

soundwave

The Mary Hare Magazine

October 2008




Mary
Hare

MAKE YOURSELF HEARD

SCHOOL'S OUT

↑ FEEL GOOD

VERSO ↓ IN F

Soul of Mary Hare

CD VOL 1

SAMBA PARTY

£5

WHILE STOCKS LAST!

WE WILL ROCK YOU

TO PURCHASE

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
MARY HARE, NEWBURY, BERKSHIRE RG14 3BQ
01635 244233

INFO@MARYHARE.ORG.UK

ALL PROCEEDS TO MARY HARE CHARITY 1048386
CASH OR CHEQUE PAYABLE TO MARY HARE SCHOOL

FANTASIA ↑ IN A MINOR

Front Cover: Visitors enjoying the Mary Hare School grounds at the Garden Festival in June

SPECIAL EVENTS	page 4
SIXTH FORM NEWS	page 8
SPORTS NEWS	page 12
TRIPS AND OUTINGS	page 16
MUSIC NEWS	page 20
SPECIAL FEATURE - CDT	page 22
AUDIOLOGY	page 25
STAFF NEWS	page 26
FUNDRAISING NEWS	page 32
PRIMARY NEWS	page 35
ALUMNI NEWS	page 36

The Editorial Team would like to thank all those who have contributed to this edition of 'Soundwave'.
If you would like to submit an item for inclusion in the next publication, please send your material to:
Sally Beckett or Deborah Buckland at Mary Hare School.

Tel: 01635 244233 (voice) 01635 244260 (minicom) Email: marketing@maryhare.org.uk

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED, SO START WRITING, DRAWING, PAINTING, CREATING NOW!

2007/8 EXAM RESULTS

The number of A grades awarded nationally at A Level rose again this year, with a record number of pupils gaining university places. GCSE results also improved at all grades, for the first time since 1996. How did Mary Hare School compare against these national results?

A LEVEL

The overall pass rate at Mary Hare School was **98.5%** which is higher than the national average and an improvement on results for the previous year. The pass rate at Grades A or B was **23%**. The following pupils deserve a special mention for their outstanding results: **Amelia Lewis** (3B), **Alex Kemp** (1A, BTec Distinction), **Elizabeth Burton** (1A, 1C, BTec Distinction) and **Hamish Roberts** (1A, 1B, BTec Merit).

GCSE

For only the second time, our Year 10 students took a full GCSE in Science. The pass rate was **76.5%**, which is 11.5% up on last year. The following students performed exceptionally well: **Mungo Aitken, Jake Cyriax** and **Simon Thursz** (A*) and **Omar Farooq, Thomas McWhinney, Isobelle Rowsell** and **Timothy Weston** (A).

For Year 11, the overall pass rate was **76%**, with 19% of the entries at A* or A. The following students performed exceptionally well: **Jack Arnold** (2A*, 4A, 3B), **Oliver Harper** (3A*, 4A, 2B), **Lewis Martin** (3A*, 2A, 4B), **Ammad Rehman** (2A*, 3A, 4B) and **Max Thorne** (1A*, 5A, 2B, 1C).

Science Club

Mary Hare School recently submitted a proposal for funding to run an After School Science and Engineering Club for KS3 students. The proposal was successful and we have been awarded **£17,000** to run the club over a two year period. Teaching staff from the Science and Technology departments are leading a number of exciting projects as part of the club. *Pictured below* Year 9 students recently enjoyed testing the capability of paper aeroplanes built to their own designs, in a wind tunnel specially built by CDT teacher Mr Baxter. The best flight capability was demonstrated by the wide-winged design of **Andrew Nash**.



Make Yourself Heard!

By Blaise Persaud

100% of the BBC's output on all of its seven main TV channels is now subtitled. In May, NDCS (along with RNID and the BBC) held a reception in the House of Commons to celebrate these achievements. Students from Mary Hare and Heathlands School were invited to describe their experiences of accessing television to key decision-makers including the BBC Director General, Mark Thompson.



Students with NDCS Chief Executive and Mary Hare Governor, Susan Daniels

We were excited to be given this opportunity, as a group of Media Studies students, to talk to people from the BBC, NDCS and important politicians, as well as subtitling companies such as Red Bee Media.

When we arrived at the House of Commons we were greeted by representatives from NDCS. We met the students from Heathlands School and were taken through security. This caused a bit of a problem as we had several cochlear implant users who couldn't walk through the metal detector.

Once we had made our way through, we were taken upstairs to a Board Room. The staff from NDCS talked to us about the sort of things we could say to make these important people listen to us. We were then led to a different room which was larger and looked out over the River Thames. It was packed full of people and it made us a little nervous. The girls made a beeline for the strawberries and cream, to give us some confidence!

We made our way around the room, talking to various people. Actually we bombarded them with comments, questions and suggestions!

We even managed to talk to the head of the BBC and he listened to us avidly. After we had circulated and spoken to people, there were some speeches given by the head of the BBC, politicians, NDCS and also by Lord Ashley, who has a cochlear implant himself.

After listening to the speeches, we spoke to some more people and even got an invite to go and see how subtitles are put onto television programmes. This was a very informative visit and we would like to thank Mr Robinson for taking us.

“It was a wonderful opportunity to let some important people know how we feel. Hopefully the subtitling quality on television should continue to improve!”

SPECIAL Events

“The attitude of the students, the way in which they interacted with each other, their self-confidence and poise were wonderful.”



Over 200 visitors braved traditional Spring showers as they toured Mary Hare School on Bank Holiday Monday. Our Open Day is a highly anticipated annual event offering families of prospective pupils the chance to find out more about life at Mary Hare. Visitors were welcomed by Chief Executive Dr Ivan Tucker, Principal Tony Shaw and Vice Principal Dr Nick Papas before being shown around by student guides, giving them the opportunity to get a first-hand account of school life. Lessons continued as usual so that families were able to observe teaching and ask questions, as well as visiting the residential areas of the school.

At lunchtime parents were able to chat to school staff and, as the weather improved, younger children played in the sunshine on the inflatable slides alongside the marquees where Sixth Form students helped to entertain and supervise them. In the afternoon, families gathered in Arlington Arts Centre to enjoy a film presentation of recent Mary Hare success in the national English Speaking Board examinations, the Rotary Club 'Youth Speaks' competition and Year 11 Work Experience. This was followed by a live performance of music and dance by Mary Hare students, including the first ever public performance by the Junior Band who received a great reaction from the audience!

“The teachers, care staff, audiology and SLT team were all fabulously welcoming and answered our many questions thoroughly.”

Parents also attended a range of question and answer sessions with teaching and care staff at the end of the full Open Day programme. Prospective parents, Mr and Mrs Prosser from Bristol commented, “We were particularly impressed by the interactive nature of the lessons that we observed and the way in which the school's group hearing aid system enables students to hear their classmates and their teacher – this is something that is not available to our daughter in a mainstream setting.”

2008 WORLD DEAF CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Lewis Martin

This is a tournament that I had been eager to play in for some time. However, with GCSEs and my cochlear implant operation, it had not been easy for me to prepare for this major competition. I flew with my dad to Zurich and then on to St. Gallen, where I was going to play. The tournament ran for two weeks and the Junior section was an 11 match round-robin tournament, which meant there was a game every day, with a break on the second Sunday.

The players were mostly from Eastern Europe: Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Lithuania, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Switzerland, Germany and me, from England. I was ranked second, due to my high rating (the highest of English Deaf Chess) but most players were not rated and some were far more experienced than me in terms of international tournaments, so I had no expectations at all, other than to try my best.

It was a shaky start, but I was lucky to get a draw in the first round against a young Polish boy and I won steadily against a Swiss boy and then against a Russian in the next round. After three games it was looking good for me. The next game was against the top seed, a national master from Uzbekistan, but I played well and was a pawn up, but it was a closed position so the match was a draw.



The fifth round was against a Lithuanian and it was not a great game from my point of view, but I was a stronger endgame player and managed a draw. Things then went slightly wrong when I drew with a Ukrainian girl in a position where I was marginally better. Then I made a mistake playing against a German girl and lost a piece, which meant I lost the game. My total score at this stage was 4 out of 7.

