



Hall Park Academy

NEWSLETTER

CHRISTMAS EDITION- 2024

Read our Christmas 2024 newsletter which includes all the amazing things our students have been doing this term.





A MESSAGE FROM

Mr Crossley

The Hall Park Academy Christmas 2024 Newsletter highlights exciting updates from the past term.

Year 7 enjoyed a vibrant Welcome Evening, inspired by "Lizzie and Bell", featuring performances and an art display. The Year 7 girls' football team triumphed in the Nottinghamshire Football Cup with a 4-1 win, and students attended thrilling events such as the UEFA Nations League match and a Lionesses game.

Year 8 students tested their orienteering skills at Sherwood Pines and tackled the Go Ape high ropes, while over 90 local students competed in the Broxtowe Cross Country Championships. A trip to the European Space Centre in Belgium allowed students to experience astronaut training, and Year 7 explored Warwick Castle. Year 10 students participated in a Fish Heroes masterclass, and a London trip deepened their understanding of UK history.

The Christmas Card Competition showcased student creativity, and Remembrance Day was marked by a two-minute silence. Fundraising efforts raised £614.80 for Children in Need.

Year 10 Drama students delivered a stunning performance, and a trip to France offered winter sports and cultural experiences. The term concluded with a festive Christmas Concert, featuring over 80 students in a sold-out performance.

Thank you to all staff and students for their hard work this term, and to our families for their continued support. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

COMMENDATIONS



Well done to the students who received Headteacher Commendations this term.

James was awarded his commendation after receiving amazing feedback from the office team following his day in the role of Student Ambassador. Throughout the day he enthusiastically helped staff across the school and was a pleasure to have as part of the team.

Mr Crossley also wanted to meet Noah to personally commend him for his Duolingo streak in German, which you can read about later in the newsletter.





OPEN EVENING - YEAR 7

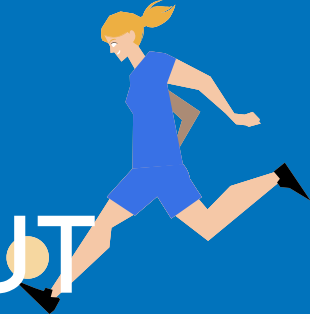
The Year 7 Welcome Evening was a vibrant celebration of creativity and community, with the young students showcasing their talents in a series of performances inspired by the beloved book *Lizzie and Bell*.

The evening began with the Year 7 Choir, whose harmonious voices filled the hall, singing a beautiful medley of songs that captured the book's themes of friendship and adventure. Next, the Drama Club took the stage, performing a short skit that brought to life the whimsical world of *Lizzie and Bell*.

Finally, throughout the performances the art display transformed the space into a visual journey, with vivid paintings, sketches, and sculptures reflecting key scenes from the story. Each piece told its own story, capturing the essence of Lizzie's courage and Bell's loyalty, and the entire evening left the audience feeling inspired by the talent and creativity of the new Year 7 cohort.



YEAR 7 FOOTBALL DEBUT



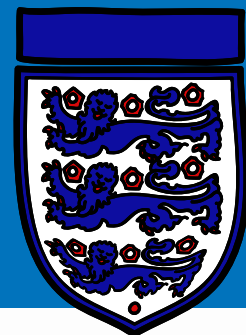
Earlier this term, our Year 7 girls team made an impressive debut in the Nottinghamshire Football Cup. They travelled to Dukeries Academy for the first round, and the hard work paid off with a fantastic 4-1 win.

Special shoutout to Georgie and Abigail for their goals, and to Esme and Belle for their brilliant performances earning a well-deserved joint Player of the Match award.

The team showed great teamwork, dedication, and sportsmanship from start to finish.



UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE



On October 10th, Mr Dolman had the privilege of accompanying an excited group of students on an unforgettable trip to Wembley Stadium to witness the thrilling UEFA Nations League match between England and Greece. The match proved to be an intense and closely contested encounter, with both teams showing great determination and skill on the field. Unfortunately, despite England's valiant efforts, they were narrowly defeated, with the final score ending 2-1 in favour of Greece. While the result was disappointing for the home fans, the students were still able to enjoy a truly remarkable experience. The vibrant atmosphere of Wembley, with its passionate crowd and electric energy, provided an unparalleled backdrop to the match.

