

MARLBOROUGH HOUSE SCHOOL NEWS

21st May 2010

Issue No. 506

!!!!ACTION!!!!ACTION!!!!

- **Year 5 French & Year 6 English Plays** - A reminder to all Parents, especially those who have children in Years 5 and 6, that they will be very welcome to attend the play performances in the Old Gym next Friday, May 28th. The Year 5 French Play is due to start at 11.00am with the Year 6 English Play starting at 12.15pm. Coffee will be served between the two productions.

- **Mailing to parents** - Next week Orders will be published on Friday for all pupils in Years 3 – 8. These are always in hard copy format and therefore you will need to remember to collect them as follows:

Years 3 and 4 – will be put in book bags

Years 5 – on the table in the Harrison Building

Years 6 – 8 on the Front Hall table

- **Letters to parents** – Please would all Prep School parents make a weekly check of the tables in the Harrison Building (Years 3 – 5) and Front Hall (Years 6 – 8) for any letters and messages, as not all correspondence is e-mailed. Thank you for your help in this matter.

- **Money** – Another sum of money was found in the front drive yesterday. Please see the office if you have lost some.

- **Tennis** – There will be no Mini-Tennis next Tuesday, 25th May as Mr Hillier is away at a match. The 6 – 7pm Tennis Club will carry on as it will be taken by Mr Norris.

- **Charity Garden Sale** – Final reminder about our charity garden sale which takes place next Friday, 28th May. Donations of plants will be gratefully received, please could they be clearly labelled! Many thanks.

- **Swimming** - We will be doing a clothed swim next week for all swimming groups from Year 1 upwards (ie excluding Nursery and Reception). Therefore please could all pupils **bring pyjamas, preferably with long sleeves and long legs, to swim in during their lesson**. The chlorine will not damage anything! This is not just for fun, it's also a safety drill for children to know how it feels if you fall in the water unexpectedly with clothes on.

- **U9A & B Cricket - 10th June** – Please could parents of the U9 boys note that this fixture will be played AWAY at DPS and not at home as stated in the Almanack.

GENERAL

We are very sad indeed to report the sudden death of John Allchin, father of Emily in 8J, on Saturday. All our thoughts and best wishes are with Emily and Michelle at this difficult time.

Mr Hopkins visited Benenden School on Tuesday for a Prep School Heads' Day. After lunch he was very pleased to see Lucy Baddeley, Philippa van Kan, Georgia Gale, Millie Booth-Clibborn and Alex Stewart who were all keen to hear how things are at MHS and to send their best wishes. He also saw Gea Roex who is about to start her AS exams. Good luck also to Millie and Alex with their A levels.

MERIT AWARDS: Well done to the following who have achieved merit awards: Tabitha Wylie, Sebby Wright and Joe Porritt (Art), James Bignell (English), Roberta Norris and Henry Davies (DT) and Max Chester (Maths).

Many thanks to all the staff in the kitchen who have, for the last two weeks, washed up entirely by hand due to a seemingly unrepairable dishwasher! If you consider the fact that over 4000 pieces go through the dishwasher every day – that’s a lot of washing up!!

They are very much hoping that the machine will have been fixed by the end of today – watch this space!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: Elizabeth Weighell, Giles Gill, Finley Balcomb-Hellier and Maddie Perrett (22nd May), Cara Fuller (23rd May), Felix Godwin (25th May), Lucas Killick and Maddie Fox (26th May) and Will Rusling (27th May).

Hemsted Forest Youth Orchestra

Write up by Megan Clube, Jess Fox, Charles Snelling-Colyer and Will Michaels

“After a one and a half hour journey from Benenden to St John’s Smith Square, the HFYO Orchestra soon settled down to a quick run through of our programme consisting of Handel’s Water music and Britten’s Soirées Musicales. Afterwards, we went outside to watch some protests by the Liberal Democrat’s Headquarters. There was live television news being filmed and we saw Nick Clegg but narrowly missed David Cameron. After a few hours of waiting, our audience arrived. There were lots of amazing choirs performing, with past pupils including Philippa van Kan, Georgia Gale and Tabitha Machin. After a short interval, we were shown onto the stage and started our Handel Water Music. After our Soirées Musicales, we returned to the coaches and arrived home at midnight.”

