

## Head's Review of the Autumn Term

At the end of the Autumn term 2021, it is my pleasure to report to you we have had an excellent start to the year with many successes to share.

We have all become accustomed to working under covid restrictions, but as I'm sure you are aware, at school we have continued to err on the side of caution, with very robust protocols, over and above government guidance. Accompanied by high take up of the vaccine, this has maintained attendance levels of staff and students at a very high level, so maximising learning opportunities. Whilst we will all be challenged by the prevalence of the Omicron variant, please be reassured the safety of all our school community will be paramount and we will do everything we can to ensure learning takes place in the classroom moving forward. I note that all students aged 12 and above are now being invited to take up a second vaccine.

We have again been recognised in the Sunday Times, Parent Power survey as the 10th best school in the North of England, which is a tremendous achievement, for which we are very proud. However, in typical style, we are not satisfied with this and our robust improvement model is being implemented to ensure our students get the very best education possible.

Indeed, to support our improvement plan, we have this week submitted a bid to the government for funding to replace our 'temporary' Modern Foreign Languages building, with a state of the art facility, if we are successful, to be located on top of the existing English departmental area. We will not find out the outcome of the bid until late Spring/Summer, but we are very hopeful at this stage.

By now you will have received your child's end of term report which features a number of new pieces of information. In addition to the important current performance compared to target for each subject, there are identified areas where students can even further improve, which is essentially our mantra of always striving to be the best we can be. Every day this week, it has been my privilege in the celebration assemblies to congratulate all students on their progress this term and present many awards which have recognised some exceptional performance. You will also have seen the number of extra-curricular societies your child is involved in. With over 50 now available, there is huge choice, but the challenge from me to all our students is, if a society they would like is currently not available, then why not set one up yourself? Many students have taken this challenge on and have gained funding from me where appropriate. This is a fantastic life skill and wonderful experience. All of these components of course contributing to the House competition which is growing from strength to strength.

Year 11 and 13 students have recently received their mock examination results. It was my pleasure to share with the students their experience of opening their envelopes. Some students were in celebratory mood, with some excellent results at this stage, whilst some others have room for improvement and need to work with their teachers to ensure they stick to a strategy to ensure they achieve their desired outcomes.



At this stage, we are working on the assumption external examinations will take place in the summer, however, it is important for students and parents in these year groups to understand that if there are disruptions next term due to covid, then it will become more likely teachers are asked to provide grades as we have in the last 2 years. In which case, internal assessments, particularly mock exams next term will become hugely important.

I'm sure, just like your children and indeed school staff, you are looking forward to Christmas. Whatever your plans for the break, I do wish you and your families a safe and restful time where there is opportunity to spend time with loved ones and my best wishes for the New Year.

Yours faithfully

Peter Roberts  
Headteacher



COMING in FEBRUARY

VALENTINE'S RAFFLE

Do you want to do some good with the gifts that left you uninspired?

Why not donate them to our school Valentine's raffle

What is your unloved gift could be someone else's treasure!

We are very proud that previous fundraising monies have been used to buy fantastic extras for the school such as 3D printers, a trophy cabinet, a piano, the drama studio lighting, and we made a contribution to a blast-chiller as well as many other items which help to enhance the education of our children who attend in HGS.

Our first event will be a Valentine Raffle and we need your help – if you have any unwanted gifts, or if you own a business and would like to contribute or you have anything you would like to donate - no gift/donation is too big or too small; we would accept them all.

Please bring unused/new gifts to school from Tuesday of January or email any further information to [FriendsofHGS@heckgrammar.co.uk](mailto:FriendsofHGS@heckgrammar.co.uk)

Our next meeting is at school on Tuesday 11 January at 6.30pm if anyone would like to come along and get involved.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year



FoHGS

# Reverse Advent Update



Heckmondwike  
Church & Community  
Centre

Barrack Street  
Heckmondwike  
West Yorkshire  
WF16 0EJ

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Mrs Currie

Thank you to you and the staff and students at Heckmondwike Grammar School for the many ways you have supported our Christmas appeal this year.

Your donations of toys and food have helped us to fulfil all the toy and food parcels requested by social services and schools for local families in need. This year we have supported 172 children with toy and food parcels, and we may still get more referrals for help. The work of the Salvation Army couldn't continue without the support and donations we receive from other groups, schools, churches and organisations.

