

# Heckler



Week 47 Published 8 November 2019

**HECKMONDWIKE**  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

## Selwyn College Visit

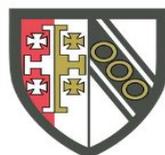
On Tuesday 22 October, a group of Year 11 students attended Selwyn College, Cambridge. It turned out to be a very inspirational day. The students enjoyed the opportunity to learn about life and study at the university, which has given them food for thought about their future plans. They also met with former Heckmondwike Grammar students Caitlin McNulty-Senior and Sara Saloo who are both in their first semester. They gave them first-hand experience of what it is like to study at such a prestigious university.

The group were made to feel very welcome during the visit.

A huge thank you to all who were involved in the organising of such a valuable trip.



**Pictured above - Former students Sara Saloo & Caitlin McNulty-Senior who are studying Law and HSP respectively**



Selwyn College  
Cambridge

### Friends Of HGS - Uniform Sale

Friends of HGS will be at Year 9 Parents' evening on Wednesday 13 November 2019 where we will be having a uniform sale. We welcome any donations of uniforms which are still in good, clean condition from parents for our uniform exchange. If you would like more information about what we do, or about the uniform exchange or sale, please email: [friendsofHGS@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofHGS@gmail.com)



### Wanted!!!

New feature to be included weekly and we need your help to make it happen. We are looking for news about our students' achievements away from school. Please see full details on page 4

# Department Focus: Drama

Mrs Hellewell and Mrs Barton would like to start by congratulating all GCSE Drama students for their amazing results in the summer. 97% of the cohort achieved grades 7-9 which is outstanding! A special mention goes to Isabella Myers who only dropped two marks across the whole course.

The department is currently busy supporting students rehearsing and preparing for upcoming performances and assessments. Year 7 and 8 students are all working hard writing and performing their own devised performances. Year 9 and 10 students are preparing to complete a GCSE devising unit as both performers and designers, with performances over the next few weeks and a written portfolio underway. Year 11 are working hard to prepare for their written Component 3 exam on Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, balancing this with practical rehearsals of a range of modern play texts. The A Level cohort are busy studying one of their set texts *Colder Than Here* by Laura Wade and have decided to put on a performance of the play in the New Year – watch this space for upcoming ticket and venue information!



At the beginning of this term, a number of GCSE and A Level drama students had the opportunity to work with Neil Bettles, Artistic Director of Theatre Company

Thick Skin. Neil led our students



in a physical theatre workshop centred on the themes and issues of the play he recently directed. We went to see the performance the following day. It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to work with an industry professional, developing powerful theatre which explored the narrative of a young asylum seeker escaping the Kosovan War and who finds himself in the UK Care system. It also gave our students a great opportunity to explore his dramatic intentions and design concepts, which will support them as they analyse the performance in their written exams at the end of this academic year. 60 GCSE and A Level students then went to see the award winning performance 'How Not To Drown' at the Lawrence Batley Theatre, finding the piece "really moving and powerful" as well as being struck by "how clever and powerful the physical theatre was". Our students displayed exemplary

conduct as always and we look forward to seeing how the piece influences their performance work.

As always, the department are also enjoying supporting students to develop in the arts outside of lessons through a range of extra-curricular activities. Currently the Year 7-9 Youth Theatre group are working on 'Nativity The Musical' an original play written by Maisy Nichols in Year 11. Over 75 students attended our initial Youth Theatre sessions and we have now finalised the cast and have students taking on director, choreographer, designer and performer roles. The performance is on Thursday 12 December at 18.30pm in the Hutton Studio and tickets will be available soon. Nameless Theatre Company, made up of students in Years 10 – 13 are currently working on a new project, devising and rehearsing a new performance to tour in the community which explores mental health issues in young men.



# Department Focus: DT (Product Design)

Heckmondwike Grammar School saw another year of outstanding results within Design and Technology. Students find the lunchtime access, open plan workshop and studio spaces supports their progress, enabling them to excel in a vibrant and creative environment. Focus is always on problem solving through design iteration.

Sixth form students studying Product Design at A level are an inspiration for KS3 & 4 with their creative and innovative products.



Highlights from the last cohort include Mohammed Karolia- attempting to limit the amount of equipment campers require via 'Roll Mate' encompassing all the essentials. Oliver Le-good investigated the challenges snowboarders face, using hydraulics to assist the quick release of snowboard bindings. Mohammed and Oliver are now studying Engineering at their first-choice university. Hollie Smith developed a product that enhances the ease of daily



chores for the elderly. Hollie is now studying Architecture at the University of Huddersfield. Joe Speight identified potential repetitive strain issues in commercial cleaning and so 3D printed a product that focusses on ergonomics combined with power to produce a commercial cleaning



device that would sit happily in the Dyson range. Joe is now involved in teacher training for Product Design.

