

Heckler



Week 41 Published 19 July 2019

A Year of Success

As we approach the final few days of the academic year, I am delighted to report that we finish for the summer break with the school in a very strong position. I am sure, like us you will be delighted that we have been ranked as the number 1 secondary school in Kirklees and Calderdale when taking in to consideration over 50 different measures, in the Real Schools Guide 2019. This accolade being just reward for the tremendous hard work our students and staff put in every day of the week. Despite difficult public sector funding conditions, we continue to be in a very healthy financial position, which will again allow us to further invest in an outstanding provision, in terms of both capital infrastructure and also the human resources directly in front of our students. Indeed, in this context I am delighted to report we have a very low staff turnover this year, with just 2 teachers leaving us, one fulfilling a long held ambition to teach overseas in a tropical climate and one who is going on to a promoted post at a similarly prestigious institution. With excellent appointments already made to fill these positions, we will start September with an outstanding staff team, all graduates in their specialist subjects.

I am sure you will appreciate from previous Heckler reports and the increasingly popular and dare I say it, entertaining social media feeds, we have had an outstanding year. I continue to marvel at how as a school community we have a wonderful balance of academic excellence, supported by exemplary pastoral care and the myriad of extra-curricular activities that students and indeed staff will long remember, which help cement our school values. Indeed, the last 2 days of the year exemplify these values with the Prize Giving Ceremony on Thursday afternoon, where we celebrate the extraordinary achievements of our students, then followed by the tradition that is House Sports Day, which is the final event of the annual House Competition, with the Lees Cup being presented to the winning House at the Princess Mary Athletics track.

I would like to publicly thank all of the school staff. Every one of them plays an invaluable part in ensuring that we always provide the best possible education for our students, very often going above and beyond what could reasonably be expected of them, all because they care passionately about every individual student.

However, the real stars of the show have again been our fabulous students – your children. They continue to juggle the rigours of a very academic curriculum, immerse themselves in the House system, this year raised over £5000 for charity and always conduct themselves with great respect for one another, acting with responsibility and so maintain the standards that we aspire to at Heckmondwike Grammar school.

None of the above would happen without the unfaltering support from parents and I thank you for the commitment, which is always very evident and invaluable. Whilst I am sure there is a level of tiredness in both students and staff, there continues to be a very happy buzz around school and when the final bell rings on Friday afternoon there will be mixed emotions of looking forward to the holiday but also a tinge of sadness that it is all over for another year.

Whatever your plans for the summer, I do hope you have a fabulous time and I will look forward to September with excitement in the knowledge that together we make a fantastic team.

Peter Roberts
Headteacher

Year 8 York Adventure

Last Thursday our year group had a cultural and social visit to York. Around 210 of us were put into new groups in order to get to know new people, preparing us for our up coming year at school where we will split into new classes. It was a brilliant opportunity to befriend fellow students that we didn't know before.

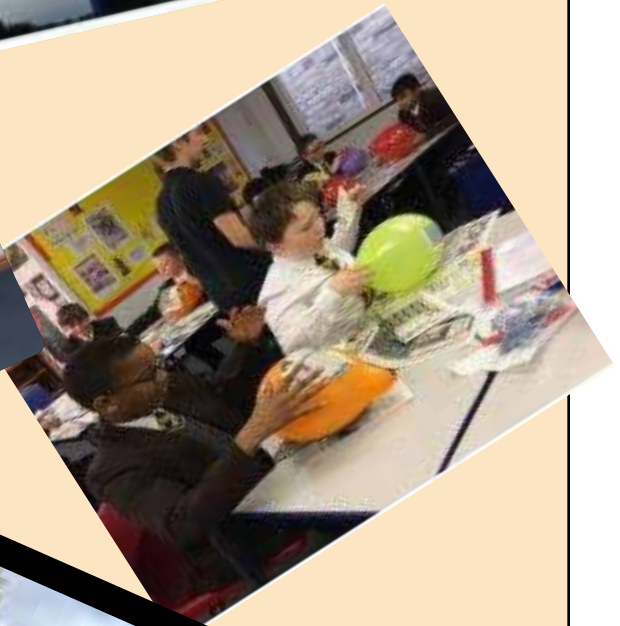
The trip started off with a fun song filled journey with initial views of the city. The groups then set off to attend our activities. Our group firstly went for a stroll around the city walls learning about the significance of the historical defences of the city. Afterwards we continued along the river Ouse where we eventually boarded our guided tour boat, sat back with lunch and waved to the locals passing by. We departed the boat and set off through the city centre to the Chocolate Story where we learnt about the choco history and enjoyed the samples handed to us throughout. We later took a brief meander through the Shambles en route back to the buses, with a return journey after a busy, fact filled day trip.