The children in 4D are thrilled to have an albino squirrel feeding on the nuts outside their classroom.
They have named him ‘Albi’!

Well done to the following who achieved 3 or more Good Marks last week:

AWDRY: William Jex, Eloise Plummer, Olly Santini, Joe Briley, William Kinchin, Ronan Turck, Freya Desoutter, Eloise Gare, Katherine Reid, Phoebe Hensley, Olivia Tomalin, Freddie Latham-Coyle, Oliver Hall, Joe Porritt and Holly Robertson.

DUNBAR: Jemima van der Gaag, Oliver Duncombe-Jones, Felix Godwin, Kit Lillingston-Paterson, Florence Montague-Wilson, Alice O’Connell, Oliver Rutman, David Bickersteth (2), Matilda Denbow, Flora Macpherson, George Marshall, Sam Huggett, Bea Walker, Grace Richardson, Josh Gard, Alexander Pollock, Henry Rutman, Epernay Balcomb-Hellier, Imogen Hutt and Joshua Niell.

EGAN: Emily Costain, Lily Fleming, Cara Fuller, Isobel Cloke, Annabel Guye-Johnson, Alice Locke, William Hagerty, Angus Fleming, Emmaline Martin, Tom Locke and Harriet Morss-Davies.

HAWKINGS: Oscar Plomer-Roberts, Sophie Walters, Archie Norris, Kit Ross (2), Will Smith, Bethany Stewart, Rosie Woods, Maddie Fox, Elspeth Gordon, Henry Poole, Olivia Jones (3), Same Perrett, James Ross, Amelia Cornish, Freya Gordon, Ben Waters, Emily Woods, Georgie Estall, Ben Matthewson, Megan Stewart, Sophia Anderson and Sebby Wright.

The winning House was **HAWKINGS**.

NURSERY NEWS

On Wednesday, the Nursery children were delighted to welcome Mr Richard Felton, of “Felton Florists” London, and father to Edward 6D. Mr Felton brought with him a wonderful variety of flowers – from the English rose to the more exotic bird of paradise. The children loved smelling the flowers, although they were less sure of the allium with the smell of onion! The class will now begin their annual flower painting competition – Mr Felton will return next week to judge the competition – so watch this space.

Year 7 History trip to Dover Castle

As part of their History Course, the Year 7 children enjoyed a great day at Dover Castle last Friday. The weather was fantastic, the pupils co-operative and interested and the adult leaders enthusiastic and focused. With its wide range of historical periods from the Iron Age to the 1960s, Dover has so much to offer and is in many ways the perfect school trip – when the weather is kind. The latest reincarnation of the castle keep as though it were ready for a visit from the Count of Flanders to Henry II in 1186 has its critics, but it certainly makes the atmosphere of the times easier to imagine. This was Mr Wood's final school trip and as such, was in some ways a poignant affair, but the success and enjoyment of the occasion made this a fitting end to his many, many school trips over the course of his teaching career. Thanks to all who made the trip such a success and especially to Mr Wood who made it all possible.

Year 5 trip to Montreuil

On Tuesday the Year 5 children had their twelve hour day trip to Northern France on the annual Geography field trip to Montreuil. This is a truly wonderful day out for the children with so many wonderful experiences for them. The coach goes under on the 'Chunnel' - sadly no fish were spotted! The sun shone (which helps!), History, Architecture, French, Maths, Drama, Geography and Art were touched upon at times during the day. Also a good measure of self organisation was needed by the children. Various surveys were undertaken including two on traffic and a house and shop survey as well as a short visit to a lovely Catholic church and a shopping trip to a supermarket. Mr Mathers hopes the parents enjoyed the olives, cheese, pate, biscuits and even socks (!) he saw being bought! A great day - yet again. A huge thank you to Mr Mathers for organising the trip and to Mrs McWilliams, Mrs Atkins, Miss Reeves and Mr Davis for all their help and of course to the kitchen staff for providing masses of food to keep them all going!

