

happy birthday!

## HGS 125 YEARS - PART 2

### How we Celebrated in School

To formally mark our 125th anniversary, the whole school community, made up of of approximately 1700 students and staff, created this amazing video which launched on our Birthday Tuesday 17 January

Click [here](#) to view



In addition, there was a cutting of a birthday cake, quizzes and the school radio station broadcasting throughout the day playing music from the last 125 years, the broadcast included guest interviews, staff quick fire question competition and requests.

Later in the year there are planned open events for everyone to join the celebrations, including a display of 125 years of Heckmondwike Grammar School artefacts." Full details will be shared in due course



The 11th Headteacher Mr Roberts &  
The HGS 125 Committee



We had a celebration cake shared  
between 1520 student and 200 Staff

During this 125 year period, Heckmondwike Grammar School there has been 30 Prime Minister's, 11 headteachers, two World Wars and a global pandemic, just to name a few of the historical happenings.

Back in 1898, when the school first opened its doors, it was initially called Heckmondwike Higher Grade School and encompassed senior and infants' sections.

The secondary section then became known as the School of Science, when the infants were moved to an alternative site. Only later, in 1929 was the school re-named as Heckmondwike Grammar school.

## How the School celebrated it's 25th Anniversary - 100 Years Ago

To begin with the events of 1923, we unfortunately do not know how the 17th January itself was marked as the major celebrations took place on Saturday 9 June 1923. Over 400 old scholars and other guests attended the school to celebrate both its 25th anniversary but also fittingly Mr. Cahill's tenure as Headmaster too. It was described at the time by an Old Girl as "one of the greatest events in the history of our school". The event saw a damp morning which stopped some of the planned outdoor activities but by the afternoon the weather had cleared and there was some tennis and golf played.

After the sport, came tea where all 400 people - all ex-scholars or old scholars - were



*The School's Hall at around that time. Circa 1920s/1930s*

crammed into what is now the Swann Hall and enjoying their meals alongside lots of chatter, jokes and laughter. Once finished, the chairs were turned, and speeches began. Mr. Clarke presided over the gathering. Mr. Cahill welcomed everybody in his "usual hearty fashion" and then gave an outline of the school's history. His remarks on "howlers" in exams of the past received much appreciation. My favourite of those likely mentioned was - "he was a very brave man was Julius Caesar, for one day he went to his mother-in-law's house and hid".

Since the original source is unlabelled, we cannot be entirely sure, but this is likely to be the conclusion to his remarks: "In conclusion I would like to say to all that I heartily thank you all for the splendid support that the Old Scholars have given to the school. As you all know I shall be leaving you at Christmas, and I feel that I need hardly ask you to extend to my successor the same wholehearted support you have given me. This I am sure you will do, bearing in mind that it is the school we are all working for, and that by supporting it as loyally in the future as you have in the past you will do much to ensure the continued success of the school."

Speeches were then followed by Mr. Clarke (Chairman of the Governors), Mr. Claridge (Clerk of the School Board in 1898) and Mr. H. H. Peel, son of the respected local historian Frank Peel, and member of the School Board in 1898. Then came speeches from respected old scholars Mr. J. G. P. Furness and also Mr. H. S. Houldsworth, and old staff member, Mr. F. Hepworth.

## How the School celebrated it's 25th Anniversary - 100 Years Ago continued

Next it appears that there was a concert which reportedly gave such a 'delightful entertainment' to all those gathered. Everyone was proud of the 'artistes' who performed. Afterwards, there was more time for everyone gathered to catch up as the Hall was cleared for dancing. An Old Girl notes how it was noticeable how the "older end" seemed to dwindle past this point. Perhaps, as she states, they had to attend to domestic duties. This was not the case for the younger elements who were prepared to 'have the final fling of the day'!

The celebrations went down very well, and it was fitting that they did. They were the celebration of the Cahillian era at the school which was coming to its close. I have written about Mr. Cahill and his life and legacy, but it is true that these celebrations were clearly his as much as the school's.