Different groups took part in different activities, some went to the Castle Museum, and others were challenged by the blood curling screams of the Dungeons. We loved our time in York, and would like to thank all the staff team for making this visit possible, on behalf of Year 8.

Thanks to Amy Cross & Woody Walker for this article



Memories of 2018/19

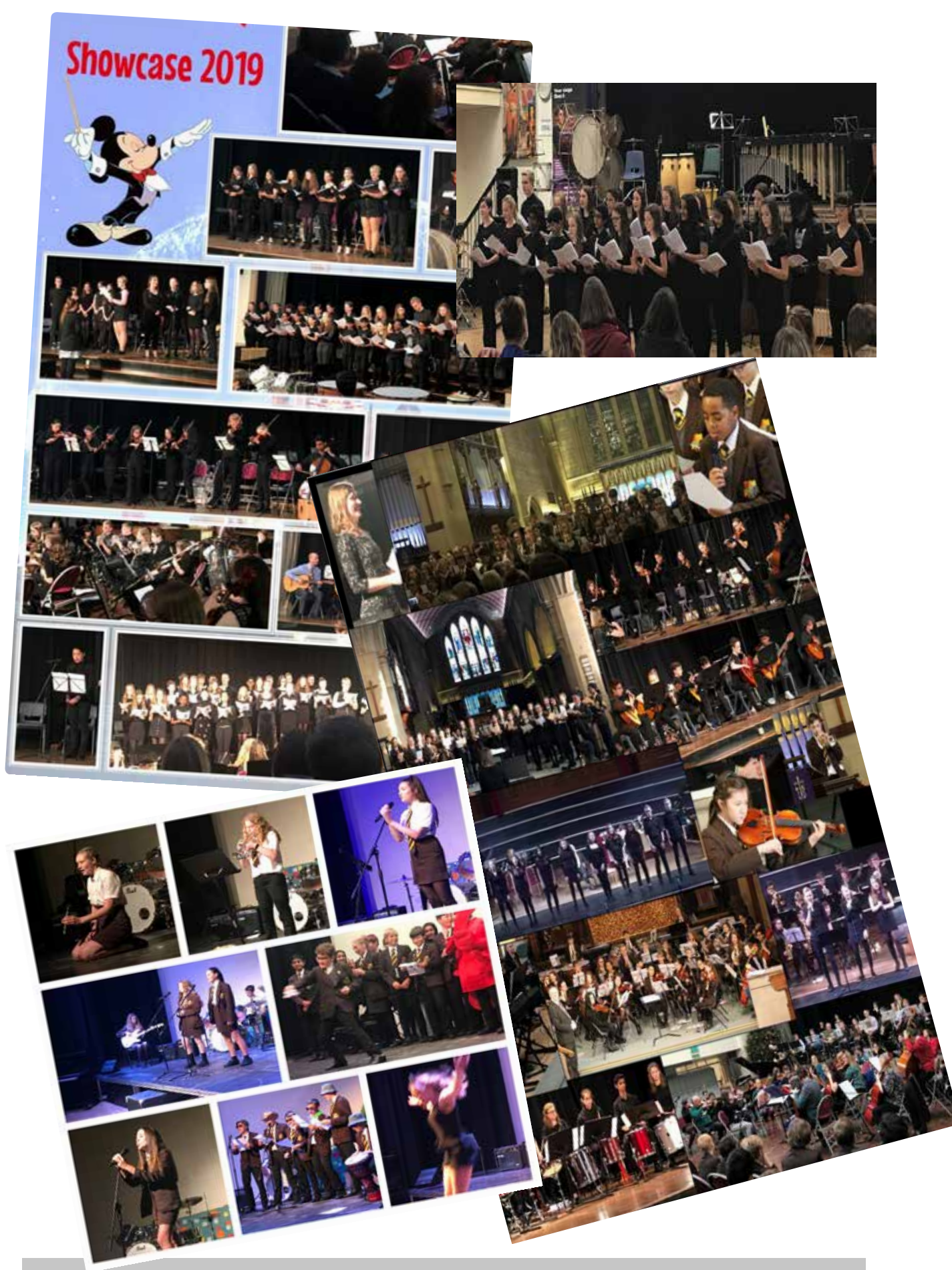












Parent Notices

Monday 2 Septemebr - School Closed to Students
Tuesday 3 September - Year 7 and Year 12 only
Wednesday 4 September - School open to All