



January 2017

“Learning together, Shaping the future”

Message from the Headteacher

New Year, New Resolutions

Year 11 started the New Year off receiving the results of the mock exams they took in December. Some pupils did really well, reflecting the weeks of work they had put into revision; for others results day provided a sharp wakeup call. Fortunately there is time to do something about it.

All Year 11 pupils have had an interview with a senior member of staff to plan their next steps, and all pupils attended an assembly to remind them of the key messages: revision, revision and revision. The difficulty for some is knowing how to revise, and for others having the will power to put in the hours needed.

Parents can help by making sure their children have a quiet space to work in, and checking that their children are spending at least two hours every evening revising, with 45 minutes working and a 15 minute break. Pupils should turn off the time stealers like mobile phones and TVs, and use a revision plan to make sure they cover all the topics they need to. A website like www.getrevising.co.uk works really well to do this.

For pupils who struggle getting down to work, they should attend after school silent revision sessions in D6 on Mondays and Thursdays, supervised by senior staff, as well as Period 6 sessions in a range of subjects. The most important thing is to get started, so there are no regrets in the summer.

Finally, pupils who can't get the right study habits, and disturb the lessons of other pupils, risk losing out on the rewards and privileges that come after the exams are all over: Leavers' Day and Year 11

Prom to name just two. If in doubt how to help, call school.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Friday of this week marks international Holocaust Memorial Day. Pupils in Year 9 have been taking part in Assemblies this week to recount some of the stories of individuals who lost their lives in the Holocaust. Some of the stories were close to home: we heard the tragic story of a two year old child from Birmingham who ended up in the Nazi death camps. On Friday Year 9 will take part in a weblink with a Holocaust survivor, to hear at first hand the testimony of someone who was there. Pupils and staff are also remembering other acts of genocide that have taken place since the Holocaust, such as in Bosnia, Rwanda and Darfur. At this time of national and international unrest, it is so important that we remember these terrible acts, to make sure they never happen again, and to help us appreciate the importance of living and working together in diversity, all different but equal.

Dress Code

As we enter the New Year, can I remind parents that governors have changed the uniform policy to be grey trousers and skirts only. So if parents are looking to buy new trousers or skirts for their children, could they make sure they choose grey. This year is a transition year as we move from the old uniform policy that stipulated blue for girls and black for boys, but we expect all pupils to be wearing grey trousers or skirts from September 2017.

Social Media

Technology has brought many benefits to our lives, but I sometimes wonder how much benefit social media has brought. Apart from the amount of time students can spend on the phone – when they should be revising – social media can also be a cause of great upset and friction between people as pupils post unwelcome messages and photographs about others. This is why E-safety is extremely important at Hall Green, and why pupils follow a planned programme, where they look at how to be safe online. Topics include: cyber-bullying, online predators, digital footprint and sexting. The internet and new technologies are being developed and changed every day; therefore, it is important that parents and pupils remain vigilant to possible threats and risks.

Here are some top tips to go through with your children at home to ensure they are safe using technology, especially social media.

Further information can be found on our school website:

<http://www.hallgreen.bham.sch.uk/index.php/pupils/e-safety>

Top Tips

1. Don't post any personal information online – e.g. your address, email address or mobile number.
2. Think carefully before your children post pictures or videos of themselves. Once they've put a picture of themselves online most people can see it and may be able to download it, it's not just theirs anymore.
3. Ensure your child keeps their privacy settings as high as possible.
4. Never give out their passwords.
5. Don't befriend people they don't know.
6. Don't meet up with people they've met online. Ask them to speak to you about anyone suggesting this. Get them to block these people.
7. Remember that not everyone online is who they say they are.

8. Think carefully about what they say before they post something online.
9. Respect other people's views, even if they don't agree with someone else's views doesn't mean they need to be rude.
10. If they see something online that makes them feel uncomfortable, unsafe or worried: leave the website, turn off your computer and tell a trusted adult immediately.