Year 4 outing to Maidstone Museum

Written by Angus Fleming 4D

"On Tuesday 18th May Year 4 children went to Maidstone Museum. We were there to learn about the ancient Egyptians but we did see some other things such as World War 2 objects, clothing and weapons. There was also one amazing preserved mummy which had its original face, some people were quite shocked. There was also a room about prehistoric times where we found out that one of our friends could walk under a prehistoric moose's legs! We also found out a lot about ancient Egyptian gods. I liked the trip a lot."

3-Day Hockey Academy

Marden Russets Hockey Club

Tuesday 24th – Thursday 26th August

10am – 4pm daily

Ages 10 – 14, 14 – 17

Intensive coaching by GB International and Olympian John Shaw and a team of international players and qualified coaches.

Please email info@totallyhockey.co.uk or see the website www.totallyhockey.co.uk for further information.



Hawkhurst Amateur Theatrical Society

presents

Agatha Christie's

And **Then**
there were
None

Starring our very own Aaron Smith!

Thursday 3rd June, Friday 4th June and

Saturday 5th June

at MHS - 7.30pm

Tickets £5 each available from Jempsons or
The Spar

Inter-school Quiz and Curry Night

Last Saturday at Bodiam Manor School 100 quizzers battled it out over seven rounds to become the 'Trailwalker Quiz Champion'. An 'Aerial Photograph' round and an 'On this day' round were featured. Quiz master and compere Stephen Lockyer (brother of our Caterer, Philip) kept the evening in check and in very good spirits.

Breaking for supper of curry, rice, naan bread and liquid refreshment a 'Playing Card Raffle' took place which also saw light hearted competition to win one of the seven major prizes that had been donated.

With the quiz heating up, teams from all the schools pulled ahead over different rounds and only a few points separated the first few teams. The final round was completed and then came the final score, team 'Dulwits' from DPS were announced the winners with 61.5 points or so we thought, after a recount and thorough examination of score sheets it was reconfirmed that in fact it was team 'Give it some Wellie' from MHS with a score of 62 points had truly won.

A fun and lively evening managed to raised £1,300 for 'Trailwalker 2010' in aid of Oxfam and the Gurkha Welfare Trust. Many thanks to the kitchen staff of MHS for preparing and working for free also the MHS Gap Students, Chris and Patrick, for running the bar. A massive thank you to Bodiam Manor School for hosting the evening and all the food suppliers, school contacts, friends and family for donating way beyond what was wished for. Maybe a rematch next year?

The Trailwalk itself is happening over the 17th/18th July, and Philip is part of a team of four hoping to walk 100km in under 20 hours.

To follow their adventures, please see their website:

www.twitter.com/thetrailwalkers and to donate (there's still time!), please log on to: www.justgiving.com/locksmithsredoux

Many thanks

Philip Lockyer (MHS) and Stephen Lockyer (BMS)

Staff Profile

Mr Neil Davidson

Role at MHS: Director of Studies, Maths teacher Years 5-8.

Length of tenure: Has been at MHS since Sept 1998.

Background: Prior to MHS, had taught at Banda School, Kenya, following 5 years as Head of Maths at Vinehall. Knows the area from childhood, as actually went to Rose Hill for a year before going to Christ's Hospital School, then Oxford University to study Metallurgy, and a year at Bristol for his PGCE.

Family: All three children were born in Nairobi and are now at Bexhill College, Cranbrook and MHS. Wife Linda teaches at Claremont.

Interests: Has a passion for Africa, which he has shared by taking a highly successful MHS trip to Kenya in 2000. Won a Millennium Award to become a 'Global Teacher' in 2002 spending 5 weeks supporting the Uganda Primary School, Nyeramya, with which MHS is now linked.

