

# Hall Grove School Newsletter



[www.hallgrove.co.uk](http://www.hallgrove.co.uk)

**7<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

**Edition No: 412**

*Welcome back to the beginning of another school year! We hope all our families were able to enjoy the Summer and experience something of the London Olympic spirit. The boys and girls have started back happily and have been quick to settle into school routines. Once again we are delighted to report a full school with 375 pupils, a record number. We are also fortunate to have strong lists for future years. The staff have been working hard to prepare for the new year and we are forging some exciting plans for the future. We will soon see two new classrooms built in the garden to help accommodate the growing number of pupils.*

*We look forward to welcoming parents to the Parents' Briefings that start next week. We would also like to draw attention to the senior schools' information evenings that have been organised for this term, and to the parents' social evening. Details are given below.*

*Our very best wishes to you and your children for the year ahead.*

## **Staff News**

Welcome to Mr Salmond Smith, a very experienced school master who has joined our staff to teach RS, English and Geography.

Our Gap Student this term is George Jameson, Hall Grove Old Boy who left Charterhouse this Summer and will be taking up a place at university next year.

We have also taken on an apprentice groundsman, Tom Landreth-Smith, who will be attending Merrist Wood College on day release.

Miss Dowse is away from school for two weeks following planned surgery during the holidays.

Our congratulations to Mr Heffer and his wife on the birth of their son, Daniel.

## **Choosing a Senior School**

It can be an anxious time for parents when they begin the process of considering options beyond Hall Grove. Advice is given at the parents' evenings, and through the year we organise some special talks to introduce parents to some of the many alternatives that they may not have considered. As a start, parents of boys may like to hear about the entry requirements for Eton College, one of our nearest public schools, on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 1900. The master in charge of admissions will attend, Charles Milne, together with a current senior Eton pupil and Hall Grove Old Boy, James Richardson. On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 1900 we are holding a special evening for girls' senior schools which parents of girls are most welcome to attend. On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November we are hosting a Senior Schools' Fair at which a dozen or so schools will exhibit. Parents are also reminded that the Headmaster is always happy to meet them individually to advise on school choices.

## **School Drive**

A number of additional lessons are being taught in the newly refurbished Science and Technology Workshop (formerly the Carpentry Workshop) located at the top of the drive opposite the Uniform Shop and TASC. We ask that parents and all other drivers abide by the 10 mph speed limit and that they are particularly vigilant when approaching all marked crossings.

## **After School Clubs**

After School Clubs information was sent out this week. Club lists are in the process of being finalised and parents will be notified if a requested place is not available due to a particular club being over-subscribed. The clubs start on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September and run until Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

## Parents' Briefings

A reminder that Parents' Briefings will be taking place as follows:

Years 3, 4 and 5: Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 1900  
Years 1 and 2: Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 1800  
Year 6: Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 1900  
Years 7 and 8: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 1900  
Reception: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 1900

The evenings will begin with an informal social gathering in the garden alongside New Hall over drinks (indoors if wet). Parents should not bring children to school for the meetings. Individual parent-teacher consultations have been arranged for later in the Autumn term.

## Music Department

### Instrumental Lessons

Some instrumental teaching has commenced already and most other lessons are beginning next week. Timetables are displayed on the Music noticeboard in the corridor beyond Matron's Room. There has been an immense number of requests for lessons so if you have not yet heard from either Mrs Salmond Smith or your child's instrumental teacher, please be patient. There has been particular interest in the piano and some children have been placed on a waiting list for the time being. There are still limited spaces for some other instruments; please contact Mrs Salmond Smith for further details. With over 200 instrumental lessons taking place in the school each week, and not forgetting those who learn outside of school, this is set to be another very musical year for Hall Grove!

