

## THE SALVATION ARMY WOULD LIKE TO SAY...

Just wanted to say a huge thank you to all the students and families who donated to our Christmas appeal, every item has been used for a disadvantaged family in need.

Our thanks especially go to the students who volunteered to help with sorting food, packing food, sorting toys and packing toys; we really couldn't have done this without their help. Last year we provided food and toy parcels for 88 families, this year we have provided food parcels for 125 families and toy parcels for 297 children. I've attached photos from the week to show the mammoth task and the students in action.

Please pass this on to Mrs Currie as she has been a huge support in previous years, to Mrs Goulding who accompanied the students on Monday, the students who volunteered and of course the Headteacher who came in one day and also saw the work in action.

On behalf of the Salvation Army in Heckmondwike I'd like to wish you all a blessed Christmas and hope we can continue to work together to support the community of Heckmondwike.



Thank you once again  
Janet Devine



*Thank you!*

# HGS Choir's Rockin' Around the...



## Joint Choir Christmas Concert

## Dewsbury Town Hall 2023



### HGS Choirs and Leeds Male Voice Choir - Dewsbury Town Hall

On Sunday 3rd December, the Senior Choir and Senior Girls' Choir performed at Dewsbury Town Hall by invitation of, and to sing with, Leeds Male Voice Choir.

Over 40 students, led by Mr Hall, performed a variety of Christmas pieces ranging from 'Christmas Lullabye' and 'This Little Babe' to 'The Very Best Time of Year' and 'Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree' - a real mix of classical repertoire, traditional choir pieces and good fun songs. As always, our students performed brilliantly with wonderful harmonies and expression. From the first performance, you could hear the amazement of the Leeds Male Voice Choir who later agreed to not invite a choir who is better than them in future,

a lovely recognition of the talent here at Heckmondwike.

It was a pleasure to listen to Leeds Male Voice Choir too, and there was even a visit from Santa while their choir sang the 'Twelve Days of a Yorkshire Christmas', which amused the audience greatly.

The evening was made all the more magical as snow began to fall outside as 'In The Bleak Mid-Winter' was sung. It was a wonderful event, and one we were grateful to be asked to perform at. The evening got everyone into the Christmas spirit and ready for a season of school concerts and carol services!

Thank you to all the students who came to perform and Mr Hall for leading the Choirs.

# Amanda's Festive Mulled Apple Juice

## Recipe

Makes enough for 6 people

You will need a large pan.

Into the pan add a litre carton of Apple Juice,

a sliced orange,

a stick of cinnamon,

a 2" piece of peeled fresh ginger

Honey or Sugar to taste bring the ingredients to the boil, simmer and strain before serving, best served in

festive cups with hot mince pies.



## KABOOM for Caelan

On Sunday 3 Dec, Caelan represented HGS in the Yorkshire Schools Trampoline competition. He finished in 2nd spot in the elite boys category and is now through to the Northern round where he will be competing against winners from schools in the North, North West and Northern Ireland.

On Sunday 10 Dec, Caelan competed in the Yorkshire Regional Challenge Cup Trampoline competition and finished in first place in the elite boys 11-12 age group. He has now qualified for the Yorkshire Regional Challenge Cup Final next year.

Caelan has been trampolining since the age of 3 and currently trains with Bradford Olympian Trampoline Club.

Also - here's a quote from Caelan.

Caelan said: "I am thrilled with my recent trampoline competition wins. I have been training really hard and perfecting my routines and all my efforts have paid off. I am looking forward to the next stages of both competitions, which are both in February 2024."





## Christmas Showcase Concert

Wednesday 6th December saw the return of our annual Christmas Music concert held in the Swan Hall. The students and staff have been very busy rehearsing and preparing for the event that is always a very special evening full of wonderful performances.

