range of professions. From professional networking events with the Old Millhillians Club, to the inaugural Careers & Conversations morning, current pupils have been learning from the sharing of wisdom, experience and advice among members of the Mill Hill community.

Seb J (Collinson), “I thought the Careers & Conversations morning was a wonderful experience to listen to a firsthand account on how to enter the world of law. It also gave me a wider sense of what I can do to get into to law and what areas of law I can pursue”

Antonio H, (Ridgeway) “The Entrepreneurs Event was a genuinely eye-opening experience. Hearing from Old Millhillians who’ve built their own ventures gave me a clearer sense of the challenges and mindset needed to succeed. It really motivated me to keep developing my own entrepreneurial goals and take risks with confidence.”

RESPONDING TO THE FUTURE OF WORK

This year we have been developing a Careers programme that responds to the rapidly evolving world of work and trends set out by the World Economic Forum’s Future of Jobs 2025 Report. This is no simple task as technological advancements, evolving skills demands, and global and economic factors are impacting the labour market. However, it is not one we shy away from at Mill Hill.

Now more than ever, we are empowering pupils to make well-informed decisions about their futures through up-to-date information and guidance. This year, all pupils in Year 11 took part in a one-to-one

interview with a qualified careers advisor, and Sixth Formers have been having ongoing discussions about post-18 options with our new Foundation Careers Lead.

Pupils in the Sixth Form have been engaging with research on changing skills demand and evolving trends in the future of work through the Futures programme. Following a talk with James Darley, CEO and Founder of Transform Society on the Future of Work, pupils used information on in-demand skills and global trends to identify the types of jobs that might exist in the future.

Later in the Summer term, pupils heard from Scott Stevens, Commercial Manager at St James’s Place, on how to develop a personal brand, build a stand-out CV and impress at interview. This combination of understanding labour market trends, as well as their own unique selling point helps set our pupils apart in their pursuit of ambitious future pathways.

NEXT STEPS

As we say goodbye to the Class of 2025, we are sending this talented cohort on to a

diverse range of exceptional post-18 destinations. From Oxbridge and Medicine to Sports Scholarships in the US, professional sporting contracts and degree apprenticeships, we are thrilled to celebrate each Millhillian as they progress onto ambitious pathways best suited to them.

UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS

Gabriella L (Priestley) and Sydney B (McClure) have both secured Sports Scholarships at Duke University in North Carolina, United States.



Nora T (Cedars) will study Medicine at University of Edinburgh



Ed F (Priestley) has received an offer to study Mathematics and Statistics at University of Oxford



Amelie R (School) will study English Language and Literature at University of Oxford



DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

This year, two pupils secured placements on Degree Apprenticeship programmes. Degree Apprenticeships have seen growing popularity in recent years as they offer young people the opportunity to jump straight into the world of work while also studying for a degree that is paid for by the employer.

Sonny M (McClure) will be taking up a position with GXO in their Supply Chain Leadership programme and will complete a degree at Sheffield Hallam University.

Sasha B (Priestley) has secured a place on the highly competitive Goldman Sachs Degree Apprenticeship programme and will complete a degree in Applied Finance at Queen Mary’s University of London.



Sasha talked us through her motivations for taking the apprenticeship route, the application process and what she is looking forward to most at Goldman Sachs:

“I was motivated to apply for a degree apprenticeship because, despite being academic, I felt that my career would be better served by gaining work experience as well as a degree rather than just the latter. I felt that by getting a position in a competitive firm and industry early, I would be able to solidify a career beyond the degree apprenticeship programme.

I found the process of applying to be enjoyable, which I feel reflects that it was the right path for me. I felt particularly well-equipped because of my participation in a wide range of extracurricular activities at Mill Hill over the years, which gave me numerous examples to draw upon in the interview stages.

I am most looking forward to the challenge of studying and working simultaneously, and the learning opportunities that I will be exposed to when I start at the firm. I am particularly excited to have access to the calibre of people and training that Goldman is renowned for.”

BTEC SPORTS SCHOLARS TO PROFESSIONAL RUGBY CONTRACTS

Mill Hill’s BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Sports hosts talented young sportspeople and supports them in achieving their fullest potential. This year, two pupils from the BTEC pathway have secured professional rugby contracts:

Ryan J (Burton Bank) has signed a two-year professional senior academy contract with Saracens after impressing at England U18 Camps and being vice-captain in the U18 Academy league for Saracens.



“Being a Sports Scholar is tiring and a lot of hard work, but I wouldn’t trade it for anything in the world. The BTEC course has given me a more practical and hands-on learning experience, with a greater focus on industry-specific skills and regular assessments through coursework and projects. This has prepared me for a professional career in rugby or a place at a top BUCS Super Rugby university.” Ryan Jones – Saracens U18 / England U18 Player

Noah C (Burton Bank) has signed a two-year professional senior academy contract with Saracens. Since joining the school, Noah has represented England at U17/U18/U19/U20 and recently travelled to Italy to represent England at the U20 World Cup. ■



By
Miss Ellen Weaver
Foundation Careers Lead



THE FINAL BELL

The final bell, it softly rings,
A chapter closed, with folded wings.
The days we've counted, slow and fast,
Now memories, part of the past.

The weight of exams pressed on our backs,
With late-night notes and panic attacks.
We walked through storms of doubt and fear,
Not knowing what might wait next year.

But through each trial, hand in hand,
Our teachers helped us learn and stand.
With patient hearts and guiding grace,
They shaped our minds; they gave us space.

To every teacher, thank you so —
You lit the path when we felt low.
You saw our worth, you knew our fight,
You stayed beside us through the night.

To friends who shared both laughs and cries,
Who stayed when all we did was sigh.
You held us up when we fell down,
You turned our silence into sound.

And family — our steady ground,
When dreams were lost or not yet found —
You wiped our tears, you held us tight,
You told us we would be all right.

Now here we stand, all eyes ahead,
With hearts that thump with hope and dread.
The future waits, still undefined,
But we will face it, strong and kind.

So raise a cheer, both loud and proud,
To every voice within this crowd.
We made it through, we found our way,
Congratulations, we end today.

Written by
Romina D-Z (Priestley)
Upper Sixth Poet Laureate



Foundation Day 2025

Beneath a (very) warm June sky, and following our annual *Service of Commemoration for Founders and Benefactors* in Chapel, the School assembled on The Quad to mark Foundation Day with parents and distinguished guests. This year, we were honoured to welcome Natalie Campbell MBE as our Guest of Honour. A dynamic leader and changemaker, Natalie is Co-CEO of Belu Water and Chancellor of the University of Westminster. Her career spans social entrepreneurship, innovation, and public service, including her candidacy for Mayor of London, her work with The Royal Foundation, and her role as co-founder of A Very Good Company (AVGC).

In a wonderfully inspiring, deeply personal, and perfectly judged speech, Natalie – who grew up locally – made an immediate connection with the pupils as she recalled her own childhood journey to school on the 240 bus. With warmth and humour, she

shared the challenges and triumphs of her entrepreneurial career, encouraging pupils to “make good trouble” in pursuit of meaningful change.

With Mr Benson, Head, presiding, and along with Antony Spencer (CEO, Mill Hill Education Group) and Elliot Lipton (Chair of the Court of Governors), Natalie awarded pupils with our annual prizes; this year including a warmly applauded King Charles III Coronation Medal to Mr Anthony (Fritzy) Albrecht, our long serving School Sergeant Major. New Senior Monitors Alex C (Murray), Caroline M (School), Edie W (Atkinson), and Cherry X (Burton Bank) each shared thoughtful reflections on the year past, their own experiences of Mill Hill, and hopes for the future, before Prizegiving concluded with a poignant reading by Romina D-Z (Priestley, Upper Sixth Poet Laureate), who delivered her original poem *The Final Bell*, and Vote of Thanks from Mr Benson.

Following the formal proceedings, the ever-popular Foundation Day Luncheon was served on the Head's Lawn, accompanied by a fine CCF Corps of Drums display and the thrillingly contested Athletics Finals. Cedars House retained the Athletics Trophy, whilst Atkinson and McClure – tied on points after a monumentally competitive year of House events – shared the much-coveted *House Shield*.

A day of celebration, reflection, and inspiration, Foundation Day 2025 was a powerful reminder of the richness of our traditions, the strength of our community, and the enormous potential of our pupils. ■

by
Dr Adam Morton
Assistant Head (Staffing and Operations)



80 years since WW2

To mark the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, Mill Hill School has commemorated its wartime legacy through events celebrating resilience, innovation, and community spirit.

On VE Day, May 8th, we hosted a special Archive Morning for Old Millhillians and the wider community to explore original documents, photos, personal stories, and artefacts, including a tour of one of the last surviving WWII bunkers on site.

In May, over 70 pupils from Belmont, Mill Hill Prep, engaged with the School's history through archive visits and bunker tours, even handling real wartime shrapnel – bringing history vividly to life for a new generation. Additionally, our archivist's detailed research on Mill Hill's wartime story was featured nationally in Discover Britain, highlighting both the evacuation and the School's vital role on the home front.

Mill Hill's wartime story is uniquely divided into two distinct chapters. In 1939, the

School evacuated to St Bees on the Cumbrian coast, where it stayed until 1945, while Belmont moved nearby to Cockermouth. Despite cramped and austere conditions, life at "Mill Hill on Sea" continued with sports, plays, and shared meals – though wartime rations were sparse. The Seacote Hotel became a hub for boarding, classrooms, and even a theatre. The boys trained with the Cadet Force and Home Guard, many later heading straight to the front lines. The School forged strong ties with the local community, commemorated today by a stained-glass window in St Bees chapel and a shared Priory Paddock.