### Choirs

We have a number of choirs at the school, each of which has a different character. Hall Grove Choir is open to anyone who wishes to sing and rehearsals are held on Wednesday mornings at 0800. Girls' Choir is held on Thursdays at 1245. We are also hoping to run a Senior Girls' Choir for those in Years 6 – 8 if there is sufficient interest, and this would be held on Mondays. Your child should tell Mrs Salmond Smith or Mr Heffer if they wish to join any of these three choirs. Entry to Choristers is strictly by audition only. Last year's Choristers will automatically remain in the choir without needing to audition again; however, if your child wishes to leave Choristers for any reason, please let Mrs Salmond Smith know as soon as possible so that another child can take his/her place. The structure of Choristers will be changing slightly this year: the current limit of 30 children can be restrictive both in terms of availability for outside performances, but also in the sense that it limits the number of talented singers in the school who have the opportunity to participate. In order to address these challenges, the number of Choristers will be increasing to 40 with the newer recruits being considered 'probationers'. These Choristers may not perform in every single event during the year, but they will learn the same repertoire and be called upon for a selection of performances both in school and outside. Once they have completed their probationary year, they will become full Choristers. Rehearsals are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 0800. We already have a variety of high-profile performances scheduled this year including Evensong at Salisbury Cathedral, The Children's Trust Concert at St. John's, Smith Square, and our annual live broadcast of the Daily Service for Radio Four. Prospective Choristers should see Mrs Salmond Smith for an audition.

### Ensembles

Please be reminded that if your child learns an instrument outside of school, they are more than welcome to play in one of our ensembles. A full schedule is available on the noticeboard outside the Clanwilliam Room and most ensembles, including choirs, are due to commence from Monday.

## Sports News

### Netball

5<sup>th</sup> September – Senior House Netball Tournament: 1<sup>st</sup> Kestrels, 2<sup>nd</sup> Falcons, 3<sup>rd</sup> Hawks, 4<sup>th</sup> Eagles

### Netball Masterclass – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October the U11s (Year 6 girls) will have a Netball Masterclass from 1430 to 1600 with Caroline Bedford who is a netball coach at Bradfield College.

### Sports Structure

Mrs Lomas is the Head of Girls' Games. During the Autumn and Spring terms the girls will be playing netball and hockey.

Mr Joll is the Head of Boys' Games. Football is the main sport for boys until half term after which the rugby season begins. During the football season the Hall Grove coaches will be supported by Chelsea coaches and for rugby they will be assisted by London Irish coaches.

Please note that boys and girls are expected to be available for all weekend inter-school matches. Written permission for weekend absence from a school match must be obtained from Mr Tullett, the Director of Sport, or the Headmaster at least a week prior to the fixture. If ill on the day of a Saturday fixture please telephone the Sports Office (01276 470009) by 0900 at the very latest.

## **Hall Grove Football Tournament - Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September**

1<sup>st</sup> XI, Colts A and Colts B teams are to meet at Hall Grove at 0830. The tournament will start at 0900 and should be finished by approximately 1230.

## **Four Schools Cricket Festival - Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September**

Those boys who are required for the Cricket Festival on Sunday have already been advised. Please note that the players must arrive before 0900 for a start at 0930. The tournament finishes at 1800. Lunch is provided for the players and their parents.

## **School Travel Policy - Away Matches**

Please note that, whenever possible, we like players to travel with their teams to and from away fixtures. We are aware that there may be occasions when a parent would wish to take their child directly home after the match. We would ask that, for weekday matches, prior permission is obtained via the School Office. If there are timetable commitments at school following the match the players must return with their teams.

## **Mouthguard Fitting - Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September and Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September**

OPRO, the dental organisation that specialises in mouthguards, will be conducting mouthguard fittings at Hall Grove on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September and Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September. The forms, which were sent out during the holiday, need to be returned to OPRO if you wish to obtain a mouthguard from them for your child/children. Additional forms are available from the School Office. Please be aware that every child from Year 3 upwards must have a mouthguard in school, whether it be one purchased from a sports shop, one supplied and fitted by their own dentist or one supplied and fitted by OPRO.

## **Golf News**

Congratulations to Zac Jenkins and Xavier Schwarz for their success at finishing second in the Stowe Putter, a major prep school golf tournament held annually at Stowe School. Zac won the U13 section.

