



Hall Park Academy

NEWSLETTER

CHRISTMAS EDITION - 2025

Read our Christmas 2025 newsletter which includes all the amazing things our students have been doing this term.

Collier

25532

Lawrence

23718

Erewash

25906

Astle

26157



A MESSAGE FROM
Mr Crossley

As we reach the end of a busy autumn term, we are immensely proud of everything our students and staff have achieved. From helping set a Guinness World Record in the world's largest cookery lesson, to hands-on university experiences in Sport Science and impressive Hospitality & Catering mock exams, the curriculum has been alive with ambition and curiosity.

Year 7 Welcome Evening provided a fitting start to year 7 students' time at Hall Park Academy, and they built friendships through teamwork and cooperation on the Walesby trip. The science "12 Days of Christmas" challenge and termly Science Stars celebrated effort across all key stages and a show-stopping Christmas Concert, showcasing creativity and confidence on stage, brought the term to a fitting conclusion.

Beyond the classroom, students taking the Duke of Edinburgh Awards demonstrated resilience and service through DofE night navigation and festive fundraising with Hucknall Rotary. A STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) trip marked Ada Lovelace Day and it has been a transformational year in the school garden.

We've marked Remembrance Day with the local community and supported others through Children in Need and our annual Foodbank collection. Sporting success has been equally inspiring -from cross-country qualifiers to unbeaten futsal squads, outstanding performances in girls' futsal, national recognition in sidecar racing and a memorable visit to Twickenham.

Thank you for your continued support. Wishing all families a restful, happy Christmas and a brilliant start to the new year.

Mr Crossley



WORLD RECORD HOLDERS

We're officially record-breakers!

Sixteen of our amazing students took part in the World's Largest Cookery Lesson, joining over 14,000 people from 72 countries, all led by celebrity chef Jamie Oliver.

Together, we helped set a brand new Guinness World Record, and our achievement has now been officially recognised. You can see our certificate proudly displayed in the food room!

A huge well done to our superstar chefs for representing Hall Park on the world stage. What an incredible experience!



SIXTH FORM PE TRIP TO NTU



On 26 November Miss Kelly took our A Level PE students to Nottingham Trent University's Clifton Campus to explore the specialist facilities used in their Sport Science degree programmes.

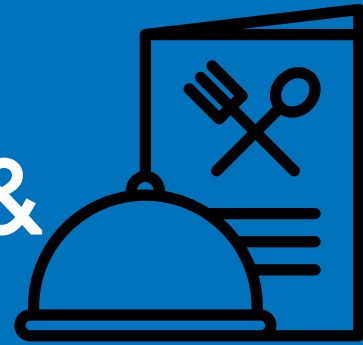
Students took part in two hands-on laboratory sessions. The first focused on measuring oxygen levels in expired air both at rest and after exercise. Working alongside students from other schools, they focused on applying and reinforcing key concepts from their A Level PE course.

In the second session, students entered the Biomechanics lab to investigate the principles of human movement, making full use of the advanced equipment and expert guidance available.

This was a fantastic opportunity for our students to experience university-level sport science in action. Thank you to NTU for hosting us for such an engaging and insightful day.



