



Mr Wilson's Weekly Message



I personally love the month of September. I love that it brings so many new possibilities and opportunities. I enjoy sitting down and setting myself some new goals for the upcoming academic year. Of course, making more use of my exercise bike is always a target, as well as ensuring that we have another record breaking year here at Hurlingham. This week I have been reflecting on how many extra-curricular opportunities have been offered to our pupils, despite it only being to first full week of term. Already we have had 3 house competitions, during which we found out some very interesting new facts about some of our members of staff (did you know one member of staff once received a Christmas card from Nelson Mandela, and another went to school with Jack Grealish) and 2 trips. One goal I would love all pupils to set for themselves this academic year is to really make the most of the opportunities that we offer.

This week I have also had the pleasure of visiting a number of our local primary schools to meet with year 6 parents. I can honestly say that the feedback we have been hearing about The Hurlingham Academy and our pupils has been humbling. Hearing such fantastic feedback in the community has made me even more excited for our annual open evening on Wednesday 2nd October. I can't wait to be able to open our doors and show off all the fantastic work that is happening across the academy. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Knowledge Organiser Assemblies

This week key stage 3 pupils have been learning about the importance of their knowledge organisers and how best to self quiz. Learning key words in all subjects is vital in ensuring pupils are able to access the curriculum. Pupils were incredibly engaged throughout the sessions, and I have already seen some wonderful self study during break and lunchtimes.



Subject in the spotlight



This week's subject in the spotlight is.... English with the second in charge of English, Mme Ali.

Year 7:

Year 7 students are beginning their secondary English curriculum with a deep dive into powerful war poetry. They are discovering various poetic methods and examining the significance of word choice. Their studies include works by renowned WWI poets like Wilfred Owen and Vera Brittain. We are proud to see Year 7 students developing empathy for these poets' experiences and creating their own poetic pieces inspired by their exploration.

Year 8:

Year 8 students are delving into the compelling world of Charlotte Brontë's classic Victorian novel, *Jane Eyre*. This gripping story, filled with gothic intrigue and dramatic twists, follows a young girl's journey through a tumultuous and unpredictable world. As they explore the novel, students are engaging in thought-provoking discussions about gender roles and social expectations, while also uncovering Brontë's insightful messages to her readers.

Year 9:

Year 9 students are immersing themselves in one of Shakespeare's most dramatic and tragic plays: *Romeo and Juliet*. They are engaging with the classic love story through reading, viewing performances and acting out scenes, diving deep into its themes of love and conflict.

Year 10:

Year 10 students are beginning their GCSE English studies with Stevenson's '*The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*'. This gripping and intricate text features complex characters and a mystery that unfolds only at the end. In addition to exploring this challenging novel, students are honing their creative writing skills, focusing on crafting well-structured and expressive narratives.

Year 11:

Year 11 begin the year with their final Literature text: *Princess & The Hustler*. This is a play about the world of a 10-year old girl and her family living in 1960s Bristol. A picture of everyday family life set against the backdrop of the Bristol bus boycott, this play brings a previously untold, yet significant chapter in Black British history into the spotlight. Students have the opportunity to explore both big political issues and ideas that remain relevant today, such as racism and love and empowerment and also, the more personal and universal pursuit of dreams and aspirations.



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Snack Shack



We are pleased to announce the grand opening of our snack shack. Pupils have enjoyed being able to buy food here as well as the canteen, making it much quicker and easier for them to purchase food at both breaktime and lunchtime. From the photo you can see that Mr Wilson is also incredibly pleased the opening.

Scientific Calculators

In order to fully access both science and maths lessons all pupils require a **scientific calculator**. Please ensure that pupils are bringing a calculator each day as part of their equipment. If pupils are unsure which calculator to buy or where to purchase one, please come and speak to the maths department, who will be happy to support.



Key dates for weeks beginning 16th and 23rd September

Description	Date	Time
Whole school assembly	Monday 16th September	8:30-9:00
Year 7 Prep	Monday 16th – Thursday 19th September	15:30 - 16:30
Year 8 Royal Institute visit	Tuesday 17th September	9:00-13:00
Year 11 Final Push Evening	Thursday 26th September	17:00-18:00
SEND Parent Workshop	Friday 27th September	9:30-10:30





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Open Evening 2024

Wednesday 2nd October, 5:00pm - 7.30pm.

