



“Learning together, Shaping the future”

Hall Green Spring Term Newsletter March/April 2017

Message from the Headteacher

Hall Green Goes Digital

Welcome to our last printed newsletter. Our next newsletter will be published online and via the school app, which will help the school save paper, the environment and also reduce costs. Please make sure you have updated your phones and tablets to access the school app, and remember to keep the school informed with email addresses and phone numbers. It is vital that we know how to contact you in case of an emergency.

Year 9 Option Choices

Year 9 pupils have now made their final choices for their options for next year. It was delightful to see so many pupils and parents at our Options Evening on the 14 March, and Year 9 have been discussing their choices with senior members of staff.

Year 11 GCSE build up

Tips on helping your Year 11 child prepare for exams: all in the January 2017 Newsletter, which is still available on the school website. Any parents that are concerned that their sons and daughters are not doing enough revision should contact the child's Head of House in the first instance.

School Funding Cuts

School funding has been in the news a lot recently. School budgets are being hit in two ways, meaning less money for Hall Green School to spend on teachers and resources. The first hit to schools is from increased employment costs imposed by government for National Insurance and Pension payments. So it now costs much more to employ the same staff as before, but with no more money from

the government to pay for them. What this has meant for Hall Green is that as staff get promoted or retire and leave the school, we have not always been able to replace them.

The second hit to school budgets is the proposed National Funding Formula (NFF), which the government anticipates will come in for September 2018. The current NFF proposals could result in Hall Green School losing some of its annual funding, possibly up to £45,000 a year. Again, this will mean we cannot employ all the staff we would like to, making it harder for teachers and teaching assistants to provide the kind of support for Hall Green pupils that we have been accustomed to in the past.

An article that clearly spells out the impact of these cuts to funding is by a head teacher in the south of England, Geoff Barton. Here's the link <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2017/mar/14/schools-funding-philip-hammond-budget>

We have managed to weather some of the cuts so far, but as they increase the school will find it increasingly difficult to maintain the high standards of education and pastoral care for pupils that has made the school so successful. If you would like to know more about the funding cuts, visit this website – <http://www.fairfundingforallschools.org/> Fair Funding For All Schools is an independent, parent-led campaign, working to stop the cuts to school funding through parent and people-power.

Safeguarding Update

Staff received top up training on Monday 20 March on Child Sexual Exploitation - how to protect children from danger and what to look out for if a child is vulnerable or at risk of exploitation. Social Media was again raised as a way children could make themselves vulnerable to strangers.

Parents are recommended to talk to their children about how they use Snapchat, Facebook, Whatsapp

and Instagram to name just a few of the different social media sites pupils have access to now. Please contact the school if you have any concerns about safeguarding.

Polling Day May 4 2017

Hall Green School will be used again as a polling station for the upcoming mayoral elections on 4 May 2017 and so governors have agreed that the school will have to close to pupils for that day. The arrangements that we are obliged to put in place as a polling station mean that we cannot control who enters and leaves our school site during the school day, placing pupils at risk. Teachers will still be attending school and using the time to further develop teaching materials for the new GCSEs which were introduced to schools from September 2016. Pupils taking the Y10 Science Progress Assessment will attend school as normal in their uniform and then go home once they have completed their exams.

Blue to grey

Just another reminder that the governors have changed the uniform policy to 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.

Lollipops

Pupils are going through a craze for brightly coloured lollipops at the moment which are bought at a local shop on the way to school. Parents may not be aware that their children are buying and eating them. The problem with these lollipops are not good for their health – they are full of artificial colourings and sugar, so have a damaging effect on children's levels of concentration and their teeth. An occasional treat is fine, but some pupils are regularly eating two or three a day. I am sure we as parents don't need reminding about the damage sugar can do to our teeth, but for more information visit this National Health Service website: <http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/dentalhealth/Pages/GoOdhabitskids.aspx>

A further problem is caused by the litter that is left behind after pupils have eaten their lollipops at break and lunchtime. From the start of the new term, pupils will not be allowed to eat lollipops in school. I am sure you will agree it is better to get children into good eating habits as early as possible.

Coca Cola Real Business Challenge

Some great news from Villa Park, on Friday 10 February 2017, 6 boys from Year 10 won the 2017 West Midlands final of the Coca Cola Real Business Challenge. Congratulations go to Mrs Lowe and the boys, who have won an all expenses trip to the Coca Cola factory in London and £1000 to spend together on an activity adventure day of their choosing.

