

HALLFIELD

FOCUS

ISSUE 5 AUG 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

STRICTLY STAR AMY DOWDEN COMES TO HALLFIELD

HALLFIELD RATED "OUTSTANDING"

MATILDA THE MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA

HALLFIELD SPONSORS A GUIDE DOG



FOUNDED 1879

**HALLFIELD
SCHOOL**

Happy | Inspiring | Purposeful

WWW.HALLFIELDSCHOOL.CO.UK



WELCOME



FOUNDED 1879

**HALLFIELD
SCHOOL**

From the Head Master

Dear Parents,

And just like that, we have reached the end of another academic year, I don't know where the time goes! We certainly pack lots into each term and this summer has been no exception. Alongside continued academic excellence, the breadth of extracurricular opportunities and engaging diverse content within lessons continues to expand.

Top moments? It's difficult to pick just a few! Our "outstanding" rating by the Independent Schools Inspectorate punctuated the brilliance of our staff and school!

Speech and Prize Giving Day is an event I enjoy with immense pride, as we celebrate not only our amazing academic achievements but also the well-rounded nature of our fantastic pupils.

Our Hallfield Insights event with Strictly Come Dancing superstar Amy Dowden was another highlight. It was a fabulous evening, full of Strictly stories, dance performances and learning the cha-cha-cha!

We now say goodbye to another wonderful cohort of Year 6 and 8 pupils as they move onto their next adventure. Watching you grow and mature over the past few years has been a pleasure.

Well done for all of your hard work this year, now rest up, relax and enjoy the summer break. I look forward to welcoming you back in September for another fun-filled year at Hallfield.





HALLFIELD IS TOP 5 IN THE UK FOR MATHS

Hallfield ranked in the top 5 in the UK, and the best in Birmingham in the National Quiz Club finals. A HUGE well done to our 4 Quiz Club finalists- what brilliant mathematicians Ethan, Samantha, Sophia and Preesh proved themselves to be!



SIONA "SQUASHES" THE COMPETITION

On the 25 and 26 April Siona, Olivia and Henry travelled to the University of Nottingham to compete in the Squash Championships 2023. After an intense two days of competing, Siona made it through to the final! With an impressive final game, we were delighted at how well she did throughout the competition. Well done Siona, this is very much deserved – our IAPS U13 Girls Champion!



IT ALL ADDS UP: PRIMARY MATHS CHALLENGE SUCCESS

They say that 13 is an unlucky number, but for Hallfield, it's quite the opposite! This year, 13 pupils qualified for the Bonus Round of the Primary Maths Challenge – a national competition with complex mathematical problems to solve. They achieved this by gaining gold status in the main challenge. This was a huge increase from six pupils in 2021 and eight pupils in 2022; demonstrating just how many incredible mathematicians we have at Hallfield!

In the extremely tough Bonus Round Challenge, 9 of the 13 pupils achieved bronze, silver or gold awards; a fantastic effort!

"Well done to all our children who participated in the Primary Maths Challenges; it takes real resilience to tackle those questions. A special mention goes to Preesh, Sophia and Marcus, for achieving the highest grade of gold in the Bonus Round – a simply phenomenal achievement!" Mr Hewer, Head of Maths



RACE FOR LIFE

Well done to Elyssa, Bethany, Kenenna and Sylvie who ran the Race for Life back in May, raising thousands of pounds for Cancer Research UK. What an incredible effort!



END OF YEAR TREATS

Hallfield Golden Ticket holders were treated to a delicious ice cream as a reward for their hard work this term, well done everyone!

MASTERS OF MARTIAL ARTS

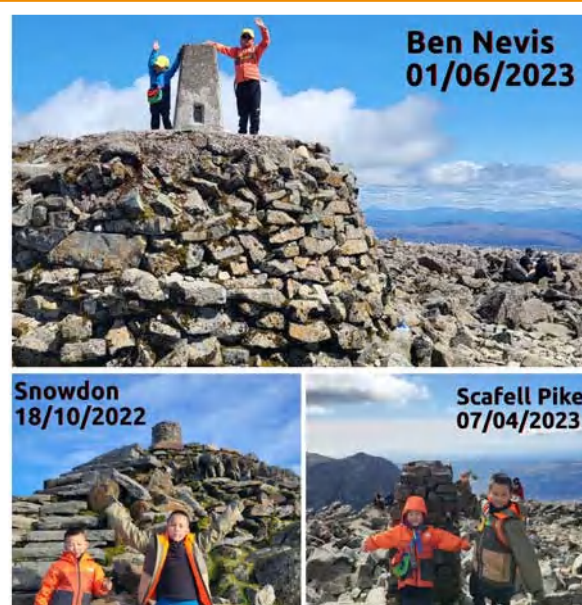
Well done to Amber and Midian, who were awarded student of the month in the Martial Arts Club.



BENNY AND MYLO RUN FOR MILES

Over 4,500 people took part in the 8.5-mile Sutton Fun Run on Sunday 4th June. The Robins family participate every year and for the first time this included Benny, at the tender age of 4. He got lots of cheers from onlookers as one of the youngest runners on the day.

With a huge amount of determination, the Robins brothers - Mylo and Benny - completed the run without any complaints. Great job boys!



JADEN AND JACOB CLIMB THE THREE PEAKS

During the half-term holiday, Jaden and Jacob travelled to Scotland and showed a great deal of determination in climbing to the top of Ben Nevis. They have now completed the Three Peaks Challenge of Snowdon, Scafell Pike and Ben Nevis. An amazing effort from the boys, especially Jacob, who is just 4 years old!

WORLD SCHOOL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023

**By Diah,
Hallfield Chess Player of the Year**

In April 2023, I was once again on my way to Greece. I was one of the 14 English juniors to compete in the World School Chess Championships in Rhodes, from 3 – 23 April 2023, and one of the youngest players in my section. The event was expected to be strong and fairly competitive with delegations from 54 countries and 530 children taking part across 6 age ranges.

Having played at the European School Chess Championship last year I was mostly aware of what to expect, or at least that is what I thought. The resort was busy with players from all around the world proudly representing their countries. Before we knew it we were exchanging greetings and making friends by talking about culture and traditions of our respective countries. Though the favourite topic of conversation remained as chess and our favourite chess players.

The games were intense and challenging. I had some really impressive wins, and the ones I lost made for a great learning experience. We exchanged some presents before every round. I got some Sri Lankan tea, a Botswana sunhat, Brazilian chocolates, Mongolian keyring, Indian handcrafted bag and many other beautiful keepsakes.

Outside of the tournament matches the England players relaxed in the evenings discussing games. The Fide motto "Gens Una Sumus" (we are one family) was clear to see. Friendships were made and the worldwide enthusiasm for chess amongst the young generation was apparent.



My love for chess started at Hallfield when I first joined Hallfield Chess Club in Year 1. I have spent countless hours playing online and Over-the-Board chess. I feel the hard work has paid off at moments like when I won the British Blitz Championship U10 Girls 2021 first runner up, Warwickshire Grand Prix winner for my age group twice in a row and IAPS Girls Chess Champion 2023. Thanks to the continuous guidance from Mr Thomas, I'm currently 3rd ranked in English girls of my age group for Standard and Rapid chess, and 2nd ranked for Blitz chess. Recently I have also passed my exam to become the youngest chess arbiter in the UK.

I will be competing at British Championships in Leicester next month. I aim to continue my chess journey and keep progressing onwards and upwards.



JAPMEH SHORTLISTED IN WICKED WRITING COMPETITION

Well done to Japmeh, who is one of sixteen young writers from across the UK to have had their persuasive essays shortlisted to win an inspiring competition hosted by the acclaimed stage musical Wicked, as part of its Wicked Active Learning cultural learning programme, and the National Literacy Trust.

Taking inspiration from the award-winning musical's protagonist, 'Elphaba', pupils entered the competition by writing about a cause important to them. Japmeh's essay theme was kindness.



A ROYAL OCCASION

On Tuesday 9 May, we came together to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. The school was a vibrant display of red, white and blue with bunting, balloons and pupils donning their coronation-themed outfits. Spirits were high as the children arrived for a day of fun-filled activities such as crafts, dancing and a crown parade.

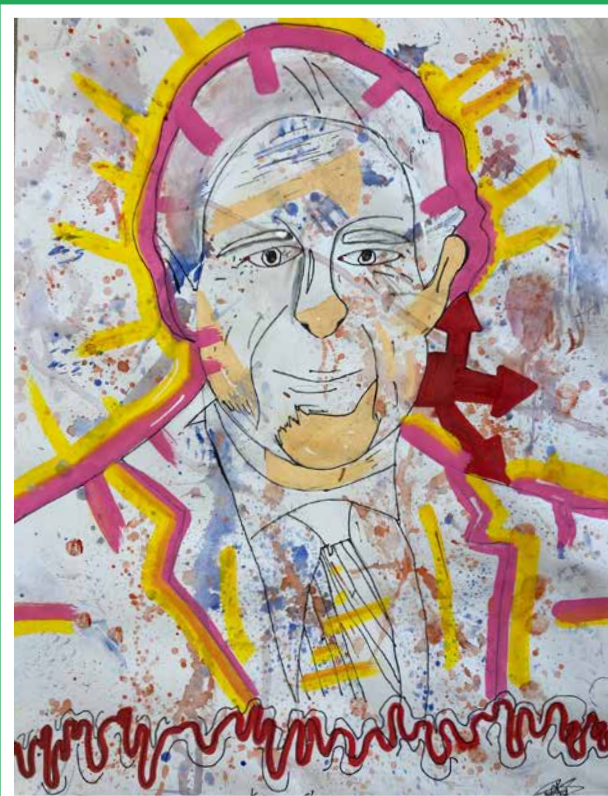
Despite the rainy forecast, the weather broke for us to gather on the all-weather pitch to sing the national anthem. Pupils from Foundation through to Year 8 sang beautifully!

