

Heckler

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HECKMONDWIKE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Since the last update on the British Physics Olympiad a lot has happened! Rohan Patel in Year 12 was invited to the annual awards ceremony at the Royal Society in London. Having never been invited before, I had no idea what this would be like. To say this is a prestigious event is an understatement.

The BPhO run 14 different competitions throughout the year across different age groups. Each competition attracts thousands of competitors and only a select few are chosen to receive awards.

For context, around 6000 students competed in the Senior Physics Olympiad but only six were invited to the annual awards ceremony.



The event is more than just an awards ceremony though. It's an opportunity for the winners to meet potential future employers and discuss career opportunities. Many of the attendees would offer advice on what they are looking for in applicants and

which universities would be best for specific career paths.

To end the day, a lecture was delivered by Professor Sarah Bohndiek of Cambridge University where she discussed how visible light can be used to detect early stages of cancer. A Q&A session takes place afterwards where students could ask her any questions about her research.

This was an incredible achievement by Rohan and an incredible achievement for the school. To be able to share the stage with other winners from Eton College, Mayfield School and many other public schools shows how great we really are.

There will be Olympiads for Year 11 and Year 12 next year as well. If you enjoy physics and maths then take this opportunity to compete with every other school in the country and show off how good you are!



Year 10 Mock Interviews

Thursday 18 May will see our year 10 students take part in employer led mock interviews. This exercise forms part of the work experience programme that has been introduced in school this year. Students will be asked a range of general questions and will be given both verbal and written feedback.

It is hoped that this activity will build confidence in students to enable them to talk openly and confidently about themselves, their skills and their future goals.

Detailed below is a guide to help students to prepare in advance

Example Interview Questions

- Tell me a bit about yourself
- What subjects are you interested in at school and why?
- What are your strengths?
- Please describe a project or piece of work you recently worked on

Interview preparation

- Be aware of your strengths and achievements and be prepared to talk about them
- Consider examples from different experiences you have had



The STAR Technique

The star technique is useful for competency based questions e.g. "Tell me about a time when you worked successfully as part of a team"



Example not using the STAR Technique:

I play football once a week for my local team. We've won eight out of ten matches this season.



Example using the STAR technique:

I play football once a week for my local team. During matches, I listen to teammates for instructions and pay attention to anticipate their next moves. I communicate with the coach about how I could play better and share ideas with the rest of the team. We've won eight out of ten matches this season.

At your interview

Be positive and friendly. Don't forget to smile.

- Listen carefully to the question. If you don't understand the question, don't be afraid to ask the employer to repeat or rephrase it.
- Take time to consider the best response, don't rush and say the first thing that comes to your head
- Thank your interviewer for the time
- Be sure to reflect after your interview; what went well – what does your employer feedback tell you?

If students need further support or help they are welcome to the careers office (B013) if you need any help or advice about your mock interview. We have a drop in Mon- Fri lunchtime from 12:45 to 13:10 that is open to all students.



Variant Tournament

With nearly 300 different students attending since September, Chess Club has shown to be incredibly popular this year. Each week, we see friends playing against one another, experienced chess players debating advanced strategies, people teaching others how to play and groups of students working together to solve chess puzzles. Wanting to encourage some friendly competition, the managerial team (consisting of Ayan Gupta, Arnav Maniyar and Navaneeth Sasikumar) have recently held another tournament.

For the past two months, students have been competing in a knockout chess tournament. This, however, was not ordinary chess – this was the Variant Mayhem tournament. Each round had a different variant of chess, testing players' ability to adapt to new situations and unfamiliar rule sets.

Round 1 (3-Check Chess)

Be the first to check your opponents king three times, or checkmate them, to win.

Round 2 (King of the Hill)

Get your king to one of the central four squares of the board, or checkmate your opponent, to win.

Round 3 (Antichess)

This is the opposite of chess and the aim is to lose all your pieces. If you can take a piece, you must do so. The first to have all their pieces taken is the winner.

Round 4 (Chess 960)

This is regular chess, but the pieces on the back row are in a different arrangement. Among others, Jishnu Jeyaprakash and Mr Tipler both demonstrated their chess skills in getting to Round 4. After a close game, Jishnu emerged victorious and knocked Mr Tipler out of the tournament.