On our day off we had a trip to Appenzell and we all went up the mountain by cable car. Unfortunately it was a cloudy day so there was no scenery visible from the mountains! Then it was back to the tournament. The next two games were steady wins but my tenth round was a drawn game with an older Polish player. It was a good game for me and I should have wrapped up the endgame; however, another mistake meant it ended in a draw.

The last game was against a strong Ukrainian - there were lots of photos taken, as it was deemed to be a big game with a battle for second place. I had a good game with a better position from the start. I then had a combination which gave me a stronger position, where I could have had two rooks and a knight against his queen. Unfortunately I did not see that he had perpetual checks, so it was yet another draw from a winning position.

Overall, I was pleased with my performance and scoring 7 out of 11 meant I came third, winning a trophy and medal, although it could have been more. I'd had a tough summer, so this was a great result. After the last game, a presentation ceremony and banquet were held in the evening.

I would like to thank my supporters and sponsors, especially Mary Hare and the Brown Jack Chess Club who enabled me to take part and enjoy this memorable experience.



LEAVERS LUNCH

2008



Farewell to our 2008 leavers from Mrs Carr, Head of Year 13

You have been a wonderful year group to work with and I will remember many happy times and fun with all of you. I will remember you for your sense of fun and your incredible support and friendship to one another.

I know that you will keep your friends for life and leave Mary Hare with some happy memories. I will also remember your amazing contribution to school life in music, drama, sport and so many other events.

I've said in many of my conversations with Sixth Form students that they are role models for our younger pupils and need to lead the way. Your group have been absolutely fabulous role models.

I was asked to describe your year in a single word for the Year Book. How can you sum up such an amazing group of students in one word? I cheated! I asked if, as Head of Year, I might be allowed to use two words. I chose ... ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS!

“ It has been a real pleasure to have you in the school and I have loved working with you and your families. I wish you every success and happiness and hope that you will keep in touch. Mr Gale, Assistant Principal ”



Lauren, Hamish, Emily, Amelia and Katie say goodbye

PARTY IN THE PARK...

By Fatima Niemogha

When the new prefect team was announced at the end of the summer term, we decided to make the most of the lovely weather by putting on an outdoor event dedicated to Year 13, to show how much we had enjoyed having them with us and to say how much we would miss them! We decided on a range of entertainments, including music and dance, for people to enjoy. We had to keep an eye on the budget as we wanted to get a bouncy castle as well as food and drinks. We bought prizes for the raffles, talked to the kitchen staff about a BBQ and put together a line up for the show!

On the night, **James Alexander** and **David Hedges** welcomed everyone to the event. Then everyone went running for the bouncy castle, causing mayhem for the care staff! Stress then hit the line up as the performances started! 'YFactor' winner **Kaia Meers** was first with her dance, followed by **Lisa Kelly** and **Chelsea Pritchard**, who also showed off their dance moves. Then **Michael Cook** decided to do a song at the very last minute, which was brilliant.

Care staff stars, Ed and Stuart, performed 'Is This The Way To Amarillo?' which started the crowd off surfing and jumping up and down, just like a proper, rough, rock concert! Mr Gale performed his new version of 'Oh, What A Dream' which the crowd sang to, knowing it very well!

Then I joined **Roger Watson, Jamie Chang** and **William Johnson** in an instrumental song which had been put together at the very last minute! Everyone was dancing in the lovely weather, in their cool gear and having a drink. It was an awesome sight. The Junior Band, **Oliver Harper, Ashley Dunn, Louis Kissaun, Ian Botting, Laurie MacDougall** and **Grace Lecznar** performed 'White Flag'. They did extremely well - especially as it was their first 'gig'.

The last performance of the night was The Deafness with guest appearances by Mr Gale, Mr Davies, **Ian Botting** and **Russell Yeo**. The crowd went wild with more surfing and people on stage dancing away. I came on with Sandra and we got everyone dancing and I followed this by singing with **Connor Downey**. The Deafness finished the night with a song dedicated to the Year 13s. We made a profit of £150 which was used for a paddling pool and a projector. The evening went very well - people enjoyed the music and had fun. We are most definitely going to do it again!

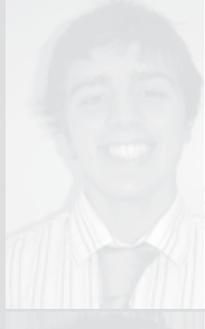


Ed and Stuart take to the stage



Fatima and Sandra bring the night to a close

MEET THE PREFECTS



● *Becoming Head Girl has been an achievement far beyond my expectations. I'm honoured to be given a role of such significance and I want to give back to the school, in return for what the school has given me.* ● **Fatima**

● *I was pleased to be chosen as Deputy Head Girl and I like being part of the team. One of my tasks is helping Year 7 with their prep, which I enjoy. I also had fun helping to organise the Party in the Park.* ● **Sophie**

● *I was really glad to become a prefect I am looking forward to helping the school and organising activities for the pupils. It is good for the prefect team to get together and discover everyone's best skills.* ● **Asha**

● *I am enjoying the responsibility and helping the school and teachers. Some jobs are challenging, like encouraging and persuading pupils to go outside during break, instead of staying in the corridors!* ● **Emily**

● *Being a prefect helps me demonstrate the best of my abilities to the school. I love working in a team and helping to maintain a positive environment for students and teachers alike.* ● **Laila**

● *I am the charity prefect, so you will see a lot of me in assembly! I am hoping to raise money for some good, worthwhile causes with some fun events, making the class of 2002 a year to remember.* ● **Blaise**

● *I was surprised and very pleased with the achievement of becoming a prefect. I would like to thank all of those who supported me and I am looking forward to working with the rest of the prefect team.* ● **Maya**

MEET THE PREFECTS

MEET THE PREFECTS

- *Being Head Boy is such a privilege. I want to lead the team in achieving our goals together and being a good example to the younger students. We hope to make 2008/9 a memorable year!* ● **William**

- *I'm feeling great about being Deputy Head Boy. It's a really good experience when we get together to discuss plans and ideas. There's a lot of work, but overall, I think it's great!* ● **William**

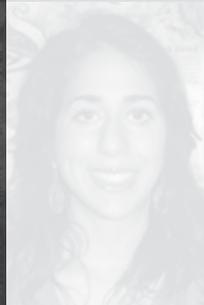
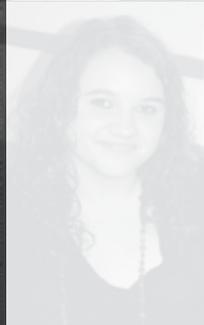
- *I wanted to be a prefect because I enjoy setting things up that involve teamwork. I like working in groups and organising things! I am very proud to have become a prefect.* ● **Ryan**

- *Being a prefect is great and certainly a challenge, as you have to develop several skills - managing your duties, being part of a team as well as participating in activities and events in school.* ● **Graeme**

- *As a prefect, I feel I have a responsibility to uphold my role. I hate doing lunch duty but I'm glad to have been chosen for the prefect team. There are some great privileges too!* ● **Dominic**

- *It was great news to find out that I was a prefect. I want to try my best to make the school a better place and I hope that you will all support me and the rest of the prefect team.* ● **Simon**

- *Being a prefect give you a sense of pride and responsibility as well as rewards for doing a good job. I hope the younger students will follow my example and one day become prefects too.* ● **James**



SPORTS News

SPORTS DAY

Sports Day managed to escape the forecast rain, with the hunger at bay with sales of burgers, salads and cakes. Gu... Levels at Cheltenham College. Jack is studying for a degr...

The afternoon began with the traditional march down to the... **Zelic** (Junior Girls), **Karina Jemmott**, (Senior Girls), **Sam** and Rebecca and Sam had also enjoyed recent success at... Junior Boys High Jump record, unchanged since 1994, with... House Captains **Fatima Niemogha** and **Simon Wilkin** and visitors for sharing in the afternoon's excitement and g...



Afternoon races taking place in warm May sunshine watched by parents and friends of Mary Hare. The school's PTA helped spectators to keep the spirit of honour for the event was up-and-coming rugby player **Jack Avery** who recently joined Newbury RFC as scrum half after finishing his A Level in Sports Coaching at Oxford Brookes University while continuing his rugby career at Newbury.

