*As this spell of cold weather comes to an end, we will all be pleased to have a break from online schooling. One should not underestimate the toll it takes on children, parents and teachers. We do encourage everyone to have a complete rest, and we are encouraging the children to put down their screens and get outdoors as much as possible. Please see this* [*short film.*](https://vimeo.com/user5714765/review/511567427/0dfd52de77)

*Whilst children of Prep School age have yet to hit the teenage years, parents (especially of Year 7 and 8) may find these notes about teenage behaviour to be helpful. Please follow* [*this link*](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zctjkty?xtor=CS8-1000-%5BPromo_Box%5D-%5BNews_Promo%5D-%5BNews_Promo%5D-%5BPS_BITESIZE~N~zctjkty~P_TopTipsForUnderstandingYourTeenagerInTheNewNormal%5D)*. A further short film (below) gives some good advice from four leading school Heads and would be well worth watching by parents of children of all ages.*

*Congratulations to our first three Year 8 senior school award winners of 2021, please see the Music report below.*

**School Leaders share their Half Term Advice for Parents**

For most parents and children, half term cannot arrive soon enough. After a challenging few weeks of home learning, it will represent a much-needed break. But what is the best way children can spend the time? [Attain Magazine](https://attain.education) talked to four school leaders. [Click here](https://attain.education/news/schoollife/school-leaders-share-their-half-term-advice-for-parents) to see what they had to say.

**Music Report**

We are delighted that three of our Year 8 musicians have received music awards to Wellington College and St George’s College, Weybridge. Toby S and Jemima F have both won music Scholarships to St George’s, Weybridge and to Wellington respectively, whilst Jemima J has also won a music Award to Wellington. All three musicians played extremely well in their auditions, delivering confident and musically assured performances. They were a real credit to themselves and Hall Grove. During their auditions, Toby S performed one of Gershwin’s most popular pieces ‘Let’s Call The Whole Thing Off’ on the Trombone, Jemima F played ‘Trumpeter’s Lullaby’ by Leroy Anderson, a wonderful work requiring real technical ability on the Trumpet, whilst Jemima J played a beautiful rendition of Finzi’s ‘Forlana’, one of his most famous and beloved works for Clarinet. We are extremely proud of them for all their hard work and are excited to see what they achieve musically over the coming years.

Year 7 & 8 delighted us with their many and varied performances this past week, and Miss Post thoroughly enjoyed watching each and every musician. If you would like to watch the concert, please [click here](https://vimeo.com/user5714765/review/511020322/46d82ba7c0).

Year 5 have been sending in their performances in their droves for this week's concert, and Miss Post hopes to be able to share this with you all during half-term.

Between the 22nd-26th February, the Lower Juniors will have the opportunity to send in their performances for their own virtual concert, so half-term will give them plenty of time to perfect their pieces!

**IAPS Art Competition**

Mrs Foley is seeking entries for the Prep Schools annual Art Competition from any child from Year 1 to Year 8. It can be of any subject and in any media and will need to be submitted by 18th March. It must be their own unaided work and can be submitted digitally to c.foley@hallgrove.co.uk

**Raising Money for the Surrey Wildlife Trust**

Inspired by the Big Ben to New York house challenge, Luca Smith and Oliver Robinson from year 5 are going to attempt to run, walk and cycle virtually from Hall Grove to Battisborough House (a total of 293km) raising money for the Surrey Wildlife Trust during half term. They would love any support for their fundraising, even just a few pounds and if anyone would like to join them, they might even make it back to Hall Grove in time for the start of term!

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/lucasmitholiverrobinson?utm_term=pBAxWgB3x>

**High Five 4 OSCAR Foundation**

21 children (majority from Year 2) will be walking 120 km between them to help raise funds for the [OSCAR High Five 4 OSCAR](https://www.hallgrove.co.uk/docs/Newsletter_Attachments/SPR_2021/image002.jpg) campaign during half term.

