

Heckler



HECKMONDWIKE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Week 11 Published 03/12/2021

WINTER SHOWCASE CONCERT

Wednesday evening saw the return of the Music Departments Showcase Concert. After an enforced gap of 2 years, it was great to be back with live music and a live audience.

After our Covid passport checks were complete and our year 12 helper team checking pre-booked tickets, the audience were entertained to pre-concert welcome music by our 'resident' pianist Kyran Russell (y10).

The concert started with a bang with a performance by our 50 piece Concert Band to the Rocky theme 'Gonna Fly Now' which included a trumpet solo from Rowan Lightfoot (y12). 'Russian Sailor Dance' followed with a pulsating accelerando and rousing crescendo.

The first of our three choirs took to the stage next with the Senior Girls Vocal group performing the Christmas favourites of 'Santa Baby' and 'All I Want for Christmas is You' with a solo start by Anna McArdle (y10). The choir was then joined by the full Senior Choir. With two performances in the first half of 'Somewhere in My Memory' and 'Carol of the Bells', the choir then sang 'Ding Dong Merrily on High' and 'White Christmas' in the second half. The connection? They were all features in the classic Christmas film Home Alone!

We had a number of featured soloists on the evening. The first half heard two lovely Christmas performances from Mythreyi Kumaravel (y9) and Methuli Perera Kuranage (y8). The second heard new year 12 student Phoebe Backhouse with an acoustic rendition of 'Last Christmas'.

The huge Junior Choir took to the stage in the first half. It took some organising but once they were ready they produced such a wonderful sound. 'City of Stars' (from La La Land) was followed by the Bubl  favourite 'Cold December Night'.



WINTER SHOWCASE CONCERT cont

The Concert Band finished the first half with the exciting film music from 'The Avengers', followed by 'All that Jazz' from the Musical Chicago – two of Miss Sutcliffe's favourites!

Rather than a bell to end the interval, the Soul Band just kicked into the classic 'Mustang Sally', with Rowan Lightfoot (y12) on vocals. The cue to be seated worked and the second half was underway with the band performing the Norah Jones ballad 'Don't Know Why' with Jess Hirst (y13) on vocals. Stevie Wonder's 'What Christmas Means to Me' showcased the female vocal section with Jess being joined by newcomers Phoebe Backhouse, Zoe Cole and Molly Lawford (all y12 and new to the school).

The Percussion Group took over the stage next (literally) performing two pieces. 'Rolling Thunder' showcased a range of Djembe drums, followed by a Christmas Medley on xylophones, glockenspiels and drums... with the obligatory sleigh bells throughout!

Eleanor Lilley (y12) has accompanied the junior choir on the piano for a number of years now, but this time she also showed off her arranging skills with an arrangement of the classic 'War is Over'. The Junior Choir rose to the occasion and performed it with wonderful emotion and feeling.

The Concert Band finished off the evening with three pieces. 'Noel' is a beautiful arrangement of the melody of the First Noel, featuring a range of instrumental colour from the band – including the twinkling bell tree from the percussion section. Jess Hirst (y13) returned to the stage but this time performing a tap dance routine as the band played the classic 'Singing in the Rain'. The band concluded the programme with a rendition of Elbows pop song 'One Day Like This' – before a quick encore of 'Let it Snow' by the band and all the choirs finished the evening off with a lovely Christmas feeling... and waving phone torches from the audience!

It was great to be back for a wonderful evening of live music. The students performed magnificently and roll on the next one.

Department Focus - Music

It's been a great first term for the music department as we've been able to resume our normal practical curriculum after the restrictions of last year. Group work, singing, musical instruments are all back in lesson time again and it's great to hear live music making each day. All the ensembles are also back fully this term with many of them growing in size... some quite dramatically!

Year 7 have been studying the elements of music this term along with listening work from The Beatles and Vivaldi. There has been introductions to rhythm notation, some practical group composition and finding their way around the musical keyboard. All the students have completed their initial performances which is a great way to hear students who are starting out, along with those who are already quite high calibre performers.

Year 8 have completed a range of activities similar in style to the GCSE components – solo performing, ensemble performing, composing, and listening. All students have learnt how to compose a piece of film music using the software Cubase – fitting their work to a film scene ranging from Doctor Who to Wallace & Gromit and James Bond to Minions! Students were placed in pop bands and learnt how to perform in a group on guitars, bass, drums, keys and vocals, performing pop songs from current artists. There were many fabulous solo performances as part of their final assessments and all students completed listening exercises with film music and pop songs.



Year 9 GCSE students have started their course well. Studying decades of pop music in the first term, we heard ensemble performances ranging from Elvis, The Beatles, Abba, Madonna and Oasis. All students learnt how to compose in a pop song style and a variety of famous pop songs were analysed. The students have recently been studying fusion music and are currently 'fusing' together a world music style piece with a Christmas song.

Department Focus - Music cont

Year 10 are now underway studying their first two set works. Killer Queen, by the band Queen was first up, followed by music from Star Wars by John Williams (great choices by the exam board there!). Composition work was closely linked, with students studying how to develop pop song composition and they are just finishing their film music compositions to scenes from Harry Potter. All students have completed solo performances and are now developing their ensemble work with some Christmas performances.

