

Half-Term Trips

Business & Economics Trip - New York

At 8am on Thursday 14th February, also known as Valentine's Day, 19 Business and Economics students, along with Mr Basser and Mr & Mrs Roberts, set off for Manchester airport to begin the long journey to New York. Within the space of four days, despite the freezing cold, we visited places all over the city. Naturally, shopping was key – we toured Macy's behind-the-scenes, visited Sephora, went to 5th Avenue where Usmaan amused us with endless mispronunciations of designer brands, and many of us (especially Mr Basser) loaded our bags with bargains from Century 21.

At night, we experienced the buzz of Times Square and the breathtaking lights atop the Empire State Building, as well as enjoying all the food New York has to offer. On the topic of food, it would be impossible not to mention the extortionately expensive Michelin Star meal some of us went on for Jaslin's Birthday.

During the days, we toured Wall Street and the fascinating financial district, explored the forefront of technology at the Microsoft Store, learnt about complex international relations at the UN, visited Grand Central and mastered the New York Subway – which, by the way, makes travelling on the London Tube seem like a first-class Emirates flight. Luckily, as we caught a ferry to see the infamous Statue of Liberty, the sun decided to briefly join us. It was a nice break from the rush of the main city to relax, admire the skyline and explore the history of immigration into New York. Overall, New York was an amazing experience, and we would like to give special thanks to Mr Basser for organising the trip and getting us there and back in one piece.

Written by Year 13 students Sara Saloo and Danyal Abubaker.



Ski Trip - Austria

Mr Walker, Mr Keenleyside, Mrs Proud, Miss Bannister and Mr Rourke embarked on a ski trip during February half term with 47 pupils from Years 9 and 10, to the Austrian resort of Matrei Kals. The snow and weather conditions were excellent and the group had a fantastic weeks skiing. Many thanks to all the pupils for the way they conducted themselves and to the staff who worked so hard during the week to ensure all the pupils had the best possible experience. Mr Rourke and Mr Keenleyside put huge amounts of time and effort into planning and delivering entertaining evening quizzes, slide shows, videos and social media posts.



Anatomy Club



Over recent weeks, ten Year 12 students have spent Wednesday afternoons taking part in Anatomy Club enrichment. In this club, students have had the opportunity to dissect rats, hearts, lungs, livers, kidneys, eyes, brains, testicles and even trotters! Students have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to improve essential biological skills such as how to use scalpels and prepare microscope slides, whilst learning about the anatomy and physiology of mammals and their organs. This club will open up many more prospects for students as we discuss ethical issues, as well as doing dissections that would not be part of the normal A-Level curriculum. Overall, the most valuable skill students have acquired is how to cope with bad smells!

Spreading the Love at Science Club

On 14th February our science club students sent hearts flying in a special Valentine's Day themed club. The students made their own catapults using lollypop sticks, elastic bands and half of a small plastic egg to make the basket. The objective was to use pom-poms initially to knock down the 'tower of love'.

Students then investigated the distance and force needed to successfully knock down the tower. They were then given Love Heart sweets to try the task again...a lot

of hearts (the sugary kind) were broken in the process.



Congratulations to Year 10 GCSE PE student Alice, who has been selected for the Yorkshire Ladies U15 rugby union squad. Good luck for the rest of the season!!!



Non-uniform day - Friday 15 March in support of Red Nose Day. Students are asked to donate £1 to attend school in their own clothes.

Red noses will also be on sale from Friday 1 March - cost £1.25.



National Careers Week

There are various careers related sessions running next week as part of National Careers Week 2019. These sessions aim to:

- Raise awareness of the range of opportunities available to students beyond school and increase students' understanding of how they can access these opportunities.
- Increase students' understanding of the relevance of what they are learning in school and how this connects to their future.
- Develop and widen aspirations and increase motivation to learn and succeed.



Department Focus: Spanish

Our Foreign Language Assistant

My name is Diego. I am 25 years old and I'm from Mexico. I have always wanted to be a teacher. Learning a foreign language has allowed me to study at Universities from the Czech Republic to the USA. I have made a lot of friends from all around the world and have so many great memories that will stay with me for the rest of my life. Studying English gave me the opportunity to work here at Heckmondwike Grammar School. I am so thankful for how lucky I have been. During my first couple of days, my host family helped me a lot and showed me the true meaning of a Yorkshire family. I am already addicted to tea and biscuits and of course Yorkshire food. When I first saw the school, I was amazed. I wanted to be a student here instead of a teacher! The clubs, the activities, the staff - I love the fact that the teachers talk to you in the language that you are learning. I am here to help students with homework or speaking practice and of course to inspire them with the language club activities. Language learning is about getting to know different people and challenging your communication skills. I hope to get to know as many students and staff as possible!



Spanish Clubs

Students in Years 7 and 8 have the opportunity to attend language club every week. Cultural aspects they have so far discovered have included food tasting, flamenco, pelota, Spanish Christmas and of course making piñatas. Year 9 and 10 GCSE students have their own club which focuses more on the language but also having fun. The students appreciate the opportunity to converse regularly with a native speaker.

Spanish Trips - A new destination!

Following on from previously successful visits to Barcelona and Cantabria, in June 2019 students from year 8 will be setting off on a cultural visit of Madrid. The itinerary includes visits to the Bernabeu Stadium, the Royal Palace, the Gran Vía, the Plaza Mayor and even a flamenco dancing lesson. The excitement of putting into practice all the students have been learning is building!



Student of the Week

Kyran Russell 7JRB for sharing his musical talents playing the piano to visitors at St James' Hospital and helping brighten their day.

Yusuf Akudi, Mohammad Ahyar & Azaan Aziz 8EGL for creating a magnificent board game in Maths.

Isabel Hudson 9NJS for amazing effort and hard work in and out of school and surviving the ski trip!

Rosie Masud 10 HJP and Penelope Gordon 10 HJP for producing the Year 10 quiz.

Holly Simpson 11SMN, Charlotte Waring 11SGN, Mia Howden 11SMN, Mea Rice 11SMN, Mia Jarrett 11SGN, Haarisah Taram 11SGN for their amazing Valentine's fundraising efforts in support of the Year 11 prom.

Saba Gul 12WSR for positive attitude to learning and pure determination.

Sohel Patel 13SPL for being motivated and working hard in study periods.

Parent Notices

4-8 March - National Careers Week

07 March - Y13 Information Evening

15 March - Non-uniform day for Red Nose Day

21 March - Y13 Parents' Evening (2)

27 March - House Drama

04 April - Y10 Parents' Evening

11 April - Y8 Parents' Evening

12 April - Students to finish at 2.15 for the Easter Holiday.

29 April - First Day of Term

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