

HALLFIELD



FOCUS

ISSUE 3 JAN 2023



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

NETBALL STAR INSPIRES PUPILS

MEETING THE MAYOR OF WOLVERHAMPTON

MICHELIN DELIGHTS WITH WORLD RENOWNED CHEF

ACHIEVEMENTS, PERFORMANCES, CHARITABLE GIVING AND MORE



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SCHOOL**

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WELCOME



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HALLFIELD SCHOOL

From the Head Master

Welcome to the latest edition of Hallfield Focus. This is another action-packed edition to celebrate and share the breadth and achievements of the Hallfield community, in particular our pupils, during Autumn 2022.

There have been so many highlights this term for me. In addition to the return of a full fixtures programme for girls and boys, I have been delighted to attend many concerts throughout the term as musicians from beginners to those taking Grade 6 and beyond perform. This seems a fitting point to say goodbye and thank you to Mr Pip Jopling, who moves on after nearly five years to relocate to Shrewsbury, where he will be the new Director of Music at Prestfelde School. Mrs Edgar takes over the baton and we know music will continue to go from strength to strength at Hallfield.

Our outdoor cinema returned to a sell-out performance of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, closely followed by our annual fireworks extravaganza. It was wonderful to see so many families and friends sharing these events with us.

The residential visits this term were certainly a high point for the pupils and staff. I was lucky enough to be able to join Year 6 in London for a couple of days. As well as enjoying a performance of The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe in the West End, I was able to accompany Year 6 to The Globe, The Museum of London and my favourite, a tour of St Paul's Cathedral. Such fun!



The term ended with a full congregation in St George's Church as we came together for our carol service.

I do hope you enjoy reading this edition of Hallfield Focus and sharing it with your children, family and friends.

My very best wishes for 2023!





PUPIL ACHIEVEMENTS

Quills Creative Writing Club members recently competed in the Highclare School Junior English Creative Writing Competition 2022.

Congratulations to Lamiya (Year 5) for receiving a high commendation and Aleena (Year 6) for winning one of ten prizes.

On Thursday 1st December, Head of English, Ms Jackson, had the enormous pleasure of accompanying Aleena to Highclare School to receive her prize for their recent poetry competition.

Almost exactly 100 years ago, British archaeologist Howard Carter and his workmen discovered a step leading to the tomb of King Tutankhamen in the Valley of the Kings in Egypt. The date was November 4, 1922. Using this amazing discovery as inspiration, pupils were asked to write a poem about the tomb, Ancient Egypt or the wonderful world of exploration and adventure.

Out of an incredible 508 entries, Aleena's poem was selected to receive one of ten prizes. We are extremely proud of our Hallfield-grown poet – well done Aleena!



A MAGICAL PERFORMANCE AT DISNEYLAND PARIS

Back in October, Siyona, Shaanvi and Mishika were presented with the opportunity to perform at Disneyland Paris with their dance school.

"It was an amazing experience. I enjoyed it a lot as it allowed us to perform to the biggest audience ever and in such a magical environment – it was definitely worth all of the practice!"

Siyona

"It was so much fun! We stayed at Disneyland for five days and got to meet all of the Disney characters. We really enjoyed watching everyone else perform."

Shaanvi and Mishika



SQUASH SUCCESS FOR SIONA

Siona (Year 5) recently competed in a Silver Level England Squash competition in Warwick. She reached the final after defeating the No. 2 seed in a five-set match and finishing second in another five-game battle with the No. 1 seed. Siona is currently ranked eighth in the country and the youngest girl in England's top ten. What an achievement – well done Siona!



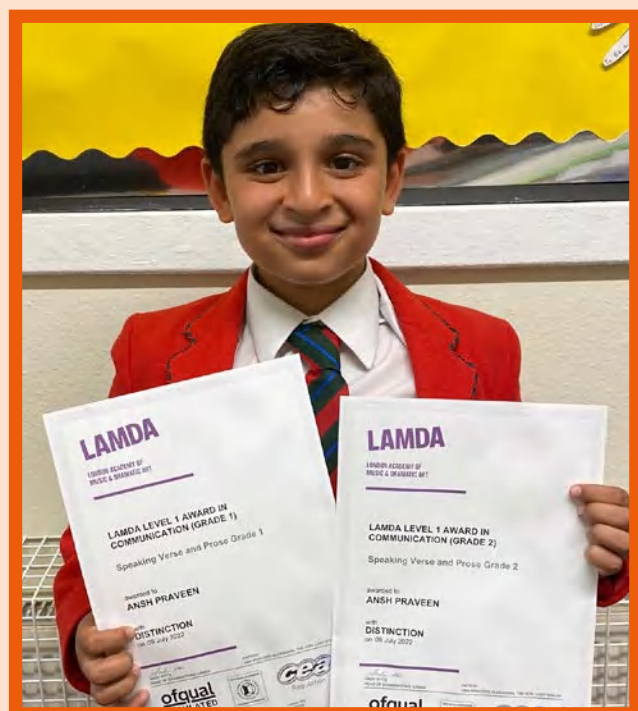
HOWZAT! TRIALS TRIUMPH FOR DYLAN

Congratulations to Dylan in Year 4 who has been selected for the Warwickshire County final cricket trials!



LAMDA SUCCESS FOR ANSH

Well done to Ansh who has passed his LAMDA Grade 1 and 2 Speaking Verse and Prose with Distinction.



£50,000 RAISED AT CHARITY EVENT

Saif, Amaya and Haniya attended a charity fundraiser for the Pakistan floods in September and raised a fantastic £150 over the course of the evening by walking around the tables and asking for donations. The event raised £50,000 in total, which was used to purchase medicines.





FUTURE LEADERS: MEET OUR HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL

What is the best thing about being Head Boy / Girl?

Japmeh: Being able to give back to the school, I have been at Hallfield for 9 years, so it is really nice to be able to help enforce a stronger community spirit.

Jama: Being able to represent the school makes me feel very proud.

What do you hope to accomplish this year as Head Boy/ Girl?

Japmeh: I have already accomplished one of my goals, which was to create a Hallfield Radio station, and I'd like to say thank you to Mr Morrow for helping my vision to come to life. I also hope to start a more informal space for pupils to share the good and the bad parts of life at Hallfield.

