



NEW STARTER

PARENT HANDBOOK



WELCOME TO HALL PARK ACADEMY



Mr Crossley

Headteacher

WELCOME MESSAGE

It is our pleasure to welcome you as parents, and your children into Year 7, for the academic year 2026-27.

At Hall Park Academy we have five principles that guide everything we do:

- High expectations of all students
- Valuing and celebrating academic achievement
- Outstanding teaching for all students
- Widening students' experience through a range of extra-curricular activities including sport and the performing arts.
- Equality and diversity

We are very proud of our team of talented staff at the Academy who support, nurture and challenge the hardworking students who come here. There are many exciting things in store for the students, both in lessons and in the range of co-curricular activities on offer, which we would encourage them to embrace as much as they can.

Finally, we would like to thank you for choosing Hall Park Academy for the next stage of your child's education.

We look forward to working with you to provide the best opportunities possible for your children.

OUR SCHOOL

At Hall Park Academy we are ambitious and aspirational for all our students. We strive to support our students to achieve their very best now and in the future. This ambition sits at the heart of everything that we do and is the core purpose of Hall Park Academy.

We were inspected in June 2024 and judged to be good in all areas. Inspectors praised the strength of the culture of the school; one in which students behave well and show pride in their work and the school. Hall Park Academy is a community in which students learn and feel safe.

A broad and varied academic curriculum complements the focus on achievement. Students are encouraged to embrace the wider aspects of school life through participation in the many co-curricular activities on offer.

Our experienced and caring pastoral team supports students to engage positively in school life. Student support is strong. We work closely with parents because we believe that a strong relationship between home and school is crucial for delivering the best outcomes for our students.

We provide a welcoming environment in which all students can thrive. The academy is set in attractive grounds and boasts high-class facilities in all areas, which facilitate the delivery of outstanding teaching in an environment that inspires and enthuses.

HARDWORKING
AMBITIOUS LEADER
LEARNER PARTICIPANT
AMBASSADOR RESILIENT
KIND

PASTORAL

Every student at Hall Park belongs to one of four houses:

Astle, Collier, Erewash, and Lawrence.

Every student is part of a tutor group of around twenty five students. Each tutor group consists of students from Year 7-11. The tutor has primary responsibility for the support of students within their tutor group and liaises closely with the Heads of House to provide pastoral care and guidance for all students.

Within tutor groups older students are seen as role models and encouraged to mentor our younger students, providing an additional informal means of support.

There are many inter-House activities that run throughout the year including sporting, charity and cultural events, performing arts and much more. Students quickly form an allegiance to their House and a sense of healthy competition pervades all House events.



Miss D Gentry
Head of Astle



Miss H Lockwood
Head of Collier



Mr L Simpson
Head of Erewash



Mrs L Scott
Head of Lawrence

EQUIPMENT

We have high expectations for all our students to ensure that they are ready to learn; this includes having a full set of equipment.

To ensure that students are getting into good routines in preparation for lessons, we would like your child to be equipped with the following essential items in school each day:

- Pencil case
- 2 x Blue or black Pens
- 1 x red pen
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Calculator
- Ruler
- Reading book
- Uniform card
- School bag



In addition, you may wish for your child to have a scientific calculator.

MOBILE PHONES

Each student will be issued a phone pouch, and all students must have one, even if they do not bring a phone. The initial pouch is free. Students must turn off and lock their phones before arriving, show their locked pouch at the gate, and keep it in their bag throughout the day.

If parents need to contact their child, they should call main reception. If a student needs to contact home, they can go to student reception to use the school phone or have their pouch unlocked in an emergency. Any phone seen in use on site will be confiscated and kept securely until collected by a parent during reception hours.

UNIFORM

All students at Hall Park, from Year 7 to Year 11, wear uniform. The wearing of a uniform makes an important contribution to the culture of the academy. We like students to look smart, business-like and ready to work. Parents can buy most garments relatively cheaply from a shop of their choice. A small number of items are branded; **Ties, blazers, trousers, skirts and PE uniform.** These are available from the following suppliers:

Morleys Schoolwear (Schoolwear Solutions)

446 Nottingham Road, Chaddesden, Derby, DE21 6PE

01332 281311

chaddesdenmorleys@gmail.com

Just Schoolwear

12 High Street, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 7DZ

0115 965 2869

info@just-schoolwear.co.uk

The Academy encourages students/parents who have next-to-new uniform that they have outgrown or do not intend to wear any longer, to donate these back to the Academy. These can be handed to reception.

