

HALLFIELD

FOCUS

ISSUE 1 JAN 2022



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FOUNDED 1879

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SCHOOL**

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WELCOME



HALLFIELD
SCHOOL

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From the Head Master

We are excited to bring to you the first edition of Hallfield Focus– our new magazine that celebrates all things Hallfield!

We had a fantastic return to school last term and successfully managed to keep things as normal as possible with events, school trips and Christmas celebrations all going ahead as planned.

Lots of awards and merits were handed out and I enjoyed many a Golden Ticket Lunch and Good News Assembly to celebrate the hard work and compassion our pupils show every day. You will see from the stories enclosed the many talents our pupils represent from chess, to art and languages – I couldn't be more proud as the children strive for greatness.

Last term we unveiled two new state of the art facilities with renowned children's author Chloe Inkpen and

Michelin Star chef Andreas Antona. We will continue to invest into the fabric of our school to reflect the vibrant and diverse education offered at Hallfield.

As the challenges of the pandemic continue into 2022, rest assured that we are all working together to keep the spirit of the Hallfield community high and school life as normal as possible for our children.

As I sign off I would like to take the opportunity to thank Hallfield Staff for all their hard work and parents for your continued support.

K B Morrow

Head Master





SOPHIA HITS ALL THE RIGHT NOTES

Musically talented Year 5 pupil, Sophia, is celebrating after gaining a place in the prestigious National Children's Orchestra.

The proud leader of the first violins in the Hallfield Orchestra, Sophia has performed in school on a number of occasions as both a soloist and part of the orchestra. Adding another string to her bow, she is also a talented singer and has secured a place in the school Chamber Choir.

"I've been playing the violin since I was two years old. My older brother, who still plays now, inspired me to start learning. I enjoy playing the violin because it allows me to practice new pieces of music and challenge myself. I'll always play the violin. One day I want to become a professional violinist and teacher; I hope to perform in London."



BRITISH WEIGHTLIFTING CHAMPIONSHIP SUCCESS FOR YUVRAJ

Huge congratulations to Year 6 pupil, Yuvraj, who won gold in the under 12's 45kg category at the British Weightlifting Championships, and also managed to lift a bigger total than all of the boys in the 55kg weight group!

Yuvraj travelled to Harrogate for the Championships, which took place on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 November 2021.

PUPILS CELEBRATE WRITING COMPETITION SUCCESS

Roshan (Year 1), Diah and Japmeh (Year 5), received highly commended for their entries in the Children's Air Ambulance creative writing competition. The brief was to write about an epic adventure for the Children's Air Ambulance Mascots Blade and Peggy. Roshan, Diah and Japmeh all enjoyed using their imagination to send Blade and Peggy on their adventures!



ZICHEN'S ARTWORK GAINS INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

Artistically talented Year 5 pupil, Zichen, gained international recognition when his painting "Panda" was entered into the ENDANGERED Fine Art & Photography Contest in the USA. With over 500 entries, his work was selected to exhibit in their Young Artist Gallery from 16 – 30 November 2021.

Zichen is no stranger to international art competitions – he was just eight years old when he entered "Autumn" into the 21st Kanagawa Biennial World Children's Art Exhibition in Japan, where he became the only entrant from the UK to be selected for the exhibition.

He also designed the 2021 BHBN Radio Christmas card. All proceeds went to BHBN Radio, a charity and gold award-winning radio station that has been keeping patients' company at hospitals across Birmingham for over 65 years.

"I love painting because it is my passion and I hope to make my family proud. I am inspired by many artists and hope to make friends that share the same passion. Probably the first artist I knew was Van Gogh – I wish to be an artist when I grow up."



CHECKMATE: DIAH TAKES THE CHESS WORLD BY STORM

Atalented chess player, Diah, competed in the Four Nations Chess League Online Congress winning 1st place in the 9th and 10th Rounds, and placing 3rd in the 8th Round. She also proudly represented Hallfield School in the Delancey UK Schools' Chess Challenge, winning 3rd place in the U10 Gigafinal by scoring 5.5/7 points.

Diah continued her run of success and had a great weekend in Milton Keynes, competing in the British Junior Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship 2021. Following an intense two days of chess, playing 19 games against some of the country's top junior players in her age category, we are delighted to share that Diah was crowned 1st runner up for the 2021 British Junior Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship U10 Girls by winning 8/10 for Blitz Games! Diah finished joint 4th (5th on tie break) for the Rapid Play games.





FUTURE LEADERS: MEET OUR HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL



How did you become Head Boy and Girl?

Riyaan: We applied at the beginning of the year. It's competitive as most Year 6 and Seniors apply.

Elizabeth: You then have an interview with the Head Master with successful candidates announced on Speech Day.

What does your role as Head Boy / Head Girl involve?

Riyaan: Weekly meetings with Mr Morrow to discuss the progress of the school and make suggestions as to how we can improve things.

Elizabeth: We also have the opportunity to speak at big events, such as the church services, which can be nerve wracking but is an amazing experience!

Riyaan: We are the face of the school. Our peers look up to us as Head Boy and Girl and the way we behave affects how they see us, so we always try to have a perfect uniform, do well academically, and practice good behaviour.

What is your favourite thing about being Head Boy / Head Girl?

Riyaan: It's nice having time with Mr Morrow. Each week we enjoy a homemade cake and hot drink together.

Elizabeth: It's such a great opportunity and feels like a big achievement to have been selected for this role.

How has being Head Boy / Head Girl helped you?

Elizabeth: My confidence and public speaking.

Riyaan: It looks great on a CV or personal statement. The interview process was a useful experience for my senior school interviews.

What is your lasting memory from Hallfield School or is it yet to come?

