



## A Taste of Sixth Form Life



On Friday 15 February, Year 11 had the opportunity to become Year 12 for the day to experience life as a student in our Sixth Form. They took part in a number of taster lessons from across our full range of subjects in addition to special sessions developed just for the day. Mr Oxby ran a tutorial on how to develop skills and experiences to get our students ahead of the queue when applying to top universities and for the most prestigious courses. Our Sixth Form Medical Society, led by Year 12 student Aisha Kara, provided invaluable advice and training to those considering a career in medicine, dentistry or medicine. This is the first time that a student team has delivered such a session, and it was humbling to witness the quality of their delivery and the level of engagement by our year 11 students.

It was fantastic to see students getting stuck in, and for some, their eyes have been opened to some of the many alternative subjects on offer at A level here at HGS. Students also had exclusive access to the Jo Cox Centre throughout the day and at lunchtime, with many opting to experience a free period - some chose to immerse themselves in some focussed independent study, whilst others were happy to sample the excellent food on offer at our Street Orchard Cafe. The feedback from students was extremely positive, and ahead of their final exams, it was an ideal opportunity for them to visualise themselves taking their next steps towards success at HGS Sixth Form. We look forward to continuing to support our hard working Year 11 towards their exams and preparing them for the exciting challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

## Year 8 Decision Making

The careers team have been working with Year 8 this week and have delivered an interactive session entitled 'Decision Making' to help them to make their GCSE options choices. The sessions involved students considering their own strengths, skills and interests in subject areas and relating these to a wide range of career areas. The session also involved students analysing their own decision making styles and talking about factors they need to think about when making their options choices. We also talked about where and how they could do further research. We were really impressed with the students' involvement and enthusiasm in all of the sessions. 79 % of students said they felt more confident about how to make their GCSE options choices after the session, and one student said they had learned 'different ways of making decisions and the best way to choose options'.

### **Catering Prize Draw Winner**

*Congratulations to Year 9 student Eleanor Linsall-Fraser on winning an iPad in the catering prize draw. The prize draw took place as part of our catering student voice survey, where students were asked to give their opinion about our catering service within school. All students that gave their opinion were entered into the prize draw, which was then drawn by Headteacher Mr Roberts on 13 February.*



# Department Focus: Sociology

It is a busy time at the moment for the Sociology Team as the year 13 students have just sat their mock paper and the year 12 students are building up to their mock paper in a few months' time. Year 12 students are currently looking at the various theories that are used in sociology to examine the topic of 'The Family'. They have gained an understanding of how the family contributes to society from a conservative perspective, right through to that of the Marxist approach. These theories will be used throughout the course to explore the other topics that we cover. Some highlight the conflict that is in society, whilst others place more emphasis on agreement.

In Mrs Cole's lessons, year 12 students are exploring the reasons for gender differences in educational performance. So they will be finding out if girls still outperform boys in the UK today. Her year 13 classes are looking at religion and it's role in producing and/or constraining social change. Leading sociologists such as Weber examine how it can be a force for social good as in the case of Martin Luther King. Other theorists have placed an emphasis on religion slowing down social change.

The year 13 students in Mr Smith's classes are currently looking at the amount of crime that different social groups seem to commit. As part of this we examine the validity of crime statistics and ask why it is the case that men seem to commit more crime than women. We have also just examined the negative impact that the media can have on our perception of the levels of crime in this country.

I am certain that all students deserve a break during the half-term holidays and we hope they will be ready to embark on another busy few months on their return as they approach their examinations.



## Honorary Clarke House Member

The four houses hosted their usual assemblies this week. Headteacher, Mr Roberts, was invited by Clarke House to address students and share his views on the value of the house system at HGS. A "fellow yellow" himself, Mr Roberts reminisced of representing Clarke competitively in a wide range of house events when he attended the school. In the same meeting, he was presented with an honorary house badge and tie to commemorate his 40th year as a member of Clarke.

Clarke sincerely thanks Mr Roberts for his outstanding contribution and continuous support for his boyhood house and this marvellous competition. Now in its 113th season, the school continues to deliver this enriching system, offering all students a wide range of opportunities to compete in sports, arts and academic events.

### Student of the Week

**Isabella Redman 7JJS** for showing amazing resilience over the past few weeks.

**Lola Freakly 8DWR** for gaining the most positives in one half-term.

**Billy Turner 9RGF** for showing a mature attitude towards his work, being a good friend and always showing lovely manners!

**Maria Jenkinson, Amelia Kellett, Maisy Nichols, Mollie O'Connor, Brandon Radford, Caitlin Tansey (all Y10)** for their amazing and thought-provoking performances of *Taboo* delivered during assemblies last week.

**Eve Hodgson 11SGN** for excellent effort and progress in History revision.

**Emma Mosely 12JJD** for showing true resilience (JLW has been particularly impressed).

**Imaan Nasir 13 CVH** for her hard-working and determined attitude towards her learning and future goals.

### Parent Notices

**25 February** - First Day of Term

**7 March** - Y13 Information Evening

**15 March** - Non-uniform day for Red Nose Day

**21 March** - Y13 Parents Evening 2

**27 March** - House Drama

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