



# SUMMER NEWSLETTER

JULY 2022



## Summer is here...

### What a phenomenal summer term and whole academic year we have had at Diamond Hall Junior Academy.

Our greatest event must be the official grand opening of our new playground, which included a visit from a local counsellor and Member of Parliament, Julie Elliott. We then had the Sunderland Echo, who came and interviewed our head boy and head girl in their coverage of the huge development.

Our staff and pupils have worked incredibly hard this year to ensure DHJA is a fun, engaging and productive place to be. I am so proud of their efforts and the developments we are making as a school.

This term, we saw Miss Coates leave as she took up her secondment as a Headteacher in another Trust school - she has been missed by everyone.

Sadly, as the summer term ends we will also see two other members of staff leave us: Mrs Bendelow, who has been with the school for 23 years, is leaving to explore a new venture and Mrs Greenwell is retiring after 18 years of dedication to the school. They will be greatly missed by staff, pupils and their families and we wish them the best of luck for the future.

As our Year 6 pupils move onto secondary school, we wish them the very best for their futures. We hope they remember all they have learned at DHJA.

To our families, we wish you all a safe and fun summer break and look forward to seeing the children back in September.

**Mrs F Hoare**  
Headteacher

# Hello!

## to our new Year 3 pupils!

**Welcome to the children and parents/ carers who will be joining Diamond Hall Junior Academy in September.**

We have had lots of exciting activities, initiatives and a brand new playground installed this year, ready for you to enjoy in September. We can't wait to meet you all and get to know you.

## See you soon!

# Let the adventures begin...

As the sun shone this term, pupils here at Diamond Hall Junior Academy were on cloud nine as their brand new playground was formally opened by local MP, Julie Elliott.

The £124,000 top-of-the-range play facility was installed by Pentagon Play earlier in the year.

The main play area provides both active and imaginative play for our youngsters and includes a forest adventure trail, a central climbing feature and the Langley play castle which has ramps, climbing nets, a climbing wall, slides and a fireman's pole.

Our children can also enjoy the elements out in the new forest school nature area which allows them to engage with nature and enhance their knowledge from the classroom out in a real-life setting. Pupils can also grow their own plants, flowers and vegetables in the raised planters or head over to the 'bug hotel' and forest floor learning den.

The main play area has also been

transformed which is used to encourage competitive sport with netball being the current favourite amongst our pupils. This area is now complete with two gazebos which can be used for outdoor learning as a change from the classroom.



The playground is part of ongoing improvements being made by our sponsors the North East Learning Trust with the concept behind the design coming from our Headteacher, Mrs Hoare, who wanted to provide different and unique experiences for the pupils which could prove

## IMPORTANT DATES

*for your diary*

07 SEP - Back to school

21 OCT - Break up for half term

31 OCT - Back to school

Please keep checking our website and social media channels for the latest updates.

challenging yet educational.

Mrs Hoare said: "Our playground has been under development for quite some time and I would like to thank the staff and members of the Trust who have made this possible for our pupils.

"It is wonderful to be able to provide our school community with a safe and stimulating place to play. Our pupils are extremely excited about their new facilities - especially the adventure play area!"

*continued overleaf...*



## We're social!

Follow our social media accounts to stay up to date with all of the latest news from around the Academy!



@DiamondJuniors



@DiamondJuniors



*Continued from overleaf...*

Andrew Crosby, Head of NELT Estates, who oversaw the project added:

"This addition has transformed an uninspiring space into series of exciting areas which now engage pupils safely in challenging play and learning activities.

"Pupils were involved very early in the creation of the design and I hope that the result, which certainly looks impressive, meets their aspirations.

"There were at times significant delivery challenges, particularly in respect of labour and materials shortages during the pandemic, however we are delighted to have

achieved completion and I am sure that our pupils will enjoy the benefits for many years to come."

We can't wait to see the fun everyone has!



# A *fabulous* report from school inspectors Ofsted



Staff and pupils at Diamond Hall Junior Academy are celebrating after being praised in a brilliant report from school inspectors, Ofsted, that rated us as 'good' in all areas.

The report was full of praise for our Academy stating that leaders have high aspirations for all pupils and that a carefully planned curriculum is ensuring that pupils achieve well. Inspectors also acknowledged the good behaviour that was seen that ensures children are free from distraction and learning in a calm and positive environment.

However, the most heart-warming observations are perhaps those of our children themselves who inspectors say: "enjoy coming to school", "are engaged in their learning" and who feel "happy, safe and proud of their school".

During their visit inspectors were also given the chance to see for themselves our recently upgraded outdoor facilities including a new

£124,000 adventure playground which was opened by local MP Julie Elliot. The playground is just one of many upgrades we've had in recent years thanks to our partnership with school sponsors, The North East Learning Trust.

Our Headteacher, Fiona Hoare, said:

"I am delighted with the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection, which is testament to the hard work of staff who consistently offer pupils an excellent education. I'm proud that our efforts to enhance teaching and learning across all aspects of the curriculum and extra-curricular activities have been recognised and am delighted to be leading our wonderful community school into a bright future with very strong foundations.

Deputy CEO of the North East Learning Trust and Executive Headteacher at Diamond Hall Junior Academy, Dr Janice Gorch, added:

"Diamond Hall Junior Academy completely lives up to our trust vision and offers children an excellent education every day. We have worked tirelessly over the past few years to enhance the school environment, which is a fantastic place to learn and where ongoing dedication and care makes Diamond Hall a place where children flourish. We are thrilled with the Ofsted result and pleased that children are so happy coming to school here."

Our Chair of Governors, Diane Buckle, added:

"The report demonstrates that pupils have been experiencing a consistent level of high-quality teaching and school life and I am excited to see what the future holds for Diamond Hall! Well done to staff, pupils, their families and governors for making the school what it is."





# Goodbye Year 6

The end of the school year means saying goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 pupils before they spread their wings and begin life at 'big school'.

We asked some of our Year 6 pupils what their favourite memories are of their time here at Diamond Hall. Here's what they had to say...

"My first favourite memory is when the adventure playground opened. My second is when I got to do a dissection and my third is when I got to learn all about Charles Darwin." - **Harry**

"I will miss all the clubs here at Diamond Hall and all the friends I have made. I enjoyed the learning here in school and the new adventure playground." - **Kara**

"One of my favourite memories was when I learned how to speak better English. Thanks to my teachers who spent their time and worked hard with me. I have been so happy at Diamond Hall." - **Yashar**

"I loved making the Christmas video for Youtube and I enjoyed swimming through Year 4." - **Tiya-Lana**

"I enjoyed having ice cream from the ice cream van after our SATs." - **Chloe**

## You are Diamonds!

This term saw the launch of our 'Diamond Squad' where we celebrate pupils who have been superstars each week.

We have seen plenty of pupils really shine this year, some bright enough to make it into the Diamond Squad. Let's take a look at some of the squads we've had recently. We can't wait to continue this next academic year.



## Joke corner

**Why don't oysters share their pearls?**

Because they're shellfish

**What is a shark's favourite sandwich?**

Peanut butter and jellyfish