The highlight of the day for many had to be the spectacular lunchtime BBQ feast! Pupils dined on a delicious spread of hotdogs, burgers, Coronation Quiche and a range of cream cakes – food fit for a King!

The day culminated with the much-anticipated Inter-House quiz. Tensions were high as the rounds progressed into the final.

Staff and pupils thoroughly enjoyed their day, each going home with commemorative pin badges and egg cups to mark the occasion. We hope the children will remember this moment in history for years to come.





A ROYAL PORTRAIT

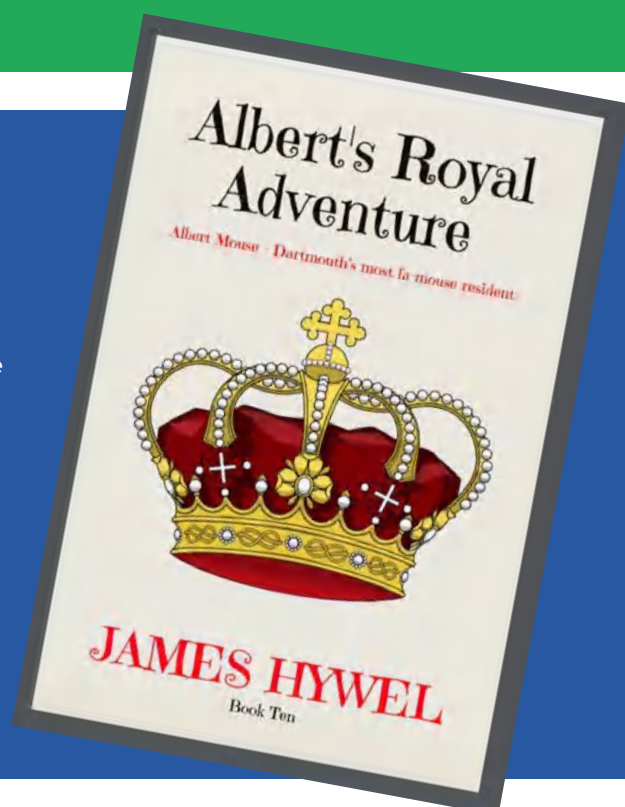
A selection of pupils from Years 4 - 8 created contemporary portraits of the King as part of our coronation celebration day. They used a variety of artists famous for painting Queen Elizabeth II as inspiration to produce their outcome independently. Here are just a few of the super results!

LOOK OUT FOR ALBERT MOUSE IN THE AUTUMN TERM

12,000 words later, a handful of incredibly intricate and accomplished illustrations, and Albert Mouse's Royal Adventure is complete, published and ready to purchase if you haven't already done so.

The first of the collection to be printed in dyslexia friendly font, this book will also be available to purchase in full colour in the Autumn Term.

To truly honour the work we have some exciting plans to really shout about this excellent fete by Hallfield children in the Autumn Term, so keep an eye out for that!



A STRICTLY FABULOUS EVENING WITH AMY DOWDEN!

On Wednesday evening Amy Dowden was the star guest at Hallfield Insights. The 7th event in the series, Hallfield Insights features inspirational speakers at the top of their profession.

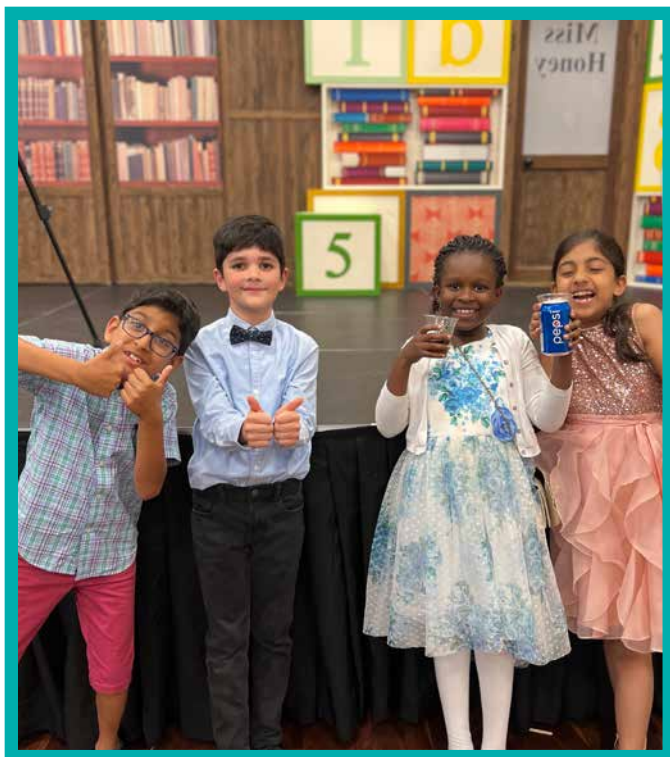
Who is Amy Dowden?

If you didn't know already, Amy is one of the stars of the UK's most loved and popular television shows: *Strictly Come Dancing!* Her extraordinary dancing talents, warm and heartfelt presence has made her a British household name.

The evening fizzed from the get go as the audience arrived for a very special night. Amy kicked off proceedings by introducing two professional dancers Sky and Josh who took to the stage for a Latin ballroom number to JLo's: *Let's Get Loud!* The audience was enthralled as they clapped and cheered the young dancers.

Back to where it all began

Amy began her talk by taking us right back to the beginning when she was an energetic little, 8 year old, whose parents took her to a Saturday morning dance class to exert some of that energy. Amy said she immediately



fell in love with dance – from the school playground to the shopping aisles, there was no stopping her dancing feet. Very quickly her dance school took her to the Blackpool Tower as a substitute for a competition and from that moment Amy's dream was to become a professional dancer and compete in the world championships in Blackpool.

From then on Amy dedicated every free moment outside of school and studying to dance. At the age of 20 she met her partner Ben Jones. Without a penny to their names and living in Ben's parent's attic, they each worked 3 jobs to fund their lessons and flights to and from LA to learn from the best dance teachers in the world.

Turning down Strictly

Come 2016 Amy received a call from the BBC to ask her to come for a meeting in London. Thinking it was a research meeting about ballroom dancers she didn't exactly clear her schedule. But eventually Amy headed to London and to her surprise at the meeting they offered her a role on *Strictly Come Dancing!* With the world championships in Blackpool in reach Amy took the hard and brave decision (over lots of tears) to turn down *Strictly*, and instead compete in the championships following years of hard work and sacrifice.

It's a 10!

The decision paid off! Amy and Ben took the trophy home and were the first all British couple to win the world championships in over 30 years. Months had passed and



Amy started to question her decision to turn down Strictly. However, the BBC had followed her success and cheered her on behind the scenes. Eventually, the phone call came and a voice said “is this the right time Amy?” and without hesitation Amy was the first Welsh dancer to join the Strictly Come Dancing cast.

From being housemates with Oti Mabuse, to celebrity guests at her wedding and who her least favourite member of Strictly is, we got all of the inside gossip.

Cha-cha-cha!

A romantic rumba and an energetic jive took us into an interval of fizz and canapés before a dance masterclass led by Amy Dowden herself.



Guest review

“I just wanted to say a huge thank you for a wonderful event last night. I thoroughly enjoyed myself. What a wonderful welcome extended by Hallfield School. The talk given by Amy and dancing and hospitality were absolutely top notch. I have to say the cha cha lesson was lots of fun too. It was a most memorable evening.”

Claudia, Hallfield Insights guest

A room of 100 guests joined in for a lesson in cha-cha-cha and what fun it was! Despite some muddled feet everyone was laughing and smiling!

Thank you Amy and dancers Sky and Josh for such a fabulous evening!

If you would like to come along to our next Hallfield Insights event then keep an eye on our events page where the next one will be announced.

Who would you like to see?

We are currently in the process of planning our Insights series for next year and would greatly appreciate any suggestions for potential speakers. Please feel free to submit your ideas.

**SUBMIT
YOUR
IDEAS
HERE:**



HALLFIELD RATED “OUTSTANDING” BY INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE

Hallfield School is delighted to announce that our nursery, Hallfield First is rated “Outstanding” in our most recent inspection conducted by the Independent Schools Inspectorate in May 2023.

