



REDHILL  
ACADEMY TRUST

# Hall Park Academy

## newsletter

February 2022

The first half of the Spring Term has been a busy one for all associated with Hall Park Academy. There has been much to celebrate in recent weeks, which you will find in the pages of this newsletter.

School productions made a triumphant return with a fantastic performance of Annie. Shows were enjoyed by staff and students over two nights and a matinee performance for Year 5 students from feeder primary schools. Putting on a show of this scale is a huge undertaking and I want to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate all students and staff involved.

More of our budding authors have been selected to have the writing published, this time in the Young Writers collection of stories. This represents a terrific achievement. There will be further creative writing opportunities for our students in the future.

This half term we have had a number of successful trips including Thackray Medical Museum for Year 9, the Black Country Museum for Year 8 and The Redhill Trust Moving On Day for Year 13. A special mention should be given to our humanities department for continuing to offer high quality and enriching experiences for our students. In sports, our Academy teams have been successful in Trust and Nottinghamshire County competitions including netball, cross country and badminton. We are looking forward to further fixtures and competitions in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and wish you and your families a peaceful and restful half-term break.

Mr Crossley - Headteacher



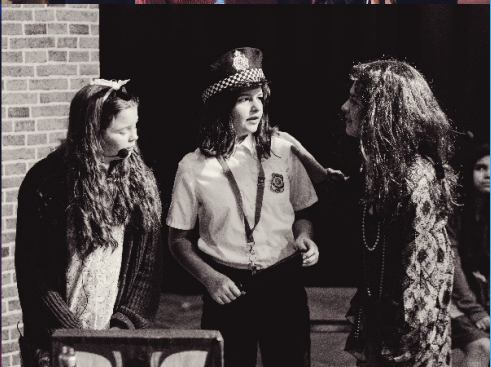
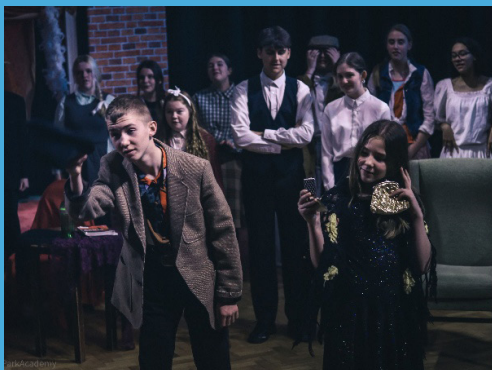
## Annie

The school production made its triumphant return with one of the world's best-loved musicals, *Annie*!

Set in 1930s New York, 10-year-old Annie ventures to find the parents who abandoned her on the doorstep of an orphanage run by the cruel Miss Hannigan. Annie's situation changes dramatically when Grace Farrell, private secretary to billionaire industrialist Oliver Warbucks, selects Annie to stay at Warbucks' mansion. Determined to help, Warbucks offers \$50,000 to Annie's parents if they prove their identity. However, Miss Hannigan, her evil brother Rooster and accomplice Lily see this as an opportunity to claim the reward for themselves...



Students auditioned for the show back in July and commenced a busy 5-month rehearsal schedule in September. Their dedication certainly paid off, culminating in two packed evening showings and a matinee for Year 5 students from feeder primary schools. A huge thank you to Miss Mason and the team for all their hard work behind the scenes. We'll see you at the next show!



## Trust Netball Event

On Tuesday 25th January, Hall Park played host to the Trust Netball GCSE moderation. There were 10 pupils from Hall Park involved with pupils a mix of Year 10 and 11. This event gave our PE GCSE students the opportunity to experience what a PE moderation will feel like and the chance to gather video evidence for their coursework.

Hall Park students played to a fantastic standard. Lexie Wilkinson was able to show her defensive skills by blocking the opposition out of the game. Tegan Fuller and Hannah Birch were able to show their accuracy of shooting ensuring Hall Park gained a head start early on. Izzy McMannus, Evie Baguley and Evie Foster dominated in the centre court.

