

## **From the Headmaster – Neil Tomlin OBE**

What a magical end to the term we had with our glorious Carol Services at Wellington College. The choirs demonstrated that the adage 'you get out what you put in' is true. To be able to field six perfect soloists and a school choir of over 30 children is a clear indication of strength in depth. Thank you Miss Post and Mrs Greenwood.

At Assembly this morning it was a pleasure for me and the Form Teachers to award Honourable Mentions and Academic and Music Ties to recognise some exceptional effort throughout the term. It was also a pleasure to announce the winners of the school touch typing competition and the House poster competition. The Wood brothers produced two excellent posters (see via a link below) and these will feature around the school next term and will also become the screen savers for school IT.

I have now witnessed what is possibly the most contested competition of this term - The House Song. From Year 3 children to the Deputy Headmaster, the competition is fierce. To the credit of all present, the cheers and appreciation were sporting with Hawks claiming victory!

Three final things to do, if I may.

1. Please ensure that your child has handed you a copy of next term's school calendar. There will be some available in the school office for those whose children were not in school today. The calendar is live on the school website. Please look closely at the events, dates and times, with special attention to those activities at weekends and during half term.
2. Please enjoy the link to this term's '[School Chronicle](#)'. We delayed printing so that we could include the Carol Services. Hard copies will be printed over the weekend and will be available for collection from outside the lighthouse on Tuesday and Wednesday next week. They will then be available for collection at the start of next term.
3. Please could I ask for a final push to [complete the SWOT](#).

The Tomlin family are full of thanks for the fabulous support from all at Hall Grove. Our Staff have been fantastic this term and I am in awe of their work ethic and professionalism. They work tirelessly to ensure your children learn in a happy environment. Thank you also to our parents who have supported the school so loyally. If I was to add one value to the Hall Grove Values, it would be loyalty. With the correct application of loyalty alongside our other values, any organisation will thrive.

Happy Christmas to the Hall Grove community and we look forward to seeing everyone in 2022.

## **Whole School Messages**

### **End of Term Reports**

Autumn end of term reports are now available via the Parent Portal.

<https://hallgrove.parents.isams.cloud>

(the link is also available via the Portal tab on the school website)

Your username will be the email address that was used when creating the account. If you have forgotten your password, please use the 'reset my password' option on the login page.

### **Message from the House Captains**

A very merry Christmas from our captains! Please watch their video [here](#).  
(Password is **Captains21!**)

### **Online Safety – Post Talk Parent Information**

Thank you to those parents who attended the online safety talk this week. Please [click here](#) to access the slides from Sharon Girling's presentation.

### **Travelling Abroad over the Christmas Holidays**

We hope that everyone's plans are able to go ahead this Christmas. We would like to remind parents that, if travelling abroad, they should be mindful of the Government's guidance applicable at the time in relation to testing, self-isolation and quarantine, and that this may change at short notice, even whilst you are away. It would be helpful if you do have travel plans involving you returning on or after Friday 7 January to let the school office know so that school is aware that your child may be delayed in returning to school at the start of term.

### **Spring Term Fee Invoices**

Please note that the Spring Term Fee Invoices will be sent to you at the beginning of January 2022.

### **Regular boarding night offer**

As parents look to prepare their child for future schools or are still looking to see if a boarding school option may be best for their child, we are offering a regular booking discount of £25 per night rather than £40 when booked on an occasional basis. Bookings will need to be made for the same night/nights each week across the Spring Term. To book or if you have any questions, please contact Mr Cottrell [j.cottrell@hallgrove.co.uk](mailto:j.cottrell@hallgrove.co.uk)

### **Second-Hand Uniform Sale – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January**

New Hall will be open on 8th and 9th January (10am to 1pm) for any second-hand uniform requirements.

Donations of used, good condition uniform and school shoes welcome as well as any outgrown sports kit (tennis racquets, cricket bats, hockey sticks, footballs etc). **Please leave outside the Lighthouse on Friday morning 7th January.**

Suzie Greenhalgh [suzanne.greenhalgh@oracle.com](mailto:suzanne.greenhalgh@oracle.com)

### **House Poster Competition - Hall Grove School Values**

Congratulations to the winners of the House Poster Competition

Reception – Year 2: Hayden Smith

Years 3 & 4: Jack Hey

Years 5 & 6: George Wood (overall winning design for the school poster)

Years 7 & 8: Henry Wood (design to be used as the screen saver for school computers)

Their winning entries can be viewed [here](#).

## **Uniform Shop – Christmas Holiday**

Please note that the shop will be **closed during the holidays** and all online orders will be processed and ready to collect from 7th January 2022.