This inspection assessed the provision of the nursery (a Registered Early Years Foundation setting) in accordance with the requirements of the Ofsted Common Inspection Framework and associated guidance. Hallfield First Nursery was assessed against the following five criteria:

- Overall effectiveness: the quality of the early years provision
- Quality of education
- Behaviours and attitudes
- Personal development
- Leadership and management

“Achieving an OUTSTANDING judgement in every area of inspection is very hard to achieve for any early years setting. So I am absolutely delighted, but not surprised by this outcome. As Head Master, I am enormously proud to lead such a dedicated team of professionals throughout the school. This judgement is testament to the talented Nursery and Early Years Team we have at Hallfield and the highest levels of care and education we provide the children who come here.”

Keith Morrow, Head Master



Laying the foundation for future success

Hallfield First Nursery was rated “Outstanding” in each area. On the recent inspection grading, Head of EYFS, Caitlin Williams commented:

“I believe that high quality education in the early years is crucial and lays the foundation for future success. Our passionate and experienced staff are committed to providing the very best care and education and as a result, our children thrive. I am delighted that this has now been formally recognised in our outstanding Ofsted grading.”

“We are delighted that our inspection judgements reflect the amazing hard work and care of the Hallfield First staff. We hope this measure goes to further reassure our current parents whilst also encouraging prospective families to arrange a visit to our setting.”

Mrs Sanderson, Deputy Head: Head of Pre-Prep



A home away from home

At the heart of Hallfield First are the nursery staff and Nursery Manager Kelly Edwards who is passionate about and committed to early years care:

“We have been recognised for all the hard work the nursery staff have put in over the years. Sometimes, because we are not at the forefront of the school it’s hard to capture the efforts that go into making the nursery what it is today so it’s nice to be recognised.”

Our genuine care for the children that parents see at drop off shines throughout the day and is affirmed in this rating. We aim to provide a home away from home, family feel at Hallfield First. All the staff get to know each and every child so there is genuine care and familiarity. I was delighted to see this was very much highlighted in the inspection feedback.

I couldn’t wait to share the result with my team. We feel extremely proud and will continue to maintain the standard and strive to make Hallfield First even better!”



Double excellent for Hallfield!

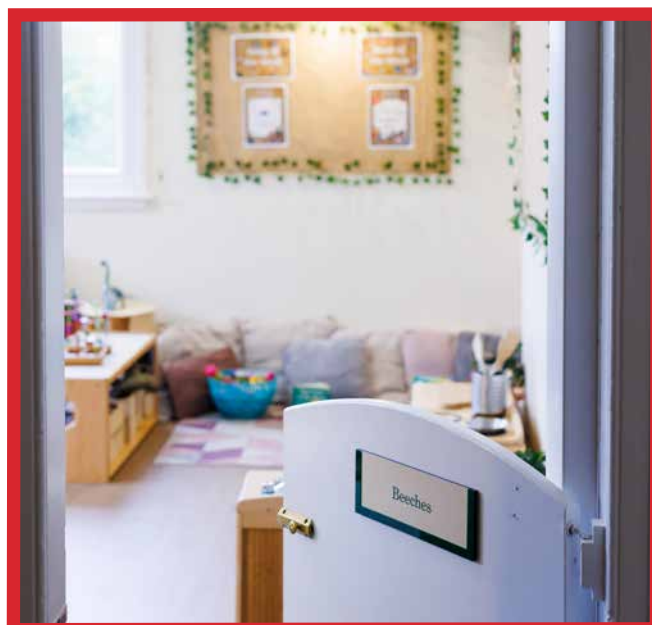
This outstanding rating of our nursery sits alongside our existing “excellent” rating for the whole school from our 2019 inspection.

READ THE REPORTS:



We are immensely proud of our polite, well-behaved and intellectually curious children throughout the school. The parents played a critical part in the inspection through their questionnaire responses, and their 98% satisfaction level throughout the school is testament to the strong home/school partnerships at Hallfield.

We would also like to thank our staff whose hard work and dedication ensures the highest standards across teaching and in other administrative areas of Hallfield School.



HALLFIELD SCHOOL SPEECH AND PRIZE GIVING DAY 2023

Hallfield School Speech and Prize Giving Day took place on Tuesday 27 June 2023 at The Great Hall – University of Birmingham.

A celebration of achievements

The occasion brings together the school and parent body to celebrate the achievements of our Year 2, 6 and 8 children as they voyage on to their next stage of school life. The occasion also marks the end of the academic year bringing it to a jubilant end as we all say goodbye for the summer or longer for those who move on to new schools at the end of Year 6 and Year 8.

Guest of honour

This year our guest of honour was Strictly Come Dancing professional Amy Dowden.

Amy started her dancing career at the age of 8. In 2017, with dance partner and now husband, Ben Jones she became British National Latin Dance Champion, and they were the first all-British pair to win the championships in over 30 years.

She is a passionate campaigner for Crohn's disease having suffered since she was a child. She raised awareness and touched the hearts of many in her documentary Strictly Amy: Crohn's and Me, where she candidly documented her daily struggles with the disease, whilst inspiring everyone with her tenacity to not let it stand in the way of her dreams.

In 2017 Amy joined the Strictly Come Dancing cast and has been partnered with the likes of comedian Brian Conley, Danny John-Jules and Tom Fletcher of pop rock band McFly.

Hallfield has a longstanding and special relationship with Amy as she has taught hundreds of our pupils over the last decade by running an after school club through her dance school Art in Motion. So it was about time we had her as a guest of honour at Speech and Prize Giving Day.

Let's twist again!

The event commenced with an array of uplifting songs such as Let's Twist Again and Ed Sheeran's Permission to Dance. The orchestra played with gusto whilst the children belted out their numbers setting the vibrant tone for the occasion.

It only seemed right that Head Master: Keith Morrow, Governor: Kirsty McEwen and Amy Dowden who led the



event, made their way down the aisle to the Strictly Come Dancing theme tune.

Kirsty McEwen gave the opening speech, thanking the staff for all their work, especially in relation to the recent "Outstanding" grading by the Independent Schools Inspectorate.

Happy, inspiring, purposeful

Mr Morrow then delivered a poignant address, thematic of our school motto: Happy, Inspiring, Purposeful. He spoke of everything that was achieved, enjoyed, progressed and delivered within those pillars over the last year. Mr Morrow also looked to the year ahead and the exciting developments coming to Hallfield School, from the new state of the art classrooms and adventure playground for younger pupils, to the enhancements to our after-school provision to have more of an academic focus.

Head Children speeches

Mr Morrow then passed over to our Head Boys and Girls who gave illustrious speeches about their time at Hallfield. From the responsibilities they fulfilled over the last year in their Head roles to personal memories throughout their time here. They capture the essence of the education we strive to provide for every single one of our pupils.

**READ THEIR FULL
SPEECHES AT
THE BLOG.**



At the end of their speeches the audience sat in anticipation as the new House Captains and Head Children were announced. Congratulations to all the children below:

Head Children

- Head Boy: **Dhyan**
- Head Girl: **Angie**
- Deputy Head Boy: **Rocco**
- Deputy Head Girl: **Lucilla**



House Captains

- Nowers: **Ellen**
- Stork: **Thomas**
- Ridgway: **Marcus**
- Pughe: **Siyona**



Amy Dowden: “Be better, not bitter”

Amy Dowden then took to the stage. She delivered a motivational speech that honed in on characteristics that have enabled her to achieve the highest successes as a dancer. An abundance of passion for what she does of course formed the foundation for her achievements but hard work, tenacity and determination to overcome adversity with her Crohn’s disease and now breast cancer has led her to the glittering heights of Strictly Come Dancing and celebrity.

Amy also shared how her parents insisted she gets a good education under her belt and stay at school until she completes her a-levels. This made Amy work even harder at school as the reward was being able to continue with her dance lessons. Amy is grateful to her parents, as her hard work at school gave her a solid work ethic and academic security for life.

When success didn’t go Amy’s way she talked about how she turned to the motto “be better, not bitter” to help her put aside any negativity and move forward with the next project, the next competition, the next goal!

Everyone felt inspired, motivated and excited about the future – it was a perfect speech for a perfect day!

Recognising achievement

As the speeches came to a close it was time to move on to the prize giving. Children in Year 2, 6 and 8 from each form group were recognised for their effort in: Attainment (across the curriculum), All Round Effort, Exemplary Conduct, as well as all the different subjects within their curriculum.

There were a number of special awards too, such as the Kathryn Cartwright Community Spirit Award. This recognises a pupil that demonstrates community spirit and support for others and good causes. This went to Japmeh Gujral. The Head Master Award for an all-round outstanding contribution went to Aaryan. The All Day Cup goes to a boy who shows good sportsmanship and that was awarded to Zain. And finally, the Derry Bowl which is awarded to a girl for good Sportsmanship went to Hiba.

It was a wonderful celebration to end another successful year at Hallfield School.



After their success in becoming IAPS Chess Champions the chess team has switched their focus onto the National Primary School Team Chess Championships and the UK Chess Challenge Individual event.

UK Chess Challenge

Players must compete in 3 rounds to win this tournament. The first round is called the Megafinal, which consists of several big local chess tournaments all over the country. Diah, Krish and Handuo all won a Megafinal (in fact Krish won 2 Megafinals on consecutive days). About a dozen more of our players had leading scores which qualified them for the second round (the Gigafinal). Good luck to them as they try to qualify for the grand final (the Terafinal).