Despite around 100 West Midlands school's entering each year, we have now managed to win this competition for two successive years after finishing runners up in 2015. As a numeracy activity, I have calculated that the probability of this is 1 in 500,000!



Haseeb Ahmed, Raheem Din, George Kemp, Danyal Mahmood, Harvinder Singh and Yusuf Obadi

Student email address



All students will soon be issued with a school email address. This will enable them to send work between home and school more easily and will enable staff to use the pupils' email addresses to send and receive work if required. If you have any queries regarding this please contact Ms Sears on the usual school phone number : 0121 628 8787.

UKMT Maths Challenge

The University of Leeds runs a national maths competition for Year 9-11 pupils every February called the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge.

This is a multiple choice test with 25 very complex maths problems to solve within an hour. It is very difficult to pass this test, but if you do you are awarded with a Bronze, Silver or Gold Certificate. Below are the pupils who have passed and the certificate they have been awarded. Well done to these pupils for their fantastic achievement!

First Name	Last Name	Certificate
Dylan	Dando	Silver
Umar	Yousef	Silver
Yusuf	Obadi	Silver
Evie	Mash	Bronze
Kaenaat	Hussain	Bronze
Fatima	Nur	Bronze
Sana	Imtiaz	Bronze
Falak	Khan	Bronze
Thivitha	Sasikaran	Bronze
Munaza	Mir	Bronze
Mohammed	Khan	Bronze
Rafath	Chowdury	Silver
Elise	Jeffery	Silver
Tahreem	Zubida	Bronze
Umar	Farooq	Bronze
Sabah	Mahmood	Bronze
Hasnain	Zafar	Bronze
Hamad	Khan	Bronze
Shamira	Shahid	Bronze
Zarah	Nawaz	Bronze
Seyaam	Khan	Bronze
Zenub	Shahzad	Bronze
Murtaza	Darukhanawala	Bronze
Zohib	Asif	Bronze
Amaan	Ali	Bronze
Uzair	Hussain	Bronze

Class Charts



Have you created your account with Class Charts yet? Class Charts is available as a website or a smartphone app and gives you information on both the praises and penalties your

child has received and the homework that they have been set. All parents should have received a letter outlining how to create a Class Charts account and giving them a password. Please contact the school office if you need a duplicate of this, or help logging on.

PHSE – Personal, health and social education

Pupils at key stage 3 have learned about the following areas this year:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Growth mindset	Healthy relationships	Growth mindset
Anti-bullying	Child sexual exploitation	The holocaust
Sexual behaviour on public transport		Training for “New Start” wellbeing leads (mental and emotional health)
Healthy relationships		Child sexual exploitation
Peer on peer abuse		Contraception
Drugs education		Sexually transmitted illnesses
Female genital mutilation (girls)		Female genital mutilation (girls)
Joint enterprise and gang culture (boys)		Joint enterprise and gang culture (boys)
Mental health		
Child sexual exploitation		

Pupils in Year 10 and 11 have learned about mental health, while all pupils learned about how we should treat all people fairly and equally in a presentation from “Educate and Celebrate”.

In the next term, Year 9 will take part in a workshop on “anti-radicalisation” and Year 10 will be learning about sexually transmitted illnesses.

Hall Green School welcomes survivor from the Holocaust Educational Trust.



On Thursday 27 April 2017, GCSE History pupils from Year 10 will have the unique and inspirational opportunity to hear testimony from a remarkable Holocaust survivor, Janine Webber, as part of a visit organised by the Holocaust

Educational Trust (HET).

The testimony will be followed by a question and answer session to enable students to better understand the nature of the Holocaust and to explore its lessons in more depth. The visit is part of the Holocaust Educational Trust's extensive all year round Outreach Programme, which is available to schools across the UK.

Mrs Mali, History teacher at Hall Green School said:

"It is a privilege for us to welcome Janine Webber to our school and her testimony will remain a powerful reminder of the horrors so many experienced. We are grateful to the Holocaust Educational Trust for co-ordinating the visit and we hope that by hearing Janine's testimony, it will encourage our students to learn from the lessons of the Holocaust and make a positive difference in their own lives."

Information About Janine Webber



Janine was born in Lwow, Poland in 1932. Persecution of Jews in Lwow started very quickly after its German occupation in 1941.

