



School News

BOOK WEEK

It has been a very busy half term in English. Book Week from Monday 3 November –Friday 7 November was very successful once again. James Nash, local poet and writer, led workshops for Year 8 and judged the poetry competition, which was won by Reuben Kaufman. David Cryer from the Government's *Booked Up* initiative also led workshops for Year 7, which was enjoyed by all. The week finished on a triumphant note with the combined Year 7 & 8 Kids' Litquiz team winning the Yorkshire round, they then went on to the regional final at Newcastle on Friday 28 November. The team (pictured below) consisted of Hannah, Reuben, Alice and Thomas. Many thanks to Mrs Ransome for her organisation of these events. Miss Kent also accompanied a group of Year 12 students to a very challenging debating competition at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Huddersfield, and Mr Attwood took a group of Year 12 Literature students to York to see *Death Of A Salesman* on Wednesday 26 November. On Wednesday 19 November a new link was established between NHGS and Crossley Heath GS for A Level Literature. Mr Attwood and Mrs Johnson, Head of English at Crossley's, will be leading a number of enrichment lessons with a group of Year 13 students from both schools. Finally, thanks to Miss Paxman and Mr Crawford and all the cast of *Romeo and Juliet* for their triumphant productions in school time and on Thursday 20 November, raising money for Macmillan Cancer.



SJA

The North Halifax
Grammar School



NHGS News

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DECEMBER 2008

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Book Week was held after half-term. We missed double Art to attend a poetry workshop run by James Nash. We sat in groups and he told us a little about himself. He brought out a huge wooden mask. He told us about it and then he asked us to write down our ideas about it. These ideas were used to write our poem. At the end of the session we handed in our poems and left.

The next day I was called to the Learning Resource Centre. I thought that I was in trouble - but far from it! I was told that my poem was the best in my Form and also James Nash thought my poem was the best from all Year 8. I didn't know the poem was any good! I just wrote what was in my mind at the time. I hadn't even finished it. I might take English to another level now that I have realised I am decent at it.

I am the symbol of Africa
I am the ruler of plains
I look over the villages
And I am the lions' mane.

I am the symbol of Africa
I am the light in the sky
I am the taste in the fruit
And I am the wing on the fly.

I am the symbol of Africa
I am the shine in the sand
I am the cure for the sick
And I am the soul of this land

Tom Latham-Sharp 8(4)

Steven Bayton – International Fell Runner

Steven Bayton has been running for the Halifax Harriers for the past six years and has competed both locally and nationally at cross country events. Over the last couple of years he

has progressed onto the more stressful event of fell running. After a series of six English Junior Fell Championship qualifying races, Steven finished third overall with the top four qualifying to run for the England U18 Fell Squad.

The Home Nations Fell Championships was held on the 12th October in the Pentland Hills near Edinburgh. Steven was placed 14th in his 7000m race over steep rugged terrain against teams from Scotland, Wales, Eire and Northern Ireland. England were placed third overall in the final.

Steven is very pleased with his performance and said that the step up from regional and district to international level was quite marked.

The PE Dept. is delighted with Steven's performance at this level and wishes him the best of luck in future events.

SDL & CT

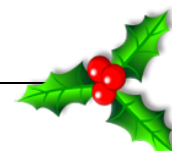
PROGRESSION MODULE CEREMONY

A small group of us went to the University of Huddersfield to attend the Progression Module Ceremony. It was quite an enjoyable experience and gave us all an insight in to what graduation will be like; definitely something to look forward to.

There were many different schools there and it was a very sophisticated, well structured ceremony.

We listened to some very motivational speakers before having to walk across stage to receive our scrolls. I practically ran as I hate being in front of people.

We were getting rewarded for successfully passing the progression module which supplies us all with 30 extra UCAS points.



After the ceremony, to our delight, we had refreshments. It was very much a formal occasion but was nice to be rewarded for our hard work.

Thanks to Mrs Quigley for accompanying us.

Charlotte Clee U6(2)

SENIOR MATHEMATICAL CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the following students who won awards in the Senior Mathematical Challenge – November 2008.