Principal's talk at 6.15pm

Open Mornings 2024

Time: 9:00am - 12:30pm

Monday 7th to Friday 11th October • Monday 14th to Friday 18th October

Monday 21st & Wednesday 23rd October

If you would like to know more, do come and see us for yourself.
You do not need to make an appointment – just turn up!



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2024/25 Training & Development Offer

Our offer

A programme of FREE training and development opportunities for all H&F parents and carers.

Hammersmith and Fulham Virtual School have developed a programme of webinars and face to face training across the 2024/25 academic year to support education providers to fully understand the needs of our most vulnerable children.



For booking details, please see the last page of this booklet.

All sessions are delivered by external experts and fully funded by the Virtual School. Places can be booked using the Microsoft Forms link. Webinars are delivered over Zoom or Teams. Links will be sent 48 hours before each session.



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2024/25 Training & Development Offer

Autumn Term

For Parents & Carers:

Dyslexia, Dyspraxia and
Dyscalculia
Dr Sarah Moseley

19th November 2024
10-12pm

An informative session designed to provide an overview understanding of dyslexia, dyspraxia, and dyscalculia.

Key Highlights:

- Understand neurodiverse differences dyslexia, dyspraxia, and dyscalculia are, including their characteristics and how they differ.
- Learn about the common signs and differences to help identify these learning differences.
- Explore the Impact on Learning and Daily Life: Understand how dyslexia, dyspraxia, and dyscalculia affect academic performance and everyday activities. Recognise the strengths and challenges of each.
- Access Effective Support Strategies: Discover practical strategies to support your child's learning at home and in school. Learn about assistive technologies and resources that can help your child overcome challenges.
- Navigate the Educational System: Gain insights into working with schools to ensure your child receives the appropriate support and accommodations importance of Plans and how to advocate for your child's needs.
- Foster a Positive and Encouraging Environment: Learn ways to boost your child's confidence and self-esteem

This session will equip you with the knowledge and tools to better understand and support your child with dyslexia, dyspraxia, or dyscalculia, helping them thrive both academically and personally.



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2024/25 Training & Development Offer

Spring Term

For Parents & Carers:

**Understanding Brain Development
in Children**
Amelia Brunt

28th January 2025
10-12pm

Amelia Brunt is an Attachment Lead Teacher and Specialist Educator in Trauma Informed and Responsive Practice. Amelia provides training, workshops and keynote speeches to audiences across the UK as well as working directly with schools and families to support regulated and relational approaches to mental health and successful life outcomes.

As children we are extremely flexible and adaptable to the situations we are born into. Due to the size of our human brains, we are born ready and primed to absorb all of the experiences offered to us, particularly in the first months and years of life. During the first three to five years there is rapid growth and brain development. Indeed, some consider this an additional period of gestation outside of the womb, which other animals don't need to survive. The reality of this flexible and adaptable approach to brain development is both amazing and fragile at the same time. Following extensive research over the past 30 years we now have a much better understanding of the neurobiology of brain development and how our experiences can shape both our brains and our behaviours, determining how healthy and successful we might be in later life. The good news is that nothing is set in stone and there is also extensive research showing how positive, patient and nurturing relationships can support changes in brain architecture and healthier outcomes for young people long term.

In this training we will consider what factors effect brain development, the balance of positive and adverse childhood experiences and how every individual child is unique, even if born into the same family. We will explore how our experiences effect both brain and body development and emphasise the phenomenal ability of the human brain to adapt and heal. This session is as much about the parent/carer and supporting their needs as it is about the child. Together we can grow healthier brains to support ongoing mental health and positive life experiences.



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2024/25 Training & Development Offer

Spring Term

For Parents & Carers:
Play Therapy
Wendy Sawyer

7th February 2025
10-12pm

Play therapy is a form of therapeutic intervention designed primarily for children to help them express their feelings, explore their thoughts, and process their experiences through play. Since children may lack the verbal skills to articulate their emotions and experiences effectively, play therapy uses the natural medium of play to facilitate communication and healing.

