

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

The opportunities we offer at Hall Grove continue to be on show this week. On Tuesday, I watched a Year 7 dance, drama and music compilation. I have enjoyed the smells from the cookery hut. I have witnessed novel learning in the outdoor classrooms and in the Walled Garden where Years 1 and 2 enjoyed an impromptu assembly.

On Wednesday I headed to the three-day Headmasters' conference in Bournemouth. Meanwhile, members of Year 5 attended the Bradfield science challenge. Year 8 met the Olympic gold medallist, Adam Peaty. The U13A boys won the Charterhouse Prep Schools' football tournament, and 7 girls hockey teams took to the field of play in the afternoon to represent the school.

With all of this going on, it was timely that the school value of this week was to 'be respectful'. It is important that Hall Grove children learn to respect people in their lives such as their parents, teachers and the organisations with whom they are involved. It is also important to respect others for who they are, what they believe, and for the differences that exist in the world in which we want them all to thrive.

Next week, we will focus on our third value of six, 'Be a good listener'. Next week is full of action and I should use this opportunity to focus on a couple of the events.

- Year 6 are heading to Batisborough House for a week of problem-solving exercises, interview practice, as well as some numeracy and literacy development, and verbal and non-verbal reasoning work ahead of senior school entrance activity.
- Year 3 head to Butser Ancient farm on 29 September.
- Gigi and I will welcome the Parents of Years 7 and 8 children to our house for drinks on 29 September (from 1930hrs).
- Dr Ruth Sullivan (Headmistress at Sherborne School for Girls) will deliver the second lecture in the Autumn series to our Senior children on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September. The lecture will take place in the New Hall and will start at 6pm. All parents are welcome to attend. Dr Sullivan's lecture is titled: "Be yourself – everyone else is taken". This talk will support our 'Journey Programme' syllabus and will provide some advice and guidance of how our children can build their resilience for the future.
- Year 5 have their boarding taster on Friday 1 October.

And Finally. Grandparents Afternoon and the Garden Open Day will take place between 1400-1700 on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. More details are contained in the newsletter and will be provided by letters from the children to their grandparents.

## **School Business**

### **Hall Grove Open Morning – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September**

There will be an Open Morning on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September from 0900 to 1100. It is intended for prospective parents so we would be grateful if you would inform friends and work colleagues who may be interested in sending a child to Hall Grove in the future.

### **Hall Grove NGS Garden Opening and Grandparents' Afternoon – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October**

This is the second time this year we are supporting the National Garden Scheme, a charity that supports several good causes and raises millions of pounds each year. The school grounds and gardens will be open for viewing from 1400 to 1700 as well as the beautiful walled garden where a range of flowers and garden produce will be on sale. There are a variety of trails and walks including the historic ice house in the garden of Field House, a woodland walk and the boating lake (for viewing only!). Entry is by way of donation, £5 per car, all entrance money going to the NGS charity. Teas will be on sale at The Lighthouse where Hall Grove lamb will also be available to buy in packs ready for the freezer.

Concurrently, our children will have the opportunity to welcome their Grandparents to Hall Grove. As well as being able to enjoy the NGS event, visitors will be able to watch a demonstration Polo and Hockey Match, enjoy a performing arts extravaganza, and a number of other activities. We hope that grandparents will see their grandchildren in action as well as look around their classrooms. Best to dress for the outdoors.

### **To Year 6 Parents and HR professionals across the parent body – from the Headmaster**

The Head of the Upper Juniors Section, Mike Wheeler, and I, would like to build on the interview training being conducted next week at Battsborough House. As you will see in the Calendar, there is an entry during the week commencing 11 October titled 'Year 6 Interview Training'. Mike and I have discussed conducting a rather unique training session that I spotted taking place during the Summer when I visited many of the senior schools we send our children to.