Class Charts



All pupils now have a login for the “Class Charts” software, where teachers are recording homework tasks. All parents should now have received their own password so that they can log in to see what homework tasks their child has been set and also a record of the praises and penalties that they have been awarded. If you have not done so, I would urge you to use this password to make yourself an account. Class Charts can also be accessed via the “Class Charts Parent” app (for both iPhone and Android), which can be downloaded for free. Please note that the Internet Explorer web browser is no longer being updated by Microsoft and so, many applications, such as Class Charts, will not be fully functional in Internet Explorer. We would recommend that you open Class Charts through a browser such as Google Chrome.

“Well-Being” drop-in session at Hall Green School.



The School Link Project is an exciting endeavour between selected schools and Primary Mental Health Workers from Forward Thinking Birmingham. Frances Dodd a Primary Mental Health Worker from Forward Thinking Birmingham and Karen Harper, Hall Green School's Welfare & Inclusion Manager will be holding a fortnightly drop-in session starting Wednesday January 25 2017. The session will start at 8.30 am and finish at 11.00 am. These sessions are for parents who have concerns about their child's emotional well-being.

If you would like further information, please call Karen Harper on 0121 325 6900.

Girls Only Maths Working Party

Year 11 Girls Only Maths Working Party

✗ Are you finding it hard to revise for maths?
 ✗ Do you need somewhere quiet to revise for your maths GCSE?
 ✗ Not sure where to start?
 ✗ Want to revise with friends, but can't find time?

Then what you need is the **Girls Only Maths Working Party**

✓ Girls only
 ✓ Every Wednesday lunchtime in the Library, **STARTING THIS WEDNESDAY!**
 ✓ A safe, calm environment where you and your friends can work together.
 ✓ Student 'leaders' & 'supporters' will work with you on topics you want to revise.
 ✓ Some equipment provided e.g. past papers.

Number Day

On Monday 6 February the mathematics department will be hosting Number Day to raise money for NSPCC.

Break time: Bake Sale outside the hall

Lunch time: Fair in the hall with games and activities (small costs of up to £1)

All proceeds to NSPCC!

Thanks to 10ma1 and 11ma1 for organising and running the event.

Thank you to S2 who have come up with some fantastic ideas.



Origami Club

"If you're interested in learning origami, come along to the library on Tuesday lunchtimes at 1.30pm! Here are some of the things coming up in Origami Club:"

DATE	ORIGAMI	EXAMPLE
31/01/17	TRANSFORMING NINJA STAR	
07/02/17	3D PIKACHU	
14/02/17	GIFT BOWS	
HALF TERM HOLIDAYS		
28/02/17	WORLD BOOK DAY: BOOKMARKS	
07/03/17	BOOKS AND BOOKCASE	
14/03/17	ORIGAMI CUBES	