On the school field, with the four school Houses led by their flag bearing House Captains. Best Sports Person awards on the day went to **Rebecca Samuel Halfpenny**, (Junior Boys) and **Jacob Willis**, (Senior Boys). All four students had already achieved wins in field events during the day at the Area Athletics event in Reading. The Year 9 Trophy for Achievement and Effort in Athletics went to **Mitchell Graham** who also broke the school record in a jump of 1m 56cm. House Winners on the day were **Beverley** who were both top in the Sports Day results and overall House Champions. **Rebecca** collected the trophy to rousing applause and cheers from delighted members of their House. School Principal, Mr Tony Shaw, thanked parents and staff for their support and gave special thanks to Jack Avery for sharing his own passion for sport with the students.



SPORTING AMBASSADORS

The School Sport Co-ordinator Programme is a Lottery funded scheme which enables secondary schools to appoint School Sport Co-ordinators (SSCOs). The aim is to enhance the range and quality of current extended curricular sporting provision and to influence and assist the development of sport within the wider community.

Through the SSCO partnership, Mary Hare has recruited some excellent sports ambassadors for the first time this year. **Pierre Gaudion** and **Sophie Goodacre** helped with Year 7 classes in their free time and ran football, cricket and tennis clubs for a local primary school using Mary Hare facilities. **James Alexander** also helped to coach the cricket.

Area Athletics RESULTS

100 metres

Thomas Paull 6th (Heat)

Discus

Thomas Paull 5th (1.25kg)

800 metres

Rolf Choutan 13th

Shot (4kg)

Sam Halfpenny 8th, Iain Botting 10th

Shot (5kg)

Roger Watson 4th (9.72m)

Triple Jump

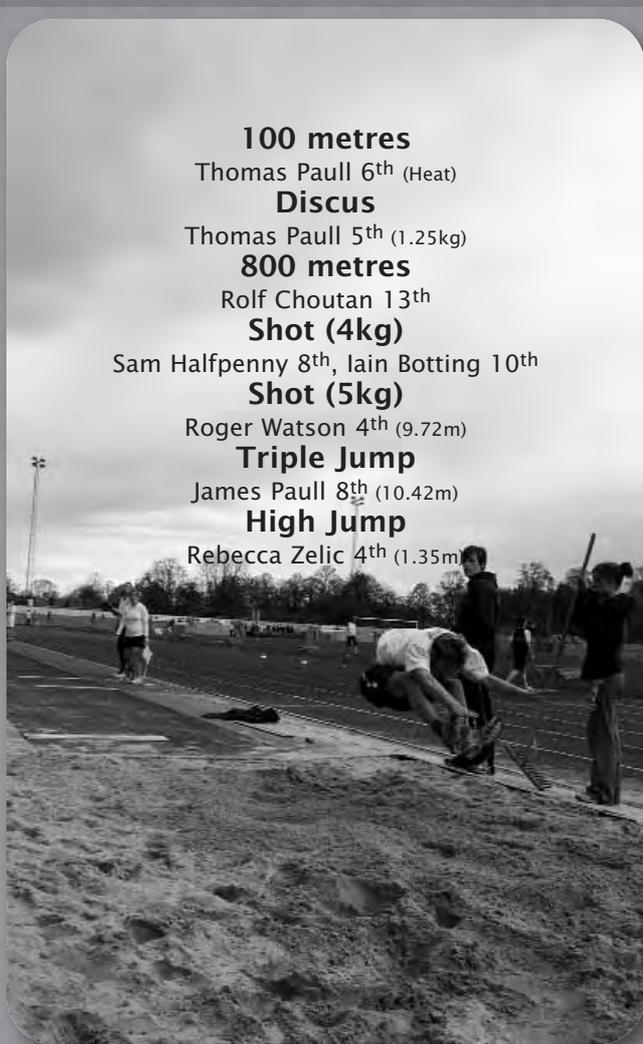
James Paull 8th (10.42m)

High Jump

Rebecca Zelic 4th (1.35m)



Charles Hawes and **Aeron Majiza** (pictured below) have been given the chance to enhance their BTEC Sports Studies by completing a unique Sports Leadership course. Having completed the course, the boys both volunteered to participate as leaders in the Berkshire Youth Games, which was an exciting opportunity for them both. Aeron commented, "I chose to do this course to help my CV and I want to qualify in sports coaching to help my future career plans. I loved doing the course, because I love sports and enjoyed helping other people."





Three Mary Hare students recently joined the preliminary training squad for the 2008 World Deaf Football Championships. They made it through the initial trials to join the training camp in Shropshire.

Pierre Gaudion looks back at the experience...

The trial weekend was the toughest Saturday we had ever had! When we received a letter from the FA saying that we had passed the trials, we were all very pleased and proud. A couple of weeks later we were off to the England training camp where we were able to wear the 'Three Lions' badge. It was a great weekend but very tiring, as it was energetic with non stop training.

Afterwards, I was on 'stand by' with James Alexander, which meant that if anyone got injured we replaced them straight away. Phillip Swift got into the 22-man squad and we all went back in August for another training weekend with the England squad.

Unfortunately for the boys, their journey ended there and they were not called up for duty. It seems that England didn't do too well in this year's championships - maybe if the Mary Hare students had been playing, things might have been different!

DODGEBALL



As part of National Sports Week, a Dodgeball tournament was held for the very first time. Excitement ran high as 9 student and staff teams assembled to compete for the title of 'Dodgeball Champion!' The rules required players to stay in front of the tramlines to throw the ball at the opposing team. Players could be disqualified if they argued with the umpires, so everyone was on their best behaviour!

The 'Come on Gunners' (**Mitchell Graham, Sam Halfpenny, Rolf Choutan, Russ Yeo & Luke Bryant**) and the 'High Fives' (**Arran Thomas, Sam Fincham, Odran Nelson, Andrew Tolmie & Iain Botting**) reached the final, which was won by the 'Gunners', after a fiercely contested game. Plate winners were 'The Individuals' (**Morgan Litt Wilson, Erika Lever Hogg, Rachael Mallard, Mark Hamill, Alex Mercier & Jack Moody**).

The tournament was entertaining and great fun to watch, especially when Dr Papas launched himself across the gym floor for a spectacular save – we were most impressed!



TRIPS

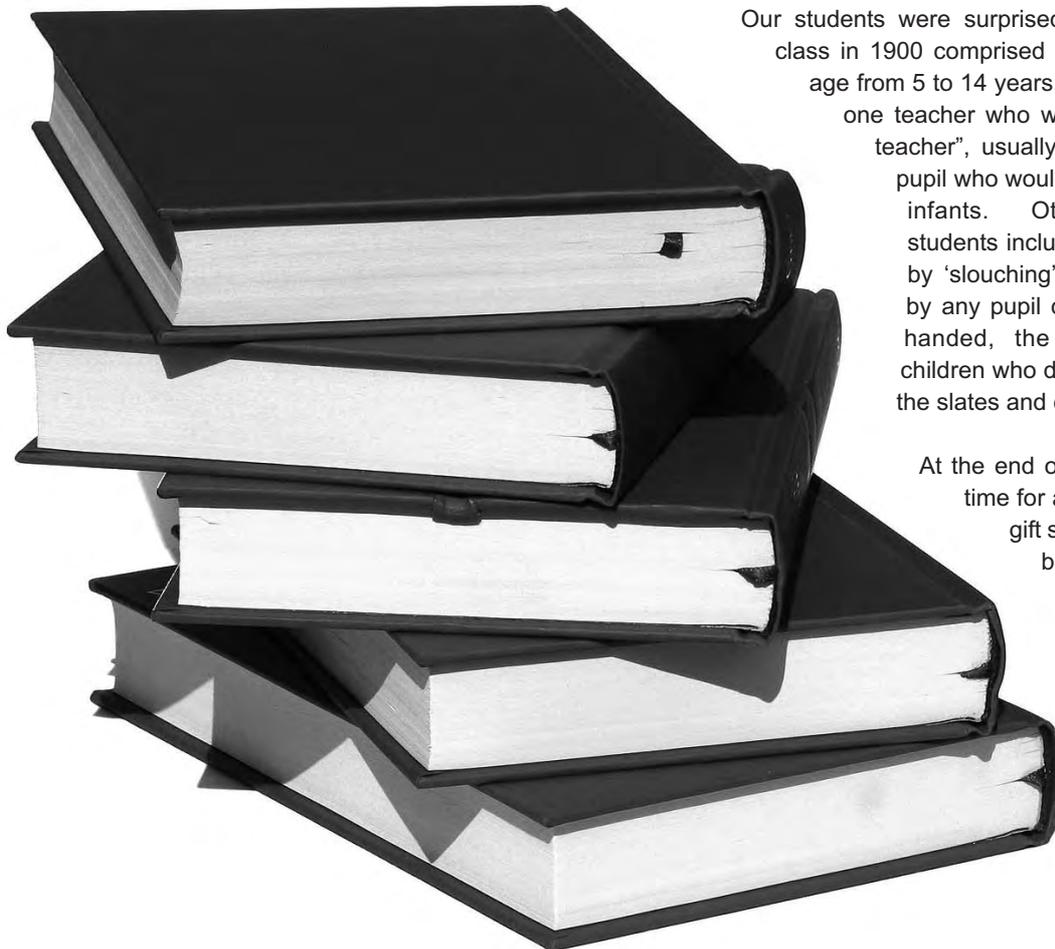
Outings

A Step Back in Time...

