

Hall Grove School Newsletter



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Our very best wishes to the Choristers who are off on their exciting tour to Manchester this weekend. For the fourth year running, they have been invited to lead the BBC Radio 4 Daily Service which may be heard live on Long Wave on Tuesday 31st January, from 0945 to 1000. We will be holding a special Assembly on Tuesday to hear the broadcast and all are welcome to join us then.

Music Scholar

Many congratulations to Matthew Burford (Year 8) who has won a music award to St. George's College, Weybridge. Matthew plays the trumpet and the double bass.

'Cinderella'

Last week's staging of the Year 7 Pantomime was a huge success with some unforgettable performances from all the boys and girls, and plenty for the audience to laugh at. Every pupil was fully involved and the casting was inspired. Who will ever forget the funereal narrators, the ridiculous fairy godmothers (what dancing!), the acrobatic pets (Tiddles and Bonio), the mice, the ugly sisters (Hilda, Euphoria and Edna), the jaunty Buttons, the noble King and Queen, and of course the very good looking Prince Charming? Cinderella herself was a fantastic parody of demure sweetness. Nellie, Jeeves and Cook were the ever reliable house servants with plenty of cream cakes to keep the show going. The Baroness (in real life the Number 8 in the 1st XV!) played without mercy for all the laughs (though it was too much for the youngest member of the audience - scary!). Baron Boffin was very controlled and a perfect foil to his outrageous wife.

There was, inevitably, no end of cross-dressing, but no one seemed in the slightest bit worried (not least our recent recruits from Hong Kong who appeared to thoroughly enjoy the occasion, even if they were somewhat baffled by it). The energetic acting, the sense of fun and the sheer enjoyment of the actors soon had the audience rocking with laughter.

Congratulations to all the cast, to the producer and to his team of back-stage helpers (including the young man on the spot light). However one very special mention should go to the talented Year 8 pupil, Marcus Norrey, for arranging and performing the musical accompaniment. What a star - bravo!

A recording of the performance is available to view on the school website and a DVD order form is attached to this newsletter.

Young Talents

We always like to encourage the boys and girls to share their interests with the school and we have been treated to some excellent contributions at Assembly in recent months. Yesterday Harry Hadden-White demonstrated his automated table tennis trainer to the school. It was very well received. Harry is a most able inventor and he is preparing for a Design and Technology Scholarship at Bryanston School next week. Last week Beatrice and Felix Spowers spoke at the Upper School Assembly about their recent travels to Sri Lanka, it was an extraordinarily well-presented talk with fantastic slides of the geography, natural history and culture of the island. Today it was the turn of Harri Newey to share his interest in karting. The demonstration at breaktime was exhilarating, even if the Headmaster had some concerns for health and safety! Harri is a leading karter with an ambition to go on to Formula 1 in the future. On today's evidence he probably will!

Microsoft - a Window on the World of Work

On Monday, Year 8 went to visit the amazing offices of Microsoft at Thames Valley Park near Reading. As we sat in the board room on the fourth floor, with views over the river and the surrounding countryside, the boys and girls were given a real taste of life at the top of one of the world's corporate giants.

Forres Summer Camp

Last week Mr James Stileman of the Titus Trust spoke at Assembly about the Summer Camps being held at Forres School in Hampshire. They are very highly recommended. Boys and girls in Years 6, 7 and 8 are eligible, but booking should be made soon because the camps do fill up. Details are available from the School Office.

The Drive

There have been concerns raised about the speed at which cars are being driven on the drive. We cannot stress strongly enough the importance of driving slowly and with extreme caution at all times whilst in the school grounds (the speed limit is 10 mph).

We would also like to remind you to avoid arriving too early for collection times at the end of the school day because it blocks the drive and pick-up area for everyone else. If you are collecting two or more children from different year groups please move on and join the back of the queue. Alternatively, parking is available before the barrier.

3CM Assembly - Thursday 2nd February

The children in 3CM would like to invite their parents to their Class Assembly on Thursday 2nd February. If you are able to attend, please be in New Hall by 0830. We look forward to seeing you there.

Year 4 Pre-Battisborough Boarding Nights for Boys

Boys' boarding nights have been arranged for Tuesday 28th February and Tuesday 6th March as a taster in preparation for the Battisborough trip next term. Spaces are limited to one night per boy and early booking is advised. Please book via the School Office, Mrs Tilley (Head of Boarding - l.tilley@hallgrove.co.uk) or Miss Furness (k.furness@hallgrove.co.uk). This is a great opportunity to experience a night away from home before the week in Devon.

Music Department

Choristers' Daily Service Broadcast

On Tuesday, the Choristers will be broadcasting live from Emmanuel Church, Didsbury, for the Daily Service. You can listen live on BBC Radio 4 Long Wave (198 LW) between 0945 and 1000. Full service details can be found on the following web page: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01bbf5k>

Middle School Informal Lunchtime Concert - Thursday 2nd February

An informal Middle School Lunchtime Concert will take place on Thursday 2nd February from 1245 to 1315 in New Hall. A list of the children selected to play in the concert will be posted on the Music Department noticeboard by the archway. The concert is a wonderful way for children to practise the art of performance in a friendly environment and provide a focus for learning. Parents and friends of participating pupils are welcome to attend the event.

Evensong at Eton College Chapel - Saturday 3rd March

On Saturday 3rd March (not Sunday 4th March as noted in the calendar) the Choristers will be singing Evensong at Eton College Chapel. If there are any capable adult lower voices (alto, tenor or bass) wishing to join in, do please get in touch so that I can provide copies of the music (l.salmondsmith@hallgrove.co.uk).

Sports News

Girls' Hockey

25th January v Bishopsgate: U11 A won, U11 B won, U10 A drew

27th January v Bishopsgate: U9 A won, U9 B won

Hall Grove U11 Girls' Hockey Tournament - Saturday 28th January

The team is to arrive no later than 0830 for a prompt start at 0900.

Girls' Hockey Tournament Cancellation - Wednesday 8th February

Please be advised that the Surrey Girls' U10 Mini Hockey Tournament at Epsom College on Wednesday 8th February has been cancelled.

Rugby

25th January v Woodcote: 1st XV lost, 2nd XV won, Colts A lost, Colts B won

26th January v Papplewick: U9 A won, U9 B drew, U9 C won, U8 A won, U8 B won, U8 C won

Weekend Fixtures - Saturday 28th January

Rugby v Thomas's Battersea: 1st XV and 2nd XV to meet at Hall Grove no later than 0930 for home matches starting at 1000. Please note that the U10 A match has been cancelled because Thomas's are unable to raise a team.

Year 4 Rugby House Matches - Thursday 2nd February

Year 4 Rugby House Matches have been rescheduled to take place on Thursday 2nd February at 1500 following their cancellation at the beginning of term. Parents are welcome to come and support.

Burns Night - Friday 3rd February

A final reminder of the informal supper party next Friday - tickets at just £20 a head. All are welcome, Scots and Sassenachs alike!

Personal Training

Mark Tomlinson, brother of Mr Tomlinson, is offering personal training sessions in the convenience of your own home. He provides an initial consultation before creating a programme based on your individual needs and goals. Please contact Mark on 07971 807320 or at tomlinsonmark@hotmail.co.uk to arrange a free consultation.

