



20th October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a busy half-term we have had! It is remarkable how much you can squeeze into just 33 school days. To say, we are proud of your children, would be an understatement.

This half-term has been jammed packed with trips, sporting successes, educational excitement and lots of individual student achievements! Thank you to all our staff for providing such a great start to the new academic year.

Next half-term, is looking to be equally as busy, and for Year 11, they will embark upon a very important chapter in their school journey with Round 2 of their PPEs. I would like to wish them all the very best for these exams.

Thank you again for all your support over this half-term and, on behalf of all the staff at Hall Mead, we would like to wish you all a restful October half-term break.

When we return, it will be Week 2 on our school timetable.

Thanks again.

Miss Ducker

Neurodiversity

Staff Training—Neurodiversity—Mrs Brighty-Glover, Assistant Headteacher

Our teaching staff received important training this week on the topic of neurodiversity.

The word 'neurodiversity' is a term used to describe a large range of hereditary or acquired conditions that cause differences in brain development such as autism, ADHD and dyslexia. In subject teams, teachers explored how neurodiversity could affect learning, how to promote the strengths of neurodiverse students and identifying where there are opportunities in our curriculums to celebrate neurodiversity.

Thank you to Assistant Headteacher Mrs Brighty-Glover for organising this excellent and informative training.

As a school, we are immensely proud of our neurodiverse students and staff.

If you are interested in finding out more, here is a short film on the topic of neurodiversity:

[Short Films About Mental Health - Neurodiversity - YouTube](#)





HALL MEAD SCHOOL



Jack Petchey Award—Miss Casey, Head of Year 10

Miss Cassey is delighted to announce that Kai B is being awarded his second JP award! This time through Scouts as an Outstanding Achiever during the past year. Well done Kai! We are proud of your continued achievements.



Girls' Football—Mr Hart

Mr Hart, Teacher of English, wants to celebrate our Year 8 and 9 girls' football team. They have had two wins, a draw, and a loss, as well as, only one goal conceded so far this season!

Well done girls!

Arcadia Club—Mrs Harradine / Mrs Afteni

Our Arcadia Club spent this week's session making some ghoulish pumpkin creations to get into the spirit of Halloween!

Only look if you dare!



Hornchurch FC Ticket! Mr Sammons, 2 i/c PE

Mr Sammons has awarded our first Hornchurch FC reward ticket to Rhys C for his excellent attitude and commitment to PE.

Rhys also led our Year 7 football team last year to the Havering Cup Final.

We have also been told by Rhys' mum that he made the Havering District team this year and they won 7-1 in their first game Saturday.

Well done Rhys! And thank you to Hornchurch FC for their generosity in providing these free tickets.



Mental Health Support—Mrs Afteni, Senior Assistant Headteacher

You may already be aware that World Mental Health Day was on Tuesday 10th October. This is a day to talk about mental health and show everyone that mental health matters. It is also a day to let people know that it is okay to ask for help.

During the week beginning the 9th October, all year groups received assemblies to help raise awareness of mental health and in particular the support that is available to students in our school community. We want to create a culture at Hall Mead that enables students to speak to a trusted member of staff in school if they require help or support.

Parents are welcome to access the mental health resources that we have on our school website. The school purchased a resource called 'My Voice'. This allows students to use a QR code to complete an online student friendly form to share their concern. This is monitored by staff on a day-to-day basis. Students can access this QR code in school or via the school website.

Wellbeing - Hall Mead School

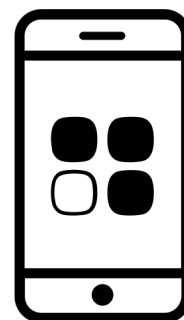
Safety and wellbeing are an important part of what we do at Hall Mead. There is an app that parents can subscribe to called Qustodio. This app allows parents to filter and monitor their child's mobile phone device, as well as set screen time limits. All parents can access the free tier, which allows the monitoring of 2 devices, per adult signed up.

https://www.qustodio.com/en/30-days-school-special/?utm_source=internal&utm_medium=parentsessionsuk

There are further links to online safety information for parents to access below:

www.internetmatters.org

[Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk)



Gold Award for Singing—Francesca N, Year 9—Mr Swan

Mr Swan is delighted to celebrate a very talented student in his year group. Francesca continues to add to her performing arts successes, and this week, has won a Gold Medal in a singing award! Well done Francesca! You continue to amaze us with your talent.