Freya Mayes, Ashleigh Fetcher and Rubi Miller all ensured there was little chance for the opposition to get the ball into the circle. Their interceptions were fantastic! Cerys Hare was able to link the defence and the attack in the centre court making some excellent feeds into the circle. Overall Hall Park showed dominance and won this competition and demonstrated excellent sportsmanship throughout.

## Trust Badminton

On Monday 31st January, we held the Trust Badminton qualifiers at Hall Park. The mixed doubles event saw six of our students taking part – Betty, George S, Will, Tilly, Mikey and Scarlett. All three teams won their games against Oakwood. Park Vale were unable to attend the event.

The top two teams qualify for the Trust finals in February. This will be Betty, George, Will and Tilly. Good luck to them!



## Cross-Country

On Saturday 5th February, the Nottinghamshire Cross Country Championships were held at Berry Hill in Mansfield. It was a very windy and cold day, which made the conditions for running even more challenging. Hall Park had two pupils who attended on the day.



Jasmine Perkins in Year 8 competed in the Girls Year 8 / 9 event, which means she was at the lower end of this age range. Considering this and the weather, she gave an amazing run coming in 54th out of 90 - 100 runners.

Sam Poxon in Year 10 competed in the Year 10 and 11 race - he came 22nd out of 49 runners, which is amazing as many of these runners compete regularly in cross-country around the county.

Both these pupils finished top 12 in their respective qualification rounds to enable them to qualify for this event. They not only represented Hall Park but also the Broxtowe district.

We are really proud of their achievements.

## Young Writers Award

Massive congratulations to:

Rose Mugglestone

Amy Cook

Ebony Waters

Olivia Hallam

These students have had their creative writing chosen to be published in the latest edition of the Young Writers collection of stories. There will be copies of the book in the library for you to go and read their work..

Keep your eyes peeled for my writing challenges for your chance to be published!

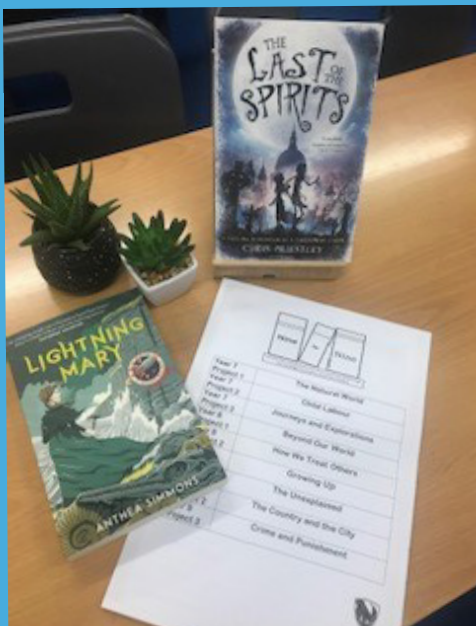


## English - “Nine for Nine”

On Friday 4th February, our Year 7 ‘Nine for Nine’ reading challenge group met in the library to discuss their ongoing project. The ‘Nine for Nine’ challenge enables students to build skills, reading stamina and cultural understanding through nine knowledge-rich projects at Hall Park Academy.

Students have recently completed their first project of Year 7, ‘The Natural World’. As part of this, they recently read *Lightning Mary* by Anthea Simmons which they thoroughly enjoyed discussing and critiquing.

Their next project is ‘Child Labour’ where they will look at conditions in the 19th Century through Chris Priestley’s *The Last of the Spirits* – a masterful twist on *A Christmas Carol*. Mr Sisson and Miss Grainger thoroughly enjoyed meeting with students and can’t wait to discuss the next text next term!



# Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day takes place every year on 27th January.

The purpose of the day is to commemorate the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp, and to remember those who were murdered for who they were and to stand against prejudice and hatred today.

Students have been learning about the Holocaust in assemblies and tutor time.

Students and staff at HPA were encouraged to take part in Holocaust Memorial Day by lighting a candle and placing it in their window at 8pm.

The candles were lit to remember those who lost their lives during



genocides, as well as to make a stand against modern prejudice.



