



“Learning together, Shaping the future”

Hall Green Summer Term Newsletter

May 2017

Message from the Headteacher

Year 11 GCSEs

By the time you read this Year 11 will have started their exams. I spoke to them in their last ever assemblies last week about the importance of doing their best at this crucial time in their educational career. The last thing they want to do is open their results letters in August and regret that they didn't put in enough effort. And there's always time to make a difference, however much revision you have done. Good luck to everyone, and we look forward to celebrating with them in August.

Parent Governor

I am sad to report that Mrs Golos, one of our parent governors, has taken the decision to step down as governor. She brought valuable expertise to the Governing Body and we are very sorry to lose her, but are very grateful to her for the time she has managed to spare for us in her busy schedule.

This, though, means that there is now a vacancy for a parent governor so the Governors would like to invite parents who are interested in acting as a governor to contact Mr Poulton, Clerk to the Governors, via the school office to express their interest in the role in the first instance. In particular, the Governors are looking for a parent governor with a financial, legal or professional background to supplement our existing team. Please get in touch to find out more about the role. All expressions of interest are welcome.

Ramadan

As we approach Ramadan, I would like to share a guide produced by the Department of Health called *Healthy Ramadan*, which parents may find useful.

www.nhs.uk/livewell/healthyramadan/Pages/healthyramadanhome.aspx

As a caring school we will do our best to support any student who chooses to fast, as we respect this is a personal decision. In hot weather the school hall is open during break and lunchtimes to allow pupils to rest, away from the busy playground and from areas serving food and drink.

For pupils entitled to free school meals, the canteen can prepare a package of food for pupils to have at the Iftar meal in the evening. Please contact the school if you would like to take advantage of this service.

Please be aware that the school has a duty to safeguard pupils in its care. This means that if a member of staff has a concern about a fasting pupil, for example if they display signs of exhaustion or dehydration, they may be advised to terminate the fast by drinking water. We will of course attempt to contact parents in cases of this kind.

Again we wish to assure you that Hall Green Secondary will give your child our full support for their decision with regards to fasting during Ramadan.

Polling Day 8 June 2017

Hall Green School will be used again as a polling station for the upcoming general election on 8 June 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 Year 11 GCSE Maths exams will attend school as normal in their uniform and then go home once they have completed their exam.

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.

Visit from a Holocaust Survivor



On Thursday 27 April 2017, Year 10 History pupils at Hall Green School had the absolute privilege of meeting and listening to Holocaust survivor Janine Webber, who spoke about her experiences of living

through the Nazi occupation of Poland during World War 2. All of the pupils commented on the wonderful and inspirational day we experienced and I would like to say a massively heartfelt thank you to Janine for taking so much time and effort to visit us at Hall Green School. All of the staff and pupils involved were so appreciative and moved by her truly remarkable story. I really think they will all remember her message of tolerance and kindness for a long time. If you would like to know more about Janine's life story please check the Holocaust Educational Trust website for more details.



PSHE Activities

The following PSHE activities are planned during May and June

Year 9

Each group will take part in a two hour workshop with Birmingham Youth Service on “**anti-radicalisation**” exploring how and why young people can become radicalised. The dates are as follows:

Monday 15 May 9H and 9L
Tuesday 16 May 9N and 9E
Wednesday 24 May 9R and 9G

Year 10

On Friday 30 June, Year 10 will be watching a stage production by Loudmouth theatre company entitled “Trust me”, which is on the subject of **sexual health**. They will then take part later in the day, in a one hour workshop (in single sex groups) which follows on from this.

All years PSHE programme during form time

There will be no more assemblies until July as the hall will be in use for exams. During form time, pupils will follow a couple of different themes.

From now until the 8 June, the theme will be the **General Election** and pupils will be looking at “Why is it important to vote?”, “What do the main parties stand for?” and “How are the votes counted?”. There will also be a mock election on June 7 where pupils will get the chance to vote, with each of the 40 form groups counting as one constituency. The debating club will also be staging debates with a General Election theme and forms will enter a house competition where pupils will summarise what they have learned on the themes above in the form of a poster.

During the rest of the month of June, pupils will be looking at the theme of “**water safety**” in form time.

Independent Careers Guidance

Hall Green School works in close partnership with The Birmingham Careers Service, with all of our Year 11 and 26 of our Year 10 pupils having now received a 1 to 1 careers guidance appointment. This enabled pupils to talk about suitable post 16 pathways with an independent, impartial advisor. In the community Birmingham Careers Service is a free and friendly support service providing careers information, advice and guidance to young people age 16 to 19 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). If a young person has a learning difficulty and/or disability then they can help them until they are 25. If your child is in Year 11 and requires further support with their decisions over the summer holidays for September they can see an advisor in a

number of outreach centres. You can call 0121 675 6105 or see their website. Our nearest centre is All Saints Project, Vicarage road, Kings Heath, Birmingham B14 7RA open Tuesdays 1.00 - 3.00 pm.

