



# “Learning together, Shaping the future”

## Hall Green Newsletter Summer Term May 2018

### Message from the Headteacher

#### Year 11

Our GCSEs have started in earnest now. Year 11 have been working hard and preparing for these crucial exams. We wish them all the best and look forward to celebrating their successes in the summer. In the meantime, they should stick to their revision schedules and make sure they talk to their teachers for guidance and support, as there's always time to make a difference, however much revision you have done.



#### Healthy Habits



One of the messages we share with pupils preparing for GCSEs is the importance of healthy habits to help them get ready for the exams, but the same message is important for all pupils. This means regular meals, including a balanced breakfast to set them up for the day ahead, and getting enough sleep. In connection with this parents will be aware that the sugar tax came into effect on Friday 6 April as the government response to concerns about the effects of too much sugar on children's health. The BBC reported on the introduction of the sugar tax, quoting

Public Health Minister Steve Brine: "Our teenagers consume nearly a bathtub of sugary drinks each year on average, fuelling a worrying obesity trend. The levy is a ground-breaking policy that will help to reduce sugar intake." You can read the full article here. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-43659124>

At Hall Green we notice the impact of sugary drinks on pupils' attitudes to learning, as high levels of sugar consumed quickly make it harder for children to focus in class and contribute positively to lessons. For this reason, sugary drinks and so-called 'energy' drinks are not allowed in school. Pupils who bring them into school will have them confiscated and the drinks will be thrown away.

The best drink for children is water. Refrigerated bottled water is sold in the canteen, along with other drinks with levels of sugar that meet government guidelines, but parents who wish to avoid the use of single-use plastics will prefer their child to use a re-usable water bottle to fill up at no cost at one of the school water fountains.

#### Computer Games



Staying on the theme of healthy habits, this week we carried out a quick straw poll of a typical form group to find out about pupils' use of computer games. The results were quite shocking, and worth sharing with parents. In a form of 23 pupils, 10 out of the 11 boys in the form played computer games, some of them for more than 10 hours over the weekend and five of them for 15 hours or more. Eleven pupils admitted to playing games that are certified 18 and over.

Computer Games can be an enjoyable and diverting way to spend your free time, but they can also be a great waste of valuable time and allow under age pupils access to some very graphic adult material. Nationally boys underperform in exams when compared to girls, which comes as no surprise if boys are spending a large amount of their free time on computer games rather than on homework or independent

study, such as personal reading. I would encourage all parents to monitor their children's use of computer games and social media to make sure they are not overused and their school work suffers as a result.

## 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/healthylamadan/Pages/healthylamadanhome.aspx](http://www.nhs.uk/livewell/healthylamadan/Pages/healthylamadanhome.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, pupils are welcome to come into school during break and lunchtimes to make use of one of the rooms that we keep open for pupils 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 Ifthar 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.



## Hardwick Hall



After our snow day set back, our Year 11 History pupils successfully carried out their GCSE preparation work whilst on our trip to Hardwick Hall on 1 May. The purpose of the trip was to gain an understanding of the features of Hardwick Hall, a typical Elizabethan



stately home of the late 14th century. Our pupils demonstrated an excellent knowledge of the Elizabethan era whilst walking around the property and fully engaged in the tasks that were set. Numerous members of staff at the property were very complimentary about our pupils and their engagement in the work they were carrying out. One tour guide in particular said that we were by far the best Secondary school who had visited the property this year. Thank you to everyone involved in the planning of the trip, the teachers who accompanied us and the pupils for their engagement and excellent behaviour!



## Pride Youth Network

This term three representatives of Hall Green's Pride Youth Network, along with Ms Hannan and Ms Wilson, attended the PYN conference at Goldsmiths University in London. Laila Khan, Ayla-Belma Hadzovic and Shereen Hussain accepted an award recognising the fantastic work taking place in our PYN club. The club meet every Tuesday lunch time in room 27 to educate and celebrate equality and diversity. All staff and students are welcome to attend. If you would like to know more, please see Ms Hannan.



## Royal Wedding



Two of our Year 10 students Shomara Fuller S6 and Komal Kaur S2 have been invited to attend the Royal Wedding, to represent The Diana Award Mentoring Programme. Only seven young people across the whole of the Diana Award Programme (including one flying in from Canada) have been invited so our pupils are two members of a very elite group! The girls catch an early train to London on Friday morning and will be doing practice interviews throughout the day. In the evening they have a meal at their hotel, the Hilton no less, and then they are interviewed by

Sky News between 7-8pm.

On Saturday 19 May, they attend the wedding then have a picnic provided for them by Waitrose and after the whole proceedings, there may be even more media calls!

We wish them a totally fab day and look forward to hearing all about it when they come back in to school.

## GDPR Update: Privacy notices now online



Privacy notices are available to view on our website (<http://www.hallgreen.bham.sch.uk/policies/>). They provide details regarding pupils, parents and pupils who are looked after (CLA). We also remind anybody who has not yet responded in regards to photographic consent to please complete

the form sent home with your child or respond to our email notification. We continue to work diligently towards the May 25 deadline and are ensuring we are fully compliant with GDPR and data protection legislation.