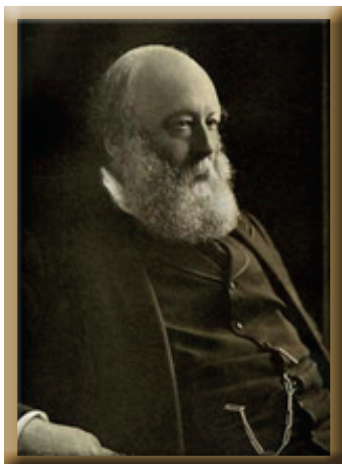
1923 truly saw the end of an era at our school.



*Part of the whole School photo in 1923. Mr. Cahill, front and centre.*

George Hall.

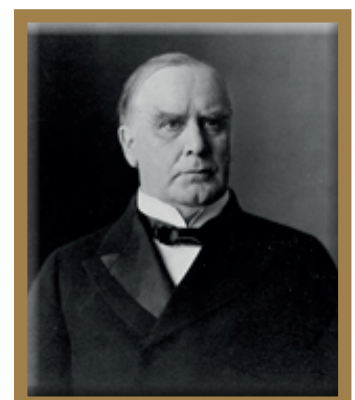
## The Year 1898



**Monarch: Queen Victoria** – had been on the throne since 1837, for just over 60 years & had celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 1897

**Prime Minister – Robert Gascoyne-Cecil - Lord Salisbury** – his third time as Prime Minister representing the Conservative party

**US President: Republican William McKinley** (January 29, 1843 – September 14, 1901) was the 25th president of the United



- **World population:** 1. 6 billion people
- **UK Population:** 38 million people
- **Largest city in the world:** London with a population of 6,600,000



## The Year 1898 continued



**Empire:** In 1898, the British Empire was the largest empire in the world, covering one quarter of the globe's land surface and comprising one fifth of its population.

**Value of money:** £100 is equivalent in purchasing power to about £16,629.33 today, an increase of £16,529.33 over 125 years.



**Wars and Conflicts:** Philippine revolution; Spanish-American war.

### Sporting events of 1898:

#### **Football League Champions:**

- Sheffield United FC

#### **FA Cup Winners:**

- Nottingham Forest FC



Both the Football League First and Second Divisions are expanded from 16 to 18 teams in 1898, bringing the total number of League sides to 36. Additionally, the test match system is abandoned in favour of automatic relegation and promotion.

**English Cricket County Champions:** Yorkshire



#### **Rugby League Challenge Cup Final:**

Batley 7 vs Bradford Northern 0 at Headingley Stadium Leeds, in front of a crowd of 27,941 spectators.

**The Boat Race:** Oxford University

# The Year 1898 continued

## Worldwide Events of 1898:

- **1 January** – New York City is created to become the world's second largest city (after London). The city is geographically divided into five boroughs: Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, The Bronx and Staten Island.



- **13 January** – Novelist **Émile Zola's** open letter to the President of the French Republic on the **Dreyfus affair**, **J'Accuse...!** is published on the front page of the Paris daily newspaper **L'Aurore**, accusing the government of wrongfully imprisoning Alfred Dreyfus and of antisemitism.



- **12 February** – The automobile belonging to Henry Lindfield of Brighton rolls out of control down a hill in Purley, London, England, and hits a tree; thus he becomes the world's **first fatality from an automobile** accident on a public highway.
- **15 February** – the **USS Maine** explores and sinks in Havana Harbour, Cuba, killing 266 men. The event precipitates the United States' declaration of war on Spain, two months later.
- **23 February** – Emile Zola is imprisoned in France, after writing **J'Accuse...!**
- **1 March** – Vladimir Lenin creates the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party
- **16 March** – in Melbourne, representatives of five colonies adopt a constitution which will become the basis of the **Commonwealth of Australia**
- **22 April** – **Spanish American War** begins
- **30 May** – William Ramsay and Morris Travers make the first of their discovery of **noble gases** – krypton, followed on **7 June** by neon and on **12 July** xenon at University College London.
- **9 June** – The British government arranges a 99 year rent of **Hong Kong** from China.