The sixth form students who have been to help with sorting food, packing food parcels, sorting toys and packing toy parcels have been amazing. As well as working hard for the entire time they have been with us, they have been willing to chat about their future aspirations. They have also shown interest and gained an insight into the work of the Salvation Army in supporting the local community. We really could not have managed this year without their help. They even thanked us for having them, when really it is we who are thanking them!

Thank you once again and I hope we can continue to work together to support those in our community that need help.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a happy Christmas

Blessings

Janet Devine (on behalf of Heckmondwike Salvation Army)

Email: [janet.devine@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:janet.devine@salvationarmy.org.uk)  
[i.s.t.r.devine@ntlworld.com](mailto:i.s.t.r.devine@ntlworld.com)

The Salvation Army in Batley have had a number of HGS elves helping them this past week. They have been helping to organise and sort toys into age categories, sorting food and checking dates. Everything that has been donated will go to local families in need, all who have been referred to the Salvation Army needing support over the Christmas period.

We had an overwhelming response from our students and their families; the generosity shows that as a community we can come together for the need of others.

A huge thank you from HGS and the Salvation Army

# Thank you!



# INVESTIN

## CHOOSE YOUR CAREER

Maximise your potential. Select from 28 industries.

InvestIN are running their immersive in-person work experience placements a little closer to home next year. The programmes taking place on the weekend of 22nd-23rd January 2022 will be in Manchester and will cover [Doctor](#), [Lawyer](#), [Banker](#), [Engineer](#) and [Psychologist](#). Students can directly register via the website [here](#). As a partner school, Heckmondwike Grammar students are eligible for a 10% discount with the code HECKMONDWIKE10

The Young Doctor Weekend gives students aged 15-18 an immersive experience of Medicine through a series of role-plays, seminars, simulations and Q&A sessions led by a group of medical professionals over 2 days. You can choose to attend the programme either in-person or 'Live Online'.

Experienced doctors will coach you through live, interactive simulations including:

- Stitching up a wound (suturing)
- Patient diagnosis: review a patient's data to make decisions based on diagnosis and treatment
- Be immersed in an emergency room environment. Race against the clock to save a patient's life.



The Young Engineer Weekend gives students aged 15-18 an immersive experience of Engineering through a series of role-plays, seminars, simulations and Q&A sessions led by a group of experienced engineers over 2 days. You can choose to attend the programme either in-person or 'Live Online'.

- Engineers from world-leading brands will coach you through live, interactive experiences including:
- Imagining the ultimate electric vehicle: use automotive engineering principles to revolutionise car manufacturing
- Mapping a mission to Mars: select rocket propulsion architectures and colonisation approaches
- Creating prosthetics limbs: review current design techniques and apply new innovative solutions
- Work alongside top material engineers in a time-pressured business simulation: Using reverse engineering to reach the perfect solution to meet the client's specification





The Young Lawyer Weekend gives students aged 15-18 an immersive experience of Law through a series of role-plays, seminars, simulations and Q&A sessions led by a group of experienced law professionals over 2 days. You can choose to attend the programme either in-person or 'Live Online'.



- You will step into the shoes of a lawyer for the weekend, with top lawyers coaching you through interactive simulations that will give you genuine, hands-on experience of real-life cases, including:
  - A live murder trial where you will evidence and present crucial legal arguments
  - A complicated human rights-focused deportation case
  - An emotionally charged divorce case involving the custody of children
  - A high value company seeking legal advice on a tricky commercial problem it has encountered

The Young Investment Banker Weekend gives students aged 15-18 an immersive experience of Investment Banking through a series of role-plays, seminars, simulations and Q&A sessions led by a group of experienced financiers over 2 days. You can choose to attend the programme either in-person or 'Live Online'.



- Expert investment bankers will coach you through live, interactive simulations including:
  - Competing to trade currencies, stock and commodities during major historical events
  - Representing your client to value a leading global company
  - Negotiating in a thrilling live deal under mounting pressure
  - Building a portfolio optimise risk-reward and profit from the markets

The Young Psychologist Weekend gives students aged 15-18 an immersive experience of Psychology through a series of role-plays, seminars, simulations and Q&A sessions led by a group of experienced psychologists over 2 days. You can choose to attend the programme either in-person or 'Live Online'.



- Expert psychologists will coach you through live, interactive simulations, including:
  - Advising police during a live hostage negotiation
  - Communicating effectively with patients during a CBT session
  - Deploying psychological techniques to improve a child's learning and behavioural development
  - Observing and consulting athletes to enhance their well-being and performance on game day

# HEADTEACHER'S AWARD

## PRESENTED TO

Mr Roberts was delighted to present Headteacher's awards during the celebration assemblies for all year groups this week. The award is presented to the student in each year group who has accrued the highest number of positives for classroom, participation and homework excellence, Ethos and academic points as well as 1898 points for extra-curricular participation. It is a real achievement for the students who win this award.