Meanwhile, the original Mill Hill campus in North London was repurposed as the Mill Hill Emergency Hospital, specializing in psychiatric care for military and civilian patients with war-related trauma like shell shock. It became a centre for pioneering

treatments and psychological research, including the 'Mill Hill Vocabulary Scale' by psychologist John Carlyle Raven. The site also secretly trained Women's Royal Naval Service members, who were deployed to Bletchley Park for crucial codebreaking work, officially under the guise of 'hospital rehabilitation'.

Together, these dual histories of evacuation and service showcase Mill Hill's resilience and vital contributions during the war. Stories of adaptation, innovation, and quiet bravery continue to inspire, preserving a legacy of courage, duty, and community. It has been a true pleasure to highlight and share Mill Hill's remarkable story this year. ■

by
Miss Francesca Forte
Archivist



CALL TO REMEMBRANCE

This year's Call to Remembrance was especially poignant. As all Old Millhillians know, the portraits of our fallen are displayed annually, and this year we honoured our WWI fallen. For the first time, 27 new faces joined the display. Of the 192 WWI Old Millhillians who died, 32 portraits were missing – but thanks to the dedication of our archivist and the wider Mill Hill community, these missing portraits were found and restored.

Next year's Call to Remembrance will fittingly honour Mill Hill's World War II fallen, as part of the 80th anniversary of the conflict's end. Building on this year's success with WWI portraits, we're pleased to announce that 9 newly discovered portraits will join the 118 already included. ■





Themes:

Introduction to school life at Mill Hill
 Excellence at Mill Hill
 Inner Peace
 Guest Speakers
 Identity. The school's origin story.
 Remembrance
 Anti-bullying week
 Healthy Masculinity (International Men's)
 Untold Christmas
 Difficulty
 Resolutions
 Allyship and Advocacy
 Holocaust Memorial Day
 Chinese New Year
 Consider the Essay
 Ramadan
 International Women's Day
 Our Stories
 Life as a Journey
 Overcoming Challenges
 Easter
 Humility
 LGBTQ+ History
 End in Sight / Change
 Future in Perspective
 Leadership
 This year in the chapel
 Foundation Day Rehearsals

Chapel Life

The Mill Hill Chapel plays a central role in school life, as well as being one of the most recognisable and iconic buildings on site.

The Chapel at Mill Hill School receives many annual visitors. A good number of these are former pupils touring the site during Open Mornings, or during Old Millhillians events, and, upon walking through the entrance, aside from commenting on its beauty, many of them say the same thing:

"It's exactly as I remember it."

In other environments, this may be interpreted as having negative connotations, but not in this instance. It is always said with an accompanying smile. Our school Chapel seems to preserve stories and memories in the very fabric of the building for every individual who has spent significant time inside it, almost momentarily transporting them back to their happy school days as they visualise sitting in their houses singing hymns together.

I am mindful of this as we welcome pupils through the doors every week. Whilst it may be just one activity among the many that day for our pupils, it is still a significant time and

place in the school day in terms of the demands it makes on those who enter; stillness, contemplation, mindfulness, and imagination to name a few.

Throughout the past academic year, more memories and stories have been created in our Chapel. It is challenging to pick standouts given the consistently high quality of what staff and pupils have delivered every term, but I will try, nonetheless.

Mr Down told us about his powerful journey overcoming challenges before running the Paris Marathon. Miss Kleimberg expertly assembled different groups of pupils to retell stories and experiences of individuals whose lives were upturned during the Holocaust. Pupils from our Islamic Society shared their experiences of fasting and praying during Ramadan before distributing chocolate-covered dates to pupils as they left the Chapel. Mr Hinton shared his embodied wisdom on humility. And our outgoing archivist and Old Millhillian, Miss Francesca Forte, delivered a wonderful address using the interior of the chapel as her notes to tell

the story of the many Mill Hill alumni whose memories are honoured in the space.

We have had some spectacular musical performances, guided by our outstanding Director of Music, Mr Hanson. Every week we are spoilt by the presence of Chapel Brass and the Chapel Choir, offering musical guidance to our contemplations and weight to our choral hymn singing. Members of the Music Department teach and lead hymn singing alongside Mr Evanson, our Foundation Organist, cultivating this practice for new generations of Millhillians as they journey through the school. The school year is signposted by momentous annual services for Remembrance, Nine Lessons and Carols, Valedictory Day, the CCF Dedication Service, and Foundation Day, each showcasing the unique musical dynamism present within the staff and pupil body experienced through Chapel Strings and Choir Anthems, to name some examples.

The Chapel is a space where pupils and staff, of all faiths and none, are invited to experience moments of awe and wonder

collectively. We all get to encounter our differences and diversity with an open-handed generosity, listening in ways that inform us, knowing that we can hold our varied ideas and beliefs with conviction, yet also as gifts to one another. It is a non-judgmental space where pupils can be seen and accepted for who they are with kindness and understanding, fostering a school-wide unity that does not demand uniformity.

I have learned in my time here that part of being a Millhillian is to make memories in our Chapel. Long may that continue for our present pupils and staff.

May their minds be inspired by what is shared in the Chapel. In their pursuit of excellence, resilience, and integrity, may they find acceptance, understanding, and unity along the way. ■

by

Reverend Ryan Venn-Dunn
 Foundation Chaplain



London Schools' Film Competition

A night of cinematic success, student creativity and School-wide pride for the London School's Film Competition that took place at Mill Hill School.

Mill Hill School was once again at the heart of the London Schools' Film Competition as it proudly hosted the 2024/25 Awards Evening and Gala Dinner on Friday 23 May 2025. Now in its third year, the competition, founded by Mill Hill and run as a not-for-profit initiative, continues to grow, with 43 entries submitted this year across three categories.

This year saw Mill Hill pupils not only helping run the event but achieving remarkable success on screen. Of the four films submitted by the School, two placed in the Senior Category, including first place. This is a tremendous result that marks a powerful return to form, following a quieter showing last year. It follows Mill Hill's previous win in the competition's inaugural year in 2022, when it narrowly beat King Alfred School.

The winning film, *Caught in the Vice*, involved over 50 pupils in its creation and took 49 hours to film and more than 80 hours to edit. Described by judges as "ambitious and

polished," the film featured "excellent acting" and "fantastic stunt choreography". A testament to the dedication and talent of the cast and crew. The film's scale, ambition, and collaborative spirit perfectly encapsulate the School's ethos.

Mill Hill's second success came with third place in the same category for *Dare*, a psychological drama about Caleb, a French boy newly arrived in Liverpool, and his dangerously intense friendship with the manipulative Finn. Written and performed by Arthur H (Priestley), Carl T-G (McClure), and Alex C (School), and featuring Edward I (Weymouth), Stanley C (Weymouth), and Gioele G (Cedars) in supporting roles, the film was praised by the judges for its striking costume design and emotional complexity.

Meanwhile, Harry L (Burton Bank) earned second place in the Short Film Category with *Solvitur Ambulando*, a poetic and visually elegant exploration of memory and isolation – a solo project that showed outstanding visual sensitivity and atmosphere.

Also submitted was *Edge of Frame*, a thoughtful and self-reflexive work written and directed by Zachary F-P (Murray), who also appeared in *Caught in the Vice*. While neither of these entries took home an award, both were deeply personal, original works that added to the strong showing from Mill Hill this year.

As always, the smooth running of the competition relied on support behind the scenes. Particular thanks go to Mr Gatherer, not only for hosting the evening with enthusiasm and warmth, but also for appearing in *Caught in the Vice* alongside Mr Berg. Mr Crocker also deserves praise for his trusted eye in auditing and verifying the final votes.

The competition continues to grow in ambition, inclusivity and reach, and Mill Hill remains proud to support and lead it. As this year's results show, filmmaking at Mill Hill is thriving – and we look forward to seeing what our pupils create next. ■

by
Mr Lee Minnett
Head of ICT and Computer Science





“

Participating in British Science Week has been great experience. I really enjoy helping the younger pupils to complete their tasks. At times challenging helping them following instructions It's so rewarding to see them succeed and grow through our interactions. It makes me proud to be part of their learning journey.”

DIANA P | (Upper Sixth)



Science Week 2025

A week of celebration across the Mill Hill Schools inspiring young pupil minds across various events in the classroom, labs and beyond.

Science Week 2025 at Mill Hill School took off with its customary splash; although it was very busy, requiring all hands-on deck, it proved to be yet again a fantastic event.

Mill Hill had the pleasure of welcoming four prep schools: Belmont, Mill Hill Prep, Keble Prep, Lyonsdown and St Paul's. Guided by able Science Scholars, pupils participated in a variety of activities including testing astronaut 'urine' for a variety of diseases in Biology, marveling at the colours they were able to produce during flame tests in Chemistry and investigating the centre of mass in Physics.

Mill Hill pupils and teachers also worked with our youngest pupils in Grimsdell creating a

vibrant and energetic atmosphere. Pupils performed chromatography experiments, carried out an investigation into Magic Milk, considered the importance of keen observation skills whilst problem-solving, and explored the role of stored energy in elastic bands as they powered toy cars.

One of the highlights of the week was our special day dedicated to the Women in Science. On this day, we collaborated with Belmont Year 6 pupils to explore the significant contributions of women in various scientific fields, which is always an inspiring and empowering experience for the younger pupils, fostering a greater appreciation for the role of women in Science.

A unique aspect of this annual event is that Mill Hill Year 10, Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth

pupils take the lead in these activities, guiding and teaching their younger peers. This approach not only enhances the younger pupils' understanding of scientific concepts but also helps the older pupils develop their social interaction and leadership skills.

