

## Competition Winners

As you may be aware, this year we decided to run a Christmas Card Competition and invite all students to design a card to be professionally printed and used as the official 2018 Heckmondwike Grammar School Christmas Card. We had almost 50 students across all year groups enter the competition, all of which were of an impressive standard, making judging a very difficult task. All students made such an effort and it was great to see so much effort and creativity.



All entries were judged on Friday 30th November by Mr Bulley, Mr Jones, Mrs Foster and Mrs Smith. After difficult deliberations, all agreed on three winners; Alice Cheesbrough (7RPL), Ruby Brooke (7SGF) and Kristina Todd (9LAS). All three designs have now been printed and produced as the official 2018 HGS Christmas cards. The winners each received a £25 'love to shop' voucher.



A special mention has to be made of Mahaa Ali-Ahmad (7MLG) and Kai Dai (8JPN) who both submitted excellent entries; however unfortunately they were unable to be reproduced. They both received a special recognition certificate and a £10 voucher.

Well done to all students who entered the competition, excellent effort was made by all.

## Youth Theatre Winter Showcase

Last Thursday, our lower school Youth Theatre presented a showcase made up of seven performances that were devised, designed and directed by our students. There were 55 year 7 and 8 performers in total, as well as students taking on the roles of costume, lighting and sound designers. The performances were inspired by the range of dramatic interests our students have which led to a brilliant variety; from Christmas comedies and film adaptations to stage combat and musical theatre. The Studio was full and it was lovely to see such support from parents who made a great audience – thank you.

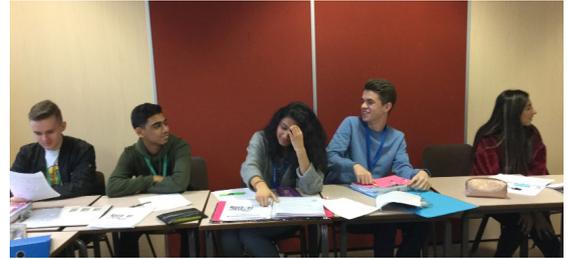


Every performance was outstanding and all students involved deserve praise for their commitment, creativity and professionalism. Mrs Hellewell would also like to individually thank the year 9 and 10 directors (Ben Anderson, Henry Pollard, Maisy Nichols, Hannah Grason, Amelia Kellett and Mollie O'Connor) who led the whole thing; from script writing and choreography to organising a choir during pre-performance refreshments!

Overall, the night was a great success and Youth Theatre look forward to preparing for their next performance in the spring term, which will be a scripted play. If any students wish to join our Youth Theatre group, we meet on Thursday lunchtimes and you are more than welcome to come along.

# Department Focus: Politics

The department has gained a new member of staff in the form of Mr Bulley, no less! His previous experience of teaching the subject, along with his own contacts and experiences in the world of politics, are very much welcomed. This year, Year 13 students have started on the new AQA specification which incorporates US politics. As such, they have been following the US mid-term elections with keen interest. Whilst the year 12 students have been watching news programmes and reading articles related to the current Brexit negotiations, though not with quite the same level of interest!



With such a fast-moving subject, we have decided to subscribe to a couple of online resources that provide weekly updates and articles relating to UK and US politics. The students have found these an invaluable source of help when trying to keep up with events. In the same vein, Mr Oxby's Twitter account has gained a good following, with him offering a wide range of examples of current issues and politics related articles, podcasts, films and television programmes. Year 12 students have recently been involved in researching previous UK elections and have carried out presentations on minor UK parties. Meanwhile, year 13 students have been gaining an understanding of how the various branches of US government work prior to starting the topic of Political Ideas which will provide the theoretical framework for both US and UK politics. I envisage further heated discussions to follow!

We aim in the near future to meet some of our local politicians so that the students can gain a clear idea about how political theory can be applied to local politics. At this time of year our students are applying for university. This year is no different, with some of our Year 13 students embarking on interviews at the most prestigious British universities. We wish them well in their endeavours.

## Friends of HGS Survey



You may remember that in a previous Heckler we announced we would be launching a consultation survey of parents. Well, here it is! It aims to collect your opinions as to what your PTA should do and how it can involve you in fundraising for your children. Please take a couple of minutes to fill it in by clicking on the link below. The more responses we get, the more accurate the picture will be. Thank you for taking part.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScdKiAmpe-vNovKcOiwoWqi1lpdPUljog26g5o53ny-F7HMJnA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScdKiAmpe-vNovKcOiwoWqi1lpdPUljog26g5o53ny-F7HMJnA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

### Student of the Week

**Joshua Turner 7JMJ 7.1** Incredible generosity shown with his Reverse Advent donations for the local food bank

**Brendon Hodgson 8JPW** - for improved attitude and behaviour. Really making a great effort to improve!

**Cian Casey 9JDR** Nominated by Maths for working really well and gaining high marks on a test.

**Rosie Masud 10HJP** Following promotion from Cadet to Corporal in Air Cadets.

**Holly Simpson 11SMN** - for subbing in for a netball game at the last minute and scoring some excellent goals.

**Sophie Tiffany 12 SKE** "Showing true resilience"

### Parent Notices

**13th December** - Christmas Carol Service. Tickets available from Student Services- FREE mince pies in the Jo Cox Centre on the evening from 6.30pm

**17th December** - Christmas Fair (Students Only) & Christmas Jumper Day

**18th December** - Christmas Dinner

**18th December** - Senior Prize-giving 7.00pm

**21st December** - Swimming Gala - Students dismissed at 12.30pm

**7th January** - School Opens after Christmas holiday