Jama: I'd like to help make improvements to the equipment available at break and lunchtimes, as well as ensuring that any new equipment is taken care of properly and respected by everyone. I look forward to speaking with my peers and finding out how to make their break times even more fun.

How has being Head Boy / Girl helped you?

Japmeh: It has helped my confidence and public speaking skills massively; I have already done a speech and a reading to large audiences in my first term.

Jama: It has improved my confidence. Before being Head Boy, I was not very good at public speaking but by being pushed to do talks, I think this has improved massively.

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

Japmeh: Because I've been here so long, I have too many to list! I hold very fond memories of my first hockey match and residential trip but I actually think the best is still yet to come.

Jama: Becoming Head Boy on Speech Day, I was very happy and surprised when Mr Morrow called out my name, I felt very proud of myself.

A SIT DOWN WITH THIS YEAR'S HEADS OF HOUSE



What's your best memory within your House?

Aryan: The summer charity event, it was fun throwing wet sponges at teachers for a good cause!

Sophia: I enjoyed Sports Day and competing for my House.

What's your ambition for the year?

Aleena: To ensure everyone has the opportunity to participate in challenges and support our House.

Zichen: I want to encourage people to keep supporting Nowers and try new activities within the school.



What are you most excited about?

Aryan: Supporting my House in events.

Aleena: To collaborate with my fellow House Captains to make Hallfield a better place.

Sophia: Improving my confidence by speaking to lots of new people.

Zichen: I'm excited to meet lots of new people within my House.

INTRODUCING OUR HEAD BOYS AND HEAD GIRLS

HEAD BOY: Jama

HEAD GIRL: Japmeh

DEPUTY HEAD BOY: Edward

DEPUTY HEAD GIRL: Diah



MEET OUR HOUSE CAPTAINS



HOUSE CAPTAIN: Aryan
BOYS' GAMES CAPTAIN: Hari
GIRLS' GAMES CAPTAIN: Angie
MUSIC CAPTAIN: Piya



HOUSE CAPTAIN: Zichen
BOYS' GAMES CAPTAIN: Noah
GIRLS' GAMES CAPTAIN: Amera
MUSIC CAPTAIN: Alexander



House Captain: Sophia
Boys' Games Captain: Yankee
Girls' Games Captain: Sophie
Music Captain: Samantha



HOUSE CAPTAIN: Aleena
BOYS' GAMES CAPTAIN: Aashrith
GIRLS' GAMES CAPTAIN: Hiba
MUSIC CAPTAIN: Akshara



INTRODUCING OUR PREFECTS

**Jasmine, Ibrahim, Samantha,
Akshara, Alayna, Arissa, Jay,
Zayaan, Eliot, Idris, Isa, Sofia,
Aryan, Zichen, Sophia, Aleena**



MEET OUR PREP SCHOOL COUNCILLORS

**Mahi, Robin, Sophie, Rayaan,
Zia, Dhyan, Sumayyah, Aryan,
and Mustapha.**



MEET OUR PRE-PREP SCHOOL COUNCILLORS

**Lucas, Heather, Sara, Adam, Hania,
Samuel, Seis, Tarya, Declan, Iyla,
Emily, and Zayaan.**





INTERNATIONAL ENGLAND NETBALL PLAYER VISITS HALLFIELD

We were lucky enough to have international England netballer, Stacey Francis-Bayman, come to visit us at Hallfield in November. Stacey took time out of her busy schedule to come back to her hometown of Birmingham before she emigrated to Australia the following week!

She gave a talk to Year 6 and Senior pupils, where she told us all about her exciting career as a professional athlete, finishing with a Q&A session. The children asked some insightful questions to find out about the highs and lows of her career, what it was like competing for England, and what her plans for the future are now she's retired from Netball further to the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games this summer.

Our Girls' Games Captains, Sophie, Amara, Hiba and Angie then interviewed Stacey in our brand-new studio to create a podcast. Stacey was very impressed both by our facilities and the girls' interview skills.

We finished the visit with a Netball session for the Year 4-8 children in Netball Club. Here, Stacey gave some top tips about defensive work and how to dodge your partner to receive the ball. Unfortunately, we did all get a little wet, but this gave the children a chance to get autographs and chat to Stacey for the last 10 minutes of the session. What a wonderful experience for all the children involved!



A MAYORAL VISIT

On Friday 4th November we were delighted to welcome the Mayor of Wolverhampton, Cllr. Sandra Samuels OBE, to talk to pupils in Years 5 to 8 about her role as the Mayor, background in politics and the importance of being the first Mayor of African Caribbean origin in Wolverhampton.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed her visit and asked some fantastic questions, such as how to deal with racism and challenges in public facing roles, any connections to the Windrush Generation and how town councils fit into the structure of politics.

Cllr. Sandra Samuels left pupils with the important message: 'Always dare to dream, you are more than your current circumstances. In life it is not where you started, but where you finish.'



A DAY WITH STEPHEN MORRISON-BURKE

On Wednesday 9th November spoken word artist, poet and former Poet Laureate for Birmingham, Stephen Morrison-Burke, joined us for a special Black History Month assembly and day of workshops with select Prep pupils.

The children had a fantastic day with Stephen featuring a Q&A session, a writing workshop, poetry performances and finishing with a podcast interview for Hallfield Radio.

A special well done to Aleena – Stephen was so impressed with her poem that he did a recording of it for our radio station!



CHRISTMAS BOOK FAIR

We had a great turnout for our inaugural Christmas Book Fair with a steady stream of enthusiastic pupils and parents who were impressed with the wonderful range of books and related items on offer from My Book Basket and Usborne Books.

Following the event, we will be receiving £700 worth of free books - thank you Hallfield School community!



CONGRATULATIONS MR MORROW!

Huge congratulations to Mr Morrow, who has achieved Fellow Membership – the most prestigious category of membership – with the Chartered College of Teaching!



BEAR BOOKSHOP PARTNERSHIP

At Hallfield, we are fortunate enough to be associated with one of Birmingham's best kept secrets. Bear Bookshop is a magical haven that can be found on Bearwood's high street, specialising in providing an extraordinary range of books for children of all ages (including teens).