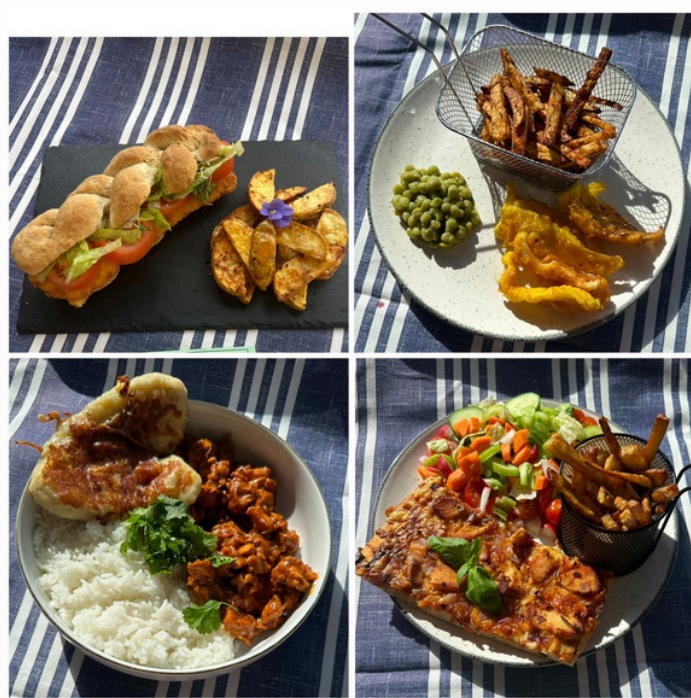
YEAR 10 HOSPITALITY & CATERING MOCKS



On Monday 28th September, our Year 11 Hospitality and Catering students took part in a valuable mock practical exam, an essential part of their preparation for the upcoming real exams. This hands-on experience allowed them to create their dishes under timed conditions, mirroring the pressures they will face during the official assessments.

Throughout the session, the students demonstrated an impressive range of skills, from medium-level techniques to more complex culinary practices. Each dish they produced showcased both their technical ability and creativity, resulting in some truly remarkable plates.

The mock exam served as an excellent opportunity for students to refine their skills, build confidence, and gain insight into the real exam environment. We are incredibly proud of the dedication and hard work they have put into their studies and look forward to seeing how they continue to grow and excel in their culinary journey.





Hall Park
Academy

CALLING ALL Y10 & Y11

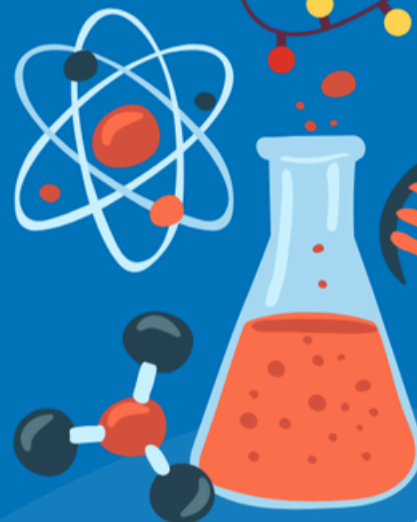
LET'S PLAY...

12 DAYS OF SCIENCE CHRISTMAS

ONE QUESTION ON EDUCAKE EACH DAY
FROM 1-12 DECEMBER.

COMPLETE ALL 12 TO WIN A SWEET
TREAT AND BE ENTERED INTO A £25
AMAZON VOUCHER DRAW.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



12 DAYS OF SCIENCE CHRISTMAS



This December, our KS4 students embraced the holiday spirit with a scientific twist! Over 12 exciting days, 45 students took on a series of fun and challenging science-themed activities designed to spark curiosity and celebrate learning in a creative way.

Every participant showed fantastic effort and enthusiasm, and as a thank-you, each will receive a sweet treat for their hard work.

The highlight of the challenge was the grand prize draw! Congratulations to Ethan B, who walked away with a £25 Amazon voucher as our lucky winner.

A huge well done to all who took part!





