



Hulme Hall Grammar School

◆Caring ◆Nurturing ◆Achieving

Senior School Newsletter

22nd May 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

I hope you and your families are keeping well.

As the half-term draws to a close, the break provides an opportunity for the children to move away from their computers for a time and hopefully, if the weather allows, enjoy some fresh outdoor air. Our remote learning provision will pause after today and resume on Monday June 1st. An updated timetable of live lessons will be sent out to pupils and parents towards the end of next week.

A couple of events have been taking place this week and the fact that they should be highlighted seems all the more pertinent in the strange times that we find ourselves in.

Firstly, this week has been Mental Health Awareness Week and I am sure you will agree that the recent lockdown has presented a set of challenges that would test those with even the strongest mental resolve. It is a challenge for pupils, parents and staff and I know the pastoral team have already shared some resources with you and your child via SMHW and email.

Wednesday of this week (May 20th) marked National Thank a Teacher Day and it was great to see so many messages of support and gratitude for the teachers at Hulme Hall and the profession as a whole. I am sure Mrs Khinda and Miss Keddy were especially delighted to receive their messages of thanks from the children in Pre-School and the JLC respectively. I would like to place on record my thanks once again to all the staff at Hulme Hall—teachers, teaching assistants and support staff—for the fantastic work they have done in difficult circumstances during this half-term.



It did occur to me earlier in the week that today we should have been celebrating Tea on the Lawn at School and I was reminded of the wonderful and uplifting event that took place last year.

The whole school community, including governors, pupils, staff, parents, extended families and even local neighbours and dignitaries came together and enjoyed a great afternoon. We hope to be able to stage a similar event again this time next year – if not sooner!

Mr Dean Grierson, Headmaster

After half-term, the Government has asked us to consider a partial or phased reopening of the school for certain year groups and we are currently planning how we can do that safely and effectively for the year groups concerned. Mrs Khinda is in contact with Pre-School parents and is planning to reopen on a limited scale from Monday June 8th, whilst in the Senior School we are looking at how best we can provide some face to face support for our Year 10 pupils. I will again be writing to Year 10 parents and pupils separately this afternoon to update them as to our progress so far.

This week Mr Lamerton and the Year 11 form tutors held tutor group meetings with our Year 11 pupils to keep in touch with them and to find out how best we can support them in the next few weeks. Mr Lamerton will be writing to Year 11 parents to outline our plans for after half-term following these discussions. I would encourage all our outgoing Year 11 pupils to join their tutor group meetings next half-term, if only to stay in touch with their friends and colleagues.

The school site will be closed next week during the half-term break, but it will reopen on Monday June 1st so that we can continue to provide some in-school provision for those children of key workers that need to come into school, just as we have done this half-term.

Even though the school site will be closed, the members of the SLT (Mrs Smith, Mr Lamerton, Mrs Norman and myself) and the Pastoral Team (Mrs Conway, Mrs Spragg and Mrs Gately) will be checking emails regularly should you need help or assistance. To contact me, please email my secretary at secretary@hulmehallschool.org

I wish you and your family continued good health and hope you are able to enjoy a restful half-term break.

Mr Dean Grierson, Headmaster

Mental Health Awareness Week

As Mr Grierson mentioned in his introduction, this week is Mental Health Awareness Week—although we need to be aware of our mental health and the mental health of our loved ones every day!

It has never been more important to acknowledge mental health, especially as we are all experiencing a new 'normal' during the current crisis. The Mental Health Foundation have been asking people to perform random acts of kindness during MHAW. Kindness can help reduce stress and improve our emotional wellbeing and research has shown that you may even live longer!

Helping others is thought to be one of the ways that people create, maintain, and strengthen their social connections. It could be a simple act like checking on a neighbour, phoning a friend or volunteering at a local foodbank. It doesn't have to be a big gesture, small acts can be just as rewarding.

Mrs Smith sent a really useful checklist via SMHW along with an email to all parents/carers with information and resources. They can also be accessed at <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/> so make sure you take a look and do something nice for someone this half term.



Remote Learning

Did you know that since the lockdown began, staff have posted approaching 2,500 lessons on the Show My Homework app? In the last three weeks alone almost 200 live lessons have been delivered as we developed and improved our remote learning offering for pupils and parents.