A full list of daily uniform can be found in our uniform policy.



CLASSCHARTS



ClassCharts is a school management app that helps teachers record and track students' behaviour, attendance, homework, and overall progress in one place. It also creates seating plans and allows staff to award achievement or behaviour points quickly and consistently. Parents can use ClassCharts to view their child's behaviour points and achievements, keep track of any concerns logged by staff, after school detentions, check homework set by teachers, and monitor attendance information, all in one place.

PARENTPAY



ParentPay is a secure online system that allows parents to pay for school meals, trips, clubs, and other activities without sending children to school with cash. It brings all school payments together in one place, so families can top up accounts, give consent for trips, and manage multiple children from a single login. Parents can make payments by card or through PayPoint, helping to keep transactions safe, quick, and convenient while reducing paperwork and missed payments.

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AMBASSADOR KIND
RESILIENT

HOMEWORK

Homework is set regularly to enhance students' learning and to develop essential study skills. It has an important part to play in helping students to achieve their potential. All homework tasks are set on Class Charts so that students can manage their task list and parents/carers can view anything outstanding.

We aim to set 30 minutes of homework per week for maths, English and science, and 30 minutes per fortnight for the remaining ten subjects. This equates to four hours of home learning a week.

To support your child with homework, you can:

- Set up a regular homework routine (same time and place each day)
- Provide a quiet, well-lit workspace free from distractions
- Encourage the use of planners or digital tools to track deadlines
- Break tasks into smaller, manageable chunks with short breaks
- Show interest by asking about homework and discussing topics
- Help develop good research and study skills (e.g., note-taking)
- Monitor screen time and minimise interruptions from devices
- Encourage independence and problem-solving before stepping in
- Praise effort and persistence, not just correct answers
- Communicate with subject teachers if there are ongoing difficulties
- Ensure a healthy routine (sleep, nutrition) to support focus



DETENTIONS

The academy aims to promote a positive learning environment, but sanctions are sometimes necessary to uphold expectations and maintain the authority of staff. All members of staff address inappropriate behaviour as part of their daily practice, both in lessons and around the school. Detentions may be issued during **break, lunchtime, or after school**, and any detention lasting more than ten minutes will be communicated in advance through Class Charts.

Subject detentions last thirty minutes after school and allow students to resolve behavioural or homework concerns with their teacher. Failure to attend results in a one-hour Faculty Detention, recorded on Class Charts and supervised by Heads of Faculty. **No reminders are issued for these detentions.**

Students removed from lessons through the **On-Call** system receive a same-day thirty-minute Faculty Detention, with parents notified via Class Charts. Missing this detention leads to a one-hour sanction. Lunchtime detentions follow the same escalation: missing one results in a same-day detention, and failure to attend that leads to a full day in the Supervised Study Room. **Reminders are provided for detentions issued due to On-Call or lateness.**

Students who are **late** by five minutes or more after the start of periods 1, 3, or 4, or five minutes after the lesson-change bell for periods 2 or 5, receive a thirty-minute same-day late detention, **for which a reminder is issued**. Students who are late **twice in the same day** are placed in the Supervised Study Room for the remainder of the day and must also serve a late detention after school.

Heads of House administer one-hour after-school detentions for behaviour or uniform concerns. Students who fail to attend a Faculty or Head of House detention, or who breach academy expectations more seriously, may be issued a one-hour Senior Leadership Team detention by a Head of House, Faculty Leader, or member of the Senior Leadership Team.

SAFEGUARDING & ANTI-BULLYING

At Hall Park Academy, we are committed to creating a happy, safe and positive environment where all students can learn and thrive. Safeguarding is central to everything we do, and our staff are highly vigilant in protecting the welfare of every child. We maintain high safeguarding standards and ask that all members of our community and visitors help us uphold them.

If you have any concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a student, please take immediate action and contact us.

