

Week 53 Issued 20 December 2019

Senior Prize Giving

Over 600 guests attended the Senior Prize Giving in the grand surroundings of Dewsbury Town Hall. The evening was a very fitting tribute to the outstanding successes of year 11 and 13 students in the record-breaking 2019 examinations.

Throughout the evening the audience were entertained by the fabulous Soul Band who also accompanied talented vocalists singing 'Shallow' from the film A Star Is Born and a delightful medley of songs from Phantom of the Opera.

The Guests of Honour, Gordon, Jean and Kim Leadbeater - Jo Cox's family and all old scholars of the school, awarded prizes to the top performing students. Kim delivered a poignant address, remembering the life of her sister Jo and



My hearty congratulations to all the students in the class of 2019 and grateful thanks to the outstanding staff who worked tirelessly with the students to support them in their achievements.

Peter Roberts
Headteacher

how through the Jo Cox Foundation, Jo's intentions of bringing communities together continues.

There were many highlights to the evening including Sara Saloo who was presented with the Rex Sclarum award for the highest academic success having achieved 3 A* grades at A level and A* in EPQ. Sara is now reading Law at the University of Cambridge.





HGS REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

HGS Heroes

Two HGS Heroes, Mackenzie Stevenson, year 7 & Joshua Turner Year 8. Both students have entered into the true spirit of Christmas. Mackenzie donated his gifts on a daily basis to the food bank donating in total 24 items. Joshua decided he would donate two food boxes and each one would have enough food for a single parent family for a week which included a small gift for a child under the age of 6. Both students surpassed our expectations and are true heroes - you should be very proud of your selves. Well done!!

True Spirit of Christmas

Once again, our students and families have dug deep and donated items for our Reverse Advent Calendar on a scale never seen before; we have managed to deliver to two separate food banks, items of food, toiletries and household goods. These donations will be distributed via the two food banks to families in need over this festive period. As always, we thank you for supporting this valuable cause.



Mackenzie Stevenson pictured with all of his donations



Joshua Turner pictured with his boxed donations



Mr & Mrs Currie, the organisers of the Reverse Advent Calendar delivered two vans full of donations to food banks in Batley on Thursday. We received a thank you note from the Salvation Army Food Bank who said "Thank you so much for the items that you donated towards Christmas Food Parcels. These will be distributed, along with toys, to needy local families in good time for Christmas".

We are sure you will agree that this is a very worth cause.



TOUR DE FORCE

This Weeks Stellar Students

Rakshith Rathish (8CLBS)

Rakshith Rathish participated in the Tamizh speech competition conducted by Northern Tamizh Association - UK, more than 60 students participated in three categories. Rakshith spoke in the third category (11+ yrs) on the topic "The future is in the hands of youngsters" and he was declared the winner of this category.

This event is conducted every year to encourage the upcoming generations to understand and to improve the knowledge of their mother tongue and culture.

The judges were prominent Tamizh scholars and hold responsible positions as a Dr and a Scientist. Rakshith was praised for the references he quoted and his delivery of speech and was greatly appreciated for his spontaneous responses during the judge's questions round. Rakshith has secured the winner position for consecutively two years (2018 & 2019).



A Huge well done to Rakshith

HGS Climbing Club Awards



climbing indoors up to 4m in height without ropes with soft matting for protection instead.

Those students who took up the opportunity to try something new worked towards achieving the National Indoor Bouldering Award Scheme or NIBAS. This is a multi-levelled certificate-awarding scheme that includes coaching through a range of skills and techniques as well as developing the physical strength needed for bouldering. A number of our students were awarded level 1 during the summer term and are now working their way towards level 2, however since September a further 7 students have been awarded level 1

As the climbing club wound up this week we took opportunity to take pictures of our intrepid explorers with their certificates. A big thank you to all staff who were involved in the organising of this club. We hope to be able to offer this extra-curricular activity on a regular basis.

Heckmondwike Grammar School offered an exciting new enrichment opportunity for all year groups 7-13 this year. As the newest sport entering the Olympics in 2020 was rock climbing, the enrichment was for a course in one of the 3 disciplines, bouldering. This involved

Annamarie Kaushiva 7B1HLS



Annamarie Kaushiva a chorister at Wakefield Cathedral was involved, in the BBC radio recording of Carols at Christmas at the cathedral, last week. The programme will air on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.



Music in the Community



It was another busy day for the Music department on Wednesday 11 December. Hosting the second community event of the year, we invited 15 year 4 students from Heckmondwike Primary School to join us for a Music workshop, run by our year 8 students. As the primary school students wandered through the corridors up to the Music room so many were amazed by the size of the school (and the Christmas tree in Reception) with many remarking "I want to come here when I go to high school".



When they arrived to Music, they were met by a group of our year 8 students who confidently presented what the afternoon was about. We then gave a performance of three pop songs the year 8s had been working on (Viva La Vida, Somewhere Only We Know & Count on Me). The aim of the workshop was to demonstrate what the year 8 students had been doing the previous half-term in class and help the students from Heckmondwike Primary School have a go themselves. The project is normally held over four lessons for our students, however the year 4 students only had an hour!

After the performances, our students 'buddied' up with a year 4 student and in groups they chose a pop song and learnt different parts to play. With many of the students from the primary school not having played any instrument before, it was amazing to see them take so confidently to either a keyboard, ukulele or even bass guitar or drums. Our year 8 students showed respect and kindness to the younger students as well as great leadership skills, and it was remarked by the staff at Heckmondwike Primary School how brilliant our students were with their class.