Maths Homework Heroes- Autumn Term

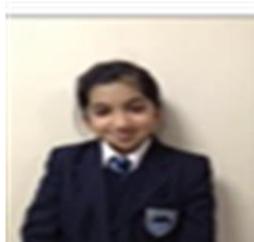
Year 7	Mosan Nadeem	L3	Sarah Ishaq	I9
	Haris Butt	R1	Uzayr Rafiq	L6
	Noor Baig	R3	Amir Khan	R6
	Umair Javaid-Iqbal	I9	Iman Gul	R10
	Jarrell Jarrett	L1	Uns Rashid	I7
Year 8	Isha Suleman	S9		
	Imogen Jeffery	S7	Ayaan Zaman	L1
	Akib Aziz	I6	Arehan Hussain	I10
	Ayan Naeem	S3	Mitchell Barrett	L6
	Ruqaiyah Kashmiri	I6	Zobiah Waheed	S4
	Dhaniya Nasir	S1	Faye Shorthouse	R7
Year 9	Ibraheem Ali	S2	Ibraheem Younis	L8
	Aleena Chaudhary	R5	Bianca Ursache	L5
	Sara Khan	R1		
	Khadijah Khatun	I9	Aadam Miah	I4
	Asad Kamran	I3	Sheetal Gareja	S7
	Jannayee Jarrett	L10	Mohammed Suleiman	R6
	Elisha Armani	I7	Hassana Gul	R4
	Wail Fadul	I1	Umamah Khan	S1
Year 10	Kareena Chauhan	R5	Gauri Verma	R1
	Unza Siddique	L3	Ismaheel Mushtaq	L4
	Sabeen Bukhari	R8	Mohammed Saad Iqbal	S7
	Tooba Ayyaz	L2	Fatima Nur	L1
	Inayah Safdar	L2	Mahfoozah Ghaffar	L4
	Shahalam Bhatti	I4	Isha Nasir	S9
	Shayma Ahmed	L8	Hadir Ali	S7
	Karen Zhuwakini	I2	Jahanvi Thanki	I6
Year 11	Shanaz Tasnim	I4	Amal Fauzi	I5
	Zayna Ahmed	R4	Saleena Yasin	I7
	Amaani Mahmood	R6	Haris Kayani	I6
	Gurkiran Bansal	R4	Tahreem Zubida	R2
	Bethan Harris	L8	Komaldeep Lall	R8
	Aman Harsh	S2	Jaspriya Panesar	L7
	Huriyyah Begum	S8	Usman Mehmood	L1
	Umair Hasan	S7	Mehassen Isa	I9
	Hayyan Shazad	R8	Rebecca Bates	R1
	Josh Ditchfield	I5	Ikram Baz	R6
Conor O'Donovan	L6	Saira Rashid	R7	
Romaan Waheed	S4	Abbas Mohammed	R10	
Sameera Sajad	I8	Jumaima Mahmood	S2	

Important Notice

School will be **closed** for Teacher Training on the afternoon of **Wednesday 8 February 2017**. Pupils will leave school at **12.50 pm** and return the following day at normal time. There will be no lunch provision on this day. Normal food provision will be available at break time on that day.

PLEASE NOTE: This date has changed from 1 February 2017 and has also been changed on the school website.

Disney Dreams



The Disney Dreams of four young disabled children from Birmingham included our very own Umayyah Sajad of R10. She was selected along with her family to experience the holiday of a life time courtesy of Caudwell Children, a national charity that provides practical and emotional support to disabled children and their families.

The charity created the annual Destination Dreams holiday programme in 2007, to give 25 children with life limiting conditions the chance to experience a dream holiday with their families. A team of paediatric doctors and nurses along with 40 volunteers accompanied the families to push wheelchairs and carry bags, which meant that the families could really enjoy the experience. Mark Bushell from Caudwell Children said “the families had a fantastic time meeting Disney characters, relaxing by the pool, and mixing with other families creating a network of support on their return to the UK. Destination Dreams is as much about the families staying in touch with each other as it is about the sun and the fabulous parks and it will have a positive effect on them for years to come.”

For further information on Caudwell Children visit www.caudwellchildren.com



Linguists January 2017

In Languages we celebrate hard work and commitment to Spanish, German and French. The following pupils have been selected as Linguists of the Month. ¡Muy bien! Sehr gut! Très bien!

Teacher	KS3	KS4
Mrs Aguilera	Name: Mohammed Hasif-UI Ambia Form: S5 Reason: Being super enthusiastic and trying his best in Spanish.	Name: Amani Chavda-Wann Form: S2 Reason: Amani used Spanish at her volunteer job when she met Spanish footballers from Manchester City Football Club!
Mrs Evans	Name: Amna Kousar Form: S2 Reason: Much improved attitude to learning.	Name: Hamza Shazad Form: I8 Reason: Improved attendance and attitude to learning.
Mr Taylor	Name: Imogen Jeffery Form: S7 Reason: Consistently going above and beyond with homework, classwork and assessment preparation-ausgezeichnet!	Name: Lucy Wilson Form: S6 Reason: A fantastic attitude to learning and a meticulous approach towards written work-super travail!
Mrs Smallbone	Name: Israa Razzaq Form: L3 Reason: Great use of target language in French lessons.	Name: Rafath Chowdury Form: S3 Reason: Exceptional preparation for controlled assessment.
Mrs Morgan	Name: Assia Haque Form: R7 Reason: Sustained effort and excellent assessments.	Name: Everyone in 10GE2! Form: Reason: Outstanding effort and attainment.

