



## Happy New Year

It is with delight that we welcome back our school community after the Christmas holiday. The start of term has been superb with lots of happy students and staff relishing the opportunities that the New Year brings. There is much to look forward to in the next few weeks with the opening of the Jo Cox sixth form centre and year 11 students making the exciting initial steps of transition in to the sixth form by choosing their A level subjects.

The last few weeks have posed a few challenges for the school, but we are now in a position to move forwards with our usual level of excellence, providing the outstanding level of education all our students thrive on.

*Happy New Year  
from HGS*

On behalf of the whole school – our very best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year.

### Jam Jars Wanted

We are hoping to collect as many jam jars or kilner jars as possible over the next 2 weeks and would like your help.

Each jar will hold a white rose and will be used as table decorations at the official opening of the Jo Cox Centre.

Any donations of jars should be taken to Student Services. Thanks in advance.

## Jo Cox Centre Open Morning

In order to showcase our brand new Jo Cox Centre, which provides dedicated study, dining and social facilities for our sixth form students, we would like to invite prospective applicants and their families, as well as interested members of the local community, to an open morning on 19 January.



The Jo Cox Centre will be open from 10.30am. until 1.00pm. Visitors will be able to view the facilities, sample some of the excellent food in our Street Orchard café, and speak to staff and current sixth form students.

The address is as follows; Jo Cox Centre, Church Street, HECKMONDWIKE, WF16 0AX.

# Department Focus: Music

The HGS Music department is an extremely busy, popular and successful department and we aim to provide every student the opportunity to express themselves through the pleasures of music-making. Whether it's making music in class, taking up instrumental lessons from our highly experienced peripatetic staff or joining the extensive range of extra-curricular music opportunities available to all, music is heard throughout HGS.

Music lessons are of a very practical nature with topics including Pop Bands, Film Scoring, Ukuleles, Musicals, Samba Band, African Drumming, Blues and Music Technology. This is backed up by theoretical work in notation, musical elements, the orchestra, a broad range of stylistic listening topics and lots of singing. In addition to our curriculum qualifications, we provide access to all students in the performance exams of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music or RSL Rock School. In the last 12 months alone over 50 students have passed exams ranging from grade 1 to grade 8 and including many merits and distinctions.

Extra-curricular music is a real strength of the school and music can always be heard throughout the school day; whether it is in morning assemblies, curriculum lessons, band and choir rehearsals or just students practising on a lunchtime. We have a 35-piece Concert Band, a Soul Band, both Senior & Junior choirs, String, Percussion and Guitar ensembles, as well as a variety of other smaller groups. We regularly give concerts in school or at school functions, as well as in the wider community. Our annual house music competition provides the opportunity for all students to take part and provides two days of amazing (and fun!) performances in the summer term. Our new Tuned-In music club enables students to develop their music creativity further, whether it is performing in groups, composing or create an mp3 in the recording studio ready for YouTube. For further information please follow us on our department Twitter account @HGSMusicDrama.



## Student of the Week

**Chloe Dennis 7NSE** for instigating a fantastic community project within school.

**Nancy Roberts 8MTY** for always having a positive attitude and being friendly and polite to both staff and students.

**Rowan Lightfoot 9KMB** for incredible effort with all things musical! Well done.

**Rose Hickman 11SMN** for incredible efforts to pull off the highest-earning Christmas Fair stall in Y11.

**David Brown 11RLN** for a stunning performance at the Carol Concert.

**Sophie Lorimer 12SKE** for having the resilience to 'bounce back'.

**Joanna Rothery 13DAJ** for showing resilience and always working hard.

## Parent Notices

**14-18 January** - Year 8 Mock Exams

**19 January** - Jo Cox Centre Open Morning

**21-24 January** - Year 11 Consultation Meetings

**30 January** - Jo Cox Centre Official Open Event

**7 February** - Year 8 Options Evening

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