

soundwave

The Mary Hare Magazine

April 2009




Mary
Hare

farming food

Inside this issue...

The Farming, Environment and Sustainability Challenge, is a project supported by Newbury Agricultural Society and West Berkshire Education Business Partnership, that encourages pupils to work on a related project alongside their local farming/business community. Last year, entering the competition for the first time, Mary Hare School was delighted to win **joint first place** (pictured below).

This year, pupils have chosen to work on the the topic of Farmers' Markets. They are currently researching the demographic profile of people who visit Farmers' Markets and would be grateful if you could complete and return the questionnaire enclosed in this issue of Soundwave, by the end of May 2009. Alternatively, you can go online and find the form at www.maryhare.org.uk. Year 9 will be analysing information in their Geography lessons and will present their findings at the final in June.

Thank You



Front Cover: Mary Hare pupils never miss the chance of posing for the 'Soundwave' camera!

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The Editorial Team would like to thank all those who have contributed to this edition of 'Soundwave'.
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ALL CONTRIBUTIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED, SO START WRITING, DRAWING, PAINTING, CREATING NOW!

Message from the Principal

Dear Readers

Welcome to the Spring Edition of Soundwave. The academic year 2009/2010 is fast approaching and we are looking forward to introducing Music Technology to our GCSE curriculum next year. At the beginning of 2009, we received our most recent Ofsted Report and, additionally, a letter from the Schools Minister congratulating our pupils on the superb progress they had made towards their GCSE results of 2008 (i.e. their Contextual Value Added Score). We were delighted that both these documents acknowledged the quality of education offered by Mary Hare School and the determination of our pupils to fulfil their potential. Across Year 10 to Year 13, our pupils are already preparing themselves for the external examinations that await them in June and members of staff are working diligently to support them. We look forward to reporting on their successes in the next edition of Soundwave.

Mary Hare is gearing up for one of the most significant investments in its Care provision for many years. We are in the final stages of planning for the construction of a new Boarding House and hope that it will be open to pupils by the autumn term of 2010. It will enable Year 11 pupils to have a tailor-made boarding house that allows them to excel both academically and socially. The Care Team itself is also undergoing exciting change. Louise Osborn and Ros Congdon are now our Acting Heads of Care and will be leading a significantly larger team of care professionals to ensure that pupils thrive in residence at Mary Hare.

As always, we are indebted to our Board of Governors for their dedication and support; without them, these exciting developments would not be possible. In March we took great pleasure in welcoming Mr Peter Hogarth to his first Board of Governors meeting as Chairman. I hope the interview with Peter on the opposite page will give you an insight into why we are so excited by his appointment. I know you would wish to join me in wishing him every success for the future.

Tony Shaw

STOP PRESS

I am delighted to announce that Mary Hare has been re-designated as a Specialist Special School, following our recent Ofsted Inspection. We have a new School Plan and a new Community Plan to deliver over the next 3 years and, delightfully, funding from the Department of Children, Schools and Families to pay for our plans. Simon Thompson, our Director of Specialism, is to be congratulated on this achievement. I am also pleased to announce the appointment of Jenny Wyman as our Deputy Director of Specialism, who will support Simon in realising these plans.

PETER HOGARTH

Chairman of Governors



When did you first hear of Mary Hare School?

In 2007, my business partner was telephoned by Mary Hare Governor Martin Mays-Smith asking for help with finding candidates for the new Chairman of Governors at Mary Hare. After listening to his description of the kind of person needed for the job, she said she knew of a “perfect fit” candidate - me!

Do you have a particular interest in deafness?

My wife Margaret was born severely deaf - she was not aided until she was 6 years old and, of course, at that time hearing aids were pretty cumbersome things! Margaret had a cochlear implant 3 years ago and it has been a huge success. So, you can see I have been around deafness for quite a long time.

What attracted you to the role of Chairman?

I have had associations with several charitable boards and was a governor at James Allen’s Girls’ School for 10 years. I have also worked as a university external examiner. I understand a lot of the issues in education and I have always had a charitable commitment. I think it is important to put something back into life and not just take from it.

What do you hope to bring to your role as Chairman of Governors?

The role of the Board of Governors is to support the school as it moves forward. Mary Hare is unusual in that it has several very successful businesses that support the brand and finances of the school and we have to decide on the right kind of development for these businesses.

There are two further issues to consider - firstly, will some LEAs continue to be adversarial about placing students at Mary Hare or can we win them over? Secondly, what are the long term implications of many deaf children being implanted earlier, coupled with successful vaccination programmes against meningitis? Following our recent Ofsted report, I would like to see us achieve an “Outstanding” in Care during my time as Chair of Governors. I hope to see the school become truly “Fit for purpose” as our ideas for new building developments on site are carried out.

You are an incredibly busy person – how do you manage to fit us in and have any free time?

Since my office is in London’s West End I can’t just pop in – if I want to visit Mary Hare, I come for the day, but I see that as an opportunity to see more of the school. If I do something I give it 150%! I enjoy cooking – I am really enjoying the current TV series “Master Chef”. I love to play golf and I am working hard on my skills on The Times cryptic crossword. Margaret and I both enjoy gardening, we have two very tame foxes that visit the garden and a tame robin who is as near to a pet as you can get!

Your CV ends with the line: “People are only constrained by their own self-imposed limits.” Would you say that this is a good motto for our own students?

It is an appropriate motto for everyone, but particularly for students who are deaf. Success is linked not so much to the brains that you are given, but to the energy and effort that you put into your life!

SPECIAL Events

SPEECH DAY



At the end of November, Mr Tony Shaw, Principal and Mr Hugh Ogus, retiring Chair of Governors, welcomed former MP Mr Steven Norris to Mary Hare School's annual Speech Day.

In a joint address, Mr Ogus and Mr Shaw spoke of the continued success of students at the school, as well as the wider Mary Hare organisation. Mr Ogus reminded the audience of the entrepreneurial spirit of Miss Mary Hare herself who, shocked by the educational provision for deaf children in the early 1900s, financed a school for deaf children from her own money.

This great spirit of enterprise continues within Mary Hare today and its forward-sighted diversification has supported the continuing development and success of the school. Mr Ogus thanked those governors who, like himself, were retiring and he welcomed new members to the board. Mr Peter Hogarth will replace Mr Ogus as Chairman, who retires after nearly 40 years of valued association with Mary Hare.

Reporting on the school's examination results, Mr Shaw was delighted to announce that students continued to excel both at GCSE and A level, with 81% fulfilling their ambitions to go on to higher education. He was able to offer guests an insight

into the life at the school as they watched video footage of a happy Year Seven group, enthusiastic about life at Mary Hare.

Mr Steven Norris, a successful business man with a distinguished political career, presented the prizes. In his address, Mr Norris urged students never to forget the great start that the school had given them saying, "Seize the future – the more you put into life, the more you get out!"

The Chairman's Prize for Academic Achievement at A level was awarded to Alex Kemp, Principal's prizes for Academic Achievement at GCSE went to Jack Arnold, Oliver Harper, Lewis Martin and Ammad Ur-Rehman. This year the school presented a new award, the Hugh Ogus Award for Post Graduate Achievement. The prize went to former pupil Lisa Townsend, who went on from Mary Hare to read History at Queens University, Belfast, where she was awarded a PhD.

Head Boy William Ogden thanked Mr Norris and Head Girl Fatima Niemogha gave a vote of thanks to the Board of Governors. The two students then joined their band "The Deafness" to bring a rousing end to the proceedings with their version of Steve Winwood's "Valerie"!

Young Chef

'Young Chef' is a popular competition supported by the Central Berkshire Education Partnership (CBEBP), which encourages secondary school pupils to develop creative and practical food skills and to encourage them to consider a career in catering. Groups of pupils compete in a series of heats over several months, to produce a celebration meal for the celebrity of their choice. One of the Mary Hare contestants describes the experience...

By Sam Fincham

We went to a meeting one lunchtime and watched a video about the competition. We were interested in taking part. We had to pick a main course and a dessert which was 'A Healthy Meal for a Healthy Great Britain'. It was difficult to choose a recipe because it was not allowed to be red meat or chocolate and the main ingredients had to come from the UK.



Meggie Voce pays attention to presentation

For the main course Sylvie and I chose 'Cod Wrapped in Pancetta with Baby Potatoes and Ratatouille', which included carrot, swede, onion, courgette and cherry tomatoes. For the dessert we picked 'Rhubarb Mousse'. On the actual day, we only had one hour to cook everything. For our celebrity we chose Richard Hammond, because he loves British food. We also had to design and prepare a table layout with a menu card and serviettes. I was Head Chef and Sylvie was Sous Chef.

The judge called Amy (from CBEBP) came and told us what she was looking for - things like hygiene, table setting, cooking skills and the taste of the main course and the dessert. All of the groups had to go out of the room while Amy tasted the food and while she was doing that, we filled in an evaluation sheet.

When Amy was ready she called us back to the room and showed us the marks that she had given to each group; the top mark was ninety and we got seventy five out of ninety which is really good. It meant we were in the top three out of all of West Berkshire and we were in the next round.

Sylvie and I were pleased with the marks that Amy gave us. We would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Scoles for her hard work and preparation.



Michael Cook and Donovan West, winners of their heat

Sadly, our teams did not make it to the finals, but they gained considerable experience through their participation and should be proud of their achievements. Well done to all who took part!

ESB SUCCESS

Every year in March, students in Year 7 and invited students from Year 8 and 9, take part in the English Speaking Board examinations. The exam, which is internationally recognised, involves giving a talk on a subject of the student's choice, presenting a poem which has been learned by heart and reading from a favourite book.