Year 7 took a step back in time during the last week of the summer term when they visited St Fagan's, the Museum of Welsh Life. This open air museum stands in the grounds of St Fagan's Castle, a late 16th Century manor house. The museum is home to over 40 original buildings that have been brought in from all over Wales to show how people lived in the past.

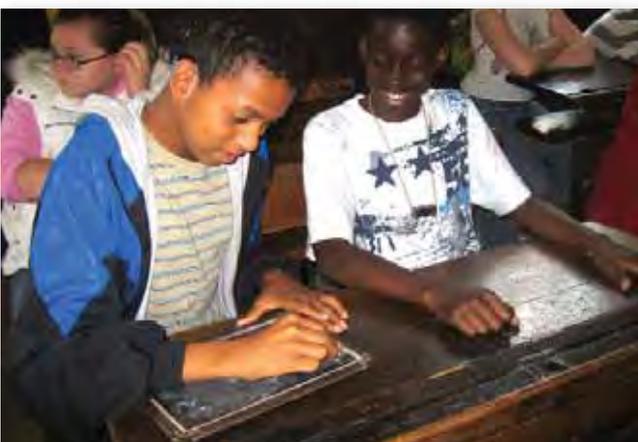
Students were intrigued by the six cottages that showed the changing way of life from the 1800s through to the 1980s. They were even more interested in the pig that was a backyard feature in many country cottages in earlier times, although they were less impressed by the smell!

The greatest amount of time was spent in the school house, which was surprising as it was not the kind of school that our students would like to attend! Maestir School was moved to the museum in 1981 from Maestir village, 2 miles from Lampeter. The school was furnished just as it would have been in the early 1900s, with wooden desks and ink wells, a high teacher's desk, a blackboard with a cane hanging on it and a large, black, coal-fired stove. The school had large, high windows which let in light but prevented children from looking out and there were separate yards or playgrounds for the girls and boys.



Our students were surprised to learn that a typical class in 1900 comprised 36 pupils who ranged in age from 5 to 14 years. They were all taught by one teacher who was helped by the "pupil-teacher", usually the oldest and keenest pupil who would assist with teaching the infants. Other surprises for our students included the contraption worn by 'slouching' pupils, the device worn by any pupil daring to try to write left-handed, the 'Welsh not' worn by children who dared to speak Welsh and the slates and chalk used by the infants.

At the end of the day, there was just time for a visit to the very modern gift shop as we made our way back into the 21st Century before returning to school. Thanks go to Mme Lelaure and everyone in the English department for the trip!





Things Ancient & Modern

By Chloe Norton and Asher-Ben Pearl

We eagerly clambered onto the coach with our pillows (we might fall asleep and they would be comfy!). The journey to London was long - two hours. Some people slept, some read and the girls in the back had a pillow fight! When we arrived in London, there was a scramble for the baguettes and we all sat down and ate our lunch next to the Thames.

We were a bit early so we headed towards the Millennium Bridge for a short walk. We returned to the **Globe Theatre** and started our tour with a lady, who was an actress there, telling us about the surroundings and people of the Globe. Then we went into one of the rehearsal rooms that the company use for their plays. The first thing we did was play a game where the lady set our groups a task which you had to do in a frozen tableau.

After a lot of guessing about what everyone was doing, we sat in a circle and acted out some short scenes from 'Much Ado About Nothing'. Some of the boys were embarrassed as they had to act as girls! Chloe got embarrassed taking the part of Claudio as she had to push Sol, who exaggerated the fall, but Chloe felt a bit better knowing that her push wasn't that weak after all!

After the workshops were over we headed to **Tate Modern**, which was just a short walk away. As we were walking outside the building, we looked at the massive paintings on the walls and one of them was quite rude!

We went inside, split into our form groups and spent an hour on the third floor, looking at paintings based on poetry and texture. We all had different opinions about what we liked: Asher's favourite was a metal sculpture with pieces of cotton attached to it in a way that formed a tunnel in the middle. Kaia's favourite picture was a scientific painting of zoomed-in X-rays. Andrew liked all of the paintings equally.

Chelsea's favourite was a sculpture involving two birds and a polluted city. Chloe loved a sculpture which was a really high tower of soap bars. Oliver enjoyed the art work involving vultures and a railway.

At the end of the day we just had enough time to have a look round the gift shop before it was time to leave. We walked back to the coach and it drove us along the river Thames and we looked at all the bridges - it was a long day but we all really enjoyed it!



“Some of the boys were embarrassed as they had to act as girls!”

Scary, but Fun!

By Ellie Bagshaw

Year 7 went to **Warwick Castle** in June. When we got there everyone was singing 'Warwick'. We went on a tour around the towers and looked at the stocks and watched the archery demonstration. Later we walked up Guy's Tower and there were 530 steps to climb! It was very tiring and when we got to the top it was very windy - some people were afraid of heights. Then we all had to go back down the steps.

It was scary because it was so dark and steep! We had to climb up and down some more towers to get into the dungeons. The dungeons weren't very nice and it was quite smelly as well. Then it was finally lunchtime and we watched the trebuchet display. It was very interesting to watch, as it swung really hard to make the ball fly!



After this, it was time for the scariest part of the day, the Ghost Tower. Some were scared even before they set foot inside the tower. I walked around the corner when a demon scared me! It was time to scream! There were loads of demons and ghosts to scare you. Even though it was scary, it was still fun. For a while I led the group because I was feeling brave. Then Mr Marlow took over. He went through an old door and he was spooked!! He had been inside the Ghost Tower before, but he still jumped - I laughed so much, but I was glad when we got out of the tower!

After that, we went to the 'Kingmaker' exhibitions where all the models were made out of wax. It showed how Medieval people prepared for battle and other things in that time. Then we went to the shop and bought some nice things. Everyone was tired, but we all had a really good day out!



Battle of

In July, four Mary Hare musicians performed at the prestigious Rock, Pop & Urban Music Festival, a high profile event involving young people from all over the UK. The Deafness were one of 12 finalists chosen to perform at the Carling Academy, Birmingham, in front of a panel of judges from the world of music.

Although it was a miserable and rainy day, we didn't let that dampen our spirits! When we arrived, there was time for a quick look around the Bull Ring and then we headed back to the Carling Academy. We gathered in the dressing room, preparing for the night ahead. William, James, Jamie and Fatima were dressed in black and white outfits and really looked the part! Once they were ready, we headed downstairs and nervously waited for the evening to begin.

While we were waiting, we got the chance to talk to a few of the other bands who had come from all over the UK. Once it was time for the event to start, we gathered around the stage to watch the performances (and check out the competition!). The bands were all very talented and it was enjoyable to watch. After three bands it was the moment we had all been waiting for... The Deafness!

I screamed as loud as I could when they came on stage. Their performance was absolutely amazing – they played a rocked up version of 'Make Yourself Heard' and a wonderful rendition of KT Tunstall's 'Black Horse And The Cherry Tree'. The audience went crazy - especially me! People were clapping along and shaking their hips. There were even two boys dancing at the front of the crowd.

the Bands

They were awarded one of the four major prizes of the evening, for 'Best New Composition' following an outstanding performance of their own number, 'Make Yourself Heard.'