## **Golf Coaching for Parents at The Berkshire Golf Club**

The Berkshire runs golf coaching sessions for Hall Grove parents on a Monday and Tuesday morning - approx. 0845-1000. There are currently two slots available for the Monday session. Please contact Belinda Brash on 07527 624962 or [chrisandb@hotmail.com](mailto:chrisandb@hotmail.com) for further information.

## **2013 Ski Trip - Claviere, Italy**

There is still some space available on the Ski Trip from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> January. Please contact Mr Tullett by the end of next week if you require further details or would like to reserve a place.

## **Old Hall Grovian Reunion - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September**

Please pass the word to any former pupils you know that there is to be a reunion next Friday. Details are on the website.

## **Help Create a Huge Stir - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September**

Mrs Graham will be hosting a coffee morning in the school pavilion from 0830 to 1130 on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September as part of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning in support of Macmillan Cancer Care. Everyone is welcome so please drop in (parking on the fields if dry weather). Any home-grown produce would be welcome for sale to increase the funds.

## **Wine and Cheese Tasting Evening - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October**

The Friends of Hall Grove invite all parents to a Wine and Cheese Tasting Evening in New Hall on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October (see attached flyer). Tickets cost £20 for alcoholic wine tasting and £15 for non-alcoholic beverages. Payment should be made by bank transfer to the NatWest Sunningdale branch, account number 49849263, sort code 60-21-04 quoting your child's name and class as a reference, or by cheque or cash to the wine committee member for your year group. Cheques should be made payable to 'Hall Grove October Social Evening'.

## **Independent Schools' Fair 2012 - Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November**

Hall Grove is once again exhibiting at the show in Battersea Park. All families are welcome to attend. It is a good way to meet a number of the senior school Heads and learn about their schools' entry requirements.

## **The Bletchley Circle**

Hall Grove Old Boy Guy Burt wrote the script to this three part drama series being shown on ITV on Thursday evenings. Meanwhile, Old Boy Jake Gosling is enjoying much success writing and producing for the singer Ed Sheeran.

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## **Creative Writing Course in Camberley**

Places are available on a long-established Creative Writing Course in Camberley starting on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2012. It takes place at St Mary's Church Centre, Park Road on a Wednesday morning between 1000 and 1200. For further details please contact Colin Archer at [c.archer@virgin.net](mailto:c.archer@virgin.net) or telephone 01344 842375.

## **Fashion Show and Luncheon - Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**

Surrey Heath Conservatives Ladies Committee are holding a Fashion Show and Luncheon at Windlesham Golf Club on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Champagne Reception at 1200. Fashion Show given by Diamond Nights of Windlesham (Designer boutique for evening and occasion wear, hats, fascinators, 'colour match' shoes). Tickets £30. Apply to Mrs Elspeth Blandford (01276 472161) or Sandy Grayson of Diamond Nights (01276 423384).

## **Animals Asia - Horrible Histories Barmy Britain Performance**

We all want to meet people from history. The trouble is everyone is dead! So it's time to prepare yourselves for 'Horrible Histories' live on stage with the world premiere of 'Barmy Britain'. Further to their fabulous galas of 'Jungle Book', 'Skellig' and 'George's Marvellous Medicine', the award-winning Birmingham Stage Company is very generously giving another sparkling theatrical evening to raise funds for Animals Asia's work. This time it is a special Gala Performance of 'Horrible Histories' taking place at 1900 on Sunday 28th October at the Garrick Theatre, London. An absolutely ideal treat for all the family for half-term, this special performance lasts for one hour and all proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to the work of Animals Asia. Tickets priced at £25 (£80 for a family ticket for 4). See [www.animalsasia.org/uk](http://www.animalsasia.org/uk) for details of how to purchase.

## **For Sale**

VW Polo, W reg, 73,000 miles, FSH, MOT until August 2013, taxed for five months. Just had new alternator, exhaust and brake discs. Good condition and has always started first time, although the interior is not pristine. £999 ovno. If interested, please see Mrs Tilley or telephone 07855 395749.

