



Head Teacher's Welcome

As we now complete our first week of the new school year, we have been delighted to welcome new students and their families to the school and our existing students, some of whom we haven't seen in person for many months – it is so lovely to be back in the building with everyone. Our new Year 7 students look resplendent and proud in their new uniforms and have made a delightful first impression in school, of very high aspiration and a genuine thirst for knowledge. Similarly, our Year 12 students have immediately impressed, fully engaging with induction activities, making new friends and I'm sure, eagerly anticipating the rigours of A level study, starting properly next week. After the very difficult period surrounding GCSE results a few weeks ago, I am delighted to report that the vast majority of last year's Year 11 students have stayed on in to the Sixth Form and they have been joined by the most equally ambitious and well qualified students from neighbouring schools. As is the norm, we have an outstanding cohort of students across all 7 year groups and an exciting year awaits us all. Whilst we are operating in very carefully controlled physical environments, the buzz around school from all our students is a real pleasure to witness, as they uphold our ethos of Nil Sine Labore – Nothing Without Work, and certainly subscribe to and exhibit our key values of Respect, Responsibility and Excellence in all that we do.



Again, this year we have had very pleasing low staff turnover. However, we are delighted to welcome very experienced and qualified graduate subject specialist teachers following from some promotions, retirements and maternity leaves in the summer: Mrs Bell – Geography, Mr Ellis – English, Miss Frank – Biology, Mr Godoy-Simon – Spanish, Mrs Jervis – Business and Economics, Miss Rati-gan - Drama and Music, Mr Tipler – Deputy Headteacher/Physics, Mr Voyce – Deputy Headteacher/PE. We welcome them to the HGS team and wish them long and fulfilling careers with us.

Whilst the summer holiday now seems a distant memory, we have certainly not forgotten the outstanding A level and GCSE results gained by our Class of 2020 students. Yet again we are very proud of our most senior students in achieving superb A level results which have now enabled them to take up places in very high calibre universities on high tariff courses, or enter employment apprenticeships, which will open doors to the most exciting and rewarding careers. At the time of writing, many of these students will be making final arrangements and squeezing their final belongings in to their suitcases as they head off for their first term away from home.

On behalf of the whole school community, we wish them the very best of good fortune and look forward to hearing of their successes throughout the year. GCSE results this year were the best on record and we congratulate all our Year 11 students for their achievements, which came about due to their sustained hard work and desire to be the best that they can be. This year, our students exceeded their very high government set target grades by on average 2/3 of a grade in all their subjects – truly exceptional performance.

Please be reassured that we have very detailed Covid-19 risk assessments, which are being followed, and we have measures in place to minimise the risk to any student or member of staff. Whilst we continue to fine tune the practical arrangements due to the continued pandemic, we are determined to ensure students and staff experiences are not clouded by ongoing anxieties nationally and locally. Working within government guidelines, we will continue to do what we do best – educate young people, so that they become the best that they can be and go on to reach their full potential. Whatever obstacles may come our way in the next few weeks and months we will not lose this focus. At this point I would like to publicly recognise and thank our staff, who have done a magnificent job in getting the school ready for this week, who continue to go over and above what could be reasonably expected, to support our students in their achievements. It is my privilege to represent them.

As a nation we are all in need of good news stories and I hope you find many in the Heckler editions over the next few weeks. If your son or daughter has achieved something which we may be unaware of, please do contact us at adminoffice@heckgrammar.co.uk and we would be delighted to run an article in the Heckler

Thank you all as ever for your unwavering support, it is this team work which makes us what we are.

My best wishes to you all.



Peter Roberts - Headteacher

Brilliant Start for Year 7 Students

What a brilliant start Year 7 have made! A new school, new community and new regime all taken in their stride; I couldn't be prouder of them. All students arrived on Tuesday looking a little anxious but it didn't take long for the noise levels to increase and the laughter to start. It was such a great moment to finally welcome our 7's in person and start getting to know them. I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and students for ensuring that they looked so smart and wore their uniforms with such confidence. The Year 7 tutor team and myself are so delighted at how they have settled.

During the first few days they have been busy learning their way around, getting photos taken, getting to know each other, filling in their planners, meeting the Head Students, going to their first Heckmondwike Grammar School assembly, completing a scavenger hunt, starting a Form Pledge and have now even started lessons for real. All staff have made comments on how well-mannered and enthusiastic our New 7's are. We are all very much looking forward to being part of their journey throughout the next 7 years; watching them grow into wonderful young people and achieving to their fullest potential.



DofE Gold Expedition Fight On



Like everything else DofE expeditions had to be cancelled due to coronavirus and lockdown. However, when lockdown restrictions were relaxed it looked like it might be possible for the Gold expeditions to go ahead.

The group of Year 13 students had been ready to go the week before lockdown so everything was in place in terms of their training and planning. As a group of 5 they were within the government guidelines of 6 people meeting outside and by them using individual tents for the expedition they were able to go.



The practice expedition took place 17-20 July in the Lake District. Routes had to be altered slightly due to campsites being unavailable but eventually we found one in

Coniston that would have us for three nights. On the day we arrived it rained heavily and continued throughout the night and into the morning so unfortunately the group set off pretty wet. However, by 10am the sun started to break through and that was the last of the rain and they quickly dried out.



The practice route saw them following the shores of Coniston, over to Tarn Hows, through Little Langdale and over to the Great Langdale Valley. Day two saw them walk out of the valley to Elterwater and over to Low Wray. They made great time on Day 2 so they were treated to an early finish. The campsite was on the shores of Coniston so they were able to treat themselves to a bit of relaxation time and a swim in the Lake.