## School Council

### School Council: Seen and heard!



Recently, your School Council have been working hard to improve your experiences and make Hall Green School a better place. We have already informed you that we successfully lobbied for canteen menu changes, and we are now planning some redecoration in the canteen area. Your feedback in regards to form reading has also led to some funding being made available to purchase new books, and we are currently collecting your thoughts as to which books we should buy. Thank you all for your input, you are being "Seen and heard!"

## PSHE programme



Friday 20 April 2018 saw our Year 9 pupils take part in a day of PSHE activities focused on learning about sex and relationships. The day was very successful, with guest speakers delivering sessions and commenting on how well the pupils behaved and dealt with some difficult topics. Loudmouth Theatre Company delivered a stage performance addressing the issues of healthy relationships and grooming, the school nurse team delivered 2 sessions, one on contraception and one on sexually transmitted infections and we had staff from school deliver sessions on personal hygiene. Pupils will now be asked to feed back through an online survey to help us to plan future events.

For anyone that was absent on the day or would just like some information please see advice of where you can go below, all this information is also available on our school website.

Anyone who was absent on the day, or would just like further information, should visit the websites below.

[www.umbrellahealth.co.uk](http://www.umbrellahealth.co.uk) (0121 237 5700)

<http://www.loudmouth.co.uk/>

### Assemblies

During the exam period, because desks are out in the hall, there will be no assemblies. Pupils will carry out a number of PSHE activities during form time. Topics to be covered currently include:

- Energy drinks
- Healthy eating
- Sign language and inclusion.

On June 29, pupils in Year 10 will be watching a stage production by Loudmouth Theatre Company entitled “Trust me”, which looks at sexually transmitted illnesses. They will then take part in a follow-up workshop the same day.

## UKMT Junior Maths Challenge

Well done to the below pupils who have passed the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge! UKMT is a national multiple choice competition run by Leeds University which asks some very challenging maths questions. It is a fantastic achievement to pass, congratulations!

Year	Name	Form	Score	Certificate
8	Umar Choudhry	S5	82	Gold
8	Mosan Nadeem	L3	76	Gold
8	Hasan Sajid	I1	64	Silver
8	Asim Azam	I8	59	Bronze
8	Akshayah Sasikaran	S5	58	Bronze
8	Ibraheem Safdar	S7	54	Bronze
8	Oscar Hook-Evans	R10	51	Bronze
8	Uzayr Rafiq	L6	50	Bronze
8	Yaseen Qaiser	I4	50	Bronze
7	Yahya Bahakam	S10	65	Silver
7	Ayesha Ali	L6	49	Bronze



## Wickes

**Wickes**

Wickes have been very generous by donating £50 worth of goods to aid and assist students in their Product Design Lessons.

## Linguists April 2018

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
<b>Mrs Morgan</b>	Name: Imogen Jeffery Form: S7 Reason: Outstanding effort and contributions during the course of the whole year.	Name: Hafsah Mouzam and Tehreem Hafeez Form: L7 and R4 Reason: Consistently outstanding effort and attainment.
<b>Mrs Smallbone</b>	Name: Habibah Mahroof Form: L3 Reason: Fantastic attitude to learning in French and brilliant homework.	Name: Ayla-Belma Hadzovic Form: L3 Reason: Outstanding effort and hard work throughout the year.
<b>Mrs Souakri</b>	Name: Ayusha Adhikari Form: S1 Reason: Very pleasant student who works hard in EVERY lesson.	Name: Amaan Ali Form: R6 Reason: Always completing his work to a high standard by using complex structures in his writing and speaking exercises, well done and keep it up in year 11.
<b>Mrs Evans</b>	Name: Geani Budulea Form: I1 Reason: Being enthusiastic and hardworking in Spanish all year.	Name: Nafisa Mahmood Form: S8 Reason: Excellent performance in Spanish all year.
<b>Ms Aguilera</b>	Name: Israh Kawther Form: I3 Reason: Always trying hard and volunteering often.	Name: Ibraheem Aslam Form: S7 Reason: Helping a lot with the Spanish exchange and being enthusiastic about speaking in target language.
<b>Miss Embleton</b>	Name: Zara Parveen Form: L8 Reason: Consistently outstanding attitude to learning and motivation to produce accurate work.	Name: Uzair Hussain Form: R8 Reason: Working independently to improve his French vocabulary and brilliant homework this term

## Careers News

### Year 10 Practice Interview Day



Friday 4 May was the annual Practice Interviews day for our year 10 pupils. We would like to thank the guest interviewers for giving their time to support the school's Careers Programme. We welcomed a range of guests as well as two ex-pupils from the following organisations;

**British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Amey, British Armed Forces, BioCH4 Energy Ltd, Birmingham Metropolitan College, BT Communications, BT Openreach, Deputy Head/ICT Teacher, Deloitte, Fortem, Highways England, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, Geneva**

**Watch Group, Joseph Chamberlain College, Ministry of Justice, Network of Rail, Newman University,**

## Solihull College, South and City College, Starbank Primary School, Stratford College, University of Law and West Midlands Police.