The students had the unique opportunity to watch some of their favourite football stars compete at the highest level, and many left the stadium with lasting memories of the event.

It was an extraordinary experience that not only allowed the students to witness world-class football first hand, but also gave them the chance to immerse themselves in the excitement and spirit of one of the most iconic stadiums in the world.



SHERWOOD PINES

During October and November, Year 8 students went on a trip to Sherwood Pines to test the orienteering skills they had been developing in school as part of their Outdoor and Adventurous Activities unit.

Throughout the trip, students completed a series of orienteering tasks, practicing their navigation skills using maps and compasses in an unfamiliar environment.

They also had the opportunity to challenge themselves on the Go Ape high ropes course, which added an exciting element of adventure to the trip. It was a fantastic experience that exposed students to the thrill of the outdoors while helping to build their confidence in working independently.



CROSS COUNTRY



On October 16th, Hall Park Academy proudly hosted the annual Broxtowe Cross Country Championships, welcoming four local schools to compete in a thrilling race.

With over 90 enthusiastic students participating, the event showcased incredible spirit and determination. For many, this was a first-time experience, while others returned to embrace the challenge once again. Despite the slippery and wet terrain, our athletes displayed remarkable resilience, never backing down from the competition.

A massive shoutout to our amazing Year 9 and Year 12 Sport Leadership teams for their outstanding support in running this event. Congratulations to all participants. Your hard work and dedication truly shone.





EUROPEAN SPACE CENTRE

In October, 64 adventurous students embarked on an unforgettable trip to Belgium to complete astronaut training at the prestigious European Space Centre (ESC).

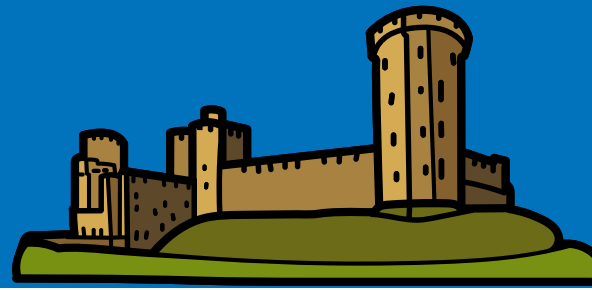
After the ESC, where the centre staff welcomed us and gave an informative orientation, outlining the centre's rules, expectations, and the exciting program we would follow over the next two days.

The astronaut training itself was nothing short of amazing. Students experienced a range of activities, including the Lunar and Martian walk simulations, the anti-gravity 'free-fall' wall, and the multi-axis chair, a piece of equipment used by NASA and ESA astronauts. The programme also included rotating chairs, rocket building, and so much more each activity offering a glimpse into the thrilling world of space exploration.

On our final day, we bid farewell to the ESC and astronaut training and made our way to a small, family-run Belgian chocolate shop. Students were treated to a fascinating presentation on the chocolate-making process before getting hands-on, crafting their own individual packs of chocolate to take home.