Adult Chess Tournaments

A few of our players compete regularly in adult chess tournaments. Two of our players had their best ever results in adult chess tournaments recently winning cash prizes! Well done to both Preesh and Diah.



National Primary School Chess Championships

In March we won the regional event in Nottingham with both U11 and U9 teams and our B teams also qualified for the semifinal event which took place on 18th June, also in Nottingham. The semifinal was a very hot, crowded and tough tournament with about 40 teams taking part from all over the country with only 2 teams to qualify for the final in each of the age categories.

The B teams performed well and finished mid table, an amazing effort, well done to all of the players. The U9 A team battled through 5 tough rounds to finish second and they therefore qualified for the final, a brilliant result for our mostly Year 3 players. The U11 team dominated and finished first and so also qualified for the final. Leading scorers were Diah (4.5/5) and Ayansh with a perfect 5/5.





The final took place on 1st and 2nd July at The Freemasons' Hall in Covent Garden where the top 8 school teams in the country in both U9 and U11 categories battled it out over 7 rounds. We were one of only two schools which had qualified in both the U9 and U11 sections proving our strength in depth.

Our under 9 team were almost certainly the youngest team in the final with only two players in Year 4, two players in Year 3, one player in Year 2 and our youngest player in Year 1. They had a brilliant time and gained invaluable experience against some of the country's best U9 players and finished equal 5th. Well done to Krish, Handuo, Aarav, Arnav, Roshan and Alex. Our leading points scorer was Arnav who scored a brilliant 5/7 on board 4.

The U11 team had an up and down tournament but were always in contention for a top half finish. After a brilliant final round (beating RGS Newcastle 5/0) they finished equal 3rd (4th on tie-break), one better than last years 5th place. Well done to Preesh, Diah, Matthew, Ayansh, Mark and Hamzah. The leading scorer for the U11 team was Mark with an outstanding 6/7 points on board 5.

Well done to all of the players and many thanks to the parents who accompanied the children.

Mr Thomas, Chess Coach





BLETCHLEY PARK

Year 6 had a fantastic day at Bletchley Park, originally the home of the WW2 Codebreakers on their STEM and history trip. Pupils spent the day exploring the facilities, studying code and cypher breaking, learning about satellites and radio stations, and visiting the Turing Hut. It was a fascinating insight into the work done during the Second World War.



SHAKESPEARE IN STRATFORD

Year 5 had a fantastic day in Stratford! The children took part in a workshop led by actors from The Royal Shakespeare Company, working on performance techniques and developing their understanding of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. They also visited the grave of Shakespeare, his wife and eldest daughter.





PEAK DISTRICT

Year 4 travelled to the Peak District for a STEM trip. Pupils enjoyed exploring the natural landscapes and were glad for the lovely weather.

EDGBASTON RESERVOIR

Seniors were a credit to Hallfield on their trip to Edgbaston Reservoir, demonstrating excellent behaviour. They managed over 20,000 steps on their trip, with so many highlights, including:

- Visiting the Birmingham Buddhist Vihara.
- Taking photos and sketching the towers often touted as inspiring Tolkien's Two Towers in Lord of the Rings.
- A digital tour of the significance of the reservoir in Birmingham's history and its future.
- Sailing experience on the reservoir.
- Discussing climate change and the local eco-building response by Birmingham Settlement.

Well done, Seniors!



ASH END FARM

This term, Foundation and Reception pupils visited Ash End House Children's Farm. Pupils spent the day meeting lots of animals including sheep, ducks, chickens and creepy critters, as well as enjoying a bumpy ride around the farm on a tractor spotting scarecrows! Later that day, the children enjoyed feeding some of the animals and had a delicious ice cream in the sun.

OFF TO THE FARM

Year 1 had a great time at the National Children's Adventure Farm planting seeds, meeting the animals, taking a tractor ride and lots more!





BUILDING MEMORIES AT LEGOLAND

Year 2 had an action-packed treat to end the year as they visited Legoland Windsor. Pupils spent the day enjoying lots of rides, a trip to the haunted house, a walk around The Magical Forest and an engineering-themed Lego workshop.



BOUNDLESS OUTDOORS

Year 3 pupils headed on their first residential trip to Boundless Outdoors. Spirits were high as the children left school for their three-day adventure. They thoroughly enjoyed participating in a range of activities including glass sledging, orienteering, archery, low ropes and zip wire. One of the highlights of the trip had to be the evenings spent around the campfire with friends. It was wonderful to see the children bonding and enjoying their first of many overnight stays.

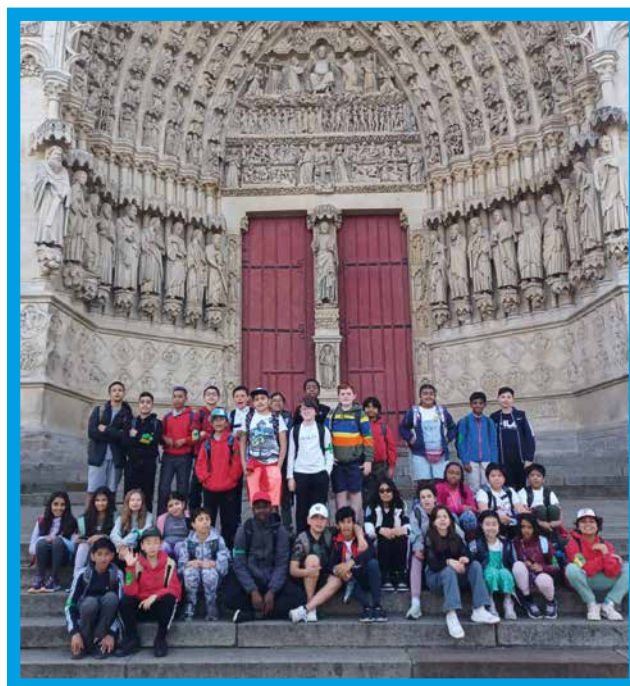


A VERY FRENCH EXPERIENCE

Year 6 and Hallfield Seniors headed to France for a four-night residential trip to the chateau where they got to practice their language skills and experience the culture. Their packed itinerary included a day trip to Paris, a morning spent exploring Montdidier and Pierrefonds Castle, as well as discovering the delights of a local market. Pupils and staff had a brilliant time and we're proud of how well the children applied their knowledge of the language.



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT
THE RESIDENTIAL TRIP HERE:



ULLSWATER

Year 5 pupils travelled to the Lake District for a four-night stay at Ullswater Centre.

The trip encourages self-management, resilience, problem-solving and teamwork. Staying in the heart of the UK's largest national park, with direct access to Ullswater Lake in a Georgian grade II listed building, the children were delighted by the picturesque views. Being surrounded by 18 acres of woodland, outdoor space was plentiful, and pupils loved exploring the vast site and enjoyed nights reflecting around the campfire.

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT
THE RESIDENTIAL TRIP HERE:**





CRANEDALE

Year 4 travelled to North Yorkshire for a three night stay at the Cranedale Centre. The trip allows pupils to experience new activities in a different environment, further develop their team building skills and build their self-confidence. We strongly believe that young people should experience 'learning outside the classroom' so Cranedale Field Studies Centre provides the perfect location for practical based learning whilst creating lasting memories.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT
THE RESIDENTIAL TRIP HERE:





GETTING FRUITY

During healthy eating week, the children utilised their fine motor skills to create fruit kebabs that they enjoyed during snack time.



WE'RE GOING ON A BEAR HUNT!

Children in Hallfield First have been participating in lots of interactive play and retelling the story 'Going on a Bear Hunt' in their own words. Together, they journeyed through the grass, river, snow and mud to search for the bear.



END OF YEAR PICNIC

Hallfield First enjoyed afternoon tea and games with their family to celebrate the end of term!



AN ARTSY MORNING

The children in nursery certainly have a love for art. Pupils enjoyed painting with stampers and exploring colours, and were very pleased with the end result!



EXPLORING THE COTTAGE

As you know, we have very clever, mature pupils in Foundation. The evidence shows in how skilled they are at handling their library books and bags independently.

Since their induction at the start of the year, all pupils have now demonstrated how to walk all the way from their classrooms to the Creative Cottage. They even managed to navigate the stairs too, whilst holding their bags.

Well done Foundation!



THE MERIT RACE CONTINUES!

Pre-Prep pupils love adding their merit tokens to the House collection boxes following lots of healthy competition successes!



WHO KNEW CELLS COULD BE ARTSY?

During their art lessons, Year 1 pupils have been experimenting with the artistic style of Klari Reis. Their focus has been on exploring the microscopic structure of cells and creating their own unique pieces inspired by Petri dishes.





ANIMAL MAN RETURNS

Children in the Pre-Prep department had a great time learning about animals with the Animal Man! They got to hold all kinds of animals from cuddly rabbits to slithering snakes.

BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLIES

Over the Summer Term the children in Reception have enjoyed observing their class caterpillars turn into chrysalides and then emerge as butterflies. The children wrote good luck messages to the butterflies and enjoyed watching them being released.



LIBRARY FUN!