PE Updates

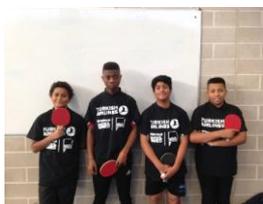
Turkish Airlines Birmingham Level 3 School Games finals: Table Tennis

On Thursday 8 December, the Under 13 and Under 16 Boys Table Tennis teams who had both qualified for the Birmingham School Games finals competed against 10 other schools from across the city in a bid to become city champions. The Under 16's had a great run in the tournament reaching the semi-finals, but were just pipped at the post by Bishop Vesey to finish in overall 4th place. This is a great achievement and the team should be incredibly proud of their performances.

The Under 13 Boys had some very tough competition in their age group and overall finished in 7th place out of 11 teams. Our pupils put in a great effort and again should be proud of their achievement.

Thank you to Mrs Paxton-Gault and Miss Reed who accompanied the pupils on the day.

The Under 16 team: Wesley Gordon, Dominic Liburd, Darshan Dave and Miles Dooley



The Under 13 team: Zain Tahir, Arehan Hussain, Bilal Khan, Oscar Hook-Evans



Sports Leadership- Sports Hall athletics training and competition

Whilst the rest of the school were gearing down for the Christmas break, our Sports Leaders were busy undertaking some Sports Hall Athletics training in preparation to assist a primary and secondary School Games competition in the New Year. So on Wednesday 14 December, our Sports Leaders learnt how to score, measure, time and record a variety of track and field events.

On Wednesday 18 January, it was then time to put into practice what they had learnt. Our pupils started off working with pupils in years 3/4 from local primary schools, explaining, demonstrating, encouraging and scoring them on their events. They then had to replicate this with pupils in year 5/6 and year 7 and 8 (boys) after school. It was an extremely long day, but the feedback given to our pupils from staff highlighted what a fantastic job they did, with a senior member of staff of one of the schools, taking the time to come and congratulate our pupils on a job well done!

As a result of their impressive attitudes and commitment to their role, the pupils have been selected to lead on the Level 2 Turkish Airlines Birmingham School Games Athletics Finals in February!

Thank you to Miss Reed who arranged the training and accompanied the pupils on the day.

Well done to: Ahmar James, Bilal Siddiqi, Annie Davies, Tegan Smith, Manal Mahmoud, Saagar Singh, Jannayee Jarrett, Mariea Shaheen, Zakir Hussain, Emily Masters, Laila Naseem, Lauren Johnson, Amron Singh and Ehtesham Jhangir



Above: Manal and Lauren demonstrating the track 'Obstacle Relay' and then enjoying timing and recording results. Below: Laila and Jannayee measuring and recording the standing long jump



Year 7/8 Boys Sports Hall Athletics

At the same event, our year 7/8 boys' athletics team were in action in a bid to qualify for the School Games Finals in February. The event took place at Billesley Indoor Tennis Centre and whilst their main competition was Kings Heath Boys, our team also competed against Bishop Challoner, University of Birmingham School, Queensbridge and Wheelers Lane. It was a field full of some tough competition but it was the University of Birmingham School who eventually won and on this occasion we unfortunately have not qualified for the School Games Finals. Thank you to Mrs Smith who accompanied the pupils on the day. Well done to: Amir Khan, Dauud Amir, Sirraj Mohammed, Ahmad Kamil, Saeed Gubran.



Left: The team during the 4 x 1 lap relay.



Right: The Leaders and our Boys Athletics Team at the end of a busy day!



Year 8 Girls Futsal friendlies'

On Tuesday 10 January, our Year 8 Girls' Futsal team played in some friendly games against Ark Boulton Academy and Starbank School. Our pupils proved too strong for the opposition winning both their games comfortably. As a result of participating in this event, our pupils have progressed onto the Birmingham School Games finals in February.

