



# Hulme Hall Grammar School

◆Caring ◆Nurturing ◆Achieving



SENIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

28TH MAY 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils and Friends,

Following the lockdown in January and February and returning to school for just three weeks prior to the Easter holiday, I am sure that this must have felt like a very long half-term (seven weeks) for the pupils and perhaps some of the staff. However, we have made it through to the end of the half-term and with the hope of further easing of restrictions, I hope we may be facing normality sooner rather than later.

For now, I would like to pay tribute to all the pupils and staff for doing their best to operate within the various restrictions we have had to put in place and for getting on with the job in the best way that they can. As you will see in the newsletter, the children have been at their creative best this half-term!

I would also like to congratulate our Year 11 Leavers (well almost!) as they have finally completed a battery of class tests, mock exams and various other assessments this half-term, as teachers gathered evidence for use in submitting Teacher Assessed Grades to the examination boards. They certainly deserve a rest over half-term. Mr Lamerton has been giving his views on the situation faced by our Year 11 pupils this year in the "Independent Schools Magazine".

I hope our pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 find some time over the holiday to prepare for their internal examinations, which begin immediately after half-term.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your families a healthy and relaxing half-term break.

Dean Grierson

## Taekwondo Success!

A big well done to Lewis in Year 8, who has passed his second Dan in Taekwondo this weekend. Lewis took the 3 hour exam in Cumbria in front of a panel of judges.

This diagram shows just how far he's come. Congratulations Lewis!



# Alumna


Sharon Burghall who attended Hulme Hall from 1985 until 1990, sent us these pictures of memorabilia she has kept from her time here. The Hulme Hall School Summer Fair programme from 1987 and a picture of the teachers at the time. Let us know if you recognise anyone in the picture as we'd love to connect with them!



## The Independent Schools Magazine Featuring Mr Lamerton!

Our very own Mr Lamerton has written an article in the latest edition of "The Independent Schools Magazine". He reflects on the cancelled GCSE exams for 2021 from a teacher's perspective, which has been a hot topic of conversation throughout the whole of England over the past few months. The article can be found here: <https://www.independentschoolsmagazine.co.uk/issues/2021-may>

### Assessing Assessments



Richard Lamerton is Head of Geography and KS4 and Exams Officer at Hulme Hall Grammar School in Stockport. Here he reflects on the situation over this summer's cancelled exams...

Lots of young people have had their GCSEs, A Levels or other exams cancelled because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, causing uncertainty and anxiety for many pupils and their parents. We waited with bated breath for Ofqual, and then the exam boards, to let us in on the big secret as to how our pupils would be awarded their grades this year. The Easter holidays approached and we kept waiting for news... the overriding thought of teachers was "how could a contingency plan for this year not have been organised already?" We broke up for Easter on the Friday afternoon and later that day came the announcement. "No exams but assessments instead, exam boards will let you know more soon". The days ticked away as pupils, parents and teachers waited to hear the grand plan.

For some students this will be a great relief, the lead up to exams can be stressful and cause a lot of anxiety. However, the news may also have caused a lot of upset for students who might feel as though they have worked extremely hard over the last two years and this makes them concerned a lot of their sacrifices were worthless. The message to pupils is that it is important to remember that your hard work is not wasted because the knowledge that you have gained is still so valuable. Education was never introduced to test young people; it was to build transferable skills, acquire knowledge and allow children to grow emotionally as well as academically.

We now focus on gathering the evidence to allow pupils to be awarded the grades that their work deserves. At Hulme Hall we are fortunate to have small class sizes, staff know their pupils well and evidence is relatively straightforward to gather. Our Year 11 bubble did not bust and we switched very quickly to remote learning. I am confident that our pupils will receive the grades they deserve. It will be hard work for all involved but there is no other option than to make this work.

Pupils up and down the country should not be disadvantaged

### Grading system & autumn exams

Ofqual has confirmed details of how data and evidence of a student's grades will be submitted in this summer's awarding, and arrangements for examinations in the autumn.

Schools and colleges will be submitting their students' grades from 26 May until 18 June 2021. Once the grades are received, every centre will be asked to provide samples of student work.

Centres should retain the work and records of marking or grading judgements as exam boards will request samples after 18 June. It will also be needed if a student wishes to appeal their result.

Students who receive a teacher assessed grade this summer will be eligible to take GCSE, AS or A level exams in the same subject in autumn 2021, Ofqual has confirmed.

This also applies to those students who exam boards believe would have sat exams in summer 2021 had they not been cancelled.

Ofqual has also decided that:

- exam boards will have to offer exams in all GCSE and A level subjects and AS exams in biology, chemistry, further maths, maths and physics; exam boards will be able to offer AS exams in other subjects if they wish
- exams will be in their normal format, with no adaptations made
- grades will be determined by a student's performance in an exam for all subjects, except for art and design qualifications
- AS and A level exams will be held in October, while GCSE exams will take place in November and December

because of the pandemic. Was there a better way of organising how pupils should be assessed and awarded grades this year? I honestly do not know but I would expect there to be a plan A, B and C put in place by the decision makers facing future challenges the sector faces.

## Art Competition

Miss McGrath is running an Art competition to design the front cover of the ISA national sports events programme 2021/2022. The top 9 covers will be submitted to the national ISA competition on 28th June.



**ISA ARTS**  
**Sports Design Competition**  
**2021**

This competition is open to all years (7-11)

**You are invited to design the image/s for the front cover of the ISA national sports events' programmes 2021/2022.**

- The image must be A5 (Half A4) portrait.
- As it is a sports programme, think about what sports you could consider, (Football, Basketball, Badminton, Tennis, Swimming, Athletics etc).
- The cover can be created either by hand or digitally.
- Text must not be included.
- Be creative!
- See Miss McGrath for more information.

Only 9 pieces of work can be entered per school, so there will be a School vote to choose 9 covers to be entered for the ISA competition, pupils can vote for their favourite, and there will be prizes given to the final 9 in School.

The winning 9 pieces of work will be put forward for the main ISA competition. Then the work will be in for a chance of being selected for the A5 front cover for the 2021-2022 National Swimming, Athletics, Cross Country, Triathlon, Football, Hockey, Tennis and Netball Championships programmes.

Copies will go to the event spectators - more than 1,200 of them in total.

**Deadline for entries: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June**

**Judging week: 21<sup>st</sup> June. Results & prizes: 28<sup>th</sup> June.**

## Year 5 Taster Day

Our Year 5 Taster Day for entry to start Year 7 in 2022 is fast approaching and we have our last few places on the day remaining.

If you know of anyone who may be interested, please ask them to fill out the booking form on our website or contact Mrs Cooke on 0161 485 3524.



Happy Holiday!



**Hulme Hall**  
**Grammar School**  
•Caring •Nurturing •Achieving

Visit the website  
or call  
0161 485 3524 to  
book

**Year 5  
Taster Day**  
Saturday 3rd July  
9am —12.30pm  
Experience life at Hulme Hall

**Personal Tours\***  
Tuesday mornings  
throughout the  
summer term  
\*Subject to current government  
guidance

An independent school for  
boys and girls

Beech Avenue, Stockport, SK3 8HA  
Email: [admissions@hulmehallschool.org](mailto:admissions@hulmehallschool.org)  
Tel: 0161 485 3524

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [DE](#)  
[www.hulmehallschool.org](http://www.hulmehallschool.org)

# Half Term in Pictures...

