



Nick Priestnall

Director of Development

Mill Hill School Foundation

After a career as a schoolmaster and 20 years' experience in sales, PR, marketing and sports marketing, Nick went back into the world of schools in 2002 when he was recruited to set up the development office at Berkhamsted School. When he left four years later the department was flourishing – the first six-figure gift had been secured, an annual fund created and a database built; these were solid foundations on which the school has been able to build since.

Nick then took on the challenge of starting all over again at Mill Hill School. He recruited an expert database and research manager who became the cornerstone of the office. This was followed shortly afterwards by an events and communications manager and a programme of friend-raising began as the prelude to fundraising. The fundraising began in 2007 and by the end of 2018 more than £10m had been pledged. The first £1m gift for a century had been banked and there was a well-established bursary campaign, legacy group and the potential for great success in the future.

Throughout the 17 years in the world of development Nick was very active in the Institute for Development Professionals in Education; his contribution to the world of development in schools was recognised when in 2016 he was made a Fellow of the IDPE. Over recent years Nick has provided advice and support to one or two other schools or bodies every year, helping their strategic thinking or the establishment of their development programmes or offices.

After retiring from the role of Director Development at the Mill Hill School Foundation Nick was retained until the end of October 2019 as Director of the Campaign to raise £1m for a new sports hall at the Foundation's Prep School. He has undertaken one or two consultancy projects and looks forward to others.

Nick is a school governor, Chairman of the Trustees of the Mill Hill Preservation Society and of the Governors at Alford House, a youth club in Lambeth. Nick relishes the challenges these bring, to improving his golf and starting to learn Greek!