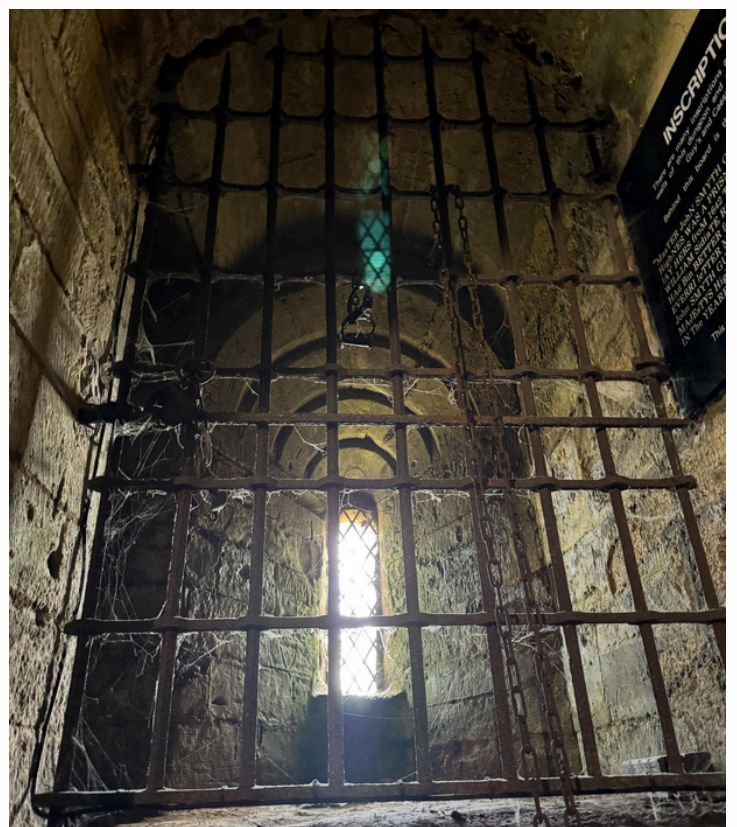
WARWICK CASTLE



On October 17th, our Year 7 students embarked on an exciting adventure to Warwick Castle. The day began with an engaging talk about trebuchets, the enormous medieval siege engines used to launch heavy projectiles at castle walls. Following this, students enjoyed a guided tour of the castle, uncovering its fascinating history, from its beginnings as a Norman fortress to its significant role in British royal history.

Highlights of the visit included climbing the castle towers for breath taking views, exploring the battlements, and touring the opulent state rooms. One of the most memorable moments was a visit to the castle's infamous dungeons, where students learned about the dark history of the oubliette an eerie space where prisoners were locked away and forgotten.

At lunchtime, students were treated to the UK's largest bird show, featuring impressive aerial displays by Andean Condors, Harris Hawks, and many more stunning birds of prey. It was an unforgettable day, combining history, adventure, and awe-inspiring nature.



ADA LOVELACE - STEM



Dr Thornton and Mrs Bytheway took a group of students to a fantastic STEM event on October 8th, at Boots HQ Medicity, aimed at inspiring the next generation of women scientists, engineers, and innovators. It was a brilliant day full of exciting workshops and networking opportunities.

Students participated in interactive activities, including creating new products (like gummy worms), coding games, and building machinery inspired by nature. They were amazed by the variety of careers in maths, chemistry, engineering, and technology. A highlight was the aeronautic activity, where students saw how nature inspires innovation, and they loved meeting Robodog, the robotic dog that waved and bounced.

Representatives from companies like Pipeline, Organics, Freenome, Trelleborg, Porterhouse Medical, and the University of Nottingham were also present.





FOOD TEACHERS CENTRE

In November, our Year 10 students studying Hospitality, Catering, Food Preparation, and Nutrition were given a fantastic opportunity to engage in a practical, hands-on Fish Heroes masterclass. This exciting session, which lasted for two hours, allowed the students to learn from industry experts, acquiring valuable skills in the art of filleting, preparing, and cooking a variety of seafood, including mussels, squid, and fish.

Throughout the session, the students were guided through expert techniques, gaining a deeper understanding of the intricacies involved in working with fresh seafood. Each student then had the chance to put their newfound skills into practice by filleting their own gurnard, a task that required precision and attention to detail.

To complement their freshly prepared fish, they served it alongside a rich and flavourful chickpea and chorizo stew, creating a delightful and well-balanced dish.





REMEMBRANCE DAY

On Remembrance Day, students, staff, and members of the local community came together with us Hall Park Academy to honour the brave men and women who gave their lives in service. The Sixth Form, alongside teachers and local residents, gathered in a moment of reflection and respect as they participated in the two-minute silence.

This solemn occasion allowed us to pause and remember the sacrifices made by so many, ensuring that we have the freedom and opportunities we enjoy today. As we stood together, we were reminded of the importance of unity, gratitude, and the responsibility to never forget the courage and selflessness of those who have fallen.

It was a truly moving tribute, and we are proud to have shared this moment of remembrance with our community.



