

Heckler



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UCAS 2020

HECKMONDWIKE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The main deadline for university applications passed on 15 January. This year, 215 year 13 students have applied to university in the UK, choosing to study a range of courses from accountancy to veterinary medicine.

Students have already received a combined total of over 450 offers, with over 130 of these being at Russell Group or other leading universities. Particular congratulations must go to the five students who have this week received offers to study at Oxford or Cambridge, while offers to study very competitive courses at other elite Russell Group universities are arriving thick and fast.



Around 400 courses are still considering our students' applications, with decisions expected between now and late March.

In addition, two students have applied to Ivy League universities in the United States and many more are seeking places on very competitive higher-level apprenticeship courses, many of which opened for applications in the new year.

Congratulations (and continued good luck) to all our students, and many thanks to all teachers, form tutors and our very dedicated Ucas checking and careers teams who supported them through this application process.

HGS Times Gone By

A search of our archives has brought about a new feature for the Heckler "HGS Times Gone By". A weekly insight into past articles. Such as **Suggestion Box** where an individual suggested in 1906 "That Mr. Ferguson be taken from his coffin and given an airing some fine day".

If any alumni has any school reports or news items from their time at HGS please forward to:

office@heckgrammar.co.uk

We start with "Nil Sine Labore" the school motto -article published in 1944 with a little bit of tongue in cheek!!

Why was - "Nil Sme Labore" chosen as the School Motto? Obviously the powers that be thought it would be very fitting for the School.

Let us take it word by word, and see just how fitting it is. First of all - 'Nil,' which of course means 'nothing.' Does this refer to the usual mark given for homework? Or does it refer to the high scores of the hockey and football team?

Then comes 'Sine,' which means without' This is a favourite descriptive word used by all members of the staff - e.g., 'without brains, intelligence, sense,' etc. And of course, the school often applies it similarly to the staff.

The last word - 'Labore,' is - sad to say - well known to us all. Day in, day out, we have that terrible word flung at us by irate members of the staff, who seem to have been misled into thinking that we come to school to work.

Now take the motto as a whole. It has been proudly translated by many a small child who has taken Latin for six months as 'No sign of work.' Of course the real meaning of the motto is 'Nothing without work.' This Latin term is meant to instil into us the rewards of hard work, but we prefer the former translation, which certainly comes much nearer to the truth.

Clean Sweep At Badminton



Our U14 and U16 Girls and Boys badminton team travelled to Shelley College to compete in the Kirklees schools competition.

The U16 Boys team of Eldo, Asish, Akhil and Suhas, pictured left, performed well to win all three of their matches with a very high calibre of play.

Pictured left - The U14 Boys team of Harvey, Survir, Sumedth and Archie also won all three of their matches.

Pictured below - The U14 Girls team of Bella Lobley, Yawei Li, Joanna Xu and Rosanne Li were also clear winners of the Under 14 Girls competition.



U16 team pictured below had closest competition with the three teams all winning one match. Heckmondwike thought they had lost out losing their second match by only one point.

With the three teams level, the overall result was decided by the total number of games won. Heckmondwike secured the title having won one more game than the other teams.

Minahil Afzal, Shreya Khanvilkar, Martha Currie and Harriett Haycock

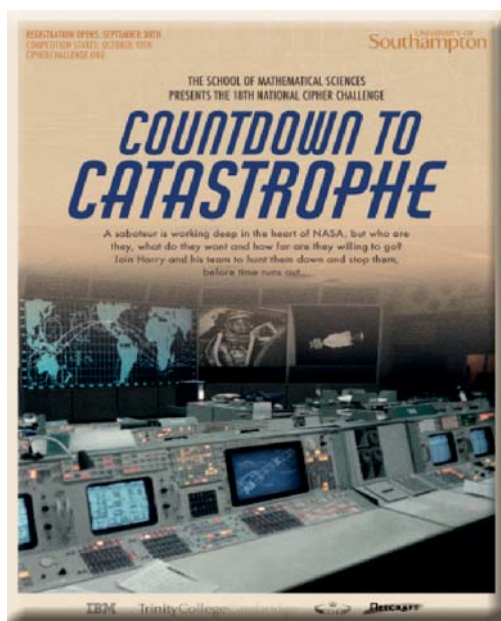
Well done to all of the players for securing a clean sweep. All players displayed a great attitude and conducted themselves in a sporting and respectful fashion. The teams will now compete in the West Yorkshire championships held at Leeds Grammar on Wednesday 22 January.





TOUR DE FORCE

This Weeks Stellar Students



Cipher Challenge Success!

The KS3 Maths Club have recently participated in the National Cipher Challenge 2019. This is a nationwide online code breaking competition which has been run by the University of Southampton Mathematics Department since 2002. It has a number of high profile fans, including two former Foreign Secretaries; the media scientists Adam Hart-Davis and Simon Singh and Newsnight editor Mark Urban.

The competition is aimed at school and sixth form students of mathematics and computer science. This year there were about 6000 participants and over 350 teams registered in total, including many grown ups with an interest in cryptography. This is the first time to my knowledge that HGS have taken part in the competition and three of the ten teams that entered, all pupils in year 7 and 8, have done rather well!

The competition is structured as a series of encrypted messages which tell a story. This year the theme was the historical 'space race', and the need to uncover a saboteur working in the heart of NASA. Our KS3 Maths Club has met every Wednesday and Friday lunchtime since the competition launched at the end of September until the day before the final cipher deadline on 9 January. The rivalry was intense but there was also plenty of collaboration especially as the cipher deadlines approached!

