



HALL MEAD
SCHOOL



Headteacher's Newsletter

3rd November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a great start to the new half-term we have had. Students have settled back into school well and Year 11s have started their second round of PPEs in a focused and purposeful way.

At the start of this school week, we were delighted to share with our parents/carers the '**Outstanding**' grading from our September Ofsted Inspection.

I would encourage you to read the full report, which you can find at:

<https://www.hallmeadschool.co.uk/ofsted-report>

This is a truly remarkable result for the school and has confirmed what we know and believe about Hall Mead.

Thank you to everyone who has sent in messages congratulating us on achieving this grading. We don't take for granted our parent/carer support and the community we are an important part of.

Thanks again.

Miss Ducker
Headteacher

Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
The quality of education	Outstanding
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding



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What did Ofsted say about our School?

Pupils are exceptionally proud to be a part of the Hall Mead community.

In each subject, leaders have carefully identified the important knowledge that pupils need to learn and remember.

Prefects support events and act as ambassadors for the school.

Leaders prioritise supporting all pupils to read widely.

Pupils enjoy their lessons and show consistently positive attitudes to their learning.

Teachers are experts in their subject and present information clearly.

All staff are trained to be teachers of reading.

Pupils have a clear understanding of the 'discipline with dignity' approach, which fosters strong relationships with staff.

All pupils, including those with SEND, are well prepared for their stage of education, employment or training.

Leaders provide extensive resources to support positive mental health.

Pupils with SEND thrive and are included in all aspects of school life.

The school has exceptionally high expectations of pupils' behaviour.

Staff are proud to work at this school.

Subject specialists deliver a well-sequenced personal, social, health and economic education curriculum.

Older pupils are excellent role models for their peers.

All pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), follow a broad and highly ambitious curriculum.

The curriculum is highly ambitious.

Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider



HALL MEAD
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**Our 'Outstanding' Senior Prefect
Team and Chair of
Governors**



**Our
'Outstanding'
Head Boy and
Head Girl**



**Thank you to Mr Bamber
for buying the staff an
'Outstanding' Ofsted
badge each!**



Our 'Outstanding' Chair of Governors—Special Message

Outstanding Across the Board: A Holistic Triumph in Hall Mead's Latest Ofsted Inspection

It's not every day that one finds themselves in a unique position to give back to an institution that has been a cornerstone of their own development. As a former pupil of Hall Mead School and now its Chair of Governors, I am both humbled and thrilled to share some remarkable news with you all. Our recent Ofsted inspection has awarded us an 'Outstanding' rating across all categories—a commendation that affirms the collective dedication and exceptional standards we uphold.

The timing of our Ofsted call was serendipitous to say the least. On my fifteenth day as the new Chair of Governors—a milestone shared with our newly appointed Headteacher—I found myself at Hall Mead for introductory meetings with staff and senior prefects. Just as we were settling into our discussions, the call came in. Despite the abrupt shift in gears, the community at Hall Mead responded impeccably. The unity and grace displayed by both staff and students not only met but exceeded expectations, culminating in an 'Outstanding' rating across the board. This achievement stands as a vivid testament to our collective commitment to educational excellence.

Key to this success has been the exceptional leadership at multiple levels. It was particularly impressive to watch Maria Ducker, our Headteacher, lead her team with such vision and poise. Special tribute must also be paid to Simon London, the previous headteacher and now CEO of the Empower Learning Academy Trust. His foundational work has set the stage for our recent achievements. Together with the executive team at the Trust, Maria and her leadership team have been instrumental in driving Hall Mead forward. As stated in the Ofsted report, this collective leadership prowess was explicitly recognised as 'Outstanding' in the realm of leadership and management.

Another highlight from the Ofsted report praises our 'ambitiously designed' curriculum, which enables our pupils to engage with increasingly complex ideas as they progress. Our outstanding SEND provision ensures that every pupil, regardless of their needs, has an equitable opportunity for academic and personal growth. Teachers are subject matter experts, and their effectiveness was noted as contributing to our 'Outstanding' rating. Coinciding with the two days of Ofsted's inspection was our Post 16 Further Education & Careers Fair, showcasing the school's commitment to preparing pupils for their futures in tangible ways. This blend of academic rigour and practical guidance ensures our pupils are well-prepared for the next stages in their education, whether that be further education, employment, or training.