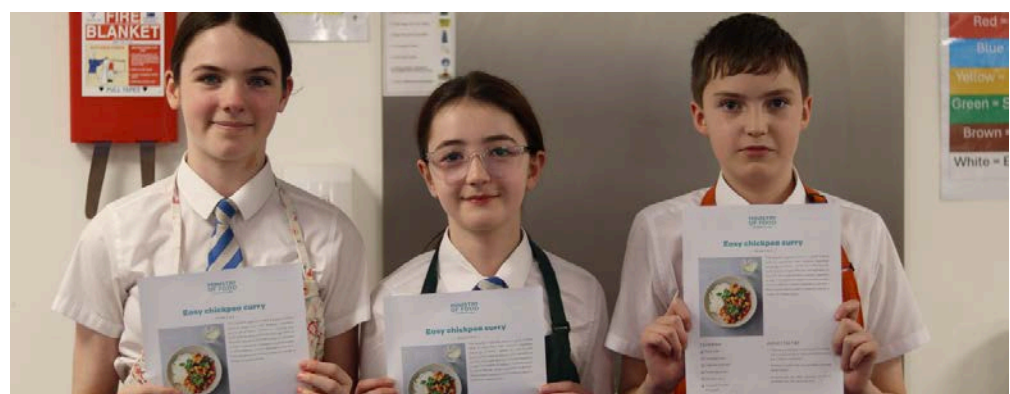


MINI MASTER CHEF

Back in November, our very own Mini Master Chefs had the exciting opportunity to try their hands at a Jamie Oliver Ministry of Food recipe. Under the guidance of our talented cooking staff, the students eagerly followed each step of the method, showcasing their growing independent cooking skills. The recipe they worked on was a delicious chickpea curry, which required them to grate, dice, slice, fry, boil, and simmer a variety of fresh ingredients.

As the curry simmered away, the kitchen was filled with the mouth-watering aroma of spices and freshly cooked food. It was clear that the students were not only learning valuable cooking techniques but also having a great time in the process. Once the meal was ready, the students were thrilled to sit down and enjoy the fruits of their labour, with many giving glowing feedback about how tasty the dish turned out.

This cooking session was a fantastic hands-on learning experience, allowing students to develop both their practical skills and their confidence in the kitchen.





DUOLINGO DEDICATED

Earlier this term, Noah reached an incredible milestone of 729 consecutive days practicing German on Duolingo.

This remarkable achievement highlights his unwavering dedication and impressive consistency in learning. Day after day, Noah has committed to improving his language skills, and this milestone is a testament to his hard work and passion for learning. His commitment not only shows his love for the German language but also his determination to continue growing and progressing every single day.

We are all incredibly proud of Noah for reaching such a significant achievement. His perseverance and discipline is truly inspiring, and his success serves as a great reminder of the power of consistent effort. Keep up the fantastic work, Noah, you're an absolute star, and we can't wait to see what you achieve next.





KICKING THE COMPETITION

Caroline and her family travelled over to Croatia at the end of September so she could compete in the 2024 World Uif Taekwon-Do Championships.

During the competition, Caroline's hard work and discipline paid off as she managed to fight her way to the top of her age category. To complement her existing collection of medals, she earned herself an impressive set of 2 golds and 1 silver in teams, patterns and sparring respectively.

Having committed five years to practicing these disciplines, Caroline told us she enjoys taekwon-do as it helps her meet new friends, learn self-defence and she also enjoys learning about the history of this Korean sport.





ANTI BULLYING WEEK

In celebration of Anti-Bullying Week at Hall Park Academy, we teamed up with the Anti-Bullying Alliance to promote the message of standing out with confidence and embracing who we are. Students were encouraged to wear odd socks as a fun way to show they're proud to be unique.

In addition, we held a light-hearted competition where both staff and students could share photos of their beloved pets rocking odd socks. We're excited to announce the winners of this creative challenge:

Student Champion: Valentina

Staff Champion: Mrs Winters

A big thank you to everyone who participated and submitted photos. Your support helps spread an important message.

More information on Anti-Bullying at Hall Park Academy and how to prevent it can be found on the next page.



**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:

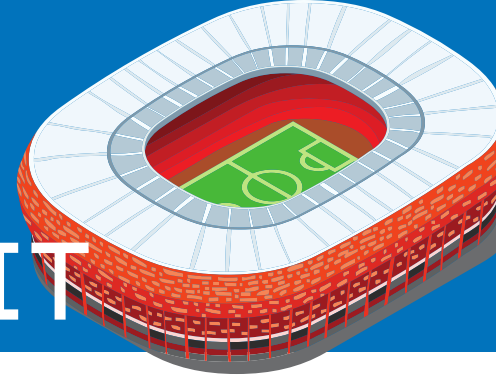
Each company has their own blocking and reporting systems to combat bullying.