Self-confessed Deafness groupie, Blaise Persaud, reflects on the events of the evening and the fantastic achievements of the band.

The band really got the crowd going and it was one of their best performances ever! After watching the rest of the bands (none of whom matched up to The Deafness!) it was the moment we had been waiting for - the announcement of the results.

Each band nominated a member to go up and collect a certificate for participation. James went up to collect one on behalf of The Deafness. Then it was time for the additional prizes. The presenter announced 'Best Composition', there was a pause... and then he boomed, "The Deafness with Make Yourself Heard!" We could hardly believe it and went crazy, we jumped up and down and screamed our heads off! It was an amazing moment.

I have to say that The Deafness' performance was astounding and they definitely deserved the prize. They engaged the crowd and entertained them like the true professionals they are!

It was a wonderful and exhausting day out. All I can say is a massive 'Congratulations' to The Deafness - they are exceedingly talented and I hope to be seeing a lot more of their performances in the future!



Image courtesy of Simon Jay Price : www.simonjaypricephotography.com



SPOTLIGHT on CDT

Students have worked hard and performed well in this year's GCSE and A Level exams in Graphics and Resistant Materials. Some excellent coursework was produced and we have pleasure in sharing just some of those pieces with you...



Callum Thompson
CD Rack



Rebecca Clements
Shopping Trolley



Ben Glover
Logo and Badges



Jack Arnold
Sewing Stool



Jonathan Lambourne
Wine Rack



Jonathan Rogers
Hat and Coat Stand



Hugh Mulloy
Floor Lamp



Max Thorne
Garden Chair



Nicola Philips
Cup Holder



During the summer term, as part of the Year 9 Design Technology curriculum, students completed a 'Popcorn Package', designing their own logos and producing a range of ideas for a flat-pack box. The aim of the project was to enhance students' graphic design skills. For the Resistant Materials option, students worked on developing their woodworking skills, to produce a wooden box.



Jeff Robinson produced an outstanding piece of work, based on the theme of rollercoasters - his favourite topic! The standard was exceptional - well done Jeff!



Oliver Thorne joined different types of wood together to produce the lid and cut joints using chisels, creating a very effective and attractive looking box.



As part of his AS Level Resistant Materials coursework, **Ryan Barrow** designed and made a 'Charles Rennie Mackintosh' inspired coffee table. The table was made from layers of MDF wood, supported by chrome tubes.

The table top was made from toughened glass and Ryan etched a 'Mackintosh' design in the corners. It fitted well into the style and decor of Arlington Arts Centre! (pictured below).



AUDIOLOGY

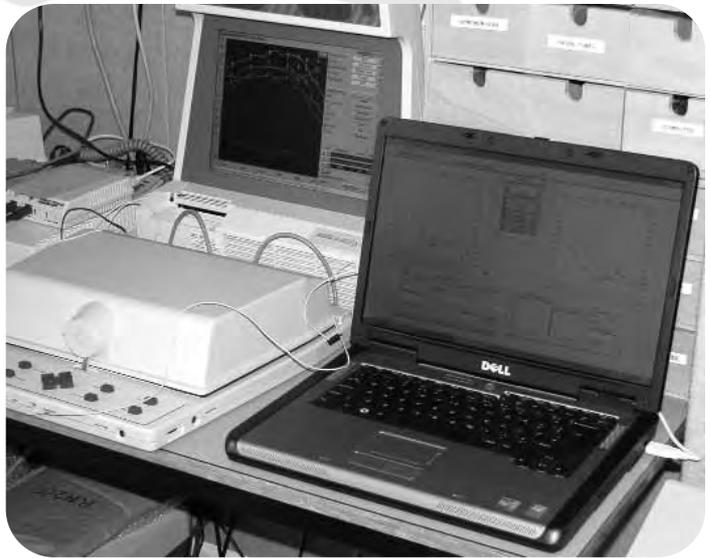
News

Mary Hare's Audiology department has acquired some new equipment this term, which will make a huge difference to the support we give to our pupils. Thanks to generous donations by the HJ Heinz Charitable Trust and the Childwick Trust, we were able to purchase an AudioScan Verifit Real Ear Hearing Aid Analyser. Student Kaia Meers explains what a difference the new equipment has made...

Before I had my hearing aids re-set I couldn't really hear people well or clearly enough, which made it hard for me. In the summer I began to notice that I couldn't really hear my mum or my family properly. That gave my mum the idea that I was ignoring her (sorry mum!) so I tried cleaning my hearing aids and my ears but it didn't make much difference. I began to think my hearing level had dropped so I became worried.

When I came back to school I told Miss Ogg and she booked me in for a hearing test. The test showed I had lost a small amount of hearing, not a major loss though. (Phew!) Miss Ogg booked me in for an appointment to have my hearing aids reset on the new machine.

When my hearing aids were re-set I could hear so much better! It was louder and clearer and I responded to voices more. I feel much happier and I would really like to thank the people who donated the money for that machine. It has made a big difference to me. Thank you very much.



The AudioScan Verifit Real Ear Hearing Aid Analyser is a desk-top system designed to fill the need for tools that are independent and consistent across hearing instrument manufacturers and models. Cutting-edge features allow quick, accurate evaluation of all types of hearing instruments, including both 'digital' and 'directional'. The analyser is able to access real speech and live speech tests with perceptually significant data analysis and presentation.

The advantage for Mary Hare is that we are now in line with the equipment used in hospital situations and it is becoming increasingly essential that we are working with the same readings. We are grateful to the Heinz Charitable Trust for donating £2,000 and the Childwick Trust for donating £3,000 in support of our work.



TALKING to...

ROBERT POOTS

New Head of Care (and Roscoe!)

How did you first hear about us?

I knew about Mary Hare as a specialist school, because of coverage over the years in the local press. I was approached by an agency and asked if I would consider the role of Head of Care. I researched via the internet and looked at inspection reports, press stories and the Charity Commission website. I liked the ethos and the success that the school has enjoyed.

When I was shown round, I was told of the realities of the task, the difficulties and challenges, so I knew I was not being misled. I enjoy that kind of honesty. I think there is an opportunity for anyone who works at Mary Hare to realise that whatever their role, they are helping people to achieve more than could possibly have been expected if they had stayed in mainstream education.

What does your job here involve?

My role is one of supporting and leading the care staff and working as part of the Senior Management Team. I have goals regarding Ofsted, refurbishment, new building work and generally in how things are done on the care side for the student group.

I am interested in how we assist students to get as involved in the community as they can. Leaving school and going to university is a huge challenge for a teenager in terms of caring for themselves and not being isolated. Having a meaningful career is dependent on how you mature and develop in school, which sounds like common sense but actually requires serious thought about how we, as staff, assist and allow the students to grow.

I want to help pupils develop their own hobbies and interests whilst here, especially those who stay at weekends. I am working alongside others at Mary Hare to develop our use of volunteers and community links. I also speak to parents occasionally and help with any difficulties that children may have whilst living away from home. The impact on parents of their child living away from home can often mean more than the impact on the child, who will usually settle in and get on with things. Last but not least in the big picture, I also unfortunately have to put in place and enforce student sanctions at times.

What's your previous background?

I am a qualified nurse, having trained in Northern Ireland – the best training in the world! My most recent role was as a Commissioning Clinical Services Manager for a private mental health group. I have been a Staff Nurse, Ward Manager, Matron(!), Service Manager, Hospital Director, and a Night Porter! I have tended to work with the most debilitated patient groups - the ones who challenge services and staff the most. Since 1995 I have worked in in-patient psychiatric settings. My previous roles have involved making things better in terms of organisation, use of space/resources and developing staff teams.



Robert and Roscoe enjoying the Mary Hare grounds

A primary goal for me is always to help the subject group, in this case the students, to achieve the best they can and want to be. This also means doing the same for our staff. As part of this I aim to help develop the Mary Hare care side into an autonomous, professional part of the school provision, having strong links with the school itself (teachers and form tutors). I want our Ofsted assessments to be 'Outstanding' and for the pupils (and their parents) to look back in years to come and say that we helped them to achieve their best.

Do you have any special interests or hobbies?