Preparations for the examination begin early, usually after Christmas. Students are often surprised just how long three minutes can seem when they have to present a talk of that length! The talks prepared by our students included some of the following topics: Birds of Prey, Super-Geese, Barack Obama, The Isles of Scilly, Skiing, My 10th Birthday, Chickens and Turkeys, Basketball, Center Parks, My Guinea Pigs, Being a Muslim and Baseball.

This year we were lucky enough to be visited by our examiner, Cecily Rees, on the day before the examinations. This meant that Cecily was able to get to know and reassure some of the students before their examinations. Cecily told students to remember to smile and to try to enjoy themselves!

Despite the inevitable nerves on the day, all of our students did very well and we achieved a fantastic set of results. No one achieved less than a Merit, 15 students gained Distinctions and 11 gained a Merit Plus. Well done to everyone!



Jamie Harrison



Hamish Cruickshank



Examiner Cecily joins in with ski-ing instructions from Jonty Robertson



Pav Johal

In March, students from Years 9 and 10 enjoyed a trip to the theatre without having to leave school!.

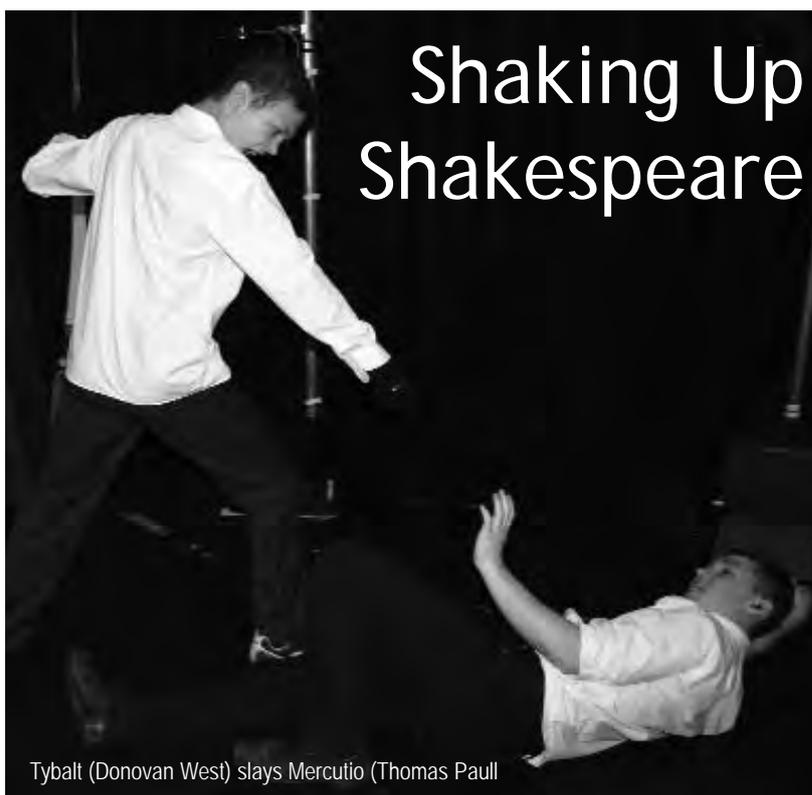
The **Shake- Up Shakespeare** project is offered to schools by West Berkshire Local Authority, in conjunction with Newbury's internationally famous Watermill Theatre. The project, now in its third year, is designed to enrich the teaching of Shakespeare in school.

The team of four professional actors held the students' attention as they presented scenes from 'Romeo and Juliet', a text being studied this year at Key Stage 3 in Year 9. Students in Year 10, studying the play for GCSE, were also able to benefit from the performance.

The experience was interactive from the beginning, as students were invited on stage to support the actors and to enact parts of the play. Thomas Paull and Tayla Lewthwaite took to the stage as Lord and Lady Capulet while Sol Warwick and Sylvie Norman played a brilliant Lord and Lady Montague. Jack Moodie also had a lot of fun being a bush and/or a column to help out Romeo as he stood under Juliet's balcony!

The morning session ended on a hilarious note as the actors showed how the play could be given different interpretations. They demonstrated this by enacting a scene in the style of 'The Jeremy Kyle Show', 'WWE Wrestling' and 'High School Musical'. The results were extremely funny and yet still delivered the message of the play. The actors explained to the students that in Shakespeare's day, the audience expected to get involved and have some fun at the theatre.

In the afternoon, the actors put on a workshop for the Year 9 students, which culminated in the production of some really excellent tableaux or "freeze frames" from the students, representing scenes of their choice. It was a great day; our students enjoyed themselves, learned a lot and impressed the Watermill actors with their enthusiasm and acting skills.



The Montagues and the Capulets shout it out!



Freeze Frame : Romeo and Benvolio try to stop the fight between Tybalt and Mercutio

World Maths Day

In March, Mary Hare staff and students joined more than 2 million people from over 200 countries in an international 'quick fire' Maths competition for all ages.

The event ran for 48 hours, to include all of the different time zones across the world and involved answering as many mental arithmetic questions as you could in 60 seconds. The aim was to beat last year's world record entry of 182,455,169 questions answered correctly. This year the grand total was 452,682,682, smashing the record completely!

Unfortunately, a lot of our Year 9 pupils were away on a school trip, but many took part during the practice period. Lots of students and staff got involved on the day and it was good to see that some of the pupils were beating the staff! Well done to everyone who took part. We hope to run this event again next year and get even more people (staff, students and parents) involved.

HIGH SCORES IN 60 SECONDS

Lewis Martin (Yr 12)	50
Terry Lim (Yr 7)	46
Hassan Rizwan (Yr 11)	45
Luke Bryant (Yr 10)	41
Melissa Payne (Yr 7)	41
Mr Hannam	39
Nicholas Capper (Yr 11)	39
Sophie McKinlay (Yr 7)	37

TOTAL CORRECT ANSWERS

Lewis Martin (Yr 12)	5299
Andrew Kenward (Yr 12)	3797
Hassan Rizwan (Yr 11)	2788
Nicholas Capper (Yr 11)	1790
Max Thorne (Yr 12)	1197
Mr Wright	1085
Jack Arnold (Yr 12)	1043
Connor Dunne (Yr 12)	1019



LIVE SCIENCE

School assemblies have taken rather more of a dramatic turn recently, with a series of scientific activities that have got everyone interested in the subject. Year 9 Science Club members led an assembly to let everyone know what they have been up to and Dr Papas also took the opportunity recently to try out a little 'dry ice'...

Pupils heard that Cameron Hickman's plane flew the furthest when the Science Club made paper aeroplanes recently - it travelled 12.2m before hitting fellow club member Christina on the forehead! The world record is 34m, so he is still working to improve his technique. However, in front of the whole school, (no pressure) Cameron threw his paper aeroplane from the balcony, through a hoop hanging overhead halfway down Dulverton Hall. The crowd went wild!



Then with a lighted spill and a massive 'Bang!' the club demonstrated how you can tell whether a balloon is filled with helium or hydrogen! Science club's next meeting could be busy – it looks an exciting place to be!

In January, Dr Papas demonstrated the amazing properties of liquid nitrogen, with a series of live experiments.

LIQUID NITROGEN - SOME FACTS

It is a very cold liquid with a temperature of -196° Celsius.

If you left a rose inside the liquid for just 4 seconds (pictured right) and then banged it on the table, it would shatter - the same would be true if you put your finger inside, but that's not to be recommended!

It is used for special effects on shows like 'Top of the Pops' as it is a safe, inert gas. The vapour is heavier than air so it hovers on the ground, keeping your feet cool.

It is possible to freeze human organs in liquid nitrogen, so it is used for transporting organs needed in transplant operations.

It has to be stored in special containers, called 'Dewars'; otherwise it only lasts for a few minutes.



Santa's Little Helper

This was my last year of cross country. The top five people in each of the houses have to compete against each other, but I wasn't in it so I did the Fun Run, wearing my PE Kit with a Santa's hat.

I thought for a change I would ask Miss May if I could have her dog to do the cross country run with. She said "Fine". I met her outside Howard House and she gave Sweeney (her dog) to me and he was really excited because he knew he was going for a walk and he likes me. I had a note on my PE shirt saying: "Big Santa, Little Helper".

We waited for the time to do our bit. Everybody ran, Sweeney and I were taking our time, taking it easy - no pressure. Round the bends, up and down the hill and up to a steep bit leading to the muddy woods, across the road, teachers yelling at us to keep going – it wasn't helpful!

The mud kept flicking up from the ground at us. The worst bit was coming up - the bit that we have to do every year - going down the steep hill with no rope! This year they had a red and white rope to guide people the way to go. It was hard with a dog pulling you a bit on the steep hill, so I grabbed the red and white plastic rope to help me down safely. Mr Davies said "Are you alright?" and I said, "Yeah.....No, not really!" and he laughed. The bit I found funny was when Sweeney sat on the hill waiting for me to catch up with him. We finally got to the bottom. A while later, we got to the school grounds and the sports fields. We ran the last few metres; there was another girl and me and Sweeney tried to get in front of her, but she went faster so we finished 48th and 49th - what a run!

When we got our breath back, I went back to see Miss May to give Sweeney back. He had enjoyed it, it was his first time! Miss May said, "Thank you for doing that". It felt like it was my own dog, not someone else's. I felt really weird that it was my last cross country! I hope you enjoyed reading Sweeney's and my story of the Fun Run. *Love, Kristina and Sweeney x*



RESULTS

Open Winner: Russell Yeo

Junior Boys: 1st Thomas Irish, 2nd Ross Ward, 3rd Jacob Labrosse

Junior Girls: 1st Ellie Bagshaw, 2nd Catherine Grimley 3rd Kaia Meers

Senior Girls: 1st Aimee Campbell, 2nd Sophie Goodacre, 3rd Rebecca Zelic

Senior Boys: 1st Phillip Swift, 2nd Callum Thompson, 3rd Aeron Mazija

OVERALL: 1st Beverley, 2nd Braidwood, 3rd Mary Hare, 4th Arnold

Dodgeball



Year 11 pupils were given the chance to take part in an inter-school Dodgeball tournament in Newbury in November. Competition was fierce, but the Mary Hare team put in a creditable performance. Well done to all who took part.