Riyaan: There's so many! Our residential trip, ice skating, the graffiti workshop, building a pizza oven. I am looking forward to the summer term. Finishing our pizza oven and making pizzas for the school will be a highlight.

Elizabeth: The French trip in the summer.

INTRODUCING OUR HEAD BOYS AND GIRLS

Head Boy: **Riyaan**

Head Girl: **Elizabeth**

Deputy Head Boy: **Aryan**

Deputy Head Girl: **Isha**



INTRODUCING OUR PREFECTS

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| • Dylan | • Aamina | • Ibrahim |
| • Andrew | • Asha | • Sulaiman |
| • Muskaan | • Amrit | • Ria |
| • Riya | • Aaviya | • Freya |
| • Maanya | • Gursimar | |

MEET OUR PRE-PREP SCHOOL COUNCILLORS

- | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|
| • Saba | • Aditi | • Amber |
| • Rosh | • Handuo | • Samuel |
| • Mahi | • Millie | • Aya |
| • Giaan | • Dallas | • Lucas |



MEET OUR PREP SCHOOL COUNCILLORS

- | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|
| • Leila | • Siyona | • Angie |
| • Arnab | • Arissa | • Yuvraj |
| • Mylo | • Max | • Heath |



TRAVELLING BACK IN TIME: YEAR 3 EGYPTIAN WORKSHOP

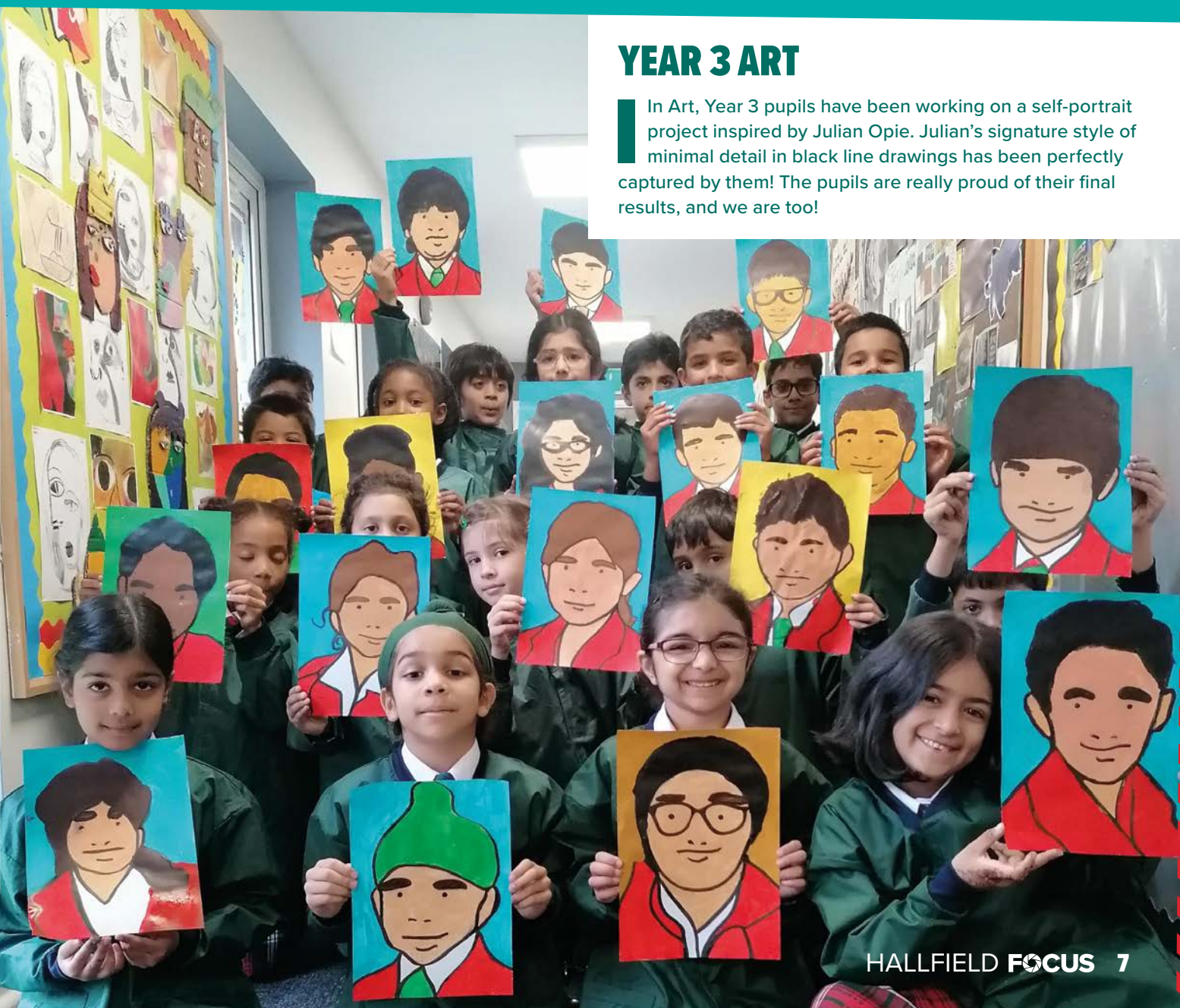
Year 3 Pupils travelled back in time to take part in an Ancient Egyptian Workshop, spending the morning making oil from olives, using clay to make a canopic jar and making a charm and threading it onto a leather bracelet. Other exciting activities included making ink and writing on papyrus paper, grinding barley into flour to make bread and using clay and herbs to make a perfume cone.

After lunch, the children all took part in the preparations and celebrations of the Royal Banquet to celebrate the appointment of a new High Priest of Aten. The celebrations and day finished with one of the servants and a stallholder (Mr Somers) having their heads chopped off for attempting to poison the Pharaoh!