Tell a member of staff

Email: anti-bullying@hallparkacademy.org.uk

Use the anti-bullying box in House Support

OLD TRAFFORD VISIT

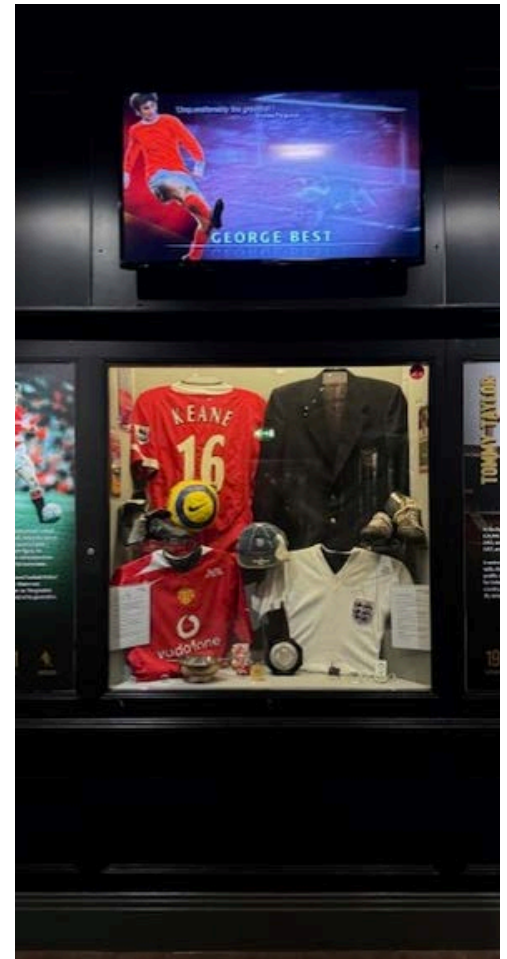


On November 20th, our Year 10 GCSE PE students had the exciting opportunity to visit the iconic Old Trafford, home of Manchester United Football Club.

The day began with an immersive stadium tour, where students explored the rich history of the grounds and discovered the cutting-edge technology used to maintain the pitch in top condition throughout the season.

Next, they enjoyed time in the museum, taking a trip down memory lane to admire past kits and celebrate the impressive array of trophies Manchester United has won over the years.

The experience concluded with a hands-on skills lab workshop, where students learned key techniques and strategies that teams need to succeed on the field. A fantastic day of learning and inspiration for all involved.



STREET ART WORKSHOP



Renowned street artist Anna Wheelhouse recently visited HPA to inspire and collaborate with Year 10 and Year 12 students on an exciting community improvement project. Specialising in street art, Anna guided the students through the creative process, helping them design and create stunning artworks that will be transformed into a large mural in Eastwood.

The workshop was a tremendous success, with students displaying exceptional talent and enthusiasm. Anna commended their efforts, remarking, "HPA students were incredibly creative and receptive to all ideas".

The day served as a powerful reminder of how art can unite and uplift both students and the broader community.





Autumn Term Attendance Reward

Achieve 97% or above
between September and Christmas
to be rewarded with a film and treats
on Thursday 19th December

This year's film is

Dr. Seuss's
How
The
GRINCH
STOLE
CHRISTMAS!

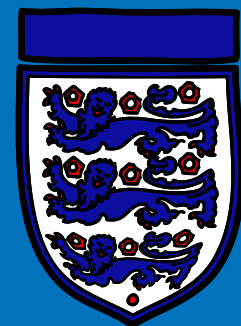
Attendance Rewards Autumn Half Term 2

Achieve 97% or above between September and Christmas
to be rewarded with a film and treats on Thursday 19th December

Achieve 100% by Christmas to be rewarded with
a non-uniform day on Friday 10th January

There will also be treats for the top attending tutor groups this half
term on Friday 10th January

LIONESSES TRIP



Earlier this December, our PE department had the pleasure of taking 44 enthusiastic students to watch the Lionesses in action as they faced Switzerland in Sheffield.

The Lionesses, who are aiming to defend their European title in 2024, have had an up-and-down campaign so far, but this match was a thrilling performance that delighted fans. From the moment we arrived, the atmosphere was electric, with a spectacular lights and fireworks display before kick-off, setting the stage for an exciting and fast-paced match.

For many of our students, this was their first experience of watching top-tier football live, and we hope it was a memorable one that inspires them to keep playing the sport. The students got to see the Lionesses win too as the full time result was 1-0 to England.