The bookshop is owned and run by Jenny McCann, a former English teacher and mother of three, whose vision to provide children with a rich, diverse range of mesmerising books and titles has come to fruition in glorious form.

I was enchanted as soon as I stepped over the shop's threshold last summer, and it wasn't long before Jenny and I had come up with an exciting plan to support early reading and writing for our early years' pupils. Thus, 'Little Steps to Loving Literacy' was born!

We selected a range of popular books and themes to explore with families (and members of the local community) at Bear Bookshop on Saturday mornings for a period of six weeks and were delighted to see the sessions so well supported by Hallfield families. We even had a string quartet in attendance who played excerpts from 'The Carnival of the Animals' – the much-loved classical piece by Saint Saens.



It was a great opportunity for the children to play and interact with each other, whilst learning and consolidating valuable skills which included emotional management, letter recognition, fine motor skills with tuff tray activities, counting skills, learning to help others, working co-operatively, exploring and predicting key events, questioning, broadening their knowledge of the world and exploring patterns of language.

We very much look forward to our next successful project with Bear Bookshop!

By Mrs Askew, Librarian



SENIORS IN SNOWDONIA

On Monday 10th October, Hallfield Seniors embarked on their week-long residential trip to Blue Mountain in Snowdonia.

The trip consisted of a multitude of thrill-seeking activities including rock climbing, gorge walking, caving and canoeing to name a few.

It was fantastic to see such great teamwork amongst the children. Their friendships grew as the week progressed and the level of support and fearlessness shown was brilliant. Well done Seniors!



SCAN ME FOR
THE FULL BLOG



A TRIP TO THE BIG SMOKE

Year 6 had a fantastic week in London with Mr Butcher, Mr Lowe, Mr Woolhead, Mrs Finnegan and Mrs Raffermati.

The week was jam packed with experiences and excursions including the Harry Potter Studios, V&A museum, Natural History Museum, Madame Tussaud's and a trip to the theatre for a showing of The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe.

The children behaved brilliantly throughout the week with many members of the public complimenting them on their behaviour. Well done Year 6!



SCAN ME FOR
THE FULL BLOG





HARVEST FESTIVAL

Maples room enjoyed partaking in a variety of Harvest Festival activities, including comparing the sizes, weight and length of various fruits and vegetables.

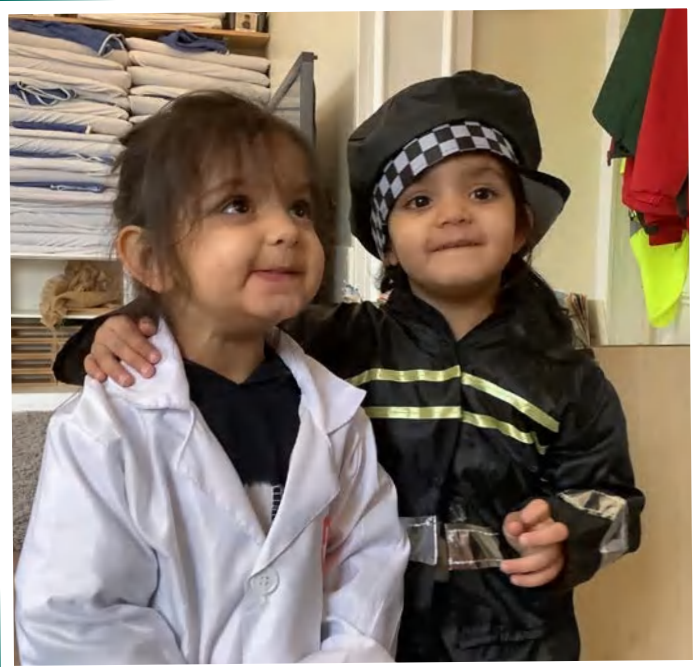
FOREST SCHOOL FUN

Nursery children went searching for mini beasts in Forest School, with magnifying glasses and binoculars.



HALLOWEEN

Oaks room loved exploring their Pumpkin Potion table for Halloween! The children enjoyed mixing different coloured potions, glitters and spiders, before watching a little science experiment demonstrating what happens when two reactive ingredients are mixed.



WHAT’S YOUR EMERGENCY?

Maples children have been exploring role play in emergency services outfits this term and they have been making staff – and each other – feel better!



FESTIVE FUN!

In the lead-up to Christmas, the nursery has been enjoying lots of Christmas activities. They built Christmas trees out of blocks, had snowball fights and played in their Christmas sensory tray – not forgetting their delicious Christmas lunch!



CHILDREN IN NEED

In honour of Children in Need, Willows pupils have been exploring their yellow themed sensory tray. The children have been using their fine motor skills to pick up Pom Poms using tweezers.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

Nursery has been exploring using different resources to create poppies to support those in the armed forces.





PRE-PREP – WHAT'S NEW?



EYFS WATCH THE BEAR AT THE MAC

Foundation and Reception pupils visited the MAC Theatre to see Raymond Briggs, The Bear.

FOUNDATION CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES!!



FUN IN THE CLASSROOM FOR FOUNDATION





BOOKSMART

RSK really enjoy their weekly visit to the Creative Cottage to browse and choose a book to take home for the week. The children are very good at looking after the books and putting them back correctly.



CHANGING OF THE SEASONS

REB have been learning about the changes that happen when Autumn arrives. Pupils had a brilliant time exploring the school grounds for signs of Autumn and found lots of different coloured leaves and some conkers!



COLOURFUL CREATIONS

Year 1 have been working together in small groups to produce Piet Mondrian inspired paintings in their Art lessons. They have learnt all about the colour wheel and have used primary colours in the style of the artist. Well done Year 1!



THE ART OF CONDUCTING

Year 1 have been practising their conducting skills - stopping and starting their instruments at a given signal.

