

Heckler



HECKMONDWIKE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Week 9 Published 19/11/2021

Children In Need

Once again, students, parents and staff have come up trumps and raised well over £1200 for Children in Need. We are still in the process of counting the cash but we are able to report that the cakes kindly donated by Mellor's catering raised £249.70 and donations made through ParentPay have topped £230.

We are always grateful to parents who give so generously and make fundraising at Heckmondwike Grammar School so worthwhile and an absolute joy, it truly brings HGS together as a community.

If you wish to make a donation to Children in Need, the link on the website will be available for the next few days.

We are still waiting to see how much was raised for the poppy appeal; the representative from the Royal British Legion has taken the collection boxes to count. However, we do know that a total of £702 was donated via ParentPay.

Thank you all so much for being kind, charitable people.





BIG
**Children
in Need**



Department Focus - History

It has been a busy term so far for the History department. Since returning in September we have welcomed our new Year 7 cohort – all enthusiastic, and some very keen historians amongst them. They have thrown themselves enthusiastically into the study of the Roman Conquest of Britain and are about to start studying the Norman invasion. I am looking forward to seeing their castle projects in the new year!

Year 8 are enjoying discovering how democracy developed in Britain – most recently studying the Peterloo massacre which took place over 200 years ago in Manchester – a turning point in the development of rights for the working classes in Britain. Some groups have also studied the Luddites – a group with local interest, as one of the infamous Luddite attacks took place in our very own Cleckheaton! 8.1 produced some leaflets and posters which either condemned the Luddites or recruited for them.



Our GCSE classes continue to make good progress – Year 9 students have started their studies of the interwar period of 1918-1939. Year 10 are currently studying Life in Nazi Germany and are discovering that allegedly Hitler helped to design the Volkswagen Beetle car!

As I write, Year 11 have just completed their mock exams – the countdown now begins to the end of the course. It was heartening to see so many of them at the recent VI Form Open

Evening. I am sure they will continue to work hard and make the most of the opportunities between now their and their GCSE exams.

We have 2 groups in Year 12 this year, including some very talented historians. Last week in school, and the community, we remembered those who gave their lives in service of their country. The Remembrance Assembly in school was conducted impeccably. Year 12 were fortunate to have a presentation prepared by Mr Oxby on the theme of remembrance, with a particular focus on an 'old boy' of Heckmondwike Grammar School – Louis Ackroyd – a local lad from Heckmondwike, who not only excelled at the Grammar School, particularly in Chemistry, but who also returned to Heckmondwike as a teacher. He was recruited into the army early in the First World War, with his expertise in Chemicals and chlorine gas in particular, being of use to the army. He was tragically killed in October 1915, aged just 24. The presentation highlighted just how important it is to remember and commemorate those who gave their lives for the 'greater good'.



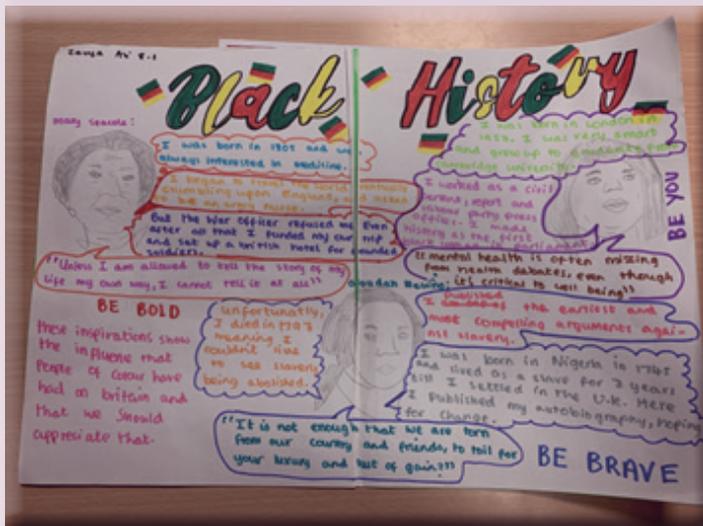
Department Focus - History cont

In a similar vein, one of our historians in Year 12, George Hall, is keen to start up a Historical Research society – on Thursday lunchtimes, initially in F109. The idea is that we can investigate the history of the school and local area, in particular, those ‘old scholars’ who gave their lives in service of the country. If anyone is keen to join the group and research either their own family history or the school’s ancestral history, please contact me on ecurrie@heckgrammar.co.uk or 16Ghall@heckgrammar.co.uk, perhaps some parents or members of the community have some information already or can contribute any research they have already done. Please get in touch if this is the case.