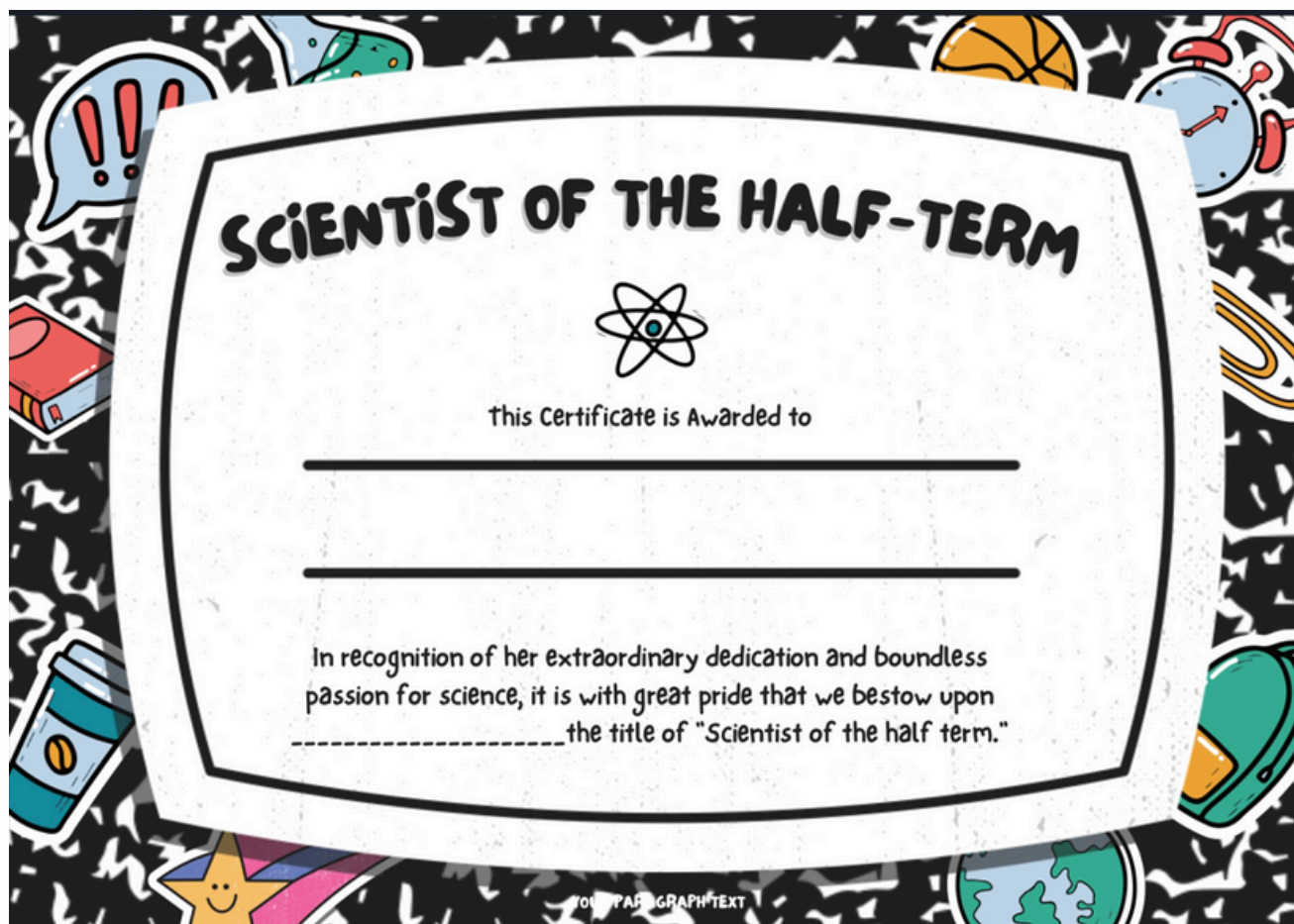
SCIENCE STARS OF THE TERM

Every week this term, Science teachers have been nominating outstanding students at each key stage for their effort, curiosity, and commitment to learning. All nominees were entered into a special prize draw, and we're thrilled to announce the winners for this half term:

- KS3: Megan N
- KS4: Emma B
- KS5: Niamh W

Congratulations to our winners! A big thank you to all students for your hard work and enthusiasm throughout the term.

From everyone in the Science Department, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! We look forward to more exciting discoveries together in the new year.



YEAR 7 WELCOME EVENING



The Year 7 Welcome Evening on 10th October was a vibrant celebration of creativity, community, and new beginnings. Over 80 enthusiastic Year 7 students took to the stage, showcasing their talents through choir and drama performances inspired by the book *Lizzie and Belle*, which they had read over the summer. The music and theatrical pieces beautifully captured the themes of friendship, courage, and discovery found in the story, and the students' energy and commitment lit up the room.

Following the performances, Mr Crossley addressed the gathered parents and carers, sharing the school's vision and outlining the expectations for the future. His message was clear: every child is encouraged to thrive, explore their potential, and feel part of a supportive and ambitious school community. The evening was not only a celebration of student achievement but also a powerful reminder of the exciting journey that lies ahead for Year 7.





CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Over 80 talented students took to the stage for this year's Christmas Concert, delivering a rich variety of performances that showcased the breadth of creativity in our school. The evening featured instrumental groups, vocal ensembles, choirs, solos, dramatic readings, and even some audience participation, creating a warm and inclusive festive atmosphere. From classical pieces to contemporary arrangements, the programme reflected the hard work and dedication of both students and staff.

The event was expertly compered by Mr Cardwell and the Expressive and Performing Arts (EPA) team, ensuring a seamless and engaging experience for all. Headteacher Mr Crossley praised the evening as an "incredible success," commenting on the "continued confidence he saw in the students' performances." The concert not only celebrated musical excellence but also highlighted the collaborative spirit that makes our school community so special.





GOLD D OF E NIGHT NAVIGATION

Our Gold Duke of Edinburgh students recently undertook a challenging night navigation exercise on the rugged terrain of Burbage Moor. Equipped only with head torches, maps, and compasses, they navigated through the moorland in wet and demanding conditions. This activity was designed to build resilience and prepare them for the realities of mountain expeditions in Wales and the Lake District where sudden cloud cover can dramatically reduce visibility.

The students demonstrated exceptional determination and teamwork as they plotted routes and maintained bearings in darkness, simulating the experience of navigating in poor weather at height. Despite the rain and slippery paths, they remained focused and adapted to the environment, proving their ability to stay calm and make accurate decisions under pressure.

This exercise was not just about navigation, it was about developing confidence, problem-solving skills, and the mental toughness required for Gold-level expeditions. Their success on Burbage Moor shows they are well on their way to tackling the challenges ahead.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH FUNDRAISING



Our Duke of Edinburgh students recently joined forces with Hucknall Rotary Club to support their annual Santa Sleigh event, helping to raise vital funds for the continuation of the DofE programme here at Hall Park Academy. These funds are essential for investing in high-quality expedition equipment, including rucksacks, tents, and cooking stoves, ensuring every participant is well prepared and equipped for their adventures.

The students were absolutely fantastic, bringing energy, enthusiasm, and festive cheer to the event. Their commitment to giving back to the community reflects the spirit of the Duke of Edinburgh Award, which is all about challenge, service and personal growth.

We are eagerly awaiting the final total raised and are grateful to everyone who contributed. Every donation helps us provide opportunities for young people to develop resilience, confidence, and life skills through the Duke of Edinburgh programme.



HALL PARKS GOT TALENT



Hall Park's Got Talent Shines Bright! Hall Park's Got Talent returned for its annual house competition, showcasing an incredible array of talent from across the school. The event featured stunning vocal performances, heartfelt duets, and dynamic dance routines that captivated the audience from start to finish. Each act brought something unique to the stage, making this year's competition one of the most memorable yet.

A Double Victory in an Unprecedented Finale Judged by our esteemed panel of musicians and actors, the contest proved exceptionally challenging to score due to the sheer quality and creativity on display. After much deliberation, the judges made an unprecedented decision: to crown not one, but two overall winners! This rare outcome reflects the extraordinary talent and dedication of our performers, and we couldn't be prouder of everyone who took part!



ADA LOVELACE TRIP



On 14th October, our Year 8 students visited MediCity Nottingham for an exciting STEM event celebrating Ada Lovelace, the computing pioneer who paved the way for innovation. The trip was part of our careers programme, helping students connect classroom learning with real-world opportunities.

Throughout the day, students took part in five inspiring sessions and hands-on activities, meeting professionals from engineering, science, technology, and medical research. Highlights included exploring medical communication with Porterhouse Medical, breast cancer research and lab testing with Inaphaea BioLabs, and seeing how Stratasys uses 3D printing to solve engineering challenges. Nottingham Trent University also shared insights into biosciences and disease research.

The experience left students feeling confident and curious about STEM careers, with ambitions ranging from pilots and engineers to scientists and creative problem-solvers.

A huge thank you to the Science team, trip staff, and parents for making this day possible, a brilliant mix of learning, discovery, and inspiration!



GROWING THE GARDEN



It has been an incredible year for the school garden, transforming from a patch of derelict land into a vibrant and welcoming space. Students and staff have worked tirelessly to clear weeds and overgrown shrubs, harvest a crop of potatoes (which were cooked in DT with Miss Marriott and proved delicious!), fundraise for equipment and seating, plant wildflowers, and restore the pond area. Every small task has contributed to creating a space that is both beautiful and functional.