A TRIP TO MARTINEAU GARDENS

Year 1 had a fantastic trip to Martineau Gardens! "We went pond dipping, studied leaves and trees and explored our surroundings using our five senses. We even tasted some fresh herbs that were growing! The children enjoyed sharing their knowledge learnt from our science topic and asked some fabulous questions to learn even more!" – Miss Lewis



YEAR 1 CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

A delightfully festive afternoon was spent at St George's Church for the Year 1 Christingle Service. The children sang and read beautifully, spreading lots of Christmas cheer! Thank you to all parents who came to join us!





PARLEZ-VOUS FRANCAIS?

Pupils in Years 2 and 4 enjoyed a French Workshop in honour of the European Day of Languages. It was a fun and engaging day for all, filled with fast-paced games, general knowledge quizzes and lots of interactive learning! Topics covered included introductions, shopping, the weather and geography.



DISCOVER A DINOSAUR

Year 4 have thoroughly immersed themselves in their new STEM topic - Discover a Dinosaur. Pupils began the topic by exploring the fossilisation process. Year 4 had to use a range of equipment to 'unearth' bones and fossils.



RADIO ROOM

Our brand new Radio Room is officially open for business! Featuring a suite of iMac computers and a mixing desk. Prep pupils have been learning broadcasting basics to get them going as part of their Hallfield Enrichment curriculum.

This term we've had many special guests recording podcasts with pupils, including Captain Hussain, Stacey Francis-Bayman and Stephen Morrison-Burke.



GUINEA PIG MONITORS

Our new guinea pig monitors are settling into their roles well. Responsible for cleaning out the cage, feeding them and most importantly providing lots of love and attention at break times!



GEOLOGY ROCKS!

Year 4 visited The Lapworth Museum of Geology. The pupils enjoyed exploring all exhibits and learning about everything from rocks and fossils to volcanoes, earthquakes, and even dinosaurs, which displayed evidence of life over the past 3.5 billion years!



ROALD DAHL DAY

Prep enjoyed celebrating Roald Dahl Day with a display of his top titles and dedicated reading time. James and the Giant Peach was a firm favourite!



ARTIST IN A BOX

Year 5 children spent the first half of the Autumn Term independently researching, designing and making a box to represent an artist of their choice. The sky was the limit in terms of creativity and, as you can see, they've done an amazing job!

The boxes have sparked lots of interesting conversations amongst other children in the Prep school who've enjoyed viewing them. Well done Year 5!

THE WONDER OF WEATHER

Year 3 acted as budding meteorologists as they created and performed their own weather forecasts.





ROMAN SHIELDS

Year 4 loved designing and making their own Roman shields as part of their history lessons on the Romans. Pupils began with a cardboard base and then used a variety of materials such as paint, tinfoil and coloured paper to personalise. There were some fantastic creations – well done to all involved!

PASTEL PERFECTION

Year 3 have been developing their oil pastel skills and have started to add lots of vibrant colours to their animal drawings in the style of artist Dean Russo. They're making great progress and have been working very hard.



CHANGING OF THE SEASONS

On the final Monday of term, the whole school enjoyed an end of term Christmas disco, sporting their Christmas jumpers!





MEET OUR SENIORS – ANGIE, MUSTAPHA AND ADAM

Angie, Year 7, joined Hallfield in Year 5



What opportunities has Hallfield Seniors provided?

There have been so many leadership opportunities. For example, I am Sports Captain for Pughe and I applied for School Council and Pupil Librarian

roles. Hallfield Seniors allows you to form strong relationships with your classmates, as there are smaller groups. We get a lot more out of our trips and more opportunities due to this, too.

What do you like the most about Hallfield Seniors?

We have our own space and much more independence; it allows us to structure our free time.

Do you take part in any extracurricular activities?

I'm in netball club, cooking club and debating club.

What's your favourite memory of Hallfield Seniors so far?

The five-day residential trip to Snowdonia was amazing! The highlight of the trip was rock climbing and canoeing. We made lots of fun memories, talked more and became a lot closer throughout the week. It's made me excited to see what else will happen.

Would you recommend Hallfield Seniors to your friends?

Yes, definitely, as it's a really nice place to be. I'm so glad I stayed on – I'm just disappointed that it doesn't extend to Year 11!

Mustapha, Year 8, joined Hallfield in Year 7



What opportunities has Hallfield Seniors provided?

So many! I'm lucky enough to be a School Councillor this year and there are other leadership opportunities such as Head Boy and Girl. We have Hallfield Enrichment sessions tailored to us, covering topics like interviews and presentation skills, which help us

prepare for the future. We play competitive sports matches against other schools and we even got to cook for our parents with Simpsons Restaurant in our Food Tech lessons!

What do you like the most about Hallfield Seniors?

My friends. As it's a smaller group it allows us to form strong friendships with each other. I'll be sad to leave them all this year.

Do you take part in any extracurricular activities?

I love sports and play basketball, rugby and football. I hope to become an athlete one day.

What's your favourite memory of Hallfield Seniors?

Last year's PGL residential trip was really fun and I made lots of great memories. The best activity was the giant swing – my group was the only one to go all the way to the top!

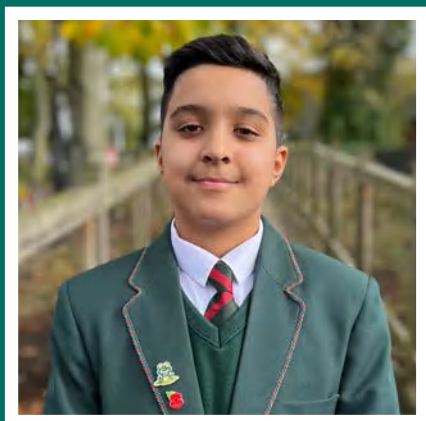
Would you recommend Hallfield Seniors to your friends?

I have had a really fun two years, so yes!

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

We built an outdoor pizza oven and had a big opening where we cooked for staff and ourselves – Mr Morrow thought our pizzas were amazing!

Adam, Year 8, joined Hallfield this year



What opportunities has Hallfield Seniors provided you with?

I went on a great trip to Snowdonia.
I also love playing squash at the Priory.

What do you like the most about Hallfield Seniors?

There's a wide variety of lessons – my favourite is STEM because it involves lots of interesting things such as engineering and science. I learn more than my friends who are at other schools.

What's your favourite memory of Hallfield Seniors or is it yet to come?