I would like to thank once again the staff for getting to grips with the new technology and the new way of delivering lessons and congratulate the pupils who have engaged successfully with the live lessons in addition to the other work posted on the app.

I am sure you will appreciate that we are all learning together in this situation and improving with the technology and organisation needed to make this type of programme work. We know that staff and pupils are missing the daily face to face contact that the normal school day provides, but please be assured that we are constantly trying to tweak and improve our delivery and engagement with our pupils.

Staff log the work that has been submitted and the SLT and Pastoral Team review regularly which students have been engaging with the work and also monitor those who have been struggling to do so for whatever reason. This collating of information helps us to form the basis of our weekly tutor / pastoral phone conversations with pupils and parents regarding whether they fall into the category of green - submitting most work, amber - some work, or red - little or no work.

Mr Dean Grierson, Headmaster

Live Lessons



Now that we are more used to delivering live lessons and the pupils are more used to participating in them, the Pastoral Team is working on how we can further improve the quality of these lessons and the engagement of the pupils who participate. This is where they need your help!

Obviously, firstly, we want as many pupils as possible to actually log on and attend the live lessons. Secondly, staff feel that greater pupil engagement within those live lessons is essential to improve the outcomes for the pupil and to allow staff to measure progress more effectively.

We believe quality of pupils' work will improve if students use their microphone more to answer questions. Even better, they should switch on their camera and be an active part of the lesson. Perhaps understandably, there seems to be a reluctance, especially among Years 9 and 10 pupils, to get actively involved in the lesson and this can make the delivery much more one sided and much less interesting for everyone.

So, now that we are all getting a bit more used to using the technology, parents, please check devices and make sure that cameras are activated and mics unmuted, and pupils please help your teachers and get actively involved in your live lessons after half-term.

Thank A Teacher Day

Wednesday was Thank A Teacher Day in the UK and it was a great opportunity to acknowledge the brilliant job that our teaching staff are continuing to do under very challenging circumstances.



Those of you who follow our social media feeds may have seen the videos that we put together for our Pre-School staff. The children sent us lots of lovely messages for Mrs Khinda and her team that showed us just how much they are appreciated and missed!



The JLC children were also keen to get involved to thank their teachers. Reuben particularly enjoyed sending video messages. So much so that he made three for us! Take a look on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.



Thank A Teacher Messages

The Senior staff received some personalised messages from pupils that really put a smile on their faces and we thought we would include a few of our favourites. Thank you to all our pupils and parents who took the time to send a card and message—your kind words really mean a lot.

Sent to Mrs Browne

“Thank you for being the best French teacher and form tutor in the world”

Sent to Mrs Conway

“I will be forever thankful for the help that you have given me over the past few years that will help me in later life”

Sent to Mrs Spragg

“I don’t think I’d be where I am today had it not been for your support...I really do appreciate everything you’ve done over the years”

From a Parent to Mrs Conway

“[My daughter] is a very emotional and sensitive child. Your support and the way you’ve helped her handle things has been amazing and has given me great reassurance at difficult times. I know many other parents feel the same...”



Sent to Mrs Gately

“I think I’d probably be in a completely different place had it not been for all the help, motivation and encouragement over the past few years”

Sent to Mr Ryan

“Thank you for being a great biology teacher and for all the Duke of Edinburgh things you organised for us. Thank you for all your help and support”

Sent to Mrs Basu

“Thank you for being the best physics teacher in the world. Thank you for all your help and support and for inspiring me”

Sent to Ms Greenhalgh

“Thank you so much, when I was in Yr 6 they told me that I was never going to pass my English GCSE and that I couldn’t read or write. They were so wrong. You are the teacher I needed in my life to show me how to be good at English. You also helped me to become who I am. You are an amazing role model to the girls in our class and show the boys who is in charge. I have loved every second of your English classes. I will miss you so much.”

One of our Year 10 pupils went even further and showed her support for our staff by making some vanilla cupcakes with their names on to show that she was thinking of us! Thanks Izzy—they were delicious!

Four-legged Friends



New Arrivals

It seems that our Hulme Hall families have been growing in the last couple of months.

There are some new four legged friends on the scene who are proving to be a bit of a distraction at the moment! Welcome to Rocky, Barney and Ellie May!

We are just hoping that the new puppies “don’t eat any homework!” No excuses, Cyrus, Matthew A and Daniel!