YEAR 3 ART

In Art, Year 3 pupils have been working on a self-portrait project inspired by Julian Opie. Julian's signature style of minimal detail in black line drawings has been perfectly captured by them! The pupils are really proud of their final results, and we are too!





READ ALL ABOUT IT: PUPIL LIBRARIANS

As part of their induction into their new roles, the newly appointed Pupil Librarians met in the Creative Cottage Library.

The Librarians were shown around and given a range of tasks to complete. They were impressed by this enchanting space, designed especially for our younger students, and by how well it is being maintained by our Pre-Prep Pupils.

The Creative Cottage Library left our Pupil Librarians with a very good impression of what it has to offer.

FANTASTIC FOSSILS: YEAR 4 STEM TRIP

As part of their STEM enrichment, Year 4 went to the Lapworth Museum of Geology. The children looked at life throughout the last 3.5 billion years and discovered that fossils are valuable evidence of how life has developed over time. Through fossils, the museum records the invasion of land, the formation of forests, and the rise of animals such as insects, dinosaurs, and humans. Pupils gained a lot of knowledge and were eager to return and write up their findings.



EUROPEAN LANGUAGES DAY HOUSE COMPETITION

To celebrate European Languages Day, Prep children participated in a House competition where they were invited to create a poster relating to a European country. We were delighted that so many children submitted an entry, creating a wide variety of posters reflecting the diverse cultures of the European nations. The high calibre of the entries demonstrated the children's enthusiasm for languages, making determining the winners especially challenging.

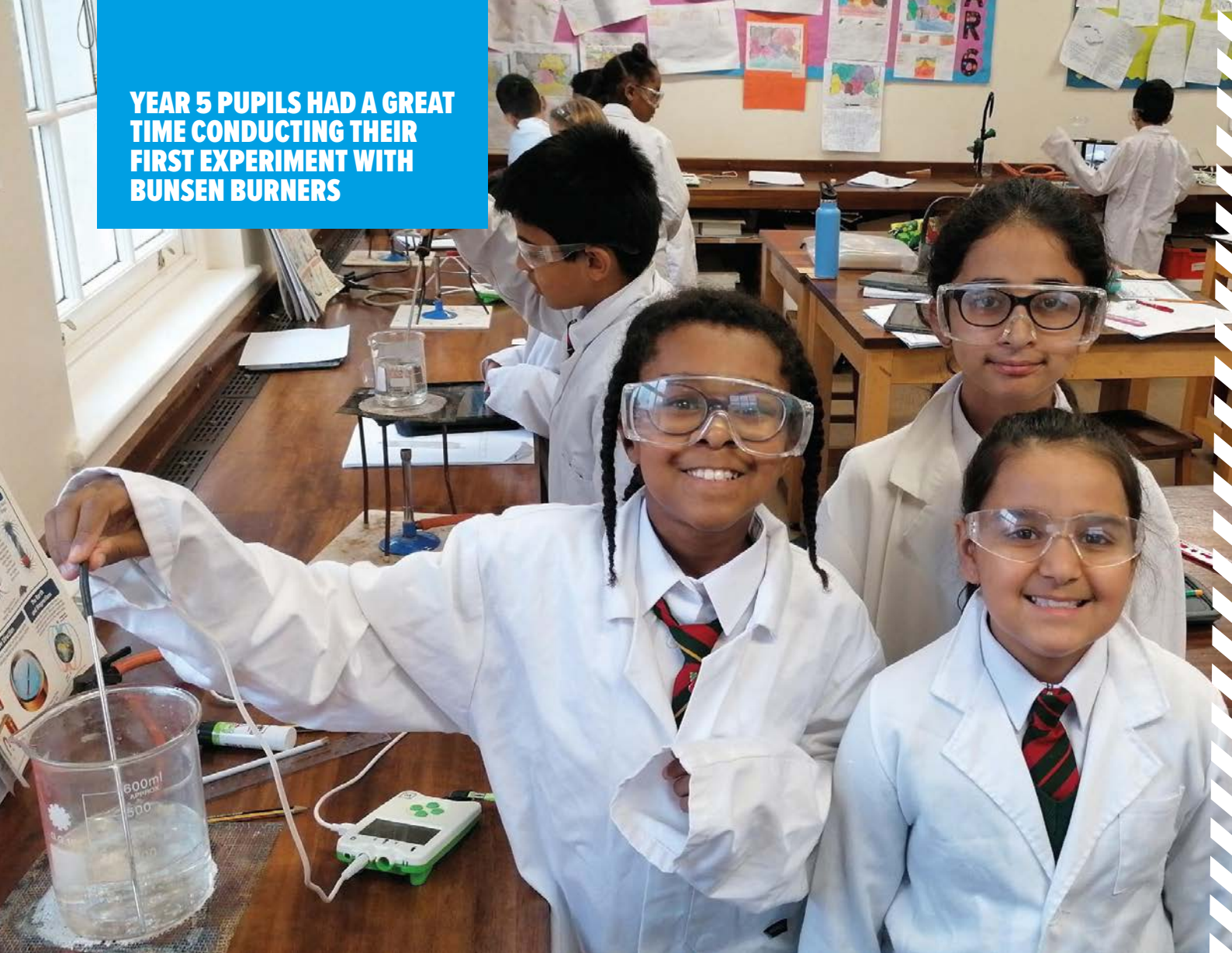
The selected House winners were:

Pughe – Dhyana (4DM), Stork – Hiba (5CW),
Ridgway – Eliot (5DL), Nowers – Rayyan (3JS)

With the title of overall winner being awarded to Dhyana in class 4DM.