I think it's yet to come. I'm charity ambassador so there are lots of exciting opportunities coming up.

Would you recommend Hallfield Seniors to your friends?

Yes – there is a varied curriculum which helps to prepare me for Senior School. Hallfield School provides you with lots of equipment, opportunities and freedom. Everyone is so kind and welcoming. Mr Hewer is a great form teacher, he put me at ease and made the joining process much easier.

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

I love the variety of sports. As part of Hallfield Enrichment we get to do some great activities such as squash, Forest School and food tech.

CAREERS INSPIRATION

We take great pride in providing a platform for pupils to learn about a diverse range of careers at Hallfield. The opportunities for the future are limitless and it is important to highlight the many options out there.

Session one was led by Captain Hussain and Helen McLeod-Jones. An insightful morning was had learning about becoming a pilot and the varied role of an assurance partner!

Our second careers talk featured Major James L. Mitchell. A fascinating hour learning about his rich and varied career as a Neurologist, Medical Officer and Scientist.



A JOURNEY BACK IN TIME

Hallfield Seniors spent time in English studying a unit on autobiographical writing and presented Memory Boxes, a fabulous way to learn more about their peers!





FIRST DAY FUN!

Hallfield Seniors had a fantastic first day settling in with their new class! They did team-building activities such as bridge building and finished off their locker posters.

BOOKBUZZ

Hallfield Seniors received their Bookbuzz books this term! Bookbuzz is a reading programme from BookTrust that aims to help schools inspire a love of reading in 11 to 13-year-olds. Years 7 and 8 chose their books after watching videos from the authors talking about the titles they had written.





ORCHESTRA DAY AT BROMSGROVE SCHOOL

On Friday 30th September, twelve of our orchestra members went to Bromsgrove School for an orchestra workshop with four other local schools. It was a truly fabulous day, spent in the impressive Routh Hall, with musicians from the English Symphony Orchestra and music scholars from Bromsgrove.

All the children worked very hard during sectional rehearsals – sight reading and rehearsing intensively – before taking part in a concert for parents.

They all represented Hallfield School superbly and had a wonderful time performing. Well done!



RECEPTION NATIVITY

Reception pupils put on a fantastic show when performing their Christmas Nativity to parents.



FOUNDATION CHRISTMAS SING ALONG

This Christmas we held our first Foundation Christmas Sing-Along. It was wonderful to see so many parents in attendance for an afternoon of festive fun! The children sang and danced beautifully and really enjoyed performing for parents – well done Foundation!



ORCHESTRAL STRING MUSIC PERFORMANCES

The Orchestra was joined by musicians from King Edward's School including former Hallfield pupil Taran Murganathan for a concert of orchestral string music. The programme was:

Presto – Mozart – String Quartet from King Edward's School only

March from Judas Maccabeus – Handel

Finale from The Water Music – Handel

Three Reels – Traditional Irish

The Dark Island – Traditional Irish

John Ryan's Polka – Traditional Irish

"Seeing and hearing our Orchestra grow from strength to strength each year is a delight. It's great to now be tackling some challenging repertoire by well-known composers while continuing to have lots of fun making music." – Mr Jopling



A TERRIFIC TEA-TIME CONCERT

"The Tea-Time Concert was a wonderful showcase of the up-and-coming talent at Hallfield School. It was fantastic to have such a wide range of instruments involved." - Mrs Edgar



CHAMBER CHOIR SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER

The Chamber Choir went over to Metchley Manor Care UK to perform to the residents. All the children performed fantastically, and they did a fabulous job of spreading some Christmas cheer. They represented Hallfield extremely well and it was lovely to discover that one of the residents used to work here in years gone by!



END OF YEAR CAROL CONCERT

On Tuesday 13 December, we held our annual Christmas Carol Service for pupils, staff and parents. It was a fantastic end to the Autumn Term with lots of festive favourites sung. There were wonderful readings from our pupils and staff, with special performances by our staff choir and school choirs.



Hockey and football have been the main focus for the Autumn term, with a little bit of winter cricket training added in, thanks to our new bowling machine! As usual there have been lots of opportunities to play competitively against other schools through matches, tournaments and festivals. Well done to everyone who has trained, developed their skills this term and represented Hallfield School.

HOCKEY

Girls have been enjoying hockey this term and, for the first time ever at Hallfield, we played mixed teams against Eversfield in U11s, U10s and U9s matches. The children really benefitted from joining forces and we look forward to more of this next year.

Results:

U11 A vs Eversfield A = 4 – 1 Win

U11 B vs Eversfield B = 1 – 0 Win

U10 A vs Eversfield A = 1 – 6 Loss

U10 B vs Eversfield B = 3 – 2 Win

U9 A vs Eversfield A = 0 – 2 Loss

U9 B vs Eversfield B = 3 – 0 Win

We successfully hosted hockey festivals for Years 3 and 4, where girls had the opportunity to put their hard work in lessons into practise, finishing with a well-deserved treat of biscuits and hot chocolate!

The U8 had their first hockey matches this term with all the girls playing split into three teams; the red team, the green team and the purple team. Norfolk House joined us and all the teams played each other in 8-minute matches. There was a lot of competitive play, great dribbling skills and tackling – and a fair few goals scored! Well done to everyone who played and thank you to all the parents who came along to cheer the girls on. The festival was just for fun, but the results were as follows:

Red 2 – 1 Green

Purple 2 – 1 Norfolk House

Red 1 – 1 Purple

Green 3 – 0 Norfolk House

Red 4 – 0 Norfolk House

Green 1 – 0 Purple

GIRLS' FOOTBALL

We were joined by five local state schools in November for a thrilling U10 girls' football tournament. It was wonderful to see the girls learning and competing in a new sport this year. Well done to all the children, with Hallfield B team finishing in 3rd place after a nail-biting penalty shoot-out in their final match.

BOYS' FOOTBALL

The boys have spent this term focusing on their football with a multitude of matches and tournaments against local schools.

The U11 A team squad travelled to the manicured fields of Shrewsbury School to take part in their annual football tournament. After a slightly shaky start, the boys pulled themselves together to progress through to the Shield Final where they played Packwood House. In a nail-biting game, Hallfield came through winners of the Shield – well done boys!

