

Newsletter



'This is a harmonious community' - Ofsted 2007

Hall Cross School

Ofsted Inspection

The school had an Ofsted Inspection on the 7th and 8th of November.

We are delighted to report that the 'notice to improve' has been lifted.

A team of five inspectors, led by an HMI, spent two days in the School. The outcome of the inspection was very positive and inspectors commented that Hall Cross School was an improving school.

The curriculum, care, guidance and support were all graded as good. The School was identified as providing a wider choice of courses to fit individual interests and aspirations, including more practical and vocational alternatives to GCSE. A rapid and positive impact on outcomes and trends was acknowledged.

Behaviour and work habits are good and pupils generally treat each other with care and respect, though these things sometimes cause some parents concern. Pupils commented that they felt safe and the School successfully helps pupils to develop as considerate and open minded individuals.

.....continued on Page 2

Letter from the Chair of Governors

Dear Parent/Carer,

As the new Chair of Governors I would like to thank all staff and students for their efforts over the past year. The hard work invested in the school has been rightly recognised by the Ofsted team. The many positive aspects of Hall Cross identified in the Report will be used as a foundation for further improvement. Mrs Jackson (Associate Headteacher) and Dr Simmonds (Executive Headteacher) have already discussed with Governors the measures required to make Hall Cross an 'outstanding' School. I am sure that with a high degree of commitment in school and your continued support, we will realise this ambition. Our students deserve no less.

Phil Marshall
Chair of Governors

Autumn 2007



Contents

Special Interest Articles

Ofsted Inspection	1
University Undergraduates	2
Work Experience	3
Stockil Trust	4

Individual Highlights

Chair of Governors	1
Key Stage 4 Options Choices	2
Contact Details	4
Our Vision	4
Diary Dates	4
Performance Drawing Event	4

The School currently has a vacancy for a Parent Governor – if you are interested please contact the School for further details.

'Behaviour is good'

Ofsted 2007

Ofsted Inspection - continued



The School was described as having a clear sense of direction, with skilful strategic management. The school development plan was praised for having a strong grasp of priorities. The tracking system developed by the School was described as comprehensive and sophisticated.

- help more of the managers to assist in improving the School
- help the governors play their part in making the School effective
- ensure the views of parents are heard and used.

The School has been tasked to:

- increase the proportion of lessons that stimulate pupils to think independently so that progress accelerates

Hall Cross has the potential to be an outstanding School and we look forward to working in partnership with parents, pupils and governors to achieve this.

The School operates a Breakfast Club at the Lower School Site – breakfast is available from 8.00am onwards with healthy choices.

KS4 - Option Choices

Soon after Christmas our Year 9 pupils and parents will be making important decisions about their future study at the School.

We offer a variety of traditional and vocational study pathways and details of these will be sent to every pupil in Year 9.

The School will offer guidance to every student on the options available.



University Undergraduates

This year, for the first time, Hall Cross has enrolled a group of talented Sixth Form students on to undergraduate degree courses with the Open University.

Thanks to the School's specialist status as a Science and Mathematics College, 11 students were funded for a variety of short courses in science related topics.

The students have followed independent study of units in Physics, Biology and Chemistry, showing admirable self-motivation and organizational skills as well as a love for their subject. So far 7 students have submitted their work for assessment and all have passed with flying colours.

David Taylor	Molecules, medicines and drugs
Yugal Angbo	Molecules, medicines and drugs
Katy Rhodes	Molecules, medicines and drugs
Jonathan Maw	How the universe works
Richard Maw	How the universe works
Mehbub Ali	Understanding human nutrition
Vincent Chan	Understanding human nutrition



'Students value their school highly' - Ofsted 2007

Work Experience Parents' Evening

This was held on Wednesday 17th October for parents/carers and pupils in Year 10.

All of our present Year 10 pupils will be given the chance to participate in a two week placement with a local employer between 30th June and 11th July 2008. This will give the pupils the opportunity to learn from practical experience in the workplace which will help them with the decisions they make post 16. It will help to broaden horizons, increase self-confidence and improve their career chances.