It was wonderful to receive so many high quality, creative entries and we would like to thank everyone who took part.

YEAR 5 PUPILS HAD A GREAT TIME CONDUCTING THEIR FIRST EXPERIMENT WITH BUNSEN BURNERS



YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL TRIP: BOUNDLESS OUTDOORS

In the Autumn Term, Year 6 went on a residential trip to Boundless Outdoors in Bell Heath. They took part in a wide range of action-packed activities. High rope courses, tunnelling and problem-solving activities put the children's trust, resilience and communication skills to the test and allowed them to show their independence and leadership. Everyone had a great time, creating lasting memories.





REMARKABLE REPTILES: YEAR 2 STEM

Year 2 had a visit from Dr Wilkinson and his two special reptiles: Spike the bearded dragon and Gandalf the tortoise! The children learned lots of amazing facts about both reptiles.

At the end of the session, the children had some questions for Dr Wilkinson and were also allowed to stroke the animals.

Did you know that bearded dragons can change colours on different parts of their bodies?



GOLDEN TICKET WINNERS

Well done to all the Golden Ticket winners from last term. Many celebratory lunches were enjoyed and special pencils awarded by the Head Master to children who are hardworking and demonstrate compassion and good behaviour.





PRE-PREP ARE LOVING THE CREATIVE COTTAGE



FOUNDATION LIBRARY FUN

Foundation pupils were excited to explore some of the new titles we've purchased for the Creative Cottage Library which are suitable for EYFS pupils. The children have also been learning about how to handle the books with care alongside learning about the different parts which make up a book, from the front and back covers, to the spine and pages.

COLOURFULLY CREATIVE: YEAR 2 ART

Year 2 pupils have been busy in art, learning all about colour theory. The children used their names as a grid to mix primary, secondary and tertiary colours in. The final product was brilliant and created a lovely display.





MEET OUR SENIORS – MAHEK, HEATH AND ANTHONY



MAHEK, YEAR 7, JOINED AT HALLFIELD SENIORS

What opportunities has HallfieldSeniors provided?

I've learnt a lot more than I would have in my other senior school choices. The standard of teaching is excellent and the staff show interest in each individual. I went ice-skating for the first time, learnt to play squash and visited the Priory Club.

What is your favourite subject?

Computing or STEM - I particularly enjoy chemistry. Last week we did a fun experiment about dissolving metals in liquids.

Do you take part in extracurricular activities?

I'm a member of the Drama Club and have a part in the upcoming Alice in Wonderland production. I also love music, playing guitar and piano.

What fun activities do you get to do?

Ice skating, squash, food tech. We have our own common room where we play table football and I have a 1000-piece jigsaw that I am currently doing.

What do you like the most about HallfieldSeniors?

How everyone cares about you and are always trying to help us improve.

What is your lasting memory from HallfieldSeniors or is it yet to come?

I'm excited about our upcoming trip to London, we're going on a tour and visiting Madame Tussauds.



HEATH, YEAR 8, JOINED HALLFIELD IN YEAR 6

What opportunities has HallfieldSeniors provided?

We get taught by Heads of Departments, which I've really enjoyed and it's helped to further develop my learning. There are also lots of great leadership opportunities; I am in the Eco Council, School Council and a Games Captain.

What is your favourite subject?

Sports - I love to be outside and have advanced significantly at HallfieldSeniors.

Do you take part in extracurricular activities?

I'm part of STEM Club, where we get taught by Dr Wilkinson and Mr Wordsworth - they combine DT and STEM. One week we built little Edison boxes out of Lego and controlled them.

What do you like the most about HallfieldSeniors?

The teaching. Everyone is helpful and Hallfield's approach is personalised, as though everyone really cares. It's a very welcoming environment.

What is your lasting memory from HallfieldSeniors or is it yet to come?

I got a perfect score on one of my maths quizzes - it was a proud moment.

ANTHONY, YEAR 7, JOINED HALLFIELD IN FOUNDATION

What opportunities has HallfieldSeniors provided?

The way HallfieldSeniors is run means we're given a lot more independence, which allows us to mature and get used to what life will be like at our next school. The leadership opportunities are great, I was deputy Head Boy last year, which improved my public speaking.

What extracurricular activities do you take part in?

I play football and I am in the Badminton Club and Drama Club. I'm getting the opportunity to test my acting skills in the role of The Mad Hatter in the upcoming production of Alice in Wonderland. I also enjoy playing guitar and have performed in two Tea-Time Concerts.

What fun activities do you get to do as a Senior?

We have a foosball table in our Common Room, which we're allowed to use at break time. We also get to enjoy different privileges, like having lunch at a time of our choosing, which allows us a little more freedom during the day, but also teaches us to plan and ensure we use our time wisely.

How do you think HallfieldSeniors has helped to prepare you for your next school?

The added independence has improved my confidence. I feel much better prepared after having these extra few years at Hallfield to move on to my next school, I have learnt a lot and benefitted from being taught by the Heads of Department as the standard of teaching is so high.





HALLFIELD SENIORS RESIDENTIAL TRIP – OSMINGTON BAY

For their first residential trip of the year, HallfieldSeniors travelled to Osmington Bay on the beautiful Dorset coast for a residential visit. Whilst there, they participated in a wide variety of action-packed activities. Engaging in raft building, archery and problem solving tested the Seniors' determination, collaboration and communication skills and provided them with the opportunity to demonstrate independence and leadership. Everyone had a wonderful time, making the most of the opportunities and having plenty of fun in the process!

