



April 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians

The New Hall Voluntary Service (NHVS) is an integral part of the school's Catholic foundation and ethos whereby a sense of community spirit is fostered and nurtured. NHVS plays an important part in school life and students look forward to the opportunity to work with NHVS, meet new people, gain confidence and learn new transferrable skills along the way.

Please find enclosed an information sheet which gives a brief outline of the remit of our seven NHVS action groups. NHVS relies heavily on the help of parents/friends of the school and could not run some of these groups without such support. If you are interested in finding out more information or would like to join our team of dedicated NHVS volunteers, even if it is only once each half term, please tick this on your child's Permissions Form. Please be assured, by showing an interest you will not be committing yourself to anything.

Parents who have helped in the past often comment on the fact that it has made them feel more involved in their child's school life and has helped them understand more fully this particular aspect of life at New Hall.

If you have any queries or would like to discuss involvement with NHVS further, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01245 236 112 or by email at nhvs@newhallschool.co.uk.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jo McPherson
NHVS MANAGER

New Hall Voluntary Service – Action Groups

From the age of about 13, students are invited to join NHVS Action Groups which are appropriate to their age, to give them the opportunity to experience one-to-one contact with those in need in the community. They continue to build strong relationships with those whom they serve. Once they are in Year 12, many of these same students volunteer to become leaders of the Action Groups.

At New Hall School, we hope that this involvement will lead our students to want to remain in voluntary work throughout their adult lives. Parents and other adults support the activities of the Action Groups in many ways and for that we are extremely grateful. For the groups listed below that require the students to leave the school premises, the students are taken to and from their destination by minibus, driven by a volunteer driver. The drivers take great care to ensure the students' safety. All adult volunteers are closely vetted by the school.

Here are some brief details, to give you a flavour of the work they undertake.

Wilderness

Students visit allotments in Chelmsford run by the Wilderness Foundation UK on a Monday lunchtime. They contribute to the community by assisting in the maintenance of allotments. The aim of the project is to establish a respect for the environment, encourage young people to grow their own organic produce and to engage with nature.

Shaftesbury (from Year 10)

Shaftesbury is a lively group that meets at New Hall every Tuesday evening from 7.30-9.00pm. Students play games and spend time chatting to adults with learning difficulties. This is a very rewarding group.

Tuesday Tuck-In, Wednesday Red Cross Lunches, Barn Banquet and Friday Feast

These three cheery groups provide lunches at New Hall School for many disadvantaged people in the community, in particular the elderly. The students help to serve the lunches, prepare and clear the tables, but most importantly they sit down to share a meal and to chat with the guests.

Columbus (from Year 9)

Columbus is a large enthusiastic group which visits Columbus School, a school for children with special needs. The students visit on Thursday lunchtime, spending time playing or talking with the children, or helping staff as necessary.