We ended the afternoon by hearing the year 4 students play their pieces in groups with the help of our year 8 students. Songs included Treat You Better, Someone You Loved and (it wouldn't be right to not have some Christmas music in December) Merry Christmas Everyone. The time and effort put in by all students was fantastic and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience. A huge well done to the students at Heckmondwike Primary School and to our year 8 students: Ethan Bajulaiye, Ewan Brook, Emma Dye, Suchir Gupta, Esther Linsell-Fraser, Jacob Lynch, Dwain Nitcheu, Emily Sharp, Shania Shelton, Eleanor Stott, Joshua Turner, Lilly Whittington & George Woodward. Thank you very much for your hard work – you are a credit to the school.



The Christmas Carol services was held on Thursday 19 Decemebr. Full details will be shared in the next edition of the Heckler

Department Focus: PE



It has been a busy term for the Physical Education department.

Badminton

The schools Under 14 and Under 16 girls and boys badminton teams have been selected to compete in the Kirklees Schools championships early next year.

Cross Country

A number of athletes competed in the Kirklees Schools championships held at Leeds Road playing fields. An excellent performance from all of the competitors. The following have now qualified for the West Yorkshire championships held at Leeds Grammar school.

Year 8 Boys – Adam Pow

Year 9/ 10 Girls – Martha Currie - Boys – Jacob Pow

Year 11 Girls – Anna Basford

Year 11 Boys – Sam Langley

Football

Our school football teams have made an excellent start to the season with the Year 8, 9, 10 and 11 boys teams making good progress in the Spen Valley district cups. In the West Yorkshire cup, the Year 10 and year 11 boys teams have reached the semi final stages. The year 10 team produced a convincing performance to beat Mirfield 3-0 in the ¼ final and set up a semi final clash in the new year against Whitcliffe Mount. The Year 11 team faced a potentially tough fixture against Brooksbank but secured a 3-0 win and will now play Minsthorpe for a place in the final.



The Year 7 5-a-side football team produced an excellent performance to win their group and qualify for the Spen Valley schools finals where they finished in 2nd place overall.



The U18 team (pictured right) played Mirfield in their West Yorkshire cup semi final and in a very close match, won 3-0. Their opponents in the final will be North Halifax Grammar.

Internally, Mr Roukes' fabulous and very popular football Fiesta junior five a side competition reached its climax with the finals being held in the last week of term.

Netball

The schools netball teams have again achieved some excellent results.

On Wednesday 20 November, the Under 18 Netball Squad travelled to the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield to take part in the Yorkshire Netball Challenge Cup 2019. The first game was against Wickersley College. Our opponents started strongly, scoring twice in the first minute but we started to improve our attacking game and came back to draw the score level. After this the game was much closer mid-court but they had a few more chances in the circle and the final score was 7-4. The next game was against Shelley College. We dominated this game from the start with superb shooting from Isabella Mencattelli and Nandini Mehta and the game finished 12-1. We then had games against Wyke College(2) and Barnsley College. Both teams appeared quite intimidating at first but our attack soon battled through to take control. With some good defending in the shooting circle we remained in control throughout and the games both finished 10-5.



Our final game of the day saw us playing Wyke College (1) in the 3rd and 4th place play off. Despite a strong start from both teams and good end to end action with the score remaining equal Wyke led at half time. Unfortunately, we were unable to regain this advantage in the second half and the game finished 12-7 to give us 4th place overall.

Well Done to the whole squad: Holly Beaumont, Nandini Mehta, Alice Brown, Evie Hargreaves, Japnibir Kour, Hannah McQuinn, Isabella Mencattelli, Eve Halmshaw, Joy Hudson, Zara Azam, Isabella Myers, Nadia Dawson.

A special mention to Alice Brown who was nominated as one of the players of the tournament for her role as centre. An excellent performance.

The Year 10 netball team have had a great season winning the Under 15 Spen Valley Schools tournament.

The Year 9 Netball team (pictured) won the Spen Valley Schools Under 14 tournament.



It was also a very busy term for House sporting events with the Juniors, Inters and Seniors football being won overall by Priestly House and the girls netball and hockey tournaments. The year closes with the House swimming gala which has moved venues to the Stadia swimming complex in Huddersfield due to the closure of the Spenborough pool

Rugby

RFU coach Clarissa Murphy has been running a weekly after school sessions for girls. The department will continue to develop rugby within the curriculum with the aim for girls to start playing competitive tag rugby matches. Three pupils from Year 9 – Woody Walker, Elliott King and Ava Higgins completed the Young match officials referees course and are now on the pathway to becoming fully qualified officials. The following players from the school Jacob Grierson, Woody Walker and Tom Burrows have also been selected for the RFU player development pathway.

House rugby tournaments for all years groups will start in the spring term.

Skiing

Mr Keenleyside will be taking a party of skiers to Killington, USA, during February half term 2020 and the next Junior ski trip will see pupils from current years 9 and 10 travel to Matrei Kals Austria, February half term 2021.

Thank you to all of the pupils who have made outstanding contribution to school sport this year. Also thank you to the staff who give up so much of their time to run teams and events.

Parent Notices

Monday 6 January - School open as normal

Tuesday 7 January - Year 11 Parents Evening

W/C Monday 13 January - Year 8 Exams

Commencing Wednesday 15 January - Year 13 Mock Exams