## Thackray Museum Trip

### Year 9 History Department trip to Thackray Medical Museum

105 Year 9 GCSE history students went to Thackray Museum in Leeds on Wednesday 12th January. There were many highlights, for example: The Victorian operating theatre where people would be operated on without anaesthetic (just bite down on this bit of wood - you'll be fine); Disease Street where you can find out the hazards your character faced in the 1800s (if you were really poor you didn't even have a bed to call your own); breakthroughs in medicine such as the discovery of germs, surgery to reattach a damaged hand, the government taking responsibility for health...and we didn't even see it all.

It was a great day, confirmed by the email we received later complimenting us on the "impeccable" behaviour and politeness of our students and their engagement in the museum.

Thanks everyone, we will be back next year.



## Anti-Bullying

As part of our anti-bullying work, Hall Park has joined up with the Princess Diana Trust to train up students as anti-bullying ambassadors. We have 50 students signed up across all year groups who will be externally trained to lead on educating the other students on issues surrounding bullying.



The Diana Award's Anti-Bullying work is supported by HRH The Duke of Cambridge and engages young people, parents and adults to change the attitudes, behaviour and culture of bullying by building skills and confidence and addressing different situations.

Students will lead on a number of key projects in the build up to the celebration day on July 13th, when students will celebrate the fact, 'It is good to be me.'

We have combined this with a project we are working with the anti—bullying alliance, with students completing a questionnaire and identifying key areas and groups to be worked on.

Any students who would like to be involved in the project please see Mr Dolman or Ms Lomax-Taylor.

## MFL A-Level & Beyond evening.

“Languages are a lens through which to see the world”  
Inspirational words at the MFL A-Level & Beyond evening.

Earlier this year, our Y9,10 and 11 Languages students were invited to take part in a webinar organised by the Redhill Trust in conjunction with The University of Birmingham. This was an excellent opportunity to find out more about where languages can take you post GCSE and A-Level. There were some inspirational talks by current A-Level Language students and also staff and students on languages courses at university. The A-Level students spoke about how they loved to learn about French cinema and literature and how they enjoy researching youth culture in France, such as fashion and music. Dr. Caroline Ardrey who is the admissions tutor for Modern Languages at Birmingham University, spoke about the combinations students often take with a language after A-Levels.

There are so many possibilities such as Language and History, Language and Business, Language and Music plus many more. She also mentioned other languages which can be learnt ab initio (from beginner level) at university alongside studying French and German, such as Spanish, Japanese and Russian.

Dr. Gavin Byrne who is a Law lecturer made it clear that despite Law being a competitive course to get on to at University, an A-Level in a language and studying a language alongside Law can often make it easier to get on a course and can even lower the entry requirements. The speakers really emphasised that whatever you are interested in can be pursued through Modern Languages. Merci and Danke to all of the fantastic speakers and to Mr Gilwhite, Trust Director for MFL, who put the webinar together. There will be another opportunity for KS4 students to watch the recording later in the year.

# Modern Foreign Languages: A Level and Beyond Event



## Message From Finance

### Lunch Accounts

Please note if your child is in receipt of free school meals the allowance is £2.30 per day. The hot meal of the day is priced at £2.30 and this includes the main meal (vegetarian option available), a piece of fruit or dessert of the day and a carton of juice. Alongside the hot meal of the day we serve jacket potatoes, pasta with a choice of sauces, and other various hot and cold items. If your child purchases items over the limit of £2.30 then any additional costs need to be paid via your ParentPay account. If you do not want your child to go over their limit please let Finance know ASAP and we can put a block on your child's account.

If your child is not in receipt of free school meals and you also do not want them to have the option of spending money in the canteen, please let Finance know so we can also put a note on your child's account to prevent you from going into arrears.

### ParentPay

Please can we ask you to check and make sure that all unpaid monies are cleared by the end of this school term. Please also ensure your child's account is in credit for their return to school.

If you require your login details please contact [nolans@hallparkacademy.org.uk](mailto:nolans@hallparkacademy.org.uk) or if you have forgotten your password please click the forgotten password link on the ParentPay website and they will reset this for you.