<http://www.birminghamcareersservice.co.uk/visit-us/>

Year 10 Practice Interviews Day

Congratulations to all the Year 10 pupils who experienced a Practice Interview on Friday 5 May with one of the 22 volunteers we had in school. Pupils prepared a CV and a Progress File as evidence of their achievements. This day was aimed to make pupils more aware of their personal strengths and qualities. As well as getting them to think about possible career goals and how to conduct themselves in a formal conversation in preparation for real future interviews.

The pupils made an excellent impression with our volunteers with their positive attitudes. Pupils should now carefully consider the feedback on the forms they have received to further improve upon for their Post 16 interviews in Year 11. Our sincere thanks goes out to all the following organisations.

Amey
Army
Birmingham City University
Birmingham Metropolitan College
Blackberry Design
DXC Technologies
Highways Agency
Logan Lovells LLP (Computer Science)
Lloyds Bank
Platinum People
Siemens
Solihull College
Stratford College
Trilby Multimedia
University of Birmingham
West Midlands Police
Kings Norton Surgery

Linguists May 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: Amirah Wilayat Form: L7 Reason: Recently improved attitude and impeccable behaviour. Also for keeping her book neat and working harder in lessons. Well done Amirah keep it up!	Name: Bhavesh Ladwa Form: I3 Reason: A growing interest in the subject and for putting lots of effort into revision towards the exams. Well done Bhavesh! Keep it up!
Mrs Evans	Name: Abbas Ali Form: S8 Reason: Consistently hardworking and always trying his best.	Name: Adil Banaris Form: R8 Reason: Much improved effort and progress.
Mr Taylor	Name: Faatimah Beg Form: L3 Reason: Well prepared for assessments and always shows a fantastic attitude to learning.	Name: Esra Omar Form: S2 Reason: Always comes to German with enthusiasm! Keep up the hard work.
Mrs Smallbone	Name: Ayaan Zaman Form: L1 Reason: Consistent hardwork and great participation.	Name: Dania Nasir Form: S10 Reason: Positive attitude to revision and enthusiasm for French language and culture.
Mrs Morgan	Name: Bonnie Haughey Form: I3 Reason: Much improved effort and attitude to learning and great participation in lessons.	Name: Hamza Shah Form: L9 Reason: Perverserence and improved attainment in listening and reading assessment.

Summer Concert 2017



Congratulations and thank you to all of the pupils who took part in this year's Summer Concert, which was held just after the Easter break. As usual, we saw

high standards from all of the pupils involved, which is only possible from continuous hard work and commitment to their musical study and participation.

We are sad to see all of our Year 11 pupils leave us this year, to see them grow from Year 7 pupils to young adults in Year 11 has been fantastic, and we have enjoyed working with them all on their musical journey through Hall Green School. We wish them all the success for the future.



"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 Schools Welfare & Inclusion Manager will be holding another drop-in session on Thursday 15 June 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.

Year 9/10 GCSE Geography trip to Aberdovey

During the weekend of 28-30 April, 48 pupils enjoyed a challenging, geographical weekend in and around Aberdovey in Snowdonia. Pupils were encouraged to get out of their comfort zone and learn more about their environment and themselves. The Outward Bounds Trust enabled pupils to enjoy mountain walking, kayaking, gorge walking, mine

exploration amongst many other activities which encouraged geographical understanding, team-building and personal development. Here are some quotes from the pupils;

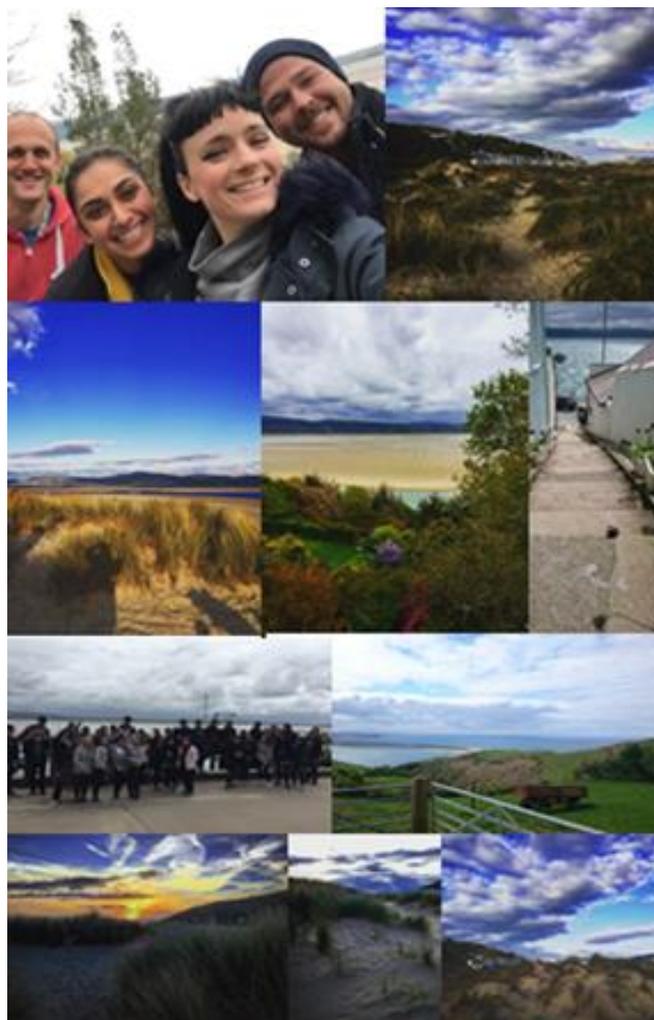
"I learnt that I needed to believe in myself to do the challenging activities"

"Jumping off the jetty into the sea was the best bit about the trip because I didn't think I could do it, but I did!"