SMOOTHIE MAKING IN STEM



CHRISTMAS ICE-SKATING TRIP



**HALLFIELD SENIORS
FOOTBALL TEAM**



**HALLFIELD SENIORS MOVIE AND
PIZZA NIGHT WITH THE HEAD MASTER**



**SENIORS TEAM
BUILDING OVER A FIRE
AND MARSHMALLOWS**

SLAM DUNK: STAFF V SENIORS BASKETBALL

Hallfield Seniors challenged Staff to a basketball match in the final week of term.

It was a cautious affair in the opening couple of minutes while both teams sized each other up. Mr Woolhead won the first tip-off and Staff took an early lead, only for that to be quickly levelled by Seniors. There were great battles happening all over the court and some inspired passing from both teams. It was a close match, but Staff were edging it at half time, going in with a 14 to 8 lead.

In the second half, a slam dunk from Mr Wordsworth really lifted the match intensity, but strong rebounding

from Heath and inspired shooting from Isa and Aaron kept the Seniors team in contention. It finished with Staff winning 22 points to 14 for Hallfield's first-ever Staff vs Seniors basketball match. There were smiles all around following the game and the Seniors are already asking about a rematch!

Staff player of the match: Miss Sanderson with 2 baskets, 4 rebounds and countless assists.

Seniors player of the match: Aaron Ricketts with 6 points, 3 rebounds and 2 assists



SENIORS RESEARCH PROJECTS

Seniors have been spending weeks engaged in researching a chosen topic of interest. They began by learning about the Dewey Decimal Classification system, which generated some keenness for selecting a category to look into. They used their knowledge to locate relevant books from their chosen section and then identified extracts from a non-fiction book to rewrite in their own words.

Each student then selected and modified a PowerPoint presentation design to suit their topic, and they experimented with fonts, animation and several other features to improve the style and impact of their presentations.

Their shared work was a true reflection of their dedication and interest in their chosen subject. The animations, in particular, were very impressive and even included an animated flying bird of peace. Well done Seniors!





CAREERS TALK SERIES FOR YEAR 6 AND SENIORS

Every half term Hallfield invite two speakers from the parents and Old Hallfieldian communities to come and talk to the pupils about their careers.

The inaugural session featured Alison Grade, Serial Entrepreneur and Career Freelancer, and Vivek Khashu, Strategy and Engagement Director for the NHS. They shared insights on two very different career journeys, both equally fascinating. The children asked lots of questions and no doubt have been inspired by what they heard. Mr Khashu even arranged for a special visit from the West Midlands Ambulance Service so the children could see an ambulance up close.

For the second Career Talk, we were joined by Old Hallfieldian Army Officer, Capt. Dent-Pooley, and Civil Engineer, Mr Ngai. Pupils from Years 6, 7 and 8 heard about the range of projects civil engineers work on from Mr Ngai and had a chance to try on specialist PPE. Capt. Dent-Pooley outlined the role of the British Army and the training and selection process he went through in order to serve his country.



Making the Right Choice for Your Child

How Hallfield supports its pupils, leaving them ready for the next chapter of their educational journey

Back in September 2020, as we celebrated Hallfield's 140th anniversary, we found ourselves reminiscing about our school's rich heritage whilst also looking forward, as we took the decision to re-introduce a Year 7 and 8 in the form of HallfieldSeniors.

As we move in to its second year and continue to witness the positive impact HallfieldSeniors has had on our first cohort of pupils, we are incredibly proud to be the only school in Birmingham that can provide co-educational schooling for children from the age of three months to 13 years old. Our priority has, and always will be, to support both our pupils and their parents throughout these seminal years, keeping our school motto front and centre: "Happy, Secure & Purposeful".

Whilst we will, of course, continue to offer a pathway at 11+ to regional independent and boarding schools through excellent preparation for their 11+ or select entrance exams, we recognise that starting a new senior school at the end of Year 6 is not the right choice for every pupil.

We know from both experience and research that there are numerous benefits for children staying on in their current Prep School up to the age of 13. We are also very mindful that the global pandemic has had a significant impact on many children and their educational maturation, meaning their adaptability and resilience has been challenged. Giving them the opportunity to stay a little bit longer and excel within familiar surroundings may ease the concerns and pressure of both parent and child alike.

At HallfieldSeniors the personal needs and pathways of each child are uniquely attended to. All pupils in Year 7 & 8 are offered certain freedoms and opportunities alongside their educational journey, leaving them more developed and better prepared to cope with both the academic and social pressures they may experience at senior school when they move on at 13+.

(Continued...)



"HallfieldSeniors strikes the right balance between academic rigour and pastoral care. Their pastoral care is spot on for children who are not yet ready for senior school at 11+. The school is very inclusive and attentive to each child's needs. I'm so pleased an offering like HallfieldSeniors came to Birmingham as it will give many children the additional time they need before they enter the big pond of senior school.

Dr Baldrighi, Year 8 Parent



HallfieldSeniors has provided an environment, which has encouraged the development of our son's independence, leadership skills and sense of being an influential and valued member of his school community. The supportive and respectful approach of the staff towards students has nurtured his engagement in class with real positive improvements in his results and attitude to learning, making him feel more confident in his transition to a new secondary school.

Mr & Mrs Brinsden, Year 8 Parents







These include:

- Every class being taught by a Head of Department, including staff who have previous senior teaching experience.
- The HallfieldSeniors curriculum is broadly based upon the National Curriculum, whilst also giving pupils the opportunity to develop their aesthetic, physical and creative potential.
- Hallfield Enrichment plays a vital role within this, providing a carousel of enrichment subjects taught by subject enthusiasts such as Bikeability, Cooking, Drama, First Aid, Forest School, Latin, Music Technology and Photography.
- Each pupil is supported through their future decisions both educationally (i.e. deciding which is the best suited destination school) and from a career development perspective.
- All HallfieldSeniors pupils are invited to attend Hallfield Insights where we listen and learn from inspirational guest speakers – including Astronauts, Politicians and Medical Experts.
- HallfieldSeniors pupils are given the opportunity to get involved with numerous different extracurricular activities including golf lessons, volunteering, ice skating, pizza & film nights with the Head Master and residential trips.