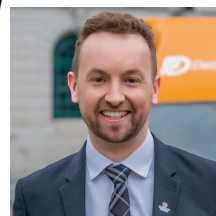
The inclusivity at Hall Mead is not just an aspiration; it's a lived reality. As stated in the Ofsted report, "These are well matched to the school values and include a highly popular group celebrating the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community." This isn't just a line in a report; it's a testament to the culture of acceptance and support that permeates every corner of our school. As someone who is openly gay and deeply committed to LGBTQIA+ inclusivity, this fills me with immense pride. At Hall Mead, everyone is welcome, everyone belongs, and everyone is celebrated.

In my role as the Chair of Governors and in my day job as Managing Director of Debt Free Advice, I can't stress enough the importance of a well-rounded education in empowering individuals for the challenges that lie ahead. The financial literacy and life skills that we instil in our pupils have far-reaching consequences, particularly in today's complex world.

The success of this Ofsted inspection reflects not just an endorsement of our educational standards but an affirmation of our commitment to holistic well-being and future-readiness for every student.

Earning the 'Outstanding' rating is more than a badge of excellence; it's a vow to our ongoing commitment to each other and the wider community. We don't see this as an end, but as a promising beginning. In keeping with our motto, Hall Mead is not just a school; it's a family for life. Our eyes are set firmly on the future, ensuring that we continue to excel and uphold this 'Outstanding' promise in every way. For a comprehensive understanding of what makes Hall Mead exceptional, I encourage you to read the full report available on the Ofsted website.

Matt Dronfield





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Thank you to Mr Moore, Head of Digital Engagement for our Trust, for taking these photographs...

Keep an eye out for 'The Romford Recorder' article on our 'Outstanding' judgment!





Tea and Cake with the Headteacher!

On Friday 20th October, Miss Ducker had tea and cakes with a group of students who delivered the important speeches at this year's Open Evening and those who played a musical instrument as part of the opening of the presentations.

It was a fantastic opportunity to hear the students' views of the school including which subjects they were enjoying, clubs they were attending and even potential careers they would like to enter! Miss Ducker was so impressed with their focus and maturity. She thoroughly enjoyed spending this time with such a talented group of young people. Well done everyone!

Thank you to Mrs Carter for arranging the delicious cakes and teas.



Ava and Ted—Band Parade

A special mention must go to Ava and Ted for their band parade contribution which took place during half-term.

Here is a photograph of them with their Band Master.

Well done guys!





HALL MEAD SCHOOL

Buy a Poppy— Mrs Hallett

Mrs Hallett has arranged for poppies to be sold to commemorate Remembrance Day and a symbol for a peaceful future.

If you would like to find out more about why we wear a poppy, please visit: [All about the poppy | Remembrance | Royal British Legion](#)



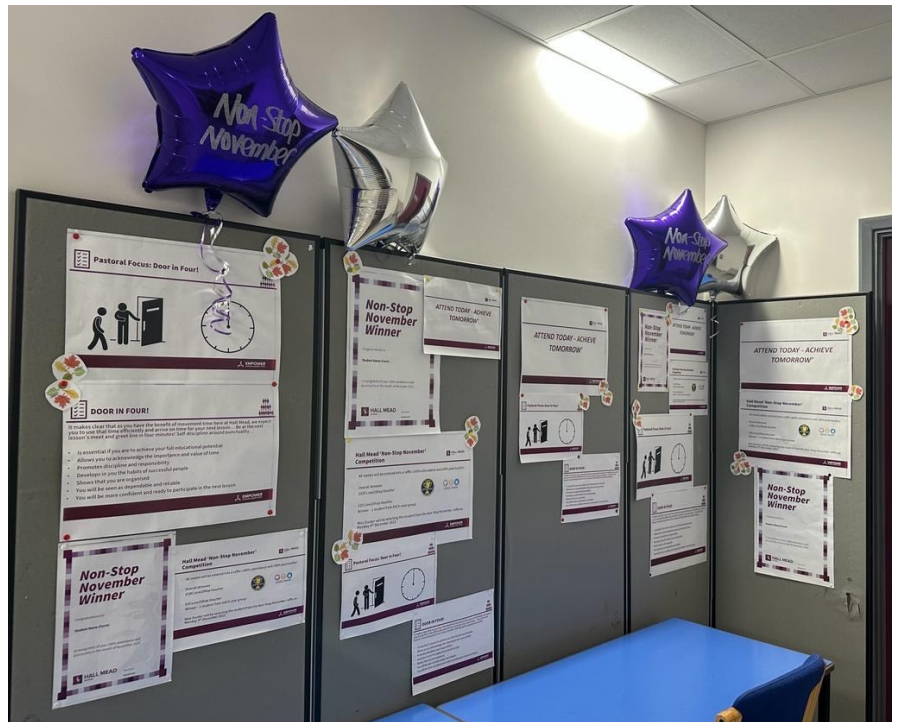
Non-Stop November

Mrs Afteni is challenging all our students to not incur one late mark and to achieve 100% attendance for the entire month of November as part of her Non-Stop November challenge! The successful students will go into a draw for either a £20 or £100 Love2Shop voucher.