"The kayaking was the hardest bit of the trip as I found it very challenging. But I pushed myself, worked hard and succeeded."

"The best thing about the trip was being in a completely different environment. There's nowhere like that in Birmingham!"

"The best thing about the trip was having a campfire on the beach and watching the sun go down."



UKMT Junior Maths Challenge Results

The University of Leeds runs a national maths competition for Year 7-8 pupils every May called the UKMT Junior 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 either 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!

YR	FIRSTNAME	LASTNAME	FORM	AWARD
8	Mohammad	Suliman	R3	Gold
8	Umair	Ahmed	L3	Gold
8	Saffa	Hussain	R1	Silver
8	Zaina	Hussain	L2	Silver
8	Hamza	Ali	R10	Silver
8	Safa	Ali Bostan	S6	Silver
8	Muhammad	Bilal	L10	Silver
8	Phillip	Croucher	I4	Silver
8	Aleeha	Rasul	S10	Bronze
8	Tanisha	Rahman	S5	Bronze
8	Mariam	Hussain	S9	Bronze
8	Imogen	Jeffery	S7	Bronze
8	Zahra	Ali	R6	Bronze
8	Faraaz	Hussain	R10	Bronze
8	Ammar	Hussain	R4	Bronze
8	Anisah	Begum	R6	Bronze
7	Mosan	Nadeem	L3	Gold
7	Hasan	Sajid	I1	Silver
7	Amna	Shoukat	R1	Bronze
7	Muhammad	Ali	R9	Bronze
7	Sarah	Ishaq	I9	Bronze

PE Update

Turkish Airlines Birmingham School Games – Winter celebration evening 2017

On Wednesday 29 March Hall Green School were invited to attend the Winter Celebration evening where we would receive our trophy for winning the Level 3 School Games Boccia competition. It was an evening of presentations and performances which was attended by Rebecca Bates and Ibraheem

Ali who were part of the team, Miss Reed, Mrs Paxton-Gault, Mrs Smith, Miss Gosal and Mr Craddock. Unfortunately, Lashana Powell who was also part of the winning team was unable to attend.

It was also an extra special occasion, because unbeknown to the department at the time, we were also nominated and subsequently successful for the award of 'Developing School Games' for the second year in a row for our continued commitment to PE, School Sport and the School Games programme.

The PE department and the School are extremely proud of this award, and would also like to thank parents/carers for supporting their child in attending clubs and competitions outside of the normal school day. This award would not be possible without your support. Both the staff and the pupils also got to meet and have their photo taken with Ceara Teol, who competes for Great Britain Women's Deaf football team who also won Bronze at the World cup last year in Italy.



Above: Rebecca and Ibraheem taking their photo opportunity with Ceara after collecting their trophy for winning the Boccia competition 2016!



Left: The PE Team with Ceara (central left), Mrs Smith, Miss Reed, Mrs Paxton Gault, Miss Gosal and Mr Craddock

Outstanding Sporting Achievement – Tegan Smith

Over the weekend of the 22/23 April, Tegan Smith (Year 9) competed at the Synchronised Swimming British championships. Tegan came 35th individually and missed out on bronze by 0.133 points in her team. She was competing against the best in the country! Well done Tegan- keep up the great work!

Active Kids Vouchers

A reminder that the school are still collecting the active kids vouchers. If you have any vouchers please pass them on to a member of school staff who can deposit them in the Staff room. Thank you to everyone who has donated vouchers so far!

Coming up:

With Summer events due to start very soon, keep an eye out for our teams competing in the following sports: Year 7/8 rounders, Year 9/10 rounders, KS3 girls cricket and the boys cricket leagues. If you would like to get involved please speak to a member of the PE department.

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 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 Easter 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 Whitsun 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



23 & 24 May
Year 7 Trip Warwick
Castle

Friday 26 May
Year 11 Leave 8:20 – 12:00

Friday 26 May
Break up for half term
Normal Timings

Monday 5 June
Return to school
Normal timings

Thursday 8 June
Closed for Polling Day

Monday 26 June
School Closed to pupils for
Teacher Training Day

Thursday 29 June
New Year 7 Intake Evening

Friday 30 June
Year 11 Trip Alton Towers

Thursday 6 July
Year 11 Prom

Mr D Adams
Headteacher