## The Year 1898 continued

- **12 June** - **Philippine Declaration of Independence** from Spain
- **23 June** - **Royal Army Medical Corps** formed within the British Army
- **6 July** - **Guglielmo Marconi** conducts a test radio telegraph transmission for Lloyds.
- **7 July** - The United States annexes the **Hawaiian Islands**
- **23 August** - **The Southern Cross Expedition** - the first British venture of the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration sets sail from London.
- **28 August** - American pharmacist Caleb Bradham names his soft drink **Pepsi-Cola**



- **2 September** - Mahdist war - at the **Battle of Omdurman**, British and Egyptian troops led by Kitchener, defeat Sudanese tribesmen, establishing British dominance in the Sudan.
- **18 September** - the **Fashoda Incident**- a flotilla of British gunboats arrives at the French occupied port of Fashoda on the White Nile and French troops are ordered to withdraw on 3rd November.

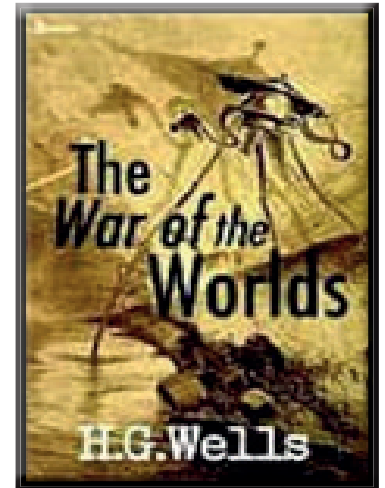
- **16 November** - Harrods department store in Knightsbridge install the **first escalator** in the UK
- **10 December** - the **Treaty of Paris** is signed, ending the Spanish-American War
- **18 December** - the first **official land speed** record in an automobile is set averaging 63.15km/h over 1km in France by Gaston de Chasseloup-Laubat
- **26 December** - Marie and Pierre Curie announce the discovery of an element that they name radium.



# The Year 1898 continued

## Publications of 1898

- J. Meade Falkner's children's adventure **Moonfleet**.
- Thomas Hardy's collection **Wessex Poems and Other Verses**.
- Henry James' novella **The Turn of the Screw**.
- Fred T. Jane's reference work **Jane's All the World's Fighting Ships**.
- H. G. Wells' novel **The War of the Worlds**.
- Oscar Wilde's poem **The Ballad of Reading Gaol**.



---

## Births

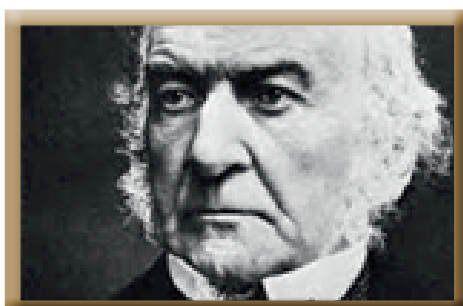
- **9 January** – **Gracie Fields**, singer and comedian (died 1979)
- **30 July** – **Henry Moore**, sculptor (died 1986)
- **29 November** – **C. S. Lewis**, author (died 1963)



---

## Deaths

- **12 January** – Sir Joseph Terry, confectioner and politician (born 1828)
- **14 January** – Lewis Carroll, children's writer and mathematician (born 1832)
- **15 March** – Sir Henry Bessemer, engineer and inventor (born 1813)
- **19 May** – William Ewart Gladstone, Prime Minister (born 1809)





# NIL SINE LABORE

## The School Motto

### “NIL SINE LABORE”

Why was “Nil Sine 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 teams.

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 instill into us the rewards of hard work, but we prefer the former translation, which certainly comes much nearer to the truth.