Year 11 were busy finishing their final two set works early in the term before the mock exam period. Students often find the set works by Beethoven and Purcell some of the most challenging, but our year 11 have engaged fully with the pieces. Mock examinations were completed which included a past paper listening test and solo performances. Well done to all for completing these and whilst there were some super marks across the groups, the hard work starts again in the New Year ready for the final stages of the course. All students are also underway with their coursework composition with a range of styles being composed including pop songs, world music, film scores and traditional classical style pieces.

Our A level music students are well on the way with all three of the aspects of the course. The in depth academic study of the thirteen set works are underway with year 12 getting to grips with the film music from Psycho (Bernard Herrmann) and Batman (Danny Elfman), with year 13 just starting



some fusion pieces by Debussy and Anoushka Shankar. Initial composition exercises are being completed by year 12 with our year 13 final compositions now starting to take shape. We've had some amazing performance work from our students, including classical and musical theatre songs, piano recitals, clarinet concertos and heavy rock electric guitar.

After a very depressing musical time last year with very little allowed to happen we are delighted that our extra-curricular activities are now all underway again with something happening everyday! Each morning starts with a music performance in assembly. With many performers from each year already performing, it's a great opportunity (albeit a little scary) to perform in front of a large audience.

The Junior Choir has grown and grown... and grown again! Often reaching 70 to 80 students rehearsing each week they are making a wonderful sound. The Senior Choir has resumed each Friday, again with new members. It's such a lovely end to the week to sing in a large group. The Senior Girls Chamber Group has now turned into another Choir! Great to see new faces at every rehearsal and everyone is always welcome to come and sing in our choirs.

After our restart in the summer with the 'year 8 bubble' band, we have now resumed our full Concert Band. With over 50 musicians attending it's a fantastic group to conduct each week. Our String Group is developing some of our younger musicians and the Percussion Club is the usual [highly] organised chaotic fun on a Tuesday evening - but sounds tremendous. Our Soul Band has resumed again - with a whole new rhythm section and three new singers. Finally, our new Rock and Pop club started with our new guitar teacher Mr Dunster-Sigtermans, and has become really popular. With a range of 'bands' now in rehearsals they are looking towards a rock & pop night in the New Year. We will also be busy in the New Year preparing with the drama staff for our whole school production of Grease.

With live music every day, practical music lessons, hundreds of students taking part in our extracurricular groups and concerts and performances underway the music department is well and truly back!





Sixth Form Progression

Last week, 30 applicants for medicine, veterinary medicine and dentistry participated in a mock Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) hosted by Harrogate Grammar School and joined by several schools from across the region. Despite a very late evening (Mr Ellis wittily remarked how the overrunning session was designed to offer students the experience of a busy NHS waiting room!), the students gained a great deal from the experience, with one commenting on how the variety of interview 'stations', manned by staff from schools from across the region, afforded him "the experience of answering interview questions in a similar setting to the real thing."



Traditionally, our sixth-form students apply to study a range of degree courses related to healthcare. In fact, it was the single biggest degree subject area that our students progressed to in 2021, with around 30% of university destinations being either medicine, dentistry or allied healthcare degrees. We were therefore delighted to welcome Caroline Priestley from Bradford University to school on Friday 3 December; Caroline delivered one-to-one interview support to year 13 students applying to study courses such as pharmacy, mental health nursing and speech and language therapy. The students were very grateful for the support and feel much more confident and prepared as a result.

Over the coming fortnight, 17 of our students will attend interviews for courses at Oxford or Cambridge universities. These students have been benefiting from interview support from staff in school and, in some cases, participating in an online Interview Exchange with staff from Harrogate



Grammar, through which participating students engage in online mock interviews with staff from other schools; you will remember from previous Hecklers how this builds upon the face-to-face experience students enjoyed at an interview seminar in October. Our able and ambitious natural scientists may also be interviewed for courses at Imperial College, London, and on Wednesday 1 December we welcomed Felicity Hayter-Gare to school to offer a tailored workshop to our year 13 students, who were posed challenging interview questions such as 'how does a plane fly' (aeronautical engineering) and about the workings of transistors (electrical engineering). Our very best wishes to all students

involved and our many thanks to the many staff who have supported them; we are optimistic for a good number of offers being reported back to us in January.



While a majority of our students continue to progress to university upon leaving school (55% to 'high tariff' ones according to the latest figures), a growing number seek employment-based progression routes. Students embarking on such a pathway took part in a week-long virtual work experience, co-ordinated by Laura Foster at Morrisons, who guided the students through activities such as assessment centres, employability skills and 'developing a personal brand'.

As always, our outstanding Careers Team of Mrs Quinn and Mrs Lawler are available for all students seeking tailored interview support or practice, either via the drop-in each Monday-Thursday or by making an appointment by emailing careersteachers@heckgrammar.co.uk.

Sports Notices



Year 11 Netball

Congratulations to the Year 11 Netball Team. We hosted teams from Manor Croft and MFG.