Sadly, the timing of Science Week fell too early in the year for duckling visits, but they graced the Science Department in the week following Science Week, where they entertained pupils and teachers alike with their incessant chirping and amusing antics. ■

by

Dr Kate Damberg
Head of Science and Biology



“

A unique and truly enjoyable experience, and it to see the children learn so much and really get involved in our Science department.”

MATTHEWO | (Lower Sixth)

“

It was wonderful to be able to help such bright children and future scientists.”

VICTOR Z | (Lower Sixth)



“

I really enjoyed Science Week as it gave me the opportunity to step into a leadership role and gain experience and skills on teamwork and organisation.”

KEIP | (Lower Sixth)





Music

Another jam-packed year to remember with a stand-out event at St Jude on the Hill in Hampstead Garden suburb.

VIVA LA MUSICA!

Another jam-packed year of music-making across the School community and beyond! And what a level of singing and playing across all styles of Music!

From the biennial (and hotly contested) massive House Music Finals week to the stellar, high-professional level of choral and instrumental music in the professional acoustic of St Jude on the Hill, international recording venue, for the Spring Concert. From the breadth of all pupils singing daily in Chapel services and on the touchlines of the Allianz to support our First XV at the Copthall to the aspiring stars of our scholars' programme in concerts and competitions. The elite Chapel Choir and orchestra joining forces to perform the whole of Vivaldi's exuberant *Gloria* in December in collaboration with the Mill Hill Education Group (MHEG) Parent Choral Society in the school's sublime Chapel acoustic... this year truly had it all, musically!

The McClure Music School has seen growth in the uptake of pupils choosing to learn an instrument and get involved with cocurricular music, from the stellar set lists of the Big Band to the Scholars' String and enlivening Saxophone Quartet, each day promises something completely different.

Our scholars had a streamlined enrichment programme pushing them toward the next level, including coaching in masterclasses and workshops from Rebecca Dinning, guest principal violin of the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Ellen Baumring-Gledhill (Murray 2015-20), an Old Millhillian who is now on staff teaching the cello (and recent recipient of the prestigious *Royal Overseas League Chamber Music Prize*).

Then there were the usual jewels in the performance calendar, the annual Farrow and McClure Instrumental competitions, adjudicated by new Head of Opera at the Royal Academy of Music, Chris White.

The stand-out live music event of the calendar year packed out international recording venue, St Jude on the Hill in Hampstead Garden suburb, in early April. Following last year's inaugural Spring Gala Concert, *Vienna in Springtime*, this event built on the collaboration between 158 pupils from the four Mill Hill Schools and a massed choir performance of sublime choral music by Eric Whitacre and Jonathan Dove under the spring sunset skies of this north London music enclave.

More than 240 parents, supporters and VIPs enjoyed the unforgettable sight, sound and experience of a professional-level performance by 85 singers across choirs as Mill Hill's flagship Chapel Choir joined with the 65-strong Parent Choral Society, partnering with the new Senior Orchestra to perform music by Strauss and exquisite Mozart under the baton of both Director of Musical Performance, Mr Gareth Hanson,

and new Lead Teacher for Music, Mr Harry Pateman, respectively.

Chamber highlights in between large-scale performances included the newly formed Sixth Form group, the A Cappella singers directed by acting Director of Academic Music, Ms Jessica Thurtell and performing music by Duruflé; the timeless *Classic FM* favourite, Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, rounded off the smaller items on the programme, performed admirably by the up and coming Remove foursome, our *Scholar's Quartet* (led by Mr Pateman). Our Chapel Brass ensemble goes from strength to strength, turning its attention to new arrangements of Peer Gynt by Grieg for quintet, moving up a notch from standard ceremonial fare and performing unconducted – an impressive feat at this level.

Our youngest musicians from Grimsdell and Belmont received a rousing ovation and all of

the performers – pupils, parents, staff – will surely never forget their achievement of performing such a range of professional-level repertoire alongside professional musicians and our accomplished Senior singers and players from Mill Hill in a cumulative performance of this calibre. What a concert! As well as giving a lift to their vision and playing, it was an unforgettable evening that celebrates all that is being achieved and all of the fraternity built throughout the rehearsal process by our musicians – in short, all that is exceptional about the McClure Music School at Mill Hill. ■

by

Mr Gareth Hanson
Director of Musical Performance



Drama

‘All the world’s a stage,’ never rang truer as a plethora of theatrical performances lit up Mill Hill School this academic year. The season began with a rip-roaring production of *One Man, Two Guv’nors*, with saw Jamie G as the hapless Francis, desperately trying to prevent his two bosses from finding out about each other. Full of slapstick and, mistaken identities and misunderstandings, the play took us into the holiday season beaming.

In February, 20 Year 9 and Year 10 pupils headed to the Beam Theatre to present a double-bill of *The Tempest* and *Twelfth Night* as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival. Having the opportunity to perform on a professional stage to a public audience was incredibly exciting for our young pupils, and their efforts were lauded by the Festival team, with particular praise going to their “bold and assured vocal delivery”, as well as their “tangible sense of camaraderie throughout.” A huge congratulations to all involved.

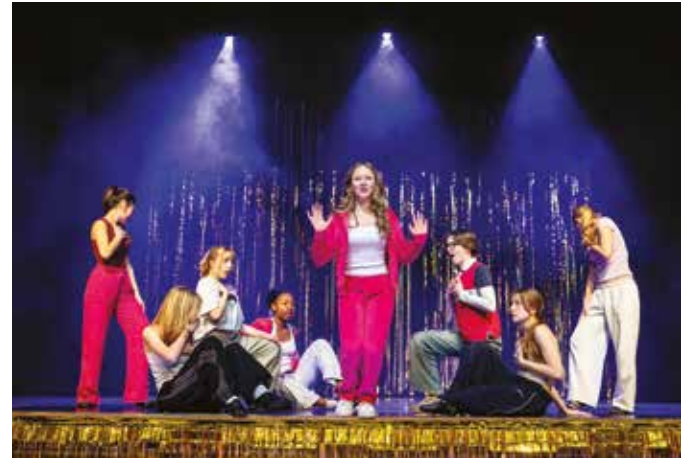
Just days later, our production of the beloved musical *Legally Blonde* hit The Large stage. Ella K and Olivia D led the 40-strong cast as Elle Woods, a sorority president who stumbles into a career in criminal law in an attempt to win back her ex-boyfriend. With over twenty musical numbers, the cast presented a hugely energetic performance about self-discovery and female empowerment, which was nominated for four National School Theatre Awards, including Best Musical Production. The NSTA official review described the show as “a lively, heartfelt triumph, and fully deserving of their standing ovation.”

The theatrical calendar drew to a close with two Lower School plays. An outdoor promenade production of Dennis Kelly’s *DNA* saw audiences travelling through the School grounds, discovering how a group of friends come together when tragedy strikes their social group. With the sun shining down upon a backdrop of towering trees, the show was a testament not only our pupils’

theatrical talent, but to the beauty of our hilltop location. Finally, Richard Conlon’s *Hope Springs* featured an ensemble of over 25 pupils, delivering the powerful and poignant true story of an adolescent detention centre. With the majority of the cast being on-stage throughout, the play was an immersive and moving experience and the cast were thrilled to receive a message from the show’s playwright before their opening performance.

We look forward to seeing you next year for even more fantastic productions, including the much-anticipated return of the Mill Hill School House Drama Festival! ■

by
Mr Alexander Gatherer
Director of Theatrical Performance





Sport

From academic research to the annual 6 and 10 Mile Cup, to individual pupil achievements and our dedicated social media presence, it's been another year to remember.

A POSITIVE CORRELATION BETWEEN SPORTS ENGAGEMENT AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Mill Hill School's commitment to sector-leading, evidence-informed sporting provision distinguishes our educational offering and is establishing us as a nationally recognised hub of sporting excellence. This academic year, we proudly launched the comprehensive Sports Participation and Academic Performance report, spearheaded by the Sports Department, supported by Mr Downie from IT. The study meticulously analysed two years of internal data, uncovering a compelling positive correlation between higher levels of sports engagement and enhanced academic performance, improved attendance, elevated effort grades, and better overall pupil wellbeing. The groundbreaking nature of this research captured national attention, resulting in a well-attended webinar involving over 30 schools worldwide, and securing endorsement from PADSIS, the influential

Professional Association of Directors of Sport in Independent Schools.

These insights have profoundly shaped our innovative dual-strand approach, Fit for Life and Fit for Performance, encapsulated within our inclusive "Find Your Fit" philosophy. Pupils across Mill Hill now benefit from tailored sporting experiences aligned with their unique aspirations, from nurturing elite athletes to fostering lifelong participation and wellness. Our evidence-driven findings have confirmed tangible improvements, including higher GCSE and A-Level achievements, more positive behaviour as tracked by our iSAMS system, and a notable increase in successful admissions to first-choice universities. Mill Hill's dedication to pioneering research has empowered the wider educational community, establishing our position as leaders and mentors within the independent schools sector.

INNOVATIVE COMMUNICATION

Mill Hill School also proudly stands at the forefront of innovative communication, celebrating and sharing pupil achievements in a manner resonant with our Gen Z pupils. Our dedicated Instagram channel, **@millhillseniorsport**, now boasts nearly 2,500 followers and recently achieved nearly half a million views in just three months. This vibrant platform serves not only to showcase outstanding sporting accomplishments but also actively engages pupils through popular social media trends, fosters responsible digital behaviour, and delivers compelling campaigns aligned with global movements such as International Women's Day and Mental Health Awareness Week. Through this modern approach, sport at Mill Hill emerges as a dynamic vehicle for celebration, connection, and impactful cultural engagement.