Year 13

Richard Cole	Gold
Jennifer Sage	Gold
Ryan Scadden	Gold
Chris Percy	Gold
Steven Bayton	Silver
Michael Wood	Silver
Hope Lovelady	Bronze
Sabrina Qasim	Bronze

Year 12

Lizzie Hollwey	Silver
Bethany Megson	Silver
Luke McCarthy	Silver
James Allan	Silver
Konrad Hepworth	Bronze
Lucy Pittaway	Bronze
Charlotte Hartley	Bronze
Ann Newsome	Bronze
Robyn Sweeney	Bronze
Rowan Davey	Bronze
Kathy Ryland	Bronze
Emily King	Bronze

MB

Decorating for Charity

Form 8(1) would like to say a big THANK YOU to everybody who has made a donation to the British Heart Foundation and decorated our lovely Christmas tree in the entrance at the same time. Every bauble has been put there by

somebody who has donated to this worthwhile cause. We will be sending a cheque for £45!

KDH



All this for selling a few Raffle tickets "You're 'aving a larf!"

Having a laugh and a lot of fun is exactly what Form 7(2) did on Tuesday 25th November. They were all enjoying their special non-uniform day and afternoon at Electric Bowl in Halifax. But we are being a bit mean – because Form 7(2) didn't just sell a few Raffle tickets – they sold an amazing 535 tickets! Miss Bouch deserves a big thank you for encouraging her form to sell the tickets – but she says it was easy – she just asked them if they wanted to go bowling for the afternoon – and they obviously did!

All the class had a great time, and really enjoyed themselves, and the surprise Top of the Scoreboard with a total score of 120 was Miss Bouch (misspent youth?)!!! Our thanks go to Mr Jervis and Miss Bouch for their help. The Grand Raffle raised over £5,000 which will go towards the furnishings for the new Sixth Form Learning Centre.

Go onto www.nhqs.co.uk to the PA link to see photos.





Bag2school – Wednesday 11th February 2009

A Christmas clearout? Please start collecting any old clothing, rags, duvets, pillows, footwear, handbags etc for this date. These can be collected in any bag but the blue bags will be distributed nearer the date as a further reminder. A collection date has been arranged for Wednesday 11th February 2009 at 8.45am; this is the morning after the Y7 parents consultation evening. Bags can be brought in that evening, February 10th, by parents, or on the Wednesday morning.

These collections are weighed, sorted and sold. Please see their website for more details www.bag2school.com NHGS will be paid £400/tonne (as 2 collections have been booked) so please start saving that

material that would otherwise be thrown away.

Please contact Helen on 01274 883906 if you need storage before this date.

This is an NHGS fundraising event to raise money for the Sixth Form Learning Centre

News of Past Students

Congratulations go to the following past NHGS students on successfully graduating from Newcastle University in July 2008:

Louise French

English Literature BA Honours

Paul Griffiths

Biology BSc Honours

Alexandrea Habin

Dental Surgery BDS Honours

Kathryn Hornsby

Human Genetics BSc Honours

Anthony Longbottom

Civil and Structural Engineering MEng Honours

Tracey Neatby

History BA Honours

Jamie Washington

Electrical and Electronic Engineering BEng Honours

Easy Fundraising - £40 raised to date

Thank you to those who have registered with easy fundraising and have raised funds for school with no cost to themselves apart from a little time and remembering to buy through the easy fundraising site.

www.easyfundraising.org.uk



Snow stops play

Unfortunately the concert we were scheduled to perform for the Residents at Manor House, Lightcliffe, on Tuesday 2nd December, had to be cancelled because of the weather conditions. We hope to arrange a concert for them in the spring instead.

Carols and Brass – Victoria Theatre

On Friday 5th December, the NHGS Handbell ringers were special guest performers at the Halifax Choral Society and Black Dyke Mills Band “Carols and Brass” concert. They performed brilliantly and gave an extra special seasonal atmosphere to the event.

Concert Band and Hand-bell Ringers– Westgate Arcade

The Concert band brought some Christmas cheer to the late night shoppers in the Westgate Arcade on Thursday 11th December. Their selection of carols and Christmas songs were well received by passers-by, many of whom stayed to listen a while. The band members themselves clearly enjoyed playing and the festive atmosphere was enhanced by their Santa hats and tinsel-decked instruments. On 18th December the Hand-bell ringers will also play in the arcade to add to the Christmas spirit.

Friday Recital

Our Friday Recital held at 3.15 p.m. on 12th December in MR1 included a range of soloists and small ensembles from beginners to more advanced players. The programme was varied and interesting and each of the performers played very well. It was good to see some parents, staff and friends of the performers in the audience. The performers were: Christy Ellis, Rose Allcock, Kate Baldwin, Beth Smith, Megan Simpson, Ewan Nelson, Emily Munz, Adam Trevisani, Beth Attwood, Aimee Griffin, Laura Wood, Danielle Levin, Zoe Littlewood and the Clarinet Group.