I am conscious that we have many experienced professionals in our parent body, and we would like to invite interested Year 6 parents to join us and conduct the interviews. This will involve a couple of hours on two days during the week so that children can conduct a first interview on the Monday or Tuesday, receive feedback on the Wednesday, and then conduct a second interview on the Thursday or Friday (parents will therefore either join the Monday and Thursday 'shift' or the Tuesday and Friday 'shift'). Parent interviewers will capture their feedback on paper and it will be delivered by the Form Tutors. We will ensure that parents are not interviewing their own children.

The training will involve children moving between a series of interview desks where each desk will focus on different areas, for example: academics, hobbies, and interests. The precise details and timings will be confirmed depending on your replies.

If you are keen to be involved, please could you send an email to me ([n.tomlin@hallgrove.co.uk](mailto:n.tomlin@hallgrove.co.uk)). We will operate a first come first served system so please reply early to avoid disappointment. Thank you

### **Year 5 Introduction to Boarding Night**

Year 5 have an optional 'Introduction to Boarding' night on Friday 1st October. 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 a visit to Explore Activity centre in Mytchett for the children to go out on a lake and experience tandem sit-on-top kayaks, followed by pizza, and a film on our return to school. The children will stay on 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 the kayaking, 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](#).

A packing list will be sent to those attending early next week. Thank you. Mr Cottrell

## **Forgotten Items**

Whilst we realise children might feel they cannot live without their water bottle or a book or two for a day, we believe that we have reserves at school to get them through the day. At times, the School Office has become inundated with kit, all of which the children can (most of the time) survive the day without. Thank you.

## **School Notices**

### **Medical**

- **Ticks** As the children spend plenty of time outside and on the grass, please remember to check your child for ticks regularly. We have had a couple of incidents reported by parents over the past week. [Insect bites and stings - Treatment - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)
- **Vision screening**. It is advised that children have their eyesight tested every 1-2 years. Opticians offer this service to children at no cost. Please consider booking an appointment if your child has not been reviewed for some time.

### **Performing Arts**

- **Music** It has been wonderful to get all choirs and individual music lessons back up and running. We are now able to restart Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble and Junior Brass as Covid cases have declined in the school. Parents should expect to receive a direct email shortly if their child has been invited to join one of the ensembles. For more information on this please refer to the 'Performing Arts' handbook which was attached to the two previous newsletters. Percussion Ensemble however is not by invitation only, so we would encourage any child who has an interest in learning percussion to join this ensemble in the first instance - the more the merrier!

Next week marks the return of our Informal Lunchtime Concert series which will take place most Tuesdays at 1300 for the rest of term. Please refer to the school calendar for more information. Next week we are looking forward to hearing our first group of pianists perform **in the Studio on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September**. Family and friends are more than welcome to attend this. If your child learns outside of school but would like to be involved in any of the concerts, please email [music@hallgrove.co.uk](mailto:music@hallgrove.co.uk) at least 5 days before the concert.

**Practice Club** There are still some spaces available in the after-school music practice club. This takes place on Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, is open to Year 2 and above and is free of charge. Please contact [music@hallgrove.co.uk](mailto:music@hallgrove.co.uk) for more information.

**Music Exams** If your child learns an instrument outside of school but would like to take an ABRSM exam at Hall Grove on the 4<sup>th</sup> December (or 3<sup>rd</sup> if needed) please contact [music@hallgrove.co.uk](mailto:music@hallgrove.co.uk) as soon as possible.

**Instrumental Lessons** If your child is learning an instrument outside of Hall Grove we would love to include them in our musical events and would be grateful if you could please email [music@hallgrove.co.uk](mailto:music@hallgrove.co.uk) giving your child's name, instrument, teacher's name and current Grade so that we have a record of this information.

**Woodwind Teacher** We anticipate Chloe Potter replacing Mr Branch as our Clarinet and Saxophone teacher from Monday of Week 5. She will also teach our flautists until a specialist flute teacher is found.