SUCCESSFUL MILL HILL PUPILS

The success of our sporting approach is vividly demonstrated by our pupils' impressive achievements this academic year. Mill Hill athletes have reached unprecedented levels of representative honours. Notably, two of our rugby players represented England, while two more earned professional contracts and national camp selections. Further, our pupils continue to excel in diverse sporting disciplines, highlighted by an U18 England footballer thriving at Arsenal, two Middlesex County cricketers, and a hockey player awarded a prestigious scholarship to Duke University alongside six talented peers participating in the England Hockey Talent Academy. Expanding beyond traditional school sports, Mill Hill pupils have impressively represented Great Britain internationally in fencing, American football, and ice hockey, with one pupil notably co-captaining the U16 national team. Additionally, we celebrate the extraordinary achievements of pupils excelling in other demanding arenas, including a British Indoor Athletics champion, an alpine skier competing at the French Alpine Championships, and a talented judoka securing medals at international competitions. These remarkable accomplishments reflect the breadth and quality of our sporting programmes, underscoring Mill Hill's commitment to nurturing excellence and ambition in every pupil.

SPORTS DAY 2025

Mill Hill's Sports Day 2025 began on Monday morning with an exciting series of team sports competitions, ensuring every pupil in each house had the opportunity to participate. Sports included touch rugby, netball & hockey shootouts, 5-a-side football, badminton, table tennis and many more. These events set the tone for a fun but competitive day ahead of the athletics heats in the afternoon. Pupils from all year groups took part with focus and determination as they vied for places in Friday's eagerly awaited finals. Events included sprints, jumps, throws – each one a showcase of the school's athletic talent and dedication.

The energy throughout the day was exceptional, and the competition fierce, with a number of long-standing school records being broken – highlighting a new wave of exceptional talent at Mill Hill.

RECORDS:

Seniors:

- James S – 800m
- Fred T – Javelin
- Alexander C – 60m
- Mairead M – Shot Put
- Edie W – 300m
- Bea C – 60m Hurdles

Remove:

- Milo R – Shot Put

Fourth Form:

- Fred W – 300m
- Alex W – 60m Hurdles
- Alice W – 300m
- Zoe S – Shot Put

A standout across both days, Edie W capped off an exceptional few months with a string of outstanding performances. After breaking the School Mile Cup record in April, she went on to break the 300m record twice in one week. Her commanding anchor leg in the house relay played a key role in her House success, but it's her leadership off the track – mentoring younger athletes, volunteering at Belmont Sports Day, and inspiring others – that truly defines her. For her dedication, excellence, and impact on the school's sporting culture, Edie was a deserving recipient of this year's Victor Ludorum and a School Colours award.

For the second year, the finals were held on Friday as part of Foundation Day, providing a truly celebratory finish to the week. Families, friends, staff, and Old Millhillians gathered in the sun on Top Field to support the finalists. The day was filled with talent, team spirit, and inspiring sportsmanship. By the end of the event, Cedars House emerged as the overall winner, their success a testament to consistent performance, teamwork, and commitment. ■

by

Mr Owen Nicholls
Head of Athletic Development



Battlefields



CCF Camp



Devon Golf



CERN



Devon Tennis

Educational Visits and Trips

We're not short of exciting opportunities here at Mill Hill. Learn more from the short summaries on some of the trips that were undertaken this year.

PARIS

14 Year 10 pupils travelled to Paris. They visited the French capital's main tourist attractions, including the Eiffel Tower, Montmartre, Notre Dame and the Louvre. The pupils also practised their French during interactive lessons and enjoyed loads of delicious French specialities. Formidable!

TAMIL-NADU

The India-Tamil Nadu Partnership begun on a wonderfully positive note!

Pupils brought energy and creativity into the Sri Jayendra School community in Tamil Nadu. Their mornings were spent joyfully engaging with primary school students, reading aloud their favourite childhood books and sparking a love for stories across cultures.

In the afternoons, they collaborated with middle school pupils on inspiring music,

drama, and art projects. These sessions were full of colour, expression, and a shared learning opportunity for all involved to explore different forms of creativity.

What stood out most was their genuine passion and commitment to sharing their experiences. Through every activity, they helped to build bridges of understanding, empathy, and cultural appreciation, enriching the whole community in the process.

ZIMBABWE

Our Lower Sixth touched down in Zimbabwe and very quickly adapted to African life in Sizinda, Victoria Falls. Working with the charity, Tag Rugby Trust, the pupils had a visit to EliCrew to meet some orphaned elephants and introduced themselves to the 8 schools where they coached tag rugby. A 28-strong team of Millhillians (and staff) organised a tournament for the schools to compete for the Mill Hill trophy.

CERN

Our School embarked on an exciting trip to Geneva, Switzerland, visiting CERN, a renowned institution that pushed the boundaries of science, innovation, and global cooperation. During our visit to the Plasma Centre in Lausanne, we explored the tokamak, harnessing cold fusion reactions, technology of the future. We also listened to representatives at the United Nations in Geneva, gaining insights into global efforts to promote human rights. At CERN, we participated in a workshop on superconductors, discovering the science behind these remarkable materials, and took a guided tour of the facility to glimpse into groundbreaking particle physics research. This trip offered a unique blend of science, innovation, and global citizenship, inspiring pupils to pursue their passions and make a positive impact in the world.

BATTLEFIELDS – BELGIUM

The annual Year 9 Battlefields trip offered a poignant opportunity for reflection on the



Paris



Zimbabwe



Granada



Sicily



Rome



Tamil Nadu

realities of war. Pupils developed a deeper connection with the 194 Old Millhillians who lost their lives in the First World War, as well as with their own family histories. It was particularly moving to visit the resting places of the relatives of three of our pupils. Throughout the trip, pupils developed their historical skills by examining topography, making statistical inferences in cemeteries, and immersing themselves in trench life to gain a richer understanding of the battles fought on the Western Front.

GRANADA

Ten pupils from Year 9, Year 10 and Year 12 had the opportunity to discover the magical city of Granada in southern Spain. The pupils enjoyed the combination of dynamic and entertaining Spanish classes at "Castila" school in the city centre, with a range of activities including: a visit to the Alhambra Palace (reminiscent of the country's Moorish past), a visit to the San Agustín market, a day trip to Córdoba and its famous Jewish Quarter and the mosque-cathedral, traditional tapas cooking classes and even a Flamenco show!

SICILY

Year 9 and 10 geographers fully immersed themselves in the wonders of Sicily! From refreshing dips in the water and generous helpings of pizza, to lively evening games and relaxing drinks on the terrace – not to mention an abundance of volcanoes – the trip was with unforgettable experiences.

A major highlight was our hike across the slopes of Mount Etna. Though challenging for some, it showcased remarkable resilience, camaraderie, and a shared passion for geography – all in true Millhillian spirit. We waded through the striking Alcantara Gorge and explored the charming streets of

Taormina, finishing with a delightful evening of pizza-making and gelato.

Evenings were just as memorable, with beach time, terrace games, and even a bit of dancing under the stars. Beyond the activities, the trip was a brilliant opportunity for pupils to strengthen existing friendships and form new ones – a real highlight of the week.

Staff were especially impressed by the group's good humour, kindness, and positive energy throughout – a true credit to the School!

DEVON

This year, Mill Hill Golf and Tennis went to Ashbury Manor Devon on tour for the first time.

The golfers experienced four exceptional 18-hole courses in the heart of Devon with breathtaking views. Millhillians played a different course each day in the morning and then went into 3 world-class golf simulators in the afternoon, receiving coaching each day from a PGA Pro. Prizes were up for grabs throughout the week for nearest to the pin, longest drive and tournament winners. Pupils conducted themselves exceptionally well on and off the course.

Our Tennis players also on the trip particularly enjoyed the knowledge and experience of a professional Level 4 coach. Pupils took part in numerous fun and challenging drills, some technical coaching points, plus plenty of match play scenarios in both singles and doubles as well as a Davis Cup style tournament.

Over the course of the tour, pupils participated in a wide range of evening activities, including Paddle, Pickleball and Tenpin Bowling.

ROME

This enrichment week, pupils had the incredible opportunity to visit Rome for a truly unforgettable experience. Under the warm Italian sun, we explored some of the city's most iconic historical sites and soaked up its rich culture.

Our first stop was the magnificent Colosseum, where pupils were fascinated by tales of gladiators and ancient spectacles. We then wandered through the Roman Forum, imagining what life was like in the heart of the Roman Empire. A real highlight for many was our visit to the Vatican City, where we marvelled at St. Peter's Basilica and the stunning Sistine Chapel. We also took time to explore the Jewish Quarter, learning about its unique history.

Of course, no trip to Rome would be complete without plenty of gelato – which we enjoyed daily as a refreshing treat in the hot weather!

The pupils embraced every moment, from walking the cobbled streets to dining al fresco in the evenings. The trip was not only educational but also a wonderful chance to bond, create memories, and enjoy the sunshine together. A huge thank you to all the pupils and their parents who made this fantastic experience possible.

CCF CAMP

The CCF went off to Otterburn for their Annual Central Camp shared with schools all over London, and the North-East District. They were very busy with two days out on exercise, surviving in the field and fighting "enemy" forces, using British Army tactics, and were on various different ranges practising their marksmanship skills. All the cadets came back very tired after more adventurous training, putting their skills and leadership to the test. ■



Enrichment Week

The final week of the Summer Term sees an incredible array of activities for our pupils to get involved in. Whether travelling overseas or staying closer to home, everyone has an opportunity to explore their passions and interests.