Many Thanks

Finance



# House Update



What a start to 2022 Erewash House has had. We are currently the leaders for the most house points across the school, with over 2100, so a massive well done to you all! Let's make sure we keep it up on our return after half-term. A big shout out to our current leading tutor group EJM, who have amassed 325 house points this half-term. Our top house point earners are William (EOW), Charlotte (EJM), Rose (EJT), Annie-Mae (EJM) and Zainab (EJM).

We have seen an excellent improvement in our attendance this half-term, with 87 Erewash students maintaining 100% since our return after Christmas. Miss Dennett's tutor group, EJD, have been the front runners for their attendance for the past 3 weeks, which is really impressive and a huge credit to the tutor group.

It was a pleasure to be able to watch our amazing students take part in the school production of Annie, with so many hours of hard work and dedication put in and many Erewash students fulfilling vital roles.

There are lots of Erewash students who partake in the extra-curricular offerings here at Hall Park Academy and for every time students take part, they are winning points for our house. Erewash students have taken part in the Inter-House event 'Poetry by Heart' this year and again have showed me how committed they are to our house.

Next half term will be a busy one for Y11 students with their mock exams, so make sure you rest up and recharge your batteries before we return for the intense period in the run up to your exams.

I hope you all have a brilliant half-term and I look forward to seeing you all when we return.

Mr Simpson - Head of Erewash House

## House Update



In our awards assembly this week, while listening to the amazing singing performance of Jodie, 10ADD and Grace, 10 LMN, we celebrated the success of AKW's Tutor group who have the highest House points for Astle House. AKW have also stayed at the top of the Quiz Leader board AKW with 41 points. At 294 points, Astle are currently leading in the whole school Quiz competition.

Congratulations go to Leila, 7ALH, Charlie, 9AHP and Taiya-Leigh 7AKW for being placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd at the top of this Half-term's House Point Leader board. House points have been awarded by staff for their ambition, participation, leadership and hard work. Well done! Leila is also at the top of the Accelerated Reader Leader board for words read in Astle House, having read 912,389 words. Leila you will soon be a word millionaire! We are not surprised, as there is a clear link between reading and high achievement. Another supporting factor for achieving high is attendance. So, well done to Dr Bratby's tutor group, AKB, who have consistently won the highest attendance trophy. At 93.55% this half-term, even breaking their own attendance percentage for Half-Term 2.

News that our Spectacular Christmas Charity event, Astle Christmas Cracker raised a huge £225.30. Students have nominated and voted for our new House Charity Ronald McDonald House Charities who support programmes that directly improve the health and well-being of children; providing accommodation for families during emotionally challenging and lengthy stays at large centralised hospitals away from home.

Thank you to our team of tutors for their hard work and a big shout out to our Astle students who face the daily challenges of school life and still aim high. Enjoy your holiday break.

Mrs Paget - Head of Astle House



The first half term of this year has been a busy one. Well done to all Year 11 students who have attended mock interviews and college interviews. Well done to all students who took part in the school production of Annie. It was great to see so many Collier students performing.

Year 9's received their latest reports, well done to all those exceeded and working at their target grades. There have been a number of girls football matches including a Year 10/11 game and a Year 8/9 game where all students represented the Academy well and it was great to be able to get out and spectate.

Finally, Year 7 girls basketball team experienced their first basketball tournament at George Spencer and we look forward to a rematch in the next half term. Well done to all Collier students who have represented Hall Park Academy at sports fixtures this half term. Well done to Lexie (CCW), Charlie-May (CPF), Jessica (CJY) and Miley (CJY) for achieving the most house points for Collier and zero negatives. Keep up the good work. I hope you have a lovely break over half term. Let's prepare to be top of the leaderboards in the spring term for House points and attendance.

Miss Lockwood - Head of Collier House



We have certainly had a positive start to 2022 in Lawrence house, with almost 2000 positive house points being awarded since the start in January. Jessica Marshall, Isobel Speight, Zara Barrowcliffe and Emily Czachorowska are the top for house point earners and not a single negative between them! Attendance in Lawrence house this half term has seen massive improvements, and we are currently in second place out of the houses.