Carol Service

Our annual Carol Service was held at the Halifax Parish Church on Tuesday 16th

December in the afternoon, for students, and again in the evening for parents, carers and friends. The traditional readings from the Festival of Nine Lessons with Carols were confidently articulated by students, staff and guests and the choirs sang magnificently. Once again, the hand-bell ringers added their seasonal chimes to the atmosphere and the double reed group played before the service began. The service was led by the Reverend Hilary Barber.

GJE

Wanted - M & S Clothes

If anyone has any unwanted M & S clothes (including Per Una etc) in whatever condition, please send them into school as we can use these to get M & S vouchers to use for our fundraising.

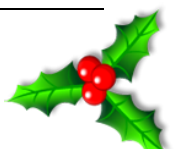
This is a PA fundraising event to support the SFLC

Romeo and Juliet

Anyone directing this story of the world’s most famous “star-crossed” lovers is faced by the problem of its fame. How can it be produced in a fresh way and avoid slipping into cliché? This year’s school play took a modern approach, with social networking pages looming over the stage, recording and developing the characters’ thoughts and feelings. The text itself had been intelligently abridged and the action moved on at the hectic pace of modern life.

Ned Smith created a moody, introspective Romeo, while Ettie Myers’ Juliet showed that teenage angst rings true in any century. With Shakespeare’s feuding families transformed to street gangs led by Patrick McCallion as Montague and the ever impressive Adam Colbeck-Dunn as Capulet, we were reminded of current anxieties about street crime and disorder. Chris Buttrick as Tybalt certainly earned an ASBO and Alex Watkins’ Friar Lawrence was an earnest, well-meaning (if absent-minded) social worker. There were glimmers of hope for our “broken society” in the wit and warmth of Mercutio (Brad Jones) and the pacifist Benvolio (Chris White).

This contemporary interpretation moved with commendable pace and the well-choreographed fight scenes added further zip. In contrast, the



scenes with greatest pathos, most notably of course the final scene, were handled with a moving lightness and directness that made them all the more moving.

Shakespeare remains so important because he speaks to each new generation about universal experiences. Over four hundred years after his death he still manages to articulate our thoughts in a way that continues to demand our attention. Miss Paxman and Mr Crawford created a performance which reminded us all of how “contemporary” truly great writing remains.

TFS

Comenius Project Update

During the last month students in Years 7-11 have been working with pedometers to count how many steps that they walked, the distance that they covered and the calories burnt in a day. I am currently collating all the data and we will be comparing our results with those in the other partner countries.

our students have learnt more about the countries that we have been working with. The following students achieved the highest score in their year group:

- Year 7 – Chloe Byrnes
- Year 8 – Luis Bradley
- Year 9 – Jennifer Kidd
- Year 10 – Devon Clegg

We will be welcoming about 30 students and teachers from our partner schools to NHGS from March 19th-22nd 2009. I am currently constructing a programme of events for our visitors over their three or four days in Halifax. There will be some time spent in school but I am also hoping to arrange social events such as a bowling visit and a day trip to York. If possible, I would like the students from these schools to be hosted by NHGS students. I will be sending out a letter to students in Years 9-12 to ask whether any parents would be willing to host our visitors. We will be travelling to the other partner schools and students from NHGS will have the opportunity to accompany those visits.

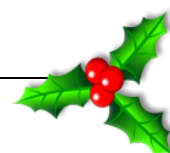
The project is funded by the European Union



Members of 8(4) with their information booklet for our partner school in Turkey

Over the last fortnight Geography students in Years 7-10 completed a questionnaire to test their knowledge of our partner countries. We hope to complete a similar questionnaire at the end of our two year project to determine whether

and all travel and subsistence will be paid for on these visits. Students in Years 7 and 8 have prepared information magazines about the UK, our local area and school to send to each



partner school in preparation for the visit in March.

If you would like to find out a little more about the project then please have a look at the project website: <http://vle.nhgs.co.uk/Comenius>.

CJM

NHGS Christmas Hamper Raffle

Forms in years 7 to 11 created some fabulous Hampers for our Christmas Hamper Raffle. These included - Around the World, Chocolate, Christmas Survival, Pamper night, Christmas Goodies.....