Mr Roberts presented certificates and a £20 gift voucher to:

Oliver Blakeley 7C2  
Chiamaka Ulebor 9P2  
Elliot Hoyland 11P1  
Jack Martin 13H2

Anshu Avasarala 8H2  
Thomas Haigh 10P2  
Rowan Lightfoot 12C2

Many congratulations to all the winners!



# Department Focus - PE

## Term 1 Netball

A massive thank you to all students who have been attending netball training this term. Netball training and tournaments have ran from year 7 – 13 and participation has been excellent.



We entered teams from yr7-11 into the Spen Valley Netball Tournaments and were blown away by the success of all teams.



Heckmondwike finished first in every year group! All who participated showed excellent commitment and teamwork.

Year 8



Year 9



Year 10

Year 11

# Department Focus - PE cont

## X-Country

Well done to students in year 7-9 who have taken part in X - Country this week in their PE lessons. There were some difficult conditions but the PE staff were pleased with the excellent effort. Once students had completed the course there was a little bit of time left for a Snowman building competition!



## Gymnastics

Gymnastics club has proved to be incredibly popular this term. Many thanks to all who have attended it has been fantastic to see the extensive range of skills our students have! Wow!



# Department Focus - PE cont

## Hall of Fame

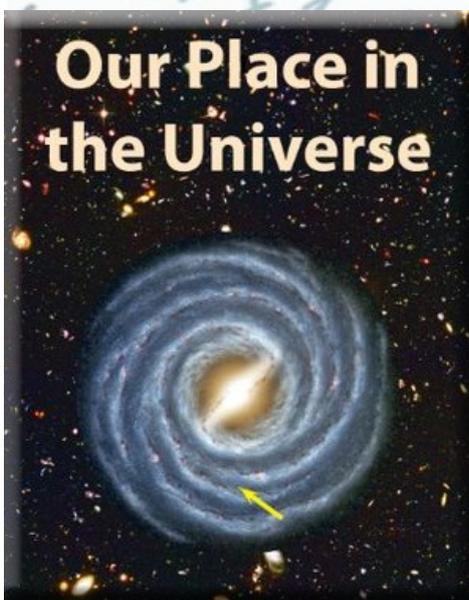


We have many talented and gifted students at Heckmondwike Grammar School. Many students are not only excelling in school but have a range of activities that they take part in outside of school. We have been talking to students about the hard work and commitment, which is needed to play sport at a high level.

We know many of our students are involved in sport outside of school. Please let us know if you are representing at a high level so we can celebrate your achievements. Please click the link below filling in all the information requested and attach a photo

[Sporting Star Hall of Fame](#)

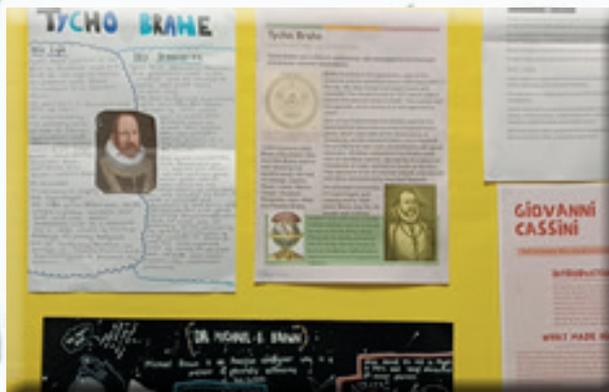
# Department Focus - Physics



At the start of the year, the Physics Department welcomed Mr Drake as the newest member of the teaching team. Mr Drake has made an immediate impact with his enthusiasm for the subject, and we know that his subject knowledge is excellent as he is an alumnus of Heckmondwike Grammar School. This takes the number of Physics teachers in the department to six, a number that amazes many in the teaching profession due to the rarity of such creatures in the employment market.

Alas, as we welcome in a new member, we are saying goodbye to one of our technician team. Joshua Creswell-Kellett has been completing his training under the supervision of Head Technician Mr Moody and will be taking up a role at Huddersfield New College. Joshua brought many innovative ideas to our practical provision, and we wish him well in his future.