Looking ahead, winter vegetables planted this term will be harvested and turned into a hearty soup. Plans are also in place to develop the wildlife area, ensuring animals are cared for during the colder months by making fat balls and bird feeders. Exciting collaborations with the Art, DT, and Science departments will continue, bringing new ideas and expertise to enhance the garden even further.



COMMEMORATING REMEMBRANCE DAY



Hall Park Academy students proudly took part in local Remembrance Day events, reflecting on the importance of remembrance and community. Sixth Form students attended a service at the Eastwood War Memorial Cottages, standing alongside local councillors, community members, and cadets to pay their respects. Their conduct throughout the service was exemplary, representing the values of the academy.

Special recognition goes to Freddie in Year 10, who had the honour of laying a wreath at the Cadet Cross on Edward Road during the Eastwood Remembrance Day Parade. Freddie also recently represented C Battery in the Nottinghamshire ACF Drill Competition, where his team were crowned champions and went on to achieve second place in the Tri-Service Drill Competition against Navy and Air Force cadets.

These moments highlight the dedication and respect shown by our students, both in the community and through their personal achievements. We are proud of them all for being such positive ambassadors for Hall Park Academy.





Hall Park
Academy



CASTLE *Christmas* CRACKER

16 December 2025, lunchtime

In the theatre

Tickets £1 on the door

First come, first served

ASTLE CHRISTMAS CRACKER



The festive season was celebrated in style at school with the annual Astle Christmas Cracker. The lunchtime session brought together staff and students for a festive showcase of music and entertainment. Highlights included guitar and singing from Mr West-Mullen, a dazzling hula hoop routine by Miss Mason, and a lively rap and singing performance from Mr Illingworth, Erica and Skyla. The atmosphere was completed by the student Christmas band featuring Amelia-Mai, April and Caitlin, whose festive tunes got us all feeling the Christmas spirit!

All proceeds from the Astle Christmas Cracker are being donated to MacMillan Cancer Support. A big thank you to all staff and students that supported the event!





WALESBY TRIP

In October, Year 7 students enjoyed an exciting team-building trip to Walesby Forest, an annual tradition designed to help new students settle in and build strong connections within their House groups.

The day was packed with adventure and challenges, giving students the chance to develop teamwork, communication, and resilience. Activities included laser tag in the forest, crate stacking, indoor climbing, and the thrilling 3G swing. Each task encouraged students to support one another, step out of their comfort zones, and celebrate success together.

Staff were impressed by the enthusiasm and excellent behaviour shown throughout the trip. Students represented the Academy brilliantly, embracing every opportunity to learn and grow.

This experience is a key part of the Year 7 journey, helping to create lasting friendships and a strong sense of community. We look forward to seeing these skills flourish throughout the year!



CHILDREN IN NEED



On Friday 18th November, Hall Park Academy came together to support Children in Need with a fantastic fundraising effort. Students and staff took part in a non-uniform day and enjoyed a bake sale, all in aid of this important cause.

Thanks to everyone's generosity and enthusiasm, we raised an incredible £824! This money will go towards helping disadvantaged children and young people across the UK.

A huge thank you to everyone who donated, baked, and supported the event!



FESTIVE FOOD BANK COLLECTION



This festive season, our school community came together to support Eastwood Foodbank in their mission to help local people during the festive holidays and into the New Year.

Through generous donations, the response was incredible, students, staff, and families rallied together and contributed a wide range of goods, from cupboard staples to festive treats, showing compassion and solidarity with those in need. These contributions will go directly to Eastwood Foodbank, ensuring that vulnerable members of our community receive vital support during the winter months.

A huge thank you to everyone who donated and helped spread kindness this Christmas. Together, we've shown the true spirit of giving.



EXPLORING FUTURES AT INSPIRE COLLEGE



On Wednesday 10th December, six students from Years 10 and 11 had the exciting opportunity to visit Inspire College. The trip was designed to help students begin thinking about their pathways for the future, encouraging them to explore the wide range of options available after their time at Hall Park Academy.