I read lots. My favourite writers are Terry Pratchett, David Eddings, Raymond Feist. Mark Billingham, P D James, Michael Connolly and John Connolly. I love to cook (not heat up, COOK). I also enjoy walking and camping. Our dogs, Norwegian Elk Hounds, have each qualified for Crufts. This year our pup, Roscoe, has won his place and we will be there next year. You will see Roscoe around the school sometimes - the Sixth Form prefects met him in June. He is about to start training as a PAT (Pets As Therapy) dog. *Interesting facts:* Our dogs could be called up for national service by Norway if they went to war - we shan't go there just in case! I once ran the Olympic qualifying time for the 400m, then very promptly was physically ill and didn't try it again - if only I had been pushed by a coach! I won a 200m race despite not being in blocks and facing the wrong way when the pistol went! I support Leeds United.

What were your own school days like?

I tended to be a reasonable student, but was occasionally punished with a cane for 'little trifles'. I still like to carry out practical jokes, but as I get older they tend to happen less often - maybe I am getting more mature and responsible! I was bullied mercilessly as a 10 year old child. I don't like it when bullying happens. I had a generally happy childhood, spending all of my free time outside, football, running, tree climbing.

Do you think children today have a better experience of school?

I am not sure about better, it is definitely different with the availability of technology, changes in discipline and attitudes to personal conduct. I think the use of coursework means that there is potentially a deeper understanding of things rather than repetition from books. The most technology I used until A Levels was a biro and a logarithm book. In Sixth Form I had to buy a calculator!

I think potentially a child could have a better experience of school nowadays, but as always it depends what they want at the time and how much they are pushed into going outside their 'comfort zone'. I think we should encourage children to taste as much as they can cope with. My daughter knows that I expect her to taste everything I cook, then she can tell me if she likes it!

I think that the biggest problem society has now is that children have lots of information, but often they don't have the knowledge or maturity to know how to manage it. Television is a double edged sword; access to the internet is a huge advantage, but also has incredible dangers for the naive or unwary. Better experience? No, a different experience.

I enjoyed school; some of my friends hated it. Most just did it. Part of the challenge is to encourage the aspects that create a sense of enjoyment, achievement and success, rather than simply attendance.

Are you planning any changes in your role as Head of Care?

That's a secret. Sssshhhh. Seriously: refurbishment, activities, fun, boundaries, policies, Ofsted, fun, building, football, hobbies.

Is there anything you would like to say to our students?

You are here because someone has faith in your ability. We think you can succeed. Taste everything that is offered to you. Decide what you like and do your best at it. Be honest. Help people, they will help you. If you don't like the rules, ask why they exist, don't just blunder ahead and cause difficulties for yourself. Be assertive, feel empowered. Talk to me. If something is wrong or you think something is wrong, tell us! Do your washing. If you cannot find your socks don't phone your mum, get help to look for them! Be the best you can. That does not mean you have to be number one in the class or group, but be happy with your effort And finally, BE NICE!

AND THE SILVER GOES TO...

“What’s for lunch today?”

You can be sure that the queue outside the dining room is pretty keen to get in and start eating, but how many of us stop to think about how that meal actually gets to our plate? Our Domestic Bursar Paul Leverton and his staff have been awarded a Silver Food Hygiene Award which is proudly displayed in the school dining hall. So, how is such an award achieved? Paul began by explaining that Environmental Health Officers can carry out an inspection at any time during the kitchen’s operational hours.



The EHO demand that everything coming into a catering establishment is “traceable from source”, which means that a checking and recording process begins with every food delivery made to Blount Hall.

As soon as goods arrive at the back door of the kitchen, dates, packaging and (where appropriate) temperatures are monitored and recorded. Foodstuffs must then be stored correctly and separately and fridge and freezer temperatures must be checked. When food is cooked, the core temperature of the food has to be checked and recorded. Samples are taken from all protein items at each meal, then frozen and kept for three months. In the unlikely event of there being a problem with food served in the dining hall, the problem could be traced right back to delivery. All this is done to ensure the safety of the food which is served in Blount Hall. There are strict cleaning schedules in place in the kitchen and cleaning tasks have to be checked and signed off and records kept. Are you beginning to think that the school kitchen might be a safer place to eat than your own home?!

The inspection in 2007 that led to the award came as a result of a ‘spot check’ by the EHO at, according to Paul, the worst possible time! It was a week into the summer holidays, but a conference was taking place which required full catering and the International Summer School had begun. SpecSavers training delegates had been in school and an Oxford Brookes study weekend had just taken place. That morning, Paul was just about to set off for the Primary School to prepare the catering for a wedding at Mill Hall! Even so, levels of hygiene, routines and record keeping were so good that we were presented with a Silver Award and only narrowly missed out on the Gold.



Paul Leverton arrived at Mary Hare in 2007, having previously worked at Epsom College, Douai Abbey and Christ’s Hospital (and trained alongside Rick Stein). He is grateful for the tremendous support offered by his staff from the outset. Students have been positive in their response to Paul’s menu changes and there are more on the way – Paul is hoping to introduce a stir fry and omelette bar inside Blount Hall but this has to first undergo a risk assessment. Paul said that he tries hard to make sure there is something for everyone on his menus and he is always happy to listen to requests!

The Environmental Health team will be back this year and in the meantime Paul is working hard with his team, because next time they will be ‘Going for Gold’!

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to go to school in another country?

Year 10 student Christiana Adenrele talks about her recent experiences in Nigeria...

Well, when I wasn't getting on too well at school in the UK, my mum decided that I should try a school in Africa. I went to a boarding school in Nigeria, although parts of life there were fun, the discipline and the work were something else altogether. I wasn't very happy there, I would cry myself to sleep at 10 pm and wake up at 5am for a strict run round the school for morning exercise!

Punishments there are very different; corporal punishment, like the cane, is still used for things like not straightening your bed properly or completing work or prep to the expected level – not a single tear was allowed. Prep ran from 4pm to 6pm and 7pm to 9pm! Inspection day was on a Saturday – my worst day! Sunday was church – my favourite day! On a Sunday we got free time and time for hair dressing, but there were rules for hairdressing – it was the same style on every head!

Boys and girls were kept separate in the houses and even in class. Our classroom was split in half, with a column for the boys and a column for the girls. There was no television and no phones. We were given a uniform for school and casual wear, we weren't allowed our own clothes, shoes, or our own food. We had no possessions, we were told what to buy and to make sure that was all we had, they checked us and our suitcases! We also had a school anthem that we sang.

I got quite a bit of attention, some good, some bad, because of my English accent. When I didn't hear people they thought I was ignoring them on purpose. They did not believe that I was deaf but they found my hearing aids fascinating.

Obedience was the school's key word. We were to respect our elders, obey instructions and pass our exams. If the end of year exams were not passed, the year was repeated by that student. One girl that I knew had done three years in Year 8 and she was sixteen years old. Shocking, right? The education was strict, but it was alright. The problem was, I was so homesick – it was unbelievable.



It wasn't all bad while I was there - the weather was sunny and I loved all the sport and being outside a lot of the time. We took part in lots of house sport competitions which was fun. The people there were really friendly and I had a lot of friends in my year, but I missed home.

I cried with happiness when Mary Hare accepted me – my mum flew back to Africa to collect me! After the bad experience I had previously had at school in the UK my mum had been so worried. She had thought that my education was at a dead end, now she couldn't be happier that I am attending Mary Hare School.

I am trying hard to catch up with the work that I have missed over the past years – better school, better grades! Mary Hare is like a family to me, I stay during the week and go home smiling on a Friday telling my mum about all sorts of events like the latest 'Send a Cow' charity appeal.

I have never been so proud of myself. I am wearing my hearing aids like everyone else and I am filled with confidence from head to toe! Now I can't wait to go back to school on a Sunday night. The teachers, care staff and my friends are all so caring.

A Tale of Many Cheeses...



By Christine Caldaralo

I woke up at 4am, I was tired. I dressed and got my bag ready for the trip. Georgina's mum took us to school and my teachers said, "Are you ready?" and I said, "Yes, I am ready!" The coach arrived at 5.30 am and Georgina sat next to me on the coach - we couldn't sleep so we started playing games. We were excited about going to France and looking at a cheese farm.