This half term alone has seen LKM, LKB and LDH crowned winners of the 100% attendance tutor award. It is very close with a lot still to play for! 77 students in Lawrence have a 100% attendance for this half term, most of whom are in LTH. Mr Hayes always likes to remind me that his attendance might not be the highest, but his tutor group are the most consistent. We pride ourselves on taking part and doing our best, from every lesson to extra-curricular activities.

The time, effort and work that have gone into the school production of 'Annie' this year has been amazing and I am so excited to watch the show. It's always a pleasure to see the students transform themselves and perform doing something that they love. All the extra-curricular events that students participate in go towards pledges and their prom passport for year 11. We have been doing work on this in tutor time so please remember to sign up and participate in Hall Park life, I guarantee there is something for everyone.

The next half term will bring plenty more sporting fixtures, inter-house events and mocks. The last assessments before the summer exams,, it is an intense time. It is great to see the commitment that so many years 11s are showing to their studies and revision. The weekly revision programme for year 11s is helping to prepare them for the exams and plan for the next steps. If January is anything to go by, this year is going to fly and we need to keep making each lesson count and working towards our goals.

Enjoy the half term and keep up the great work when we return.

Miss Dickman - Head of Lawrence House

## Post 16

### Post-16 applications

This year we have again received another high number of applications including a big increase from students attending other local 11-16 schools. We are using the new Admissions+ application system and applicants have all been interviewed in January by Mr Leach, Mr Crossley or Mr West. We encourage all students to continue working hard to achieve their target and wish them luck with the second set of mock exams next month. With a very uncertain outlook for the jobs market, we encourage anyone who has not yet applied to consider applying for the Sixth form to enable them to have a secure place for two years and to work towards recognised and highly regarded qualifications. Students and get in touch with Mr Leach, Miss Jane or Miss Hancock to discuss their options.

### University and apprenticeships

Our Year 13 students have made their applications to university with almost 80% of the cohort applying by the 26th January deadline. Yet again this year, more of our students than ever before have applied to top tier universities and more than usual are planning to study outside of Nottinghamshire which is encouraging. Most students have already received some university offers back and some of these are the highly sought after unconditional offers.

Other students actively seeking an apprenticeship will be attending sessions on national apprenticeship schemes and degree apprenticeships as well as the opportunity to take part in a large number of virtual events. Many of these events coincide with the National Apprenticeship week the week commencing 7th February.

### Holocaust Memorial Day

The Sixth Form took part in Holocaust Memorial day on the 27th January with a tutor time tutorial and many students tuned into the live commemoration ceremony online that evening. Following the ceremony, people were encouraged to light a candle to be a 'light in the darkness'.



## Year 13 Moving On Day

We continue to develop even closer links with other Sixth Forms in the Academy Trust and on 4th February we attended the fourth 'Moving On' Day for over 196 Year 13 students from four of the seven Redhill Trust Sixth Forms. Students experienced guidance about financial capability, health and well-being and specific help with making the transition to university or into an apprenticeship. It was a very successful day and we are looking forward to next year's event already!



## Year 13 Moving On Day



## Year 12 High Achievers

Several of our Year 12 students have applied to programmes aimed at helping them into Cambridge University (called HE+) or Russell Group universities (through Nottingham Ambition and Sheffield Discover). We work hard to find and support students to apply to these schemes and are proud of those who are taking part. Students on the HE+ scheme have attended a live virtual launch and are looking forward to a visit to Peterhouse College at Cambridge University on the 24th February. This will be the first visit for 2 years as we see an easing of the Covid-19 restrictions that have stopped so many trips over the last 2 years.

## Year 13 mock exams

In January Y13 completed a full set of mock exams across all subjects. Students approached the mock exam period with maturity and building on their experience of revision in GCSE and Y12 internal exams. Mock exams results day saw some improving results as students saw that hard work does pay off. This gives a lot of encouragement for their final school exams this summer.



This month has much in store for the sixth form. Year 13 will be receiving their mock results hopefully achieving their targeted grades. Furthermore, Year 13 will be participating in 'moving on day' where we will gain knowledge on how to deal with things such as financial savings and university preparation. Finally on the approach to valentines day, the sixth form will be taking part in raising money for charity by doing a bake sale.

Head Boy and Head Girl