This term, Year 8 spent most of their class time learning about space and our place in the Universe. This is always a popular topic with students and provides a challenge for the teachers as we try to progress through the work while being bombarded with students offering excellent questions and incredible facts they have picked up in their readings. Students have been asked to produce a range of resources, from tourism posters for the planets to research documents about the work of astronomers throughout history.



Year 8 Astronomy Posters

# Department Focus - Physics cont



**Astronomy Club**

We know Astronomy is popular, but even we were surprised when Mr Drake's new Astronomy Club welcomed over 60 students during its first session! Students are currently learning about the objects we can observe in the sky, and we hope to have some sessions on a robotic telescope soon.

Throughout the year groups, we have aimed to start as much practical work as we can. During the pandemic, lessons in lockdown and some of the restrictions to try and reduce virus spread have meant that we have been having limited,

if any, practical work in class. Therefore, with Year 10, we jumped straight into stretching springs, Year 11 have been measuring resistance in circuits and Year 12 have been stretching wire under tension to find the Young Modulus. The best way to understand Physics has always been to experiment and get "hands-on," and the students have been having a lot of success in getting accurate results in

a safe, systematic method. Well, unless we count Year 13., who have been twirling rubber bungs at high speed around their head to test the equations of centripetal force.



**Year 12 Experimental Work**

Speaking of Year 13, we have been pleased with the number of students who have applied for courses at Oxford and Cambridge, and invited for interview. They have applied across a range of courses, including Mathematics, Engineering and Physics. We wish them

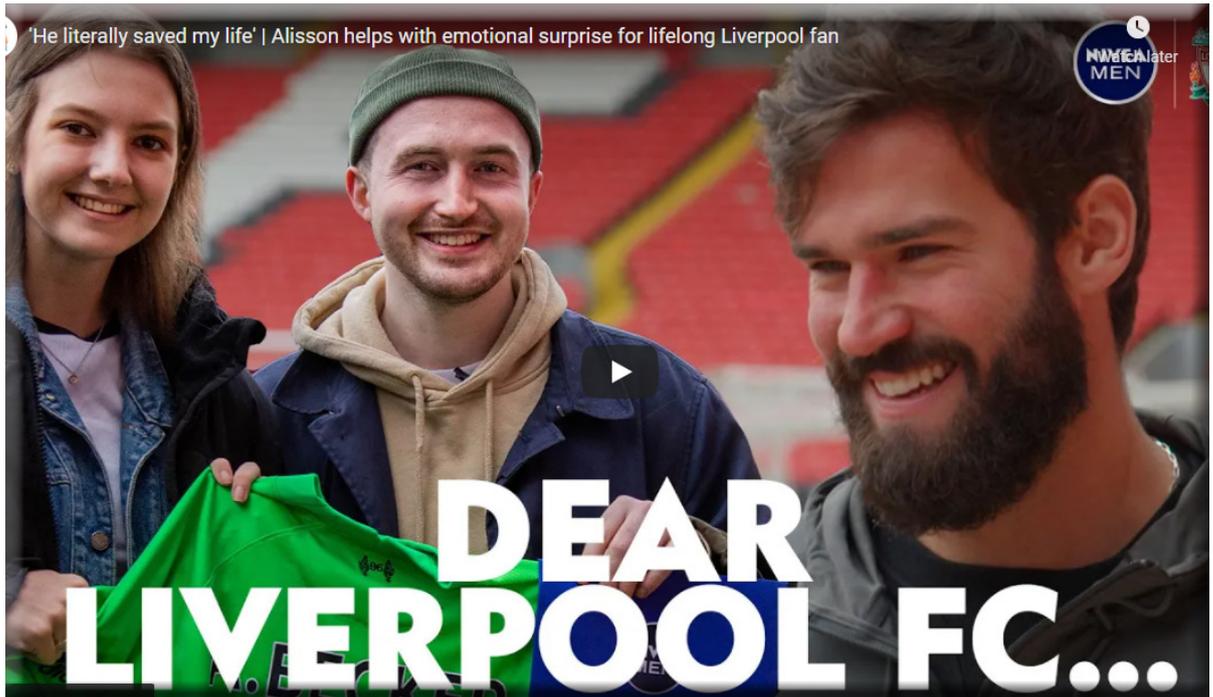
well in their applications, as we do for all their students, wherever they go. We have sent students to many great establishments in the past few years, such as Imperial College, Manchester, and Durham,

and even as far afield as Princeton. Students who have been through our department have ended up working in many places throughout the world, including SpaceX, and we are sure we will have another set of former students we can look back on with pride.



