



Festive Special

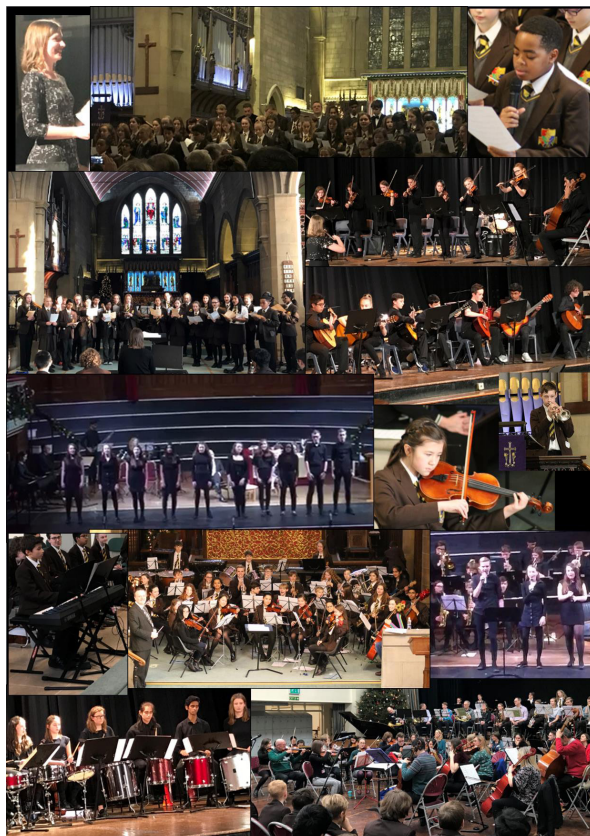


Christmas in the Music Department

As always the department undertook a very busy schedule of events in December. These included the Christmas Showcase Concert, the Carol Service, a 'big sing' with year 7, performances at Prize Giving and a performance by a visiting orchestra.

Our Christmas Showcase was once again performed to a packed out Swann Hall. Performances were given by the Concert Band, Junior Choir, Senior Choir, Soul Band, String Group, Guitar Group and Percussion Group. The highlight of the evening was the massed choirs and band finale of 'Somewhere in My Memory' featuring a vocal solo from year 7 Dwain Nitcheu along with our new music teacher Miss Sutcliffe's debut at conducting the band.

Our traditional carol service took place once again at the local St James Church. The service commenced in a conventional manner with the first verse of Once in Royal David's City performed by a cappella by year 7 pupil Shyla Velasquez-Fox. The traditional 9 lessons were read by a variety of students from all year groups and were interspersed with carols. Musical performances were given by the Junior Choir, Senior Choir, Concert Band, String Group and Guitar Group, as well as a highly musical and stunning violin and piano duet from year 7 students Eleanor Turner and Kyran Russell.



In lesson time our year 7 classes have all been learning the song When Christmas Comes to Town from the film The Polar Express, in which they gave a performance of in their final assembly. All 214 of them singing together was a wonderful moment and is an example of what makes HGS such a special place.

The Soul Band entertained our guests at Senior Prize Giving as they arrived at Dewsbury Town Hall. Our singers excelled at performing in this wonderful venue, with vocals from Rowan Lightfoot, Kirsty Gregory and Jessica Hirst. The 50 minute set included pieces such as Uptown Funk, Proud Mary, Mustang Sally and Don't Know Why.

Rowan and Jessica also joined together in a rendition of Baby it's Cold Outside. There were improvised solos from David Brown and guest Alex Smith (this year's winner of the Hunter-Art prize). The band then performed a featured item during the ceremony of Aretha Fanklins' I Say A Little Prayer. Later in the ceremony we put together a vocal group of 10 GCSE music students who gave a fantastic performance of Seasons of Love, the uplifting song from the musical Rent.

Not content with winding down to Christmas we welcomed the 'Musica' Orchestra into school to perform to all of our year 7s. Performing a wide range of pieces from Carmina Burana to Jurassic Park the Orchestra entertained us all - whilst subtly introducing classical music and the instruments of the orchestra to our year 7 students. Our year 7s got to be percussion soloists, a guest conductor and some of our own more experienced musicians got the chance to perform with the orchestra. There was a big sing off from each side of the hall in the Greatest Showman. Rowan Lightfoot wowed the audience (and orchestra!) when he was unsuspectingly volunteered to sing a solo. A special moment came when the Orchestra played a medley from the Polar Express with all our year 7s singing their song (they were well trained!)

All in all, a fantastic musical end to a hugely busy term. And don't forget....rehearsals start again in the New Year! Have a Merry Musical Christmas.