Round 5 (Horde Chess)

By this point, the number of competitors had reduced from 66 to 5. To decide who would continue to the semi-finals, Shriaansh Ganti and Mr Robinson played a game of Horde Chess. Shriaansh had a regular setup on his side of the board, but Mr Robinson had 36 pawns and no advanced pieces. Mr Robinson managed to hold his ground against Shriaansh's attacks for about 5 minutes, but a costly mistake allowed Shriaansh to gain

The Semi-Finals (2-Move Chess)

Yihang Luo, Siddhant Mukherjee, Jishnu Jeyaprakash and Shriaansh Ganti all reached the semi-finals which featured a variation designed by the Chess Club managers themselves. As it turns out, this variant already exists and goes by the name Marseillais chess; a variant where each player makes two moves per turn, with the aim of checkmating their opponent. Siddhant and Shriaansh both managed to beat their opponents and went on to face each other in the final round.



Variant Tournament continued

The Finals (Crazyhouse)

Crazyhouse is regular chess, but once you take an opponent's piece, it gets added to your collection and on your turn, instead of moving an existing piece, you can choose to place one of the pieces from your collection on the board as one of your own pieces. This is arguably one of the most unpredictable variants and made for excellent viewing. Adding fuel to the fire, Siddhant and Shriaansh were the finalists in the previous chess tournament, which took place back in December, so both players were eager to win.

With such hype from the Chess Club community, the final round took place in the Swann Hall on Friday 5th May. The finalists, Siddhant and Shriaansh, played on stage in front of an audience with their moves projected on the big screen for all to see. Additionally, our comedic commentators, Arnav and Nav, held a live broadcast of the game for others around school to watch. They gave an excellent real-time evaluation of the positions and explored potential moves. Members of staff have complimented the commentary, calling it 'captivating' and 'displaying an amazing level of expertise in chess'. To watch a recording of their entertaining and educational commentary, use the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6c1KE-8BqY>.

Siddhant and Shriaansh played brilliantly, especially given the pressure of a large audience. After half an hour of intense gameplay, Shriaansh managed to force a checkmate and win the Variant Mayhem tournament.



Congratulations to Shriaansh Ganti on winning both chess tournaments this year! Well done to Sid for reaching the finals. You both demonstrated incredible chess knowledge and good sportsmanship throughout the tournament.

Variant Tournament continued

Of course, a massive Well Done to Ayan, Arnav and Nav who not only supervise Chess Club each week, but also arranged this entire tournament. The logistics of where and when to play, how to record information, meeting with the IT Support team to discuss the technical aspects, designing video overlays, commentating on the game and much more were done by these three, on top of revising for their upcoming GCSE exams. Not only have they shown a range of skills, but also their contribution to the Chess Club has been incredible.



Ayan, Arnav and Nav say, “thanks to Mr Robinson for helping us constantly with this tournament and ensuring that everything went to plan, we would have never had such a big final event without him, and his ongoing dedication for Chess Club was something much needed and appreciated”.

Students are already talking about rematches and preparing for the next variant tournament, so we suspect the competition will be even stronger next year. The Chess Club have a few ideas for future events and tournaments, so watch this space! Join the Chess Club on Fridays at lunchtime if you would like to be involved.

THANK YOU

To local resident Chris who very kindly made a donation to our charity collection

Biology Olympiad Update for Year 13

Well Done to the 6 Year 13 students who took part in this year's Biology Olympiad

- Saneha Kauser and Gracie Curtis-Dunn - both achieved a Silver award
- Egbeleke and Freya Thornton - both achieved a Bronze award
- Olivia Smith achieved Highly Commended
- Aishah Kadu achieved Commended.

Super achievement by all 6.



Biology Competition

Biology competition is running this week and next week for Year 9 and Year 10. Your Biology teachers will inform you when you will be taking part in this. All those who take part with receive a Royal Society of Biology BioNet membership for 1 year - the subscription has lots of opportunities to look at journal articles in the Biologist magazine and looking at careers within Biology.

Good luck to all the Yr 9 and Yr 10 pupils!!

W/C June 7th will be the turn of Year 12 to compete in the Intermediate Biology Olympiad



- *BRIDAL / BRIDESMAID
- *PROM
- *HOLIDAY / CRUISE
- *FANCY DRESS
- *LADIES DAY
- *STAGE COSTUMES
- *OCCASIONS

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**SATURDAY 13TH MAY
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10AM TILL 2PM