Go Karting

By Erika Lever Hogg



(l to r) Jacob, Sol and Erika

On a Wednesday at 3.30pm we left school and got on the coach to the go-karting centre. It took us about 30 minutes to drive there. When we arrived we had to go into a room to put on a special outfit. Then we went to hear our instructions.

I had to go first, so when I joined the queue for my helmet and gloves, I was nervous and excited. When the man showed me where to sit, I sat down and held my hands on the wheel and I went for it. It was great going round the track! Then it was Sol's turn and he did the same and then Jacob joined in. Mr Owen had a go too - he did well for his first time!

On the second week we picked what places we wanted to start off with. The races were really tight. At the start, all of the karts were jammed together and it was hard work. Later on, we all spread out a bit. Overall, we came 5th. We thought we had come 4th but there was one team who were over 18 and they got through. We were all really tired by the end of the day.

Waterside Centre

By Amelia Bereen



Fahima starts the day unconvinced!

In February, a group of senior girls spent the day at the Waterside Centre in Newbury, on a team-building activity, funded by the National Lottery.

We did canoeing first thing in the morning and it was really good fun. After lunch we did rock climbing and archery. I think the rock climbing was the best because you had to work it out for yourself and solve how to get up to the top, which was really good fun.

We were all really worn out at the end of the day and our arms felt too tired to move. I would like to go there again because I really enjoyed it. Thank you, Mr Owen!



Ellie makes it to the top of the climbing wall

STAFF News

Trainee Teacher of the Deaf, Bettina Eitzen, recently spent six months at Mary Hare to gain teaching practice and to share some of her experiences with our own students.

I am a student at the University of Cologne in Germany and I became deaf when I got meningitis as a baby. When I was 9 years old I was implanted on the left ear. I am pretty sure that without my Cochlear Implant I wouldn't be at university, studying Deaf Education, English and History and certainly not working as a student teacher at Mary Hare.

I wanted to gain experience in teaching deaf pupils, taking a break from theory and improving my English. My oldest childhood friend was a pupil at Mary Hare in 2001. She told me all about the school and since then I have been dreaming about doing an internship here and nowhere else.

I had often wondered whether I had chosen the right profession, but I found the answer in the very first lesson I taught. I felt confident with my chosen subjects, though the approach in each might be somewhat different from the one in my home country.

With Year 13 I had the chance to get to know literature like Stella Gibbons' "Cold Comfort Farm" and Julian Barnes' "England, England". I was sometimes at a loss to understand the satire in these books or at least I overlooked certain jokes. It was a bit daunting and embarrassing and yet I took on the challenge!

As for History, I was very impressed that your children learn so much about Weimar and Nazi Germany. I had the chance to teach a lesson about Nazi ideology, which was interesting for all of us, as we talked about how we deal with the topic in Germany nowadays. The children were quite surprised to hear that everything to do with Nazism is strictly prohibited and that a lot of people of my generation are pretty fed up with the topic, as it is taught repeatedly in school so that nearly everything else we learn in History is dwarfed beside it. I taught a series of lessons with Year 11 about the Cold War, which is the greatest thing I have done so far.

It was good to have a longterm internship, with time to become part of a school. It would otherwise not allow time to try out several methods of teaching and to plan a series of lessons, let alone to become familiar with the pupils you teach, which is the most important thing!

I left Mary Hare School in February and I cherish my time there, knowing that it was the best thing I could have done. I have learned so much that theory at university could never explain (and it would never fit into one single article for Soundwave!) I feel quite sorry to be going back to theory now. I wish the staff and pupils all the best for the future!



Bettina with pupils Rose Lopez and Alex Mercier, Year 9 English group

AFRICAN EXCHANGE

Victoria (Vik) Adesina, Headteacher of the Demonstration School for Deaf Children in Kaduna, Nigeria, visited Mary Hare School during the Autumn term, as a result of a Professional Fellowship scheme run by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission. During her 4 month stay, Vik shadowed staff and joined lessons, to observe Mary Hare's teaching methods. She was hugely impressed by the ethos of the school and the achievement of its pupils. She even managed to extend her stay so that she could watch the renowned end of term Christmas show in Arlington Arts Centre!

Out of the classroom, Vik socialised with pupils at mealtimes, during 'prep', in the playground and after school. Her visit was a two-way exchange, with groups of children gathered round asking questions about life in Nigeria and how her school differed from theirs. Our students appreciated the opportunity to talk to someone with different cultural experiences, which have broadened their views in many ways.

Vik was full of praise for the whole experience, commenting, "Before my visit, I never imagined that a profoundly deaf child could be taught to listen and speak, but I was watching deaf students sing and perform music live! I was completely overwhelmed by the technology and resources and it blew my mind to see deaf children being taught orally, without the use of sign language. I sincerely appreciate how the entire Mary Hare community welcomed me into the school and gave me the chance to learn and to plan what I could do on my return to Nigeria. Their teaching methods have inspired me to develop new strategies – things that you might take for granted; hands-on activities to reinforce what students are learning, individual follow-up of student progress where the less able are identified, so that they can catch up with the rest of the group, homework to reinforce classroom learning and sharing ideas amongst students during lesson time, to help them become self-motivated."

The vision of the Demonstration School in Nigeria is to ensure that deaf children are recognised as individuals and are educated and given life skills that will enable them to become self-reliant. About 90% of the children do not have any proper medical records, so it is often difficult to assess their deafness and support their needs. For the minority who have had their hearing tested, parents are often unable to afford the cost of hearing aids and other resources that could help in their education. Assistant Principal Brian Lee commented, "There is no doubt that Vik and her staff work very hard in keeping the school open in Nigeria, but the paucity of funding is making this increasingly difficult, let alone planning any major development work. During her time at Mary Hare, everyone was impressed with her passion for improving the life chances of deaf children in her country."



The DFID Global Schools Partnership has enabled Mary Hare to form an important link with The Buguruni School for the Deaf in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. This partnership is very much intended as a two-way learning experience between the schools. The Buguruni School will benefit from the expertise and resources that Mary Hare possesses and Mary Hare pupils in turn will learn about how deaf children in Tanzania manage with very little.

Buguruni School caters for 240 primary aged children, whose hearing losses range from mild to profound. Many of the children do not have the simple basics such as shoes and the majority do not have hearing aids. Providing these things is absolutely vital and will be the fruits of this new and exciting partnership.

In November, two ladies from the Buguruni School in Tanzania arrived at Mary Hare, for a two week stay. Matilda Ngonyani is the Director of the School and Judith Kaneno is the school's Class 1 teacher.

During their stay, Matilda and Judith observed many lessons through the eyes of pupils, by shadowing different children over several days. They also spent time in the audiology department and at the primary school. Two members of Mary Hare staff, Audiologist Viv Ogg and teacher Michelle Flannery, will be visiting Tanzania in June to strengthen this growing partnership.



Matilda and Judith at Mary Hare School

ART Design

Mary Hare is one of ten schools from across the South East of England to be selected for SEGRO's Young Artists programme for 2009. Schools throughout the region applied for a place in the scheme and, at a launch event held in November, the winners were announced.

This initiative is designed to create exciting opportunities for school children to work closely with their teachers and practising professional artists, in order to inspire and develop their talent for art.

Mary Hare students have been working with textiles artist Jennifer Lapsley during the spring term, to produce artwork themed around the 'world of work'. The artwork can be produced in any format, including digital media, but must be suitable for display in a business setting. Each participating school will have their work exhibited at the end of the project and a select few will also have their work purchased by SEGRO for display in the company's European offices.

Outlining the importance of the programme, Ian Coull, Chief Executive of SEGRO, said: "Through the SEGRO Young Artists Programme, we are helping to provide an opportunity for young people to realise their creative potential. By celebrating young people and engaging schools with artists and galleries, we hope to inspire a new generation to take up art and design."



Jennifer Lapsley (left) with students Fenella Cruickshank, Christianah Adenrele and Mary Hare Head of Art and Design, Patricia McKenna

Jennifer Lapsley studied at Leeds School of Art before graduating from the Scottish School of Textiles with a BA in Printed Textiles. She has worked as a freelance artist and designer on a wide range of commissions and projects, with some of the leading fashion labels.

Mary Hare students have been working with Jennifer to produce hand made fabrics, using photography and silk screen printing. The finished textile panels will be exhibited, along with the work of other participating schools at the RSA, in London, in June.

The SEGRO Young Artists Programme was created by the property development and investment company, SEGRO, in collaboration with regional arts group Creative Junction. The programme partners the private and public sectors to encourage the development of high quality art work in schools.

Anne Brown of Creative Junction said: "What makes this programme unique is that the young people get involved in planning their own work and get the chance to work on a live brief. It is very much based around nurturing partnerships with young people leading their own learning to help grow and build their confidence."