On Day 3 they walked from the campsite over to Hawkshead and then picked up a path over to Windermere before following the shoreline path to the finish point. They had a successful three days. They were tired by the end but they were pleased to have had a few days doing something 'normal' with friends that they hadn't seen for months.

On Thursday 6 August they set off to do it all again for the Qualifying expedition. We headed for Buttermere which was their starting point on the following day. They had a night camping here before an early start. Although the weather was a bit drizzly to start the day, it was warm and before too long it was dry and sunny and the shorts and sun cream was applied. They walked over the summit of Catbells and down into Borrowdale to camp.

On Day 2 they made the long trek over to Thirlmere. This was a high route and it took them a while in the sunshine but from there they pushed on to the campsite in Rydal where they were able to shower and relax. On Day 3 they trekked over Wansfell Pike to Troutbeck and then over again to Kentmere and on to Longsleddale, a very remote valley. This was technically their finish point for day 3 but they needed to wild camp so they started out on their Day 4 route up to the Bothy at Mosedale Cottage. Although they couldn't camp inside (Covid restrictions) they were able to pitch on the flat, sheltered ground outside. It also meant that on Day 4 they actually had a much shorter route to the finish.

The group finished in high spirits after a tough but rewarding and fun expedition. It was wonderful that they were able to do this and it means that once they have completed the other areas of their award (they are very close to doing this) that hopefully they will be able to go to the palace at some point to receive their awards.

Well Done to – Alice Brown, Isabella Mencattelli, Joseph Rouse, Martin Norman, Ethan Hanson

From Lockdown to Escape Room: Welcome, Year 12!

This week, we were delighted to welcome a new cohort of year 12 students to our sixth form. Over 260 students, made up of familiar faces and eager new arrivals from schools across the region, enjoyed a range of induction events that were successful in easing nerves, building confidence and, crucially, building new friendships. This year's activities, carefully designed and executed by our year 13 senior committee, included an escape room (a first for HGS), treasure hunt and a competition to design new House Mascots. You may be reading more about Brontesaurus Rex and Mark the Shark (from Clarke) in the near future!



The sixth form team would like to thank the senior committee for organising such a successful induction day, in spite of the restrictions caused by COVID-19. That so many students left the school on the 9 September with smiling faces and eager for the next day speaks volumes of a job well done.

What follows is a short report by Abi Harrison (13 ESC), who took a lead role in organising the day.

"On the 8th and 9th September, the senior committee led "the best year 12 induction seen for many years." Including fun and unique activities such as an escape room and a "Dragon's Den" activity, students reported that the day "gave new students the opportunity to meet new people and get to know the school a bit better," and that "everyone was encouraged to participate." The purpose of the tasks was to integrate returning students and new students, and help everyone settle into what can only be described as a very new way of life. A world of social distancing, bubbles, and Zoom assemblies is not what anyone expected to be coming back to in the next school year, but we made the most of the situation and made everything seem as "normal" as possible in these unprecedented times.'

Organised by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Transition and integration committee- Abi Harrison and Rechael John – and supported greatly by the head students- Kate Flanagan, Isabella Myers and Ma-laika Wajid - the event can only be described as anything but a great success.



Say it with Flowers

Surprise and pleasure from all staff on Monday.

What a lovely way to start they new school year but with a beautiful floral arrangement that was delivered from an anonymous parent with a note saying “

“Too all staff at Heckmondwike Grammar School. Many thanks for everything you have done during the past months and a huge appreciation for getting ready for the new term from grateful Parent”

We would like to thank this parent for their kind words and beautiful flowersit means a lot.

Thank you!



Morrisons

Since 1899



We would like to say a big thank you to our local Morrisons supermarket for showing real community spirit and appreciation by donating this lovely hamper to our staff! Staff enjoyed tucking in

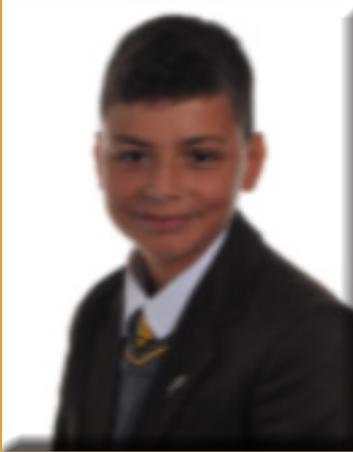
Thank You





TOUR DE FORCE

This Weeks Stellar Students



Kostas Kanakaris, a year 10 student, sat his GCSE in modern Greek in June of this year.

Initially he was supposed to sit all of his Greek exams at Heckmondwike, but after the cancellation of the exams he had to travel to Ag. Triada Greek school in Birmingham.

In order to be graded by Birmingham- as he was classed as an external student and as he wasn't known to them he was required to attend a full week of assessments during the lockdown period.

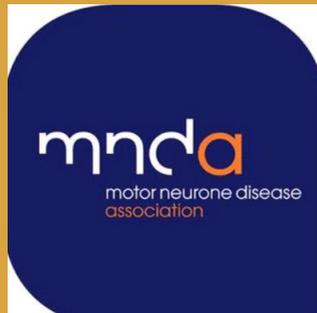
He was awarded a very well deserved grade 8.

Well done a great achievement under the circumstances

Huge WELL DONE to Year 13 student Holly Beaumont who has completed her challenge of undertaking 15 walks across Yorkshire to raise money for @ mndassoc

She raised an AMAZING £1590!!!

Excellent achievement Holly!!



Parent Notices

Reminder - Please send your student to school with a face mask. It is mandatory that face masks are to be worn when circulating around the school

Monday 14 September - School Open as usual

Monday 14 -Friday 18 - Year 13 Mock Exams

**Monday 28 & Tuesday 29 September - Year 7 Community Building Day +
More information to follow +**

Wednesday 30 September - Year 12 Information Evening