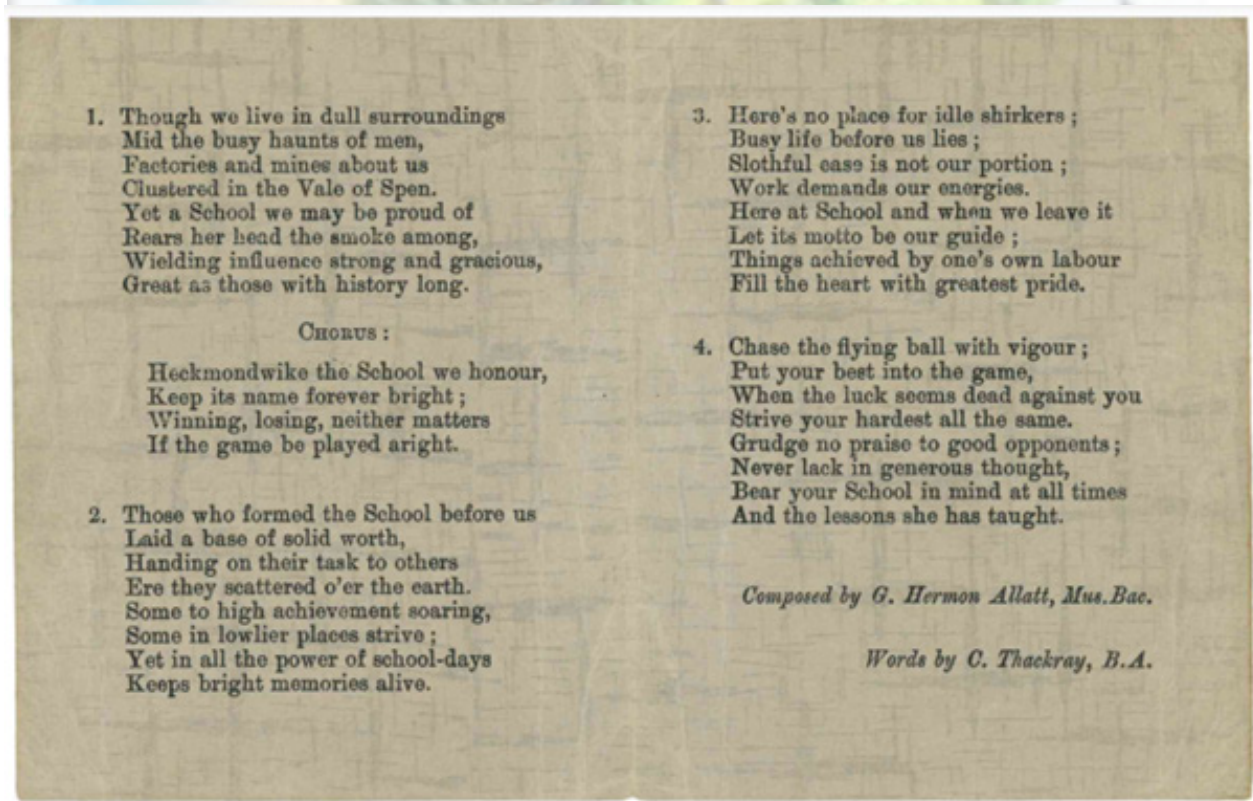


Subject Focus - Geography

We are currently saying goodbye to Year 11 and Year 13 as they set off to bigger and better things. The last few weeks have been a busy period of time for us and the department has been working flat out (as the rest of the school has).

We have taken year 11 out to Hebden Bridge where we worked on assessing the impacts of the 2020 flood on the town, the students really enjoyed asking the public questions relating to how the flood impacted on their lives from leisure to work. The students found the exercise fascinating listening to the tales of the 2020 flood, which hit 23 weeks before lock down. Some of the locals became quite emotional when asked about what happened. The second half of the day was spent conducting a sustainability index in Halifax counting bins and street art as a couple of examples. We lunched in the beautiful Piece Hall in glorious sunshine. We will miss Year 11 and I will personally miss the 2 groups who have kept me entertained for the last 3 years. I wish all of Year 11 the best of luck for the exams just around the corner.

Year 13 have also come to the end of their Geography life at school, they have been a brilliant year group to teach and we have got through a lot together, including a fantastic trip to Cranedale including a trip to the seaside twice (Scarborough and Flamborough) into the Dalby forest to hug trees and measuring the climate in Beverly. Whenever I have asked students from the past about the school trips are their most intense experiences the social aspects of trips are the real benefit to the student in developing new friends and strengthening existing friendships. The current year 13 have been an absolute pleasure to be with and I will miss them. We finished the year with a collective mind map of the whole course.



Even though the school song was written for a bygone ere I still think that it resonates with the students that pass through our school and I hope they will look back on their time with pride, and happiness. Good luck to everyone this Year.

Calling All Year 10 - Year 13 Potential Economists

This is an external competition that can be entered by any and all students (no need to be studying Economics)



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DISCOVER
ECONOMICS

YOUNG ECONOMIST OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

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What?