Hall Mead will also be competing against our Trust schools Brittons and Bower Park to see which school achieves the highest number of students with 0 late marks and 100% attendance.

Which ELAT school will triumph this time?

Come on Team Hall Mead!





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

Miss Kennett is delighted to celebrate the successes of Noah B who competed in Southampton in diving.

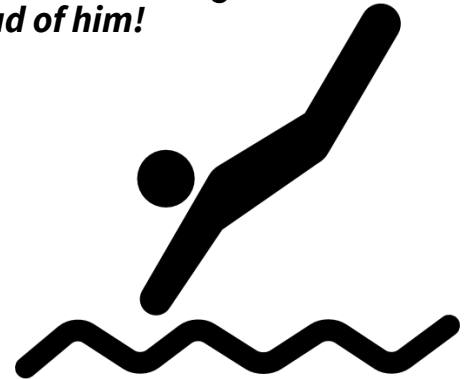
Noah did absolutely brilliantly for his first competition at this high level, diving against divers who have been diving for at least two years at this elite standard.

Noah’s mum said:

“It was a very high standard of diving and Noah has only been training at this level since September so both us and his coach are super proud of him!”

He narrowly missed out on the finals in every event!”

Well done Noah—we are so proud of you!



PE Clubs—Mrs Morgan, Head of PE

Please be aware that due to the Year 11 exams taking place in the Sports Hall, that we are unable to host any indoor clubs which normally take place in the Sports Hall, such as basketball, badminton and cricket, up to Friday 10th November.

Trampolining and table tennis will run as normal as these take place in the Activity Studio.



Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

All clubs will resume on Monday 13th November 2023.





HALL MEAD SCHOOL



Year 11—History Battlefields Trip

On Friday 20th October, Mr Smith, Miss Savage, Mrs Bannister and Mr Sammons took a group of Year 11 students to visit a number of battlefield sites including laying a wreath, on behalf of the school, at the Menin Gate Memorial.

The visit proved to be an emotive and thought-provoking experience for all involved.

Thank you to Mr Smith for organising this important experience and thank you to those staff for giving up part of their half-term break to accompany our students.





Spanish Department—Mrs Fernandez, Head of Spanish

On Friday 20th October, the Hall Mead Spanish Department hosted Steve Eadon from Mingalaba.

He spent the morning with our Year 9s and 10s and a number of our Year 11s telling us about his career in football using his language skills.

He then spoke to our pupils about using their language skills in various careers including those in the sporting world.

We thank Steve for his time and our pupils for listening so intently; it has given them lots of good for thought!

If you would like to find out more about his work, please visit: [Mingalaba](#)



Design and Technology Faculty —Mrs Stubbings, Head of Faculty

DT are looking for KS3 students next week to design and make Christmas decorations for the Christmas Tree Festival at Upminster Methodist Church.

The theme of the decorations is musicals. They will be drawn on 2D Design and manufactured on the laser cutter.

Days and times: Monday 6th and Wednesday 8th November in AG13 from 3.20pm till 4.30pm.





Food Bank Collection—Harvest

A huge thank you to everyone who donated food items for our Harvest collection.

Mrs Hallett, Mr Bamber, Skye C, Kitty B and Arishnan A who all visited the Harold Hill Food Bank yesterday to drop off all the items we collected.

The visit was a thought-provoking experience for everyone involved as the Food Bank shared how empty their shelves are as they are struggling to maintain their stock levels due to the increased need and reduction in donations, most likely due to the cost of living crisis and more people struggling.

It's times like this which are a stark reminder of the importance of community and how small acts of kindness such as this collection, really do help those who desperately need it.

Thank you again to everyone who helped out including Mrs Read, Mr Shaheed for taking the picture in the Main Hall with his drone, Ms Abbott and all form tutors.

A special shoutout needs to also go to our Charity Prefects: Violet C, Izzie K, Eleanor L, Luca S, Phoebe J, George A, Timmy J, Alessandria O, George B, Rhiana T, Georgia E, Olivia C, Megan H, Oscar R, Sophie N, Diya P, Skye C, Raya M, William R, Goda M, Ruby W, and Katie G.



Mr Shaheed's Drone Photograph!



Dickens	175
Waltham	392
Talbot	156
Chapman	226

Items per house!



