

## Year 12 Progression Event



Ten months ago, year 12 were settling in to their first A-level lessons; in ten months time, they will be about to embark on study leave ahead of their final exams. It is with this in mind that we thought it timely to look ahead to their futures after HGS.

As part of our annual two-day Progression Event, our sixth form students were given the opportunity to attend talks, workshops and a fair led by over 35 UK universities and 20 apprenticeship providers, covering topics such as admissions, student finance and undergraduate life, as well as more specific academic topics. It was particularly pleasing to see former students return to school to share their experiences of life after HGS, and it is clear that the overwhelming majority of current students had their understanding of university and other post-18 opportunities enriched and enhanced.

Many thanks to all staff and students who contributed to making this event a great success for our students and the school, and particularly to Mrs Mistry and Mrs Lawler for their tireless commitment to ensuring the widest range of visitors and exhibitors attended the event and left with very positive impressions of our school and its students.

# DofE Bronze Qualifying Expedition

Last Thursday, 4 July, 68 students set off for the Dales from school and arrived at their start point. After sorting out their kit they started on their route. Navigation started well and the routes although physically challenging at times were relatively easy to navigate. Meeting them at checkpoints, spirits were high and the groups were working well together. However, as always they were happy to reach the campsite at Gordale Scar. After pitching the tents they set about cooking dinner, which was mainly pasta based! They were soon ready to relax and prepare for Day 2. Although it was a dry evening the midges were out in force and they quickly retreated into their tents.



Day 2 - They were up early and camp discipline was good, cooking breakfast, taking down tents and organising kit and they were away nice and early with spirits high. The weather-

was again kind



to them with no rain and not overly hot and everyone worked well to support each other throughout the day. Well done to everyone. Congratulations to all of the students on the expedition who worked well together which contributed to their success. They now need to add Assessors reports to complete their DofE information online for their Volunteering, Skill and Physical section of the Award by the Summer.

## MBE for Former Head Girl

We are delighted to announce that Gill Edge-Evans (nee Bramley) a former Head Girl (1977) of Heckmondwike Grammar School has been awarded an MBE for her services to education. The announcement was made in The Queen's 2019 Birthday Honours List. Gill recently contacted us to share this wonderful news. She told us that she is overjoyed to receive this accolade and made reference to Miss Hirst, a former Deputyhead Teacher at the school, as she was a great inspiration to her. Gill also said that Mr Riddles would be proud of the Head Girl who he always felt 'had too many fingers in too many pies to ever come to much'.

Gill worked in teaching for the whole of her career and retired last year as the Head of Killinghall Primary where she spent 14 years. Gill told us that she was very surprised to have had the honour bestowed upon her and that she had been unaware that she had even been nominated. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Gill, receiving an MBE is a fantastic achievement.

### Parent Notices

Friday 19 July - Sport Day at Spensborough Running Track for Year 7-10.  
Student dismissed from the running track at 12.15pm

# Department Focus: PE

This summer term is a very busy one for the Department.

In curriculum time, pupils complete blocks of activities in athletics, cricket, rounders, softball and tennis. The school has excellent facilities with four tennis courts and the astro turf which is used for kwik cricket, rounders and softball. Up at Cawley fields, there is an eight lane 400m track, throwing areas for shot, javelin, discus and a long jump pit. Four rounders pitches are also used on the lower playing fields.

There is also a range of extra-curricular clubs, house competitions and district/county competitions. This summer cricket teams from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 have competed in the Yorkshire County cricket 20/20 competitions, with the U13 and U15 teams reaching the semi final stages. House cricket and rounders were also popular events.

Our athletes have competed in the Kirklees schools cross country and athletics events over and the year. The following students were selected for the Kirklees cross country team who competed in the West Yorkshire championships:

Year 7 Boys – Adam Pow

Year 9 Girls – Martha Currie

Year 9 Boys – Jacob Pow

Year 10 Girls – Anna Basford

Year 10 Boys – Sam Langley / Max Metcalfe

The summer term also includes pupils from Years 10 and 12 under taking their bronze and silver Duke of Edinburgh's expeditions in the Yorkshire Dales and Peak district. Year 9 pupils spend three days at the YMCA Lakeside outdoor pursuits residential centre experiencing sailing, high ropes, kayaking, zip wires and abseiling. Pupils from the school will also get to experience netball world cup matches in Liverpool when they travel to watch in July.



The year comes to a close with sports day which, is held on the last Friday of term at the Princess Marys athletics stadium in Cleckheaton and sees the final points on offer for the Lees Cup.

# Drama & Theatre London trip 2019



On Monday 8 July, 40 students from year 10 and 11 went to London for the super busy and exciting Music and Drama trip. After an early start, it did not take long before the whole coach was singing (loudly) to their heart's content to get themselves in the mood for the visit ahead.

After conveniently arriving around lunchtime in Covent Gardens, we spent a little bit of time shopping and eating, all the while enjoying the entertainment of a variety of street artists successfully, and sometimes unsuccessfully, performing their acts. With a quick drop off of bags and a change of clothes,

we headed back to the centre for the first night's food and theatre performance.

After a lovely meal we went straight to the Gillian Lynne theatre to see 'School of Rock'. The show was fantastic and the energy and talent of the young kids performing in the musical astounded everyone.

Tuesday was a full day of activities! Stop one was Pineapple Dance studios where we took part in a West End workshop with cast members and MDs. Every student, and staff member, gave 100% energy and commitment to learning the routine and lyrics before we enjoyed a Q & A session with the workshop leaders. It was great to hear their stories of getting into musical theatre, learning how their school education, including completing their A Levels and music/drama degrees, were vital in helping them achieve their goals.

Tuesday afternoon involved a leisurely cruise down the River Thames, including some "interesting" commentary on the surrounding scenery. And if seeing these sights from the river wasn't enough, stop three took us up to the dizzying heights of the London Eye. Students enjoyed capturing lots of photos of the world famous buildings in London such as Buckingham Palace, Wembley Stadium and a much scaffolded Big Ben. On such a lovely day, it felt fitting then to travel to our evening meal by walking the streets of London; passing the Houses of Parliament and Downing Street. Neither Boris or Jeremy were around! Planet Hollywood served us up some classic American food while capturing our students singing and dancing on their in-house screens. The students very kindly took this opportunity to thank all the staff for organising such an amazing trip and even added a personalised message on the TV screens just for Mr Cole! With spirits high, we set off to show number 2: 'The Phantom of the Opera' at Her Majesty's theatre. While both shows we saw were composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber, they were drastically different in style and genre. The students sat back and enjoyed a dramatic and powerful production with amazing vocalists and creative scenery, staging and costumes. A great end to a fantastic day of sight-seeing.

Even though so many were sad to be leaving on Wednesday morning, a trip to Warner Bros. Studio – The Making of Harry Potter, made the process slightly easier! The tour was incredible with so much scenery, props and costumes on show from the films. A few students (and staff) enjoyed a go on the green-screen broomsticks pretending to witches and wizards flying around Hogwarts. After finally dragging the students out of the never-ending gift shop, we finally set off back to Heckmondwike.

A huge thank you to all the students for behaving so well, participating and making the trip such a success. The students and staff loved every moment – it was a magical trip!

## *Students of the Week*

**Luke Drury 7MLG, Jamie Allinson 8MTY, Hadi Junaid 9JDR, Emma Dagogo-Jack 12 SKE**

**Spelling Bee Winners:- Marco Bailao 10KAR, Manswi Mehtia 10KAR & Haania Asghar 10KAR**