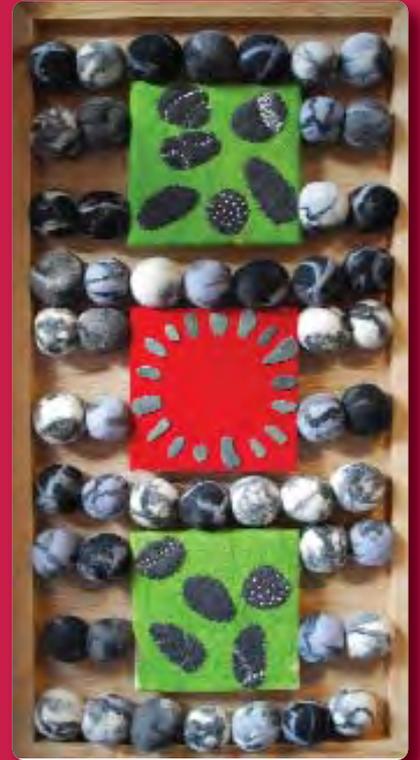
first framed



'Trapped' by Hamish Roberts

Students from a number of local schools, including Mary Hare, showed that there was more to meet the eye at Arlington Arts Centre's recent 'First Framed' exhibition. "Representing some of the best work by young people studying art at schools throughout the region, First Framed has provided a showcase for artists at the very beginning of their careers", commented Patricia McKenna, Mary Hare's Head of Art and Design. "We also wanted to challenge the misconception that student work is in some way less valid or of lower quality than pieces created by adults", she added.

The works on show drew on a variety of media, stimuli and practice, including textiles, digital print media, oil painting and sculpture. "We hope that running the exhibition annually will help to raise young artists' expectations of what is possible and to provide them with the impetus to achieve their full potential," concluded Miss McKenna. The exhibition was open to the public during February and March and the exhibition was enjoyed by hundreds of visitors during that time.



'Pebbles' by Meghan Durno



'Miro's Stones' by Sandra Adenrele



Michael Brennand-Wood (centre, back) with workshop students

Textiles Workshop

By Meghan Durno

Textile artist Michael Brennand-Wood came to Mary Hare at the beginning of the school year, to run a 2-day workshop based on his work called 'Construction and Layers'. He worked with Years 12 and 13, along with some Sixth Form students from the Kennet school.

Michael explained how he started on a project and then developed his work. He showed us the amazing finished pieces, illustrating his techniques and giving us ideas as he went along, explaining in great detail.

When we were eventually left to our own devices, I was clueless! I had never done anything like this before, apart from binding branches together in an earlier lesson. I wasn't alone - the worried glances across the table were enough to reassure me as I slowly got started.

We worked with materials used for general construction, such as wood, wire, bits of scraps, thread, fabric, newspaper and any other bits and pieces we could find. We created our piece by attaching wooden sticks to each other to make a frame. Some people kept adding sticks until they had created the layered look they wanted and then added other materials going through, over, under and around the piece. Others decided to work differently but each finished piece of work was very effective.

By the end of the workshop we all had learned some new skills and ideas and developed a good eye, by being able to see where materials should go and how they should be positioned. It made us see things in a different light. I felt we all benefited from this workshop greatly. We would like to thank Michael Brennand-Wood and Mrs Barton for making this happen.



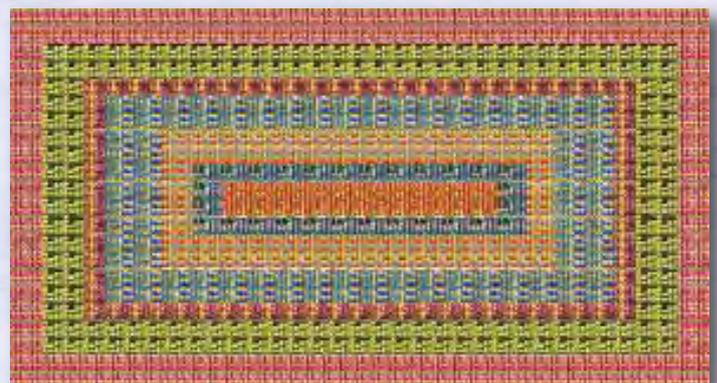
The second in my top two favourite pieces of art was called 'These are not just cans...' by Simone Pereira Hind (right). I liked this piece because of the idea of using something like tin cans and the fact that it was only cans that dominated the entire picture, nothing else. It was also the way that it caught your eye, with the combination of cans creating exotic colours and shapes.

Fabric of Life

Review By Arran Thomas

This was a magnificent exhibition in Arlington Arts Centre, featuring work by Michael Brennand-Wood along with other artists, the whole thing being based on the art of textiles. There were lots of fascinating pieces on display, but some really stood out above the rest.

The first of my top two was called 'Sweet Jaine', designed and created by Michael Brennand-Wood (left). It was a 3-dimensional semi-sphere with simple materials used to make it, for example, W H Smith colouring pencils and some felt. It grabbed your mind, filling it with happiness. It's almost like it hypnotized you, but in a good and happy way.



In December, Year 10 pupils attended a workshop at **Modern Art Oxford**, the largest gallery devoted to modern and contemporary art in the South East. The workshop centred around a series of installations in the gallery.

The Black Pool

Review by Russell Yeo

You walk into a dim room that smells musty. At first glance the entire room is filled with pointless junk. Closer inspection reveals that it is all there for a reason. The room feels like it belongs to a demented scientist or crazy inventor, maybe even a sorcerer. In the centre of the room, a variety of objects are laid out on the table; books with weird instructions, a glass tank with a potentially dangerous electric contraption at the bottom, a shoe with a torch stuck onto it, several speakers, activated by motion, with peculiar conversations playing. They seem to be discussing a black pool that will take you away if you walk into it. One of the people who is speaking has lost a friend who left and never returned. They discuss how they might get him back. It suddenly occurs to you that maybe everything in this room is the friend's research on how to save the doomed person.



The House of Books Has No Windows

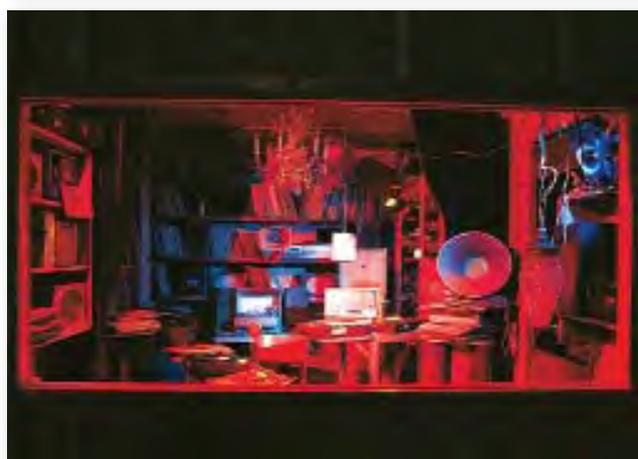
The entire room is occupied only by the house of books, so immediately it assumes some importance. The house is literally built up of nothing but books glued together; you can see a lot of effort was put into this piece. You are allowed to walk in, you can only just stand up, it's dark and smells musty, a thought pops into your head; why no windows? Maybe the artist wants you to think about that.



Opera For a Small Room

In the centre of a massive room was a small box room with one big window at the front from which a dim light could be seen. The room contained shelves and boxes full of old records, speakers, record players and a couple of small chandeliers suspended from the ceiling, as well as the odd piece of junk.

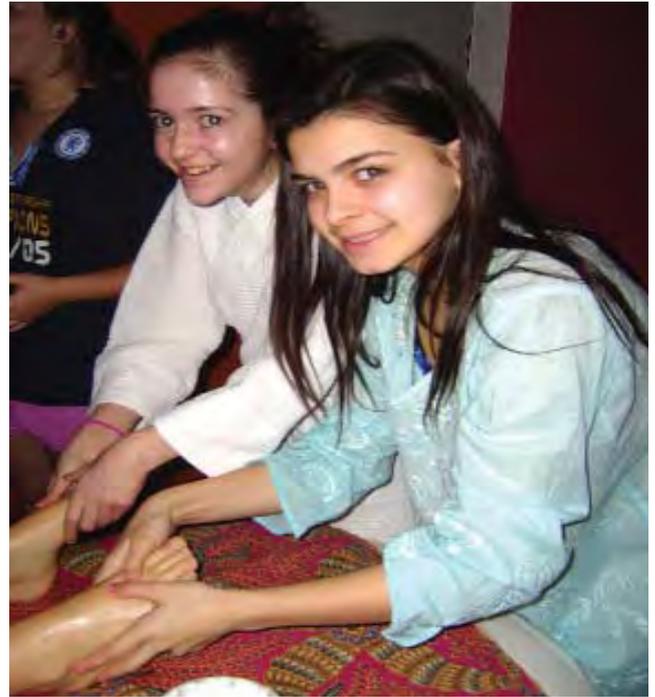
Suddenly you hear the sound of a train rushing at you, it dies out and a narrator's deep, soothing voice takes over. 'She was walking down the tracks with the wind in her hair.' The record player on a small table starts working, playing opera with a strong female voice. Lights above the shelves dim up and down in time with the music.



The music subtly changes into a country tune, then the narrator speaks again: 'A man walks into the centre of the stage holding a guitar.' Opera softly comes back on again with the soothing lights, only to be interrupted by a sudden drum roll complete with multicoloured flashing lights. A powerful guitar chord is dramatically strummed and, what was soft opera is now epic rock. The music slowly quietens to soft opera once again. 'She was walking down the tracks with the wind in her hair, a smile on her face and a doll in her hand'. The train comes and goes one more time. The tour guides encouraged us to think who the room might belong to, perhaps a retired opera writer – the only memories he has left are his records.

TRIPS Outings

What more could a girl ask for?



By Charlie Hadley Mansell House

On a cold Sunday in February, 25 girls went on a trip to the Laurabella Spa in Kingsclere, Newbury, for the day. The 'girls only' trip was organised by careworker Kिरrilyn Gardner, as the the boys had been go-karting the weekend before - it was only fair! Initially only 12 places were booked, for girls who normally stay over at weekends, but a lot more girls wanted to go, some meeting us there, so we ended up with a much larger group.

The staff at the spa were amazing and very welcoming. The girls went in the hot tub and the sauna, had their nails painted and were taught head and foot massage. As you can imagine, the girls loved it! Along with the spa treatments, there was also a chocolate fountain, which was a great treat and each girl received a free set of makeup brushes and got to keep the nail varnish they had picked when they had their nails painted. Afterwards we finished off with a trip to McDonalds. What more could a girl ask for?!