Other interests - Birdwatching, Astronomy, Cricket

Other:

Proudest moments - Climbing Kilimanjaro, scoring 3 centuries, being at the birth of his children.

Pet hates ~ fashion, moaners, mushy peas

Best music ~ Beethoven, Sibelius, Keane!



BOYS

Thursday 13th May

* U9 X Cricket v Vinehall – Vinehall batted first and got up to 4 runs. Some very good bowling from George Rusling ensured that we restricted them to this low score. Our batting was good throughout and it turned out to be too strong for Vinehall with us eventually ending up on 57. Apart from a little wobble in the middle, our run rate was always superior to that of the opposition. A good performance and definite improvement from the last match

Result: MHS won by 17 runs

Saturday 15th May

* 1st XI Cricket v Ashdown House – Our boys were put in to bat first and with clouds overhead and the ball swinging, it was not an easy innings. We were too slow to pick up the run rate, missing singles and not hitting the bad balls with any real power – we even just left them - a criminal offence! At times we were defending full-tosses, and leaving wide half volleys, which was not good enough to set a strong target. We did not look in particular danger – and seemed happy to keep hitting without much thought to a well set 6-3 field. The result was a very mediocre performance with the bat. Again our middle order got in but failed to capitalise.

We managed to get up to 124-8. This was at least 25 runs short of what we should have achieved, considering the bowling we faced. With our turn to bowl the two openers from Ashdown attacked immediately, pouncing on anything over-pitched or short, and there was too much of it! With Ollie Poole absent as sick, and Hugo Godwin unable to bowl, our second line of attack struggled to keep the ball in the right areas. We had some boys brought up from lower sides, which also meant that we had a lack of experience at this level of cricket. As a result we had already given half our runs away after only 10 overs. The pressure continued and they got the runs with about 13 overs to spare!

Our boys were given a lesson in cricket! Runs win the match! Bowl to the off side – not leg, and fielding needs to be really sharp to stop the boundaries. Lots to work on then! Result: MHS lost by 4 wickets

* 2nd XI Cricket v Ashdown House – After a few problems with the route to find Ashdown House (!), our arrival was delayed and therefore a Twenty20 match agreed. As with England, MHS won the toss and decided to chase. Wickets for Laird Shepherd (3-14) and George Booth-Clibborn in the opening overs was very encouraging and although wickets continued to tumble, Ashdown House maintained a respectable strike rate and a couple of sixes from their middle order were a further boost. Henry Jex had the most success with a spell of 3 for 13 in 3 overs and James Weighell held three catches. Towards the end of their innings, Henry Davies had to leave the field having received a vicious bounce which caught him on the nose. So, we were set a target of 94 on a good wicket and a fast outfield – very gettable. Charlie Horlick (34) and Arthur Poole (9) got us off to a steady start with a 21 partnership. However, a combination of missed singles, over cautious batting and losing our entire middle order for 2 runs (!), put us very much on the back foot. James Weighell (11 in 18 balls) finally got things moving as did Callum Shepherd (12 in 9 balls). The game was evenly poised and in the final over we needed 8 runs to win and our number 11 was walking out to the wicket! The stage was set: enter Henry '007' Davies (shaken, stirred and with bloody nose) - could he repeat the feat of Australia's Michael Hussey in that epic last over against Pakistan? It was a nice thought.

Result: Ashdown House won by 7 runs (Ashdown House 93, MHS 86)

* 3rd XI Cricket v Ashdown House – Ashdown House went into bat and scored 140 runs in their allotted 20 overs, James

Bignell took 3 wickets. MHS then went in after tea and scored 113 in their 20 overs. Hamish Heilbron (32) and James Harris (28) made a good attempt to push the pace and ran well between the wickets. Unfortunately we couldn't keep up the pace and finished 27 runs short of our target. A good effort and well done for making the most of the situation.