The Uniform Shop email: [uniformshop@hallgrove.co.uk](mailto:uniformshop@hallgrove.co.uk)

The Direct Clothing Company: <https://www.thedirectclothing.co.uk/school/hall-grove-school/>

Term-time only opening times:

Monday: 0800-0915

Thursdays: 1500-1730

## **Dance Academy**

We are delighted to be launching our Hall Grove Dance Academy in January. There will be a taster week, commencing January 10th, for all children to come and have a go at the classes/genres timetabled [here](#). Please register your child's interest in a taster session by emailing Miss Erridge ([l.erridge@hallgrove.co.uk](mailto:l.erridge@hallgrove.co.uk)) before the start of term.

## **Rotary Club Photography Competition**

The Rotary Club is looking for entries into its annual Photography competition, with quite a tight entry deadline. The theme this year is 'The Colours of Nature'. Despite this seeming a strange title for this season, perhaps children could consider the piles of exotic fruits that appear in the supermarkets at this time of year, or the vivid Christmas plants that flower at this time. Please complete the entry form and send the image digitally directly to the organisers, copying in Mrs Foley on [c.foley@hallgrove.co.uk](mailto:c.foley@hallgrove.co.uk).

## **Senior Parents - Mr McLeod**

Congratulations to the senior pupils on making such a success of this term. In a term which has focused on the Hall Grove values and motto, it is fair to say that our Senior pupils have not only been great role models for the younger pupils, but truly done what they must, "come what may."

It was only fitting that our Senior pupils were heavily involved in organising, leading or assisting with so many of the key events over the past term, from the House Singing Competition to the lecture series; from chess competitions to Grandparents' Day; from our parent briefings to the wonderful Christmas service at Wellington College - they have been outstanding and thoroughly deserve a break.

## **Senior Lectures**

The Spring Term Lecture series begins again on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January. There are three visiting speakers in the term, with the dates published in the Spring Calendar. The lectures begin at 6pm, and just like previously, the children will be supervised and provided with a meal following the end of school. The presentations will finish at 7pm but we will move collection to 7.15pm to allow time for the children to make it up to the turning circle.

Pupils are expected to attend all three lectures and parents are welcome at any point.

## **On-Site LFD testing on return to school in January**

Parents are reminded that a separate letter was sent out to all Seniors parents on Wednesday regarding our plans for the required on-site testing at the start of the Spring term.

## **Year 8 Introduction to Boarding night**

Year 8 have an optional 'Introduction to Boarding' night on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January. This will be an overnight stay at school, allowing the children to get a taste of boarding life at Hall Grove and a feel for boarding in general. This may be helpful to open the options of future senior schools that offer full, weekly or flexi boarding options.

The evening will include an evening activity, followed by pizza, and a film on our return to school. The children will stay at school at the end of the day and should be collected at 0900 on Saturday morning.

The cost is £20 per child. This will include an evening activity, supper, and breakfast on Saturday morning before collection. Spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. If you would like your child to take part, [please click here](#).

## **Upper Juniors Parents - Mr Wheeler**

Congratulations to Upper Juniors for conducting themselves so superbly through the last week of term. They really are an incredibly talented group who have starred in House Rugby, House Singing and played a pivotal role in the Choristers' performance at our wonderful Carol Service. Some of those solos were truly amazing!

They continue to make excellent progress in the classroom and have taken all the opportunities presented to them. My personal highlights this term include: Year 6 Battisborough; our trips to Warwick and Wellington's Chemistry Spectacular; the unbelievable Dance Showcase, probably the most uplifting evening/day of the year; how they conducted themselves at interview practice and the list goes on and on. It makes me exhausted just thinking about it!

Lastly, I look forward to welcoming all the children back safe and well after the Christmas holidays, and I wish you all an enjoyable break.

## **Lower Junior Parents - Miss Furness**

Congratulations to Year 4 for a superb performance on Tuesday night, their last Nativity. Also, a well done for their readings in the Lower School Carol Service. The Lower Juniors' choir sang out beautifully and it really was a lovely occasion! I hope you are all now in receipt of the recordings of the Christmas Performances too.

This week has been a super-charged, festive whirlwind, with Nativities, Carol Services, Christmas lunch and the House Singing competition. It has been clear to see just how much it has all been enjoyed by the children. We pass them back to you for the holidays in need of a good rest and a recharge of the batteries. Having looked through the reports, they all have lots to be proud of this term.

Please can we ask that you help your child learn their poem for the Declamations Competition taking place early next term. We would like them to know their poem off by heart. Thank you.

All of us in the Lower Juniors want to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

## **Pre-Prep Parents - Miss Hitchcox**

Congratulations to all of Pre-Prep for their wonderful Carol Service. The singing was beautiful and it was a fabulous way to end our Autumn Term. I hope you have all received the recording of our nativity and can enjoy watching it over the holidays.