I fell fast asleep on the coach and Georgina kept waking me. We stopped at the services and I got some tea and then went to the shop and bought a bottle of water, a book and some sweets. My teachers said, "Hurry up, we might be late for the ferry!" We went back to the coach and I was soon fast asleep again "zzzz....." Maisy laughed at me when I was asleep and gave Georgina a camera to take a picture of me. Georgina woke me up and said, "Look, we are here, the ferry!"

When we were on the boat I went downstairs with Georgina, Chloe and Zoya. We looked in the shop but I didn't buy anything because I wanted to buy something nice in France. One of the teachers told us that we could have a look outside on deck and it was so beautiful. I just wandered around and I bought an ice cream because I was getting hungry. After about an hour we went back to the coach. The drivers shouted, "Hurry up, sit down and put your seat belts on!" We were in Calais! Then we drove to a small village called Fruges, an hour inland.

We visited a cheese farm called 'Sire de Crecuy'. It was very strong smelling because of the cows and the cheese! The lady talked to us about cheese - she spoke in French and my teachers explained to us what she said. The cheese tasted nice but smelt horrible!

We got back on the coach and one of the teachers said, "We are going to le supermarché!" We shouted, "Hooray!!!" We went to a huge shop called 'Carrefour'. We saw lots of different foods and learned what they were called in French.

We went back to the coach and waited while the customs officer came on board and checked everyone's passport. We drove onto the ferry and had dinner. I bought some sweets for my brother and my nanny and grandad.

When we were back on the coach, I fell fast asleep and when I woke up I saw my grandad and nanny - they had arrived to pick me up and take me home. We had a great day out! "Merci" to the French department!



(l to r) Amy, Chelsea, Chloe and Rosie

On a sunny Thursday afternoon, Year 7 went along to the Conservatory, to meet a group of Year 9 girls from St Gabriel's School in Newbury, who had come to run a drama workshop with them. Although some of them were still a bit sleepy after returning from the French trip the night before, they soon got to grips with the task ahead...

The girls performed a play called 'Storyteller', which was about an overworked mother who decided to send her three daughters out into the world to make their own way in life. The mother told her daughters that if they stayed together they would be strong – she warned them not to separate as this would make them weaker.

One of the daughters was beautiful and always gazing into the mirror, another liked to make potions and cure people who were ill and the third daughter loved to dance. On their journey from home the girls came a pathway that split into three different directions. A leprechaun encouraged the girls to split up but he told them that they must return to the same spot in a year's time.

As the three girls pursued their different interests they were joined by Mary Hare pupils, who were invited to take part in the play. One group were cured of a variety of illnesses, another became wonderful dancers and the third became fabulously beautiful!

I think it was the vain sister that saved the mum's life because she saw the mum in the mirror and went and told the other sisters. That started a chain of events leading them all to save her, but she started it.



After a year, the girls had to return to the spot where they had met the leprechaun. The girl who made potions had been given a potion that would cure a dying person. The girl that loved mirrors had been given a mirror with special powers and the girl that loved to dance had been given magic ballet shoes.

As one daughter gazed into the mirror she saw her dying mother; the daughter with the magic shoes used them to take all three daughters back to their mother in seconds and the daughter with the magic potion cured their mother.

The St. Gabriel's drama teacher then asked us a question: Which of the daughters had saved their mother's life? We had to go and think about this for prep. What would your answer be?

I think it was the potion that saved the mother because even if the ballet girl had got them there and the mirror girl had helped by seeing their mum - they still needed the potion to save her

FUNDRAISING News

This year, the Mary Hare Foundation launched the *Lepus* Appeal, to develop the services currently available through the Burwood Centre for Childhood Deafness. *Lepus* will be a web-based information service offering online training, resources, workshops and discussions, to families and professionals throughout the UK. A number of fundraising events have already taken place to support the appeal.

Summer Ball

In June, a fundraising 'Summer Ball' at Mill Hall, Greenham, was enjoyed by over 100 guests, in support of the Lepus Appeal. The event raised just under **£4,000** from ticket sales and an after-dinner auction which included items such as a signed print from the band 'Radiohead', a Harrods hamper and vouchers donated by local organisations including Newbury Racecourse, the Stockcross Vineyard Spa and Deanwood Golf Club.



One of the many highlights of the evening was a stunning performance by the Mary Hare student band, The Deafness, who had taken time off from their A Level studies to entertain the audience (*pictured above*). Their set soon had the audience dancing, starting with a brilliant rendition of the Robbie Williams classic, 'Let Me Entertain You'. Mary Hare Fundraising Assistant Anne Munby commented, "It was a fantastic event and a wonderful evening was enjoyed by all. We are grateful to everyone who helped organise and supported us during the evening."



HOWZAT!

Employees from Vodafone recently organised a Dawn to Dusk sponsored cricket marathon which took place at Welford Park Cricket Club. With matched funding, they raised around **£3,000** for Mary Hare. Thanks to Alan Davis and Richard Mabey and all of their colleagues at Vodafone who took part.

The cricketers also hosted a practice session in the nets for the Mary Hare students during the day which they thoroughly enjoyed.

Garden Festival

Mary Hare School opened up its grounds to the public for the first time in June, with a Garden Festival that raised over **£3,000** for the Lepus Appeal. Hundreds of visitors enjoyed the opportunity to walk around the grounds in the sunshine as well as buying plants from the Rare Plants Fair, taking part in activities in the 'Eco Zone' and listening to gardening expert speakers in Arlington Arts Centre. It was good to see a number of Mary Hare alumni supporting the occasion and making the most of the opportunity to have a look around and meet up with old friends.



The Mayor of Newbury joined in the celebrations and planted a commemorative tree, with the help of the Kirsten Loyd, Chair of the Mary Hare Foundation. *(pictured left)*

Fundraising Assistant, Anne Munby, commented, "We were thrilled to see so many visitors and we are grateful to everyone for supporting the event. Our thanks also go to **Vodafone** and the **St Modwen Educational Trust** who supported the event with sponsorship. We hope to make the Garden Festival a regular event and look forward to welcoming people back in the near future."



Alfie Lends a Hand



In July, a concert of popular classical music was enjoyed by friends and supporters in London, to raise money for the Mary Hare Music Therapy Unit and SENSE. The organisers of the event were the parents of Alfie, a visually and hearing impaired child who has benefited from music therapy sessions at Mary Hare. A collection was taken at the end of the evening, raising over **£2,500** for the Music Therapy Unit.

It was a wonderful evening and at the end of the concert, Alfie's mother Hannah gave a moving and thoughtful tribute to all those who had supported the family, during difficult times.



“The experience has taught us many things: that you can't judge the lives of disabled people from the outside; that we already knew, and have now met, a lot of remarkable people; that behind the scenes of most peoples lives there are hundreds of amazing charities, of which SENSE and Mary Hare are just two - providing incredible support in all sorts of ways you can't imagine, until you experience them yourself, for which we are very, very grateful.”

TRIATHLON SUCCESS



Supporter Ian Penfold (pictured above) tackled the Blenheim Triathlon in June this year, in support of the Mary Hare Foundation. This annual event is held in the stunning location of Blenheim Palace and participants are required to complete a 750m swim and a 19.3km bike ride, followed by a 5.2km run!

Donations are still coming in, but Ian hopes to have raised around **£1,500** for Mary Hare and we are hugely grateful for all his hard work.

Richard Cole 1959 - 2008

We were all very sad to hear the news that former Mary Hare pupil Richard Cole died in August, after a long illness.

It is very fitting that his generous support for the school will be remembered each time our staff and pupils use the Youth Club's 'Cole's Diner', which Richard helped to fund. Our condolences go to his family at this sad time.

PRIMARY News

Drumming Workshop



In July, a 15-strong Year 5 and 6 Dhol drumming group from St Christopher's Primary in Oxford came to perform at Arlington Arts Centre.

Mary Hare Primary pupils got the chance to try the instruments out themselves after the performance, much to their great delight!



THANK YOU VODAFONE!

Vodafone employees got their hands dirty at the end of the Summer term, when they volunteered to help revamp the Primary School play area.

Play equipment was painted, bark chippings were laid and weeds were removed.

The 15-strong group carried out the work as part of their community-based project scheme and we are most grateful for their help.

