



STUDENT COUNCIL

April Newsletter

2023

Student Leadership Elections!

It's nearly time! Student leadership elections are coming up, and while your candidates prepare their campaigns, we talked to the current team (a.k.a. The Big Four) about what they think makes a truly special student leader.

Jessica Storr - Head Girl:

To me, the most valuable attribute of a student leader is to be approachable, and welcome conversation with everyone.



Tom Myerscough - Head Boy:

Determination: Making changes is hard, but if you have confidence in your abilities and keep trying, you'll get there.

Proactivity: Organise meetings, think up solutions, ask people around you. As amazing as Hall Cross is, it won't improve itself, so dedicate some time to ensuring what you want to change does.

Patience, patience, patience: Transforming something which impacts an entire school takes time, and often you'll find yourself waiting on others to do their bit, so just keep at it and I promise the results will be worth the wait.

Elisha Gug - Deputy Head Girl:

The most important values of being a student leader are ensuring you are personable and create a presence within school that allows people to feel comfortable coming to you regarding their issues. Therefore, you are able to impact school life accordingly and create strong community bonds that represent the values of Hall Cross. As well as this, an active engagement within student council allows a student leader to be up to date on the measures being added around school, thus allowing for effective communication.



Alex Rogers - Deputy Head Boy:

A great student leader is someone who can listen to the student body, represent their views and help to solve their problems. Being a leader isn't about being in charge but about being able to help those around them.

As a student leader the effects of what you do may seem small scale but it's about bringing real help to people in the most important stage of their lives, their education. It's also a good chance to help you to learn how to work well in a team and how to become a better leader.

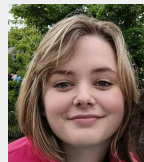
Being a Student Leader at Hall Cross is about affecting real change, about seeing the world and the immediacy of your surroundings and making it better. A leader must show they understand the struggles of those they represent and that they truly **CARE** about them. A true leader shows passion and enthusiasm for change on behalf of the **community**, displaying pride in the **achievements** of others as well as themselves, a leader **respects** those around them and when it is not found stands as a champion for **equality**. A true leader CAREs about themselves, their school and their position in the world. We have a wonderful, dedicated and passionate student body and to lead them is both an honour and a privilege which should be approached with equal fervour on their behalf. **Mr West - Student Leadership Coordinator**

Meet the Newsletter Team!



Charlotte Hodson - Editor and writer

Hi everyone, I'm Charlotte and I collate and create the newsletter each month. Outside of newsletter, I enjoy performing in school productions and the jazz band, as well as working towards my A Levels, with the hope of studying dentistry at university.



Ellison Smith - Writer

Hi, I'm Ellison and I am a writer for the newsletter. In my spare time I enjoy listening to music and watching as many films as possible. I am studying Spanish, English Lit and Photography and enjoy doing extra research around these topics, whether it be reading extra books or experimenting with different photography techniques.





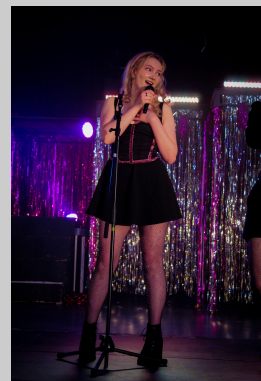
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Photos by Abi Gent



An incredible achievement from students this month was the production of Six the Musical: Teen Edition, performed on 25th April at Upper School. This production was created by an all student cast and creative team, led by Ashleigh James as Director, and supported by Charlotte Hodson as Musical Director and Jenny Micklethwaite as Choreographer. Alongside an incredibly talented cast, they created a historemix which wowed audience members with its witty humour, catchy songs and a story that everyone remembers from their GCSEs with a little twist...

Ashleigh (Director) would like to thank M. Dougherty, H. Wragg, C. Lyttle, P. Porter, A. Needham, Matthew Stevenson, Erin Fenlon, Janea Flores-Martinez, Jess Littledyke and Neve Harrison for their time, effort and contributions.

