



GRINDON HALL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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Principal: Mrs Joanne Maw

October 2017 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers

The new school year is now in full swing and there have been many exciting events taking place in school. Here are some highlights from last month:

NCS Award

Mrs Campbell and Mrs Maw were invited to collect the National Citizenship Service Award on behalf of students of Grindon Hall Christian School. Our school was the NCS winner for Sunderland because we had the highest percentage participation rate of Year 11 students. This award illustrates just how community spirited our young people are and we are incredibly proud of them!



Family Fun Run

We were delighted with the turn out for our first ever family fun run. We thoroughly enjoyed seeing everyone take part in a morning of healthy activity. Whether you ran, jogged, walked, were carried or pushed along, we appreciated your participation in what we hope will become an annual event. We raised £617.37 in total-fantastic!



Harvest Festival-Thank you!

Primary and Senior students celebrated Harvest Festivals in the week before October half term. All donations were taken to the Salvation Army Food Bank and we have a lovely message of thanks from them. Thank you to all who gave so generously to this excellent cause.



Wear it Pink

A proactive group of Year 10 girls initiated a colourful end to our first half term! In return for a donation to the Wear it Pink Breast Cancer Charity, staff and students alike arrived in school wearing a pink accessory. Some were a little more obvious than others! Thanks to many generous donations, we raised over £230, and had some fun in the process.



Y 7 Residential trip to Barcaple

Many of our new Year 7s had a wonderful experience at Barcaple, taking part in a huge range of outdoor activities designed to challenge and develop teams building skills. They returned safely but exhausted!



Restart a Heart

Many groups of our senior students learned how to restart a heart at a workshop. A short investment in time that could one day save a life. That certainly seems like productive use of an hour!



Y12 Historians

Mr Hutton is pleased to report that two outstanding Y13 historians, Nicole Stockton and Zora Gillgallon, were selected to participate in the *Lessons from Auschwitz* (LFA) Project. The project, organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust, involved a one-day visit to the former Nazi concentration and death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau, Poland. Nicole and Zora will become Ambassadors for the LFA Project.

Y5 Campus Explorers

Y5 students were challenged to aim high, develop their team work skills and improve their knowledge and understanding of university life when Newcastle University came in to school to work with them for an afternoon.



Dates for Your Diary

School Closure for staff Inset Day-20th November.

Please make a note of this in your diary!

Parents' Evenings

29th November- Reception to Y5, Primary parents' evening (not Y6)

5th December- Y6, Y11 and Y13 Parents' Evening (and exam briefing session)

Trips and Visits

9th, 10th, 13th November- Y4,5,6 Bible comes alive visits to Bethesda Ford Mission

15th November Anti bullying conference (AM, Primary students=, PM senior students)

23rd November Y5 visit - Christmas lights visit (reward for winning the 'Light Up' competition)

24th November Y6 trip- University Safari Day at Newcastle University.

4th December- Y3 visit to National Railway Museum Shildon

6th December –Reception theatre performance (Lily and the Snow Bear)

In School Events

17th November- Children In Need fundraising day

KS2 Primary Christmas Production

	a.m.	p.m.
Thurs 7 th December	Y6 & Y4	Y1 & Y2
Fri 8 th December	Y1 & Y2	Y6 & Y4
Mon 11 th December	Reception	Y5 & Y3
Tues 12 th December	Y5 & Y3	Reception

21st November Y7 Fundraising 'silent disco'

14th December- Christmas Carol Concert (PM)

15th December- Last day of Michaelmas Term & Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day

Reminder: PTPA Story Telling Evening-9th November

Sun FM's School of the Week

A small group of our year 5 and 6 children were interviewed by Tim West, presenter of the afternoon show on SUM FM. Grindon Hall will be school of the week during the week commencing 11th December!

The Brilliant Club

A group of 12 Year 9 and 10 students enjoyed a trip to Durham university as the first stage in their involvement in the 'Brilliant club'.

Poppies

Some of our Year 10 boys asked if they could sell poppies and pins in aid of Remembrance Sunday. Paper poppies are available for any donations, all other items cost £2 and will be on sale until our school remembrance day assemblies or until we run out of stock!

Assembly Visits

Our assembly programme has once again included some inspiring guest speakers. Just before half term we were honoured and inspired to hear from Poncho Monguia, from Juarez, Mexico, who talked about his work to transform his city, once known as 'Mexico's murder valley'. His stories captivated students.

Our most recent visit was from Linda Scanlan, Deputy Mayor of Sunderland who talked about her role over the coming year and the many exciting opportunities linked to our City of Culture bid.



New Website

Our previous website (www.grindonhall.com) closed last month and our new website is now up and running.

Please note the new URL www.grindonhall.org

Parking Issues and school crossing

Our School crossing patrol is unavailable for the coming week, please take extra care around the entrance of the school.

Thank you for keeping our children safe by staying in parking bays until the gates have opened at the end of the school days.

Unfortunately, we have had complaints from local residents about people collecting school children parking in the bays of private car parks in the sheltered accommodation, or blocking access to this accommodation. Please show consideration to our local residents. If the situation is not improved, it is likely that the police will be asked to monitor the situation.

Parental Feedback

Thank you to those parents who took the time to complete and return the feedback form in the September newsletter. The main issues raised were:

- Poor communication between school and home
- lack of lockers for students

We are investigating ways of getting information to you more quickly, including with the use of email and text alert.

If there are any areas of school life you would like to feedback to us about please contact us via email on info@grindonhall.com or by using the feedback skip below.

Feedback

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