The concert opened with the Concert Band performing a selection from 'Hercules' and 'Carol of the Drum'. This was followed by the Junior Choir, accompanied on the piano by Catherine Fan (Y11). They performed the song 'When You Believe' and a very different version of 'Once in Royal David's City'. Although for some of them this was their first performance, they were confident and sang beautifully. Concert Band returned with the Latin American inspired number 'La Bamba' and in contrast the powerful film music from 'Pirates of the Caribbean'. This featured lots of soloists from throughout the band including a reflective bassoon solo from Euanson Wong (y10)

Senior Choir took to the stage to perform 'The Very Best Time of Year' and a traditional choral a cappella arrangement of 'Ding Dong Merrily on High' that certainly got us all into the festive spirit. The Soul Band ended the second half with four fantastic high energy pieces. The Bruno Mars song 'Run Away Baby', a very funky version of 'Feliz Navidad', the soul classic 'Spooky' and the fun song 'Mambo Italiano'. The Soul Band has been joined by two new singers this year Blossom Palmer (Y10) and Caitlan Tolan (y11). Caitlin's voice suited the soulful style of Spooky perfectly whilst Blossom tackled the fast-paced lyrics for Mambo Italiano with such confidence and flare.

The lively sounds from our Percussion Group started the second half of the concert, they

performed 'Rocking Around the Christmas Tree' and 'We Need a Little Christmas'. They certainly put a smile on everyone's faces with the added dance moves! This was followed by the wonderful voices of the Senior Girl's Choir performing Christmas Lullaby, Personant Hodie and the very complex piece 'This Little Babe' from Benjamin Britten's Ceremony of Carols. They were joined by the rest of Senior Choir for a performance of a 4 part version of the famous song 'Walking in the Air' which certainly got us all in the Christmassy mood. Next, we had a great performance from String Group, performing Praeludium and a jazzy version of 'Whilst Shepherds Watched'.

The Concert Band performed the final pieces of the night; 'Under the Sea' from the Little Mermaid and 'Troika: Midnight Sleigh Ride' by Prokofiev. For an encore, the band were joined by both Junior and Senior Choirs for a special arrangement of 'Somewhere In My Memory' from the film Home Alone. A lovely way to finish a fantastic evening of music featuring well over 100 musicians!

Still to come for our busy musicians...

On Friday 15th December we are taking a group of students to a Local Care Home to sing some Christmas songs and carols.

Our fabulous musicians will be providing the music for our annual Prize Giving Awards at Dewsbury Town Hall on Tuesday 19th December.

On Wednesday 20th December we have the visiting orchestra from Kirklees Musica performing for and entertaining/educating all our Year 7 students.

Finally, on Thursday 21st December we have our annual Carol service at St James Church where there will be performances from our Concert Band, String Group and all our three choirs.

Then our musicians sleep...

# HGS Christmas Concert 2023



Concert Band

Senior Choir

Junior Choir

Girls Choir

Soul Band

Percussion  
Group  
String



**GOOD NEWS** - we have 36 students, Aasiyah Hussain, Emily Sharp & Mohammed Ahmed that have been accepted onto the Cambridge STEM SMART programme. This provides

Sixth Form students with weekly tutorials to complement their education with you (and extend their problem-solving skills) and fortnightly mentoring with current Cambridge students.

More details are available at <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/stem-smart>



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE



This week we celebrate those pupils who took part in this year's UK BEBRAS Computational Thinking Challenge during November 2023. Twenty five HGS pupils competed this year and our high-scoring participants achieved awards according to their scores and school rank. Details of the rankings are as follows:

The following students achieved scores of merit:

- Juniors (10-12 years old) :** Hamza Ali
- Inters (12-14 years old) :** Tahmeed Bhuiyan, Ricky Lin, Theo Williamson
- Seniors (14-16 years old) :** Miraya Vyas
- Elite (16-18 years old) :** Arnav Maniyar, Navaneeth Sasikumar

These students achieved scores of distinction awarded to students in the top 25% of students in the school:

- Juniors (10-12 years old) :** Yusuf Shah
- Inters (12-14 years old) :** Kaysan Abdullah, Ibrahim Khan, Bhoomi Marathe
- Seniors (14-16 years old) :** Phoebe Alexander, Manvita Maiya,
- Elite (16-18 years old) :** Suchir Gupta, Ayan Gupta

These students achieved 'best in school' award given only to the highest scoring student in their respective age category:

- Juniors (10-12 years old) :** Yusuf Shah
- Inters (12-14 years old) :** Saatchi Shah
- Seniors (14-16 years old) :** Kelvin Zhang
- Elite (16-18 years old) :** Thomas Haigh

Well done to all competitors who each receive a certificate from Hertford College, Oxford and the Raspberry Pi Foundation.