Result: Ashdown House won by 27 runs

* Colts' A XI Cricket v Ashdown House – This was our first meet against Ashdown House for many a year so we didn't really know what to expect. They had beaten Yardley Court the week before so we knew they were a force to be reckoned with! We won the toss and put them in to bat. The boy who had got 70 the week before, only got 9 due to some excellent bowling from George Meddings. The ball cutting in very nicely from the off-side to knock out his middle stump. Their other good batsman went soon after with a fantastic throw from Olly Santini that was a direct hit and took him by surprise. Ashdown were obviously now rattled and MHS took full advantage of this as their wickets tumbled. Wickets came from George (2), Charlie Russell-Vick, Archie Norris (2) and Ed Felton (2). Run-out assists were from Olly and Will Turner. Our fielding was also very tight with 4 catches being held. 2 fantastic slip catches from Charlie, another from George and one from Felix Godwin. We got them out so early before tea that we had about half an hour of play before tea and managed to put on 38-2. This meant we had at least 1½ hours to score 42 runs. Top scorers had been George with 19 and Felix with 14. The game was looking in the bag until the scores were level on 79 runs. All of a sudden the boys got really nervous and wickets started falling – 3 in fact!! It was certainly a relief when Kit Ross hit the winning run. Another great victory against a good side. Well done to the whole team.

Result: MHS won by 2 wickets
(Ashdown 79-10, MHS 80-8)

* Colts' B XI Cricket v Ashdown House – Following recent patterns, our bowlers were able to restrict Ashdown House to just 64-8 in their 20 overs. Again our openers, Joe

Briley and George Skinner, bowled well without luck and it was left to Patrick Beech, who bowled particularly well and picked up one wicket, and Harrison Woods and Harry Latham-Coyle (2 wickets apiece) to inflict the damage. The latter was largely responsible for our comfortable win as well as he scored 32* after we had lost 4 wickets for 15. Sam Huggett also chipped in useful runs (15) and once again we looked a good side in all departments with Joe, Sam and Henry Morss-Davies taking good catches in the field.

Result: MHS won by 5 wickets

Monday 17th May

* U13, U11 Pairs tennis v Vinehall – The boys travelled to Vinehall to play their matches. The surface was damp but playable and the boys got straight into their matches of two sets, with games won being the deciding factor if a set draw occurred. Our boys quickly saw we were generally stronger, and all the matches except one were won. Our U13 1st pair of Ed Stewart and Henry Petch were given a good game, winning 6-4 and being held to 3-3 in the second set. The 2nd pair of Charlie Hunter Blair and Sam van der Gaag were dominant as were our 3rd pair of Toby Houchin and Harry Pendered - Toby stepping in from our normal 6th pair (which shows our strength this year) to be reserve due to absentees and children with no racket!

The U11's did well but, due to a bizarre mix up where the Vinehall 1st pair chose to play our 3rd pair and their teacher not spotting the mistake, the matches didn't prove very satisfactory. Our 1st and 2nd pair won very easily, given little opposition. Our 3rd pair did fantastically well winning 4 games in the first set going down 6-4 and being 1-0 up in the second, so overall losing 6-5 to their strongest pair! Well done Tom McGee and Will Turner!

Result: U13	U11
1 st MHS won 6-4, 3-3	MHS won 6-1, 6-1
2 nd MHS won 6-0, 6-1	MHS won 6-0, 6-1
3 rd MHS won 6-2, 6-1	Vinehall won 6-4, 1-0

Wednesday 19th May

* 1st XI Cricket v Solefield School – The 1st XI played at the beautiful pitch next to Knole House on Wednesday, the weather held and the boys had a very successful afternoon. The master at Solefield was very keen to play a 20-20 fixture, which we took on with gusto. Jamie Tomalin and Hugo Godwin learnt that there are singles to be run, and hit a few strong boundaries - the result was a good first 4 overs with us scoring 39 runs. Jamie then went LBW and so Ed Stewart was in – sadly he failed, falling LBW to a straight one. This allowed Charlie Hunter Blair to take up the cause – which he did very well indeed. Scoring 68 runs Not Out – a strong innings as he gave only 11 ‘dot balls’ away from a total of 45 balls faced! Hugo was caught pulling and Henry Petch then joined the innings and scored 27 off 19 balls. The result was we scored 186 from 20 overs! Solefield then batted and did not look confident, apart from one very big strong boy who could hit with real power, thankfully he went LBW (after an earlier drop which could have been expensive) the rest of their team offered very little in resistance and they ended their 20 overs on 40 for 9. All 10 players bowled for MHS. Harry Pendered taking 2 for 2 and Jamie Tomalin taking an amazing 4 wickets for 1 (which was a no ball!).