At Mill Hill School, we are always looking for new and exciting ways to push our pupils and encourage them to step outside their comfort zones when it comes to their learning. This year was no exception, with Enrichment Week giving pupils in Year 9, Year 10 and Year 12 an opportunity to go beyond the confines of the classroom, through participation in an overseas residential, a long-standing partnership trip or through a subject 'Deep Dive'. This year's schedule featured an impressive array of activities and trips for pupils, each thoughtfully planned from the standpoint of the subject matter, a specialised skill focus, or Mill Hill's commitment to partnership and service.

Nowhere was this more evident than in our partnership trips to Zimbabwe and Tamil Nadu, which offered unforgettable experiences rooted in collaboration, humility, and purpose. In Zimbabwe, pupils partnered with the Tag Rugby Trust (TRT) to run training sessions, lead games with local children, and

support outreach projects, using sport as a medium to help build confidence, leadership, and community. Meanwhile, in Tamil Nadu, pupils strengthened Mill Hill's partnership with the Sri Jayendra Golden Jubilee School by leading lessons, supporting cultural activities, and gaining insight into a way of life markedly different from their own.

Overseas residentials also offered unforgettable learning experiences for Mill Hill pupils across Europe and beyond, from exploring particle physics at CERN and volcanic landscapes in Sicily, to discovering sacred sites in Rome and historic battlefields in France and Belgium. Our linguists experienced the richness of both French culture in Paris and Spanish life in Granada, whilst back in the UK, athletes trained intensively in Tennis and Golf in Devon, and CCF cadets built resilience and leadership at Central Camp.

For pupils who remained closer to home

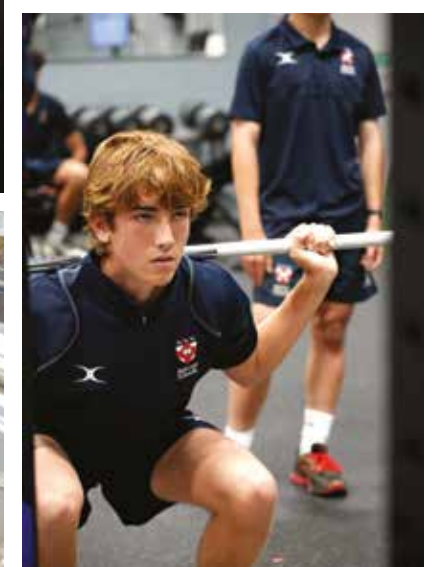
during Enrichment Week, the opportunities were just as ambitious. Through subject-specific "Deep Dives," departments designed immersive four-day programmes that encouraged critical thinking and hands-on engagement beyond the traditional classroom. Whether it be experiencing culture through visits to galleries, museums and live theatre or even shaping the strategy of a football team, pupils were challenged to interact with their interests in new and meaningful ways.

Though it sits outside the regular curriculum, Enrichment Week encapsulated everything that defines a Mill Hill education, instilling values and inspiring minds every step of the way. Mill Hill moments like these help our pupils to build character, creativity and ambition and we cannot wait to discover what Enrichment Week 2026 brings! ■

by

Mrs Geraldine Clarke

Assistant Head of Teaching and Learning



Valete

Jack Goldberg
Physical Education
Jack Goldberg has been a highly valued member of the Physical Education Department for the past two years and a term. Throughout his tenure, he has demonstrated exceptional professionalism, subject knowledge, and a deep commitment to the holistic development of pupils through sport. Jack has made significant contributions across a range of disciplines, notably as coach of a number of sports teams; U15A Rugby, Sevens Rugby, U15C Football, and U15A Cricket. His leadership on two annual international tours to the UAE for U15 Rugby and Netball teams further exemplifies his dedication to enriching the co-curricular life of the school. Jack’s passion for sport and boundless energy have inspired both pupils and colleagues, leaving a lasting impression on the school community. He departs to take up the position of Housemaster and Teacher of Physical Education at Brighton College, Dubai, and we extend our sincere thanks and best wishes for continued success in this exciting new chapter.

by
Mel Lancaster

Dean Halford
Director of Golf
After 19 years of dedicated service to Mill Hill School, we bid a fond farewell to Dean Halford, who will be leaving at the end of this academic year. Since joining in 2006 as Director of Golf, Dean has transformed the school’s golf programme, inspiring countless pupils and leading Mill Hill to five national titles. His passion for the sport, coupled with his experience as a PGA Advanced

Professional, has left a lasting legacy. Beyond the fairways, Dean has been a cornerstone of our boarding community, having served as a Resident House Tutor in all four boarding houses and completing over 15,000 duties. His warmth, steady presence, and unwavering support have touched the lives of many pupils and colleagues. A much-loved member of the Common Room, Dean leaves with our heartfelt thanks and very best wishes for the future.

by
Aaron Liffchak

Jack McIlroy
Graduate Assistant
After three years at Mill Hill, we say goodbye to Jack McIlroy, who has been a fantastic presence in the Sports Department as a Graduate Assistant. Jack has worked tirelessly to support and develop our pupils, always going the extra mile to help them reach their goals. From coaching 1-1 skills sessions with our top rugby players, to leading both the 2nd XV and 3rd XV with great enthusiasm, Jack has been a hugely reliable and committed member of the team. Highlights of his time here include his involvement in staff sports teams, a memorable trip to Dubai, and proudly representing the Old Millhillians rugby team. Always willing to step in, always with a smile, Jack has also become a great friend to many of us in the Common Room. We wish him every success as he embarks on his PGCE and look forward to seeing all he goes on to achieve.

by
Aaron Liffchak

Siena Mark
Graduate Assistant
In her year as a Strength and Conditioning Graduate Assistant, Siena Mark has made a remarkable impression on the Mill Hill community. Bright, driven, and endlessly positive, Siena has played a key role in developing our strength and conditioning culture across the school. It’s no small achievement to have teenagers voluntarily turning up for 7am conditioning sessions – a testament to the enthusiasm and energy she brings to every session. Siena has worked across a wide range of sports, including Hockey, Netball, and Cricket, always giving her absolute best and inspiring those around her. Perhaps her most significant contribution has been her leadership of a research-driven project into best practice in Core PE programmes. Her findings have helped shape a new, concept-led approach at Mill Hill, opening the door for more pupils to engage with their health and wellbeing. Siena has been a fantastic addition to the department, and there is no doubt she has an exciting future ahead.

by
Aaron Liffchak

Kyle Bowes-Taylor
Sports Graduate Assistant
Kyle Bowes-Taylor joined Mill Hill School as a Sports Graduate Assistant in 2018 and immediately rose to prominence within the Foundation, leading online sports during Covid as Mill Hill’s own ‘Joe Wicks,’ and proudly joining Annie’s Medical Team administering Covid tests within the Foundation. In 2021, Kyle acted upon his dreams and started a one-year Post Graduate

Certificate in Education (PGCE) programme; this gruelling year ended with Kyle a fully trained and highly respected Biology teacher. Kyle has drawn on his strong interpersonal skills, diligent approach to teaching methodology and incredible enthusiasm for helping pupils better themselves as he has grown into a much beloved teacher of Biology. Kyle has successfully steered the Fourth Form Curriculum into a strength of our department, navigating the implementation of devices within our curriculum in a seamless manner. Kyle has also shown incredible dedication to the sports programme as a whole; his passion and energy for coaching is infectious and the Rugby and Cricket teams he has coached have benefited immensely from his energy and expertise. We will greatly miss Kyle but wish him success and happiness as he relocates his family back home to South Africa and takes up a prominent position as Head of Sport at an independent school in Durban. We are further thrilled to know that Kyle hopes to return to teaching Biology in the future.

by
Kate Damberg

Francesca Forte
School Archivist
Francesca Forte attended Mill Hill from 2012 to 2017. After completing her studies at the University of York and gaining valuable experience at the British Museum, she returned to Mill Hill for Remembrance – an occasion that marked the beginning of her journey as our School Archivist and Development Administrator.

Over the past two and a half years, Francesca has made an extraordinary impact on school life by bringing our rich history to life. From curating the Old Millhillians Room and archive displays that celebrate the achievements of our alumni, to delivering captivating Chapel assemblies on the stories behind our stained-glass windows, her work has been both inspiring and educational. She has guided Belmont pupils through the air raid shelter behind MacGregor House and brought a historical dimension to countless Old Millhillian events through thoughtfully presented archive materials.

As Francesca pursues a full-time role in archives, we are so grateful to her for her remarkable contribution to the school and for her passion, creativity, and dedication.

by
Lucia Hull

Naia Askaria
Modern Language Teacher
Naia has been a truly valued member of the Modern Languages department during her time with us as our Spanish Language Assistant. Naia brought warmth, dedication, and a deep cultural insight to her role, enriching the experience of both pupils and staff alike.

Her one-on-one speaking sessions with GCSE and A level pupils have had a remarkable impact—most notably, a significant improvement in A level speaking results, thanks to her patient guidance and engaging approach. Naia’s ability to build confidence and fluency in her students has been exceptional.