Our guests commented on how well the pupils were prepared with their CVs and Progress Files of achievements, as well as conducting themselves so politely and professionally. Feedback forms have been returned to pupils for their folders. Well done to all involved!



### Year 10 College Taster Day

Please note that all Year 10 pupils will be bringing a letter with a parental consent slip home the week beginning Monday 21 May to invite them to a college taster day which will take place on Wednesday 4 July. Our aim is to have **all** pupils experiencing this valuable day to support them with their important decision-making for their future post 16 subject choices. (The process of making applications to post 16 providers will start when these pupils are in Year 11 in October this year).

### Year 10 Work Experience

Every year our Year 10 pupils are given the opportunity to go on a Work Experience placement; this will run from Monday 16 July to Friday 20 July 2018. It is absolutely vital that we have the pupils placed as soon as possible, to allow time to confirm the place with the organisation and for Health and Safety approval to be carried out. The final deadline is **FRIDAY 15 JUNE**.



We would really appreciate the support from parents and carers in finding placements for your child.

*How can you help?* Are there any relatives, friends or neighbours that would be able to help? You can search for organisations on Google.

Please encourage your child to take copies of their covering letter and CV into organisations in person. If they are asked to attend an interview or visit they should take their 'Progress Files' with evidence of their achievements to maximize their chances of being accepted.

Once a placement has been organised you should complete the 'Placement Details Form' your child has been given. They can collect a spare copy from the Careers Office or you can find it in the ***Pupils > Work Experience*** section on the school website. This must then be returned to the Careers Office as soon as possible.

We know that there are huge benefits to those who do carry out work experience including;

1. Increased confidence, communication, maturity and independence.
2. Greater understanding of the world of work and broadening their knowledge of how organisations operate.
3. Learning about different careers with the skills and qualifications needed.
4. Helps with the decision making for further and higher education.
5. Provides a reference for future education, training or employment.



6. Can provide opportunities for additional volunteering or paid part-time employment.

If you are a parent who doesn't have a child in Year 10 but you think your place of work could help please can you kindly contact the school to discuss further.

## REMINDERS

### Class charts

Homework activities for pupils are now logged on the Class Charts website and all pupils have a login. A large number of parents have now made an account, which enables them to see the homework that their child has been set, as well as the praises and penalties that they have been awarded. If you have not yet made an account, I would encourage you to do so. Please contact the school office for details of how to do this.



### Uniform



Could we remind parents that the school uniform policy agreed by the governors states that outdoor coats must be in a plain dark colour. Pupils should continue to wear a school jumper if they wish to, not sweatshirts, tracksuit tops, sports tops or hoodies.

The PE kit pupils wear for their Games and PE lessons is also part of school uniform. The aim of a PE kit is to be smart, functional and safe for a variety of sports. It also avoids fashion pressures so parents are not pestered to buy the latest expensive brand. We need your cooperation to ensure that pupils bring appropriate kit to school and to ensure that all pupils wear the accepted uniform at all times during the school day.



### Kit Expectations: Boys and Girls

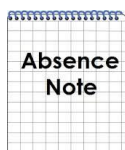
#### Compulsory:

1. Hall Green School Black Polo Shirt displaying the appropriate house colour in the side panels.
2. Black Tracksuit Bottoms/Leggings/Shorts displaying the school logo (any of these three options is acceptable).
3. Pumps or trainers (any colour).
4. Swimming Costume/Swimming Shorts/Trunks/Burkini/Other modest swimwear (any colour).
5. A clean change of socks.

#### Optional but not essential:

1. Black Hall Green School Sweatshirt.
2. Football Boots (if participating in extracurricular football club).

### Pupil Absence



A polite reminder: Absence notes are required from parents following a child's absence. The note should include your child's name, form, reason for the absence and the dates of the absence. Your child should bring the note to the Attendance Office on their return to school. Thank you.

## 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 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 Mrs S Miller in the School Office.

## 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? On a regular basis the school office will return items to pupils from the lost property box if the items have been labelled with their name. 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 unnamed items we have. Any items not claimed by the Wednesday before we break up for half term will be disposed of.



## Safeguarding

We wish to draw your attention to a free website for parents: [www.parentinfo.org](http://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 25 May 2018 – Break up for half term, normal timings*

*Monday 4 June 2018 – Return to school, normal timings*

*Friday 22 June 2018 – Teacher Training Day - School closed*

*Monday 2 July 2018 – Teacher Training Day – School closed*

*Tuesday 3 July 2018 – New Year 7 Intake Evening*

*Wednesday 4 July 2018 – Year 6 to Year7 Transition Day*

*Wednesday 4 July 2018 – Music Concert for Soloists 6:30pm*

*Tuesday 10 July 2018 – Primary Battle of the Brains event*

*Thursday 12 July 2018 – Year 11 Prom*

*Friday 13 July 2018 – KS3 & Year 10 Rewards Trips*

*Friday 20 July 2018 – Break up for Summer*

Mr D Adams  
Headteacher