A huge thank you to all the students for their exemplary behaviour and for representing our school so well. We couldn't be prouder.



CHILDREN IN NEED

This year, Hall Park Academy was determined to raise funds for Children in Need, and students played a big part in helping to make it a success. As part of the fundraising efforts, students were invited to come to school in non-uniform and were encouraged to make a donation for the privilege.

A special thank you goes to Miss Marriott and the Year 10 Hospitality, Catering, Food Preparation, and Nutrition students, who baked over 100 delicious shortbread biscuits to sell in aid of the charity. The biscuits were decorated with mini M&Ms to represent Pudsey's iconic spots, and they sold out in less than 10 minutes. In total, £57 was raised from the biscuit sales alone.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of everyone involved, Hall Park Academy proudly raised a grand total of £614.80 for Children in Need. What an amazing achievement.



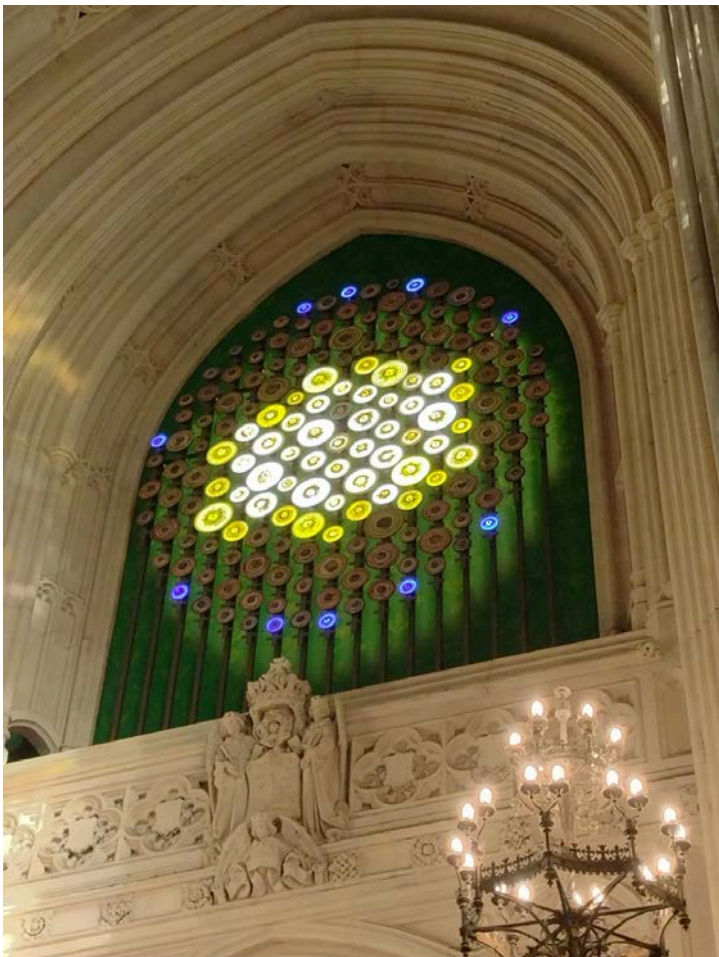
TRIP TO PARLIAMENT



This term Mr Fenby and some eager students made the trip to London was a fantastic opportunity for students to explore the UK's rich history, culture, and democratic values. The day began at the British Museum, where students saw ancient artifacts from civilizations like Egypt, Greece, and Mesopotamia.

We then toured iconic landmarks such as the Tower of London and St. Paul's Cathedral, connecting history with the present. The highlight was a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament, where students learned about democracy, the role of Parliament, and the importance of elections.

This immersive experience helped students appreciate the cultural capital and the values that shape our society.



CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

This year's Inter-House Christmas Card Competition was truly exceptional, showcasing the incredible talent of our students and making the decision of choosing a winner a tough one. A huge congratulations to all who participated – your creativity and effort were truly inspiring.

1st Place (Year 7): Kira - EAF
2nd Place (Year 9): Nethumi - CJR

Joint 3rd Place:
Hilda - Year 8, AGC
Zainab - Year 10, EJM
Pamilerin - Year 9, EAF
Well done to all our fantastic artists.