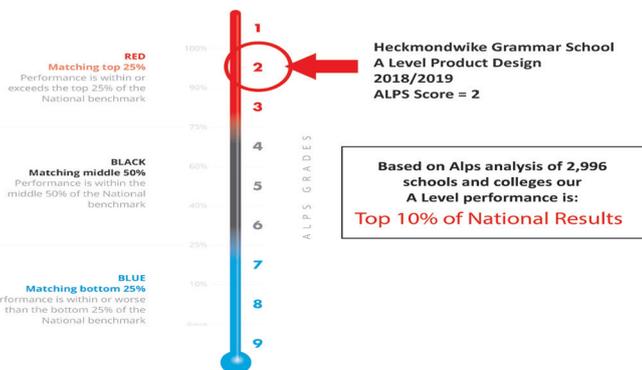


**Best Alps Progress Score**  
at Heckmondwike Grammar School  
2018/2019

## A Level Product Design

All of our current Year 13 are developing a great degree of ambition and are motivated to attain the same outstanding grades.

We look forward to seeing the fruition and fulfilment of their products



ALPS (A-level Performance System) is a system that allows schools to get a measure of the value they add to a pupil's A level performance compared to what might be expected of them following their previous academic performance at GCSE



# TOUR DE FORCE

## This Weeks Stellar Students

Has your child done something amazing beyond the school curriculum? Sports, music/drama, charitable work, volunteering. HGS would like to know. Please email [office@heckgrammar.co.uk](mailto:office@heckgrammar.co.uk) with a brief description and a photo so we too can celebrate and share, via Twitter & The Heckler.



We are pleased to share the news that **Gemma Walker**, a Year 10 student recently trialled and secured a place on the Yorkshire Diamonds Regional Development Centre for Cricket (one of 8 centres around the UK).



Well Done Gemma!

**Wilson Freeman** in Y7 has a starring role in School Of Rock in the West End. he is seen here strutting his stuff in full action at The Gillian Lynne Theatre, Drury Lane, London



Pictured above - Wilson with his array of supporters - the staff from Norristhorpe, where Wilson previously attended .

Mr Taylor, Deputy Headteacher at HGS and his family were lucky enough to see the show during half-term on a night when Wilson was on stage and his performance certainly rocked! Well done Wilson, we are all very proud of you.

### Parent Notices

- Year 11 Mock Exams - Wednesday 13 - Friday 22 November 2019
- Year 9 Parents' Evening - Wednesday 13 November 2019
- Non-Uniform Day for Children in Need - Friday 15 November 2019
- Teacher Training Day - School closed to students - Monday 25 November 2019
- Year 7 Performance Evening - Wednesday 27 November 2019
- Christmas Lunch - Tuesday 17 December 2019
- Senior Prize Giving - Dewsbury Town Hall - Tuesday 17 December 2019

# Berlin 2019

After stumbling to school at 02.00, a half day walking tour did sound daunting. Luckily, our tour guide – Nikolai – was possibly the friendliest and liveliest man I've ever met and seemed to give the city the introduction it deserved. He led us across from Museum Island (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) to Humboldt University and a memorial of empty bookshelves, large enough to fit the 20,000 books burned by the Nazis. He also pointed out the Berlin Palace, reconstructed following Allied bombing, and many of us were surprised by the starkness of the architecture in what would once have been the DDR.



History in Berlin always felt strikingly close. Outside the Neues Museum, we passed pillars still scarred by bullets from the final days of the Second World War. A block or so away from Checkpoint Charlie, we stopped and stood over what is believed to be the exact spot of Hitler's death – an unmarked, soulless car park – and continued over to the Holocaust Memorial, where we wound our way through thousands of concrete slabs. Sachsenhausen concentration camp was horrific, but most shocking of all, for me, was visiting the German Resistance Memorial Centre on the final day. We were able to explore so many stories of bravery, including the truly haunting letter written by sixteen-year-old Hanno Günther to his mother before he was murdered by the Nazis for criticising their regime.



We would revisit many of these sights over the next few days, first in panorama up in the TV Tower at night, then during the breathtakingly beautiful Festival of Lights, then in our visit to the Reichstag. The latter was stunning – one of my favourite locations. From the glass dome, you could see the entirety of Berlin sprawled out into the horizon and speckled with landmarks.

Another highlight was the quality television and surprisingly catchy dance music of East Berlin in the DDR Museum, as well as the Topography of Terror, which delved into life in Nazi-occupied Europe. We also managed to visit the Olympic stadium and the Berlin Wall Memorial. The trip then ended as it began: with one final tour of the city, this time on a cruise down the River Spree.



Vicious hunts for currywurst and equally vicious bowling rivalries are certainly things I'll miss, this Berlin was



valuable in many ways. It was a delight to explore another country in so much depth; I think I can safely say we're all incredibly grateful to the staff that made it possible.

**Thank you to Leo Beevers for writing this article**