## Footy Result

Immensely proud of the U13 girls football team. On the afternoon of 11 December they finished 4th in the West Yorkshire cup competition. Competing against a super strong opposition, the girls matched the teams all the way and fully deserve to be playing at that level. Super proud girls well done

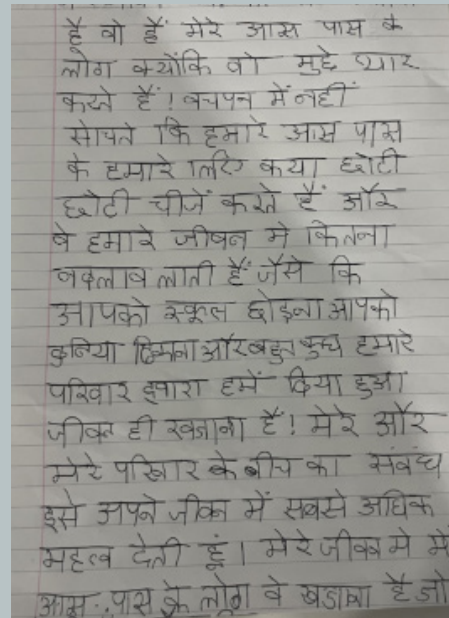
# Star Linguists

Every September, the Association for Language Learning organises a national foreign language writing competition, to coincide with the European day of Languages. The theme this year was 'Treasure', and encouraged students to apply their creative writing skills in their chosen foreign language, to express what matters most to them.

We have been overwhelmed by students' responses and were delighted to enter over 35 submissions across all year groups. This week, we received the wonderful news that the following students had been awarded a commendation for their French entries:

- Alex Stone (8P2)
- Eric Ani (10P2)
- Haniya Hans (10B2)
- Eleanor Tillotson (11P1)
- Catherine Fan (11C2)
- Hayyan Khan (11H2)
- Saamiya Sabeel (11P2)

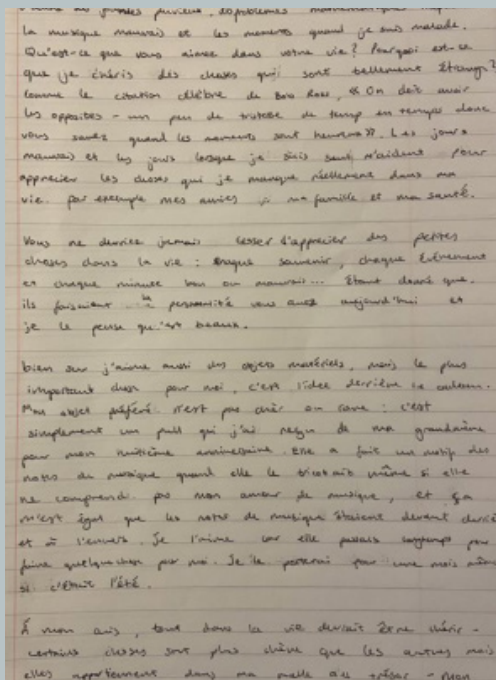
Additionally, Leisha Larg received a commendation for her entry in Hindi.



We were even more delighted to hear the news that four of our students were awarded top prizes for their entries:

- Bhoomi Marathe (9B1): French
- Esther Umoru (11C1): French
- Ananya Tantry (11H2): French
- Chinwendu Mere (13H3): Spanish

Huge congratulations to all our star linguists, who all rank amongst the best in the country!





<b>19</b>	<b>Senior Prize Giving</b>
-----------	----------------------------

<b>Christmas Jumper Day &amp; Christmas Dinner</b> Non-uniform day £1.00.schoolcloud.co.uk	<b>20</b>
---	-----------

<b>21</b>	<b>Carol Service- St James Church</b>
-----------	---------------------------------------

<b>Students Dismissed at 12.15 for Christmas Break</b>	<b>22</b>
--	-----------



<b>8</b>	<b>School Reopens</b>
----------	-----------------------

<b>Year 8 Options Evening</b> details to be shared shortly	<b>11</b>
---	-----------