**Year 10 Density Experiment**

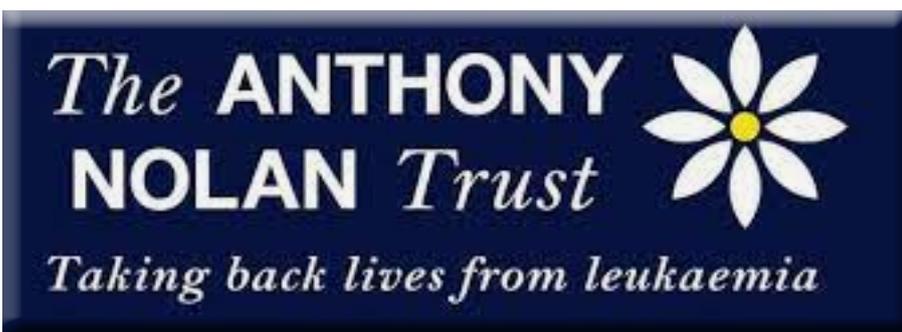
# Dear Liverpool FC .....



Libbie Booker, aged 19, a former HGS student, was unfortunately diagnosed with leukaemia at 13 years old, after she relapsed at the age of 15 she was desperately in need of a bone marrow transplant to increase her chances of survival. When no bone marrow match could be found her family appealed worldwide for a donor.

As a Huddersfield Town Fan Libbie was stunned yet overjoyed to find out that a donor was eventually found – a Liverpool FC Fan! Click the link below to find out how Libbie made contact with the fan and was able to thank him with a fantastic surprise.

Click the [link](#) for the video of the full story.



Anthony Nolan saves the lives of people with blood cancer and blood disorders Founded in 1974 as the world's first stem cell register.

Over 45 years later, three people a day are now given a second chance of life, thanks to generous funders and an ever-growing stem cell register. Our charity is a lifesaving legacy.

<https://www.anthonynolan.org/>

Anthony Nolan is the charity that makes lifesaving connections between patients in need and incredible strangers ready to donate their stem cells.



# House News

The inaugural Staff House University Challenge took place on Tuesday 14 December with each House pitting their wits against each on stage in the Swann Hall. The format was the same as the TV show with starters for 10 and bonus questions, worth 5 points each on specialist subjects. A packed hall greeted the teams and question master, and host, Mr Tipler did his best Jermy Paxman impersonation fining teams for incorrect interruptions and for some contestants not being quick enough when they buzzed in. Clarke House consisting of Mr & Mrs Currie, Mr Howard and Mrs Doran reigned supreme winning 2 points towards the Lees Cup. A big thank you to all our staff who put themselves under considerable pressure on the stage, and to our wonderful students who cheered them along all the way. See how you would done here are some sample questions (answers at the back of the Heckler)



**Starter Question:** In 1988 Trent Reznor formed which rock band?

- Bonus Questions on English Counties
- Bonus 1: Which is the only county in England to have 2 separate coastlines
- Bonus 2: Alwick Castle was used for the exterior shots in the Harry Potter Films – in which county is it
- Bonus 3: How many English counties have a border with Wales?

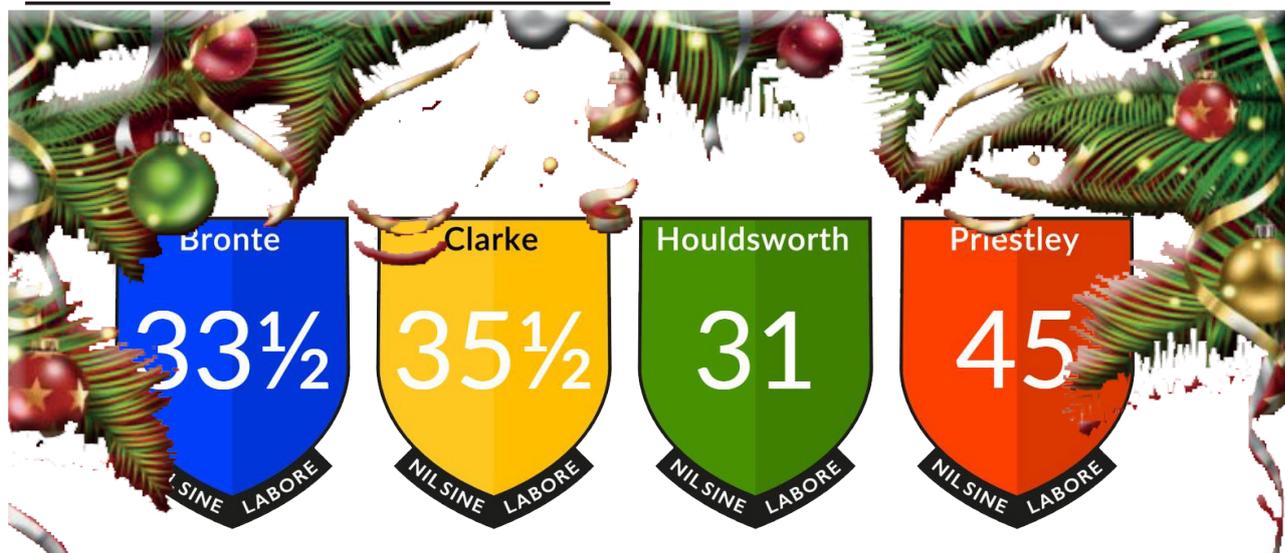
**Starter Question:** Banksy is primarily associated with which English City