Team Sky7B2 (we are the best) finished equal 3rd overall, Hecky Heroes equal 8th & Superstars equal 16th in the A competition, made up of more straightforward ciphers. These same teams finished in 186th, 188th and 192nd place respectively in the B competition (which comprised a series of increasingly challenging ciphers) with many hundreds of teams/individuals finishing below them.

We in Team Maths are extremely proud of their achievement and the resilience demonstrated as the ciphers increased in difficulty as the competition progressed. The participants must have enjoyed the experience as they are super keen to get started on the Alan Turing Cryptography Competition which begins at the end of January!

Our amazing cryptographers are: Qusain Mir, Eloise Pridham, Eleni You, Alex Hainsworth, Maria Titarenko, Zoeya Hamid (all 7B2), Maariyah Patel (7B1), Samuel Jones, Jonathan Downes (both 8B1), Suchir Gupta (8B2) and Ayan Gupta (8P1)





Mr Parsons and Mr Stokoe have been working on the esports (gaming) house competition and have, due to its popularity, also entered some students into a national tournament.

As of today we have 5 students who have been selected to compete in the 'British Esports Championships', a national competitive video game competition. The students make up the school's 'League of Legends' (that's the name of the game) team, 'Heckmondwike Hotshots', and will play weekly against other schools and colleges/sixth forms in the UK. They will be overseen by

Mr Parsons and Mr Stokoe.

Esports is an exciting team activity proven to help improve social skills, behaviour and cognition, as well as leadership and communication skills. It also has links to computing education, STEM subjects and the development of digital skills. We hope that by offering alternatives to traditional sports and clubs, those students who have great talents in other areas can still get the chance to shine and stand out.

The students taking part are: Matthew Tsang, Imram Hosain, Muhammad Nawaz, Marco Bailao, and Omar Jesry.

For any one interested below are the links to the championship and the groups, key information and benefits of esports and video games

<https://champs.epiclan.net/tournaments/s4-lol/group>

<https://britishesports.org/championships/>

<https://www.britishesports.org/assets/BritishEsportsInfographicBenefitsofEsportspdf.pdf>



Grease 2020

Our HGS performing arts students are now in full rehearsal for this year's whole school production of Grease! After an intensive audition process last term, the main cast of leads and ensemble are now in place. We had a script reading session and a good sing through the main songs before Christmas. Now we move onto our main regular rehearsals - with drama stage blocking, script work, vocal harmonies, choreography and rehearsals for our live band all underway.

Over these next few weeks we are starting to put our backstage team together and looking for volunteers (students and staff) to help with the huge undertaking that putting on a whole school production brings.



If any parents have any expertise in the areas of production and know of good places to hire or borrow equipment, props or costumes from, then do please contact the school.

The HGS production of Grease takes place at HGS on 7th, 8th and 9th of July 2020. Watch this space for further announcements.

Grease is the word....

Department Focus: Politics

After the never ending Brexit dramas and the historic General Election the staff and students are drawing breath and analysing the results and the implications of these events. The topical nature of the subject means that such events demand to be followed and provide the students with a much richer level of detail than that offered by textbooks, years after the events. Obscure constitutional issues such as the proroguing of parliament become common knowledge and provides students with opportunities to discuss these issues with a wider range of people and to gain a greater understanding



of such conventions. The students have been assisted in this task by Mr Oxby who has continually provided them with a range of Blogs and websites that he has discovered. It was pleasing to see how many of our students became so engaged in these major events.

For the Year 13 students who are currently studying US politics, the drama continues with both the Trump Impeachment process and the forthcoming election. The ongoing impeachment proceedings has given year 13 students an extraordinary opportunity to monitor and evaluate a feature of checks and balances in US government rarely seen in practice, and never before in their lifetimes. Having already studied Congress, the Constitution, the Presidency and polarisation within the two main parties in the US, the students are in a good position to observe proceedings with a critical eye. It truly is unprecedented the level of issues and events that confront both the UK and the US electorate. Mr Oxby's Yr13 class has enjoyed the challenge of comparative politics, and all of the students rose to the task of researching a contemporary US pressure group and presenting their findings to the class, making very meaningful and insightful comparisons with the UK.

Soon the Year 13's will be able to take some respite from the tyranny of events when they embark on the topic of Political Theory. Here they will be able to frame such events in terms of the battle of political ideas. Before they do so though, they are to sit their mock examinations, so good luck to them in these examinations. Meanwhile, the Year 12's continue to be taught UK Politics and UK Government at the same time by myself and Mr Oxby, allowing them to see how the political process impacts on the structures of government. So being able to watch how the Brexit stalemate has now been resolved by the recent election has been a powerful example of how politics can and cannot work. Both Mr Oxby's classes have enjoyed applying political science theories about voting behaviour and elections to the UK's first December election since the 1920s. Year 12, in particular, are keen to track how Boris Johnson makes use of his freshly-minted parliamentary majority in the coming months.

Finally, Mr Oxby has done well with the hosting of the Yr11 Politics Taster Day. We were pleased with the numbers of students involved and their level of engagement, after all the recent events, how could they not be!



Parent Notices

- 20-23 January - Year 11 Consultation Meetings
- 30 January - Year 12 Parents' Evening
- 14 February - A Level Music Trip and Last day before Half-term
- 17-21 February - Half-term week
- 24 February - School Re-opens
- 27 February - Year 10 Mocks Begin