

Heckler



Week 50 Published 29 November 2019

HECKMONDWIKE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

HGS Ranked 7th

We are delighted to share the news that Heckmondwike Grammar School has been awarded 7th position in the Sunday Times Parent Power survey for the North of England. Being ranked as one of the top performing schools for GCSE and A Level is a great honour and very well deserved.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Parent Power 2020

THE SUNDAY TIMES

**SCHOOLS
GUIDE
2020**

**THE TOP
2,000 SCHOOLS
IN THE UK**

Our recipe for success over many years has been down to a joint collaboration between staff, parents and students, whose thirst for knowledge is exemplary. Throughout their time at school, our students work extremely hard and are given tremendous support from an exceptionally dedicated staff team who always go the extra mile to ensure that all students reach their full potential and become the best that they can be. Our Latin school motto, 'nil sine labore', means nothing without work and our students and staff uphold this value in everything they do.

I am sure you will join me in congratulating all students in the class of 2019 and thanks goes to a wonderful team of staff.

Mr Roberts - Headteacher

Reverse Advent Calendar 2019



**HGS REVERSE
ADVENT CALENDAR**

After its great success last year we are pleased to announce the launch of the 2019 Reverse Advent Calendar.

On each school day throughout December, form groups will be encouraged to bring in items to put in the box and on the last day before we break up for Christmas, the boxes will be donated to a local food bank. The items can include food or toiletries, but must be non-perishable. Full details of the scheme can be found on <https://www.heckgrammar.co.uk/content/uploads/2019/11/Reverse-Advent-2019.pdf>.

If you are able to donate to this scheme, please send items into school with your son/daughter throughout December.

Alumni 50 Years Reunion - Class of 1976

On Saturday 23 November 2019, Heckmondwike Grammar School welcomed back several of its old scholars, who had attended the school 1969-1976. The morning was enjoyed by all, with tours of buildings which allowed the old scholars to reminisce on their time as students and reunite with fellow classmates.

They enjoyed perusing the archives, finding their names in the old editions of the Heckler, and in particular, the detention book. It was lovely to see so many past students at the event, and we hope that they have been able to take away more memories of their time here.



Year 7 Musical Talent



On Wednesday evening we presented our first year 7 performance evening. In front of an appreciative audience of family and friends, twenty of our year 7s performed solo pieces. We had performances on a range of instruments including piano, flute, trombone, guitar, drums, violin and clarinet and the standard was amazing. The students played a variety of styles of music - from grade 2, 3 and 4 exam style pieces, to Disney songs and Musical theatre numbers, and not forgetting a bit of rock guitar at the end!

A hugely entertaining evening of music with lots of delighted and beaming parents and grandparents (along with a proud Miss Sutcliffe and Mr Cole!) We really look forward to hearing their HGS music careers develop over the coming years!

Our musicians were - Sophiya Bashir, Veronica Bereza, Mary Blakey, Harvey Cole, Catherine Fan, Wilson Freeman, Rachel Gan, Alex Hainsworth, Willow Hickman, Emma Ingram, Zeeshan Mahmood, Krish Nanda, Joshua Nuttman, Emily Richards, Evie Rushton, Sajani Sasikaran, Lily Stirk, Daisy Thornton, Caitlin Tolan, Kelvin Zhang.

Well done to all of you.



TOUR DE FORCE

This Weeks Stellar Students

Millie -Rose Ward Year 7



“My October half term was amazing as I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to be part of a German exchange programme with my swim club Dewsbury Dolphins ASC. The first exchange between my club and TuRa Bergkamen goes back as far as October 1982 when the first German children came to stay with local families in Dewsbury.

We started our trip at at 3:00 am on the Saturday morning and drove down to Dover to catch the ferry to go across to France. We eventually arrived and met our host families in Bergkamen Germany later that night.

For the remainder of the week we stayed with our host families and had an opportunity to gain an insight into some of the German culture. I stayed in a place called Lünen which is a town in north Rhine-Westphalia located north of Dortmund on both banks of the River Lippe. Lünen is the

first city in the world to receive electricity via public utility companies that is generated on the base of animal waste.

My host friend was in school during my stay as the half term is different in Germany but I had the opportunity to drop her off at school before spending the rest of the day with my swim club and some of the German adult hosts. I was really shocked to see how early the school day starts in Germany and how some of them don't even have to wear a uniform. The school day is also much shorter than ours.

During the week we visited many exciting places such as the Romes Park Xanten (one of the largest archaeological open air museums in the world which is built on the site of the Roman settlements .) We also had a great day at the German mining museum (which is one of the most visited museums in Germany and it is the largest mining museum in the world.)



As well as educational visits we also had many fun activities such as Simyü Werne which is an old traditional annual fair and an amazing day at the Movie World Bottrop which is a theme park divided up into seven areas each with their own collection of attractions. We also had a wonderful visit to the Sea life centre in Oberhausen and then had the afternoon at the aqua park.

One of the highlights of my week was taking part in the club swim competition with our German hosts and whilst on this occasion we didn't retain out winners trophy I was lucky enough to achieve first place in my own individual race.

The host family that I stayed with made me feel extremely welcome and my week with them was absolutely fantastic and I was sad when it was time to say goodbye. We will be keeping in touch because hopefully the exchange will go ahead next year and my German host will be coming to stay with me.

Thank you to Millie-Rose for sharing her experience with us. We look forward to any updates

Department Focus: Geography

After the success of the face painting at sports day, my environmental group raised over £120 which we have used to purchase an acre of rainforest from the Land Trust. We have since embarked on another fundraising mission to buy a range of sustainable materials to help bridge the development gap in low-income countries. We hope to purchase a number of goats from Oxfam for Christmas that will help a number of families.

Our group has also enrolled the school as an Eco School Award scheme which is a national award for schools to develop sustainable industries in a range of areas from energy to biodiversity. The Bronze level award is the first objective which we hope to achieve before Easter. One of the important steps in achieving this is the setting up of an eco-committee which will coordinate the school's effort. We need volunteers from all areas of the school – members of the students, years 7-13 and members of the teaching staff, governors and SLT who will attend a half-termly meeting. We have included a poster with a link to the eco-schools initiative website. We hope to hear from students as soon as possible.



Join the Eco-Committee



Help make a real difference to our school

First meeting 4th December, with Mr Roberts – open to all years

Find out how to get involved:

Lauren Holmes: 13lholmes@heckgrammar.co.uk



www.eco-schools.org.uk

Year 7 Netball Win



Congratulations to our Year 7 Netball Team who secured a win against Whitcliffe Mount on Thursday 28 November.



This shiny piano is just one example of items that the Friends of HGS have purchased to enrich the children's learning environment in school.

A large part of the funds are collected through the winter raffle, and we would like to say a huge thank you to all those who have taken part. Let's see what we can fund in 2020... but before that, don't forget to check the winning numbers on 13 December!



Football Results - The U18 Football Team beat Mirfield 3-0 in the semi-final of the West Yorkshire Cup. U16 Football Team beat Brooksbank 2-0 in the 1/4 final of the West Yorkshire Cup.

Parent Notices

Thursday 5 December - Christmas Showcase Concert - ***Tickets £5 Business Office***

Thursday 12 December - Youth Theatre Performance - Nativity the Musical - ***Tickets £5 Business Office***

Monday 16 December - Christmas Fayre - Students Only

Tuesday 17 December - Christmas Dinner & Senior Prize Giving

Thursday 19 December - Carol Service - St James Church, Heckmondwike - ***Tickets from Student Services***

Friday 20 December - House Swimming Gala & last day of term