The Creative Cottage Library's fiction books are almost alphabetised thanks to the hard work of our Pre-Prep and Prep Librarians. Year 2 pupils honed their ordering skills by racing against the clock to organise piles of books in alphabetical order. Mrs Askew was impressed with their quick and accurate completion of the task. With weekly library skills training and after-school visits to the Prep Library, they are now prepared for their upcoming journey in the Prep Library this September!



A DAY EXPLORING ANCIENT GREECE

Year 3 travelled back in time to 490 BC, exploring the city of Athens when Persia invaded Greece. Pupils participated in a series of interactive workshops to broaden their knowledge of Ancient Greece, finishing the afternoon with a Greek feast after a hard day's work as pottery painters, jewellers and wax tablet makers.



YEAR 4 ANGLO SAXONS AND VIKINGS WORKSHOP

Year 4 pupils enjoyed experiencing life in a 9th century village partaking in tasks such as weaving, pottery, metalworking and candle making. The afternoon was spent looking at the Dark Ages from a historical perspective, with the children using archaeology to understand how information has been gathered about different stages through history.

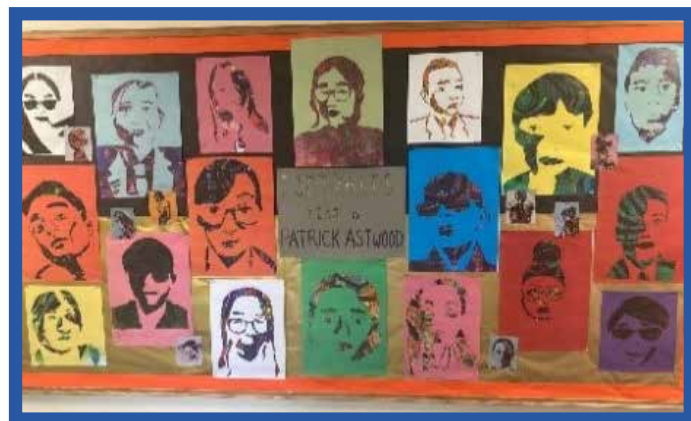


HALLFIELD'S CAREERS TALK SERIES

Thank you to Mr Paul and Mr Fearon who joined us for our penultimate Careers Talk of the year. Pupils enjoyed hearing about the life of a solicitor and trader and had lots of interesting questions on the future of the industries!

This year's Year 6 and Seniors Career Talk series concluded with Dr Francesca Kinsella and Mr Jiao for a morning of medicine. Pupils loved hearing about life as a Consultant Haematologist and Pharmacist.

If you would like to take part in our Career Talk series then please email Head of Prep – Clare Florida-James as we look to put together a new programme from September: cfjames@hallfieldschool.co.uk



PORTRAIT OF A PUPIL

Year 6 have completed stencil cut portraits in the style of artist Patrick Astwood. They have been working on their craft knife skills to produce these super results!

A GENEROUS DONATION

Lucilla, one of our Pupil Librarians, has been busily sorting through her personal home library, and has kindly donated scores of wonderful books to Hallfield's libraries.



LIVE FROM HALLFIELD

Zayaan, Edward, Piya and Japmeh hosted Hallfield's first-ever live episode of "How Hallfield Hears It..."

Pupils streamed the live debate show within school during lunchtime and spoke on the topic of 'Do young people today have too much technology?' A fantastic opening show, we can't wait to hear what's next!



PREP SPELLING BEE

On the last full day of term we were treated to yet another example of Hallfield pupils' endless talents in the Grand Final of the first ever Hallfield Spelling Bee. Parents and pupils held their breath as the finalists battled it out to be crowned Spelling Bee Champion. Congratulations to Siddh Shah and Ibrahim Farooq who each won their categories with their awe inspiring performances



GOOD LUCK YEAR 6!

We celebrated our Year 6 leavers with an end-of-year barbeque. It was a fantastic final event filled with games, delicious food and lots of reminiscing. Good luck Year 6, enjoy the summer and we look forward to seeing you at future Old Hallfieldian events.

ARE YOU AN OLD HALLFIELDIAN? THEN DON'T MISS OUT ON OUR EXCITING ALUMNI PROGRAMME. GET IN TOUCH WITH KAT DE POLO FOR MORE INFORMATION: KDEPOLO@HALLFIELDSCHOOL.CO.UK





SHOWCASE PERFORMANCES

We've had some fantastic performances from our Seniors during their Form Time Showcase each Friday.





PIZZA OVEN REPAIRS

Year 6 and Seniors have been busy repairing and starting the timber frame of a roof for the pizza oven. We can't wait to sample more delicious pizzas!



POPCORN ENTERPRISE

The popcorn selling enterprise run by the Seniors was a huge success as they struggled to keep up with the high demand at recent events – a great problem to have! The Seniors exhibited exceptional marketing, sales, accounting, and stock management skills while managing their mini-enterprise. Congratulations to the Seniors for a job well done!



SAYING GOODBYE

Best wishes to our Year 8 students! Enjoy the summer after all of your hard work this year, we hope to see you all again at some of our Old Hallfieldian events.

LASER TAG!

Lots of fun was had playing Outdoor Laser Tag at NPF Bassetts Pole Adventure Park. A great way for the Seniors to end the year on a high!



WHERE NEXT FOR OUR SENIORS?

Name: Mahek

Where are you going next?

Ashton Engineering Academy. I'm really happy as I have a big interest in engineering.

How has Hallfield Seniors helped you to prepare for your next step?

I was really bad at maths before joining, but it has improved massively since joining Hallfield Seniors. I was also really shy and quiet at the start of Year 7. Hallfield Seniors has improved my confidence a lot. The smaller class sizes allow you to speak more freely and you feel more reassured that no one will judge you, we are encouraged to speak up in class.

What are your favourite hobbies?

I like boxing, art and science. Chemistry is my favourite.

Have you been able to pursue any of these hobbies at Hallfield?

Yes, art and chemistry. The art here is great as we have so many supplies and materials. The Art Club is really helpful – Miss Watton showed us a sample GCSE art exam and we had a go at completing it over the term. As I want to continue with art for GCSE this was useful and makes me feel more prepared for the future.

Describe Hallfield Seniors in 3 words?

Fun, encouraging and happy.

What is your best memory of Hallfield Seniors?

PGL. It helped me to get to know the rest of the class and make more friends as there was lots of teamwork involved. I will always remember the big swing as it's really high and everyone helps to pull you up. We went on the swing in



threes. I was with Anthony and Mr Hewer. I was scared as I have a phobia of heights. Mr Hewer loved it and Anthony was brave, but I think he was secretly a bit scared.

Would you recommend Hallfield Seniors to your friends?

Yes, for the smaller class sizes. You get to share your opinions, and the whole class becomes your friends as it's a small environment. I made lots of friends.

Do you have a message for your peers?

See you later.

Name: Anthony

Where are you going next?

Rugby School. I'm nervous but excited for the change as I'll be boarding. It was one of my first choice schools.

How has Hallfield Seniors helped you to prepare for your next step?

Working with different types of people improves collaboration and makes us work harder. The teachers are friendly. The CORE values helped me shape my learning. I had practice papers and lots of support from teachers.

What are your favourite hobbies?

Football and building Lego.

Have you been able to pursue any of these hobbies at Hallfield?

Yes, football – we've been doing lots of it in Seniors. We had two matches and practice nearly every week.

Describe Hallfield Seniors in 3 words?

Friendly, supportive, nurturing.

What is your best memory of Hallfield Seniors?

I got an English award at Speech Day last year. I felt quite proud and pleased with myself. It motivated me to work just as hard this year. Getting up onto the stage was nerve-wracking, but I was calm and composed on the outside.



Would you recommend Hallfield Seniors to your friends?

Yes. People here are friendly and respectful of your opinion and views. It's easy to settle in.

Do you have a message for your peers?

Stay focused and try your best.

Name: Dawud

Where are you going next?

I'm going to a school in Malaga: The British School of Malaga. I'm looking forward to the nice weather and the opportunities that will be available.

How has Hallfield Seniors helped you to prepare for your next step?

There's been many opportunities, social interaction, and improvements to my confidence. Residential trips helped me to get used to spending time away from my parents and there were lots of activities to try. The two years here showed me that it's been easy to adjust to a new school and make friends, so I don't feel nervous about moving again.

What are your favourite hobbies?

Parkour, martial arts and kickboxing. Capoeira (Brazilian martial arts).

Have you been able to pursue any of these hobbies at Hallfield?

I didn't myself, but they do have a Martial Arts Club. I did perform a Capoeira for my classmates as part of our weekly student showcase.

Describe Hallfield Seniors in 3 words?

Productive, exciting and full of opportunities.

What is your best memory of Hallfield Seniors?

The French trip. It was entertaining. I met lots of new people. It improved my already great French skills and it was a nice final time to be away with my friends.



Would you recommend Hallfield Seniors to your friends?

Yes, because it's a nice school. I like the small class sizes, you get more one on one time with teachers and learn more.

Do you have a message for your peers?

Thank you for making this school so fun and enjoyable. I hope you have a very nice life.

SIMON BEDFORD

**Assistant Head
(Teaching & Learning and Curriculum Development)**

When are you joining Hallfield?