Janine and her family were forced to move to an area on the outside of town in preparation for the establishment of a ghetto. On hearing that there would be a Nazi raid one day, Janine, her mother, and her brother hid in a hole that had been dug under the wardrobe. The Nazis discovered the other members of her family and her father was shot and she and her brother were deported to a concentration camp.

Janine was moved to the ghetto and her uncle was able to find her a non-Jewish family outside of the

ghetto who were prepared to hide her. She then went to live with another family with her brother but one day the Polish daughter of the family brought home an SS officer so she was forced to flee. Her brother was killed by the SS officer. She managed to find work as a shepherdess where she remained until the family she was living with learnt of her Jewish identity.

Janine's aunt had given her the name and address of a Polish man, Edek who was the caretaker of a convent in Lwow and she went to him and hid in the attic of a building where she was reunited with her aunt, uncle and 12 other Jews in hiding. Janine's aunt managed to obtain fake papers for her and she was taken to a convent.

6 months after the end of the war, Janine's aunt returned for her. Together, they left for Paris. In 1956, Janine came to England to improve her English where she met and married her husband. Today, Janine still lives in London and regularly shares her testimony with schoolchildren.

For more information about the Holocaust Educational Trust please visit www.het.org.uk

School Concert



School Concert

Tuesday 25th April 2017

6:30 to 8:00pm

Free Entrance

Parents, pupils and staff are all welcome to come along and hear the school band, choir, brass, string, guitar and woodwind groups as well as solo items.

Any queries please speak to any of the music staff.



Fundraising for LEPRO



Congratulations and well done to our Year 7 pupils for raising the fantastic sum of £779.42 for the charity

LEPRO. This amount is sufficient to help transform the lives of 31 children with leprosy. On behalf of LEPRO, Ms Wright would like to thank all the pupils and parents who gave so generously in support of this really worthwhile charity – well done all!

New Defibrillator for the school!!!

Hall Green School have recently purchased an automated external defibrillator (AED) to increase the First Aid provision at the school. This is in response to the growing number of pupils entering the school with a range of medical conditions and new guidelines from the Resuscitation Council.

It has been shown that effective CPR and the swift use of an AED can increase the chances of surviving a cardiac arrest by up to 75% in some instances.

A large number of cardiac arrests occur outside the hospital and therefore it is important that as many members of the public are trained in basic life support as possible to improve chances of survival should the unexpected happen.

We would like to extend an invitation to parents and their children to attend a Basic Life Support training session on Wednesday 24 May, from 4pm – 5pm. If you are interested in attending this course please respond to the email address below or contact school on the telephone number provided. All enquiries should be directed to **Mrs E. Smith**.

Email: enquiry@hallgreen.bham.sch.uk

Phone: 0121 628 8787



Linguists March 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: Muhammad Abbas Form: I6 Reason: For showing a more recent enthusiasm for the language and the Spanish culture.	Name: Iman Zahoor Form: L6 Reason: For catching up with homework and missed work very efficiently and promptly.
Mrs Evans	Name: Geanie Budulea Form: I1 Reason: Good effort and behaviour.	Name: Komaldeep Lall Form: R8 Reason: Excellent attitude to work.
Mr Taylor	Name: All of 7GE1 Form: Reason: For making an outstanding impression on all visitors to their class and continuing to show what an enthusiastic group they are.	Name: Mubashira Ramzan Form: I7 Reason: For continued positivity and hard work in German this year – well done!
Mrs Smallbone	Name: Faatimah Hossain Form: L3 Reason: Consistent hardwork and achievement.	Name: Ieda Omer Hassan Form: L2 Reason: Fantastic written work.
Mrs Morgan	Name: Nisha Faqir Form: R10 Reason: Fantastic work ethic and achievement	Name: Irra Noor Form: L10 Reason: Outstanding effort and attainment.



Geography Trip to Clent Hills

On February 3 and 10 2017, Year 8 students visited Clent Hills to enrich and deepen their understanding in Geography. It gave the pupils an opportunity to experience a different natural environment and also practice their orienteering skills. Despite the cold weather, pupils enjoyed the day and were an asset to the school! Here are some pictures of the day and the beautiful scenery:



Geography Year 10 trip to Bristol

On February 27 Year 10 GCSE Geography students visited the city of Bristol (recently named ‘the best place to live in Britain’ by The Times newspaper). As part of their work about changing urban environments, they carried out fieldwork that focused on the dramatic regeneration of the area that has been taking place over the last few years. They carried out surveys, interviewed tourists and local residents and enjoyed a boat trip around the harbour.



