



Pride and Emotion

On a proud day in the school's long, 120-year history, on Wednesday 30 January we were delighted to formally name our new sixth form social and study facilities the 'Jo Cox Centre,' in honour of our former Head Girl and MP for Batley & Spen. The emotional occasion connected the school's past and present, as the current senior committee chatted with old scholars (Jo's sister and parents among them) and former staff, as well as distinguished guests from across the school and wider community.

In a poignant speech, Jo's sister, Kim, spoke eloquently about Jo's personality and connection to the school, as well as the enduring

legacy of her moral and political values, which are best encapsulated in the now-famous line that holds pride of place among a series of wall displays in the Centre: 'we have more in common than that which divides us.' It is our hope that the Centre that now bears Jo's name will serve to help promote Jo's qualities of studious hard work, compassion and humanity for years to come.

As might be expected of such a high-profile event, the local press were very keen to report on the events of the day, and students and parents may be interested in this excellent piece from the Yorkshire post, published on the evening of 30 January: <https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/education/pride-and-emotion-as-school-unveils-1-1m-sixth-form-centre-named-after-jo-cox-1-9566444>



Huge congratulations to Year 10 student Rahul Ho-Shing who has just been offered a two year contract at Sheffield Wednesday. Very well deserved!



Department Focus: Psychology

The success story of the Psychology Department continued this summer as we celebrated some of our most impressive ever exam results. The department and all of our teachers are immensely proud of all of our students who graduated from school last summer, 62% of whom achieved A*-B grades and 90% of whom achieved A*-C! We were thrilled to share in their excitement on results day but not surprised as they really did show that hard work, dedication and enthusiasm are the keys to success.

We are just as excited about our current crop of A Level Psychologists who are showing every sign of being able to reach those same heights. This term has seen our year 12 Psychology students becoming practically involved in their introduction to Research Methods by eating chocolate. They investigated whether or not chocolate aids memory and guess what, based on our results, it does!! That's good news for chocolate lovers. Students have also considered the ethical issues surrounding experiments in Psychology, particularly Stanley Milgram's use of electric shocks to highlight levels of obedience to authority (back in 1963 before Ethical Guidelines were in place).

Our Year 13s have begun their final year with the chance to become specialised in some of the influencers and drivers of human behaviour. A topic on aggression has seen students study famous figures of the past such as the Kray twins as well as tragic contemporary events like the Columbine Massacre to unpick what motivates those who commit atrocities. Students have also evaluated the impact of prison on prisoners to see if they are more influenced by the personality they bring into incarceration or of the experiences they have behind bars. This is complemented well by a unit of study about brain and behaviour which delves into just how much our actions are determined from birth or whether they are affected by the lives we lead. Ask one of our Year 13 students if you would like to know the answers!

The Psychology department is brimming with pride and passion this academic year and are excited for the successes of our students in the future. How can a group of students so knowledgeable about how humans learn and what motivates us, fail to be fully revised, ready and motivated for success in the summer? Psychologists would have the answer!



Arthur Miller's The Crucible

On Friday 25 January, Mrs Hellewell's year 10 GCSE drama class performed their version of Arthur Miller's classic play 'The Crucible' to a full audience. The performance was a huge success as hysteria and horror gripped the audience, with some in tears as the performance came to an emotional climax. 25 committed students worked tirelessly on the project for 6 weeks, taking on a variety of



responsibilities from designing to directing and of course, the iconic acting roles including John Proctor (Elliot Lunn), Elizabeth Proctor (Maisy Nichols) and Abigail Williams (Sophia Mencattelli). Students valued the experience as "hard work but so much fun to experience putting on such a powerful play". Their professionalism, work ethic and talent made the performance a huge success and one that will be remembered for a long time. Well done to all involved and thank you to everyone who came to support them.

HGS Reach Semi-Final of National Debating Competition



On Thursday 24 January our debating team headed across the Pennines to Urmston Grammar School in Manchester to compete in Round Two of the Mace competition. They were competing against five other schools, largely from the private sector, with three teams to progress to the next round. We were opposing the motion 'This house would prohibit businesses from taking a public position on social issues'. Speakers Maisy Nicholls and Eleanor Falshaw were ably supported by Leo Beevers, researcher and speech-writer extraordinaire.

Following three lively and entertaining debates, there was a lengthy wait before the judges announced their decision. Despite some problems with the pronunciation of Heckmondwike, the chief judge eventually pronounced HGS as one of the three winning teams, voted through unanimously by all three judges. In the feedback Maisy Nicholls speech was judged to be the best of the evening by the chief judge. We await the draw, date and venue of the semi-final. Hopefully a trip to London for the final in late March awaits!



Addressing the Taboo

Our students broke down the prejudice and stigma surrounding mental health issues in young people through the medium of drama. Nameless Theatre, Heckmondwike Grammar School's own theatre company consisting of students in Year 10 - 12, recently performed a preview of 'Taboo', which is an original play written and devised by drama teacher Mrs Barton in collaboration with the students. Mrs Barton said, 'Mental health is such an important topic, particularly for young people. As someone passionate about young people's mental wellbeing and theatre, I saw an opportunity to raise awareness through creativity and writing a play on the subject'. The company are hoping to tour their production to local community venues and secondary schools and are currently looking for sponsors to enable them to achieve this. If anyone is interested in being a sponsor or hosting the production at their venue please contact us via email on adminoffice@heckgrammar.co.uk.

Student of the Week

- Jake Chilvers 7NSE** for enthusiasm and commitment to Art Club.
- Sohail Khan 8MTY** for always being cheerful and welcoming around school.
- Alfe Eyre 9AHH** for being polite, hard-working and always smiling.
- Gemma Hall 10 ALL** for her contribution to Elland Silver Youth Band who have just won the British Open Youth Brass Band Championships.
- Jay Patel 11SMN** for extraordinary commitment and determination in coursework and extra-curricular activities this term.
- Salmaan Karolia 12TSD** for always being kind to others and being extremely polite.
- Luke Frazer 13GSN** for being an extremely polite and friendly member of the sixth form.

Parent Notices

- 7 February** - Year 8 Options Evening
- 14 February** - Year 12 Parents' Evening
- 15 February** - Year 11 Sixth Form Taster Day, Year 12 Study Day, Last Day of Term
- 25 February** - First Day of Term

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