- Bonus Questions on James Bond
- Bonus 1: What was the name of the first James Bond feature film
- Bonus 2: Who is the only person to sing 2 James Bond theme tunes.
- Bonus 3: In how many films did Roger Moore play James Bond?

**Starter Question:** Where would you find the mountain Olympus Mons

- Bonus Questions on Supermarkets
- Bonus 1: What do the letters ASDA actually stand for?
- Bonus 2: Originally founded as Albercht Discount, what is the supermarket now known as?
- Bonus 3: In which City was Morrisons founded

# House News cont



House Points 2021/22	Bronte	Clarke	Houldsworth	Priestley
Total	28.5	33	28	40.5
Junior Girls Netball	3.5	1	2	3.5
Inters Girls Netball	3	2	1	4
Senior Girls Netball	4	3	1	2
Junior Boys Football	1	3	4	2
Inters Boys Football	3	1	2	4
Senior Boys Football	3	1	2	4
Senior Debates	1	4	2	3
Junior House Maths	0.5	2	1.5	1
Inters House Maths	1.5	0.5	1	2
Senior House Maths	2	0.5	1	1.5
Junior House Art	1	4	2	3
Senior House Art	2	1	3	4
House Dance	2	8	4	6
Staff University Challenge	1	2	1.5	0.5

# Secret Santa



Mrs Swann's for, 7B2 did Secret Santa this morning, they all bought lovely gifts and really enjoyed opening them together and sharing. The photo was take before they opened their lovely gifts

# Christmas Jumper Day



HGS students and staff have done it again! We raised £1365.07 for the Candle Lighters charity.

Thank you to all who joined in and donated

So far the total raised for vaious charties since Septemer 2021 is in excess of £4000.00. we would like to thank you for your continued support.



# Parent Notices

**Friday 17 December**

Students will be dismissed as follows for  
Christmas Holidays  
12.20 - Years 10-13 & 12.25 Years 7-9

**Tuesday 4 January 2021**

School reopens- Staggered start times due to Covid  
testing details emailed to parents

Wednesday 15 December

Link to letter [here](#)

**IMPORTANT**

**COVID-19  
TESTING**

**Twice  
Weekly**

**IMPORTANT**

In attempt to reduce the spread of covid 19 we are asking families to continue with the twice weekly lateral flow tests and to report ALL results via the school website. The new Antigen Rapid Test, which is nasal only, are issued every 3 weeks to students.

Due to new government guideline it is more important that all students wear a facemasks around school. Please ensure that you send your child with the appropriate face covering.



Is your computer running slowly?

Does it seem to take forever to load?

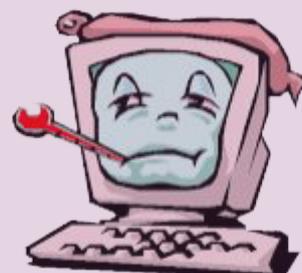


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## Answers to the sample Staff House University Challenge Questions

### Answers

#### A: Nine Inch Nails

- Bonus 1 Answer: Devon
- Bonus 2 Answer: Northumberland
- Bonus 3 Answer: 4 (Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire and Cheshire)

#### A. Bristol

- Bonus 1 Answer: Dr No
- Bonus 2 Answer: Shirley Bassey
- Bonus 3 Answer: 7 (Live and Let Die, Man with the Golden Gun, Spy who Loved Me, Moonraker, For Your eyes only, Octopussy, View to a kill)

#### A1. Mars

- Bonus 1 Answer: Associated Dairies
- Bonus 2 Answer: ALDI
- Bonus 3 Answer: Bradford