This webinar will cover:

- What is play therapy?
- What does a play therapist do?
- When is play therapy useful?
- Who can refer a child to play therapy?
- Methods of play therapy
- What can I do to support my child during play therapy?
- What will my child experience during play therapy?
- Can I do play therapy with my child?
- The importance of play
- What activities can be used to engage therapeutically? (try out an activity)

There will also be an opportunity to ask questions and even engage in more play!



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2024/25 Training & Development Offer

Spring Term

For Parent & Carers:
Communicating with Children & Young People
Christina Enright

13th March 2025
10-12pm

When children feel that they are listened to and that their feelings are valued, they are able to develop a stronger relationship with social workers, foster carers and educators.

In turn, listening to children's feelings and needs helps professionals to give effective support and make better decisions about their care.

Because children may not always find it easy to talk about worries or difficult feelings, it is just as important to observe how children behave and what remains unsaid, as well as what they do say.

This session covers non-verbal communication in addition to verbal communication and offers advice on listening to children and young people, along with important confidentiality and recording procedures.

This webinar includes:

- The importance of good communication
- Communication considerations
- Your role in communication
- What's in a question?
- How you can help



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Booking details for webinars can be found here:

For Parents & Carers:

<https://forms.office.com/e/0QCBKt30E1>

For any queries please contact Della Freedman
della.freedman@lbhf.gov.uk



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Training and development opportunities

We are pleased to introduce the Confident Parent Happy Child programme, offering invaluable support right here in LBHF. This initiative provides expert guidance and resources to enhance parenting skills and child development. From workshops on effective communication to managing challenging behaviors, the programme equips parents with practical strategies. Whether you seek advice on emotional well-being or nurturing resilience, there are tailored sessions to suit every need. Visit their website for upcoming events and to register. Together, let's build stronger families and brighter futures for our children.

Please see web link [Confident Parent Happy Child parenting programme Hammersmith Fulham \(upg.org.uk\)](https://upg.org.uk) and some examples of courses below:

PARENTS ACTIVE

Parentsactive is the forum for parent/carer of a child/young person with disabilities or special educational needs living in Hammersmith & Fulham. Parentsactive offers informative coffee mornings and training.

CENTRE	COURSE DETAILS	DATES / TIMES	CONTACT
Masbro Centre 87 Masbro Road W14 0LR	PARENTS ACTIVE Session for parents who have a child with additional needs	Runs fortnightly on Tuesdays 10.00 – 12.00pm	Nandini Ganesh 020 8748 5168 nandini.ganesh@hfmencap.org



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

[SFSC] A 13-week programme for parents/carers who have a child between 3-18 years of age. Parents are introduced to a range of strategies to develop a close relationship with their child and encourage positive behaviour. The programme explores the impact of family, culture and community influences and explores how to keep children and young people safe.

CENTRE	COURSE DETAILS	DATES / TIMES	CONTACT
Masbro Centre 87 Masbro Road W14 0LR	SFSC Limited crèche places available for children under 5 years of age – booking required.	Every Thursday starting 19.09.2024 9.30 – 12.30pm No session during half term	Marina Kopanja 07740 752679 marina@upg.org.uk

WEST LONDON ACTION FOR CHILDREN: PARENTING GROUPS

West London Action for Children offers a range of counselling and therapy services for families in Hammersmith and Fulham. Please call to discuss your needs or for more information.

CENTRE	COURSE DETAILS	DATES / TIMES	CONTACT
West London Action for Children 15 Gertrude Street SW10 0JN	BREATHING SPACE – A mindfulness based stress reduction group supporting parents to experience more choice when responding to situations	Call centre for dates	0207 352 1155 team@wlac.org.uk
West London Action for Children 15 Gertrude Street SW10 0JN	PARENTALK – A forward looking, solution focused group for parents & carers of children up to 12 years of age	Call centre for dates	0207 352 1155 team@wlac.org.uk
West London Action for Children 15 Gertrude Street SW10 0JN	DADS MATTER – A forward looking solution focused group for dads, step dads and male carers of children 12 years and younger	Call centre for dates	0207 352 1155 team@wlac.org.uk



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