*A Heckmondwike Pupil from 1944*



Nil Sine Labore is still used today and is incorporated in the school logo



## Old Boy: Ordinary Seaman Fred Sutton (1891-1917)

To heed Mr. Cahill's wish of keeping the memory of the fallen old scholars of our school 'fresh', I would take the opportunity to tell the story of one of the fallen.



Fred Sutton was born on 2 August 1891 in Gomersal to William, an Insurance Agent, and Amelia Sutton, who lived in 1891 in a 4-roomed house on Prospect Terrace, Gomersal. In 1901, the family remained living at the same home, but interestingly another fallen old boy Ellis Walker was possibly a neighbour.

By 1903 the family moved to Moor Lane, and on the 31 August of that year, Fred started studying at what is now Heckmondwike Grammar School. Three others who joined at the same time as Fred died during the war.

Fred was perhaps more practical than academic, ranking 39th out of 42 in his form in the Easter Exams of 1904. However, he was quite talented at Freehand Drawing and Algebra but left the school July 1904, perhaps realising the academic route was not for him. This respectable decision paid off as he then took up a Plumber's apprenticeship with Mr. George Sykes of Hill-Top, Gomersal.

Despite the optimism he may have found in his new trade, loss and grief were to hit him. Aged just 17 or so, my age as I write this, he was faced with the loss of his mother, who died in the July quarter of 1908, aged just 51 years. He was one of eight children, a few younger than him, and we can hope they all found strength in each other in the face of this loss.

He remained living at home in 1911, and we know little of his life until February 1916, when he joined the navy. He then undertook a short course of training. Perhaps just after this finished, he married Elsie Brown, not in Gomersal but rather at Elsie's Parish Church of St Saviour's in Hockley, Birmingham. Soon after marrying, he was off to war.

An interesting incident occurred in September 1916. He was onboard a vessel which struck a mine and sank, and for three weeks, he was in Calais wearing the old suit he had on when his ship was mined.

His death occurred on 26 August 1917, when his ship was in port for repairs. He was selected as part of a group of six to row a messenger ashore in the whaler. While ashore telegraphed his wife to say he would be coming home in a few days for leave, but this was not to be. While rowing back, the whaler collided with another vessel, causing Fred and another to be thrown overboard as part of the force of the impact. Being 8 pm, it was quite dark, and although the other man was able to be rescued, there was no trace of Fred. Despite everyone's best efforts, it was clear what had occurred - aged just 26, Fred Sutton drowned and was dead.

His body washed ashore on 14 September 1917, and Fred's father and eldest brother set off to Port Glasgow to bring their son and brother home. However, this could not occur, and Fred Sutton was buried at Port Glasgow Cemetery. A firing party attended, and the Last Post was sounded - a fitting send off, I think.

What strikes me about his life is his determination to continue despite so many setbacks and also his cheeriness in spite of them. He was said to be one of the most cheerful men onboard the ships he served on. He was always the first to commence singing or whistling after engagements and would do anything to cheer his comrades. The commander of his final boat deeply regretted his death, stating it was a great loss and described Fred Sutton as a smart and brave fellow.

Let us take a moment in the celebrations this year to remember the many smart and brave old scholars who gave their lives in defence of their country, including Fred Sutton.

George Hall.

## School Wireless and Radio

Many of you will be aware, that a recent development in the school is HGS Radio. Established by Mr Tipler and a group of students, the radio station is proving to be a popular listening choice for staff and students alike. On the anniversary, Tuesday 17th January 2023, the radio station played music from across the decades of the school ( from 1898 to present day!) as well as some interviews with staff and former pupils.

### **VERY EARLY SCHOOL WIRELESS—**

All the claims made recently in this column on behalf of schools which had early wireless installations are dwarfed by the record of the Heckmondwike Secondary School, which had its experimental set twenty-six years ago!

It was in 1901 that Mr. Cahill, then and until a year or two ago the headmaster, began the work; and the Spenn Valley area learned a good deal in those days of unusual electrical phenomena through his illustrated lectures.