Our designated safeguarding lead is Mrs Norridge, and our safeguarding officer is Miss Alföldi. Concerns can be reported by emailing the safeguarding team at **HPA-SafeguardingStaff@hallparkacademy.org.uk** or by speaking to any member of staff.

Our commitment to safety also includes a strong stance against bullying. Bullying is deliberate and repeated behaviour that causes harm, whether physical or emotional, and it is never acceptable at Hall Park Academy. Any incident reported to us is taken seriously and investigated thoroughly. We work to promote an inclusive culture where every student feels valued, and we partner with the Anti-Bullying Alliance and the Diana Award to strengthen our approach. Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, representing all year groups, help promote kindness and challenge unkind behaviour across the school.

Students can report bullying concerns to any member of staff, use the anti-bullying box in the House Support office, or email the Academy's dedicated anti-bullying email address, **HPA-AntiBullying@hallparkacademy.org.uk**.

Parents also play an important role by noticing changes in behaviour, listening to their child and contacting the Academy promptly if they suspect bullying. By working together, we aim to ensure that every student feels safe, respected and supported throughout their time at Hall Park Academy.

WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION

Website

Our school website is the main place to find all the information you may need throughout the year. Here you can access key policies, term dates, curriculum overviews, exam information, and letters home. The site is updated regularly, making it a reliable source to stay informed.



Hall Park
Academy

www.hallparkacademy.org.uk



Social Media

We use Facebook and Instagram to share regular updates from across the school community. Our pages highlight student achievements, showcase events, and provide helpful reminders about key dates and activities. By following our accounts, parents and carers can stay connected with day-to-day school life and enjoy a closer look at the experiences that make Hall Park Academy such a vibrant environment. Our social accounts can be found in the banner at the bottom of the page.

Quick access

Use the QR codes below to visit our website, Facebook, and Instagram.



HPA Website



HPA Facebook



HPA Instagram

COMMUNICATION FROM SCHOOL

These are the methods we use to keep in touch with parents/carers:

Progress and Attainment

Communication is shared through email attachments, printed reports, twice-weekly updates, and during Parents' Evening. Two formal data reports are issued each year, including attendance summaries and targets.

Praise

Praise is communicated through postcards, letters, email, house points, and phone calls. House points are awarded by all teachers, while other forms of praise may vary by subject.

Face-to-Face Communication

Face-to-face communication takes place via the Parents' Forum, with the focus and agenda shared in advance.

Behaviour

Behaviour-related communication is carried out through phone calls and is typically used for serious incidents.

Policies, Letters & Key Dates

Information is shared via email, Facebook, Instagram, and the school website. Social media highlights major updates, while full policies and letters are published on the website.

Important Information / Changes

Updates are communicated through Class Charts messages, email, social media, and the website. Emergency notifications (such as snow closures) are also broadcast on local radio and the Derbyshire County Council website.

Health Issues

Health-related concerns are communicated via phone calls.

READING

D **E** **A** **R**
DROP EVERYTHING AND READ

Every day of the week, students in Years 7, 8 and 9, along with their teachers, will pause their usual activities, pick up a book, and spend 15 minutes reading. This dedicated time is designed to help build reading fluency, strengthen comprehension, and boost confidence by giving students a consistent, calm space to enjoy reading.

Students are welcome to read a book they have borrowed from the school library or one they have brought from home. We also strongly encourage all students to continue reading outside of school, even if it's just a few pages each evening, as regular practice makes a noticeable difference over time.

We also challenge every student to become a Hall Park Word Millionaire. Through our Accelerated Reader programme, every word a student reads is tracked when they complete quizzes on the books they finish. It's a fun and motivating way for students to see their progress grow and to celebrate their achievements as developing readers.



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CURRICULUM+

At our academy, learning goes far beyond the classroom. Our Curriculum Plus programme offers a rich and varied range of co-curricular activities designed to broaden students' experiences and help them develop confidence, resilience, and a strong sense of belonging. Through sports teams, performing arts groups, creative clubs, academic support sessions, cultural activities, and character-building opportunities such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award, students are encouraged to discover new interests, strengthen existing talents, and develop essential life skills.