Result: MHS won by 146 runs

* 2nd XI Cricket v Solefield School – Unless the opposition give an indication of their strength, cricket can be a very one-sided contest – as proved in this match. The Second XI has had an enjoyable season with equal successes and losses, but our batting has lacked any consistency (re. loss of middle order for 2 runs in the last match!) which has not given us the confidence to bat first. Solefield were quickly dismissed in 12.2 overs (George Booth-Clibborn 3-1, Laird Shepherd 2-4, Sam van der Gaag 2-8) and then MHS batted with a view to building up a score to declare and force the follow-on! Arthur Poole (17), Charles Macpherson (27*), Laird Shepherd (26), George (23*), Callum Shepherd (17*) and Charlie Gellett (21*) batted very confidently to enable us to declare on 156. Solefield were then bowled

out again for just 23 (Charlie Horlick 3-2, Charlie Gellett 2-2).

Result: MHS won by an innings and 105 runs

(Solefield 28 and 23, MHS 156-2 dec)

* Colts’ A XI Cricket v Solefield School – Another convincing win by the Colts’ A team. We played a different format today in the form of an overs match. So no possibility of a draw, only a tie but that’s another matter! We played 25 overs each, so whoever had the most runs at the end, would win. MHS went into bat first and, although their opening bowlers weren’t too bad, the runs soon crept up. Felix Godwin made a very nice 22 but just played across the line to a straight ball and got bowled. Charlie Russell-Vick was retired on 51 and was sporting a heel injury, so had decided to go for the boundaries rather than single runs! One boundary included a 6, which was hit straight back over the bowler’s head! Will Turner also made an accomplished 31 and retired. George Meddings and Archie Norris both ended up scoring 18 each and were both not out. So a very good batting innings for MHS. Mr Norris then started the bowling with the bowlers who don’t normally bowl as often. Everyone ended up bowling at least 2 overs and everyone bowled a good line and length. Wickets were from Charlie 3, Kit Ross 2, George Meddings and Edward Felton one a piece. The fielding was also tight with catches made from Felix, Will and George. Run out assists by Charlie and 2 fantastic ones from Olly Santini. It didn’t actually matter but their last wicket fell on the very last ball of the day, so we got Solefield all out as well. Another super victory for the Colts A’s, very well done.

Result: MHS won by 65 runs

(MHS 165-1, Solefield 100-10)

* Colts’ B XI Cricket v Solefield School – Another comfortable victory from the Colts’ B team, showing superiority in all parts of the game. There were plenty of high spots, the highest being a fine 50* from Harrison Woods, who grew visibly in confidence as his innings progressed. He was ably supported by Ben Butler-Felton (20*) and Harry Latham-Coyle (40*) and by George

Skinner (12), who also bowled well (2 wickets), and was our best ground fielder. Our total of 153-2 was always going to be too much for Solefield, and with Sam Huggett getting 3 wickets, other bowlers including William Jex bowling well and Henry Poole making three good catches, our win was emphatic – 104 runs to the good. Well done again.