My trip to Pakistan

Finally it was 'Home Sweet Home' after a month long trip to Karachi, Pakistan at the end of 2008. It was nice to be back home, but I had a good time there. We stayed so long because we were waiting to get a visa for my new adopted sister Mariam. She was abandoned by her parents when she was tiny and my family decided to give her a new life in England. She is two years old now and is very naughty (in a cute way!).

By Ahmad Kalim

I have been to Karachi many times before. In fact, I was born there, so it almost feels like a second home to me. All my family is there and I always have a wonderful time with my cousins. This time, one of my cousins got married. It was a grand wedding with seven celebrations in all, some in five star hotels. Some were small, with 50 to 100 people, while others had up to 1,000 guests. There were beautiful dances, traditional clothes, lively music and lots of yummy food.

There are some things that I do not like at all in Karachi. There is too much pollution in the city. Although the weather was very nice, we could not keep the windows open because of smoke and dust. Also, there is a lot of noise pollution and everyone honks car horns all the time and traffic is horrible and not organized.

The city is very dirty, with rubbish on the street and the roads are dug up in lots of places. There are lots of beggars on the street and I worried a lot about getting robbed so I was scared as well! Every day for two hours, there was no electricity and we had to use an emergency power supply or our own generator.



Me with my new sister



My family

Sometimes, the food from restaurants or at the party made me sick and my tummy was sore for a couple of days. You can get everything you want in Pakistan, both local goods and things from other countries, but it is very expensive. Also, some shops sell fake stuff.

All in all, I enjoyed my trip because of the good times I had with my cousins and my family. Also, I got lots of money as presents so I could choose something very nice for my birthday. Finally, we came home with my cute little sister in a new airplane on 17th January 2009.

The History and French departments of Mary Hare School combined recently, to take students on a trip to Belgium and France.

Ypres By Chloe Norton

After a long ride in the coach, we arrived at the trenches museum. We started off by going to a tiny museum at Hill '62, which is called that because it is 62m above sea level. It had little machines which we could look into and look at photos of the war. There were so many badges, newspaper clippings and photos on the wall, I couldn't believe my eyes!

The next room had a pile of junk in the middle, a mixture of bones, bombs (the cases) and gas masks. The walls had lots of swords, guns and helmets, encased in glass. Outside were the trenches.



Exploring the trenches



Stephen Boyd at Hill '62 museum

There were a few underground parts, which were dark and freaked me out! They were really muddy and the metal on the walls was rusty.

There weren't many people there, only us and a couple of other visitors. It made me feel sad but we had a bit of fun pretending to be soldiers in the war and shooting each other.

William, Jacob, Jonathon and Andrew and I got scared as we went into a tunnel - when we finished looking round, everyone had gone! We searched everywhere, only to realise they were at the shop buying sweets! We had good fun and lots of memories.

By Jonathan Boalch

When we left the hotel in Belgium, we went straight to visit a chocolate factory in France. As we got near the factory, we could smell the melted chocolate! When we got inside we could see three machines with rotating wheels. One contained dark chocolate, one had milk chocolate and the other one had white chocolate.

The wheel was there to make the chocolate stay as a liquid and not go hard. They explained to us how to make chocolate from cocoa beans. We were also shown chocolate bunnies and how they were placed in a mould to be made. At the end of our guided visit we had a free sample, and it was very nice!

OUTWARD BOUND

By Amy Penkert

We had to get things ready the night before. Then we woke up in the morning to get the coach to Malvern. Only my year went, which is Year 9. We arrived and everyone shouted, "YAY!" We had to put our bags in the room that we slept in. After that we had a little meeting about where things were and the fire alarm and that sort of thing.

We did lots of activities there. We did climbing, abseiling, High Ropes, Low Ropes, Quad Pole and the Parachute Jump. The parachute jump was not out of a plane, it was like going up a big tall tree and there was a little platform that we had to jump off. The Quad Pole was a long wooden post going up high with a very small platform on the top and four people had to stand on it. We failed because we only had three people on it which was me, Chelsea and William, but Molly fell off.

One day, we did water activities. We went kayaking and canoeing. We had lots of fun because Chelsea and I were together in the canoe and we fell in at the same time and screamed, "Ahh we are in the water, ha ha!" Also my group had to make a raft. We were having a race but we lost because our boat broke up. One side was weak so most of us had to jump in the water to swim and push the boat.

My favourite activities were the High Ropes, the Quad Pole and rafting. I liked these because they were really good fun.



Molly Watt enjoys abseiling

A well earned rest on the Beacon Walk



berlin



By Mikhail Novak

Guten Tag!

Day One Year 11 struggled to get out of bed in order to leave for the airport at 5am! Groggily we all scrambled on to the coach, eager for the day ahead of us and reached Gatwick in reasonable time. Our teachers were busy searching for check-in while I was busy searching for TV crews from the TV programme 'Airlines', which focuses on Easyjet and its impatient passengers. We didn't come across any TV crews but we did come across 'Duty Free' -Yes!

We boarded the plane and took off at 8.30am. Ruth and Mrs Whitehead were already asleep! The rest of us were excited about exploring Berlin and we discussed our idea of what we were going to do there.

At last, we landed at Schonefeld Airport. We went to collect our luggage but we encountered a problem as Hassan couldn't find his. Fortunately we found it on the other side of the room! We made our way to the exit, to meet the coach which was going to transport us to our hotel. As you have probably guessed, there was no driver waiting and yes, we were stranded at the airport! Thankfully, Mr Marlow came to the rescue. He found a train route map and guided us to our hostel efficiently!

After being cramped like sardines on public transport, we finally reached 'The Generator', a type of youth hostel. We got our room numbers and keys and were told to put our luggage away and return to the entrance in five minutes!

We threw our luggage in our rooms and returned to the entrance, embracing our first visit! "The Story of Berlin" was our first destination in the city: a museum that presented a brief history of Berlin, the revolution, the war and post-war life. It was interesting and worth going to.

After this, we visited a nuclear bunker, an active one that could be used at any moment. We had a guided tour that showed us the living conditions.

Did you know, you can fit 3,000 people in there and there are only 12 toilets! We also heard the recording of the actual air raid siren that was used in 1945 at the time when the British bombed Germany. Afterwards we headed back to the hostel.

Day Two We visited the Reichstag, a historic government building that had been damaged by fire and then repaired. A British architect, Norman Foster, designed a glass dome on top of the Reichstag and in the centre, there is a wall of mirrors, so anyway you go in the dome, you would see yourself in the mirror! Very artistic! We also visited the historic Brandenburg Gate, once a part of the Berlin Wall during the Cold War.

Nearby there was a Jewish memorial - a large area of concrete blocks at different heights on an uneven floor. There was a museum, explaining the development of Jewish beliefs that goes back to the 1200s. It was extremely interesting. Again, it was built in a very strange way - in the shape of a bolt of lightning. We all popped into local souvenirs shops while we were there!

Day Three We visited an art gallery, the Pergamon Museum. There was an exhibition, displaying buildings and artifacts from an ancient city called Babylon. The museum itself was split into two sections: Myths and Truth. The 'Truth' was all the artifacts and bits of buildings from Babylon and the 'Myths' section made you wonder what was real and what was only mythical.

We had lunch outside Berlin Cathedral, but were invaded by beggars! We swiftly moved on and went to another art gallery. After two days of lovely sunny weather, it just had to rain. We had intended to visit the Terror Museum which was outdoors, so we had to rearrange and went over to Alexanderplatz, a famous shopping area with an IMAX cinema. We watched 'Haunted Castle', which was a strange 3D movie about an evil dragon that took over a castle and to kill it, you had to

sing opera. Now I'm confident you'll agree with me that it was a strange storyline!

Day Four More museums and more rain! We went into another art gallery which was interesting as it was full of abstract art. Then we reached the highlight of the whole trip - to touch the Berlin wall! We engraved our names and our location on the wall. It was an amazing sight.

Day Five We checked out of our rooms at 8am and ventured off to more museums. We visited the Terror Museum and it was lovely sunny weather to end the week. This museum is about the Secret Police (SS) headquarters which used to be located there. It was eventually flattened by the USSR. It was a moving visit and the pictures on display were very effective. At the end of our trip we were given options: to go to another art gallery or to go shopping. As you have probably guessed, we chose shopping!

Afterwards we headed back to the hostel to get our luggage, but Mrs Carmichael-Jones and I were left behind while the others boarded the tram! Luckily, we found our way back and were greeted with a round of applause! Emma had had a bit of an accident - she had got her bag stuck between the doors of the tram and a German woman pushed her out of the way. Be a bit more careful next time, Emma! George's luggage was misplaced and we had the whole group looking for it. Eventually we found it and we boarded a coach for the airport.

Arriving at the airport, we whizzed through the check-in and security. Back at Gatwick we boarded the coach to Mary Hare. Overall, the whole trip had been amazing. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms McKenna, Mr Hollitzer, Mr Marlow, Mrs Carmichael-Jones and Mrs Whitehead for all their effort in making this trip such a success. I really enjoyed it and I am sure my year would agree that they all enjoyed themselves. Bitte!



MUSIC Dance

A Night at the Theatre

Guests at the Mary Hare Christmas production in Arlington Arts Centre were treated to several “nights out” all rolled into one this year. Students from all year groups presented a spectacular medley of music, dance and drama from a wide range of musical and theatre box office hits.



The show, entitled “A Night at the Theatre”, featured excerpts from “Mama Mia”, “Hairspray”, “St Trinians”, “Billy Liar (meets Billy Elliot)”, “High School Musical” and “Dirty Dancing”. There was even a pantomime sketch, courtesy of Year 13 students.