September 2023

What are you looking forward to most about coming to Hallfield?

Hallfield has such a depth as far as its pupils, the teachers and staff, activities, facilities and overall amazing opportunities it provides. I can't wait to start and to what my adventure at Hallfield holds.

What Year group will you be teaching and what subjects?

I will be responsible for the Seniors (Years 7 & 8), teaching and learning across the whole school and teaching some maths in Year 6 and the

Seniors, as well as some enrichment and some sports.

What is your favourite topic(s) to teach and why?

As a former prep school teacher, primary teacher and maths specialist teacher, to say I had one favourite topic would be very hard! I love to see children develop their creative writing and math problem-solving skills and pursue their interests and passions. I ran a philosophy club for a few years and love the depth of conversations and thinking that takes place. Any topic that challenges thinking, creates amazement for the world or empowers a child is great!

Continued on next page...



How does your subject enhance a child's curriculum / development?

Teaching and learning is about more than just developing knowledge in children. It is about developing skill sets and behaviours that children can apply to their lives to help them devote themselves to the range of possibilities that their futures may hold. Education should have a holistic approach, and my role will be to develop added depth, challenge and opportunities for the children through their experiences in the classroom, the curriculum, ways of learning and life skills. Education is ever-shifting, and an appreciation that knowledge fuels curiosity and teaching engages students with core skills like innovation, creativity, problem-solving, flexibility, communication, collaboration and leadership skills.

What careers would your subject be useful for?

Mathematics is a versatile subject that applies to a wide range of careers, such as science and research, engineering: which can include mechanical, electrical, aerospace and architectural engineering. Engineers use math to solve complex problems, design structures, optimise systems, and analyse data. Maths is also essential for working in finance and banking, computer science and information technology and statistics. If you think about being a pilot, building a ship or sailing a ship having the ability to think logically, analyse problems, and work with complex data sets makes math an invaluable asset in many careers.

Where were you before you joined Hallfield?

I have worked in a variety of different schools including international schools, prep schools, and state schools. My last school, Abberley Hall, was a wonderful experience. Set in the hills of Worcestershire, I was Head of Maths and had an active role in sports and academic development. Before Abberley, I worked at two other prep schools and primary schools and a British international school in the Middle East. I've had many hats, from Head of Key Stage 2, Head of Maths, Deputy Head, form tutor and class teacher.

What made you want to become a teacher?

I previously worked in marketing and wasn't as fulfilled as I would have liked. A good friend used to speak of his life as a primary school teacher, and I decided to retrain and pursue a career in teaching. The sheer variety of a teacher's day and the fun and pleasure of working with children drew me to teaching. I was right in recognising the sense of fulfilment that comes from supporting, guiding and seeing pupils grow and become empowered by their experiences at school. Spending my day working with young people is the best thing I can do!

What would we be surprised to know about you?

I grew up in five countries before returning to England when I was 15. I've seen a volcano erupt, experienced many earthquakes, and have swum with sharks. I was born in New Zealand and spent most of my childhood in Hong Kong. I once had dinner with Jackie Chan. There's much more to tell, but I'll save that for the classroom.

What hobbies/interests do you have outside of school?

I have two amazing children who are 2 and 6, and I spend my time with them. I like to go to the gym and go out for long walks. When the opportunity arises, I like to pursue my other passion, scuba diving. I've spent over 120 hours beneath the sea, which is my favourite place to be. I love to cook and have the occasional kayak down a river. Being outdoors and active and preferably around water is where I like to be.

If you could pass on any wisdom to your students, what would that be?

'Being a little weird is just a natural side-effect of being awesome' (quote from Snoopy). 'Keep your chin up. No one expected you to save the world; otherwise, you would have been born wearing a cape and tights'. Finally, 'Dare greatly'.



THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Piya, Aisha, Avni, Kathryn and Lucilla had a wonderful experience over Easter, joining the National Children's Choir for a session on their prestigious residential course. At Bromsgrove School, the children enjoyed working on a couple of challenging pieces and getting a taste of what it would be like to attend the course themselves. An insightful and enjoyable experience that has hopefully encouraged them to audition for the choir!



BRASS BAND PERFORMANCE

Our Brass Band played at the Salvation Army Citadel in Birmingham on Monday 22 May as part of the Services for Education Festival. They performed two pieces and really did Hallfield proud! Dhyan and Marcus also played solos on the baritone and trombone. Well done everyone for being brilliant ambassadors for Hallfield School and the music department.



YEAR 2 PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE

We were transported between three stories; Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk and The Pied Piper of Hamelin, during the Year 2 Performing Arts Showcase. The pupils performed excellently, their energy and portrayal of the characters was outstanding, well done Year 2! We look forward to seeing you perform in future productions.





TEA-TIME CONCERT

Another fantastic concert featuring some of our talented Prep guitarists and pianists. Well done everyone!



BRASS BAND PERFORMANCE

We have introduced a new ensemble to Hallfield - the Snare Drum Corps. It's Hallfield's first ensemble that spans Pre-Prep and Prep. The invitation only ensemble is for those children who have drum lessons outside of school, or who demonstrate a keen ability to play with rhythmic accuracy. We look forward to sharing more on this new group in the future!

END OF YEAR MUSIC CONCERT

The End of Year Music Concert was absolutely amazing! The atmosphere was full of excitement as everyone crowded into the Prep Hall, eager to watch the pupils' performance. Each performer did exceptionally well and their hard work was evident. It was a fantastic way to conclude the year and we look forward to seeing more from them in the future.



MATILDA THE MUSICAL COMES TO HALLFIELD SCHOOL!

A dazzling display of brilliance and magic: Matilda Jr. enchants the stage! The stage was set, the lights dimmed, and the Year 6 cohort of Hallfield School stepped into the spotlight to captivate the audience with their enchanting production of Matilda Jr. Based on the beloved Roald Dahl novel and inspired by the hit musical, this adaptation brought to life the magical world of Matilda Wormwood and her extraordinary journey of self-discovery. The young performers embraced their roles with gusto, weaving a heart-warming tale of brilliance, resilience, and the power of standing up for what is right.

Hallfield Prep Hall transformed

The meticulously designed sets transformed the stage into Crunchem Hall Primary School, Miss Trunchbull's menacing lair, and the cosy Wormwood household. Each scene immersed the audience in the story's whimsical universe, enhancing the already captivating performances.

Curtain up!

In the titular role, Piya brilliantly embodied the character of Matilda. Drawing inspiration from the memorable Matilda from both the original novel and the musical adaptation, they skilfully portrayed the young girl's intellect, determination, and unwavering spirit. From her rebellious acts of defiance to her awe-inspiring telekinetic powers, every aspect of Matilda's character was brought to life on stage, leaving the audience in awe.

First class performances

Beyond Matilda, the production showcased a host of unforgettable characters, each played with exceptional talent by Year 6 pupils. The cruel and villainous headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, played by Aleena, commanded the stage with her larger-than-life presence and commanding vocals. The mischievous escapades of Matilda's classmates, Lavender, played by Amberley and the boisterous Bruce Bogtrotter played by Alex, provided moments of delightful humour and camaraderie.



The performances were elevated by the props such as the giant cake being eaten and Amanda Thripp being thrown over the railings. The heart-warming rendition of "When I Grow Up" resonated deeply with spectators of all ages, reminding us of the children's impending transition to their secondary schools.

Behind the scenes

Behind the scenes, the dedication and hard work of the cast and crew shone through. The tireless efforts of the students and staff ensured that every detail was meticulously crafted. The energy and enthusiasm of the ensemble cast were infectious, inspiring the entire audience and leaving them spellbound.

Matilda Jr. is more than just an enchanting story; it carries valuable lessons for all who experience it. Matilda's unwavering courage teaches us the importance of standing up for ourselves and what is right, even in the face of adversity. Her love for books and knowledge ignites a passion for learning and the power of education. The production beautifully conveyed the idea that our differences should be celebrated and that everyone deserves a chance to shine.

"The Year 6 cohort's production of Matilda Jr. was a resounding success, capturing the hearts of all who witnessed its magic. From the stellar performances to the meticulous attention to detail, the production showcased the incredible talent and dedication of these young performers. Through the vibrant storytelling and inspiring characters, the audience was reminded of the importance of embracing one's uniqueness and standing up for what is right. Matilda Jr. proved to be an unforgettable experience, leaving an indelible mark on all those fortunate enough to witness it."

Mr Woolhead, Head of Drama





MATILDA THE MUSICAL: MEET THE CAST

What role do you play and is it the role you wanted?

Piya: Matilda. It is the role I wanted and auditioned for. I really like the character, I like her songs, and how she rebels.

Aleena: Trunchbull. I auditioned for the role as I thought it would be really fun to play a villain, shout and be evil.

Jasmine: Miss Honey. It's the role I wanted!

Sophie: The Acrobat. Originally, I wanted to audition for Miss Honey or Trunchbull but after seeing my audition, Mr Woolhead thought I would be a good fit for the Acrobat.

Did you have to audition? And what did you have to do to get the role?

Piya: I had to sing 'Naughty' which I had previously learnt for my grades. It was strange though as it was the shortened version and I was used to the full. I also had to memorise some lines to recite in groups.