The campaign is for all ages, individuals, families, classes, boarding houses, whole schools or communities to get together to keep mind & body fit and active, whilst raising funds for boys and girls living in the Indian slums.

Please visit the [fund raising page](https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/displayCharityCampaignPage.action?campaignId=15959&charityId=1015920) to show your support.

**Sport**

The sports department have been so impressed with all the children in all the years for the efforts they have made during the Zoom PE lessons. It has been wonderful to see the children working hard and progressing so much whilst we have press upped, sit upped, skipped and jumped through the last five weeks. The sports staff are certainly fitter than they were last term and looking are forward to a rest from circuits over half term. Do encourage the children top get outside and exercise and have a much-needed break from their screens.

**London to New York**

The house race to New York continues to be a closely contested affair. The boys, girls and staff are racking up the kilometres in a bid to be the first across the Atlantic. The Kestrels continue to lead the house competition with Falcons hot on their heels, both houses having amassed over 2000 Kilometres. Hawks and Eagles sit in third and fourth space respectively, but Eagles are now starting to close the gap on the leading two. The staff continue to push on and hope to get to New York ready to meet the houses unless one can get in front. Do use half term to get out on your bikes or go for long runs or walks and do your bit for your house. The competition will be updated on the Wednesday of half term and again on Monday when we return to school. Good luck to all.

**The return of Dan the Skipping Man – Wednesday 3rd March**

Following his enormously popular workshops last term, Dan the Skipping Man will be returning to Hall Grove, albeit virtually, to run a series of skipping workshops for children across the school and build on the skills acquired first time around. Parents can refer to correspondence sent earlier in the week for further details.

**The Week Junior – 5th February**

Please [click here](https://en.calameo.com/read/00618809552e8c07d59b5) for the latest edition. Highlights include tributes for Sir Tom, foreign travel & protecting animals from space!

**This week's** [**Wellington College Virtual Fireside Talk**](https://www.hallgrove.co.uk/docs/Newsletter_Attachments/SPR_2021/Fireside_Talks_Poster_Lent_2021_at_Wellington_College.pdf)

* Monday 22nd February - 5pm: [*MS Teams: Fireside Talk with Dr Arianne Shahvisi*](https://u9153159.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=JrbkozLSaRzLjjEdiQhyRXNXJAe0FV6sO-2B-2FZ8d7N6R25IdB2IAByVWkqZugDgZjynFbGvBiOkR1Q1ju5IQO-2FOYCXTDK4ly6w7V2PatRaj-2Bk1GR4gTxQBCYZ-2BvOZzcczRltBp93MT7KeY1mOT6Lpj9Ilg-2FIkzno0sTxu-2By8EYc6b7mgVqAjKxh1Tpz5-2BTPHtF5rpvRkzvUyQ-2B4ynS2cXuRWadIy7FYsZER0RkXOqtiICI3fy4Dq0xyQ3zuiobQIvtez207wRITg7zZ2fWPP8IFpqCO-2BNFFq4Csc7ZK8EZ-2BBSA2is01wnjPZLS2XjWLW7-2B5KdRRslNbp013ybb4fKCfg-3D-3DYh54_LosTVay1jAHjK-2Bnh-2FjJKLiwAQGPajj-2B7BT1KVYGjSp9l3YY0lAZjJ1u88BZbzgcVkMBxsO9MlNNV7FYo9Wj-2FS62xVu915NxlKhG4KyHRmkP-2B9YNL4UkF6-2B5PapkhMz-2FvA7Z2753U4m05R8LE8S6q7CH-2BJYFVXGZJslJNOzm2GRBwJAjelBddHmVklgSvsx-2BihWzET-2Fy6o5dam4ud4QEPofxdn8F4ZsUX3xEDa78u1Gg-3D)

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The following documents can be found on the school website, under the parent information tab:

* Senior Schools Open Mornings Information
* February Half Term Camps for Keyworkers