The aim of the above evening was to involve parents/carers in supporting their son/daughter in this important activity. The aims and outcome of Work Experience were covered as was the application process.

Four of our pupils who went on Work Experience last July spoke about their experiences.

- Hannah Walker - Beresfords Solicitors
- Billy Woolrich - Sycamore Primary School
- Amy Carter - Pizza Hut at Lakeside
- Leanne Urquhart - Brightsparks Day Nursery

The evening concluded with a brief talk by Alan Dunn, one of the school's careers advisers from Connexions. Alan outlined the support available from Connexions to pupils in Years 10 and 11.

Important Dates

- 31st March - Completed application forms handed in to BESY.
- 30th June to 11th July - Work Experience.
- 14th July - Pupils return to school and are debriefed.



Did You Know?

Did you know Hall Cross School has been in existence since 1350.

Did you know one of our former students won the George Medal for bravery.

Did you know the School is offering 12 vocational pathways at Key Stage 4 including BTEC and OCR programmes of study in Media, ICT and Hospitality & Catering.

Did you know that during the war the boys of Doncaster Grammar School had a fire watch ARP station on the school roof!

Did you know that the person who designed the School library building also designed St Pancras Station and his *brother* designed the classic red telephone box.

Congratulations to all pupils at Hall Cross Lower School who raised £506.40 for Children in Need



'The academic guidance for the sixth form is very good'
Ofsted 2007

Newsletter

Upper School
Thorne Road
Doncaster
DN1 2HY
Phone: 01302 320626
Fax: 01302 322190

Lower School
St. Michael's Road
Bessacarr
Doncaster
DN4 5LU
Phone: 01302 535559
Fax: 01302 533960

hxadmin@hallcross.doncaster.sch.uk

Find us on the Web:
www.hallcross.doncaster.sch.uk

Our Vision

A centre of excellence in learning in our community and in the borough where the success and development of all is of paramount importance.

Our Values & Beliefs

An individual learns best in a secure, ordered, respectful and positive environment.

Learning should be personalised involving appropriate curriculum, time, assessment, ICT and other providers.

We are a vibrant community with outstanding teachers and support staff, enabling each young person to achieve their best and so contribute positively throughout their lives.

A centre which aims to help students to develop a secure self image based on success.

Our school community is a happy, well ordered environment in which all feel respected and valued.

Our overall aim is to provide an education which enables each student to realise his/her potential in as many areas of life as possible.

The School is committed to equal opportunities in learning and the safeguarding of children.

Phil Marshall
Chair of Governors

Diary Dates

3rd & 4th January 2008 – School Training Days.

7th January 2008 – Spring Term commences.

9th January 2008 – Yr 12 & 13 Examinations begin.

15th January 2008 – Yr 9 Mock SATS.

23rd January 2008 – Key Stage 4 Interviews for Yr 9.

24th January 2008 – Yr 11 Parents' Evening.

31st January 2008 – Key Stage 4 Options Evening for Yr 9.

The Stockil Trust

The Stockil Trust is a little known part of the rich historical legacy of Hall Cross School. In the days of Doncaster Grammar School, former pupils occasionally chose to show their appreciation for what the school had done for them by leaving a sum of money for the benefit of future students. Such was the case with Robert Stockil. In 1899 he left a sum of money to help disadvantaged students with difficult personal circumstances to progress in whatever sphere of education was otherwise denied them.

The Trust still exists today and we are pleased to report that a talented former student of Hall Cross has benefited from some sponsorship by the Trust to enable her to pursue a prestigious MA course in Creative Writing. This course has produced many published writers in recent years including Lesley Glaister and Marina Lewycka; so we are confident that thanks to Robert Stockil, Hall Cross will one day be able to boast its own award winning novelist.

Performance Drawing Event October 2007

Over 100 students from both school sites led by Ms Keki and Miss Smithson worked together in response to the theme 'Drawing Together' to produce a monumental 10 metre by 1.5 metre drawing. The drawing was produced through the exploration of Dance, movement and mark making techniques. It has been displayed in the Art department and will be exhibited at the Dance Showcase event in December and following this at Lower School.