Throughout the day, our students engaged with staff and activities that opened their eyes to potential careers, courses, and opportunities beyond Year 11. It was a valuable chance to reflect on their ambitions and start conversations about prospective jobs, apprenticeships, and further education.

We are proud to say that every student involved represented Hall Park Academy with maturity and enthusiasm. Their positive attitude and willingness to embrace new ideas made the visit a real success, and it has set the stage for thoughtful planning about life after school.

For anyone interested in finding out more about Inspire College or post-16 choices, please speak with Mrs Bytheway, who will be happy to provide further guidance.





NOTTS HOTSHOTS GOING TO AMERICA

Many Hall Park Academy students are proud members of the local Notts Hotshots Cheer and Dance Academy, and we're thrilled to share some exciting news! Several of them have qualified to compete at the All Star World Championships in Orlando, Florida, next April, a truly incredible achievement! Congratulations to Harri T, Ava F, Ella J, Evie-Mae H, Evie-Leigh H, Alana L, Gracie J, and Kayla B, who will represent their teams on this global stage. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, but it comes with significant costs, so the students are working hard to fundraise thousands of pounds to make the trip possible.

As part of their efforts, Hall Park Academy hosted a Bake Sale on Friday 5th December, which was a huge success thanks to the generosity of staff and students. Every contribution helps bring these students closer to achieving their dream.



SIDECAR SUPERSTAR



We are incredibly proud to celebrate Luca W, one of our hardworking Year 11 students, who this year completed his first season racing Grasstrack Sidecars.

At only 15 years old, Luca has made history as the youngest ever Sidecar driver, showing remarkable ambition and determination. His debut season was nothing short of impressive, culminating in an outstanding 3rd place finish in the British Finals, competing against experienced teams with years of racing behind them.

This achievement is a testament to Luca's commitment, resilience, and passion for his sport. Congratulations, Luca, on this incredible milestone, we can't wait to see what you accomplish next!



RUNNING WITH RESILIENCE



On 15 October, Hall Park Academy students showcased incredible determination and teamwork at a local cross country event. It was a fantastic display of ambition and resilience, with every participant giving their best effort.

Our Year 10 GCSE PE students were outstanding ambassadors for the school. Special mention goes to Lexi D and Betsy S for their brilliant support as cheerleaders for the primary students, and to Ava W, who showed exceptional kindness by running alongside another student to help them reach the finish line.

Year 12 Sports Leaders also deserve huge praise for their calm and professional approach in managing the scoring throughout the event—true leadership under pressure!

Congratulations to all our runners for their effort and commitment, and a special well done to those who qualified for the next round in January:

- Ava S – 3rd place
- Denny T – 4th place (competing against Year 9)
- Riley R – 6th place (competing against Year 11)
- Max J – 11th place
- Scarlett R – 12th place

With over 40 runners in each race, these are fantastic achievements. Well done to everyone involved for representing Hall Park Academy so proudly!



YEAR 7 BOYS FUTSAL TRIUMPH



In November, the Year 7 Futsal team travelled to George Spencer Academy to compete in a highly competitive tournament, and they delivered an outstanding performance!

The team remained unbeaten throughout the entire league-format competition, finishing joint first after a series of impressive matches. Their skill, energy, and teamwork were matched only by their positive attitude and ambition, making them fantastic representatives of Hall Park Academy.

Congratulations to every player involved for this brilliant achievement. We are proud of your hard work and determination, well done, Team Hall Park!



U13 GIRLS FUTSAL GLORY



On 3rd December, our U13 girls travelled to compete in the annual Broxtowe Futsal Tournament, and what a performance they delivered!

With no substitutes available, the team showed incredible resilience, teamwork, and determination throughout the competition. Their excellent communication and support for one another paid off as they won three out of four games, scoring an impressive 11 goals in total!

Match Highlights:

- Beat Bramcote School B 3-0
- Georgie 🏆 | Ava 🏆🏆
- Beat Kimberley School 6-0
- Georgie 🏆🏆 | Ava 🏆🏆 | Esme 🏆🏆
- Beat Bramcote School A 2-0
- Esme 🏆 | Bel 🏆

The girls were truly fantastic, displaying skill, ambition, and outstanding sportsmanship. Congratulations to the whole team for finishing as runners-up and representing Hall Park Academy so proudly!