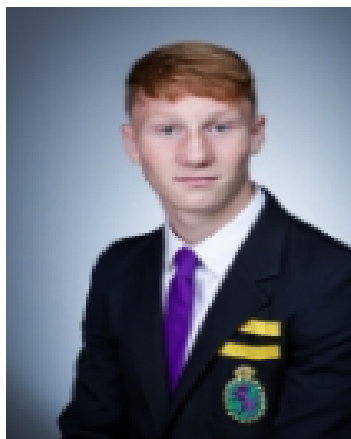
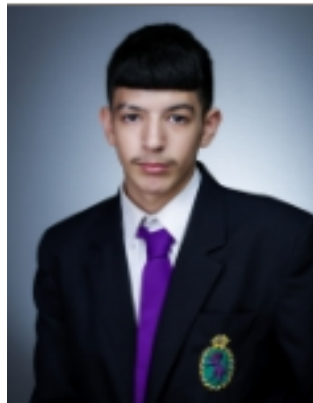
Year 11—Design Technology—Dropdown Day

Thank you to Mrs Stubbings, Miss Lloyd, Mr Bamber and Mr Clark for giving up their entire day on Tuesday, to support our Year 11 GCSE students in the design and making process of their final GCSE products.

Director of Faculty, Mrs Stubbings particularly wanted to celebrate the following students:



- ⇒ Henry C for his drive and enthusiasm throughout the day. She said it was a pleasure to see.
- ⇒ Haydyn K for almost finishing his product! Well done!
- ⇒ Yusuf A for making great progress and staying focused throughout the day.
- ⇒ Zak T to completing his work to a very high standard.
- ⇒ Ellis P for almost finishing his work— just has some finishing touches to make.



WELL DONE!



HALL MEAD
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Safeguarding

As previously mentioned, Hall Mead School has purchased new software through our Smoothwall IT Monitoring and Filtering system that allows parents to monitor their child's electronic devices.

Qustodio, is a Parental Control App that is available for parents and carers. This allows parents to filter and monitor their child's mobile devices, as well as set screen time limits. All parents have access to the free tier, which allows the monitoring of 2 devices, per adult signed up (free to parents of students at Hall Mead School).

The basic tier, allowing further functionality and 5 devices is £40/year, with the complete tier offering full functionality and unlimited devices is £60/year (parents have the option of purchasing the more expensive app).

The free basic tier, does come with a 30-day trial of the premium features, there is no obligation to pay and you don't need to enter any payment details to access the free version.

If you are interested in signing up for the app, please click on the link below and create an account:

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





Drama Production—Miss Garred, Head of Drama

This year's drama production will be 'Annie' and Miss Garred has a request regarding help from parents/carers. She wondered if parents/carers could donate any old bedsheets (any colour / type / size) which we could then use to make dresses for the orphans.

Any donations, would be gratefully received.

PLC—Outside Space—Mr O'Neill, Assistant Headteacher

An expansion of the play area at the back of the Alan Wunderly Centre is well underway with the pouring of a rubber surface happening over the half-term.

This now gives us a dedicated SEN outdoor space that can be used by students with limited mobility or additional needs that can find the other outdoor play areas too busy.

The next phase will involve sourcing play equipment that facilitates group play and support development of social interaction.





Miss Towey—Director of Maths

Here are this week's winners!

Week 8		Sparx Maths Superstars		Top 3 XP from each year group	
Year 7		Year 8		Year 8	
Sam J	7CS	Szofia B	8TB	Szofia B	8TB
Dalia V	7CS	Rayyan I	8DM	Rayyan I	8DM
Amara I	7DL	Jun Xi L	8TB	Jun Xi L	8TB
Year 9		Year 10		Year 11	
William L	9WH	Yasmin R	10WMc	Rares D	11WS
Hari P	9WTw	Isabella D	10TC	Evie D	11WS
Het P	9WH	Darrell O	10DG	Maya B	11DC

Local Business? Want to advertise with us?

If you are a local business and would like to advertise in our 'Hall Mead School 2023 Awards Evening' programme, please email Karen Read via kread@elatschools.co.uk by Wednesday 8th November 2023.

This is a great way to support the school, whilst advertising your business.

Prices are:

- Full Page - £100
- Half Page - £50
- Quarter Page - £25



Friends of Upminster Park—Volunteers Required

The 'Friends of Upminster Park' would like to encourage more volunteers to join the group.

Volunteers can meet new people and gain a sense of achievement and ownership of the park.

If you are interested in joining, please email the group's secretary Barry Ward at ba-za.999@hotmail.com or the Deputy Chair Brian Flavell at: brianm1937@yahoo.co.uk.