Thanks to Miss Gosal for training them and taking them to the competition. Well done to Sally Abdulla, Aaliyah Shah, Zaina Hussain, Mashaal Chughtai, Bibi-Ruqayah Rehman, Simran Sandhu, Shanice Price

The girls playing against Ark Boulton



Level 2 Badminton Competitions – KS4

Two teams competed at Kings Heath Boys School in November for the right to represent the Partnership at the Level 3 School Games. The KS4 Girls team have successfully qualified but sadly the KS4 Boys team (consisting of KS3 pupils) were not as successful and came second on the night. However, they played exceptionally well and I expect them to be a force to be reckoned with at next year's competition. Thanks to Mrs Smith and Mr Lamba for training them and taking them to the competition.



Girls Team: Amani Chavda-Wann, Jannayee Jarrett, Mahfoozah Ghaffar, Tasleemah Khan

Boys Team: Ahmar James, Arehan Hussain, Saeed Gubran, Mohammad Yasar



OCR Sport Studies Climbing Days

In November/December 2016 the entire OCR Sport Studies cohort took part in an entire morning or afternoon of climbing. The school hired a climbing wall plus instructors from Bear Creek Adventure and the students learned how to tie knots, correctly put on harnesses and helmets, climb safely and correctly and belay properly. This resulted in them achieving marks for one learning objective within the Outdoor Activities module. The days were quite intense but the pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves – despite it being very cold at times – and really got a lot out of the activity. The days were planned and organised by Mrs Smith (PE).



Archery

Archery has restarted after school every Friday 3.30pm to 5pm and is open to all students, staff and parents/carers. All welcome.

Making a Change

In the last few weeks the majority of pupils have seen an assembly about Charity and how we, as a school community have been able to support Charities and make a change to people's lives. This message of change was the main point of the assembly and the idea that any donation, whether it is monetary or giving time makes a difference and makes a change to the lives of others. Small changes can have a huge impact, and this is relevant to the variety of charities we support as a school. St Basil's a homeless charity which works to help people who for a number of reasons may have ended up living on the streets. Smiling Hearts which is a free school in Cambodia that educates children who otherwise may have been deprived the opportunity of an education. Save the Children, helping to support children of all ages in the UK and abroad and preventing children from coming to harm. Lastly, Macmillan Cancer Support that provides care to those suffering from cancer and helps people deal with the impact cancer has on lives. As a school we have managed to raise £3730.15 from December 2015 to December 2016 and this is a huge thank you to all the pupils and their families who have supported non uniform days, cake or sweet sales and other events which have taken place in school to raise this fantastic total. Please continue to support charity events within school and help us to continue to raise more money in the future for these worthy causes and keep making change happen.



Winter Bugs



It is the time of year for the Winter bugs to come alive.

If your child develops any sickness and diarrhoea please can you keep them off school for 48 hours after all the symptoms have passed, this is to prevent any further outbreaks and to protect vulnerable students, staff and volunteers. Ways in which to prevent it spreading; ensure the whole family wash their hands with soap and water on a regular basis, particularly after using the toilet and before preparing food. Alcohol hand gels are good but not as effective and any vomit needs to be flushed down the toilet; you then need to disinfect the toilet so any germs are not transferred onto any other family member.

You can read more information about winter bugs on the NHS website: <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions>

School Dress Code



I would like to thank parents and carers for the time and effort they have put into making sure pupils are properly equipped for school at the start of term with the right equipment and the right uniform. At the end of last term, we noticed that some of our students were starting to wear items of clothing that do not conform to our school dress code (i.e. hoodies, canvas shoes, non-school jumpers and cardigans), but at the moment pupils are looking very smart and wear their uniform with pride. We want to keep this up throughout the year, and so have introduced a uniform card for all pupils to carry. If a member of staff finds a pupil is not wearing the uniform correctly, the pupil receives a 'strike' on their card.

Too many 'strikes', and the pupil can get a detention. When they visited us in February, Ofsted asked us to tighten up on the way some pupils wear their uniform, and so this is what we have done. So far the pupils are looking excellent. Keep it up!

Please note that you can find a copy of our school dress code in the parental booklet, on our website.