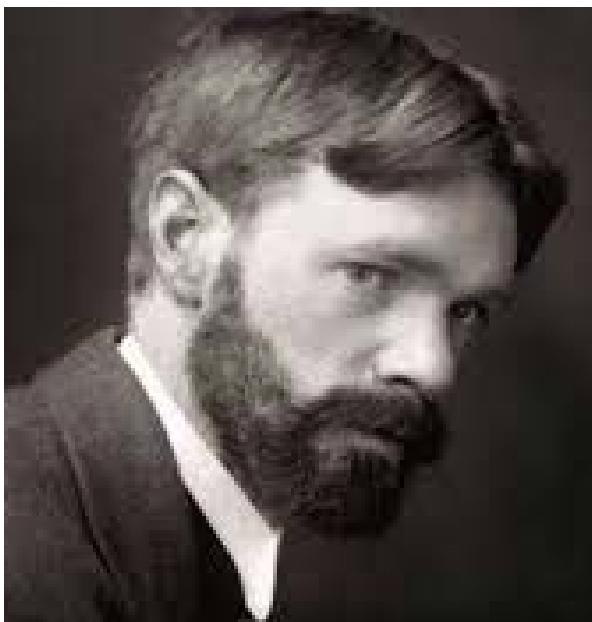


DH LAWRENCE PERFORMANCE

The Year 10 GCSE Drama group delivered a stunning performance inspired by the works of D.H. Lawrence, delving into his rich legacy as a teacher, poet, storyteller, and playwright. The showcase featured a creative mix of scripted scenes and devised pieces, reflecting the students' deep engagement with Lawrence's life and literature.

Drawing from his works, including *The Best of School*, *Lessford's Rabbits*, *A Snowy day in school* and *Last lesson of the afternoon*, alongside themes from his teaching career, the students brought his stories to life with energy and insight, capturing the essence of his often controversial and emotive storytelling.

The evening began with an introduction by Jim Moran and Andrew Harrison from Nottingham University, whose expertise on D.H. Lawrence had guided the group in workshops held back in May. The workshops provided a foundation for the students to explore Lawrence's world with confidence and creativity, inspiring their interpretations and original devised pieces to a very captivated audience.



FRANCE TRIP



At the end of November and into December, we took 53 students on a winter sports and Christmas market trip to France. After an early departure on Saturday, we arrived in Boulogne-sur-Mer, where we explored the old town and visited a chocolate factory, learning about the chocolate-making process in French. That evening, students enjoyed a traditional French Christmas dinner at the hotel, trying snails and participating in a quiz and bauble decorating.

On Sunday, we travelled to Belgium for skiing lessons at Ice Mountain Adventure Park, where beginners quickly mastered the slopes. We then visited Lille's Christmas market, enjoyed shopping, and sampled French pastries. The evening featured an English Christmas dinner, a disco, and hot chocolate. On Monday, we visited a biscuit factory in Hardelot before heading home. It was a fun-filled trip, full of memorable experiences and a great taste of French culture.

A jam-packed few days of activities with lots of memories made and a real taste of French culture - all staff and students had a fabulous time.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The festive spirit was in full swing as Christmas came early at Hall Park Academy. The annual Christmas Concert dazzled a sold-out audience of over 200 enthusiastic supporters. With over 80 talented students taking part, the evening showcased the incredible creativity and talent of the school community.

The program featured a delightful variety of performances, including uplifting choral pieces, energetic band performances, stunning soloists, harmonious duets, expressive dance numbers, engaging readings, and captivating drama acts. Each item brought its own unique charm to the stage, keeping the audience entertained throughout the evening.

Parents, staff, and guests alike praised the concert for its polished performances and festive cheer, with many describing the event as a highlight of the school calendar.



SUPER FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout this term, every Friday, we have been recognising and rewarding students who have been selected by their teachers for producing exceptionally high-quality work. These students have demonstrated outstanding effort, creativity, and dedication to their studies. Below, you will find a selection of photos showcasing this wonderful event, highlighting the hard work and accomplishments of these amazing students. It is truly inspiring to see their continuous growth and excellence, and we are proud to celebrate their success in this special way.





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. Drop off donations at the school reception.

Your help is greatly appreciated.



THANK YOU FOR READING

Do you have a suggestion for our next newsletter?

[Click here to submit your idea to Mr Adams](#)



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



Hall Park Academy