Both the U9 A and B teams travelled to Prestfelde to take part in their football tournament. Both squads played some great football but lost a couple of games, meaning both came third place in their respective tournaments – Bronze medals all around!

It was great to see A - D football matches against both Solihull and West House in all the year groups. The U8's have got off to a great start and all the teams are currently unbeaten!

It was good to see all the Year 4 boys playing football against West House in A - E matches. It was also pleasing that the A team beat them 2-0 and the Bs and Cs drew 1-1 and 2-2!

Well done to the U11 Boys football team who won their first-round match in the Harborne Cup against Chad Vale in a nail biting 1-0 win. They go on to play St Peter's next term - good luck!

CRICKET

With the new bowling machine, Mr Moffatt has been doing some advanced coaching with the cricketers and used video play-back technology to feedback to the children on what they need to improve on. Let's hope this transfers to plenty of runs in the summer!





FORM ASSEMBLIES



2NC



6LR



6CW



SENIORS



2PK



2SO



6HW



HALLFIELD
SCHOOL

Open Morning

**Saturday 11
February 2023**

Outstanding academic results

Rated excellent in our most
recent ISI Inspection

Specialist teachers from 3
years old

Beautiful 20-acre campus

Residential trips from Year 3

Extensive investment in brand
new facilities

Co-ed | 3 months - 13 years
Scholarships (Year 3 & 7) and
bursaries available

Happy | Inspiring | Purposeful





MS WILLIAMS HEAD OF EYFS

What made you want to work in Early Years?

I have worked with children from 3-7 years of age but my heart has always been in Early Years and this is where I have worked for the last 15 years. I love the joy and enthusiasm young children show in their learning, and their awe and wonder about the world. Learning is magical at this age and I feel privileged to play a part.

What is the best part of your job and why?

Most of all I love getting to know the children and building lasting relationships with them and their families. I love to watch the children learn and flourish, and feel very lucky to be a small part of their school journey.

What does a typical day look like?

There is no such thing as an average day at Hallfield as there is always something fun and exciting happening! My day starts with lots of smiles as I greet the children on their way into school. I then spend my time supporting teaching and learning with the staff and children in Foundation and Reception.

What do you love most about Hallfield?

I love the fact that there is no limit to what our children can achieve! Our wonderful grounds, facilities and resources, alongside our knowledgeable and passionate staff, make Hallfield School a truly wonderful place for children to learn and thrive.



**“PRE-PREP IS THE LAUNCHPAD
TO YOUR CHILD’S SUCCESSFUL
HALLFIELD CAREER”**

What hobbies / interests do you have outside of school?

I am a keen swimmer and try to swim every day. I also love salsa dancing and have been doing this for about 20 years now. I love being in nature and enjoy birdwatching and tree spotting. At home I am kept busy by my two very naughty cats, Monkey and Piglet.

What’s the most important thing parents can do at home to support their child’s learning and development?

Play with them! Spend time exploring outside and engaging with nature. Talk about the things that fascinate them. Answer all of their questions and encourage them to ask even more.

What words of wisdom do you have for your pupils?

Make the most of every moment! There is always something to learn, no matter how old you are.

What’s your favourite children’s book and why?

‘Benje The Squirrel Who Lost His Tail’ by Elizabeth Price. It’s about overcoming challenges and never giving up. I still have my childhood copy of the book and love reading it to the children.

MRS SANDERSON

HEAD OF PRE-PREP

What made you want to work in Early Years?

I love this age of children and having the opportunity to ensure they have the best possible start to their schooling.

What is the best part of your job and why?

Being with the children is the best part of my day - I love their company! I always tell parents that I feel privileged to work alongside their wonderful children.

What does a typical day look like?

Greeting the children in the morning, leading an assembly, popping into lessons, teaching lessons, meeting with parents, showing prospective families around our wonderful school, driving the minibus to swimming, meeting with Mr Morrow to assist with the running of the school, supporting teachers and helping to ensure that Hallfield is the best it can be. Every day is packed with activities!

What do you love most about Hallfield?

That children are at the heart of every decision that is made. I think that a combination of the facilities, the teaching, and the opportunities we provide help to enrich a child's experience here. We provide the most wonderful environment for the children with things like the beautiful Creative Cottage that we've got to inspire their reading; the opportunities to be taught by specialist teachers; the Forest School and a wealth of other activities.



What hobbies / interests do you have outside of school?

I love spending time with my family and walking my dog Alfie!

What words of wisdom do you have for your pupils?

Always be kind and put a smile on your face – kindness and smiles are wonderful things to share!

What's the most important thing parents can do at home to support their child's learning and development?

Have fun together! Establishing good routines is also really important at home. School can be exhausting so getting enough sleep is key. Bedtime is a lovely opportunity to share a story and foster a lifelong love of reading.

What's your favourite children's book and why?

'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson. I have many fond memories of reading this to both my own children and also the many children I have taught.



MISS BAKER

RECEPTION TEACHER, HEAD OF READ,
WRITE, INC

What made you want to work in Early Years?

I love working in Reception as it is such an important year for a child's development. We teach the children how to read and write but we also teach them so much more, including skills that they will use for the rest of their lives.

What is the best part of your job and why?

The best part of my job is seeing the children grow and develop throughout the year, and then throughout their school life. Watching the children progress in such a short space of time is wonderful, as is seeing them turn into role models when they move into Prep.



What does a typical day look like?

Every day is different, which I love. Each day is filled with fun and exciting activities and a day never goes by without a child putting a huge smile on my face!

What do you love most about Hallfield?

I love the children and staff. Hallfield is like a family to me, everyone is always ready to offer a helping hand and look out for one another. The children are a delight to teach and it is so special to see how excited my former pupils are to see me and share what they have been up to.



What would we be surprised to know about you?

I am known for my love of guinea pigs and have two, Cookie and Marble, which my previous class helped me name during lockdown. They are very fun and the children love hearing all about them!

What hobbies / interests do you have outside of school?

I love being creative and making things. Children always ask me 'Do you like to bake, Miss Baker?' and luckily the answer is 'Yes!', or my name would not be right for me!