With over 50 clubs and activities available each week, from music ensembles, drama and dance, to sports clubs, revision sessions, STEM projects, and wellbeing-focused groups, there is something for every student. Many clubs also offer opportunities to perform, compete, or take part in special events, giving students memorable experiences that enrich their education.

We encourage all students to take part in at least one Curriculum Plus activity. These experiences support personal growth, enhance academic progress, and help students form positive friendships. Our programme is open to all year groups, and most activities are free to attend.

More information on our full programme can be found on our website.



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REWARDS, CELEBRATIONS & TRIPS

Attendance rewards

At Hall Park, we celebrate excellent attendance with our weekly token system. Every week a student attends all five days, they earn a token to place into one of our prize-draw slots. Students choose which prizes they want to aim for, and the draws take place at the end of each half-term. The more weeks of full attendance achieved, the more chances to win.



Excellence Evenings

Each year, we host our Excellence Evenings to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our highest-performing students. During these events, students who have excelled across a range of subjects are invited to receive certificates or awards in recognition of their hard work, progress and commitment. It is a proud moment for families, staff and students alike, and an important part of how we acknowledge and encourage academic excellence at Hall Park.

Hall Park Learner

In 2021 we undertook an exercise with students, staff and parents to identify the characteristics that we wanted to encourage in our students to help them be their best and achieve the best possible outcomes.

We identified key attributes of successful Hall Park Academy students. These can be read below and on each page of this booklet.

House Points

Students receive positive points each time they show one of the characteristics of a Hall Park Learner, and for attending one of our many co-curricular clubs or events.

When reaching house point milestones, students are awarded bronze, silver and gold status as part of achievement assemblies.

All house points contribute to an annual inter-house competition, culminating in the awarding of the Hall Park House Points Trophy to the winners.

Parents are able to keep track of the number of house points achieved through the Class Charts website and app.

Year 7 Trip

The Year 7 trip runs every autumn as a Hall Park tradition.

Open to all Year 7 students, our activity day at Mount Cook is a fantastic opportunity to get to know the other Year 7s within your House whilst enjoying a range of outdoor activities. Students spend the day at the purpose-built activity centre.

The cost of the trip is approximately £50, including a hearty warm lunch.



VISION, VALUES, CULTURE

Your child's learning and development is our most important goal. We aim to ensure that all of our students fulfil their potential, are happy here, and receive an education that will give them the best possible opportunities in life.

By offering a wide range of education pathways, including academic and vocational options and exciting co-curricular activities to all students, we seek to accommodate many and varied talents and aspirations.

This demands the provision of both high quality teaching and high quality opportunities. Through continually improving our own teaching and learning, and simultaneously developing our students' independent learning skills, we guide young people on their journey to further and higher education or skilled employment.

Central to our school ethos are our Hall Park Values and our Pledge programme. These initiatives shape our excellent personal development provision, which includes personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, assembly programme and co-curricular activities.

Our Hall Park learner values are:

- To be **hardworking**
- To be **ambitious**
- To be a positive **learner**
- To be a **leader**
- To be an active **participant**
- To be an **ambassador**
- To be **resilient**
- To be **kind**



We encourage students to uphold our learner values in all aspects of school life. House points are awarded on ClassCharts to recognise students who demonstrate these values.

PLEDGES

Students are expected to gain a breadth of experiences throughout their time at Hall Park Academy. Students are awarded Pledges for their wider contribution to school events, activities and work in the community. Each student has a Pledge Passport which contains the 10 Pledges. Pledges are authorised by Tutors and Head of Houses upon completion.

Students are required to gain 8 Pledges during their time at Hall Park. Successful completion of the required Pledges will enable students to attend the Year 11 Prom.

Hall Park Academy Pledges:

- To successfully participate in residential trips
- To represent the Academy in Sports
- To contribute to Academy Performing Arts events
- To organise and actively participate in at least **6** different assemblies
- To organise and actively participate in at least **3** fundraising events
- Represent the Academy/House in at least **10** different events
- To take part in community projects
- To participate in activities that support others in the Academy
- To attend cultural or sports events outside of school
- To read **3** novels per year and complete a book review for each



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LEARNER AMBASSADOR RESILIENT