ParentPay

When paying for school trips online via ParentPay it is important that all payment deadlines are adhered to. Deadlines are set to ensure the school can make payments to the organising company in advance of any activities taking place. If your son/daughter is eligible for the Pupil Premium we may be able to help meet part of the cost of this activity. If financial assistance is required please contact Mr Hosfield via the usual school number. **Failure to pay by the deadline stated may result in your son/daughter being unable to participate** as once we have reached the closing date the trip will be removed from ParentPay so will no longer be available to pay for. We do not accept cash payments.

First World War Centenary Battlefields Tours Programme Trip

Last month myself (Mrs S Watkin), Jannayee Jarrett and Laila Naseem (Year 9) were fortunate to represent our school on the First World War Centenary Battlefields Tours Programme. This national programme was funded by the government to commemorate the First World War and gave us the opportunity to visit key battlefield sites in France and Belgium, to enrich our understanding of what happened 100 years ago and remember those who fought and died. Our tour started at 10am on a Sunday morning where we met at Digbeth Coach Station. It was here that we met the rest of our staff and pupils from a number of schools across the West Midlands and Newcastle! We spent the first of our three nights at an activity centre where Jannayee and Laila were taken off for team building activities on the high wires whilst I received a series of lessons on how to effectively teach lessons on the First World War!

Our second day started early and by 9am we were aboard the Eurotunnel and on way to our destination of Belgium. Our first stop took us to Lisijssnthoek Cemetery in Poperinge where every headstone held a story. We were very moved by the sheer number of headstones and the personal stories that could be attached to those who had died fighting. One of the most surprising revelations for the girls and me, was the number of Chinese Labour Corps workers who had been enlisted to dig

trenches and set up communication lines on the behalf of the Allies. It highlighted to us how this truly was a 'World War', with a total of 18 nationalities buried in the cemetery.



Our afternoon visit took us to the Memorial Museum at Passchendaele where, 100 years ago in 1917, fierce fighting took place to try and capture the village from the Germans. The battle took place in atrocious weather conditions and constant shelling by both sides reduced the battlefield to a sea of mud. The appalling conditions, in which some men drowned in the mud of the battlefields as well as thousands of others who died from machine gun or artillery fire, almost broke the spirit of both sides. The museum gave us an insight into the nature of life in the trenches as we were able to take a tour of a reconstruction of a series of First World War dugouts, shelters and trenches.



We spent our second night at Flanders Lodge in Ypres where we would be based for the duration of our stay in Belgium. We were very fortunate to

take part in the Ceremony of the Last Post at the Menin Gate on the evening. The Menin Gate is a memorial to the missing which was built after the war at one of the gateways that controlled entry into the city and the main route soldiers used on their way to the front line in the Salient. The memorial at the Menin Gate therefore has a great deal of significance and is the site for an act of remembrance that takes place



Dave (our serving soldier) Jannayee and Laila at the Last Post Ceremony

every night at 8.00pm. Today the memorial records the names of 54,406 soldiers from Britain and the Commonwealth who lost their lives and have no known grave in this part of Belgium. The Last Post

Ceremony is a unique act of remembrance which is not seen anywhere else in the world. For a few minutes every evening this part of the city falls silent as buglers from the city's fire brigade sound the Last Post: 'to commemorate and express the eternal gratitude towards the soldiers of the British Empire who fought and fell in the defence of the city and Ypres Salient, saving the independence and freedom of Belgium.' The first ceremony took place in 1928 upon the completion of the monument. The ceremony has taken place every night since that year apart from the four years that Belgium was under Nazi occupation. It remains an important place for those who still wish to remember and grieve the loss of family members whose body has never been identified. Two pupils from our tour laid a wreath on behalf of the tour group. When the bugles sound, shivers are sent down your spine. It is a very emotive experience and one we will never forget.



