

## Jo Cox Centre now open

Our new sixth form base, to be named the 'Jo Cox Centre' in memory of their former Head Girl, was opened to academy students this week. Providing spacious accommodation alongside food of a very high quality, students are able to socialise downstairs; while upstairs, there are two different work-orientated venues that enable students to have a choice of learning environment depending on preference. The area is heavily equipped with charging points and WiFi to enable full access to all of the facilities needed to be able to both enjoy and engage fully in their studies.



Students' first impressions of their new social and study space were very positive. Year 13 students Hollie and Lucy remarked on how "having our own space makes us feel more independent and prepares us for what we have to look forward to at university," while Jack commented on the "great food" and "up to date design", concluding that the new space is "definitely worth the wait!".

"We are very proud of this addition to our sixth form provision, which gives students the independence and freedom to develop socially and academically in a bespoke post-16 environment, while also retaining all the advantages of our outstanding teaching and facilities in the main school. The students clearly love it and are already making full use of the brand-new facilities and environment."



"We are very fortunate that the DfE saw fit to invest in the outstanding education at Heckmondwike Grammar with over a million pounds of additional capital. This enables us to give our students what they deserve in terms of a purpose-designed venue where they can fully apply themselves in a context appropriate to the level of achievement that we and they aspire to."

We are planning to hold an official opening of the centre and an open morning for prospective students in the near future.

# Department Focus: French



The Modern Foreign Languages department is really excited to be working with foreign assistants once again this year and earlier this term, the department welcomed our new French assistant, Alex Grand. Alex comes from the Annecy region in the French Alps and studied English language at the University of Grenoble. He is passionate about history, literature, writing, travelling, music and discovering new cultures. His role this year is to support our GCSE and A-Level students in developing their French speaking skills, as well as consolidate their grammatical knowledge.

At A-Level, our Year 13 students are discovering French literature through the study of the autobiography *Un Sac de Billes*, by the Jewish author Joseph Joffo, who recounts how, at the age of only 10, he had to flee Nazi persecution with his 12 year-old brother. Our students are also busy preparing their individual research projects, which include topics as varied as the global influence of French fashion, the life of Marie-Antoinette and Charles De Gaulle, the socio-economic situation in Haiti and the use of nuclear energy in France.

## Friends of HGS

Friends of HGS is Heckmondwike Grammar School's parent-teacher association (PTA) and was set up to encourage parents' participation in school life and to raise funds for "extras" that fall outside the normal school budget and enhance our children's everyday experience of education. We have purchased musical instruments, 3D printers, water coolers, sports kits and much more besides. We fund this mainly through our winter raffle and the 59 Club, which is a draw based on the National Lottery. We would like to do a lot more for children and parents, but unfortunately over the years our numbers have dwindled to just a handful of parents, which is not sustainable in the long run. As we are not sure why that is, we have designed a survey which we will ask you to complete in a forthcoming edition of the Heckler. We need to hear as many parents' opinions as possible on how we can proceed from here, so we're hoping all of you will complete the survey!



We are also planning on updating you regularly on our fundraising... starting with a reminder to hand in your winter raffle tickets by Friday 30 November for your chance to win a splendid pair of wireless Beats headphones (and other prizes)! In the meantime, if you would like to know more about the Friends of HGS, join the 59 Club or offer much-needed help, please email [friendsofHGS@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofHGS@gmail.com).



## Children in Need 2018

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Children in Need on Friday 16th November. With the whole school non-uniform day, and the sixth form bake sale, we raised a total of £1082.53

## Student of the Week

**Henry Grierson 7MLG** - for a superb Spanish lesson.

**Summer Jarvis 8MTY** - for winning two medals in the English Women's Artistic Gymnastics Championships in Leicester. She got a bronze medal on the asymmetric bars and a silver medal on vault! Amazing effort!!

**Muhammad Hussain 9NJS** - for making better choices and trying hard in school

**Cora Smith 10HJP and Rosie Masud 10HJP** - for the organisation of and participation in the Year 8 assembly.

**Lilli-Mae Sharp 11DJH** - for being offered a place on a Materials Science residential course at the University of Cambridge.

**Ethan Roy 12RCB & Issac Roy 12SKE** - for outstanding contribution, enthusiasm and commitment to the 6th form enrichment programme

**Abbie Holyoake 13CVH** - for being so helpful and working hard to organise Year 13 leavers prom.

## Christmas Card Competition 2018

Final call for Christmas Card Competition Entries.

Entries to be submitted to student services by the end of school on Tuesday 27th November

Each entry will receive a small gift and the winners will receive a £25 Amazon Voucher

Good Luck

## CHRISTMAS SHOWCASE CONCERT

HECKMONDWIKE  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
THURSDAY DECEMBER 6th, 7PM

### Featuring the:

Concert Band  
Junior Choir  
Senior Choir  
Soul Band  
String Group  
Guitar Group  
Percussion Group

Tickets £5 inc Refreshments

Available on the door on in advance from the Business Office

## Parent Notices

**26th November** - Teacher Training Day - School closed to students

**5th December** - Friends of HGS meeting

**13th December** - Carol Service

**17th December** - Christmas Fayre (Students Only)

**18th December** - Christmas Dinner

**18th December** - Senior Prize-giving

**21st December** - Swimming Gala - Students dismissed at 12.30pm for Christmas holiday

**7th January** - School Opens after Christmas holiday

**10th January** - Y11 Parents' Evening

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## Parent Governor Vacancies

We currently have two vacancies for the role of parent governor on our governing body. Please visit our website for more information.