Whilst some of us have been hard at work in the run up to half term, Mr Grierson’s dogs were enjoying the sunny weather that we have been experiencing! Fingers crossed it stays into next week!

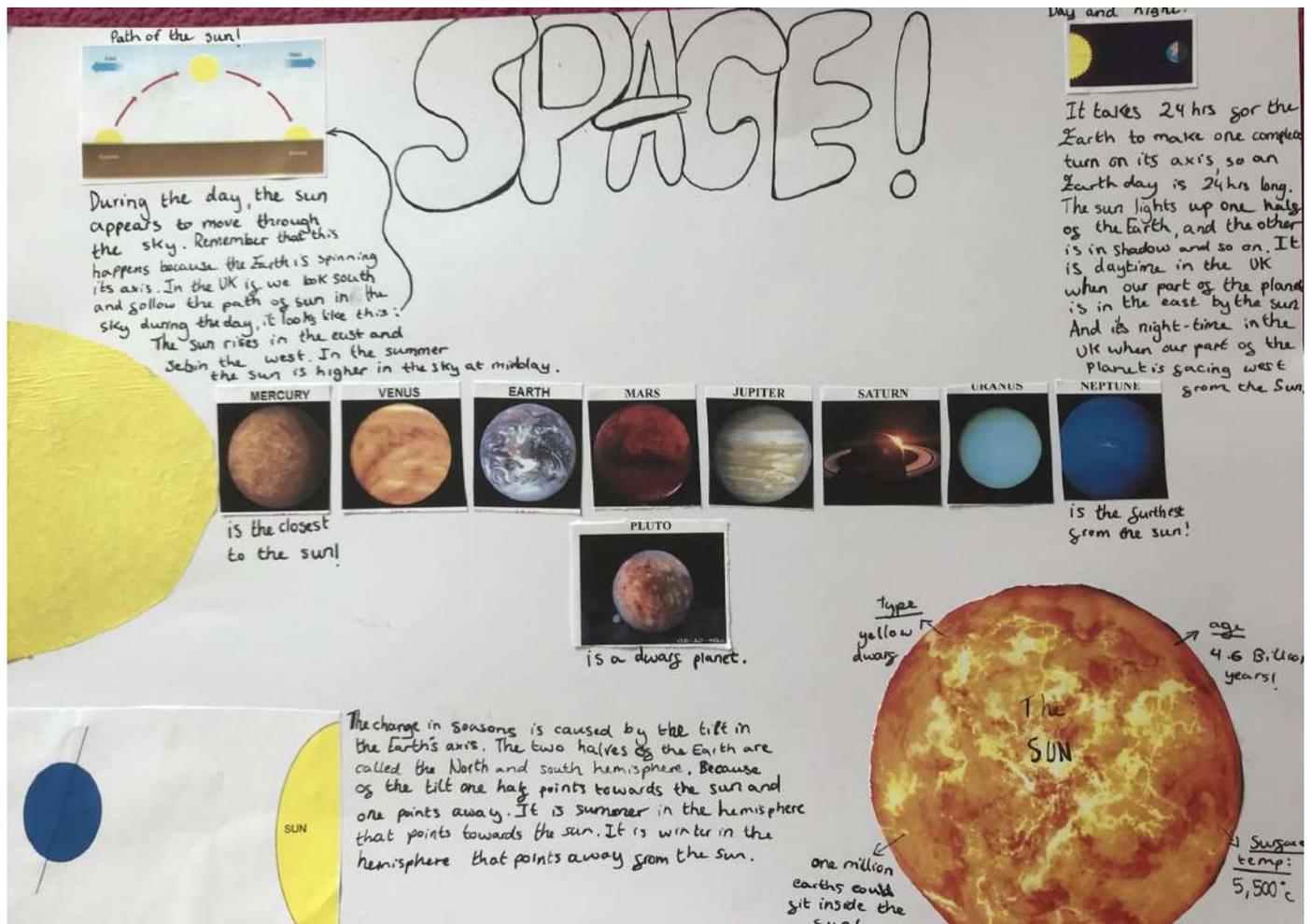
Hands Together for Emma!



Well done to Emma in Year 10 who has been working on her photography portfolio and created some brilliant montages using hands and flowers. Really impressive, creative work Emma.

