

Christmas Begins for Music & Drama



Our Christmas Showcase was once again performed to a packed out Swann Hall on Thursday evening. Extra chairs were quickly unpacked just before the concert started to seat the ever-growing audience. It was wonderful to see so many parents, family and friends at the concert, proudly watching the students perform. Our Chair of Governors, Jane Dixon also enjoyed the concert; with a few added sleigh bells at the end from Head Teacher Mr Roberts. There were over 100 students participating across the different ensembles and choirs throughout the evening making the stage as packed as the audience. Performances were given by the Concert Band, Junior Choir, Senior Choir, Soul Band, String Group, Guitar Group, Percussion Group, Glee Club and the Senior Girls' Choir.

The theme for this year's concert was 'Christmas at the Movies'. Pieces were performed from a variety of Christmas films including some classics such as 'White Christmas', 'Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree' and a selection from the film Home Alone. These were interspersed with some more modern songs such as 'Where Are You Christmas?' from The Grinch, and 'Do You Want to Build a Snowman?' from Frozen. The showcase drew to an end perfectly with a special performance of music from The Snowman. We heard a narrated version (performed superbly by Rowan Lightfoot) of the story of The Snowman set to music performed by Concert Band with Junior Choir joining at the end to sing the main song 'Walking in the Air'. Last but not least, we finished with an encore of 'Let It Snow' from Mr Cole's favourite Christmas film....Die Hard!

A huge thank you and well done to everyone involved in the concert and thank you to the support of parents, family and friends. Please join us for our annual Carol Concert at St James Church, Heckmondwike on Thursday 19 December at 19.30.



Well done to members of the Senior Girls Vocal Group for giving up their Sunday afternoon & performing beautifully at the Soroptimist Carol service, a community charity event.



TOUR DE FORCE

This Weeks Stellar Students

Emma Ingram Year 7

Emma Ingram from Year 7 took part in Becky Adlington's SwimStars Gala at Wakefield Total Fitness. She competed in the SwimFit Section and achieved 1st place in all four races: butterfly, front crawl, back crawl and breaststroke.

She also got the chance to meet Becky Adlington, OBE, a British former competitive swimmer who won two golds in the 2008 Summer Olympics, who presented her with her rosettes.

What a fantastic experience, may be it will be Emma winning Olympic Golds in years to come. Well Done!



Lily Messenger Year 10



We are delighted to share the news that one of our Year 10 students, Lily Messenger has been selected to represent England in the forth coming National Rink Hockey Euro Cup to be held in Matera, Italy in December. Emily and her 9 teammates will be traveling to Italy on the 18 December. We are sure you will join us in wishing them the very best of luck.

All the games will be streamed live via <http://www.cers-rinkhockey.tv/> on the following times:

19/12/19 - 17.30, 20/12/19 - 09.00 & 20/12/19 - 16.00

We hope to report on their success on their return.

Good Luck!!

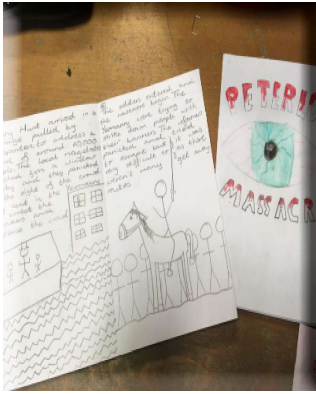


Navaneeth Roshan Sasikumar Year 8

Congratulations to Navaneeth Roshan who secured third place in the minor section of the Yorkshire Grand Prix chess tournament held in Leeds last Saturday (30.11.2019)



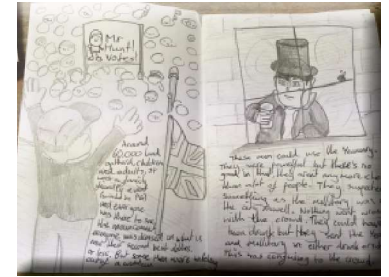
Department Focus: History



It has been a busy term in the History department with all classes settling in well and making progress. Years 7 & 8 have started the new Key Stage Three curriculum, with Year 7 in particular discovering about the Roman invasion of Britain and its impact on everyday life. They are now comparing this with the Norman Conquest – we look forward to some excellent castle building projects in the New Year! Year 8 have embarked on a study of the Development of Democracy



– a highlight being a project commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Peterloo massacre in Manchester. We worked with the 'Age of Revolution' company to produce our own story books of the massacre and have now made links with our current democracy. Hopefully, Year 8 are now much more politically aware in readiness for the General Election this week!



At GCSE a highlight of the term has been a trip to Berlin with Year 11 students. It was an action-packed four day trip – leaving very early in the morning and returning very late at night in early October. We visited a range of sights related to our historical studies of Germany between 1890 and 1945. Visits included the Topography of Terror exhibition, the German resistance memorial, Sachsenhausen concentration camp and the Holocaust memorial. We also had the opportunity to visit the TV Tower in Alexanderplatz, the Olympic Stadium, a riverboat trip and a visit to the Reichstag building, including the dome with a panoramic vista across Berlin. We were fortunate to be there at the time of the Festival of Lights, where key buildings were lit up with images and light displays, including ones commemorating the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall. All students (and staff) thoroughly enjoyed the trip and we are repeating it with current year 10 next October!



the moment, with one of our students holding 5 offers from universities to study History. Others are applying for law, politics and related degrees.

At A-level our students are working well, finalising coursework and preparing for mock examinations! We have had a lot of interest from students wishing to study history at A-level next year and the subject fair for Year 11 next week in the JCC will be a good opportunity for students to find out more about A-level and speak to some of our year 12 students. Our current year 13 students are fully immersed in UCAS applications at



Reverse Advent Calendar - Week 1



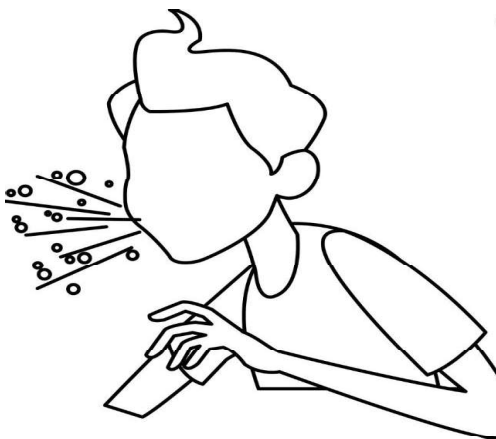
**HGS REVERSE
ADVENT CALENDAR**



Donations are well underway for the reverse Advent Calendar. Your donations are welcome up until Thursday 19 December

What to donate: A typical food parcel includes: Cereal, Soup, Pasta, Rice, Tinned tomatoes/ pasta sauce, Lentils, beans and pulses, Tinned meat, Tinned vegetables, Tea/coffee, Tinned fruit, Biscuits, UHT milk, Fruit juice

Important Notice Regarding Sickness



As we enter the season of sickness please be advised that if your child has been sent home from school or has been absent from school due to vomiting we require them to be 48 hours without being ill before returning to school, this will help to reduce the chances for the bug spreading to other students. If your child is not fit for school please DO NOT send them.

These are the NHS and Public Health England guidelines that have been issued, therefore we ask that you be understanding of this request.

Parent Notices

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

Monday 16 December - Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Fair - 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

Monday 7 January - Return from Christmas Break