Aleena: The first step was in drama class. We were assigned random scripts. I got the Mrs Wormwood one. We had to perform extracts and based on our performances we were shortlisted to audition for a certain character. Mr Woolhead also spoke with LAMDA teachers.

How did you feel when you were told you got the part?

Piya: I was ecstatic and jumping up and down. I kept it together when Mr Woolhead told me, but as soon as I left the room I couldn't contain my excitement.

Isa: I was on edge as I forgot a line on my final audition so was convinced I wouldn't get the part. I walked into the



ALEENA

classroom and Mr Woolhead just handed me the script. I said a big thank you and then got really excited outside in the playground.

Sophie: I didn't think I'd get a part so when I did I was really excited.

Who are you most excited about seeing you in your show?

Sophie: My family. They've seen me practising at home and keep saying they can't wait to see me in the show.

Isa: My mum is going to come and watch me and maybe my auntie and grandparents.

What have you enjoyed most about rehearsals?

Zakeriya: They're really funny. When giving notes sometimes Mr Woolhead demonstrates our part and shows us how to do it with lots of expression. It makes it engaging and not boring.

Piya: Costumes and the long rehearsals where we practice the whole production. It never feels like a chore.

Sophie: The whole year rehearsals. We get time to sit back and watch everyone when we're not involved in the scene. It's funny when Mr Woolhead gets stressed about a scene going wrong. We all laugh including him.

What is your favourite element of performance? Singing, acting or dancing and why?

Piya: All areas. I love dancing, singing and acting. I do Strictly Zumba Class in my spare time.

Aleena: I like acting and dancing. It's really fun to just play a part and transform into the role - for me being really mean. And the dancing is fun as we get to work with everyone else.



PIYA



ISA

Sophie: I do really like the singing and dancing. It makes us feel connected as we do it together as a team.

Isa: The acting, expressing myself as a different character.

Has the show or doing performing arts helped you in other areas of life?

Jasmine: I didn't used to get involved in performances. I'd stay to the side but inside really wanted to take part so this really helped to build my confidence.

Aleena: If it wasn't for this show I would have never sung in front of an audience. We built up to singing independently so it felt doable as we gained confidence. It's also helped me to manage my time as we have morning rehearsals and have to prioritise.



SOPHIE

Isa: Public speaking. If you don't have any confidence you may struggle in later life with public speaking. Doing a production like this helps boost confidence and teaches you to talk clearly.

Zakeriya: It's given me lots of confidence. I used to be really shy but now I dance and sing in front of people.

What is your best memory of the show so far?

Zakeriya: The revolting children dance is cool.

Isa: Practising the dances together and finding out about my green wig.

What do you look forward to most about the actual performance?

Piya: All of it, just experiencing the show.

Isa: The ending scene as it's moving and emotional.

Zakeriya: Doing my role well and trying my best. Taking part in the dances.



ZAKERIYA

What would be your dream role and show?

Piya: Hermione from Harry Potter

Isa: Dominic from Fast and Furious. I'm really into cars.

Zakeriya: To be in a horror film, they seem to be fun to film.

Who is your favourite performer/musician/dancer?

Piya/Aleena: Taylor Swift, I love her songs

Jasmine: Michael Jackson

Sophie: Millie Bobby Brown

Isa: Tom Holland, played Spiderman well and Daniel Radcliffe also.



JASMINE



SPORTS DAY

This year's Sports Days were a great success! Across two days pupils came together to compete in a range of sports, from High Jump to Shotput and the 800 Metres, with the joint goal of securing first place for their respective houses. The field was filled with a competitive buzz as the children put their hard work to the test in front of many eagle eyed parents! This year we were joined by food vendors, LA-POP! and Feast Streat. The level of talent and determination throughout both afternoons was amazing. Well done to everyone who competed!



STAFF V PARENTS CRICKET

Congratulations to our parent team who won the final Staff v Parents cricket match, a great end to the year!



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

AN IMPORTANT CAUSE

In the Spring Term Hallfield School welcomed Dee Dewhurst and her guide dog 'Mojo' to an assembly. Dee spoke to the children about her personal experience of suffering from sight loss, the vital work carried out by Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and how having her guide dog, Mojo, has changed her life. The school charity ambassadors, along with some golden ticket winners, had a 'pat and chat' with Mojo and Dee after assembly. Feeling inspired and gaining an understanding of the importance of guide dogs, the charity ambassadors decided to focus fundraising efforts on raising money to sponsor a dog.

In order to sponsor a guide dog through its training and name it, the school would have to raise £2500 – no easy fete! So our charity ambassadors set to work with two fun events.

In May and July pupils took to the field for some fun and games! From beat the goalie and egg and spoon races, to a tombola, and guessing the name of a teddy bear – there were lots of opportunities to donate! The highlight of the final fundraiser had to be the opportunity to slime a teacher, one being Head Master Mr Morrow!

At the final fundraiser in July we were joined by special guests Mojo and Murphy.

Thank you to everyone who donated and took part! We absolutely smashed the target to sponsor a dog for the blind.

Total raised: £3127.00





CRICKET

We had a wonderful turnout for our annual Old Hallfieldian Cricket match. It was a sunny June evening and the perfect conditions to welcome back our former pupils to re-live sporting glories on our iconic cricket pitch.

Two teams of Old Hallfieldians faced each other for the 20 over match – one captained by OH Rob Davies, and the other by Hallfield's very own Mr Moffatt. They were watched by a record number of spectators with one Old Hallfieldian travelling all the way from Cardiff.

Thank you to all our cricketers, scorers and extra fielders! We'll see you the same time next year.



SENIORS REUNION

On Wednesday 14 June, the Senior class of '22 enjoyed a reunion with their teachers, our current Seniors and their families.

There were games on the playing fields and a delicious BBQ, with plenty of opportunities to hear about the tremendous progress our Old Hallfieldians have made over the last year. A few competitive rounds of tug of war took place, with Mr Morrow's team emerging victorious!

Mr Hewer marked the occasion by adding a commemorative plaque to the pizza oven built by last year's Seniors, with each of them taking a turn with the drill to fix it into place.



CLASS OF 22 REUNION

Our Year 6 Class of '22 couldn't wait to get back to school for their reunion! It was another sunny evening, ideal for playing games on the field. There was cricket, football and tug of war, plus lots of time for parents and children to chat and catch up over a BBQ.

Keep in touch – we love to hear how our former pupils are getting on!



MEET OLD HALLFIELDIAN: ARJUN CHAUHAN

We were delighted when Old Hallfieldian, Arjun Chauhan, got in touch to let us know he was visiting the UK from the US with his wife Ashley. We had a great time showing them around and hearing about Arjun's time here from 1993-1999.

What's your favourite Hallfield memory?

In year 3 or 4 we went on a school ski trip to France. It was my first time flying without my parents and getting to spend multiple nights in a different country with my group of friends was fantastic! I also enjoyed learning how to ski.

What were your favourite subjects at Hallfield?

I enjoyed Craft, Design and Technology (CDT). In that class, we made tools and various other items with wood and plastic. I remember making a pneumatic grabber with two syringes connected with tubing. It definitely made me feel quite accomplished to make things that had a purpose. I still have a few things that I made in that class.

Where did you go to secondary school?

At the end of Year 4, my family relocated abroad, so the school I attended after Hallfield was Algonkian Elementary School in Sterling, Virginia USA. It honestly felt like I was taking a step back. Hallfield gave me so much independence, trusting us to move between classes alone at a young age which was absolutely not an option in the States. The idea of giving a nine-year-old a saw and a hand drill like we used in CDT would have been laughed at.

Are you still in touch with your Hallfield friends?

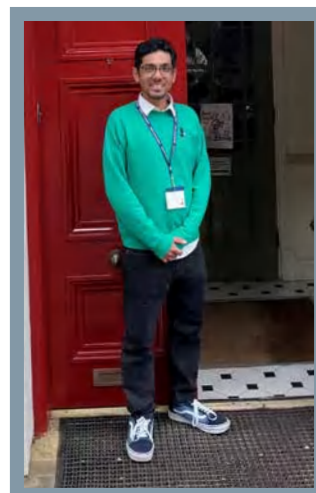
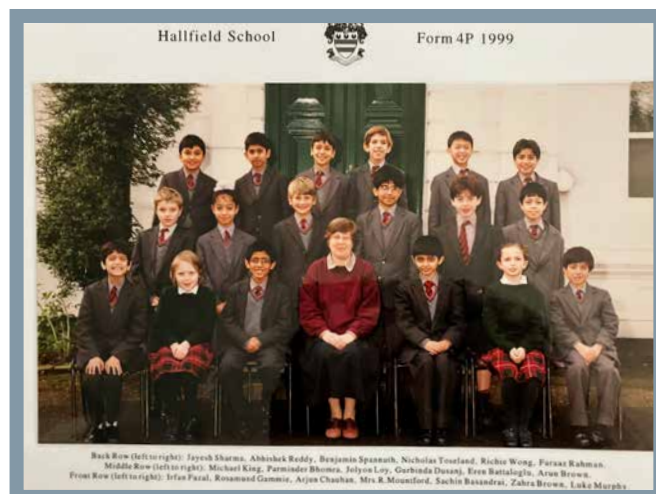
When Facebook initially launched I found a few of my old friends on there and had some contact with them for a bit. When I came to visit Hallfield this year with my wife, we actually bumped into one of my classmates in the car park! He was touring the school with his baby who he hopes will follow in his footsteps by attending the school.