Reverse Advent

Once again, staff and students at HGS chose to reverse things this advent - with a calendar that gives back. Instead of opening the door to a chocolate or picture, we did the giving. On each school day throughout December, staff and students of HGS brought in items to put in the box and on 21 December the boxes were donated to the Salvation Army. We were amazed at the collection of goods donated and would like to thank everyone for their generous contributions! A special thank you goes to Mr & Mrs Currie for organising it.



Christmas Fayre and Christmas Jumper Day

On Monday we held our annual Christmas Fayre, a fabulous event largely organised by students to kick off the final week of term. The students did an excellent job in organising stalls made up of games, raffles and tobolas alike! The day coincided with our Christmas Jumper Day, adding to the festive spirit among both students and staff. This year the chosen charity for monies raised through the fayre was Save the Children and a whopping £2,371.53 was raised and donated. Thank you to everyone who was involved and for their contributions.



Senior Prize Giving



Tuesday 18 December saw 600+ guests attend our annual 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 2018 examinations. Throughout the evening the audience were entertained by the fabulous Soul Band and talented vocalists.

Our special guest Roger Burnley, who is an old scholar of the school, awarded prizes to the top performing students. Roger has since gone on to become the CEO and President of ASDA

and it was a fitting link between outstandingly successful students across different generations. Roger entertained the audience with his tales of life in the school as student in the 1980's and of the importance of tenacity and resilience in working to achieve our goals in life.

There were many highlights to the evening including Hamish Dee being awarded the Jo Cox (former Head Girl of HGS) Memorial Award for his services to the community and Basim Kajwal who was presented with the Rex Scolarum award for the highest academic success having achieved 4 A* grades at A level. Basim is now reading Computer Science at the University of Oxford.

Mr Roberts, compere for the evening, concluded the event with hearty congratulations to all the students in the class of 2018 and paid tribute to the outstanding staff who work tirelessly with the students to support them in their achievements.

Department Focus: Maths

The Mathematics Department welcomed four new members of staff in September: Mr Mullaney (a former pupil of HGS), Mrs Nicholson, Mr Robinson and Mrs Harker (returning after a three year career break looking after her children). Pictures of them are here on Christmas Jumper Day. Both students and staff are benefitting from their enthusiastic approach and new teaching ideas.

In mathematics, students take part in several competitions and challenges throughout the year. In the Autumn term, it was the turn of the seniors. A number of A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics students participated in the UKMT individual senior challenge. Sivesh Moodley and Harry Sullivan both achieved gold certificates, qualifying to the next round for the Silver Kangaroo competition. In all, 10 students achieved silver and 18 achieved bronze.

The school was also represented by Jack McArdle, Ethan Hall, Jennifer Hoang and Ebony Whitehead in the regional final of the team nationwide competition. They performed well, particularly in the first two rounds against strong opposition from York schools and finished 7th overall.

In the Spring Term, there are several competitions that students can get involved in as well as the UKMT challenges including:



- House maths competition run by Mr Bensley
- Year 7 Maths Challenge club run by Mrs Jarvis
- [MathsBombe](#) is aimed at students up to Year 13 who enjoy solving puzzles.
- [The Alan Turing Cryptography Competition](#) aimed at students up to Year 11 who like breaking codes and solving ciphers.



Heckys Got Talent

Seven talented acts auditioned in the Heckys Got Talent competition on Thursday 20 December, providing great entertainment for students at lunch time and highlighting what talented individuals we have at our school. Entrants included singers, dancers, comedians, pianists and magicians, all of which performed amazingly well. After what was a close vote, the very talented Year 12 student Saara Nayyar, who played piano whilst singing a mash-up of songs, was announced the winner. In second place was Year 7 student Oliver Marques who provided a hilarious stand-up comedy act. And finally in third place was the very talented



Year 10 student Jessica Hirst, who gave a great dancing performance. Huge well done to all entrants and organisers.

Spen Valley School Badminton



Under 14 and Under 16 Girls and Boys teams competed in the Spen Valley Schools badminton competition hosted at St John Fishers and Westborough schools. The Boys team played some exceptional badminton winning all their singles and doubles matches against Manor Croft and Westborough without losing a game. The Girls teams also had a clean sweep winning both competitions.

The teams will now go on to compete at the Kirklees schools finals held at Shelley College on Tuesday 22 January 2019. Well done to all of the players for their efforts!



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone at HGS



Parent Notices

- 7 January** - School opens following the Christmas Holiday
- 10 January** - Year 11 Parents' Evening
- 19 January** - Jo Cox Centre Open Morning
- 21-24 January** - Year 11 consultation meetings
- 30 January** - Jo Cox Centre Official Open Evening

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