Our penultimate day saw us travelling into France to visit more memorials and cemeteries. We also visited two battlefield sites, one of which

has been preserved, in order to give us an idea of the terrain. Baumont Hamel and Newfoundland Memorial Park are associated with the Newfoundland Regiment (part of the commonwealth) and were all but wiped out on the first day of the Battle of the Somme on 1 July 1916. Most of the men who took part in the attack on the German front lines got no further than the front line, with few making it as far as the 'Danger Tree' which is still visible in the park today. The regiment suffered 680 casualties within the first 30 minutes of the battle, effectively wiping it out. The Battle of the Somme was a disaster for the British with 54,000 casualties on the first day and a total of 111,200 men (from both sides) by the end of the battle.

In the afternoon we visited Thiepval Memorial, a memorial to the 'Missing of the Somme' and one of the highest points of land on the old Somme battlefield. The names of 72,192 missing British and South African men, who died on the Somme battlefields and have no grave, are etched onto its walls.



Sergeant Major Robert Malin

It was here that we were given the task to find the name of Robert Malin, a company Sergeant Major of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment who signed up for the war in 1914. He was an experienced soldier who had seen previous action in

Burma, India and South Africa. He lived just up the road at 65 Bromyard Road in Hall Green. His story brought alive the war and reminded us how the men that fought for our countries would have walked the same streets as us, and fought to allow us the freedoms we have today.

Our evening workshop that night was on 'The equipment of a British Soldier: then and now'. Alongside our expert historian we were also joined on our trip by three current serving soldiers, one of whom serves with the dog bomb disposal team in Afghanistan. Their first-hand experience and knowledge of warfare was a fascinating and valuable insight into the life of a soldier. We had the opportunity to try on a soldier's equipment from past and present which was a very fun and interesting experience! Despite all the changes in modern warfare it became clear to us that some elements of being a soldier, such as the psychological side of warfare, never change.



Our final day came all too soon and saw us packed up and on the road at 8.00am. Our first stop was at a 'Coming World Remember Me Workshop'. This workshop is part of a commemoration art programme, similar to the Tower of London Poppies project. Each pupil created a



A commemorative pottery figure.

pottery figure which will form part of a memorial to the 600,000 killed in Flanders during the First World War.

Our last visits took us to two cemeteries, very different in feel and appearance. Langemark Cemetery marks the point where heavy fighting took place during the First Battle of Ypres in 1914. It was occupied by the Germans following the

Second Battle of Ypres in 1915 and also featured in the 1917 battles. Following the war Langemark became the site of the only German war cemetery in the Salient. Upon your entrance to the cemetery you pass a huge concrete plinth that hold the names of 25,000 soldiers and airmen who lie in a mass grave underneath. This cemetery was so different to the others we had visited. The Germans were not welcomed by the Flemish to use their land to remember their dead therefore mass graves were used to make the most of the small amount of space they had available to them.



Our last stop took us to Tyne Cot Cemetery, the main cemetery of the Salient. Work began on the cemetery in 1922

and took five years to complete. Tyne Cot is a staggering place and is the largest British and Commonwealth cemetery in the world. It was here that we found our second soldier that we were asked to investigate at the beginning of the tour. Private Alfred Edwin Neal of the Royal Marine Light Infantry hailed from Brandon Road in Hall Green and like his fellow Hall Green resident Robert Malin, signed up to defend king and country. In the two years that he served in the war he saw action in Gallipoli and the Western Front. His life was cut short at the age of 19 on a battlefield in The Battle for Passchendaele on the 26th of October 100 years ago.

We arrived back in Birmingham at 8.00pm on our fourth day of the tour, tired but very appreciative of the experience we were able to take part in. We have been encouraged to share our experiences with at least 110 people within the local community. If all 8,800 participating students were to participate in the '110 Legacy' project then we will have had an impact on 888,246 people in communities across

England - this equates to the number of British and Commonwealth soldiers who died in the First World War. We are currently working on a project that we hope will inform and engage our community on the experiences of those who fought



and died in The First World War. We aim to reveal

this later in the year. In the meantime we hope you have enjoyed reading about our experience, are more enlightened about the First World War and appreciate the importance of keeping alive the memory of those who defended our nation. Please share this with another member of our community to help us achieve our '110 Legacy' aim.

