

## GCHQ National Language Competition Regional Winners

Back in November, 4 teams of Year 9 students took part in the GCHQ National Language Competition. Over the course of a week, during lunchtimes and before and after school, they solved challenging language-related puzzles online, battling their wits against students from other schools up and down the country. All of our teams did brilliantly across a range of languages – not because they knew all the languages, but because they used skills of problem-solving and pattern-spotting.



One of our teams went on to become Regional Champions for Yorkshire and Humber, and here is their story.

It all started with Mrs Stone telling us about this relatively new competition, called the National Language Competition, run by GCHQ (for Year 9). We immediately decided we wanted to take part, and it didn't take long for us to make a team of 4.

We got our logins, and we were all set to go. After enjoying the half term holidays, the competition started.

The competition lasted 5 days, from 0700 to 1900 every day. There were a variety of challenges, ranging from simple French or Spanish, to learning some Mandarin and Arabic. You were allowed to use Google, but it didn't always help. There were also some made up languages, where we had to identify patterns, and even some hidden morse code!

We worked every lunchtime, and in our spare time, and we started off pretty strong, ending day 1 on 27% completion and day 2 on 49%. Progress slowed as the challenges got significantly harder, but we carried on, and we ended up finishing with 79% completion.

After waiting for 2 weeks, we found out that we were the regional winners!

Speaking on behalf of my team, I think we all really

enjoyed this competition, it really helped us realise the fun in languages, and it definitely made us understand the power of being multilingual. We would definitely do it again if we could.

I would recommend this to any aspiring Year 8s, for next year, or Year 7s if you want to plan ahead!

Saatchi Shah



(My Team: Saatchi Shah, Bhoomi Marathe, Poppy Nuttman and Evelyn Hardcastle)

## TONIGHT!

**SOUL,  
SWING  
& SING**

with Heckmondwike Grammar School  
Soul Band, Junior Choir  
and Musica Mirfield Swing Band

7pm | Friday, February 2, 2024  
Christ the King Church,  
Stocks Bank Road, Battyeford, WF14 9QD  
Tickets: £5 available on the door

Email: [mirfield@musicakirklees.org](mailto:mirfield@musicakirklees.org)  
[www.musicakirklees.org](http://www.musicakirklees.org)

#MUSICAKIRKLEES

## OTHER NEWS IN BRIEF



The HGS Eco Committee hosted another fantastic book swap event this lunchtime, providing students with the opportunity to swap their unwanted books.

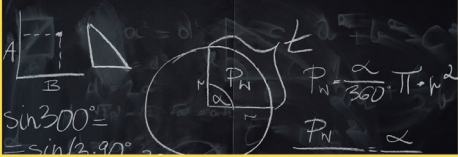


We thank them for their continued work

@hgsecocommittee




**CHALLENGE 2024**




There are challenges for:

- Y8 & below
- Y10 & below
- Open category (under 18)



The theme this year is  
**Constellations**



**CONTACT MS JARVIS FOR MORE DETAILS  
OR JOIN THE VIRTUAL MATHS CLUB ON TEAMS  
DEADLINE FOR RETURNED ENTRIES VIA SCHOOL  
IS MONDAY 4 MARCH**

**Sixth Form  
Bulletin  
click  
here**



contains useful information for current and future Sixth Formers

# Sports News

Massive congratulations & well done to our Yr7 football team who won their 1st competitive match 5v0 against Batley Grammar



## Badminton

Aditya's Rane, in year 9 took part in a table tennis tournament (West Yorkshire School Individual Championship) held in Bradford Grammar School on Wednesday 31 January

some knockout matches and won them which meant he then played until the quarter finals, unfortunately in the 1 vs 1 best of 5 matches series he lost.

Adi played in the group round in which the top 4 out of 8 would advance into the knockout round. He then had

This is great news well done Aditya unlucky in the final stages but a great achievement to get to far in



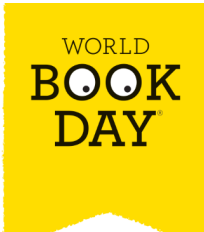

Competition dates:  
29th January to 8th February 2024

# British Biology Olympiad

2 papers to complete  
45 minutes long each paper  
2 lunchtimes needed  
1<sup>st</sup> Feb and 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb – C016  
5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Feb - S001

**Calling all Yr 13  
Biologist**

## WORLD BOOK DAY 7 MARCH



For a reminder of the events taking place in school w/c 4 March including, fancy dress, book mark competition, 'Fireside Reads' and much, much more click [here](#)

See our social media feeds for more photos and video events



<https://www.facebook.com/heckgrammar>



<https://twitter.com/heckgrammar>

## Diary Events

Year 7 Parents' Evening Thursday 8 February - Booking closes Monday 5 February at 6pm

Art Students - Amsterdam Trip 9-12 February - NOTE DATE CHANGE

February Half-term - Monday 12 - Friday 16 February

A Level Geography Cranedale Trip - 20-23 February

Yr 10 Oxford University Trip - Thursday 22 February