<b>18</b>	<b>Year 8 Parents' Evening</b> details to be emailed Thursday 21 December
-----------	--





# Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Dinner

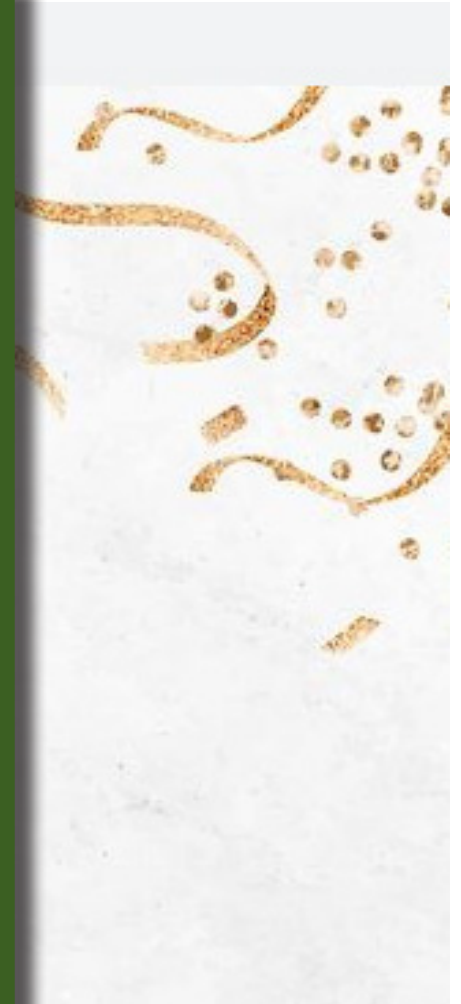
Wednesday 20 December

Pay £1.00 for the privilege of being out of uniform.

All funds raised will be donated to



Save the Children



Mellors  
FOOD  
Happy  
Christmas

## HGS CHRISTMAS DINNER



£3.00

Roast Turkey with Pigs in Blanket, Seasoning & Gravy



Or

Roasted Vegetable Tart with Tomato & Basil Sauce

Accompanied by

Roast Potatoes

Carrot Batons, Sprouts, and Peas



DESSERT

Christmas Pudding with Vanilla Sauce

Or

Chocolate Orange Cupcakes

Join us:

WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER

## Yr 10 - 13 Student Interested in a Medicine Work Placement

The Medical Schools Council acknowledges virtual work experience as a valuable option to traditional, in-person shadowing. We are pleased to offer a variety of medical specialties, with a focus this month on palliative care. This enables students to gain a well-rounded perspective of working within the NHS. Any students aged 14 and over who are interested in medicine are encouraged to participate in our National NHS Work Experience programmes.

Any students in Years 10/S3/NI11 - 13/S6/NI14 interested can use the link below for further information <https://medicmentor.org/university-hospitals-birmingham-trust-virtual-work-experience/>

Our virtual work experiences provide your students with valuable insights and opportunities that may be otherwise difficult to access. Developed in collaboration with Birmingham Universities Hospitals Trust, this Virtual Work Experience has proven to be transformative for thousands of secondary school students over the past year. It goes beyond being just an alternative to in-person shadowing; it is a vital step in preparing students for their upcoming physical placements.

We've designed a 6-month medical e-learning work experience programme, focusing on one specialty each month, allowing students to set their own pace of learning. From structured teaching to direct interaction with doctors and healthcare professionals, our programme ensures students not only observe procedures but also gain a broader understanding of roles within the medical field.

Covering everything from ethics to procedures and broader team roles, our virtual work experience provides a crucial overview of their desired career paths and the skills that medical professionals are looking for, thereby enhancing their UCAS applications.

Signing up is easy – students simply need to fill out the free online application form:

<https://airtable.com/appuQX2ouadvjQUSU/shrroljLczgdg9uLw>

For students eager to explore medicine during the Christmas period, we're offering instant access to all 6 months of the medical work experience if they attend this Saturday's Get Into Medicine conference—a unique opportunity to kickstart 2024 with a medical focus.

We are eager to welcome your students to our exceptional free work experience programmes and support them in their journey toward a fulfilling career in medicine.

Kind regards,

Dr Siva - Chief Mentor - Medic Mentor