A Space to Celebrate Some Science

With lots of families doing quizzes via Zoom at the moment, it might be worth having a look at Nimra's summary of earth and the planets. She's done a terrific job at ordering the planets and researching the sun. Definitely one to study if you are doing a Bank Holiday quiz!



Oliver from Year 7 also found an ingenious way to demonstrate how the earth orbits the sun. He sent a video to Mrs Pendleton using Dobby the House Elf as the earth and a toy octopus for the sun!



It was an accurate demonstration and we were equally as impressed with the knitted toys he used! Looks like someone in his house has a talent!



Walking Water

Reuben from the JLC has also been experimenting this week. He was learning about capillary action using paper and water to show how the colours are absorbed and able to move up something solid to defy gravity! Great work!

Hard at Work

Who Else Hates Mornings?

Hands up if you are looking forward to a week off? Ella from Year 8 is most definitely excited at the thought of not having to get up to do her school work.

She produced a brilliant PowerPoint for Madame Browne describing a typical day in her life at the moment. This was our favourite slide!



Je me lève
à dix heures
moins le
quart. Je
déteste le
matin!

Keeping Healthy

It looks like the weather is going to continue to give us some sunshine in the next week, so hopefully you will be able to make the most of it and get out and about in your local area.

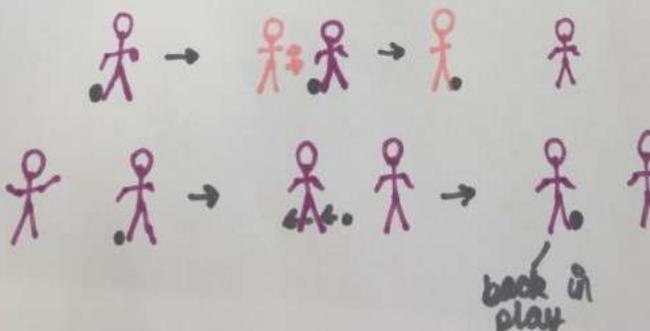
Henry and Harvey from the JLC have been continuing to stay healthy by walking and skipping.



STAR FOOTBALL

How is it played?

- Both teams aim to score goals in the football goals
- If the ball is taken from the person in possession by a member of the other team, they must stand still like a star
- They are back in play when a member of their is in possession and kicks the ball through their legs



What a Star!

If you are looking for inspiration and need a new game for the holidays, why not give Lexie W's Star Football a go! With social distancing measures, you may not be able to get two full football teams together but it can be adapted for four people! A great concept.

Cooking up a Feast



You may also have a little more time to do some cooking this week. Why not try putting a new spin on an old favourite just like Robert B did with these amazing dam dam noodles?

Hulme Hall Challenges

The recent lockdown has given us plenty of opportunity to watch some movies and we thought we would test your movie knowledge this week! Have a look at the series of emojis below and see if you can identify the movie title from them!

Answers will be given in the first newsletter after half-term! Have fun!



Birthday Wishes

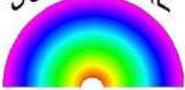
Happy 12th birthday to Trudi and Leo

We hope you both enjoyed yourselves and managed to have a fun day!



Hulme Hall Challenges

How did you get on with our brain teaser from last week?
 Answers are on the right hand side running from left to right.

Parentaliv Personality	STOOD mis	SOMEWHERE 	history history history	million
miniilbetheute	chair	in vaders		STAND
VISION	WALKING ICE	STORM	SPOT	
PROMISE	VIOLETS	UPSIDE DOWN PINEAPPLE CAKE	DOOR	GET A WORD IN
COUNTRY COUNTRY	 3.14159	GROUND FEET FEET FEET	RAKEN	BUSINES

- Split Personality
- Misunderstood
- Somewhere Over the Rainbow
- History Repeats Itself
- One in a Million
- I'll be there in a minute
- High Chair
- Space Invaders
- Slow Down
- Stand in the Corner
- Double Vision
- Walking on Thin Ice
- Eye of the Storm
- X Marks the Spot
- Once Upon a Time
- Broken Promise
- Shrinking Violets
- Upside Down Pineapple Cake
- Back Door
- Get a Word in Edgeways
- Cross Country
- Apple Pie
- Six Feet Under Ground
- Half Baked
- Unfinished Business



Guess Who?

For those of you struggling to spot Miss Gerrard last week, this may make it a little easier for you!

But who is the baby face on the right of the page?...

