

Heckler



Week 61 Published 6 March 2020

HECKMONDWIKE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Killington 2020



In the early hours of Saturday 15 February 47 excited students and 4 staff embarked on their latest ski adventure as the HGS ski team. Destination Killington ski resort on the East coast of America and after 19 hours of travelling we finally arrived at our home from home for the next 5 days.



A combination of excitement and jetlag meant students woke up early and took full advantage of the wide variety of produce on offer. The firm favourite with the group were the sausages with the record for the most eaten in a morning going to Mackenzie Hinchliffe and Byron White with 12 devoured. After a hearty breakfast the group were transported in style to the slopes for our first day's skiing.



We started the week's skiing with a mixed range of abilities with some total beginners who had never put skis on before to advanced pro skiers. But in near perfect conditions and a

few falls later it's true that persistence and not giving up really does pay off. To see the progress the students made in such a short space of time is truly amazing while having the most wonderful experience.



We finished the week with an accomplished group of skiers who could cope with any slope and I'm sure that many will go on to further ski holidays on their own.

Next stop was New York, the concrete jungle, where dreams are made of. Setting off early from Killington we arrived in New York at lunchtime to embark our first day of our whistle stop tour, which included Times Square, Central park, Macey's and lots of shopping. The day was finished off in style with our evening meal in the Hard Rock café in Times Square.



The pace of day 2 never slowed as we were up early to climb to the top of the Rockefeller building for a 360 degree view of the whole of New York.



Next was a trip down to Lower Manhattan for a ferry ride on the Staten Island ferry for the all important photo's of Statue of Liberty and the famous New York skyline. Before any last minute souvenir shopping could commence we stopped off at ground zero memorial, with some of the students taking time to go into the museum.



Tired and exhausted we set off for our flight from JFK airport all looking forward to some well deserved rest, on our overnight flight, landing at Heathrow early on Sunday morning, then travelling up to Heckmondwike to meet keen parents to hear all the stories.

As party leader I would like to thank all the staff and students for the most amazing 9 days creating unforgettable memories for both us and the students and in the words of Ellie Doran " Its been the best week of my life".

HGS 2020 ski team it's been a pleasure and thanks for the memories.



Department Focus: Business & Economics

Year 9 have continued to make excellent progress at the start to their GCSE course. There has been some impressive teamwork as classes have developed business ideas in groups and been busy on finding gaps in the local sandwich shop market. Who knew that so many people liked chicken sandwiches on white bread available at a “drive-thru” sandwich shop in downtown Heckmondwike? Popular demand was also for halal products, cheese and for meal deal combinations. All this for a maximum price of £3. Interestingly, there was plenty of call for delivery services too – local businesses take note! Well done Year 9 for all the market research.

Group presentations in Mr Beecher’s class were exceptional in the time allocated, with the winning team getting together as Star Sandwiches. The letters to the Bank Manager in support of loan applications have been excellent summary pieces to show how well our students have understood and applied the concepts of primary and secondary research.



Figure 1: Star Sandwiches - the winning team



Figure 2: Team work in 9D Bus



Figure 3: Daniyal in 9A Bus with his model of business idea

We have also had some wonderful ideas presented for new business ideas. Of note was an excellent hand built model prototype on the theme of autonomous vehicles.

Dileep Darjipati in in Yr 12 has taken up the change to work remotely as the school’s ambassador link for the Financial Times as part of its ‘Student Advocate Program’ ... One of only 15 places available to schools this year. In his words:

“The role of being a Financial Times representative comes with its hardships but it is well worth the time spent on it due to benefits it brings. As the represent-

ative I attend a weekly meeting online using Google Hangouts where I debrief to Krishan Puvvada the person running this at the Financial Times on the tasks I have been doing and how they have been going. For example at the last meeting we discussed new ways to spread knowledge about the FT. There tends to be a new task every week mostly with the main objective to spread awareness of the FT to the wider school community and show its benefits. This is done in non-standard ways such as the “Road to Riches” board game that was sent to me by the FT and I spread awareness to people in my economics class through this method.

Even though I have weekly commitments and weekly tasks the FT has helped in immeasurable ways, such as helping me with my time management skills by meeting deadlines and attending meetings. In addition it gives me something to talk about in my personal statement when that time comes next year. Above all this, having the responsibility of being FT representative is something that is very enjoyable as the tasks they assign are mostly things you would enjoy doing.”

As ever, there has plenty of news for our GCSE and A level students to apply to their learning. Low levels of inflation and of economic growth, the new chancellor Rishi Sunak's upcoming budget on Wednesday 11 March and possible policy conflicts for Yr 12 Economics. Government intervention in the markets: new visa point rules and immigration, nationalisation of Northern Rail (Northern Fail to some) are challenging our Yr 13 economists. Our A level Business students have been concerned about coronavirus, supply chains, bank restructuring and K&S model of resistance and overcoming resistance to change.

Is anyone still talking about Brexit?



Thomas Burrow, pictured to the right, Year 10, has been selected for the Yorkshire U15 Rugby union squad. He played his first match v Cheshire last weekend.



Last week, thanks to their tremendous efforts, the Heckmondwike Hotshots advanced to the playoffs of the British

Esports Championships. Unfortunately, however, it wasn't meant to be as we lost our latest game against Hills Road and are now out of the tournament. We would like to congratulate the school team (Omar Jesry, Imran Hossain, Marco Bailao, Ty Chatterton and Tsteve Tsang) on their hard work and dedication as the school's first esports team. They have demonstrated excellent teamwork and communication skills and have been a credit to the school. We hope to see them competing again soon.

Parent Notices

- 12 March Year 11 & 13 Mock Exams Begin
- 13 March - Non-uniform day - Sports Relief
- 23 March - Year 12 EPQ Students Laidlaw Library, Leeds University
- 25 March - Rotary Technology Tournament
- 26 March - Year 11 Geographers - Hebden Bridge
- 26 March - Year 9 Booster Immunisations
- 27 March - Wear a Hat for a Day - Brain Tumour Charity