Alongside the above, discussions are in progress to help further develop ideas and activities on offer for HallfieldSeniors pupils across the Spring Term, including the opportunity to take their lunchbreak at a time that suits them (rather than being scheduled around other year groups); running a tuck shop, with the profits being put back into their activities; updating their common room and introducing special PE experiences – all with the aim of encouraging pupils to be independent, resourceful and mindful of others.

Within these two additional years at Hallfield, we have seen that pupils become more developed and mature, leaving them better equipped to take on the pressures of entrance exams and moving onto their next senior school at 13+.

The entire team at Hallfield are incredibly passionate about being able to offer our pupils the opportunity to stay with us a little longer, enabling us to send them on to the next chapter of their educational journey with incredible knowledge and experience.



“HallfieldSeniors has provided a warm and nurturing environment to facilitate our son’s transition to secondary education. Teachers have provided the structure and guidance needed and have been responsive to queries. Administrative staff are welcoming and communication has been excellent.

Our son has had the opportunity to engage in a range of extracurricular activities, team building exercises and a school residential that have helped to increase his confidence and independence.

Overall, HallfieldSeniors has been a positive experience and our only regret is that it doesn’t extend to Year 11.”

Mrs Ricketts, Year 8 Parent



“We are very excited about the future and forever grateful to HallfieldSeniors. The level of care given to pupils is wonderful. I don’t think the pupils realise how lucky and honoured they are to have such a wonderful array of teachers. They are not only the best at what they do, but also care for the emotional and mental wellbeing of each pupil.”

Mr & Mrs Bhardwaj, Year 8 Parents



INSPIRING SPACES FOR ENHANCED LEARNING

At Hallfield we feel passionately about developing spaces that enhance and inspire our pupils learning. The Creative Cottage is Hallfield's hidden treasure and most recent development. It is home to a Pre-Prep library, art classroom, garden and chicken run. Once used as a derelict store for old furniture and unwanted items, Mrs Morrow, Head of Pre-Prep Art recognised its potential as a charming and unique space resembling a storybook "gingerbread cottage". Before the Creative Cottage Pre-Prep children had no dedicated art room and their library was three bookcases in the Pre-Prep Hall. Now they have a beautiful and homely space for nurturing their love of reading and developing their creativity and enrichment skills.

The Creative Cottage library is a reading haven, with themed cubby holes (jungle, undersea and outer space) for children to escape to with a book. A feast for the imagination there are butterflies flying overhead, paper mice on bookshelves and soft toys to hold as a reading companion. The space is designed for children from HallfieldFirst (aged 3) right through to Year 2 (aged 6), and has hundreds of books for the children to enjoy.

Downstairs the art room is colourful and features the children's artwork, from glass fusing to mixed media wall displays. No corner is left untouched. Even a pillar that holds up the building is a sensory feast for the hands and eyes. And that is exactly how Mrs Morrow wanted it – a homely space that the children can be excited by and make their own.

Outside a chicken run homes ten hens and a cockerel. As part of a five-week enrichment programme the children get to do "hen-richment", which involves feeding the hens, collecting eggs, drawing pictures of them and handling them. By the end of the five-week programme, even the most nervous children stroke the hens, because they have built confidence by being around them and learning about them.

The quaint garden that surrounds the cottage is maintained by the children. They get to plant flowers and grow vegetables which are cooked in the cottage kitchen or sent to the Bistro for feasting on at lunchtime. The children learn about how vegetables are grown from seed to plate, providing a sense of satisfaction and understanding about where their food comes from.

A once dilapidated building, the Creative Cottage started out as an idea and some sketches on an iPad. Two terms and a pandemic later our pupils finally get to enjoy this unique space. The Creative Cottage is just one part of Hallfield's exciting 5-year strategy "Hallfield Futures", where the Governors and Head Master have made a commitment to invest in facilities to develop the pupils to be independent and passionate learners. The Creative Cottage is now Hallfield's most enchanting place that will bring joy to many children for years to come.





HALLFIELD SCHOOL AND SIMPSONS RESTAURANT: THE PERFECT RECIPE TO LAUNCH STATE OF THE ART FOOD TECH CLASSROOM

Hallfield School marked the launch of its state-of-the-art Food Technology Classroom with a locally sourced, surprise ingredient: Michelin Chef, Andreas Antona and the team of Simpsons Restaurant.

Antona, alongside Simpsons' Executive Chef Luke Tipping and Rachel Tokitsu, teacher at Simpsons' Eureka Cookery School, talked about his journey to becoming a Michelin-rated Chef during a special assembly. It was fascinating to hear his stories of working at The Ritz and cooking for the rich and famous, including the Queen and Dame Shirley Bassey. The children's enthusiasm was palpable and evident in the many questions they flooded the team with.

Following the assembly, a ribbon-cutting ceremony took place at the brand new Food Technology Classroom with Andreas before the first lesson took place under the watchful eye of Rachel. This involved Hallfield Seniors who made sourdough pizzas. The pupils took great pride in creating their pizzas and were adventurous in their selection of toppings.