Mr Stephens, Teacher of Science



The following students took part in the first round of the Royal Society of Chemistry's Mastermind Challenge this week:

Year 9: Oli T, Charlie W Thomas S, Keira S

Year 10: Yasmin R, Arishnan A

Year 11: Delsi S, Luca S

We are still awaiting the results, but all students put in maximum effort, and we are really proud of them for persisting through a notoriously difficult competition!



HALL MEAD SCHOOL

Update from Upminster Playing Fields Committee - Mrs Aften and Mrs Hallett

Hall Mead has committed to a community event once each half term to litter pick at the Upminster Playing Fields. The committee meets regularly and discusses what improvements can be made to the playing fields to benefit all members of the community in the local area.

The students and staff at Hall Mead are looking forward to working in this community project and there will be further updates throughout the year.

Aspens



Catering Company— Update

We wanted to thank our students and parents/cares for their patience over the past few weeks, as we have moved over to a new catering provider.

We have reviewed the catering systems and offer from this half-term with Aspens, with the aim of improving the student experience next half-term.

Thank you—Year 11s—Mrs Afteni

Mrs Afteni would like to thank those Year 11s who supported our new Year 7 students with their transition from primary school to Hall Mead. The invaluable support and guidance was welcomed by our new students as they became a part of our school community. Well done Year 11!



Author Visit—Miss James, Director of English Faculty

Miss James' English Faculty were fortunate to welcome successful author Amy Twigg for a school visit.

Amy was born and raised in Kent and, after studying Creative Writing at university, she moved to Surrey where she works as a freelance copywriter.

Her debut novel, *Spoilt Creatures*, won the BPA Pitch Prize and was longlisted for the Mslexia Novel Competition and Blue Pencil Agency First Novel Award.

To purchase a copy of Amy's book, please visit:

Spoilt Creatures: 'A simmering debut, heady with the righteousness of female rage' Kiran Millwood Hargrave:
Amazon.co.uk: Twigg, Amy: 9781035407910: Books





Sporting Successes—Cross Country -Miss Kennett, Head of Year 7 / Teacher of PE

Our runners from Cross Country this week, who ran the best times, for their year groups were:

- **Megan L—Year 7**
- **Jessica L—Year 8**
- **Ruby B— Year 9**
- **Daisy CA— Year 9**
- **Jessica T—Year 9**
- **Chloe W—Year 11**



Also, last week, we took a mixed team to the Essex County Cross Country Championships and they ran amazingly too!

The Intermediate boys came 3rd overall in Essex for the Cup and the Intermediate girls came 4th overall in Essex. Well done everyone!

Both outstanding results!





Unsung Heroes—Staff Kindness

This half-term, we would like to recognise Ms Abbott, from our Site-Team, for all her hard work and commitment behind the scenes to ensure that our school is well-maintained and kept in the best condition for our school community.

Ms Abbott always goes above and beyond in her role, even coming into school on her day off to offer help and support. Thank you Ms Abbott! You are this half-term’s ‘Hall Mead’s Unsung Hero’.

House Netball—Results

Miss Kennett and Mrs Morgan are excited to announce the results from this half-term’s netball house competition:

- * **Dickens - 1st**
- * **Chapman - 2nd**
- * **Waltham - 3rd**
- * **Talbot - 4th**



Well done Dickens!



Dickens Dominate!

Miss Kennett would also like to share the following success in Year 7:

- ⇒ Most APs in Year 7 - Mrs Luxmana 7DL
- ⇒ Best punctuality and Attendance - Mrs Robertson 7DR

es



Noah B—Year 7

Good luck to Noah who is competing in Southampton this weekend in diving for the regionals!

Head of Year 10 Miss Casey’s ‘Burning Brightly Achievement Point’ Challenge

Miss Casey challenged her Year 10 students to ‘burn brightly’ this half-term by displaying their great attitude to learning and engagement in lessons. Every week, she has been publishing the Achievement Points awarded to each form to encourage a healthy competition across her tutor groups. She is delighted to announce that Mr Wells’ form 10CW has won the competition by being awarded a massive 498 Achievement Points! Well done Year 10!