What isn't there to say about Hall Cross Academy's production of Six? One of the more simple productions the school has hosted, but that does not mean it wasn't bursting with quality. All six of the actors did a splendid job with every aspect of their character, and the vocals were superb, with each song sticking in my head for a while after the performance. So much to say for a short musical that will stand out to me for a while, for just how talented students are and wondering where they'll go next. - Harvey Barton, Y12

"It was absolutely fantastic, the harmonies were on fire, and everyone was absolutely brilliant!!" - Emma Pickering, Y12

"It was so good, and the cast played each character perfectly" - Lily Heap

"I know [cast member] can sing better ... I wasn't allowed to be involved" Alfie Blake, Y13

A massive congratulations to Jakub, Ayaan, Alicia, Lexie, Chad and Mollie in year 11 who have shown passion and dedication to their revision in the last few weeks.

Phenomenal reading work this month by Miss K's year 7 class - well done!

Mr West requested a shout out for the dedication of his Year 8 class who have taken to creative writing like majestic birds of prey ready to devour their creative rivals!



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Connie Boyd and Harli Stanton - Year 11

At the weekend their rugby team (Sandall) became National U16 RFU Champions, the game was played at Worcester Warriors Stadium (Sixfields) where they beat Horsham Rugby Club 29 - 14. Connie scoring 2 of the teams tries. They had never played rugby before until they started at Hall Cross in year 7.



Ethan Dennett - Year 11

Who recently became the South Yorkshire Schools Golf champion, triumphing over a very strong field at Hickleton Golf Club.





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Earth Day takes place this year on the 22nd of April. First established in 1970, the aim of this day is to spread awareness on the growing issue that is climate change and to raise funds to help support our planet. Nowadays Earth Day has over a billion participants in more than 193 countries passionate about our environment and conserving it for future generations. Events are held all over the world in support of this and encourages other people to join the cause. This year the official theme is 'Invest In Our Planet' which campaigns for improvements such as increased tree growth, renewable energy sources, supporting sustainable fashion as well as demanding governments and businesses to start making more changes for the better. It also asks that we as individuals start incorporating small changes into our everyday lives such as supporting responsible businesses or investing in items that are designed to last a long time resulting in less waste and carbon emissions. No matter how small the change, everything helps us build towards a greener future, one which we can all enjoy for years to come.

Climate change is a worldwide issue and affects everyone. It refers to long term change in weather patterns, whilst some changes to weather are normal due to the sun's natural activity, we humans have massively exacerbated the problem within the last 200 years. This is mainly due to a large increase in industrialisation which involves large amounts of fossil fuel burning. Fossil fuels are items such as coal, oil and natural gas which are all carbon based and non-renewable energy sources, not only are they finite as they take millions of years to form, they create greenhouse gas emissions which become trapped in the atmosphere causing the earth to heat up as excess heat can no longer dissipate. These changes within the earth do not simply result in warmer weather but cause more complex issues such as droughts, forest fires, flooding and rising sea levels, terrible storms and a decrease in biodiversity. All these factors affect our way of life as we have to adapt to overcome new obstacles, this puts lower income communities especially at risk as they might not have the resources to do so.

We now have a responsibility as a population to try and reverse the effects of global warming as much as possible. One of the best ways to do so is by demanding change from governments and asking them to implement different strategies for reducing emissions. One of the many ways this can be achieved is by introducing a thing called Carbon Tax. This involves taxing the largest greenhouse gas producers and providing them with an incentive to cut down on their emissions. One of the first countries to do this was Sweden in 1991, this resulted in a 27% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Following this result, many other countries have installed this strategy within their own economies. Other strategies include international agreements, such as the Paris Agreement, and investing in new renewable energy sources like solar and hydroelectric power.

However, there are still many things that we ourselves can do, no matter how small the change, everything helps build towards a healthier environment. These can include eating more vegetable based meals and buying local produce. These both help to reduce food miles, this is the distance your food has to travel in order to reach your plate, and greenhouse emissions. Other ways of reducing your carbon footprint include investing in quality staple pieces for your wardrobe which are designed to last for many years, or even buying second hand and vintage items. Even simpler things such as walking to your destination or using public transport or bringing a reusable bag to the supermarket are things which can have a positive impact on a larger scale.