Mr. Cahill's assistant and coadjutor in this enterprise was Mr. Harold Parker, of Heckmondwike, whose early enthusiasm for wireless has never waned.

The Heckmondwike School, it is fairly certain, was the first to have regular wireless classes—years before there was any regular broadcasting.

\* \* \*

### **—AND X-RAYS, TOO.**

It was not only in wireless that Heckmondwike gave the lead. About the time that the first installation was made at the school, X-ray apparatus was introduced also.

For several years this was the only equipment of its kind for many miles around—very few public hospitals had it at that time—and it was used extensively by the medical men in that area.

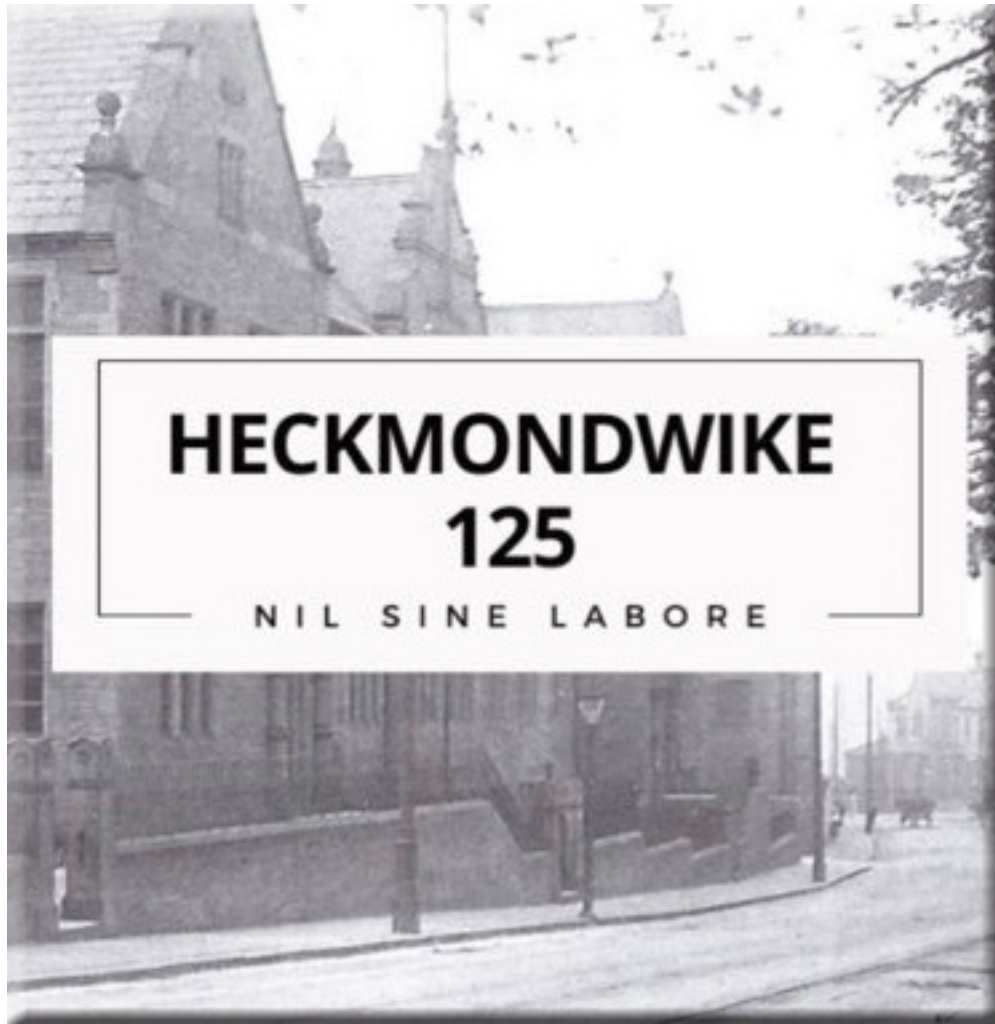
Many a casualty had cause to be thankful for the school X-ray. Until recently, a local doctor displayed in the place of honour in his consulting room a print taken at the school well over twenty years ago showing the lodgment of a shilling which a child had swallowed.