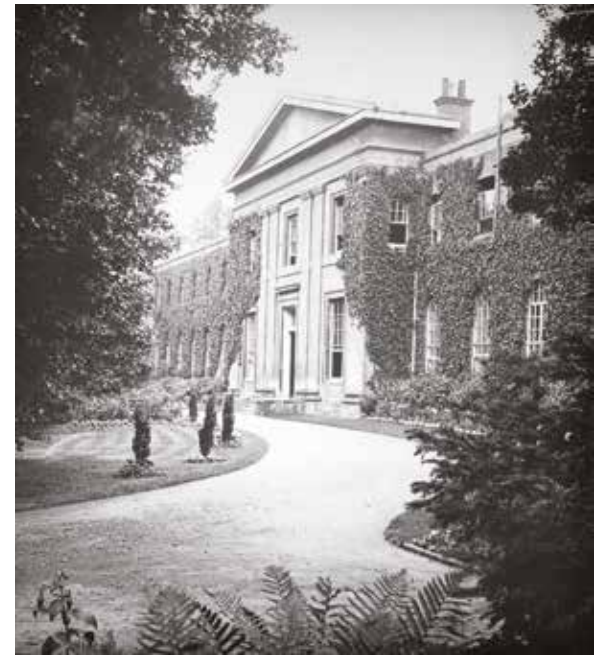
Beyond the classroom, Naia also played an important role in the boarding house, where she quickly became a trusted and well-liked presence. Her good-natured personality and genuine care for the pupils helped her form strong connections within the boarding community.

Incredibly hardworking and always positive, Naia will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of working with her. As she returns home to the Basque country, we extend our heartfelt thanks and wish her every success in the future.

by
Jay Norbury

Susan Hannigan
PA to the Head
Susan joined the school in the spring of 2021 as PA to the Head, working first with Jane Sanchez and subsequently with David Benson. From the outset, she established herself as a highly valued member of staff. Her warmth, composure under pressure, and steadfast professionalism earned the respect and appreciation of colleagues, Pupils, and Parents alike. Susan’s calm and thoughtful presence has contributed greatly to the smooth running of the school, and she will be missed across the community. We extend our sincere thanks to Susan for her dedication and contribution over the past few years, and we wish her every success and happiness in her new role, and for the future.

by
David Benson



Archive

2024-2025 has proved to be another remarkable year at Mill Hill, filled with significant historical milestones.

This academic year, we began commemorating Mill Hill's wartime history in recognition of the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. We reflected on the School's remarkable contributions during the war efforts that united the wider community in a shared spirit of service and resilience. And that was just the beginning! This year has been filled with celebrations of Mill Hill's long-spanning history.

BURTON BANK CELEBRATES THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Burton Bank, one of our four boarding houses, proudly opened its doors this year to welcome back generations of alumni in celebration of their 150th anniversary. Established in 1875, Burton Bank holds a special place in Mill Hill's history as the School's first-and for many years, only 'out house.' Originally located just down the road on Burtonhole Lane (from which it takes its name), the House eventually moved down to

its iconic location along Wills Grove. And over the decades, Burton Bank has nurtured countless pupils, including some well-known names. Among its notable alumni are best-selling crime-thriller author Felix Francis, acclaimed actor Jasper Britton, and media entrepreneur Evgeny Lebedev, owner of the Evening Standard and The Independent.

It was a delight to welcome back over 100 former 'Burton Bankites', ranging from the oldest alumni of the Class of 1949 to some of our most recent leavers from 2024, all returning to celebrate the house that had been their home for so many years. It was truly heartening to hear warm recollections from Senior Monitor Joe R and current Housemaster Graeme Turner, along with stories shared by returning tutors and former Housemasters.

200 YEARS OF THE MAIN SCHOOL BUILDING

Alongside Burton Bank's sesquicentennial

celebrations, an even more significant milestone was made on the 16 June 2025. Mill Hill's iconic Main Building officially turned 200 years old. Though now central to daily life at the School, the Main Building and its familiar Portico and entrance were not part of the original campus founded in 1807. Back then, Mill Hill School moved into 'Ridgeway House', the former residence of Quaker botanist Peter Collinson. However, after nearly 2 decades of growth, the old house had become far too cramped, prompting the decision to build a new school facility.

What began as debates over space, hosted in Georgian coffeehouses, quickly evolved into an ambitious vision: a purpose-built school for 120 live-in pupils, complete with specialist masters, on-site facilities for baking, brewing, and washing, and even a cold bath. Construction was fraught with delays, budget overruns, and brick supply negotiations, yet the Committee pressed on. By early 1827, the building was completed, constructed from two million bricks, at a total cost of £21,858

(equivalent to over £2.6 million today) – exceeding the original budget by more than £6,000 (over £800,000 in today's terms).

June 16 commemorates the culmination of five years of determined planning by the school's original Building Committee (1822-1827), who oversaw the creation of a new, purpose-built facility. The Foundation Stone was laid beneath what is now the Dining Hall – a space that remains central to school life today and walked over by generations of pupils and staff for centuries.

The result of all their hard work, was more than a building. It was a bold statement of values-community, education, and purpose – still standing proudly two centuries later, despite catching fire and being bombed twice! We look forward to properly commemorating this Mill Hill milestone in September 2025. ■

by

Francesca Forte
Archivist





Transforming futures through our bursary programme



Scan the QR code to find out more

Our bursary programme changes lives, day in, day out, helping young people achieve their potential.

WHY BURSARIES AT MILL HILL?

When our founders established Mill Hill in 1807, they did so with a powerful vision: to create a school rooted in generosity and inclusion. From the very beginning, they granted the School “the power to admit gratuitously pupils who may be in confined circumstances.” This founding principle has shaped our identity and continues to guide us today.

Bursaries are a cornerstone of life at Mill Hill. They have enabled hundreds of talented young people from diverse backgrounds to access a Mill Hill education, enriching our School and transforming lives in the process.

We are proud to partner with organisations such as the Royal National Children’s SpringBoard Foundation, Alford House and the Saracens Foundation. These partnerships help us identify and support exceptional pupils who, without financial assistance, would not be able to join our School.

The spirit of our first “Society of Subscribers and Friends” meeting in 1808 lives on today through the generosity of parents, alumni and friends of the School who generously support us.

There are many ways you can be involved and if you would like to find out more please do get in touch.



by

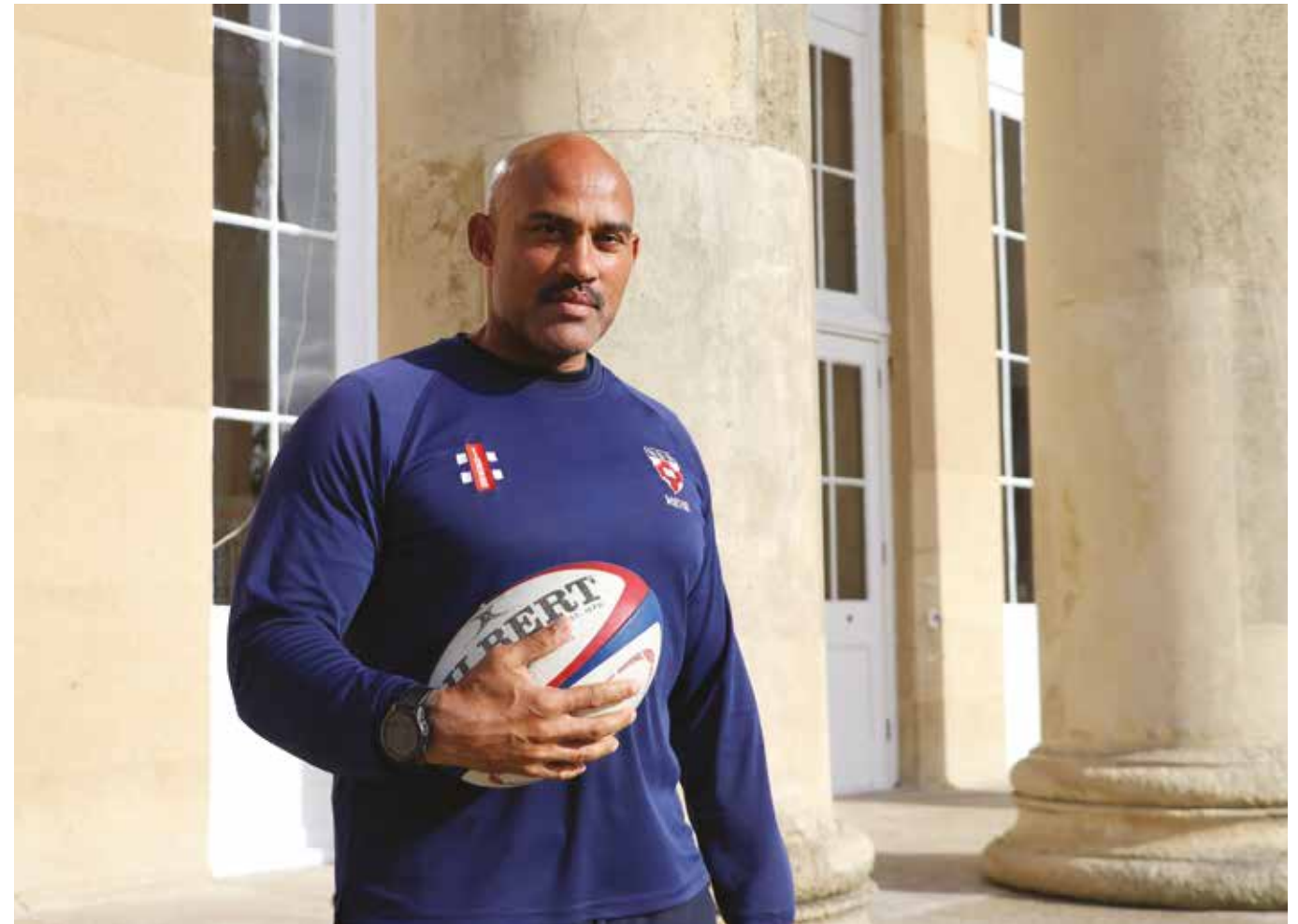
Mrs Lucia Hull

Director of Development

T: +44 (0)20 8906 7864

E: lucia.hull@mhsfoundation.uk

millhill.org.uk/support-us



WHAT BURSARIES MEAN TO ME

An Interview with Chris Bajak, Head of Performance Rugby

What is your role at Mill Hill?