The show was compered with true “show biz” glitz and banter by students Sandra Adenrele, David Hedges and Blaise Persaud. The trio kept the audience involved as they took their microphones out into the auditorium for “spot” interviews.

Particularly impressive performances were given by rising dance star, Mikhail Novak, who wowed the audience with his dancing talent and Head Girl Fatima Niemogha, lead singer of The Deafness, who gave particularly rousing performances of “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough” (The Supremes) and “Valerie” (Amy Winehouse).

The closing number of the show, “We are the Champions”, was performed by Year 13 students singing, as they sadly reminded the audience, in their last Christmas Production at Mary Hare. Principal Tony Shaw thanked the Music, Dance and Drama departments for all their hard work and said: “This was an outstanding production, the culmination of weeks of hard work by our students. Their enthusiasm and talent, their determination to get it right, shone through – we are very proud of them”.

DRUMMING WORKSHOP

Year 8 have been learning about music from other parts of the world and have been focusing particularly on Africa. In their lessons they have learned about ways of performing African drumming, the different instruments you can play and the reasons for playing.

In February, they took part in a 'One Drum' workshop, led by two drummers from Ghana. One of the workshop leaders, Abbas, explained how Africans love to celebrate as much as possible and music is a big part of that. If they wake up and it's raining, they don't go to work, they throw a party!

He showed the group the different types of drums that can be used in performance, including one which he likened to a mobile phone because it is called a 'talking drum'.

The pupils were amazed to hear that in Africa, a talking drum would have been used to send messages to neighbouring villages – for example if a fisherman had a good catch that day, he would invite the next village to come and have some fish by banging the drum. There is a complete language you can play on the drum which is different from country to country.

'One Drum' brought 30 hand-made drums for pupils to play and the group learned different ways of playing the drum and different rhythms. They also had the opportunity to learn some African dance moves and to 'limbo'. Some were able to expertly slide under the lowest pole!

Pupils had made African masks to wear so, combined with the costumes and colourful drum jackets, some of the pupils said that they felt as though they had been transported to Africa!

In the afternoon, the pupils performed what they had learned in front of the whole school and received a standing ovation for their efforts. Some of the Sixth Form had joined in earlier in the day and performed some of the dance moves whilst Year 8 were performing.

The assembly finished with 'One Drum' performing for the whole school, showing the skills they have acquired by playing since they were 6 years old.

They encouraged the whole school to get up and dance and almost immediately a conga line started around Dulverton Hall! It was a fantastic experience for everyone.



William Bennett OBE

In October, a lucky group of Mary Hare students got the chance to work with renowned flautist William Bennett OBE. William has been principal flute in many orchestras including the London Symphony, the Academy of St Martin's in the Fields and the English Chamber Orchestra.

He led an afternoon workshop with the students and the Mary Hare woodwind ensemble was then invited to join William and perform at the public evening recital in Arlington Arts Centre. Former Mary Hare pupil (and Mary Hare music teacher) Ruth Montgomery also performed as a soloist during the evening performance. Head of Music, Margaret Ellwood commented, 'It was a wonderful experience for our students and the audience gave them a great reception.'



William with students during the masterclass



Asher Ben with pianist John Reid

Pupil Asher Ben Pearl said afterwards, "I was really nervous about the master class and what William Bennett would think of my playing. He was really nice and friendly. I learned a lot about technique and toning to get the best sound and how to imitate a bell on my clarinet. I did my two pieces and got valued criticism from William. After the master class, we had a break until the evening, when it was time for us to perform. William came out on stage with John Reid, the pianist. I was enthralled as they played wondrous music. It was a real treat for my ears. Then it was time for the flutes to perform. A few other people did solos, I did a duet and then I played my own solo. I am pleased to say it went well and the audience enjoyed it. Phew!"

Janine Roebuck

Soprano Janine Roebuck was welcomed to Mary Hare School in October, accompanied by RNID Campaigns Manager Donna Tipping. Janine began to lose her hearing at the age of 18, due to a genetic condition, and now wears in-the-ear hearing aids in both ears. She is a regular guest on 'Friday Night is Music Night' on BBC Radio 2 and has sung principal roles with the major opera houses in the UK.

The visitors spent time at both Primary and Secondary Schools to find out more about our Performing Arts curriculum. Janine spoke to pupils about her own experiences and then sang with them, encouraging them to participate in music and especially singing.

Janine gave a short recital to school governors and invited guests in Arlington Arts Centre before touring the school and observing lessons. She was particularly thrilled to meet Year 11 student Grace Lecznar, who is currently studying for a Grade 5 in Singing and Head Girl Fatima Niemogha, who writes and performs her own songs as lead singer in 'The Deafness', which features some of the exceptionally talented Mary Hare musicians.



Janine with Fatima (left) and Grace (right)

SCHOOLS PROMS

By William Ogden



The Deafness take to the stage



James enjoys the party atmosphere

Lots of you will know about the Birmingham gig that we played last July, where we won the prize for the Best Composition Song at the Music For Youth event. A week later we had a phone call from MFY saying that they wanted us to play at the one and only venue - The Royal Albert Hall in London, for an event called 'The School Proms'.

We were amazed that we had been invited to play at such a beautiful, huge venue, so we accepted the offer and were on our way! After loads of rehearsals playing 'Make Yourself Heard' until it reached an excellent standard, we were prepared to show them what we could do as a band.

On the day, we travelled to London in the late morning to dodge the rush hour and as soon as we got there and saw the venue we couldn't believe that we were playing there. We were given a badge for access inside and outside the building. We then went to our dressing room with its own en-suite, which was grand! We were told that we had an interview with The Guardian newspaper at 4pm and that we had to do a sound check at 3pm, which meant we had plenty of time, so we decided to hit the shops to relax our nerves. We were so nervous! Loads of coffee was needed!

We then headed back to our dressing room and next we needed to do a sound check. We went inside this beautiful venue with red seats and found ourselves surrounded by glamour. We practised our song and we had a loud cheer of support from the other bands who were also was playing there. We were really pleased with the results.

Then it was time for the interview with The Guardian, so we put our 'kit' on and were filmed while we were interviewed, it was pretty awesome, I felt like a rock 'n' roll star. They were lovely; they asked us questions on how we, as a deaf band, can achieve what we do and what we wanted to do next.

I simply said that I wanted to carry on with my music and to be on the cover of the New Musical Express! When the interview was finished we were asked to do a photo shoot, so loads of pictures were taken while we stood looking dead cool and very rock 'n' roll.

Then the event started. Things were seriously kicking off, so we sat down and watched the first half. I kept wanting to hold James's hand all the way through as I was so nervous!! The Albert Hall was full of people. Thousands! It was estimated that there were 5,000 coming to watch, so obviously that didn't help! Then when it was the second half and we were getting ready, the presenter of the show unfortunately came in and saw me in my Spongebob Square Pants!

Having got over the shock, she greeted us and was lovely, asking about what we wanted her to say about us before we played and we told her that it would be good to mention that we are deaf and she agreed. I was still deeply embarrassed for the rest of the night as she kept calling me Bob!

It was time to go on, so we picked up our guitars and drumsticks and headed off to the stage. We saw our fans, some Mary Hare students who had travelled all the way to see us, Blaise, David, Bethany and Laila, we really appreciated their support. We got on the stage and my legs were just shaking, I looked around and there were thousands and thousands of faces looking at us.

The presenter came on and introduced us and off we went! During the actual performance we were a lot more relaxed as we showed them who The Deafness are! James did an amazing jump during the chorus, fantastic stuff! Then we finished and the crowd went wild and cheered for us, we were so happy and we waved at them all. It was an amazing moment, it really was.

SLT News

Over the years, many Sixth Form students have received Speech and Language Therapy. Why do they need to come? How do they feel about it? What do they do in their SLT sessions? Some of the current Sixth Form took time out to answer these questions...

Asha "Everybody thinks Speech Therapy is just about your speech but it's not. It includes lots of other things like language, volume, intonation and much more!

When I was in Year 10 and 11, I didn't go to Speech Therapy because I thought I didn't need it - but I was wrong! I'm glad to have Speech Therapy in the Sixth Form because it has helped me with my language and speaking skills."



Pierre "If we are going to university, we need to be able to talk to everyone in the real world. When I was younger I didn't think Speech Therapy was important, but now I have realised it is. It is not only about speaking, but listening as well. Speech Therapy has helped me to listen to sentences with my cochlear implant."

Sarah "I grew up with BSL and practised speech only a few times at home. Here I have improved my speech and I am also really happy with how they encourage me. I learn by saying words, practising breathing when speaking, letters, past and present tense e.g. 'ed', 'ing', etc. I practice listening too and also lip reading. It helps with my future in the hearing world."

Helen "In each session, you get a taste of what it is like in the outside world and gain insight into how you might come across to an outsider.

You get an essential reality check and a chance to develop good strategies, not only to cope, but also to succeed in saying exactly what you want to say."



Some of the Sixth Form SLT group

This year, the Speech and Language Therapy department was involved in a project called 'Life and Deaf', in which young, deaf people explore their identity through poetry.

The project aims to develop young people's communication skills and their self-esteem. Mary Hare students contributed to the project and here are just two examples of their work ...

Being deaf feels natural to me

I am very confident even though I am deaf

All my family are proud that

I have made the most of my deafness

Being deaf is hard work

But would I change it?

I really don't know as

I do not know any different!

Every day I try not to get stressed and angry

While I try to understand what they say

But it is difficult for me

Because if someone talks to me very fast

It makes me confused and I do not understand

Every night sometimes I'm scared

Because I feel like someone comes closer to me
creeping like the floorboards are moving

Sometimes I feel strange

Because I feel so very different

Especially when around my hearing friends

Family and friends are important

To everyone and they are very proud of me

They care about me

I love being with my family and friends

By Christine Caldaralo Year 9

Deaf not Dumb!