What words of wisdom do you have for your pupils?

Never be afraid to be your true self.

What's the most important thing parents can do at home to support their child's learning and development?

Reading a story to your child each night can instil a love of books which will help to inspire their reading for the rest of their lives.

What's your favourite children's book and why?

'The Day the Crayons Quit' by Drew Daywalt is brilliant as it always makes children laugh and encourages them to be creative.

MISS MUDDIMAN

FOUNDATION TEACHER, FOREST SCHOOL LEAD

What made you want to work in Early Years?

I love how varied and creative the EYFS curriculum is and how much emphasis there is on the many different areas of a child's development – yes, there's the reading and writing and maths, but there are also social skills, relationship building, physical development, self-confidence, independence, problem-solving skills, exploration, and ultimately the joy of being at school with friends. You see so much progress in Foundation, and it's really exciting to be a part of it.

What is the best part of your job and why?

It's definitely my relationship with my class. I get to spend a year with a group of wonderful, tiny beings and see who they grow into. It's wonderful to see them blossom through the year, and to get to know them. They make me smile every single day.

What does a typical day look like?

First, I set up the classroom with lots of exciting new activities related to our current topic. A huge amount of learning happens through play, and it's my job to make sure that the opportunities within the classroom are fun and that they reflect the skills and knowledge I want the children to be exploring. Then it's time to welcome the children. We have a lovely morning routine that combines lots of singing, dancing and maths. We cover the day's learning, then the children lead their own learning through continuous provision while I complete a focus activity either one-to-one or in small groups. Through the day we stop for snacks and lunch, enjoy specialist lessons, have our phonics session (we currently love making 'silly soup' to practice our initial sounds), and get ready for home time at 3:30. After the children leave, it's time for club, planning and preparation.

What would we be surprised to know about you?

I lived in Japan for two and a half years teaching English as a foreign language to children and adults. It was a fantastic experience and convinced me to go into teaching on my return to the UK.



What's the most important thing parents can do at home to support their child's learning and development?

Spending quality time together – just doing every-day things together like going for a walk, playing, making meals and then chatting with each other as you do it. Also, story time! Story time is a really magical time for children to share with their families.

What's your favourite children's book and why?

'How to be a Lion' by Ed Vere. It's all about being yourself and how the best friends are those who love us for who we are.

Give your child the best start to their education at Hallfield Pre-Prep. Arrange a visit now and take the opportunity to meet our teachers, see our incredible facilities and sprawling, 20 acre campus in the heart of Birmingham.

- Specialist lessons from pre-school 3+ (PE, music, French, dance, Forest School)
- Vibrant learning environment
- Qualified teachers from pre-school
- Small class sizes
- Exceptional pastoral care
- Wraparound care from 7:30 – 18:00

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

HARVEST FESTIVAL

To celebrate Harvest Festival this year we collected donations for the Black Country Food Bank, thank you to everyone who contributed with special mention to Freya, Eve and Akshaj, who helped the volunteers to sort the donations into crates ready to load onto the van.



CHILDREN IN NEED

A bright and colourful display around the school in honour of Children in Need 2022. A total of £892.12 was raised, thank you to everyone who donated!



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

We remembered those who served and sacrificed their lives for our country with our annual Remembrance Service. £566 was raised through the sale of poppies for the Poppy Appeal.



SHOEBOX APPEAL

This Christmas, we invited pupils and families to donate shoeboxes and welcome packs for refugees arriving in Birmingham as part of the Moseley for Ukraine appeal.



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Our annual Christmas Jumper Day in honour of Nice Charity raised £577. We were even joined by the Nice biscuit mascot to greet pupils as they made their donations. Who doesn't love a Nice biscuit?!





OPEN AIR CINEMA

On Saturday 17 September we were whisked away to the Wizarding World of Harry Potter for an Open Air Cinema Experience under the stars. With special guests Lego Batman, Buzz Lightyear, Anna and Elsa, it was an evening to remember.

Families enjoyed a silent disco and various delicious food vendors, serving everything from Nachos to wood-fired pizzas, mouth-watering chicken and cheesecake on a stick, all washed down with beverages courtesy of The Happy Coffee Man.

Thank you to all the Friends of Hallfield parent volunteers who helped provide some lovely extras such as face painting, a silent disco and a popcorn and sweets stall.

Despite the chilly weather it was an evening to remember and we can't wait to be back and bigger than ever next year!



FRIENDS OF HALLFIELD FIREWORK EXTRAVAGANZA

We enjoyed a clear, dry autumn evening for our sell-out Friends of Hallfield Fireworks Extravaganza this year! It was a fantastic evening filled with mouth-watering street food and fabulous entertainment including stilt walking, glow juggling, fire eating and fire dancing, all leading up to the main event, a dazzling firework display. Thank you to everyone who came; we hope to see many of you again next year.





BLITZ CHESS TOURNAMENT

In October, we held our annual blitz chess tournament where former Hallfield chess stars compete against some of our current pupils. Chess is thriving at Hallfield, with the school widely regarded as one of the strongest schools of chess excellence in the country so, it's no wonder many Old Hallfieldians jumped at the chance to return and put their skills to the test!

Chess coach Mr Thomas said: "The format of the event is fascinating as former Hallfield chess stars compete against some of our current leading players. The youngest player at the event was just 7 years old with the oldest a little over 30 and the competition was once again close and fierce but with plenty of good will and fair play from everyone."

At the halfway stage we had three players on maximum points. Some close battles followed which led to four players ending the tournament on equal points. Old Hallfieldian Zain won the first place trophy on tiebreak and Diah won the trophy for top current Hallfield player.

Mr Thomas added: "It is now an established tradition that the winner of this tournament plays a one-off exhibition game with one of the Hallfield chess coaches. The game ended in a draw after Zain defended a slightly worse endgame heroically and Mr Holowczak failed to break through.

"This was a tough tournament for our brilliant younger chess stars, and they gained valuable experience against much older, more experienced players and stayed positive throughout."

A big well done to all the players and congratulations to Zain and Diah who were awarded trophies. A special thank you goes to Mr Thomas, Mr Holowczak and deputy arbiter Mr Sandhu for overseeing proceedings. We'll see you at the same time next year.





