



## Mr Wilson's Weekly Message

This week is an incredibly proud one for me as a Headteacher. As you know, before half term we were visited by OFSTED for our school inspection. I vividly remember receiving that phone call and grinning from ear to ear. I remember excitedly telling staff and students that we had our chance to show the world just how good our school really is. After two days at The Hurlingham Academy, the Lead Inspector was confident in announcing, "This is a good school". What made me even more proud is that those two days were just like every other day of the school year. Teachers taught excellent lessons in disruption free classrooms; pupils readily participated in House competitions and events and I loved my job just like I do every day.



Students at Hurlingham were described by the inspectors as "delightful". The student panel, including prefects and the Head Boy and Girl, spoke of the positive changes that had been made during their five years at school and how they could now enjoy their learning. During the inspector's feedback to me, I was pleased to hear that all staff are highly ambitious for our pupils. Our culture of high expectations alongside our rigorous approach to gaining valuable knowledge was visible to OFSTED inspectors and is evidenced in our exceptionally good GCSE results.

The Hurlingham Academy is officially a 'Good' school but I am not stopping there. I am so proud of everything that we have achieved: the pupils, community and staff have worked exceptionally hard to get to this point. As I sit here, reflecting on our progress so far, I realise just how exciting the next stage is: the journey to 'Outstanding'. I have told parents since my first day as Headteacher of this school, we will become one of the best schools in London and this report is a very important step in achieving that goal.

As soon as Ofsted have published the report, I will ensure a link is circulated to all parents. In the mean time, I have attached the summary sheet to the end of this newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I did.

## Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening

On Thursday evening we held our annual meet the tutor event for year 7 parents. It was brilliant to see such a great turnout of parents, and hear such positive reports of your child's first term at the Academy. We look forward to working with you all throughout the next 5 years. We should also take this time to thank Ms Venegas, Ms Thompson and the tutors for all their hard work in ensuring year 7 settled so quickly into our school community.



## Black History Month Winners

Our Black history Month celebrations culminated in a celebration of culture at A Taste of Hurlingham. Over 50 dishes were donated by staff and members of the community which we were so grateful for. Of our staff dishes, Dr Deng's Pandan Chiffon Cake from Malaysia and Thailand was the winning dish with guests saying it was both creative and delicious.

Of the student and parent entries, one cake stood out from the rest. Brook Flower's strawberry cake was decorated beautifully – a truly deserving winner!



In tutor groups, students studied a range of authors, each of whom write stories and poems about the idea of freedom. They then entered a creative competition to present what their tutor group thought about Freedom. The entries were fantastic – ranging from bird cages with student statements; collaboratively written inspirational poems and videos of all kinds. This year's winning tutor group for the 2017 Black History Month competition is 7B. Their tutor group worked together to create a poster and video representing what freedom meant to them. Not only was their video beautifully shot and edited, it also demonstrated how they can celebrate their differences within their tutor group, whilst simultaneously creating a community. 7B – congratulations and enjoy your doughnut party!



## The Academy Scholars Programme

The Academy's Scholars programme got off to a great start with Dr Rebecca Brewer's presentation to the group entitled 'Do people with autism understand emotions?'. The talk explored how autism comes in different forms ranging from social interaction difficulties to differing abilities to understand emotions. The relatively new field of Alexithymia was the main topic, a specialist condition where those affected struggle to recognise emotions in themselves and others. Lecturers and visiting staff were extremely impressed, and the level of engagement from all pupils was outstanding.



Scholars Lana, Gintare, Jasmyna and Jude (year 9) described the programme as "an excellent opportunity to explore new and exciting topics, and build on your understanding in a range of academic fields."

Upcoming talks include experts in the fields of literature, public policy and neuroscience. After this promising start we have an exciting, stretching and fun year ahead.



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## House Events



This week has been an incredibly busy and exciting week for the house system. Firstly, we would like to say a warm welcome to Ms Hateley, our new Head of Aequitas. We have no doubt that through her fabulous leadership and dedication to her house, Aequitas will have a great year ahead of them.

It was KS4's turn to show off their football skills during the house competition this Wednesday. Veritas were very confident before the whistle was blown but it was Caritas who took the 100 points with 2 wins and a draw just beating Veritas. Aequitas and Unitas had a goal-thrilling last game for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. With a late goal, it was Aequitas who took 3<sup>rd</sup> place, frustrating Unitas who finished bottom. Mr Cheetham was less than impressed!

House assemblies were held this Thursday, to enable pupils to celebrate the successes of their houses in the first half of the Autumn term. During the assembly, house reps were also given the opportunity to introduce themselves to their house. From house chanting with Unitas to motivational videos with Caritas, the school was positively buzzing with competitive spirit. Let the games continue!



## Getting to know you—Ms Grubb

**Name:** Ms Grubb

**Job:** Teacher of Spanish

**Favourite Book:** I Am Pilgrim

**Interesting fact about me:** I have lived in 4 different countries.

**1st impressions of THA:** It is such a fantastic place to work – I was made to feel right at home from the first day by pupils and teachers alike.



## Key dates for week beginning November 13th—week 1

Description	Date	Time
Whole School Assembly	13.11.17	8.30-9.00



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## A Summary of the Ofsted Report

<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	<b>Good</b>
Effectiveness of leadership and management	<b>Good</b>
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment	<b>Good</b>
Personal development, behaviour and welfare	<b>Good</b>
Outcomes for pupils	<b>Good</b>
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Not previously inspected

### Summary of key findings for parents and pupils

#### This is a good school

- This is a good and much improved school. The principal and senior team, strongly supported by the staff, have taken swift and decisive action to improve it.
- Leaders are highly ambitious for the academy and its pupils. Led by the dynamic principal, they have created a lively and positive climate for learning.
- Outcomes for pupils across the academy are now good. In 2017, attainment and progress at GCSE were above the national average.
- Teachers have high expectations for what pupils can achieve and are challenging them more.
- Pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities are well supported, as are pupils who speak English as an additional language. As a result, they are making good progress.
- Disadvantaged pupils are also making good progress and achieving well because teaching is being targeted more effectively to support their learning.
- Pupils behave well in lessons and around the building. They are polite and friendly and treat each other and adults with respect.
- Attendance was low but it has improved rapidly as a result of rigorous action. Attendance is now in line with the national average.
- Leaders keep the curriculum under review to make sure that it meets pupils' needs. An exciting range of extra-curricular activities such as 'cultural capital' help to widen pupils' interests.
- The governors know the academy very well and have worked effectively to monitor its progress and ensure its long-term success.
- The United Learning Trust provides high-quality support and challenge. This helps senior staff to sustain the academy's rapid improvement.
- Parents are positive about the academy, and most believe that their children are doing well.
- Pupils said that they feel safe at the academy and parents confirmed that they believe their children are safe.
- Pupils generally respond well to effective teaching but are not always confident or resilient enough to persevere when they find work difficult.
- Though teaching is good, leaders know that questioning and feedback could be used more effectively to help pupils to make even better progress.
- The work of subject leaders in English and mathematics has had a real impact on raising standards in their subjects. In other subjects, more recently appointed leaders have not yet had the same impact.



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