Can I also remind you that piercings (other than ear) are not allowed. As always, we know that we can rely on your support in this matter. If you have any concerns with regards to uniform, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of House.

Taking your child out of school

Please find below a reminder of the procedures should you have to take your child out of school for an appointment before the end of the school day:



- The pupil needs to bring in a hand written note from a Parent/Carer. The note should clearly state the '**reason why**' and the '**time**' the pupil needs to leave. The pupil needs to show the note to their **Head of House** and ask them for **authorisation** by **signing the note**.
- When it is time for the pupil to leave school, they need to show the **signed note** to their **Teacher** teaching them at the time and ask if they can be excused from the lesson.
- Pupil should then come to **reception**, show the receptionist the signed note and ask them if they can sign them out.

Thank you for your assistance.

ParentPay



Please ensure that your child's dinner money account has sufficient funds for their daily food requirements. When adding money, please leave enough time for the money to be electronically credited. You can check your child's balance at any time via ParentPay. If your child does not have enough money and you are not able to credit their account in time, please provide them with a packed lunch.

In an effort to improve communication to all Parents/Carers we send out copies of correspondence, such as trip letters, revisions guide letters, usernames/passwords and barcodes, where possible, by email via the online ParentPay system and using the RS Connect Ed App.

Please make sure that all pupils have activated their ParentPay account and email addresses have been verified. If you have not yet activated your ParentPay account, please do this as soon as possible. If your account is already active, please ensure you have added a valid email address.

To use the App, download it from the App Store or Play Store and search for MyEd.

If you are experiencing any difficulties using this software and would like some assistance then please contact Mrs V Ali or Mrs T Dickerson.

Free School Meals

Did you know that you may be eligible to claim free school meals for your child here at school, up to the age of 16 years old, if you are in receipt of one of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190.00)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit.

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

To claim a free school meal please ask at the school reception for an application form. Once completed please return the form to school, along with evidence that will support your application.

Please remember that even if your child was in receipt of Free School Meals at primary school they will not automatically be entitled here at school. If you have any queries please contact the school.

School Fund Contribution Reminder



We have a School Fund which receives income from a variety of sources - sponsorship, fund raising by pupils and parents/friends of the school. We also invite all families to contribute to this at the start of their school life with us.

Our School Fund helps to pay for the cost of things which the education budget does not meet, but which help to make school life more pleasant.

In the past it has helped to pay for a collection of board games that are used during Form Time, activities during the end of Summer Term celebrations, a supply of Leadership badges for Peer Mentor supporting roles and towards caring for the school environment through activities within the School Council. Although we realise that School Fund is a voluntary contribution, it does enable us to provide additional resources to enhance the curriculum and your support is very much appreciated.

If you feel able to make a contribution we request £20.00 per child as a one-off payment, to cover the five years of attendance at Hall Green School. If you feel able to make a larger contribution it would be gratefully received. Payments can be made via ParentPay. Thank you for your support - it will benefit your child.

Donations to the school are also welcome. If parents or friends of the school are interested in making a donation, please get in contact with the Headteacher via his PA, Mrs P Elliott.

Lost Property

Has your child lost anything at school? Since September we have had numerous amounts of lost property handed into the school office. If you think your child has lost something please ask them to visit the school office and check if it is one of the many items we have. Any items not claimed by February half term will be disposed of.



Safeguarding

We wish to draw your attention to a free website for parents: www.parentinfo.org. The website offers expert information to help children and young people stay safe online. Please see our school website to access the link.

CCTV at Hall Green School



For the protection of pupils and staff, and the prevention and detection of crime, the school is monitored by 24 hour CCTV.

Images from this may be used by the school or Public Services, as required.

Parking in Southam Road



This is a plea to ask all parent/carers not to park in Southam Road in the afternoon when picking up their child unless your child has medical or mobility issues that prevent them walking.

Key Dates



*Wednesday 8 February 2017
School Closes at 12.50 pm
for Teacher Training*

*Friday 17 February 2017
Break up for half term*

*Monday 27 February 2017
Return to school
Normal timings*

Mr D Adams
Headteacher