They played Manor Croft first. With a strong performance right from the start they never conceded a goal and won 19-0. They knew that MFG had some strong players but they looked strong right from the start with some great attacking play and strong shooting. HGS took the win Final score 15-3.

Well Done to the whole team.



Sumedh Smashes It

Sunday 21 November saw Year 10 Student Sumedh Chittamuru win the national championship for the U15 Badminton Mixed Doubles at The National Badminton Centre Milton Keynes. Sumedh and his playing partner Lucy won each of their matches ensuring an unbeaten championship win. This win sees playing Sumedh playing for England in France in the New Year in a competition against 7 other nations. Good luck.

Sumedh also secured silver in the both the U15 Singles and U15 Boys doubles. An amazing achievement



XD U15		MATCH STATS	26m
Round of 16			
Sumedh Reddy Chittamuru [1]	Lucy Brierley	● 21 21	HGH
George Baxter	Hattie Herbert	10 15	
⌚ 09:45 📍 NBC - Ct6			

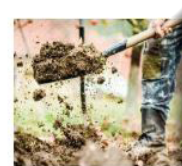
XD U15		MATCH STATS	19m
Quarter final			
Sumedh Reddy Chittamuru [1]	Lucy Brierley	● 21 21	HGH
Jayaditya Kumar	Maria Mitchell	12 12	
⌚ 10:30 📍 NBC - Ct3			

XD U15		MATCH STATS	25m
Semi final			
Sumedh Reddy Chittamuru [1]	Lucy Brierley	● 22 23	HGH
David Ng [3/4]	Grace Sachdeva	20 21	
⌚ 11:45 📍 NBC - Ct2			

XD U15		MATCH STATS	42m
Final			
Sumedh Reddy Chittamuru [1]	Lucy Brierley	● 21 19 22	HGH
James Song [2]	Sofie Chong	17 21 20	
⌚ 15:15 📍 NBC - Ct3			

World Challenge Support

The World Challenge programme encourages students to fund raise to support their trip. We have 3 year 12 students Martha, Harriet and Gracie are organising a charity sale in Mirfield in aid of their planned expedition in 2022.



Raising money to support students and education in rural communities in Romania

Please come and join us at our fund-raising charity sale on:

Saturday 11th December 2021 – Knowl Club, Knowl Road, Mirfield

12.00 noon – 6.00pm

Stalls will include:

- Excellent condition second-hand Children's:
 - Toys
 - Books
 - Games
- Bric a Brac
- Christmas decorations/accessories
- Cake and bun stall
- Tombola

Organised by Heckmondwike Grammar School Year 12 Students

IMPORTANT

**COVID-19
TESTING**

**Twice
Weekly**

IMPORTANT

In attempt to reduce the spread of covid 19 we are asking families to continue with the twice weekly lateral flow tests and to report ALL results via the school website. The new Antigen Rapid Test, which is nasal only, are issued every 3 weeks to students.

Due to new government guideline it is more important that all students wear a facemasks around school. Please ensure that you send your child with the appropriate face covering.

Parent Notices

Tuesday 7 December

HGS Youth Theatre Presents
The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe

Wednesday 8 December

Inset Day - school closed to all

Thursday 9 December

Year 13 Virtual Parents' Evening
details to be emailed to parents shortly

Friday 10 December

Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Candlelighters

Thursday 16 December

Carol Service - St James Church Heckmondwike
Details to be released soon

Friday 17 December

Students will be dismissed as follows for Christmas Holidays
12.20 - Years 10-13 & 12.25 Years 7-9

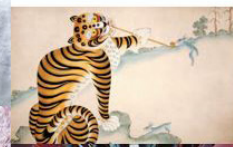
KOREA CLUB

한국 클럽

celebrate Korean culture and history
learn some Korean
eat Korean food >:)

Every **Wednesday** lunch (starting
08/12) in **P001**

Any questions:
15LBeevers@heckgrammar.co.uk
See you there!





Merry Crispmas!

Is it too early for Christmas references?

I recently asked for your help in collecting crisp packets and the response was fantastic!

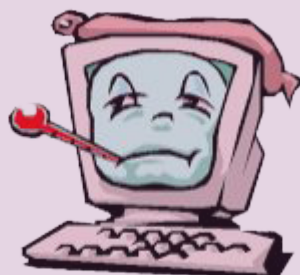
In just three weeks, we've collected over **600** crisp packets! These have been sent to The Iron Man where they will be turned into heat insulating survival blankets and given to the homeless. **A huge thank you to everyone involved!**



I've been asked:

"Can we keep handing in crisp packets?" Absolutely! Not only is this for a good cause, but it helps the environment, too. So far we've reused **1.4kg** of "waste" plastic. The box (or a better one) will be outside S.017 for the foreseeable future. You can continue to hand in your crisp packets but please **make sure to mark them first.**

If you'd like updates or more information about us on Facebook for ironmanfrome. There are ways you can create your own survival blankets. With your help you can give it a try – if you do, let us know!



Is your computer running slowly?

Does it seem to take forever to load?



PC Repairs
Cleckheaton

- We will diagnose your problems
- We will recommend solutions
- We can upgrade your PC

Call 07452 958783 or email pcrepairs.cleck@gmail.com