

Heckler

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HECKMONDWIKE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Happy New Year

Welcome back and Happy New Year. I do hope that 2020 proves to be an excellent year for your family and indeed the school.

As you would expect, we have hit the ground running this week with a very busy Year 11 parents' evening on Tuesday, which was excellent. Very important conversations were had to eke out the final tweaks of improvement to ensure all our students achieve their potential. Next week, Year 13 and Year 8 students have mock examinations, and we wish them the best of good fortune after all the hard work they have put in. The next few weeks and months are going to be very stressful for our Year 11 and 13 students and indeed their families. We are pulling out all the stops in school, but if you think there is anything else we can do, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

On an unrelated note, please can I reiterate that we do not provide any kind of preparation/revision materials for the 11+ entrance exam. We have been made aware that some private companies are providing such materials using the HGS name and logo, though the logo only faintly resembles ours! These materials are not supported by, or condoned by us and we would urge all parents not to buy them. Later in the summer term as we have for many years, we will put some familiarisation questions on our website just to ensure that students are not surprised by the styles of questions if they sit the exam in September.

May I take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for your continued super support of your children and indeed the school.

Peter Roberts - Headteacher

Kirkwood Hospice



Before the Christmas break we were delighted to be joined by ambassadors from Kirkwood Hospice. It was our privilege and pleasure to present them with a cheque for £7500 raised by our students from the Heck Hike sponsored walk back in September 2019. Special thanks to Mr Taylor who was the organiser of the event. An all round fantastic effort!



We still have a number of unclaimed prizes to collect from the Friends of HGS Winter raffle.

Please check your tickets against the winning numbers which can be found on the school website - <https://www.heckgrammar.co.uk/news/>.

Prizes can be claimed from Student Service on presentation of a winning ticket



Department Focus: Physics

The physics department returned to school in September in high spirits following a very pleasing and successful set of GCSE and A-level physics results, with 70% of grades at A-level being at A* to C, and 68% of grades at GCSE being grade 9-7. Take-up of the subject at A-level for Year 12 was also strong, with 57 students opting for physics. The department aims to give students an exciting and interesting experience of physics at Key Stage 3, GCSE and A-level. We are very pleased to see so many students do so well in exams and go on to exciting and amazing degree courses and careers with a strong physics content, that you couldn't do in any other way.

We were sorry to say farewell to Mr Dean at the end of the year, who moved on to an exciting teaching post on the tropical island of Penang in Malaysia.

GCSE Physics Mock Results

Year 11 produced very encouraging set of results in the recent mock exams, with about 84% of the grades being grade 7-9. If these results are repeated the real GCSE exam in the summer, we can look forward to excellent outcomes at GCSE, and we hope a continued strong take-up of physics at A-level.

There is still a lot of hard work, revision and exam preparation to do, but we have a strong foundation to build on now, with about 15 school weeks to go before the GCSE exams start.

Physics is an excellent facilitating subject, giving students a host of options of exciting university courses and apprenticeships, leading on to great career opportunities.



Year 11 A-level Subject Information Morning

Students at the Subject Information Morning

Following the Year 11 mock results announcement, students then visited the JCC to see presentations regarding A-level subjects. Our thanks go to Evie Hargreaves, Jay Patel and Aleks Kent for their enthusiasm in presenting the physics display, demonstrating the use of a wide range of fruit and vegetables as sources of electromotive force with internal resistance, a classic piece of A-level physics theory. Who knew that grapes could produce a higher voltage than lemons, and waxed lemons more than unwaxed?



Sarcophagus

At October half-term I took a short holiday in Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, and visited nearby Chernobyl. This was the scene of the devastating nuclear reactor explosion in 1986. While there, I saw the 'sarcophagus' which seals the remains of Reactor 4 in which the explosion occurred and looked around the abandoned city of Pripyat in the exclusion zone. A strange and moving experience. I had taken the school Geiger counter with me and took a few measurements of the background radiation next to the reactor and in Pripyat-only about three times higher than in Heckmondwike.

Mr Gilroy Visits Chernobyl

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Geiger Counter





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 with a brief description and a photo so we too can celebrate and share, via Twitter & The Heckler.

Changes to Attendance Procedures

We are making our procedures for reporting student absence easier to use. You can contact us by:

- completing the 'report an absence' form on our website at the following location: <https://www.heckgrammar.co.uk/parents/absence-attendance/report/>
- sending an email to attendance@heckgrammar.co.uk
- calling us on 01924 402202 and choose option 1.

Please give us the following information:

- your child's name and form
- the reason for the absence and when you think they will be returning to school
- your name and contact details

If you don't let us know that your child is absent, we will send you an automatically generated text message. You can reply to the text message and the register will be updated accordingly.

If we don't hear from you, we will phone you the same day.

Please note that if your child is absent for more than one day, you should contact us each day your child is absent. We will contact if we don't hear from you.

We are in the process of getting our records up to date. If we have an absence recorded for your child for which we don't have a reason on file, we will send you an auto generated text message. We would be grateful if you could respond to this message. If we don't hear from you, we will get in touch.

Mr Barnett
Assistant Headteacher

Parent Notices

13-17 January - Year 8 Exams

15-24 January - Year 13 Mock Exams

3 February - Morrisons in-Schools Apprenticeship Interview Preparation for year 13

4 February - Year 11 Worcester College, Oxford Trip

6 February - Year 8 Options Evening

17-21 February - Half term week