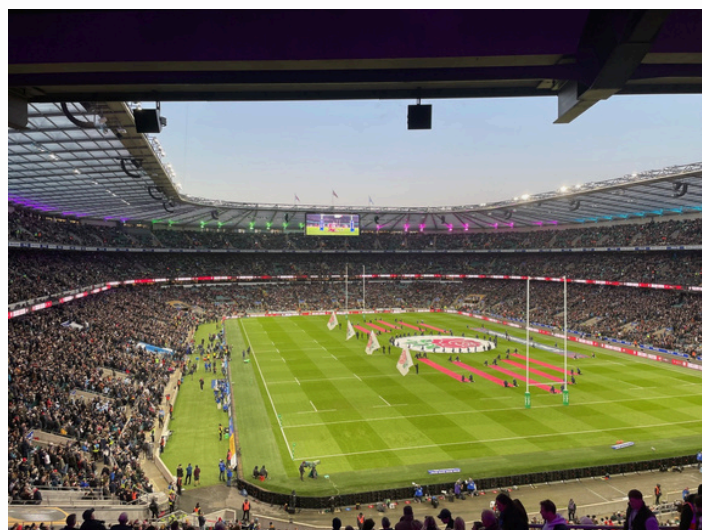


ENGLAND RUGBY TRIP

On Sunday 23rd November, students and staff from Hall Park Academy headed to Twickenham to watch the international rugby clash between England and Argentina. After a smooth trip down the M1, we arrived at the home of English rugby and were instantly immersed in the incredible atmosphere: 80,000 fans cheering passionately for both sides.

The match was a thriller, with back-and-forth tries from both teams. England came out on top with a 27-24 win, though Argentina pushed them all the way to the final whistle.

Our students had an amazing experience, and we're looking forward to organising more trips like this in the future! 🏉



**HALL PARK ACADEMY
HAS ZERO TOLERANCE FOR ALL TYPES
OF BULLYING.**



Bullying is behaviour which is meant to hurt, frighten or upset another person several times on purpose.

How to report bullying in school and online:

Each company has their own blocking and reporting systems to combat bullying.

Tell a member of staff

Email: anti-bullying@hallparkacademy.org.uk

Use the anti-bullying box in House Support



Alton Towers 2026

*Will you be there?
Achieve 100%
attendance
to secure yourself
a place*





EXPECTATIONS IN PE

As we are coming to the end of the school year, we would like to remind and update you of expectations in PE and the PE kit. We are excited to announce some of the PE kit has been updated.

- PE kit can be purchased from either of our school uniform suppliers, Just Schoolwear or Morleys Schoolwear.
- You can review the latest PE kit requirements on our website: Hall Park Academy - Appearance & Uniform
- Leggings must be our black HPA branded leggings. There is a newer version now available which has the school logo rather than letters.
- There is a new quarter zip jacket available to purchase as an option instead of the fleeces and rugby tops. These are optional.
- Black socks must be worn for all lessons except gymnastics and trampolining. In trampolining lessons, grips socks of any colour are allowed.
- We recommend that fashion trainers and footwear aren't worn as it increases the chance of injury due to the lack of support around the ankle and lack of grip e.g. Converse.
- Hair must be tied up. Please make sure your child brings hair bobble for PE.
- All students require shin pads and gum shields. These can be purchased from any high street supplier or via ParentPay and collected from reception.
- A reminder that all piercings must be removed for PE lessons. Plasters/tape etc. over piercings will not be allowed and refusal to remove piercings will result in a sanction as per the Behaviour Policy. If your child is planning on getting a piercing in summer, please do this straight away as they will need to be removed for their first PE lesson in September.



Pre-loved Uniform

Got any uniform that you no longer need?

If you have any good-condition uniform no longer needed, it can be donated to the school. Donated items are used to support students and items not needed are used to create a swap shop for later in the year. Please drop off any donations at the school reception.

Your help is greatly appreciated.



THANK YOU FOR READING

Don't forget, you can catch up with all the latest Hall Park Academy news by following our social media pages.



Hall Park Academy