Careers News

Year 10 Careers in Law

A group of pupils had the opportunity to go to the University of Law in the city centre recently. Here they got to talk to range of people including a Barrister, a Solicitor, a Paralegal, a Magistrates Clerk, a Law Lecturer and three Law Apprentices. This was a fun and informative day where the pupils demonstrated great maturity and engagement. If you would like to find out more please see

www.lawcareers.net/BeginnersGuide/Intro

National Apprenticeships Week

There are some pupils who are considering an apprenticeship as an option for when they leave school. A group of pupils was taken to the Birmingham Indoor Convention Centre to meet a range of employers, colleges and training providers to find out about the apprenticeships they have to offer. As a whole school pupils found out the facts of an apprenticeship and watched some videos of real apprentices in form time. You can find them here www.getingofar.gov.uk/meet-the-apprentices Following on from that some year 11 students had a session to introduce The National Apprenticeships website where they can view and apply for vacancies. www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

We have also had a representative from Birmingham Metropolitan College signing up year 11 pupils in school for the apprenticeship vacancies they have.

Lastly, for those pupils that want to access an apprenticeship at 18 instead, there will be a rise in the number of higher and degree level apprenticeships available, which would be alternative to full time university. You can find out more here <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and->

[work-experience/apprenticeships/degree-apprenticeships](#)

Post 16 Options

This last half term has been an important time for our Year 11 pupils in securing their places in further education for September. This is something all of Year 11 should now have in place, except for a small number who have interviews coming up over the next few weeks. With thanks to The Birmingham Careers Service, our external Careers Advisor has now met with every Year 11 pupil to ensure they have independent, impartial advice and guidance, making sure they fully understand the options available to them and are making the right choices for their future.

Year 10 Work Experience

Please can we remind pupils and parents/carers that the placement week is Monday 17 to Friday 21 July. However, we need the details given in as soon as possible in order for the paperwork and placement checks to be carried out. If you have made arrangements, please can you bring the completed 'Placement Details Form' into school. A spare copy can be found on the school website in Pupils > Work Experience. We know how difficult it can be to find organisations that offer work experience but as it is such a valuable experience we urge you to try as many places as possible. If you have already made contact with employers and have not had a response, please try to contact them again to see if there is something they could offer. We aim to have as many pupils as possible on placements, as this is something pupils benefit from enormously. As well as having the experience on their CVs, colleges, universities and future employers will ask about any work experience they have had.

The Success at School website has some tips on how to find work experience as well as some vacancies. Do look out for age restrictions and locations.

<https://successatschool.org/advisedetails/69/How-to-Find-Work-Experience>

Design & Technology Year 9 Careers Talk

This half term, year 9 pupils have been invited to attend careers talk

delivered by specialists from the **Food Industry and Engineering**. Our visiting Chef has worked in many different sectors of catering from teaching, working in Michelin star restaurants, catering for celebrities and now owns his own restaurant in Henley. He was able to share both his learning experiences and experience of how careers can



evolve in the work place. Our visiting Engineer is based at Jaguar Landrover and provided a real and current insight in this work sector through his presentation. This



included apprenticeships, product development and quality control on the production line.

Pupils had the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding about the different career pathways available through Design & Technology KS4 options. Our visitors were both impressed with Hall Green pupils' behaviour and their response during these presentations

PE Updates

Birmingham Winter School Games 2017 Year 9/10 Handball

This was the first year that we had qualified for the boys' handball competition, so this was a new experience for our handball team. There was some tough opposition within this competition, which ultimately saw our boys finish in 10th place. They should still be proud to have reached the finals so well done to Ahmar James, Faizan Tanveer, Zee Hussain, Jeremie Kwanzambi-Beni, George Kemp, Raziq Malakhil, Bilal Siddiqi, Amron Singh and Dominic Liburd. Thanks also to Miss Gosal who has been training them.

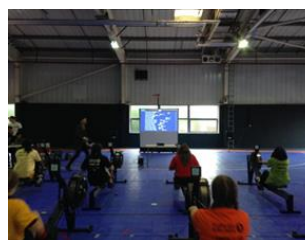
Rowing

Our Year 9 girls, Year 11 girls and Year 10 boys all competed in their respective years' rowing competition with some very closely fought races indeed. As well as rowing in a team race, the pupils all rowed individually in heats, with the top 12 competing in the finals for the medals. The pupils should all be proud of their performances- we were very close to the medals! The Year 9 girls finished overall 7th, the Year 11 girls finished overall 4th and the Year 10 boys finished overall 5th. Well done to the following pupils:

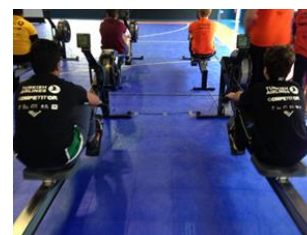
Year 9 Girls Laila Naseem, Manal Mahmoud, Mariea Shaheen, Tegan Smith

Year 10 Boys: Dylan Dando, Shahalam Bhatti, Darshan Dave, Barnes Collard

Year 11 Girls: Natasha Dey, Jasmine Smith, Kate Biddulph and Lucy Wilson and of course Miss Gosal who has been training them and Miss Reed who accompanied them on the day.