As a special reward, lots of delicious doughnuts were delivered to the form.



10CS	10CW	10DG	10DH	10TC	10TE	10WMC	10WT	10OA
486	498	425	463	493	496	396	417	167



Special Student Award—Mrs Fanning’s Golden Wristband

Miss James is 7WT’s form tutor and has the most amazing student in her form. Emilia I speaks Ukrainian and was able to support another Ukrainian student who could not speak English. She was able to translate the conversation from English into Ukrainian so Mrs Fanning could speak with the student.

Thank you Emilia for your help with this and for providing such excellent help and support to both the student and also to Mrs Fanning.

We hope you enjoy your Golden Wristband! Well done.

Miss Towey —Director of Maths Faculty

Miss Towey has introduced Sparx to our maths community.

‘Sparx Maths’ delivers personalised intelligent maths practice, that is proven to boost grades.

In the final week of this half-term, here are the winners:

Week 7		Sparx Maths Superstars		Top 3 XP from each year group	
Year 7		Year 8		Year 9	
Sam J	7CS	Rayyan I	8DM	William L	9WH
Dalia V	7CS	Jun Xi L	8TB	Het P	9WH
Amara I	7DL	Ellie S	8WH	Hari P	9WTw
Year 10		Year 11			
Darrell O	10DG	Evie D	11WS		
Jessica M	10TC	Rares D	11WS		
Mykyta S	10TE	Summer S	11DC		



At the end of Term 1, the top 3 XPs from each class will be entered into a KS3 raffle or KS4 raffle to win some prizes!

Mr Leslie—Assistant Headteacher—Year 11 Strategy and Support

Mr Bamber, Deputy Headteacher, and Mr Leslie have been working hard to organise our Year 11 pages on our website to ensure that parents, carers and students can easily access relevant information regarding Year 11.

Please find here links to the updated and refreshed pages:

Year 11 – Hall Mead School
Exams Information for Students – Hall Mead School



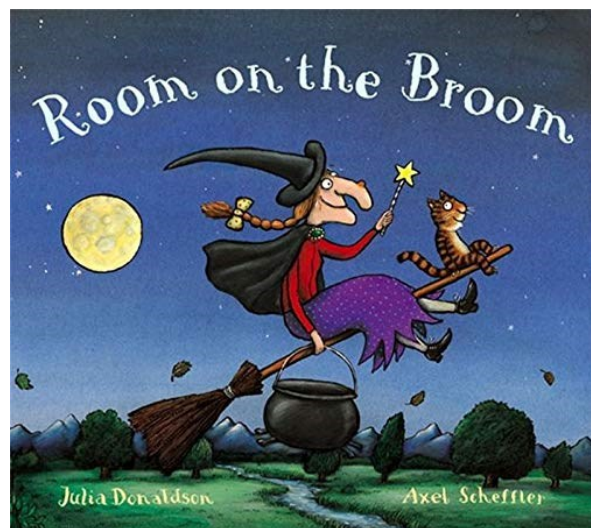


Meet our Hall Mead Witch—Is there Room on the Broom?

A HUGE thank you to Mrs Lloyd and a group of students for creating our first ever 'Hall Mead Witch'! She will be displayed outside the school over the half-term.

The following students have dedicated their lunchtimes over the past two weeks to creating this spooky addition to our Hall Mead family:

- ⇒ **Aaliyah B**
- ⇒ **Niamh K**
- ⇒ **Charlotte S**
- ⇒ **Katie S**
- ⇒ **Jamie R**
- ⇒ **George C**
- ⇒ **William L**
- ⇒ **Dylan M**
- ⇒ **Ted C**
- ⇒ **Oliver B**



Want to join the Scarecrow Trail 2023?

If you would like a copy of the Scarecrow Trail map, please visit:

Engayne Primary School Friends Association (hoot.cloud)

Maps cost £3 to purchase.





Our Hall Mead Witch—Is there Room on the Broom?