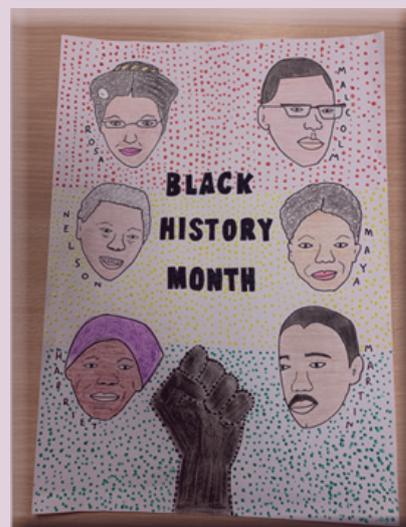
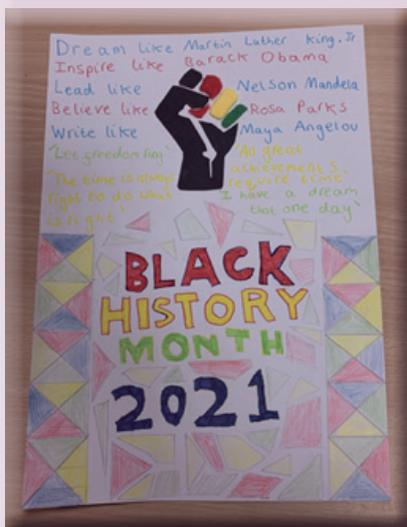
For those interested, we hope to start the society next Thursday – 25th November & I would encourage any keen students to turn up.

Year 13 have also just completed their mock exams but are also currently studying ‘US Civil Rights and Race Relations’.

October 2021 was ‘Black History Month’ and we promoted this in the department by sharing links and ideas. We also launched a competition across all year groups – Key Stage Three had to design a poster for Black History Month; Key Stage 4 write an account and Key Stage 5 entered into a debate about the validity of the month.



We received numerous entries – all of which were awarded 1898 points. The winner of the essay competition was Freya Thornton – her entry is published here. Also attached are some of the poster entries- the winner was judged to be Zavva Ali of 8.1, but there were a range of excellent entries as seen below:



Could Freya and Zavva come and see Mrs Currie in the History department to collect their prizes. Keep an eye out for future history events and competitions!

How Important is it to Study Black History?

- by Freya Thornton Year 12



In today's society, Black History Month is of paramount importance – not merely so that we can learn from the past, but also so that we can accentuate black voices. It is a time that should not be necessary but the invisibility of black people in school curriculums makes it very much a requirement.

Many people argue that white people should have their own month in the name of equality; alongside exacerbating the 'us and them' divide, this argument displays a complete misunderstanding of the month's purpose. White history, and the glorification of colonising escapades, has

been indoctrinated into us – the vast majority of History lessons are spent dwelling upon events that are, in my opinion, less relevant to today's society than the history of racial injustice. In the British curriculum, racial issues are portrayed as an American problem, so as to circumvent any hint of white guilt; students are taught about the transatlantic slave trade from an American perspective, about the African-American's battle for civil rights, and about Rosa Parks' pivotal role in the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Similar British issues, however, are avoided at all costs - Paul Stephenson, for example, who in 1963 led a boycott against a racist Bristol bus company, is not as broadly known as Rosa Parks. The root of the issue with the UK History curriculum is the exclusion of minorities; British history has been white-washed, which serves to make it inaccurate (and one would have thought that even the racists appreciate accuracy) – before the years of slavery, we imagine a Europe made entirely of white people. However, there is evidence that Roman Britain was a multicultural society; the 'Ivory Bangle Lady' is the name given to the remains found of a wealthy British woman from Roman times, who is likely to have been of North African descent. Therefore, Black History Month is essential for publicising stories that otherwise would have been hidden in a cascade of all-white history.