Hopefully this encourages you to start making some little changes in your life and makes you feel more informed about one of the biggest topics in media today. In order to combat this issue we all have to work together and stay informed. Even if sometimes it feels like nothing is changing, your help is making a big difference and will continue to improve life for future generations.



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April started off with World Autism Acceptance Week!

Autism is a spectrum condition and affects people in different ways. However, women and girls are diagnosed significantly less than men and boys, and BAME people have lower rates of diagnosis and can struggle to receive support that they need.

Here is some information about how schools and workplaces can be made more accessible to autistic people.

1 Anxiety about unexpected changes or events

Autistic people may... feel anxiety about changes or unexpected events.

Top tips:

1. Give people as much notice as possible about changes to plans or events they might not be expecting.
2. If someone is distressed because of changes or unexpected events, give them time to calm down.
3. Understand that what might feel like a small change or a nice surprise to you, can seem very scary to some people.



2 Sensory sensitivity

Autistic people may...

be under- or over-sensitive to sound, smells, light, taste and touch. This is called sensory sensitivity.



Top tips:

1. Provide a quiet space to retreat to when needed.
2. Understand that autistic people can be extremely sensitive to things like noise, bright lights or certain types of touch - for some even hugging can be painful.
3. If you know you are going to places with bright lights or loud noises, give people advance warning to they can plan around this or prepare themselves.

3 Time to process information

Autistic people may... need extra time to process information, like questions or instructions.

Top tips:

1. Take the time to explain things clearly and give people time to process and respond.
2. Remember clear communication is good for everyone.
3. At work or school, make sure important points like rules or instructions are given in writing.



www.autism.org.uk

4 Social anxiety

Autistic people may... face high levels of anxiety in social situations.

Top tips:

1. When arranging social events give plenty of notice and as much information of what to expect as possible.
2. Provide a quiet calmer space at your event where people can retreat to.
3. Think about how to alleviate the anxiety - like sitting your autistic guest next to someone they know.



5 Communication and interaction

Autistic people may...

have difficulties communicating and interacting with others.



Top tips:

1. Do not rely on body language or facial expressions as some autistic people can struggle with this.
2. If someone is having difficulty communicating, give them time. If you still don't get a response, try re-phrasing what you said.
3. Try to avoid irony, sarcasm, abstract language and idioms as some autistic people find it difficult to understand it. Use clear language and say what you mean.

More information

There are lots of easy ways for you to help us create a society that works for autistic people.

www.autism.org.uk



The National Autistic Society is a charity registered in England and Wales (269425) and in Scotland (SC039427)



World Autism Acceptance Week
27 March - 2 April 2023

Exam Season...

As exam season draws nearer and nearer, some of us might find it difficult to cope with stress or even things like good time management. Even though it seems like quite a while until exams it is a good idea to start getting into good habits, practising little and often rather than cramming for the exam the night before. This habit helps to convert the things you need to long term memory, which will help you to retain more information in the long term. Revision can come in many forms, so it's good to find a method that works for you, for example flashcards, mind maps, note taking etc. With revision, it's best to split up your work into sections: one of the best methods for retaining information and not getting burnt out is working in 30 minute intervals with a short 10 minute break. While the break may seem short it gives enough time to relax before jumping onto the next part of your revision. And finally, remember to take care of yourself, leaving room for social activities and food breaks can really help you to manage revision without becoming overwhelmed and stressed out.



Hall Cross Career Activities

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On our return after the Easter holidays we hosted the Jay Perez Roadshow Story for all of our Year 10 students. This was a great opportunity that informed students about the vast range of careers available in health and social care. The event was a great success, with positive feedback from the students.



LMI: Labour Market Information

Each month we share both the LMI in Doncaster and South Yorkshire. The purpose of sharing this information is to share with you the local job opportunities, what skills employers are looking for and where there are good job prospects. Please see March's data below:

