



Week 7 Published 26/10/2023



1st House Report of the 2023/2024 Year

It's been a wonderful start to the year for the House system. It is always great to welcome new students in Year 7 and Year 12, and this year to welcome two new members of House staff: Mrs Goulding and Mr Ellis for Clarke House.

Events are underway and so far, we have had Inter and Senior Girls Netball, Inter and Senior Boys Football along with House Dance auditions, Senior Debates and Junior E-Sports has begun. Despite some unkind weather conditions, the

results for the Sports events are:

Inters Girls Netball -

- 4th- Clarke
- 3rd-Houldsworth
- 2nd Bronte
- 1st Priestley

Senior Girls Netball -

- 4th-Priestley
- 3rd-Bronte
- 2nd Clarke
- 1st Houldsworth

Inter Boys Football -

- 4th-Priestley
- 3rd- Clarke
- 2nd Houldsworth
- 1st Bronte

Senior Boys Football -

- 4th-Houldsworth
- **3rd- Priestley**
- 2nd Clarke
- 1st Bronte





Over 60 students sent in audition videos for House Dance; a fantastic number of participants. The top 3 entries from each age category of each House will be invited to perform for an external judge next half term. More details to follow after the holidays.

Junior E-Sports has begun and with 24

students across Years 7-9 for each House, the knockouts are taking a while to complete. Students from each House play each other first until one remains and then the winner of each House plays each other in the Final. The knockouts will continue next half term!

We have also enjoyed Senior House Debates this half term. Both semi-finals were very tough competitions for Mrs Whitelaw to judge. Semifinal 1 was Priestley arguing against Bronte regarding "Should there be a



sugar tax?" and semifinal 2 was Houldsworth challenging Clarke on "Should independent schools lose their charitable status?". Both were very intense debates and the speakers from every House did a very professional job. It was fantastic to hear well-prepared speeches from students in Year 11, 12 and 13. What makes the event even more exciting, is the discussion from the floor; students from all year groups are invited to come and listen to the debate and ask questions to the speakers. Once again students demonstrated their intellect and analysis skills with tricky questions, fielded magnifically by the speakers. The two winning Houses from the semi-finals were Priestley and Houldsworth who then challenged each other in the Final. Their debate was "Should XL Bullies be banned?". After a very fierce debate, the winners were Houldsworth, a big congratulations to them.

The current standing for the Lees Cup is as follows, with a lot still to play for:

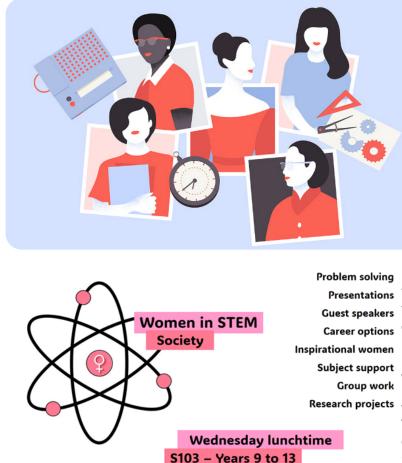
Bronte	Clarke	Houldsworth	Priestley
15	10	14	11

We start as we mean to go on, lots of activities, lots of competitions, lots of participation. Next half term we have the following events:

Junior E-Sports (continued)

- Inters House Maths
- Junior Boys Football
- Junior Girls Netball
- House Dance Finals
- House Drama Launch
- Swimming Gala (TBC)

Keep an eye on Teams and assemblies for further details!



Women in STEM Society

2023-24

The Women in STEM society has returned this year, now headed by Emily Sharp and Bhavva Trivedi (Year 12). Running every Wednesday from 12:30 to 13:00 in S103, the society offers an opportunity for female students with an interest in Science, Technology, **Engineering and Mathematics** Presentations to meet in a dedicated space Guest speakers to discuss careers and tackle challenging problems.

Inspirational women
Subject support
Group workEach week focuses on a different
area of STEM including Maths,
Further Maths, and Physics,
with Emily covering Design and
Technology and Bhavya covering
Chemistry in addition to this.
Session ideas and activities are
always welcomed too.

This year has already seen students take on problems from the UK Maths Challenge and Physics Olympiad. Next half term will focus on careers in STEM, with exciting guest speakers in the works!

Re-start a Heart



The Resuscitation Council UK along with the British Heart Foundation, British Red Cross, St John Ambulance, the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives and NHS England work together to help raise awareness of cardiac arrest and teach CPR on/around the 16th of October every year.

> More than 30,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests happen every year in the UK. Sadly, less than one in 10 people survive. Early CPR and defibrillation can

more than double the chances of survival in some cases.

At HGS, nearly 300 Year 8 and sixth form students participated in this event, which was delivered in school by Yorkshire Ambulance volunteers during 10 sessions throughout the day. Helen Thomson, HM Vice Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire visited the event and enjoyed participating in this potentially life-changing CPR training









Sixth Form Fancy Dress Halloween











BIOLOGY

Year 13 Biology students have been experimenting and investigating again this week. They have been looking into the rate of respiration of maggots. This has used lots of skills including risk assessment and safety of using a living organism, using new equipment, and interpreting and



calculating results. Well done Year 13 another CPAC investigation signed off

Mrs Edwards - Teacher of Biology



Heckmondwike Grammar School

Calling all fundraisers. Take on a spotacular challenge!

This year we challenge you to raise £5 for Children in Need which takes place on Friday 17th November.

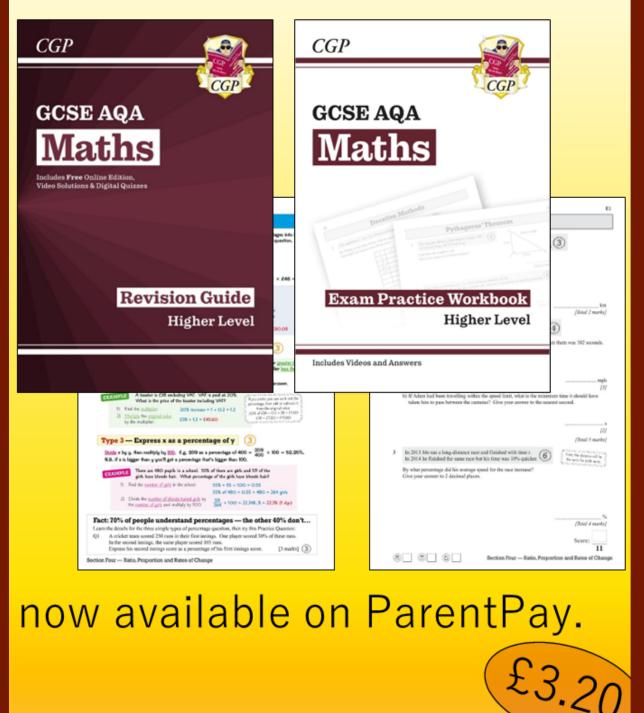
Put your creative skills to the test and come up with a fundraising idea that can help you raise money for the charity. You can do this however you want - a sponsored silence, a danceathon or take up the Pudsey Bearpees Challenge? You can complete it individually or work with other people. Let's go beyond a cake sale and really think out of the box!

If everybody takes up the £5 challenge, the school could raise over £6500 for Children in Need. What an incredible achievement!

We want to hear about the crazy and unusual ways you could fundraise so we can celebrate the work and effort in supporting those in need.

There are lots of inspiring ideas on the Children in Need website: https://www.bbcchildreninneed. co.uk/fundraising/take-on-a-spotacularchallenge/

GCSE Maths Revision Guides and Exam Practice Workbooks



Available to Year 10 students. Order before **Monday 6th November.**



'Metamorphosis," at York Theatre

I recently had the pleasure of watching Frantic Assembly's adaptation of "Metamorphosis," at York Theatre Royal and was utterly mesmerised: based on Franz Kafka's 1915 novella, it offers a striking stage adaptation that delves into the harrowing story of Gregor Samsa, a fabric salesman living with his parents.

Devised by Lemn Sissay and directed by Scott Graham, this production is a powerful commentary on the unrelenting pressure of life in the modern world and the brutal effects of rejection and alienation in society.

At the heart of this adaptation is Felipe Pacheco's mesmeric portrayal of Gregor Samsa. His physicality was truly captivating as he embodied a man trapped in the monotony of everyday working life, weighed down by the relentless pressure of providing for his family grippingly. With no costume to represent his transformation into an insect, Pacheco's transformation was expressed through every part of his body. He writhed around the stage, using blackouts to move and reappear almost instantly elsewhere, at times seemingly stuck to the ceiling or precariously balanced on a piece of furniture, creating a sense of discomfort. Pacheco's unflagging presence on stage and his almost acrobatic movements deeply impressed me, making his portrayal a standout element of the production.

The entire cast delivered standout performances: Hannah Sinclair Robinson's Grete was endearing and emotive, while Troy Glasgow's Mr. Samsa was a convincing patriarch with humorous monologues; Louise Mai Newberry injected comedy into the play, portraying Mrs. Samsa with impeccable timing; Joe Layton effectively embodied the ruthlessness of the sales industry, with commanding and unfeeling portrayals.

Jon Bausor's set was simple but effective, with all the action confined to Gregor's room. The stark and colourless design, punctuated by bright projections, reflected the monotony of a work-centric life. Simisola Majekodunmi's cleverly designed lighting, along with shadow and projection onto the back wall, enhanced the atmosphere and built tension.

Frantic Assembly's movement added dynamism to the performance, though at times, especially



during longer monologues, it felt slightly static and having watched Othello, I expected more visceral and energetic movements. However, overall, "Metamorphosis" is an intriguing production, delving into the Kafkaesque world, and well worth watching. This adaptation rejuvenates a century-old tale and breathes new life into it, reflecting both the absurdity of the original story and the challenges of our contemporary world and having watched it during Mental Health Week, the play resonated even more.

Rating: 4/5 -Aina Ali