The children have worked hard over the past few months and, having looked through the reports, there are lots of things for them be proud of this term. Over the holidays, we would like the children to continue to work on their reading and to support this we have sent home some additional books. Please refer to their Seesaw account or your child's blue diary for information on their holiday project. Finally, we have sent home all outdoor clothing, but can we please ask for it all to be returned on the first day back.

Next term, Year 1 begin their term with an exciting Dinosaur Workshop on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January and a visit from a real-life T-Rex! Year 2, start their journey 'Around the World' with the sharing of their country projects.

On behalf of the Pre-Prep team, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## **Early Years Parents - Mrs Tomlinson**

Early Years have had a wonderful end of term and have shown how much progress they have made since the start of the year. You will see on their report your child has shared their own ideas of things they are good at and what they want to do more of next term. I am sure they will enjoy sharing them with you. The children have worked hard on their independence, organising their belongings and dressing themselves.

We all enjoyed our Christmas lunch and celebrations this week, look out for the photos on Tapestry. Reception had a wonderful trip to the Carol service at Wellington College on Thursday and enjoyed joining in with the songs.

In Reception, we have sent home some extra books for the holidays to share with your child. I am sure they will also enjoy sharing some of the real picture books you have at home and finding words that they now know. We have also sent home some Phonics activities. These can be completed over time to reinforce all the sounds and words they have learnt this term.

A reminder to please look out for the Phonics workshop on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January in the School Calendar. We will send more details next term.

Finally, we have sent the children home with their waterproof trousers and wellington boots. Please make sure they are sent back on the first day of next term. Please recheck all your child's belongings and make sure they are clearly named in a place the children have easy access to.

The Early Years team wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## **Performing Arts - Miss Post**

### **Sport - Mr Tullett**

Well done to all the boys and girls who have worked hard this term on the pitches and courts. There have been some excellent team and individual performances across all the sports played and silverware won. The sports department are looking forward to hitting the ground running the first week back; please encourage your children to keep active over the holiday. The children will continue to play netball and rugby on their return.

## **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**0900** Senior Boys rugby training

**1000** U11A, U10A rugby matches v RGS Guildford

**1400** Hall Grove U11A and B Netball Tournament.

Please check the website for team selection and further details.

### **1-1 Tennis Lessons**

Weekly 1-1 tennis coaching is available again next term for Years 2 - 8 during the school day with Megan, our resident tennis professional. Lessons will rotate on a weekly basis to ensure pupils do not miss the same academic lesson.

The cost will be £20 per lesson which will be added to your fee invoice.

If you would like to book 1-1 tennis lessons, please [email](#) the school office.

### **Small Group Golf Lessons**

Weekly small group golf lessons are available for Years 3 - 8 during the school day with our resident golf professionals, starting the second week of next term. Lessons will rotate on a weekly basis to ensure pupils do not miss the same academic lesson.

The cost will be £20 per lesson which will be added to your fee invoice.

If you would like to book golf lessons, please [email](#) the school office.

## **School Adverts**

### **Documents**

The following documents can be found on the school website, under the parent information tab:  
Senior Schools Open Mornings Information

## **Public Notices**

### **Sebastian's Action Trust Christmas Boxes & Festive Hamper Raffle**

#### **Christmas Boxes:**

From inception, Sebastian's Action Trust has been a family-led charity, so when our beneficiaries' expressed concerns over the continuing threat of COVID, we decided not to hold our annual Christmas party or Santa Fun Run this year.

Instead, we have created Christmas Boxes, which will be tailored to each of our families and will contain a wonderful array of seasonal goodies, including sweet treats, festive games, keepsakes, decorations and activities to celebrate Christmas.

These very special Christmas Boxes will each cost £40, and we are inviting supporters to donate funds – whatever they can – to bring Christmas into the homes of our families. Please follow [this link](#).

**Festive Hamper Raffle:**

Win a fantastic Christmas hamper worth over £200 and support Sebastian's Action Trust.

The 2 runners up will win an amazing LEGO City kit.

£5 per ticket. Unlimited entries per person.

Prize winners to be drawn on Wednesday 15 December.

Click [here](#) to enter for your chance to win.

If you have any questions, please contact [fundraising@sebastiansactiontrust.org](mailto:fundraising@sebastiansactiontrust.org).

**OPRO (Custom-Fit Mouthguards):**

OPRO are currently offering 20% off all purchases at [www.opro.com](http://www.opro.com) and [www.opromouthguards.com](http://www.opromouthguards.com) against any mouthguard of your choice for anyone. The code is **oprotreat20**.

**Barracuda's Virtual Holiday Camp**

Barracuda's will be running a virtual holiday camp over the Christmas period. To view the timetable and to book please use this link <https://www.barracudas.co.uk/activities/xmas-virtual-camp/>