Left: The first race about to begin.



Above: Darshan and Barnes ready to row!



Left: Natasha clearly having fun!

Girls' Football –The team finished overall 6th

Our Year 8 girls, trained by Miss Gosal competed in the Football competition where they demonstrated great enthusiasm as a team, working well together and stayed determined during their matches. The girls should all be proud of their performances and finished overall 6th. Well done to the following pupils: Aaliyah Shah, Zaina Hussain, Mashaal Chughtai, Bibi-Ruqayah Rehman, Sally Abdulla, Shanice Price, Simran Sandhu

Boccia

Mrs Paxton-Gault is very pleased to announce that her Boccia teams were in top form once again! The Pan team consisting of Jamie Bridgman, Gemma Liszewski and Naseeb Ur-Rehman were in an extremely close competition and missed out narrowly by only one extra point, resulting in a very respectable 3rd position in Birmingham. Well Done!



The Taverners' team had their reputation at stake and proved supreme once again; winning the entire tournament by a clear margin, this means they qualified for the national finals, representing Birmingham for the third year running! They will now be attending a sports presentation evening later this month. Well done to Ibraheem Ali, Rebecca Bates and Lashana Powell.

Badminton

The KS3 and KS4 girls' teams played against some tough competition at this year's tournament. They all played to their absolute best, but sadly the KS4 team finished in 4th place overall and the KS3 team came 3rd in their pool.



KS3 team: Tasleemah Khan, Hafsa Mouzam, Jannayee Jarrett, Sheetal Gareja, Maheen Anwar.



KS4 team: Bushra Sajid, Amani Chavda-Wann, Bethan Harris, Mahfoozah Ghaffar.

Lady Taverners' U15 Indoor Cricket Finals

Match report by Amani Chavda-Wann, Munaza Mir, Bushra Sajid, Furayhah Aslam, Manal Mahmoud, Annie Davies, Shomara Fuller, Farisa Khan and Hassana Gul

We came third in our pool on the day but there was some exceptional wicket keeping from Furayhah and some great bowling from Annie and first-timer Munaza. Our batting was brilliant; there was a superb partnership between Amani and Bushra and Hassana, Manal and Shomara showed great skills in their batting, adding to our run totals in each match. Farisa was an inspiring team player and kept our team spirit high.



Apart from our players, Miss Reed and Mrs Smith were amazing coaches that were always giving us



good advice, keeping us motivated and providing awesome support, even when we were losing.

Overall, we had a fantastic tournament and a great day because of our outstanding teamwork and coaching.

Turkish Airlines Birmingham School Games Primary and Secondary Athletics Leaders

Once again, our fantastic sports leaders were in action at the Level 3 School Games Athletics Finals on Tuesday 14 February at The Doug Ellis Sports Centre. Due to their exceptional leadership skills, our leaders were selected to officiate this year's event- something we have done for the past several years. After a very early start, the leaders were kept on their toes throughout the day officiating the Primary year 5/6 athletics and the Secondary year 7 and 8 girls' and boys' finals. Miss Reed who organised and accompanied the trip lost count of how many times staff complimented the leaders, saying they were professional, encouraging, fair and hardworking throughout the day. This was not only event staff but also teachers from a variety of primary and secondary schools.

Anecdotes include:

*'Leaders were awesome and really took to their positions well and showed great stamina in maintaining consistency throughout the day'
'Brilliant- a huge credit to the school'*

A huge well done to all our sports leaders- 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 Left: Laila and Jannayee officiating the Standing Long Jump and Above Right: Mariea, Bilal and Saagar officiating the Stranding triple jump.

The team at the end of a busy day!



Panathlon

After clinching the national finals for the Panathlon in November, the team has lost a few of their older members as they have left school. Mrs Paxton-Gault and Mr Craddock have been running Thursday lunchtime sessions trying to recruit new talent to join the most successful Hall Green team and train the group up to the exceptional standard of the past.