A competition for students to produce their own ideas in analysing contemporary economic problems facing the UK and the world.

Who?

Students in Years 10 - 13 (or equivalent), either individually or in groups of up to 5. You don't have to be studying economics!

Why?

Five shortlisted entries will be invited to **KPMG** offices for a grand final with the winning entry being featured in the Financial Times. You'll also get a chance to explore some fascinating real-world questions!

When?

- Deadline for entries is 23.59 (BST) on 14 July 2023
- Five shortlisted entries will be announced August 2023
- Grand final at the **KPMG** offices September 2023

How?

Submit your entry in written (up to 1,000 word blog) or media format - could be a video, podcast or presentation.

www.discovereconomics.co.uk/young-economist-of-the-year



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Insight into University is a comprehensive virtual experience allowing students to explore STEM studies at university and the career opportunities that these subjects lead to. It provides access to information on student life, STEM projects and activities set by leading UK universities and global STEM companies, first year undergraduate lectures, live interactive sessions with academics, admissions tutors, employers and current students.

Whether young people are interested in life sciences, chemistry, biomedical, forensic science, robotics, food science, electronics, engineering, physics, computer science, sustainability, materials science, aerospace, built environment, tech or maths, we have something for them. With specially developed content and live sessions from universities including University of Cambridge, Sheffield, Lancaster, Abertay, UCL, Oxford, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Birmingham, Warwick, Kingston, Nottingham, Strathclyde. We will also have some fantastic workshops and careers guidance from organisations such as Innovate UK, GSK, GE, Tech Partnership, Rolls Royce and more.

The unique feature of this course is that students are able to access content from a diverse range of STEM subjects and will be able to tailor a course that suits their interest.

On successful completion of the course, which involves 30 hrs of study, students will receive a Silver Industrial Cadets award and be in a position to make a more informed decision for their UCAS application.



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What our students say

"I've absolutely loved every minute of this course. I found the live sessions in particular very inspiring and informative, and all of the taster lectures were both accessible and challenging. I'm really excited to continue with my STEM studies."

"This course absolutely helped me with my future education and career path. The way I was able to choose which activities or lectures I wanted to complete was undeniably useful as it meant I could tailor a course to suit me. This was a thoroughly enjoyable experience."

"I really enjoyed the course and feel much more confident in applying to university having done it. The live sessions were very interesting and I was blown away by the wide range of choice of sessions."

92% of students felt that the skills and knowledge that they gained from the course will have a positive impact on their future studies and career.

86% of students felt confident or very confident in making their future study and career choices after completing the virtual experience.

When is it?

The experience will run from 3rd July until 25th August 2023 and can be completed flexibly to fit around other commitments and study at a pace that suits individual circumstances.

Who is it for?

The experience is open to all students age 16+ and is suitable for all abilities, with activities that cover different levels of advanced study. All students need is a genuine interest in STEM and inquisitiveness about what the future can hold for them and how they can help get themselves there.

How to apply?

Visit our website
<https://www.etrust.org.uk/insight-into-university>
or scan the QR code to apply!

Cost: £85

Fully funded places are available if cost is a barrier, please indicate your interest on the application form



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HOUSE EVENTS



w/c Monday 17 April

Junior House Maths—afterschool
House Chess begins

w/c Monday 24 April

Staff House Bake Off—lunchtime
House Art showcase—afterschool
Senior E-Sports begins

w/c Monday 8 May

Senior Girls Rounders—lunchtime

w/c Monday 15 May

Junior Boys Cricket—afterschool
Inters Girls Rounders—lunchtime

For more information see your Head of House!

**Specific days to be confirmed in house assemblies and on
Teams**

Diary Dates

Friday 19 - Saturday 20 May
Bronze DofE Expedition

Monday 22 May
Parents' Information Evening - Paris Trip

Tuesday 23 May
Youth theatre Presents - The Railway Children - reserve your ticket [here](#)

Thursday 25 May
Parents' Information Evening - Spanish Trip

Monday 29 May - Friday 2 June
Spring Break - School Closed

EXAMS

Year 11 & Year 13 GCSE/A' Level exams :

The contingency dates for this summer exams are

Thursday 8th & 15th June p.m

Wednesday 28th June - All day

These contingency days are used should there be exceptional circumstances (in the event of national or significant local disruption to examinations) that may require exam boards to reschedule an examination. Students would only be required to attend on those days should an examination be rescheduled



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a chance to meet with former students, staff and friends



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Email: admin@heckgrammar.co.uk

OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 1 JULY - 10AM - 4PM