“I came to Mill Hill via Saracens and have a joint role that works with the School and the Club. My aim is to develop rugby in the School from the bottom up and to support those players who join at Sixth Form as part of the Saracens Partnership.

First and foremost, we want boys to immerse themselves in everything Mill Hill has to offer, adding value to themselves and the School. Mill Hill runs 147 clubs and societies so there really is something for everyone.

On the rugby pitch, our aim is to maximise their talents and see how far they can go. For some of them, it will be county rugby, or playing for the Old Millhillians Rugby Club. For some it might mean going to a super league university or gaining a professional contract, as two boys have done this year.”

Why bursaries?

“Bursaries play a hugely important role in making what we offer at Mill Hill accessible to pupils of all backgrounds.

I am more than passionate about the bursary system because at their age, I was in their position. I come from a single parent, low-income family. I was going to a local state school and was fortunate to have the opportunity, through a bursary, to go to a school that prioritised rugby.

The bursary system enabled me to do something that I discovered I loved doing and had a talent for. If it wasn’t for the bursary system, I would have left school at 16 to work in a local factory. I was lucky that at the time I went to university, the game turned professional, so I was able to play rugby as a career and now teach.”

What are your ambitions for the pupils?

“The most satisfying thing for me, whether or not the partnership boys are bursary recipients, is seeing their togetherness as a group and their contribution to school life, as Senior Monitors, Heads of House or Prefects, speaking at Foundation Day or at other School events. I love seeing them flourish as role models and ambassadors of the School.

We are looking forward to seeing similar opportunities opening up to girls through London Mavericks Netball. In the future, my hope is that the pupils coming through will feel the same way I do and will find a way to give back too.” ■

by

Mr Chris Bajak

Head of Performance Rugby

FORMER BURSARY HOLDERS RETURN TO INSPIRE PUPILS

This term, we were honoured to welcome back two remarkable alumnae, England cricketer Sophia Dunkley and Cambridge Law graduate Evelyn Taylor. Their inspiring stories are a testament to the life-changing power of opportunity and a reminder of the impact bursary support can have.



Evelyn Taylor (Winfield 2019-2021)
Evelyn returned to Mill Hill for a working lunch with pupils and staff. Evelyn’s passion for her subject and her love of Mill Hill were palpable and this, coupled with her willingness to offer sound advice and honest insights into Sixth Form and University life resulted in an inspiring session for all those involved. Here are some of the things she said during the Q&A with pupils:

What was your experience like as a bursary pupil at Mill Hill?
“When I joined Mill Hill in the Lower Sixth, it was a very different environment to the one I was used to. Finding friends and joining extra-curricular clubs was the key to settling in. The positive and supportive relationships with the staff really helped. I knew there was always someone I could talk to.”

What support did Mill Hill give you for your Oxbridge application?
“I always knew I wanted to study Law and attending Mill Hill was my chance to get the support I needed to do that. The School gave me lots of interview practice which meant I could demonstrate my passion for the subject. The interview questions are often very random so it was important to develop my ability to think outside the box. Teachers also encouraged me to engage with extra-curricular activities and to complete an EPQ which really helped me.”

If you hadn’t come to Mill Hill, do you think you would have studied Law at Cambridge?
“Being in receipt of a bursary is almost like having a superpower; knowing that people believe in you gives you a real confidence. If I hadn’t come to Mill Hill, I think I would have studied Law, but I genuinely don’t think I would have gone to Cambridge. The teachers at Mill Hill were so supportive. I will always be indebted to them, not to mention everyone who supports bursaries and who made my time at Mill Hill possible.”



Sophia Dunkley (Cedars 2011-2016)
When England and Middlesex cricketer Sophia Dunkley visited Mill Hill, she was accompanied by her biggest supporter; her mum. Together they spent an afternoon at school meeting members of the U14 girls’ Cricket squad and talking about her time at Mill Hill.

“I am so grateful to have been able to attend Belmont and Mill Hill as a bursary holder.

It was a very supportive environment and the whole atmosphere just felt right from the moment I visited on open day. Lynn Duncan, the Head of Belmont at the time, was very open to me playing Cricket and Football with the boys and it felt like I would be able to be myself and get involved with lots of different sports.

At Mill Hill, Cricket training took up a huge amount of my time and Mill Hill’s support for sporting pathways made all the difference. Teachers would give me extended deadlines on my homework because they knew I was taking Cricket seriously. Women’s Cricket wasn’t as strong then as it is now, so I don’t think many schools would have seen it as a career option.

I am very lucky to have had a Mill Hill education as I don’t believe I would have had the same level of support elsewhere. The relationship with teachers was incredible. They made it possible for me to pursue my dream. I’m so grateful for my time there and to all those who support the School and open up places to bursary pupils like me.”

In the Last Five Years
Over the last five years, we are incredibly proud to have seen over fifty bursary holders graduate from Mill Hill and embark on a wide range of university courses including:

- 1. Bangor University | Medicine
- 2. Cardiff University | Politics
- 3. Durham University | Civil Engineering
- 4. Imperial College London | Mathematics
- 5. University of Birmingham | Psychology
- 6. University of Bristol | Medicine
- 7. University of Cambridge | Law
- 8. University of Leeds | Philosophy
- 9. University of Nottingham | Computer Science
- 10. University of Sussex | Biomedical science
- 11. University of Warwick | English Literature
- 12. University of York | Economics



IN THE WORDS OF A SUPPORTER

Nick Schild (Murray 2008-2013) Patron

“I joined Mill Hill because my dad was a pupil here and had an amazing time. When it came to choosing a school for me, there was only one destination. I had the time of my life at school; we were lucky to have such wonderful grounds, the teachers were great, the sport was fantastic, and everyone got on so well.

My dad was hugely supportive of the School, and he loved his time at Mill Hill. When dad died, I wanted to do something on his behalf, so I discussed it with the

Development Office and decided to contribute to the bursary programme by setting up the ‘David Schild Bursary Award’.

The Award offers a transformational Sixth Form bursary for a deserving pupil to study at Mill Hill. I am delighted that the first recipient is thriving. I love the thought that he will have a life-changing experience and will do the same things dad and I did: putting on the chocolate and cream shirt, eating in the same dining hall, treading the same corridors. But it’s also the idea that a



year ago, they might not have thought about doing these things and now they have the opportunity. Life takes you places and if I can help someone down that route, that’s great!” ■

Old Millhillians Back at School

Throughout the Year, the Development Office hosts events for Old Millhillians to reconnect with the School. Here are just a few of the highlights:

THE MIDDLESEX SCHOLARS' AFTERNOON TEA



In October, over 40 Old Millhillians returned to School for an afternoon tea to mark the legacy of the Middlesex Scheme – a ground-breaking initiative by local London councils to enable young people to attend independent schools like Mill Hill, regardless of their family’s income.

Guests included Old Millhillians who attended the School from 1945, when the scheme first began, to those who left towards the end of the scheme in the late 1980s.



After tours of School and a delicious afternoon tea, we heard from three of our bursary recipients about how the legacy of the Middlesex Scheme continues today, and from Middlesex Scholar and former Chair of Governors, Roger Chapman (Weymouth, 1960-1965) who spoke about why he supports bursaries at the School.

BOB MARSHALL-ANDREWS INSPIRES PUPILS



It was a great honour to welcome Old Millhillian Bob Marshall-Andrews (Winterstoke, 1957-1962) to School in the Autumn Term. Bob is a criminal barrister, author and was Labour MP for Medway from 1997-2010. Bob was interviewed by two of our Upper Sixth Politics pupils for the Department’s 1807 magazine and then led a question-and-answer session with our A Level politicians and historians in a packed Music School. Bob spoke about his journey from one-nation conservatism to socialism as a young man, and his deep belief in civil liberties which underpinned his distinguished legal and political careers. We were all taken with his enduring fondness for the School, great warmth and humour.

THE 1807 SOCIETY LUNCH AT THE FARMERS CLUB



David Benson and Antony Spencer were delighted to welcome members of the 1807 Society to The Farmers Club for lunch on Wednesday 21 May. The 1807 Society is a group of Old Millhillians and friends of the School who have made provision in their Will for Mill Hill School. We are indebted to John Besent (Collinson, 1957-1962) for hosting us at the Club.

John Besent warmly welcomed the guests and set in context the reasons why he has chosen to support the School. David Benson spoke of the lasting impact on the School of former Legacy donors. Finally, Graham Chase (Burton Bank, 1966-1972 and President of the Old Millhillians Club) spoke movingly about the opportunity he had to attend Mill Hill through the Middlesex Scholarship Scheme.

The presentations were a powerful reflection of the ethos and values that underpin a Mill Hill education and the importance of building upon the philanthropic foundations set down by our founders in 1807.

THE MILL HILL CRICKET DINNER



Mill Hill’s first ever Old Millhillian Cricket Dinner was an unforgettable celebration of the School’s long-standing cricketing tradition. It was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with past cricketers, with Nigel Wray (Ridgeway, 1961-1966) sharing his memories of playing at Mill Hill.

The evening also had an eye on the future of the sport at Mill Hill, as Head of Cricket, Jamie Diamond, spoke passionately about the School’s cricketing goals laying out his plans to develop the talent of the next generation of players.



DEVELOPMENT OFFICE VISIT TO NEW YORK

The Development Office was delighted to host a drinks reception for Old Millhillians

living in New York in June. Robin Mills (Ridgeway, 1957-1962) and founder of the A Better Chance bursary programme generously sponsored a drinks reception at The Cornell Club. In addition to hearing recent news from the School, recent Cambridge Law graduate, Evelyn Taylor (Winfield, 2019-2021) spoke powerfully about her time at Mill Hill and the life-changing opportunity she received as a bursary award-holder.