The amount raised was over £1,000 which is great so soon after the Grand Raffle.

Tickets were sent home with students and for sale through parent pay.

The draw took place on Friday 12th December and the winners are listed below.

Thank you to everyone who supported this venture by helping with the hampers-buying, bringing, wrapping, decorating and by buying and selling raffle tickets. This has been a new fundraising event, which has given forms a chance to do something collectively involving all the form members. There is, as promised, a prize for the best Hamper created, judged on presentation, contents, involvement and overall effect. This was judged to be form 7(3) Mrs Taylor/Mr Crawford, and they have won a meal at McDonalds for Jan 2009.

Thanks to Mr Saunders and Mr Frost who helped with this event and are able to match fund.

This is an NHGS fundraising event to raise money for the Sixth Form Learning Centre

Hamper Creators and Winners:

1. 8(5) Chocolate Hamper R Sampson

2. 9(5) Around the World	Anne Beeby
3. 9(3) Christmas Hamper	J Bedford
4. 8(2) Chocolate Hamper	Elizabeth Lamb
5. 7(4) Breakfast Hamper	Cathy Wood
6. 7(2) Romantic Night In	C Bailey
7. 7(1) All Things Nice	Harry Sanderson
8. 8(4) Tea Hamper	Mrs Ikram
9. PA Garden Hamper	Jack Shaw
10.7(5) Christmas Office	Sarah Matthews
11.7(3) Mystery Hamper	Winnie Barnett
12.8(1) A Bright Christmas	Mike Beeby
13.11(1) Survival Hamper	Mrs Booker
14.9(4) Chocolate Hamper	Brenda Beverley

The PA Monthly Prize Draw

Our 3 lucky November 2008 winners are:

£150	9	Marie Grant	Illingworth
£75	165	Mr & Mrs Day	Greetland
£25	91	Mrs Linda Shields	Queensbury

Congratulations! If you didn't win anything – it may be because you haven't signed up for this? Just [download a form](http://www.nhgs.co.uk/pa/prizedraw.pdf) (<http://www.nhgs.co.uk/pa/prizedraw.pdf>) or get one from the school office – commit to a £5.00 direct debit each month, and you could be one of our winners. Each month we give away £250 – **it could be you** ! Contact Linda Saunders on linda_c_saunders@yahoo.co.uk if you want to know more.

ABRSM Results

Congratulations to the following students who passed their Grade 5 ABRSM Theory exam.

Bethany Browne
Owen Crawford
James Green
Aimee Griffin
Rachel Kershaw
James Mason
Oliver McHugh
Hannah Moran
Lucy Oliver
Bonnie Rowntree
Clair Taylor
Rose Wyatt

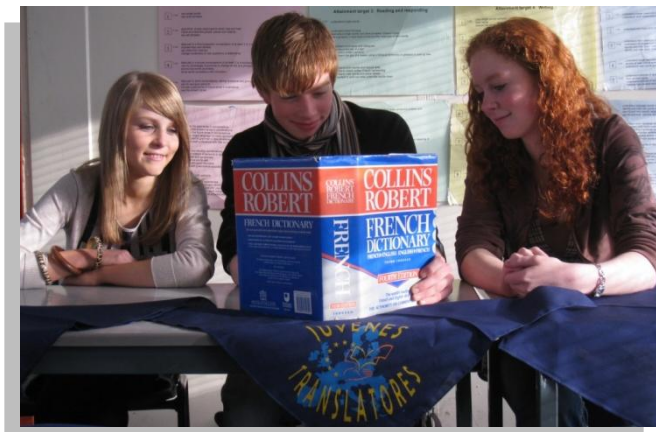


Congratulations also go to Christy Ellis who passed her Grade 4 Cello Practical exam and Rosalie Newton who passed her Grade 7 Violin Practical exam.

GJE

International Translation Competition

On Thursday 27th November 2008, Anna, Siobhan, Katie and I took part in the Juvenes Translatores. This was an international translation competition where we were each given an extract in French, on the subject of Modern Foreign Languages, which we had to translate into English as fluently as possible. Students from all over Europe participated in the competition with the victor being invited to attend an award ceremony in Brussels. The results will be published in February 2009.