Result: MHS won by 104 runs

* Colts' C XI Cricket v Solefield School – Solefield won the toss and decided to field. We had a very steady start which made way for a brilliant innings from Will Spence who ended up with 25 not out. We finished our 20 overs on 130. We went into our bowling full of confidence and with 3 fairly quick wickets we eyed a good victory. Some very good rear guard action from Solefield saw them end the day on 87 for 6. There were two wickets from Oliver Duncombe-Jones and William Kinchin and a wicket a piece for Ronan Turck and Josh Bassett. A good victory and a good performance

Result: MHS won by 43 runs

GIRLS

Thursday 13th May

* U13/U12 Girls' Tennis v Mayfield School – Playing away against a strong all U13 tennis team for Mayfield was a tough prospect for our mixed U12 and U13 team but our girls certainly rose to the occasion playing some great tennis, winning 5 matches, drawing 1 and losing 11. Our girls took a while to get into top gear after the 45 minute coach journey which meant they lost most of the first 'round' of matches. However, by their second match, all the pairs were playing with much more confidence and determination. Much of the rallying was of a high quality and it was hard to tell which pair was winning most of the time! Particular mention should go to Jessica Fox and Sophie McGee and to Phoebe and Natasha Gale for both winning two of their matches and also to Sophie Walters and Rose Down for an excellent second match against the opposition's number 1 pair.

Result: MHS won 5, lost 11, drew 1

* U9A Rounders v St Ronan's – Our second match of the season was away at our local

rivals St Ronan's. The girls were in good spirits and were very determined to beat them! We chose to field first and the girls fielded brilliantly, with Iona Howells bowling beautifully and being well supported by the rest of the team. Grace Richardson was very strong on 2nd post stumping 3 girls out and was backed up nicely by Eva Timlin in second deep. Our batting was the best Miss Rawlinson has ever seen it and we managed to score 11 rounders in the first innings. In the second innings we continued to bat and field well, concentrating and working well together as a team. Georgie Estall played really well on first post, stumping 3 girls out in total. A well deserved win girls!

Result: MHS won 16½ - 13

* U8/9 team v St Ronan's - A very good game for the girls, with Phoebe Hensley and Jessica Costain being the two Year 4 girls who took on the joint captaincy, leading by example. It was a very hard game for the Year 3 girls who were a little overawed in the first innings but improved dramatically in the second with some much more assured fielding and batting. There were whole rounders scored by Phoebe Hensley (2), Jessica Costain (2) and Ella Hayden-Tubbs (1) with half rounders scored by Rachel Kinchin, Florence Roberts, Leonora Lynn and Imogen Hutt. A really good team effort from all of the girls, well done.

Result: MHS won 13 – 10

Saturday 15th May

* U13A Rounders Tournament at Benenden School - As the afternoon progressed it got colder but the girls' play improved! Our first match against Mayfield was encouraging after the first innings but during the second innings the girls made some costly and unnecessary mistakes. Losing this match by 4½ rounders meant we missed winning the U13 section, which was a pity because in our matches against Benenden and Holmewood House the girls let very little past them, winning both. However, there was some good play throughout the afternoon with all the girls making some contribution to the scores. Top scorer was fittingly, Captain Ella Carr (5) and Vice

Captain Roberta Norris bowled consistently the whole afternoon. Catches were taken by Grace Hughes (2) Sophie Walters (2), Emily Allchin (2) and one each Clemmie Plummer and Ella Carr. Thank you to so many parents who came along to support the afternoon.

Result:

MHS v Mayfield - Mayfield won 13 - 9½

MHS v Benenden - MHS won 14½ - 10

MHS v Holmewood House – MHS won 10-9½

* U12 Rounders Tournament at Benenden School – The girls had an exceptional afternoon of rounders. They were lucky to draw Benenden B team first and had a very easy warm-up match winning by 10 rounders. All the girls played well and they were happy to rotate to include the entire squad. This set the girls up well for the next match against Benenden A team. This was a more difficult task but, after some fantastic catches by Rose Down, great bowling by Phoebe Gale and some wonderful deep fielding by Polly Forbes and Beth Niell, we kept them at bay. We went into the third match, against Holmewood House, with lots of confidence having beaten them on Wednesday. However, they were equally determined to win and it proved to be a difficult match. Natasha Gale and Natasha Machin formed a great partnership between back stop and first base. They successfully got a few people out. Elizabeth Weighell played confidently as both a fielder and batter, and also took a catch and scored several rounders throughout the three matches. Sophie Lunshof was also equally reliable, often scoring well in all three matches. Kitty Skinner took some great catches on Saturday as she does every match. Louisa West also seemed to find her form again on Saturday hitting really well.