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

After high school in Virginia, I attended Virginia Commonwealth University and got a degree in Religious Studies and a minor in Social justice. After that I attended Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and graduated with a Doctorate of Pharmacy.

What is your career?

I am currently a pharmacist and work for Costco in Boston, Massachusetts.



What did you most enjoy about coming back to visit Hallfield?

Hallfield was such an integral part of my childhood and became somewhat mythologised over the years as I've told my wife so many stories. I really enjoyed showing her what 'elementary school' is like in the UK as it is so different in the States. I also loved seeing for myself how it looks now after over 20 years.

MEET OLD HALLFIELDIAN: WILLIAM CHEUNG



With music playing a huge part in Old Hallfieldian William Cheung's life from an early age, it's no surprise he has gone on to have a musical career. We caught up with William about his time at Hallfield from 1991-1999, and heard how making the most of extra-curricular opportunities can set you up for life.

What's your favourite Hallfield memory?

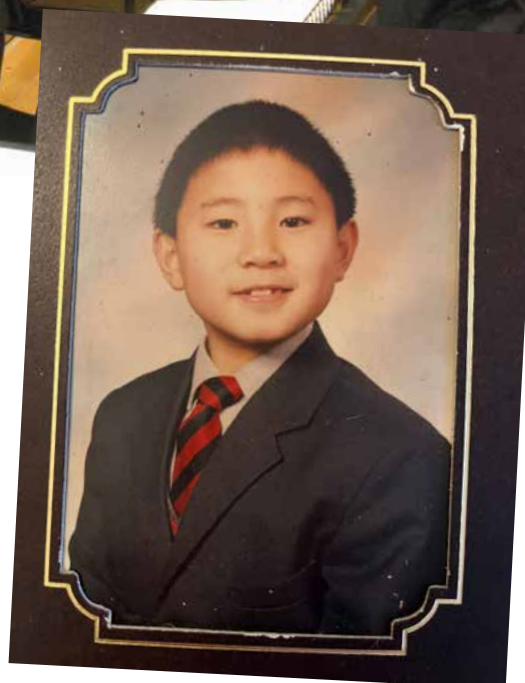
I have so many fond memories of Hallfield, but the standout for me is probably having portrayed Mayoress Hobnob in a Year 5 school play, back in the day when it was an all-boys school and was beginning its transition to co-ed. I was encouraged to go completely over the top by our director, which resulted in me sounding like Hyacinth Bucket! It was well received and the audience laughed a lot. I had a lovely friend playing the part of my very meek husband. School plays were always a highlight for me.

What were your favourite subjects at Hallfield?

Music, Maths, English, Art and Science.

What did you enjoy about extra-curricular activities?

My extra-curricular activities were mainly music, or drama-related. I enjoyed playing together with other Hallfield children and learned a lot of ensemble skills by doing so. I believe I was mainly involved in three music groups; orchestra, string ensemble and choir. I remember joining a recorder group for a short while as well. I think I joined in with every school production I could every year! I loved the parts I was given, and had very fun directors.



Where did you go to secondary school?

I was awarded music scholarships to King Edward's School and Solihull School, and Hallfield was very supportive. I remember being offered multiple opportunities to perform solos in assemblies, concerts and events. I did get nervous before performing, so doing it regularly was helpful to get used to the experience. Nowadays I hardly get nervous when I perform! I later successfully auditioned for Chetham's School of Music, the top music school in the UK, and went there for sixth form in 2004.

Are you still in touch with your Hallfield friends?

I have a few Hallfield friends on social media, but we all live so far away from each other it's hard to keep in touch! I did make new friends at secondary school but one of my best friends during that time happened to be from Hallfield

Have you been back to Hallfield since you left?

I've been back only a few times since I left but have been visiting regularly over the last year. The school has physically changed a lot from when I was there as a student. It is now fully co-ed, and what used to be the nursery is now the music department. Nursery is now known as "Hallfield First" and is near the front of the school. The centenary block had only one floor during my time as well. What shocked me the most was going into the school hall and seeing the stage missing! We used to have a stage door, and a permanent, fixed, elevated stage. I am very pleased to see a high-quality grand piano there, and seeing that the music department is thriving, with a lot of musical activities going on.



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

I studied Music at the University of Manchester and Royal Northern College of Music on a joint course – a very prestigious offer which only accepts less than ten students every year. Very recently I've undertaken a PGCert course, "Sounds of Intent" which specialises in music education for vulnerable people with SEN and disabilities, as well as music for early years and the elderly. Following this, I intend to complete a Master's degree in music.

What is your career?

I'm a professional musician, involved with mostly teaching. I'm currently employed by Services for Education (Birmingham Music Service) as a piano/keyboard teacher and as conductor for Birmingham Schools String Sinfonia. I also conduct Midland Chamber Orchestra and accompany a choir, called "Notorious". I play the piano, cello, organ, and ukulele, and I perform and teach on all of these instruments. It's great to be back at Hallfield, coaching after-school ukulele for Strings Club.



Do you have any words of wisdom for current pupils?

Learn a musical instrument. I'm aware that all Year 3 children take on a musical instrument, which is fantastic. If you're in an older year group, it's never too late to take it up. We live in an age where if we don't get instant gratification we give up. Don't quit! If it's not working out, try a different instrument, try different pieces, but keep making music, and have fun with your friends. Music engages all areas of the brain, and is a highly productive activity. The road will be long and hard but the reward in the end is indescribably beneficial to your life. In September I will be returning with some musical friends from Midland Chamber Orchestra to promote our upcoming collaborative concert with Hallfield School. You'll see that music brings so much joy to our lives and that the musical journey carries on with you past your school years.





UPCOMING EVENTS



Friends of Hallfield

PROUDLY PRESENTS

OPEN AIR CINEMA

Saturday 23 September 2023

HALLFIELD SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD

FEATURING STREET
FOOD AND CHILDREN'S
ENTERTAINMENT

SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK



Old
Hallfieldians

BLITZ CHESS

Thursday 12 October 2023

17:00-19:30

All ages
welcome

Book now





HALLFIELD
SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1879

OPEN MORNING

SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER

09:30 - 12:30

Discover the rich and
exciting education
on offer at Hallfield



BOOK NOW



FINDING THE
BRILLIANCE IN
EVERY CHILD



HALLFIELD
SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1879

**WELCOME
BACK CONCERT**

Friday 15 September
16:30 - 17:30

Featuring musicians from Midland
Chamber Orchestra and Hallfield
Orchestra

Free to attend

Midland Chamber Orchestra
presents

PETER AND THE WOLF

Saturday 9th December 2023, 7:30pm

St George's Church, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 3DQ

MOZART German Dances K.605
HAYDN Symphony No.100 "Military"
PROKOFIEV Peter and the Wolf

Tickets online & on the door

Adults £10

Students & Children £5

Family & Group discounts available online

ticketsource.co.uk/midland-chamber-orchestra

in association with



HALLFIELD
SCHOOL





Friends of Hallfield

PROUDLY PRESENTS

FIREWORK EXTRAVAGANZA

Friday 10 November 2023

HALLFIELD SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD

FEATURING STREET
FOOD AND CHILDREN'S
ENTERTAINMENT

SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK



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:



SCAN ME

www.hallfieldschool.co.uk

Don't forget to follow us on social media:



@HallfieldSchool



@HallfieldSchool



Hallfield School

HALLFIELD SCHOOL BUS SERVICE

We currently offer two morning shuttle bus services and a walking bus for children from Reception upwards. Booster seats are provided for children that need them.

Sutton Bus

Stops	Location	Pick up time	Price
1	Four Oaks Methodist Church (B74 2UU)	07:20	£5 daily
2	Wyvern Road (Litchfield Rd Junction)	07:30	£3.50 daily



Moseley Bus

Stops	Location	Pick up time	Price
1	Oaklands Road (opposite St Martin de Porres Catholic Primary School)	07:45	£2 daily
2	Moseley Village Car Park (B13 8HJ)	08:00	£2 daily
3	Walker Memorial Hall (Ampton Road)	08:15	Free

We have 10 spaces available, which will be offered on a 'first come, first served' basis. Please email David Tinkler to book your space: dtinkler@hallfieldschool.co.uk

Walking Bus

We also have a walking bus from the public car park next to The Physician Pub and The High Field, on Highfield Road, which is an excellent way for your child to start the day with some exercise and for parents to avoid the car park. Two members of staff (or more depending on pupil numbers) will escort the children to school. Please drop children off between 08:00 and 08:10, but **DO NOT leave your child in the car park** without a member of Hallfield staff. Staff on duty will take a register of the children taking the Walking Bus before setting off promptly at 08:15.



A 50% discount will be applied to second siblings and a 75% discount applied to third and subsequent siblings.



FOUNDED 1879

HALLFIELD SCHOOL

Happy | Inspiring | Purposeful