HALLFIELD MEMORIES WITH CAMERON FRASER

We recently caught up with Old Hallfieldian, Cameron Fraser, who attended Hallfield from 1996-2002. Now in his early 30s, Cameron spoke to us about fond memories of his school days, particularly playing sport!

What's your best memory of Hallfield?

I have so many fond memories of Hallfield. I remember playing football on the AstroTurf during aftercare in the summer and praying matron wouldn't call my name, as that would mean my parents had arrived and it was time to go home. The outdoor pursuits week was also great fun and I remember we had a BBQ amongst sand dunes.

However, the highlight of my time at Hallfield was undoubtedly the sport. I was in a very strong year group at a time when the school was producing years and years of excellent sportsmen. We dominated the local circuit in rugby, cricket and football, and we played the likes of Birchfield, Foremarke Hall, Prestfelde, Arnold Lodge, Warwick and Bromsgrove regularly to get competitive fixtures. A standout memory is when we made the national prep school finals at Harrow School. It was a great day and all of the parents came down to support us. We didn't win a match) but it is a memory that has stuck with me.

What were your favourite subjects at Hallfield?

Games aside, I enjoyed IT with Mr Florence and Art with Mrs Hoare.

Did you take part in extra-curricular activities?

I played every sport under the sun and I loved it because we had such passionate teachers. The main three - Mr Tobin, Mr Cook and Mr Padden - presided over an era of dominance on the local circuit. They were so passionate, and this really motivated all of the boys. I also represented the school in cross country and went to the finals at Malvern in my last two years which was horribly cold and wet at the time but I look back on it with fondness. I played piano and violin and played in the school orchestra, as well as in assemblies and at school concerts.

Where did you go to secondary school?

I went to King Edward VI Camp Hill boys, and Hallfield prepared us perfectly for the entrance exam. It did give me heightened expectations however, as the facilities at Hallfield were arguably better than Camp Hill at the time!

Are you still in touch with your Hallfield friends?

I'm in touch with a number of my peers, both boys and girls. A number of us play in Old Hallfieldian cricket and golf and I am also a regular at the annual London meet ups in Covent Garden which are always a lively affair and good chance to catch up with faces from years gone by.

Have you returned to Hallfield since you left?

I've been back multiple times for various Old Hallfieldian events and to look around. It is a lot shinier and fancier and has been updated, but ultimately it is the same school. I was sad to see that all our old team photos have been taken down! I'm very proud of the school's sporting heritage and the part I played.

Where did you go to University and what did you study?

I studied History and International Relations at Loughborough University. I also played rugby for the 1st XV whilst there.

What is your career?

I'm a forward euro interdealer broker for a company called RP Martin (part of BGC Partners). I have been there for almost 10 years now and very much enjoy what I do.

Interdealer brokers are the middlemen between the traders at investment banks. These include Goldman Sachs, Citibank, HSBC, JP Morgan, Barclays and BNP to name but a few. On the forward euro desk the banks are trading the euro against the US dollar with each other at spot rate and then agreeing through the interdealer brokers the rate to swap back at a future period in time. The best part of my job is the travel as I regularly travel to New York and Toronto to see clients and get to go to some great restaurants.

Do you have any words of wisdom for current pupils?

Cherish Hallfield while you are there as you are fortunate to attend the school. Work hard but also enjoy your life outside of the classroom and don't let a bad exam result define you – things won't always go your way. Be sociable, enjoy the company of your peers and play sports!





A MICHELIN STAR EXPERIENCE!

We were thrilled to welcome Michelin star chef Andreas Antona to Hallfield Insights in November. Andreas shared stories from a career spanning almost 50 years in the kitchens of some of the UK's most famous hotels and restaurants including The Ritz, where he cooked food for A-List celebrities and royalty.

The team from his two Midlands restaurants Simpsons (Edgbaston) and The Cross (Kenilworth), served some delicious canapés on the evening, including mushroom risotto, fish and chips, coffee éclair, chocolate and salted caramel delice, and passion fruit and mango delice. Guests also had the chance to get their hands on a signed copy of Andreas' new cookbook, Eureka.

We were delighted to raise £549 through ticket sales, all of which will go directly to Simpsons' chosen charity StreetSmart



COMING SOON:



PROUDLY PRESENT

Wednesday 8 March 2023
18:00 - 19:00 (arrival from 17:30)

FORGOTTEN FRONTIERS
DR ROSS PIPER

ZOOLOGIST, ENTOMOLOGIST AND
EXPLORER



KEY DATES

18 Jan	Year 3 STEM trip to Birmingham
19 Jan	5GJ Form Assembly
25 Jan	Parent Drop in Session (Executive & SLT Team)
26 Jan	1DC Form Assembly
1 Feb	Year 6 & Seniors Careers Talks
2 Feb	5HF Form Assembly (Open to 5HF parents)
6 Feb	Year 3 & 4 Trip to Symphony Hall
7 Feb	Strings Showcase Concert
8 Feb	Woodwind Showcase Concert
9 Feb	5CW Form Assembly, Brass Showcase
10 Feb	Mid-Year Concert
11 Feb	Open Morning
15 Feb	Year 1 trip to Soho House
16 Feb	4JD Form Assembly, Visit to the Ruddock Theatre
17 Feb	Pre-Prep House Cross Country, Prep House Cross Country
2 Mar	4DD Form Assembly
6 Mar	Teatime Concert
8 Mar	Dr Ross Piper, Zoologist and Entomologist, in school, Hallfield Insights
9 Mar	1EL Form Assembly, Year 6 & Seniors Careers Talks,
10 Mar	Parent Drop in Session (Executive & SLT Team)
16 Mar	4DP Form Assembly
22 Mar	Year 5 STEM trip to Cannon Hill Wildlife Reserve
23 Mar	REB Form Assembly (Open to REB parents)
24 Mar	House Music Final
31 Mar	Easter Service



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

We hope you enjoyed Hallfield Focus!


The best way to keep up to date with all the latest and greatest news from Hallfield School is by subscribing to our newsletter by scanning this QR code:




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