The Birmingham finals took place earlier this month and the school could not be prouder of the way the new team members and combinations stepped up to the challenge. They won a multitude of the events and demonstrated self-management, coaching and leadership skills too. We are yet again through to the national finals taking place next November- outstanding once again!

Maria Ahmed in the wheelchair race



Football Matches

Since the start of this academic year, our girls' football team have been training in preparation for some matches against some local opposition. Our girls have played Moseley School and Ark Kings Academy to date. Well done Girls!

Netball Match v Ninestiles

The Year 8 netball team have had a very dominant season and have been performing extremely well. They have been committed to training and been trying out new team combinations, Miss Reed and Mrs Paxton-Gault have been very proud of their outstanding wins. The final match this season was against Ninestiles School where they took on a mixed group of Year 8 and 9 pupils. They absolutely shone, winning 15-0. Congratulations to Bibi-Ruqayah Rehman, who was voted player of the match. Netball sessions will now cease until September as we concentrate on Summer activities.

Summer Extracurricular Sports Clubs

When we return after the Easter holiday, the PE department will be putting together a new timetable of predominantly summer sport activity clubs. These will be posted on the school website and in every classroom in the school. We would like you to encourage your child to attend a new club in the summer, or begin attending if they haven't already. All clubs will start the second week of the summer term.

Active Kids Vouchers



The school are collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers again, so if you are collecting them please do pass them on to a member of staff in the staffroom or your form tutor to deposit in the collection box.

World Book Day



Hall Green School staff promoted World Book Day on the 12 March by dressing up as a book character.

Local Pollution Alert

A local resident has raised concerns about the increased smell of exhaust fumes coming from the cars that are parked on Sarehole Road, Stonerwood Avenue, and Southam Road from 3pm to collect their children from school. They have politely asked that whilst waiting for your children to come out of school could you please turn your engines off.

Here are some interesting and thought provoking facts about leaving your car engine idling:

- A vehicle that is parked or waiting with its engine turned on for 30 seconds or more is classed as idling.
- Idling not only pollutes the air, but it wastes fuel and money.
- An idling car uses between 1/5 to 7/10 of a gallon of fuel an hour.
- Turn off your engine if you're waiting for longer than 10 seconds. Contrary to popular belief, restarting your car does not burn more fuel than leaving it idling, in fact, idling for just 10 seconds wastes more fuel than restarting the engine.
- Idling is harder on the engine than restarting, frequent restarting causes only a few £'s worth of wear-and-tear per year, whereas idling leaves fuel residues that damage engine components and cause higher maintenance costs over time.
- Idling for a few minutes every day can cost you several pounds per week – which doesn't seem like much, but adds up in the long run.
- Two minutes of idling uses the same amount of fuel as 1 mile of driving – *according to the Consumer Energy Center.*
- An idling vehicle emits 20 times more pollution than one traveling at 30 miles per hour.
- One idling vehicle can put out up to 3 pounds of pollution per month into the air we breathe.
- Idling vehicles in school zones can be hard on young lungs, triggering asthma and



exposing students to harmful pollution. Did you know, children breathe 50% more air per pound than adults? Children are also closer to the ground, so they are also closer to vehicle exhaust pipes

Our Newsletter is going Digital

Some of you may have noticed that we have sent a copy of the Newsletter to your inbox. From next issue (w/c 22 May 2017) all copies will be distributed via your email accounts. Parents, if you DO NOT receive a copy in your inbox please advise the school office, who will then update your email address on the school database. 0121 628 8787



Yardley Trust Foundation

Yardley Trust Foundation offers an Education Grant to parents whose children are eligible for Free School Meals (whether taken or not) and/or in receipt of maximum Child Tax Credit due to their overall income being below £16,500 p.a. this year. If any Parent/Carers feel that they meet this criteria an application can be downloaded from the school website www.hallgreen.bham.sch.uk. The deadline for this year's application submission is the 7 July.

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 Keep Kids Safe 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 February 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 before Easter 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



Friday 7 April 1:20pm
Break up for Easter
Holidays

Monday 24 April
Return to school
Normal timings

Tuesday 25 April
School Concert

Monday 01 May
Bank Holiday
School Closed

Thursday 04 May
Local Elections
School Closed except to
Y10 taking exams

Monday 15 May
GCSE Exams commence

Mr D Adams
Headteacher