Mr. Cahill, the pioneer of these school developments, is now living in retirement at York.

However, this is not the first instance of a school 'wireless' as the attached article shows:

It was in 1901 that the then Head teacher Mr Cahill, began the work on a school wireless installation, as well as X-Ray apparatus!





We would like to encourage any former students, parents and staff to get involved in the 125th celebrations. Please let us know your Heckmondwike Grammar School related stories.

We are planning an exhibition in the summer where we will be able to invite people into the school.

Please get in touch if you would like to be involved or have something to contribute:

[\*\*ecurrie@heckgrammar.co.uk\*\*](mailto:ecurrie@heckgrammar.co.uk)

or

[\*\*jdunn@heckgrammar.co.uk\*\*](mailto:jdunn@heckgrammar.co.uk).



# happy birthday!

## HGS125 Pin Badge Competition

Founded on January 17th, 1898, this month marks the 125th year of Heckmondwike Grammar School.

Students in Year 7 engaged in the planning of a new competition to celebrate the anniversary. The competition, which was launched this week, invites students of all ages to design a commemorative pin badge to mark this monumental milestone.

Pin badges have played a major part in the school's history. Previously used to denote head students, house captains and other student roles, we award them today to celebrate academic excellence, achievement and contribution to the school's prestigious house competition.



A small focus group of Year 7 students worked together to formulate the finer details of challenge by establishing the rules of the contest.

The schools Head Teacher, Mr Roberts, shares, "It's incredibly fitting that our youngest students have contributed in devising a competition that will allow us to celebrate the long-standing history of the school. What a truly fantastic event for all of us to celebrate"

The competition will hopefully bring a wide range of wonderfully creative entries from our students. The winning entry will be selected by panel of judges before being professionally made into the commemorative pin badge. 2000 souvenir keepsakes will be produced and gifted to the students and teachers at Heckmondwike Grammar School.

Full details, including the templates can be found by clicking the link below

[hgs125 competition](#)

The winning entry will be announced in the Heckler in February. We wish all entrants the very best of luck.

# WE WANT YOUR REVISION GUIDES

ANY REVISION GUIDES, ANY CONDITION  
PLEASE DROP OFF AT THE GEOGRAPHY  
OFFICE SOON



Wednesday 25th January  
Lunchtime

## REVISION GUIDE SALE

There will be a sale of revision guides for both **GCSE** and **sixth form**.

GCSE revision guides will be sold in the **Swann hall**.

A-level revision guides will be sold in the **JCC**.

Revision guides will be sold for **£1**.



## Diary Dates

Wednesday 25 January  
Year 11 & Year 13 Revision Event (during the school day)

Thursday 26 January  
Year 8 Parents Evening - booking closes Monday 23 January @ 18.00 click [here](#) to book

Wednesday 1 February  
Year 8 HPV Vaccine (Dose 1)  
&  
Year 8 History teaching groups 8.4 & 8.6  
Holocaust Ctr Trip Huddersfield (during the school day)

Thursday 9 February  
Year 7 Parents Evening - details to follow

Friday 10 February  
School closes normal time, 3.15, for Half Term Break



# **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**Year 10 and 12 Students**

**The deadline for finding a work experience placement is fast approaching and students in year 10 and 12 have found some excellent placement opportunities so far, however there are still many that are yet to upload their placements to Unifrog. The careers team have drop-in support sessions for any student still struggling to find a placement, Mrs Haigh and Mrs Ellis can be found in B105 on Tuesday and Wednesday during registration next week. There is also a daily lunch time drop-in session for anything careers or work experience related in the careers office (B013). Remember the work experience week is a great opportunity to learn what it is like in the work place and the skills you will need to develop for the future**