- **Drama** Miss Macfarlane is delighted to be starting the Trinity Drama & Speech exam syllabus for those children she has on her list. If you have missed information on this, please refer to the Performing Arts handbook again, found in last week's newsletter.
- **Dance** We are very excited to be launching the Hall Grove Dance Academy in due course. Planning is underway to make sure we have the structure in place to offer an extensive and exciting programme of dance run by Miss Erridge. A number of parents have emailed us about this requesting information. Please refer to the information in the Performing Arts Handbook for more information on this.

### Sport

It has been wonderful to see all the girls and boys enjoying so much sport over the last few weeks and we welcome the support and encouragement from the touchlines at all the events.

The last week has seen so many excellent performances but the standout achievement goes to the U13 boys football team who won the Charterhouse U13 tournament. This is a tournament steeped in history, and to win against so many of the strongest prep schools on the circuit is a special achievement. Well, done to all the boys who represented the Hall Grove on this special day.

The senior girls are also starting to hit form having good wins in their matches on Saturday and Wednesday and are clearly inspiring the U11 and U10 girls who enjoyed success against Holme Grange. It was particularly impressive to see 7 girls teams playing on Wednesday, ensuring that as many girls as possible have been able represent their school.

Since the start of term, our girls and boys have played over eighty competitive fixtures against other schools and all the pupils in years 3 to 8 have represented the school unless injured. We feel it is incredibly special that Hall Grove can field as many as 5 teams in certain year groups.

Please check the school web site for fixture and training information

### **Staff and parent social bike ride**

The next staff and parent road ride will take place on Sunday October 10<sup>th</sup> departing Hall Grove at 0900. Last Sundays was an enormous success despite the rain towards the end. Thank you to all those who attended, it was lovely to ride with former and current parents. The ride will be at an average speed of 15/16 mph and a road bike will be necessary. Coffee and cake will be provided halfway. If you would like further information, contact Mr Lewis or Mr Tullett

### **Prize Giving Cups and Awards**

If your child was presented with a cup at Prize Giving, please could you have the cup engraved in the same format as the previous winner and return it to the School Office. Thank you.

### School Adverts

#### **Documents**

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

- Senior Schools Open Mornings Information

- Half Term Camps

## **School Uniform Shop Opening Times**

### **Term Time Only Opening Times**

Mondays & Tuesdays 0800 - 0900

Thursdays 1500 – 1700

To access the on-line Uniform Shop service please visit The Direct Clothing Company website and follow the link to Hall Grove School. There are also instructions on the school website.

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/>

## **Public Notices**

### **Car Parking**

Please do not park outside Badgers Cottage, the DT Workshop or the Vine Cottage area. These are either private accommodation addresses or where school minibuses need to manoeuvre, and we wish to avoid congestion or a bump.

### **Uniform Shop – Job Vacancies**

After 14 years running the uniform shop at Hall Grove, Kirsty and Helyna have decided to move on to pastures new. Subsequently we are looking for 2 new members of staff to run the Uniform Shop onsite. The job is customer facing and amounts to approximately 4-5 hours a week, depending on the time of year. If you are interested in this role, please email Paul Fisher on [paul.fisher@directclothing.co.uk](mailto:paul.fisher@directclothing.co.uk) and he will provide more information on salary/job description etc.

### **Cancer Research UK – Shine Night Walk Fundraising Event**

Will Rhodes, ex-pupil and GAP Student, will be taking part, with family and friends, in the Shine Night Walk fundraiser event on 25th September 2021.

On the 25th of September 2020, Will's father sadly passed away having battled with a rare disease called Neuromyelitis Optica. Family and friends wanted to do something for the anniversary of his passing and thought that the Shine Night Walk around the city of London, a place that he adored, would be a rather fitting way to celebrate his amazing 54 years of life.

If you would like to donate towards Will's giving page, then please do so by clicking on the link below.

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/williams-giving-page-320>

## **Half Term Netball Camp**

Georgie Maxfield will be running a half-term camp for Year 5-6-7 in Wellington College netball centre RG45 7PT. Places are limited - please contact her directly, see flyer on the website.