Another issue, and reason for the existence of Black History Month, is the white-saviour complex, and the warping of history to fit a particular narrative – one in which white people are not seen as murderers and bigots. Though black stories have been increasingly prevalent in media, many have been written by white people, for white people; 'The Help' is one particular example, in which a white author writes in the style that she perceives a black person from the South may talk – in doing so, Stockett perpetuates the view of black people as barely literate, and unable to fight for themselves until a white woman steps in. Another popular example is 'Hidden Figures,' which was directed by a white man (something there is no shortage of in Hollywood); this film strays from the actual history when a white supervisor rips down the 'coloured' bathroom sign – it was really Katherine Johnson herself who downright refused to be separated based upon her race. Despite the seemingly more inclusive media portrayal of race, the 'white people aren't all bad' narrative is destroying many films and books which could have been pertinent and enlightening. Black History Month, therefore, should be about emphasising works by black authors, rather than a white person's perception of the racial divide.

Sports News



Huddersfield Giants Community Trust is a non-profit organisation. They deliver sports and education-based initiatives into the community. Their aims are to inspire, create opportunities, promote being active, and as a whole build a stronger community where everyone belongs.

HGS are pleased to announce that Ryan White from Huddersfield Giants community trust has this week been delivering rugby sessions in girls PE lessons. Ryan currently coaches Huddersfield Womens Super League team. This has been a fantastic experience for girls from Years 7, 8 and 11



It's a Slam Dunk for Lucy

Lucy Mills, year 8, plays basketball for the City of Leeds Under 14 Girls, and following a couple of very tough matches against two very experienced teams, on Saturday 13 November the girls achieved their first win of the season against Manchester Mystics III. All the girls played well, but Lucy stood out and won the Performer of the Week! She has also been nominated to start on the Basketball England Talent Pathway Aspire programme, which in the training programme could eventually lead to representing Great Britain internationally. Good luck with this Lucy and keep us up to date with your progression



Tickets go on general sale
Tuesday 23 November- Numbers are limited
Purchase your ticket at

<https://heckmondwikegrammar.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

All purchased tickets will be billed and paid for through Parentpay



Parent Notices

Thursday 25 November
Year 13 Exam Revision Evening

Wednesday 1 December
Winter Showcase Concert

Thursday 2 December
Year 11 Virtual Parents' Evening

Tuesday 7 December
HGS Youth Theatre Presents
The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe

Wednesday 8 December
Inset Day - school closed to all

Thursday 9 December
Year 13 Virtual Parents' Evening
details to be emailed to parents shortly



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.

All students are required to wear a facemask around school. Please ensure that you send your child with the appropriate face covering. School have a very limited stock.

Vacancies

We are currently recruiting for a Lunchtime Supervisor and a Temporary Teacher of English
Full details are available on the school website -
<https://www.heckgrammar.co.uk/vacancies/>



**Salvation Army
Christmas Gift Appeal
2021**

FRIDAY DEC 6 Gift Appeal

SUGGESTED ITEMS
Toys, games, puzzle books, CD's, DVD's and stationery for younger children. Items suitable for older children toiletries, hats gloves, perfumes etc.
Collections boxes in form rooms & reception

de with ProstateMyWall.com

Love crisps?

Help the homeless this winter by giving us your crisp packets!



The Iron Man (pictured above) is collecting crisp packets and ironing them together to make survival blankets for the homeless.

It takes **150 crisp packets** to create **one** blanket. Heckmondwike Grammar School want to help!

Just follow these steps:

- 1) Eat crisps (the ones in packets that have foil on the inside).
- 2) Cut down the side of the packet to form a landscape rectangle.
- 3) Give the packet a wash in soapy water.
- 4) Put your **clean and dry** crisp packets in the box outside S.017.



On **Friday 26th November**, they will be sent off to The Iron Man, so collect as many as you can before then!

**HGS
Reverse Advent
2021**

Final Day 6 December

Suggested Donations
soup, pasta, tinned vegetables/tomatoes/fruit/meat, tea, coffee, lentils, beans & pulses, desserts, toiletries, household products etc.
Collection boxes in form rooms and reception