Result: MHS 2nd out of 4

Tuesday 18th May

* Years 7 & 8 Inter-House Rounders – The Inter-House Tournament was played with its usual good spirit, with all the girls who were present playing possibly their best rounders of the season! There were some very close matches and the final result was reached by

taking into account the total number of rounders scored throughout the afternoon. There was added spice to the afternoon by the addition of a half rounder to the teams' score whenever they got a player out. The player could go on playing but again be out and thus the teams had an increased incentive to get players out to help their score. This was used to great advantage and the girls responded to the different tactical play. There was some tight fielding, some lovely rounders scored and an enjoyable atmosphere with the girls entering into the spirit of the event well. Thank you to our supporters!

Result: 1st Hawkings, 2nd Egan, 3rd Dunbar and 4th Awdry

Wednesday 19th May

* U11 Rounders v Rose Hill – Another close game for the girls on an afternoon that seemed almost like summer! Our girls' fielding in the first innings was a little lack lustre at times with the ball rolling through 3 fielders' legs on a couple of occasions, although this happened to the Rose Hill girls as well. Eleanor Minns took a good catch with Nicole Stewart working hard as 2nd deep to stop Rose Hill scoring whole rounders and keeping them to half rounders instead. In the second innings some of the girls changed positions and the fielding was much improved, keeping the Rose Hill score down to just 3½ rounders. Whole rounders were scored by Eleanor Minns (1), Grace Rawlings (1), Florence Montague-Wilson (1), Rose Meddings (2) and Alice O'Connell (1).

Result: MHS won 14 – 12½

* U11/U10 Rounders v Rose Hill – On Wednesday a mixed aged team took on Rose Hill on a nice, flat away pitch. We fielded first and it soon became clear that we weren't playing against a particularly strong team. Iona Bogle bowled consistently and Emily Costain played well as backstop, getting the ball accurately to Lily Fleming at second post on backward hits, and fielding missed balls with ease. We managed to get five of their players out and kept them from scoring too many rounders. In our first innings, we scored six rounders, with Flora

Macpherson top scoring with two full rounders and Emily, Cara Fuller and Eloise Gare each scoring half rounders. At half time, the score was 6 – 3½ to MHS. In the second innings, Rose Hill were once again unable to score too many rounders, as a result of good fielding from the whole MHS team. No catches were taken – something we need to work on, but the throwing and catching between posts and from the outfield has definitely improved. We didn't bat particularly well, but sensibly took a few risks, as the Rose Hill fielding was rather sloppy and managed to get another 11½ rounders. Emily Costain (2), Eloise Plummer (2), Lily Fleming (1½), Bea Walker (1½), Flora (1), Serena Rawlings (1) and Sarah Bird (½) helped the score "tick over" and only two players were run out. The match was played in very good spirit and it was hardly surprising that there was a lot of happy singing all the way home! Well done everyone!

Result: MHS won 17½ - 8½

* U10 Rounders v Rose Hill - Another away match for the girls and this week it was a very hard one. The girls fielded first and started off well, playing some careful rounders with gentle throws and some good catching. However, Rose Hill had some brilliant hitters and, as the match went on, their hitting got stronger. We struggled to field these big hits and started to panic as to where to throw the ball to prevent rounders being scored. We started batting well but Rose Hill were very strong in the field and quickly got the ball to second post, preventing our girls from scoring on many occasions. Our second fielding innings was an improvement on the first but on this occasion Rose Hill were just too good and, despite our efforts, the girls just could not stop them scoring. Credit must go to the MHS girls though, as, even though it was a tough match, they never gave up and tried their best.

Result: Rose Hill won 18 – 6½