Later in the day, some of the younger pupils were invited to a Five Senses Session with Rachel. Here they were taught about the five basic tastes in food – sweet, sour, salty, bitter and umami using a selection of ingredients that represented each flavour. At the end of the session the children were presented with a sample of jelly, which to the eye looked like raspberry or strawberry flavour. Instead the children were surprised to taste mint flavoured jelly or "toothpaste" flavour as described by some. The point of the exercise was to encourage children not to judge foods according to the way they look or how they think they will taste but to try everything as you may just be surprised and like it.

On the new classroom Keith Morrow, Head Master, comments: "As a school, we understand that health and wellbeing are as important to the future success of our children as their academic achievements. Life is really all about having a healthy body and mind, as well as intellectual curiosity and self-confidence."

He continues: "We were delighted to be joined by the team from Simpsons to open our new, state of the art, Food Technology Classroom. Food Technology will add to our diverse and exciting curriculum – Hallfield Enrichment, which covers everything from gardening, animal care, Latin, forest school and study skills.

"The new classroom is another investment into the fabric of Hallfield and supports our "Hallfield Futures" 5-year strategy – part of which is to invest in the school's facilities and build a school that is fit for the ambitious education we offer here."

Andreas Antona, Chef-Patron & Owner of Simpsons, comments: "It was an honour to be asked by the team at Hallfield School to get involved in the launch of their brand-new Food Technology Classroom. At Simpsons, we are passionate about creating beautiful food, but also about teaching future generations how to cook and where their food comes from."

Rachel Tokitsu, Teacher at Simpsons' Eureka Cookery School, adds: "It has been amazing to interact with the children and teach them that there is more to food than they might think – it's a way of life. Being able to share my love of food and cooking is something I feel really grateful for and seeing the pupils' enthusiasm fuelled this feeling even more."

We are proud of our exceptional reputation for how successful our students are in the classroom, but we are equally proud of their sporting successes.

From athletics and netball to cricket and rugby, our teams are continually aiming for further achievements. All Hallfield students are encouraged to participate in sports and extracurricular activities, as we believe it is a healthy and important part of their wider educational journey.



HOCKEY

The Year 3's enjoyed a Hockey Festival with Norfolk House and Dodderhill in November. The girls were put into teams and played five hockey matches each, demonstrating how much they have learnt from their games lessons this term. There were goals scored, super dribbling and passing skills, and some fearless tackling!

At the beginning of November, all Year 4 girls participated in our U9 Hockey Festival. This was their first match and they all performed really well, demonstrating everything they had learned in their hockey training. It was clear to see the enjoyment and skills progress from start to finish as each team had five matches to play. We are excited to see how their hockey skills develop in their next games this season.

The U9 team went on to have a superb match against Norfolk House. The final score was 2-0 and Olivia was voted as Girl of the Game.

U11B girls played Kings Hawford and after an excellent match from both sides, the final score was 4 – 1 to Hallfield. The level of hockey performed was exceptional. Congratulations to Anisa who was voted Player of the Match by King's Hawford.



Yr 5 – 7 House hockey:

- 1st – Nowers
- 2nd – Ridgway
- 3rd – Pughe
- 4th – Stork

Yr 3 – 4 House hockey:

- 1st – Pughe
- 2nd – Ridgway
- 3rd – Nowers
- 4th – Stork

Well done to all the girls who played – you did your House proud!

FOOTBALL

We've had a fantastic football season at Hallfield, with a lot of goals scored, a lot of wins, and a lot of fun on the pitch. It's been great to watch the students' progress and refine their skills on a weekly basis.

The Year 3 boys had a very successful afternoon of football against Solihull School, winning three out of four matches. Results were as follows:

A Team: Hallfield 5 Solihull 0

B Team: Hallfield 9 Solihull 1

C Team: Hallfield 7 Solihull 1

D Team: Hallfield 2 Solihull 3

Well done boys for representing the school so well!

A fantastic afternoon was had by all the Year 5 girls in our football tournament in November. We had five local schools – St Michael's, Chad Vale, Welsh House Farm, Woodhouse and Oasis Woodview come and visit us for a fun and competitive afternoon of football. Our girls have only had a couple of football lessons and learnt a lot very quickly throughout the six matches they played.

In December, pupils competed in their house football tournaments, results were as follows:

Year 6: 1st Nowers, 2nd Ridgway, 3rd Pughe, 4th Stork.

Year 5: 1st Nowers, 2nd Stork, 3rd Ridgway, 4th Pughe.

Year 4: 1st Pughe, 2nd Stork, 3rd Nowers, 4th Ridgway.

Year 3: 1st Pughe, 2nd Stork, 3rd Nowers, 4th Ridgway.

All games were played in the right spirit – great job everyone!



We are proud of our support for charities and the thousands of pounds that Hallfield students have raised for worthy causes.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Hallfield celebrated Harvest Festival at St Georges Church, Edgbaston. We were delighted to be able to return to the church for the first time since lockdown. Congratulations to the children who participated and to the choir for their wonderful singing. The festival was led by St George's new vicar, Reverend Dr Samuel Gibson, who delivered a memorable service that was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Part of our Harvest Festival celebrations involved a school collection for the local food bank. Thank you to all who donated items for The Black Country Foodbank, and to Hallfield pupils George and Anchal, who assisted Mr Morrow in loading the delivery van.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

This term Hallfield was proud to host a 'Macmillan Coffee Morning' with the Hallfield community donating some wonderful, tasty baked goods. The children enjoyed participating, with every donation helping the charity's mission to support those affected by cancer. Thank you to all the parents and staff who donated cakes and to everyone who supported this highly successful fundraising effort.

AMOUNT RAISED: £960



NICE CHARITY SCHOOL VISIT

Last term the School Charity Ambassadors were accompanied to Red Boots School, a NICE Charity organisation. Whilst there, we were given a tour of the school and its facilities, watched a lesson, took part in a Q&A with the children and watched a video showing us what NICE's key aims were.