Everybody agree with me?

Are you dumb?...NO!

Fortunately I can sign and speak

I can prove them wrong!

So can you prove them wrong?..YES!

Deaf is Power

Unfortunately hearing people think
we are dumb because we can't speak

Mostly deaf can SPEAK!

But in the dictionary dumb means
'people who can't speak'. WE CAN!

No one should call us DUMB!

Or bully us because we can't speak
like them

Tomorrow something could happen
and they might become deaf!

By Fahima Hussain Year 11

WORK Experience

In November, Year 11 students embarked on a week's Work Experience placement. A wide range of local businesses supported the scheme, which gave our students a valuable insight into real life in the workplace...

Grace Lecznar

I was looking forward to working at the **Regency Park Hotel**, because I wanted to see the different rooms and compare them all.

In Housekeeping, I was changing beds, dusting and vacuuming - it was strenuous because every room had to be immaculate. I did not realise how big the hotel was until I started working there. There were so many rooms to do and because the hotel was short staffed it made it even more difficult to get it all done. It was a demanding job and I was on my feet ALL day, so I was feeling really tired and my body ached.

Communication-wise, it was really good and I surprised myself, starting conversations and laughing with my colleagues. I felt like I really fitted in.



Ruth Kelly

The main thing about my job at **Little Tigers Nursery** was to play with children - how good is that?! In the morning, it was playtime then, after snack time, the young children would play inside while the older ones went outside for an hour. The babies would just crawl around and play all the day long. The older children had craft time after playing outside - this could be painting, drawing or cutting and sticking.

The children were interested in my hearing aids, they pointed them out, asking me what they were. The staff explained that they were hearing aids, to help me to hear well. The children seemed to be happy enough with the explanation. It was funny when one of toddlers shouted, saying, "There's paint in Ruth's ears", referring to my purple earmoulds!



Jason Bown

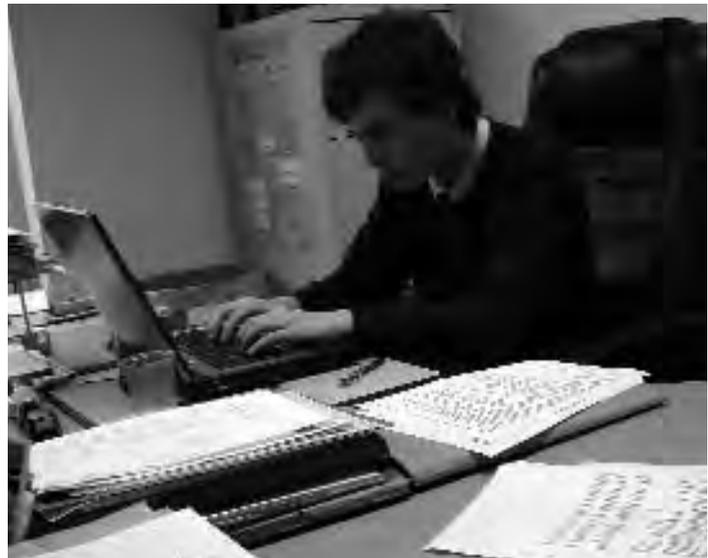
At **Dingleys Play & Therapy Group**, staff were appointed to 3 or 4 children as key workers, helping them progress slowly. I was assigned to a young lad called Billy. I found myself developing a bond with him, as I was the only male worker there. I think he liked my voice, as he always pointed to my throat commanding me to speak to him. He was so full of life. I worked well with my colleagues and I soon made friends with everyone. I soon found my own place and my speech slowly improved as I tried to correct myself for the children, so they could understand me more clearly.

I spent the second half of my placement at Mary Hare Primary School (*left*) where I was glad to have the chance to use what I had learned at Dingleys and I enjoyed spending time with our younger pupils.

Tim Weston

I worked with **Eames Laurie Financial Services** who advise clients what to do with their cash, such as taking out mortgages or pensions. On the first morning I was really nervous but that wasn't justified - it was great. I helped with general tasks like franking, photocopying and filing - if I filed a piece of paper in the wrong place, it would be as good as lost forever! They taught me about mortgages and paying employees. I helped to work out the commission each employee earned.

My work experience has developed my confidence and made me even more determined to work in the hearing world and to fit in. It was good to have an insight into financial office life, but I cannot see myself working in this environment full time because I am more interested in a career in science.



A Work Experience Celebration Evening was held at the end of February, where Jason Bown and George Stockton were both presented with Achievement Certificates. Jason won his award for the Log Book he kept during his placement and George, who worked at Speenhamland School, was rewarded for making the best use of and gaining the most from, his placement.

The event was organised by West Berkshire Education Business Partnership and the certificates were presented by Phil Barnett, Mayor of Newbury (*pictured right with Jason and George*).



PRIMARY News

'Cinderella' was our Christmas show this year. The pupils really enjoyed performing their parts on stage – Cinderella (Bella Stone) even got the giggles at the end after Prince Charming asked her to marry him!

Class 1 were delightful white mice and performed very well in a Tom and Jerry dance routine with Ugonna Uzochukwu as the cat. The three ugly sisters (Alexia Lumley, Natasha Lumley and Ruby Lycett) and the stepmother (Grace Penn) were excellent in the contemptuous treatment of Cinderella.

Deepak Sahota was a confident magician and Ben Small a charming Prince! Roxanne Ali gave a very confident performance as Buttons. The costumes (by Kate Brind) and glass coach (by Lou Brind) were magical. Max Taucher as the King was a real comic turn, and Annabelle Sonmez as the Queen was suitably regal. The footmen (Alexander Ash, Khalid Jumah and Oliver Goodman) got several laughs with their out of tune fanfare.



Max and Annabelle take to the stage

Class Three have been reading Roald Dahl's 'George's Marvellous Medicine' and pupils were then asked to write their own story about an aged character. Here is an extract from a piece by Ruby's Lycett, entitled 'I am Grandma'...

My name is Horribly Hardwicked. I look like 100 years old, but I am really 89 years old. I've got wrinkles everywhere. I've got wrinkles on my body and on my bottom. I've got huge lips and my body looks like a question mark! I am nasty, horrible and wicked. I always shout at George and tell him to clean my house from top to bottom. I am getting fed up with George as he always wants to play with me outside, when it's raining.

I said, "George, cooommee here, I waant you tooo cleeeannn yooouur bedroooooom!". Then George did it and I rushed upstairs and locked George in his room. George shouted, "Grandma, I have finished!".

I opened the door and George came out. I said, "Leeeeeetts gooo ouuuttsiidde." We went off and I saw a puppy. I scammed and kicked it, then I cried, "I waant toooo goooo hooommme!" Then we went back home. That's what I am like. Here is a picture of me."



Class One have been learning about vegetables this term (*pictured below*). Pupils have been learning vegetable names in their Speech Vocabulary groups and the children are growing potatoes as part of a Potato Council competition. In Literacy, they have been reading the story of 'The Princess and The Pea'. **Benedict Morgan** wrote the story in his own words...

The princess and the pea

Once upon a time there were a prince who was lonely. The prince is looking for a princess to get married to him. He found some princess but they aren't real princess. The next day in the middle of the night was a storm and the princess was coming to the castle to get dry.



"Knock", "Knock", went the door. There was a princess in the doorway. The queen had a idea. "I would make a bed that has a pea in the bed". The queen called the princess to sleep in the bed and she feeled the pea and wasn't comfortable. She kept up at night. At the morning and she was a real princess so the queen told the prince that she was real so he was married the next day.



The children recently enjoyed a great day out at **Sulgrave Manor House**. They dressed up in Tudor costumes and went on a tour of the house. They visited the great hall, kitchen and bedchamber. The children were fascinated by the cooking equipment and particularly the pit used to roast pigs.

At lunchtime they were given a typical Tudor meal – bread, cheese and chicken legs. Some children complained that they didn't like the cold food and that they were still hungry! After lunch there was time to practise music using Tudor instruments and to write with quill pens on chalk boards. Then it was back to the coach for the journey home. A brilliant day out for everyone!



ALUMNI News

Dear Alumni, over the past few months, the committee has been working to organise an 'Alumni Summer Event'. We are pleased to announce that this will take place, at Mary Hare School, on **Saturday 20th June 2009** from **2-6pm**.

There will be a brief AGM at 1pm (which members are welcome to attend) and then the afternoon will kick off with tours and a mini fete, as well as a cream tea served from Blount Hall, where you will be able to catch up with old friends.

Please visit www.maryhare.org.uk (Alumni) for the event flyer and booking form. This should be returned to Mary Hare School *with a stamped, addressed, envelope*, as soon as possible. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. You can keep up to date with the current guest list by checking our page on the Mary Hare website. We hope you can join us - see you there!

Simone Goldberg, Chairman MHAA

André Hedger left Mary Hare in 2005 and was well known by everyone for his hair-raising experiences in the world of rock climbing and expeditions to far flung corners of the world. He came back to school in January to tell us about his latest adventure - driving all the way from South Africa to the UK, raising over £1,500 for UNICEF along the way.

Many of my friends thought this was going to be impossible, but of course the word 'impossible' doesn't seem to exist in my mind! Another former Mary Hare student, Emlyn Burton, decided he would join me and Anthony Sinclair, who was travelling around Africa at the time, decided to join us as well for a month, to lighten up our trip and share the petrol costs. I started by buying the cheapest Land Rover on the market. The main problem was the paperwork - I needed a "carnet de passage" for going through any border without paying things like road tax, third party insurance, entry payments etc. For the carnet I had to pay 600% of the value of the car unless I shipped the car back to South Africa after the trip!

