



# Hulme Hall Grammar School

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SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

19TH MARCH 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils and Friends,

As the pupils and staff begin to settle back into the daily routines of life back on the Hulme Hall site, I would like to thank all those pupils and parents who have engaged with the home testing programme. This began on Monday 15th March and pupils will continue to test twice a week at home in an attempt to prevent the asymptomatic transmission of COVID-19. This should help to ensure that we keep our school as safe as possible for all our pupils and staff as we all continue the fight against the pandemic. At this stage, the government has suggested that this home testing should continue throughout the Easter holiday. We will share more information on this, and distribute more kits to the children, next week.

As the government begins to relax some of the restrictions we have all been living under, we can start to think about welcoming more visitors back on to the school site. We are hoping to restart personal tours for prospective families and these are scheduled to take place on Tuesday mornings in the summer term and we have also rescheduled our Year 5 Taster Morning for Saturday 3rd July. If you have any friends or family members, who might be interested in what Hulme Hall has to offer, or if they have children who might want to attend the Year 5 Taster Morning, please encourage them to contact the school. They can register their interest on the school website, or telephone the school office during normal office hours.

Congratulations to Tom C and George H-R for completing the Silver Certificate of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Hopefully, they will soon be able to achieve the full Silver Award by completing their expedition.

Finally, we are currently putting together a schedule for examinations and reporting for the summer term and I hope to be able to share details with parents before we break up for the Easter holiday at 12.30pm on Friday 26th March. Don't forget, the summer term commences for all pupils on Tuesday 13th April.

Dean Grierson

## Duke of Edinburgh Success

We are delighted to report that even a global pandemic hasn't dampened the spirit or determination to succeed for two of our Year 11 pupils! Tom C and George H-R were intent on carrying on with their Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award, having successfully completed their Bronze in school the previous year.

The D of E Award has obviously had to adapt their ways of working and participants are now able to work towards their goals by completing certain sections at home. With alternative ways of evidencing, finding an appropriate assessor and keeping their online D of E account up to date, both boys were able to pursue activities as diverse as fishing and listening to younger pupils read, to complete their Skill, Volunteer and Physical Recreation sections.

Both have now received their Silver Certificate and when the situation allows, they will complete their Adventurous Journey / Expedition to complete the full Award. Well done Tom and George! School hopes to launch another D of E cohort in September 2021, aimed at Year 9 and above. Mr Ryan, our D of E Manager will be in touch with further details.



## Our Very Own Alumnus—Mr Lowe

Mr Lowe, our Chair of Governors, came to Hulme Hall as a pupil at 12 years old. He had meningitis as a child so was held back a year in his previous school. The Headmaster at the time, Mr Rogerson, said he could start in his correct year group which was Year 8 and not be held back a year, which started Mr Lowe's time at Hulme Hall in a positive way, as he had renewed confidence in himself.

He remembers Hulme Hall as a very friendly and caring school and he has fond memories of getting the school bus from Marple.

The school had a reputation for sporting excellence and Mr Lowe can count in one of his old school photos, at least 4 former pupils who went on to play some sport professionally.

Mr Lowe went onto a career in education, and his most notable roles were Headmaster at two independent schools before he went on to education consultancy. As part of that work, he was asked by the Independent School Association to offer some help with governance at Hulme Hall and he found himself back where his journey began.

He recalls that Hulme Hall gave him the foundation of confidence he needed to succeed. His most resounding memory is that all pupils were treated as individuals and he is proud that Hulme Hall still delivers that ethos.

"Through many changes since my time at Hulme Hall, it has kept the strength of caring for all pupils as individuals. The staff deserve credit for keeping this spirit alive through both good and challenging times."

Mr Lowe has also gone on to co-found two charities, including the Little Princess Trust, which provides wigs to children who lose their hair through cancer treatment and is now the biggest funder of paediatric cancer research in the UK.



## Recommendations

Everybody loves learning. The snippets people drop into conversations that spark an interest are usually followed up and investigated, and our lives are enriched for the better. We thought it would be interesting to start a weekly share in the newsletter of recommendations that are interesting and informative. It would be great to inspire our pupils to read more too. **Let us know if you have one to share!**



### **Book Review**

Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps That Tell You Everything You Need To Know About Global Politics by Tim Marshall



### **Podcast recommendation**

Talk of the Devils: Hosted by Carl Anka, Laurie Whitwell and Andy Mitten



### **Netflix Documentary**

The Last Dance—Cert 15 (Insight into the rise of NBA Basketballer Michael Jordan)

## Food and Nutrition practical lessons are back!

It's been a busy week in Food and Nutrition.

Year 7 pupils have made chocolate truffles and learnt about the process of how chocolate is made. Do you know that chocolate was once made as money? In Mayan times the cocoa bean was used as currency as it was considered to be worth more than gold dust!

Year 8 have continued their 'food from around the world' theme and have created the Tex-Mex dish chilli con carne!

Year 9 pupils made diabetic chocolate chip cookies. Sugar was replaced with Splenda, a sucralose-based product. Sucralose is made from sugar in a multistep chemical process in which three hydrogen-oxygen groups are replaced with chlorine atoms. It was discovered in 1976 when a scientist at a British college allegedly misheard instructions about testing a substance. Instead, he tasted it, realising that it was highly sweet. The companies Tate & Lyle and Johnson & Johnson then jointly developed Splenda products. Splenda is commonly used as a sugar substitute in both cooking and baking. It is also added to thousands of food products worldwide.

Year 10's practical skills were on display this week as they made some outstanding Pavlovas! While creating this product they learnt the food science behind creating a meringue and about the gas in liquid foams.



## JLC News

This week, the children read all about the brain and investigated how they learn. Are they auditory learners, kinaesthetic learners or visual learners? Then they made their own brain out of paper mache. They included the ridges (gyri) and the grooves (sulci) which main function is to increase the surface area of the cerebrum such that it can accommodate more neurons. They then painted them to create the full effect and enhance the detail.