Kara, Abbas and Thomas asked some really insightful questions about the school and the students, to the Head, Fiona Bilsborough. They all said the school surpassed their expectations, commenting on what a fun and stimulating place it was for the children who attended. They were also surprised at how unlike a hospital it was – which is what they were expecting.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Pupils wore their Christmas jumpers to raise money for NICE Red Boots School. A huge thank you to all who participated and contributed to Christmas Jumper Day this year.

AMOUNT RAISED: £1087.30



CHILDREN IN NEED

It was a sea of yellow around the school on the 19th November with pupils getting into the spirit of Children in Need. For over half a century, BBC Children in Need has been raising money for young people in the UK that need help and we are delighted to continue fundraising for this wonderful cause.

AMOUNT RAISED: £1300



TEA-TIME CONCERTS RETURN TO HALLFIELD

The Autumn Term saw the first of our Tea-Time Concerts since the start of the pandemic. The pupils did a wonderful job of playing instruments and singing. The Tea-Time Concert is often where children make their musical debut in front of an audience. Parents are invited to watch and see how much their child's musical skills, whether instrumental or vocal, have developed and to celebrate their hard work. You can read the full write up of the event on our blog.

JOINT CONCERT WITH SHREWSBURY SCHOOL MUSICIANS

This term the Hallfield Orchestra were joined by musicians from Shrewsbury School for a joint concert.

Hallfield's violin teacher Mr Rob Jones conducted the full ensemble for the three pieces - Old Joe Clark, Skip to My Lou and Lord of the Dance - and the Head of Strings from Shrewsbury School, Mr David Joyce, talked about the violin and viola and demonstrated both instruments. Mr Joyce and the students from Shrewsbury School played a Rondo and an interlude from Puccini's La Bohème.

"I am really passionate about our pupils playing their instruments in ensembles and the collective standard of all of our ensembles is improving significantly each year. I think parents were surprised by the standard of the Hallfield Orchestra since they last performed a year ago."

- Mr Jopling, Director of Music, Hallfield School





RECEPTION NATIVITY

Reception Pupils performed their Nativity 'Mary's Knitting'. The children did amazingly, every pupil had a special part to play and their confidence and memory of all the songs and dances were brilliant. The children spread lots of festive cheer and it was hard to believe that this was their first ever nativity!

YEAR 1 NATIVITY

Year 1 Pupils put on a fantastic show for their Nativity 'A Christmas Recipe'. The children sang and read brilliantly, with their confidence and practice shining through as they showed the audience all of the elements that make up the Christmas Story. Well done everyone, it was certainly a show to remember!



CAROL SERVICE

To everyone who joined us for our Carol Service on the final Friday of term. There were wonderful readings from our pupils, staff and Chair of Governors and beautifully sung carols. It was a lovely way to end the Autumn term and bring the Christmas spirit to life. Thank you to everyone who dropped donations into our collection buckets for the Salvation Army.

AMOUNT RAISED: £331.43





OPEN-AIR CINEMA COMES TO HALLFIELD

Over 300 Friends of Hallfield came to our first open air cinema night where we showed family favourite, The Greatest Showman. Guests enjoyed a wonderful selection of food and drink from local suppliers while they settled down to watch the film. Save the date for this year's cinema event, which will take place on Saturday 17 September 2022.

FIREWORKS WENT OFF WITH A BANG

Our first firework night was a great success with over 500 friends joining us for an evening of Guy Fawkes fun that combined sparklers, tasty food and great company.



OLD HALLFIELDIAN ROHAN PAL WINS THE BLITZ CHESS TOURNAMENT

A big well done to all the players at this year's Blitz Chess Tournament and congratulations to Old Hallfieldian Rohan Pal, who fought off stiff competition to become our tournament winner.

All players showed true Hallfield spirit in how they approached each match. Our youngest competitors were just 7 years old and they didn't let the experience phase them one bit!

A special thank you goes to Mr Thomas, Mr Holowczak and Mr Sandhu for overseeing proceedings. A full tournament report is available on our website.





UPCOMING EVENTS

KEY DATES

27 Jan	Tea-Time Concert
3 Feb	Hallfield Insights – Di Xiao
4 Feb	Number Day for NSPCC
5 Feb	Open Morning
7- 9 Feb	Alice in Wonderland Production
24 Feb	Mid-Year Concert
4 Mar	Year 4 Trip to Cadburys World
8 - 11 Mar	Year 6 Residential Trip to London
14 Mar	STEM Fair Week
15 Mar	Year 5 – 8 Shakespeare Workshop (The Tempest)
17 Mar	House Music Finals
21 Mar	Year 6 STEM Olympiad Finals
24 Mar	Year 5 STEM Trip to Cannonhill Wildlife Park
24 Mar	Hallfield Insights – Sir Colman Treacy
29 - 30 Mar	Wizard of Oz Production
1 Apr	Easter Service, St George's Church
27 Apr	Year 6 STEM Trip to Bletchley Park
4 - 6 May	Year 3 Residential Trip to Brecon Beacons
19 May	Hallfield Insights – Sir David Haslam
26 May	Old Hallfieldian Society Cricket Match
6 - 10 Jun	Year 5 Residential Trip to Ullswater
7 - 10 Jun	Year 4 Residential Trip to Cranedale
9 Jun	Old Hallfieldian Society Class of 2021 Reunion
10 Jun	Old Hallfieldian Society Golf
5 Jul	Hallfield Insights – Dr Robert Thirsk
17 Sep	Friends of Hallfield Open Air Cinema



For the latest information on upcoming events, check your iSams calendar.

We hope you enjoyed our first issue of Hallfield Focus!

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