In South Africa we drove to the cool surfing town Jeffery's Bay, then to Port Elizabeth for the highest bungee jump in the world! We headed North to the Cederberg Mountains where we did some climbing on the 'Wolfberg Arch'. At Springbok we experienced our first breakdown and I hadn't got a clue about cars at the time.

Namibia was like being in a sauna. We didn't enjoy the country as much as we could have, as we broke down so many times. We had been ripped off by the guy who had sold the car to us. We broke down in the red dunes for three days before we were towed through the night into Windhoek and we spent two weeks on a farm near Etosha National Park, while the engine was repaired. During that time we discovered the true culture of Namibia, mixing with the tribes; we even gave them a lift to another village fitting six in our car with babies too who left their mud (protection from the sun) all over the seats!

After travelling through Zambia, Emlyn came up with the idea of going on to Zimbabwe but we got stuck there when a man broke into our car and stole my bag with my camera, credit cards and passport. He kept everything except my passport, although I had to go to the roughest part of Harare to pick it up! We visited an amazing National Park there. Emlyn dropped me off to take some photographs in the wild and suddenly the ground shook, the baboons disappeared and, as I looked up, a herd of elephants seemed to be heading faster than a cheetah towards me!

I ran for my life, trying to climb a tree, but there was no time and Emlyn flew the car through the park as if our Rover was the greatest car on earth and I was saved. In Zimbabwe we couldn't get any money from the bank as Robert Mugabe had blocked all the foreign accounts and we starved through the weekend. The biggest supermarket in Harare hardly had any food, all the shops were closed, and everything was going upside down in a dark way. We even had to get special permission to get petrol to leave the country.

Mozambique was beautiful and Malawi was a nightmare, as disabled people are not allowed to enter without a supervisor. I told the man in charge at the border that he would lose his job very soon if he did not let me through. We got through! Lake Malawi was a real beauty, the water was fresh but I was concerned about the hippos as we knew they were around somewhere. Tanzania was full of problems with the car again. Zanzibar was beautiful though.

In Kenya we managed to drive through the worst road in the whole world - through Marsabit which is well known for bandits, thank goodness we didn't break down at all! By the time we got to Ethiopia, we had driven over 14,000 km which is quite a distance. The Ethiopian food (injera) is amazing - I think I prefer goat to beef! The women there are so beautiful but none seemed to give me the wink. I was wondering why until that morning I looked at myself in the mirror and saw some ugly human being from 15,000 BC! We visited a crocodile farm and after I begged the man, I ended up inside the cage with him and three, huge, ugly crocodiles, which was a heck of an experience.



André(left) with Emlyn Burton



André (right) with Anthony Sinclair

Our time in Ethiopia and Sudan was spent waiting for visas, followed by a few weeks in Addis Ababa and Khartoum. By now I had a feeling that the trip was ending. It was impossible to get into Egypt without a carnet and a yellow fever certificate and even if we managed that, it would still cost us \$900 to get on the ferry with the car, plus another \$400 to leave. So what were we going to do? We were thinking of using the £1,000 we had left to try and get into Egypt, even though the chance was tiny, but Emlyn left his bag in the internet café and it was gone, with all the cash inside - it was time to come home.

We didn't seem to have much anymore, my big backpack had been stolen in Khartoum, so I didn't really have anything except an elephant's jaw from Zimbabwe! There was no way I was leaving that behind and I managed to fight my way through to get it on the plane - one successful mission!

Africa was truly a lifetime experience for me, but very different from voluntary work abroad or backpacking. There was so much stress, worrying about the car and borders and it was so expensive. We met some more "overlanders" and one guy thought we were mad trying to get back to the UK with so little money. He said for everything, the car, carnet, visas, petrol and tourism hot spots we would need at least £30,000! This was so true.

So, I am home now and will be starting my final year at Sheffield Hallam in October. I will be editing the film of my trip with BBC's 'See Hear' and hopefully it will be broadcast as we filmed our trip with our HD professional camera as well as taking pictures. I will be away climbing all summer in Europe, getting ready for my big next trip to Mali for some steep vertical climbs. Hopefully by May 2010, I will be good enough for the British Climbing Championships.

“Riding for Singapore, Laurentia Tan on Nothing To Lose!”

I could not hear the announcement but I could see the big screen from the corner of my eye - I did not dare look! This was my first Paralympics. I had minimal expectations but I went to Hong Kong to do my best and enjoy the whole experience of the Paralympics Games 2008 ... it was the experience of a lifetime!

My supporters were so excited when my initial score was announced. People were already starting to congratulate me on winning the Bronze, but I remember feeling in a state of shock, as though I was dreaming. It did not hit me until two days later, after I got my second Bronze medal!

The Paralympic Village facilities were great with an indoor/outdoor swimming pool, gymnasium, steam rooms, a 24 hour restaurant, medical centre, meeting rooms, an office and computers for everyone. For those who love shopping, there was the New Town Plaza, one of the largest shopping and entertainment complexes in Hong Kong, with over 400 shops and a 10 screen cinema! The hospitality extended to us was amazing, with warm and welcoming volunteers who were always ready to give a helping hand.

I have been riding since I was 5 years old. I could not sit or walk properly when I was younger so riding was part of my physiotherapy. I have always enjoyed riding and over the years I would often watch the more advanced riders with admiration.



I left Mary Hare School in 1997 and at the age of 18, I took a break from riding to concentrate on my studies and career as a mental health worker. However, I missed the feeling of riding a horse, which has always given me the freedom, movements and energy that my own legs cannot do, and returned to riding in 2005.

Riding in the Paralympic Games was something that dreams are made of and it was hard work! I had to schedule my training around my working hours and eventually left work to train full time in June 2008. I am honoured to realise what I can do to make Singapore proud and how I can inspire others to achieve greater success. I am hoping to continue training and riding in various competitions over the next few years. I hope to do well for Singapore at the next World Equestrian Games in 2010 and London's Paralympics in 2012!

One of my favourite quotations is “Aim for the moon... and even if you miss, you'll land among the stars!” Focus on the things you enjoy and make you happy, life is too short to do otherwise. Show your talent, try and participate in as many events as possible, you never know... your potential may catch the eye of a coach or a spotter who may be able to mould you for greater things!

FUNDRAISING

News

The Mary Hare Foundation has recently launched an appeal to raise the funds needed to for a new boarding house at Mary Hare School, created to cater for the needs of Year 11 pupils, as they progress from GCSE coursework to the demands of the A Level curriculum.

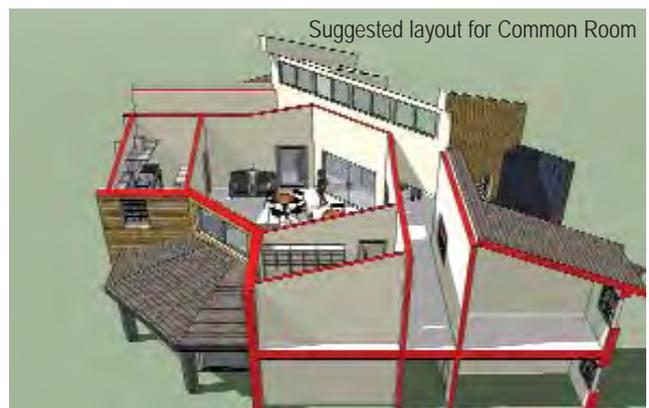
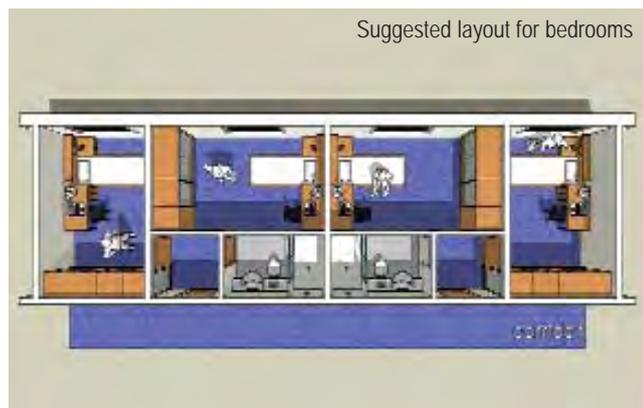


Year 11 students at Mary Hare School are currently housed in mixed-age boarding accommodation which does not allow them to adopt the type of working practices that are vital in the Post-16 phase of their education. The creation of a new Year 11 boarding house will encourage independent study as well as collaborative learning in the students' final year before moving on to Sixth Form and preparation for entry to university or other further education.

The Mary Hare Foundation received a substantial legacy in 2008 and these funds will be put towards this major new development. This contribution will be recognised in the naming of the building as 'Murray House'.

The new house will have single study bedrooms and communal areas which, in addition to being social spaces, will be used for seminars, other forms of collaborative learning and a venue for external speakers. The layout will give students the appropriate level of privacy on a personal and academic level and networking facilities will enable e-learning opportunities to be accessed through the school's portal. This new development will also enable the school to undertake a radical refurbishment of existing boarding houses, in order to bring similar advantages to younger pupils. Initial discussions on the specification and design of the new building have been carried out, in consultation with staff and students. Final plans and layouts will be agreed as the project progresses.

The current estimated cost for the project is approximately **£2million**, so there is a lot of work to be done! The Foundation is making applications to trusts and foundations and there will be an opportunity for supporters to contribute and be involved via various fundraising events and activities. Further details will be available via the Mary Hare website, or keep an eye on the notice board outside the Mary Hare School Development Office.





Mary Hare's French Club joined the Home Economics department to celebrate Mardi Gras, by cooking French pancakes after school with the help of Mrs Scholes and French assistant Vincent. Year 7 students read the French recipe and followed the instructions to make their crêpes, which they tried with sugar and jam. Year 9 enjoyed a French breakfast in their French lesson, ordering their breakfast in a role-play as if they were in a café. The menu included pains au chocolat, croissants, brioches and chocolat chaud.