Jacqui Letsome from West Berkshire Volunteer Centre co-ordinated the visit and commented, "It was a very rewarding day and we are delighted that the children can now enjoy a greatly improved area to play in."



Chairman's Message

Dear Members

I hope you have all managed to have a good summer, apart from the awful weather. Thank you for sending back your update forms, earlier this year. We have looked through the replies and we are now discussing our options on how to structure future events. We recognise that given a choice, some of you would prefer to have reunions by year group. This inevitably means that events would have to be organised more frequently, to be fair to all ages. While this may be possible, we would probably not be able to hold this type of event at Mary Hare School, due to the increased strain on time and resources. Anyone willing to organise a smaller reunion for their year group, at a different venue, would receive the full support of the Alumni Association committee. So, if there is someone out there who would like to take this on, then we would love to hear from you! As soon as any firm decisions are made about future reunion events, we will let you know through the Mary Hare website.

Finally, a copy of this magazine is available as a download from the bottom left of our homepage, which can be found at www.maryhare.org.uk. Please continue to use our website page to leave your messages and find old friends – this is proving very successful!

Simone Goldberg and the MHAA Committee

Six years ago, I left Mary Hare to get a degree...

By Dominic Caswell

It took me a while but I recently graduated from Cardiff University with a 2.2 in Chemistry. During my university years, I found it hard to adjust to the hearing environment at university but I persevered. Whilst I was there, I was also able to develop my badminton skills and assisted in coaching the sport to some deaf children.

I enjoyed this so much that I decided to do a PGCE to enable me to become a teacher and Mary Hare School kindly allowed me to gain three weeks work experience within the school's Science department earlier this year. When I walked through the doors of the Manor house, as a nervous wreck, I had no idea what to expect: Had the school changed much? Were the kids going to be horrible? I am glad to say that the kids were not horrible, even though they (and the staff) were trying their best to scare me as much as possible, to see if I would run for the hills!



I spent the first few days just observing lessons and helping out with any experiments that had been planned. The next thing I knew I was working until the computer rooms closed at 9pm, making worksheets and preparing introductions for science classes, using the interactive whiteboard - I so want one of those, they are so cool!

I really enjoyed my time at Mary Hare and am now going to go to spend time working at a local hearing school to compare the difference - watch this space!

By Deepa Shastri

It's great to be writing something for Soundwave!

I left Mary Hare in 1997 and since then life has been good to me. I went straight to Coventry University where I gained a 2.1 BA Hons in Business Studies as well as an award for the best student at the Business School, which came as a surprise to me when it was announced at the graduation ceremony! University was certainly a learning curve - mixing with people in the outside world, especially after the nice, safe bubble at school. While I was at university, I also had a part in 'Rush', a deaf TV drama series for Channel 4, through the drama class in London that I attended at the weekends.

After my degree, I joined **Deafplus** as an Information and Advocacy Officer and then worked for the **BDA** as Project Officer on a project called WISDOM (Wireless Information Services for Deaf people On the Move).

After a couple of years I left to go travelling to India. Channel 4 heard about my plans to meet members of my family in India for the first time and my concerns about whether they would be able to communicate with me. This resulted in a documentary "Back to Bombay" being made, which has been shown all over the world at various film festivals and won an award in 2005 at the Calgary Disability Film Festival.

When I returned to the UK, I joined **STAGETEXT**, which was perfect for me as I already had a love of the arts. My current role is Audience Development Officer and my job is to make contact with deaf and hard of hearing audiences and encourage them to attend captioned performances. I also train theatre staff in basic deaf awareness, to ensure that deaf audiences receive good service. A large part of my role is to facilitate a workable relationship between theatres and their deaf customers. I also travel around the country giving talks to user groups about captioning.

I love the theatre and am grateful that we have captioning, giving access to a wide range of musicals and plays and opening up a new world of language and humour. Seeing deaf and hearing people enjoying the theatre as equals and having the most wonderful night out, especially if they had stopped going to theatre, is the most satisfying part of my job. I remember seeing a group of Mary Hare pupils at a captioned performance of 'The Lion King' in London and they really enjoyed the show! I hope that many more students and alumni from Mary Hare, together with their family and friends, will try out a captioned show -maybe I'll see you there!



WHAT IS CAPTIONING?

Captioning is similar to television subtitles; the actors' words appear on an LED display unit placed on or near the stage at the same time as they are spoken or sung. Speaker names, sound effects and offstage noises are also included.

A captioner prepares the captions in advance then operates them 'live' as the action unfolds on stage. Captioned theatre for deaf and hard of hearing people is on the increase and there are more accessible shows to enjoy than ever before.

For information visit www.stagetext.org or email: deepa@stagetext.org.



*Captioned theatre performances are offered at Mary Hare's Arlington Arts Centre
www.arlingtonartscentre.org.uk.*



Former pupil Lisa Townsend got in touch recently to share the good news that she has graduated from Queen's University, Belfast, with a PhD in History.

I'm still living in South Belfast with my two Cavalier King Charles Spaniels. I've got several projects on the go at the moment although it may be a while before any of them do anything to supplement my bank balance! One is to get a book proposal together to send to the various academic publishing houses.

Numbers permitting I'll be delivering courses as part of Queen's School of Education's extramural programme for all of the next academic year at Level One. That should be fun to do, as I drew up the courses myself from scratch and I'm hoping - expecting, rather - to get a couple of articles out of it for various historical journals. There's also the possibility of running something similar in Bangor where my father's bookshop is, but I want to wait to see how the other pans out first. Speaking of Dad's bookshop, I work there as well, part time. This is nice as it gives me unlimited access to free reading material. Actually going out and buying books is becoming a rarity in my family!

I've seen a number of other ex-Mary Hare people lately, partly due to the fact that I turned 30 in June! I've seen **Sarah Gowdy**, **Lauren Tan** (did you catch Lauren in the Beijing Paralympics when they were shown on TV? You may or may not know that she represented Singapore in Dressage), **Deborah Cochrane** and **Janet Young**. It's good to be in contact again; I should be coming over to England in April 2009, so I'll see if I can fit in a trip to Mary Hare while I'm at it. I haven't been back at school since before I did my PGCE, which means it must be nearly seven years since I last set foot in Mary Hare grounds. That's shocking! If I can help the school in any way, just let me know.

We were delighted to hear that Ross Grant completed a well-earned Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award this summer. A fantastic result for Ross and a first for Mary Hare!

At one point, I asked myself, 'Who in their right mind would go for a gruelling 4 day expedition in the Brecon Beacons for their 19th birthday?' I did! (pictured right) It was such a relief to come to the end of that long haul that stretched through my final year of school.

Working for the Gold Award certainly uses up your time wisely and I took pride in doing it, knowing that I was one of thousands doing the Award across the world. Not many deaf children get an opportunity to do this, which is why I believe you must grab it whilst it is available at Mary Hare.

I certainly did get the feeling of, 'Why am I doing this?' at times and I felt like jacking it all in, but it was sheer determination that led me to the end. It was well worth it and I cannot describe completing it in words. I believe in the importance of doing the award because there are skills that we do not know we have, but surprisingly we do have them! It is an opportunity to show off our newly learned skills to our parents and to the world! My thanks go to Mr Shaw who helped me to make a major decision at one point during the challenge and to Catherine Elliott for seeing me off from the early achievement of the Bronze Award to the end of the Gold Award.





Ballet Russe Swan Lake

Thurs 18 December
7.30pm

Fri 19 & Sat 20 December
2pm and 7.30pm

TICKETS

£12.50

£11 *Discounts*

£40 *Family*

*"The dancing was exciting and technically brilliant but
at the same time romantic and hauntingly beautiful"*
Mercury



Arlington Arts Centre
Mary Hare
Box Office
01635 244246

www.arlingtonarts.co.uk

It was interesting to visit Bradfield College. The course was good as it was run by students who have graduated. We enjoyed the workshops and tutorials.



Earlier this year, Year 12 took part in the 'University Edge' programme, designed to raise the career, attainment and university aspirations of students. Based on an Independent/State School partnership, the scheme also enables bright students to pursue 'academic stretch' and personal development, so they are better equipped to enter and make the most of their university years. Mary Hare's partnership with local independent school Bradfield College was highly successful.


Mary
Hare

www.maryhare.org.uk

Securing the future of deaf children and young people