THE BURTON BANK 150TH REUNION



This summer, over 100 former Burton Bankers returned to Mill Hill to celebrate an extraordinary milestone – the 150th anniversary of Burton Bank House. Alumni from across the decades and the world gathered to revisit their old home, tour the School grounds, re-live memories and reconnect with friends.



Guests were welcomed back by current Housemaster, Graeme Turner, who shared reflections on the House’s enduring values. Our Head, Mr David Benson, spoke about the School’s continued growth and the importance of tradition in shaping its future. Cherie N, a current Burton Banker in the Upper Sixth, also addressed the gathering,

offering her perspective on what it means to be part of the House today.

As Andrew Gellert (Burton Bank, 1967-1972) wrote: ‘I woke up the next day glowing with memories from fifty years ago and from yesterday.’



OLD MILLHILLIANS DAY 2025

On Saturday 21 June, Old Millhillians Day brought together pupils and OMs competing in men’s and women’s Hockey, Football, Touch Rugby and Cricket. It was wonderful to see so many players across the whole School site.

A barbecue on Park followed overlooking the OM v 1st XI cricket match. Congratulations to the Old Millhillians who were victorious this year! ■





Discover the Old Millhillians Club

The Old Millhillians Club is a vital part of our broader School community. This historic and vibrant organisation plays a key role in maintaining the lifelong connection between Mill Hill School and its alumni, affectionately known as Old Millhillians. The Club is one of the largest and most active School alumni organisations in the UK. Career support, sports and reunions are at the forefront of the Club.

The Old Millhillians Club was established in 1885 and has been fostering friendships and connections across generations ever since. With thousands of members worldwide, the Club is a living testament to the enduring impact of a Mill Hill education. It serves not only as a network for former pupils but as a support system that upholds the values and traditions of the School. The Club's motto '*non nobis sed scholae*' (Not us but the School) reflects the unity and shared spirit that defines the Mill Hill experience, long after pupils have left the Ridgeway.

The Club hosts a rich calendar of events each year, both in the UK and internationally. These include:

- **Annual Dinners and Reunions:** Held in stunning venues such as One Moorgate Place, Cavalry and Guards Club, The Athenaeum Club and other central London venues, these bring together Old Millhillians across the decades.
- **Sports Teams and Tournaments:** Rugby,

hockey, cricket, golf, football and fives, former pupils regularly take part in competitive league fixtures and friendly matches, often training at Mill Hill School.

- **Career Networking Evenings:** From law and finance to the arts and entrepreneurship, professional events help connect younger Old Millhillians with experienced mentors.
- **Regional and Overseas Gatherings:** With Old Millhillians located across the globe, we hold reunions in locations ranging from nearby cities like Cardiff and Manchester to international destinations such as Dubai, South Africa, Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia, and New Zealand
- **Career & Conversations with OMs:** We recently launched career mornings in the Old Millhillians Club Office on the Ridgeway for pupils to meet with OMs. Pupils have the opportunity to discuss the ins and outs of a particular career with an experienced OM in that field.
- **Sixth Form Leavers Event:** We welcome all Mill Hill leavers as new members of the Old Millhillians Club in December, at a central London venue.

RECENT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS HOSTED BY THE OLD MILLHILLIANS CLUB

Careers & Conversations: Law with Matt Berrick

Pupils heard from Matt Berrick a 2017 leaver, who spoke about his journey from studying International Relations to a career in law. He shared his path through an MSc in Law, Business and Management, and his roles at Pinsent Masons and now Dentons. His talk and Q&A session offered key takeaways into the legal profession and the power of following one's passion.

Medical Professions Meeting

We were delighted to welcome Old Millhillian Dr Sebastian Lighvani over from New York as the guest speaker at the Medical Professions Meeting. A leading expert in allergy and immunology, Dr Lighvani delivered a fascinating talk on the growing prevalence of food allergies and the latest advances in treatment. Pupils and OMs from both



medical and non-medical backgrounds enjoyed an insightful evening at the Athenaeum Club.

Creative Arts Club

Pupils, OMs and guests attended a vibrant Creative Arts event featuring guest speaker and OM, Nancy Zamit.

A founding member of Mischief Theatre, Nancy is best known for *The Play That Goes Wrong* and *Peter Pan Goes Wrong*. She shared insights into her career in acting, writing, and creating award-winning comedy for stage and screen.

City & Finance Networking event

Guest speaker Dr Robert Barnes delivered a thought-provoking talk on ethics and financial innovation in the Age of AI. He explored the UK's potential leadership in digital assets, the progress of legal frameworks, and advances in sustainable energy investment.



 **Old Millhillians Club**
NON NOBIS SED SCHOLAE

STAY CONNECTED

As parents, we encourage you to visit the Old Millhillians Club website or follow the updates via our social media platforms. It's an opportunity to appreciate the role the Club plays in mentoring, professional development, reunions and social gatherings; with the support of our extensive global network of alumni.

In time, when your child becomes part of this esteemed network, they'll not only take with them a Mill Hill education, but also a lifelong connection to thousands of others who have walked the same halls.

Web: omclub.co.uk
Instagram: [@Old_Millhillians_Club](https://www.instagram.com/Old_Millhillians_Club)
LinkedIn: [linkedIn.com/in/old-millhillians-club](https://www.linkedin.com/in/old-millhillians-club)

Social Highlights

1



VALEDICTORY
From moving words in Chapel to heartfelt speeches in the Sports Hall, Valedictory Day was a beautiful celebration of reflection, gratitude and looking ahead.

Our Heads of House and Senior Monitors shared powerful messages with their peers, offering wisdom, memories and hope for the future in the Chapel and during the Leavers' Assembly.

Thank you to our pupils, families and staff for making it such a meaningful send-off. Here's to the journey ahead! 🌟🎓

2

millhillsseniormill hill school

👍🗨️➦

.....

🔖

FIFTH FORM CELEBRATION
Our Fifth Form Soirée was a wonderful evening of celebration, marking the end of an important chapter for our Year 11 pupils before they embark on the next stage of their educational journey. ✨

Having worked so hard throughout the year, they truly deserved this moment, and we couldn't be prouder of each and every one of them.

It was fantastic to see pupils, parents and staff come together to celebrate all they've achieved. A special evening filled with joy and reflection! 🎉

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



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

3

millhillsseniormill hill school

👍🗨️➦

.....

🔖

SIR JAMES MURRAY DICTIONARY
Did you know that the Oxford Dictionary was started at Mill Hill? 📖

Sir James Murray was a teacher at the School and built a corrugated-iron shed on the grounds for him and his team; it was right where the Scriptorium now sits!

4

millhillsseniormill hill school

👍🗨️➦

.....

🔖

ZIMBABWE TRIP
Bringing you a quick Sunday update all the way from Zimbabwe 🌍

After safely arriving and a brilliant visit to EliCrew, the tour has only just begun 😊

@tagrugbytrust

5

millhillsseniormill hill school

👍🗨️➦

.....

🔖

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE COMP
Another day, another House competition! This time, it was our General Knowledge Quiz 🧠

It was 🟡 Cedars v 🟠 Priestley in this exciting match up that pupils crammed into the room to see. After 30 minutes of quizzing, Priestley came out victorious 🏆

Well done to all those who participated and congratulations to Priestley!

6

millhillsseniormill hill school

👍🗨️➦

.....

🔖

FOUNDATION DAY AND SPORT DAY HIGHLIGHTS
Foundation Day and Sports Day Finals were truly special, full of spirit, sunshine and celebration across the Mill Hill! 🌞🏃

We've loved looking back at the day and couldn't resist sharing a few more highlights! From energetic races to joyful moments with friends and teachers, it was a wonderful reminder of what makes our Mill Hill community so unique.

7

millhillsseniormill hill school

👍🗨️➦

.....

🔖

MEET THE PUPIL – SYDNEY B
We are excited to begin our new Meet Our Pupils series, where we shine a light on the experiences and achievements of our wonderful pupils.

This week, we begin with Sydney B in McClure House, who will soon complete the Mill Hill Journey, having started at @millhillpreprep, and now thriving in her final year at Mill Hill Sixth Form.

We caught up with Sydney to hear about her time at Mill Hill and her leadership responsibilities.

8

millhillsseniormill hill school

👍🗨️➦

.....

🔖

WELCOME BACK 2025
Welcome back! We're thrilled to see our pupils back on school grounds. Let's make this year one to remember!

9

millhillsseniormill hill school

👍🗨️➦

.....

🔖

ZIMBABWE TRIP
🌍 12 in Zimbabwe: Trip Update! 🇿🇼
Our incredible Year 12 pupils are continuing their journey with @tagrugbytrust. 🏉

From coaching young players to painting houses and helping clean up community spaces, they've been making a real impact, all while forming amazing bonds with the locals. 💙

10

millhillsseniormill hill school

👍🗨️➦

.....

🔖

A LEVEL RESULTS DAY
Whether they began their journey at @millhillpreprep, @millhillbelmont, @millhillintl or Mill Hill, our pupils have been supported, encouraged, and inspired every step of the way.

Today, we couldn't be prouder of all they have achieved, with these incredible A Level results. Our heartfelt thanks go to the dedicated staff and the families who have stood alongside them.



Instilling values, inspiring minds
millhill.org.uk

Mill Hill School
The Ridgeway
Mill Hill Village
London NW7 1QS

020 8959 1176
millhill.org.uk

Follow us @MillHillSenior