Steven U6(9)

Cambridge Union Schools Debating Competition & Daniel Nelstrop Debating Competition

On Monday 17th November we travelled to Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in Wakefield to participate in the Cambridge Union Schools' Debating Competition. Two teams from NHGS had been entered. Having

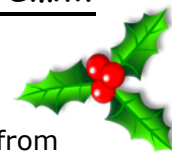
never competed in a debate before we were extremely nervous.

Each team was assigned a room in which they competed against three other teams. The first motion was "This House believes that performance related pay for teachers would be beneficial". We completed this debate and there was a break, with kind hospitality and wonderful catering. Now came the second UNSEEN motion, "This house would force clinically obese people into fat camps". We felt more confident in the second round as we knew the system and we were all on an even playing field. Unfortunately, neither team progressed to the next round but as it was our first attempt we were glad of the experience we gained from the competition. The judges gave us valuable advice such as structuring our arguments so they were more coherent and to work on a summation.

On Thursday 11th December, one team was entered into the Daniel Nelstrop Competition at Calder High where they competed against Crossley Heath Grammar School opposing the motion "This House would win at all costs". After a shaky start (the system was different to what they expected), Kathy Ryland and Morrison Brown rose to the challenge and argued successfully to impress the judges and gain a place in the second round of the competition next year.

Emily King & Sophie Smith

Social Get Together for Mums of Years 7 and 8



Earlier this year we invited our Mums from year 7 forms (1,2,3,4) to join us for a meal and get together at Rim Nams restaurant in Hebden Bridge. The evenings were a great success, and gave new parents the opportunity to meet other Mums in their child's form, discuss school policy, projects, and problems and find ways to co-operate and help each other in the future.

When your child goes to Secondary School it isn't only the children who have to find out how new things work, or to make new friends – sometimes parents do as well!

We have been asked to continue with these, and so we have some new dates for your diary. We have planned these for January 2009 and hope you can join us.

Thursday 29th Jan 2009

Year 7(5) + any other Year 7 parents who couldn't come to the previous evenings

Wednesday 28th Jan 2009

Year 8(1), 8(2)

Tuesday 27th Jan 2009

Year 8(3), 8(4)

Thursday 5th Feb 2009

Year 8(5) + any other Year 8 parents who can't make the other nights.

If you are interested in coming along (please do – we have a great time!) call Petra on 01422 885365. The cost for a 2 course Thai meal, plus rice and tea/coffee is only £9.99.

Beauty & Pampering Day

Stuck for that last minute Christmas present for a lady?

Why not treat them to a Pamper Day – there are a few tickets available for 30 April and 2 May 2009.

Phone: 01422 885365 or
07961 006023

Contact: Petra Sweeney Cost:
£115

This is an NHGS Parents' Association fund-raising event.

LOST PROPERTY

Could parents please ensure that all students' clothing and footwear is clearly labelled with their name. We currently have a huge array of coats and items of PE kit that remain unclaimed

in Lost Property. Clothing will be displayed on a regular basis in the Lower Foyer on a dress rail. Items not claimed by the end of each half term will be donated to charity as we do not have the storage facilities to store them.

PARENTS' CONSULTATION EVENINGS

Thank you to those who have helped at the L6 and Y10 evenings.

If you are able to help serve tea and coffee (to parents and staff) at any of the remaining evenings, please indicate which dates on the form at the end of this newsletter and return it to school marked FTAO Helen Simpson (Chair of PA). Or phone me on 01274 883906.

This is a welcome service provided by the PA for parents on the night they see the teachers, 3 or 4 are needed on most evenings, please volunteer for 1 slot.

I have a few names down for forthcoming evenings but more helpers are needed.

We wish all parents, guardians and students a Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

School is open again on Monday 5th January 2009.

*Graham Maslen
Headteacher*



**The North Halifax Grammar School
PARENTS' CONSULATATION EVENINGS**

My Name: _____ **Contact Number:** _____

Helen will ring to remind you nearer the date.

Date(s)	Time I am able to help between 5 and 8pm	Please ✓ the evening you are able help.
Tuesday 13 th January 2009	U6	
Thursday 29 th January 2009	Y11	
Tuesday 10 th February 2009	Y7	
Thursday 5 th March 2009	Y9	
Wednesday 18 th March 2009	Y8	

NHGS Parent Prom (Dinner & Dance)

Date: Saturday 21st March 2009
Venue: The Rock Hotel, Holywell Green, Halifax
Time: 7.00pm till late
Tickets: £25 per person
Tables: Up to 10 per table

There is to be a fabulous menu, with a choice of 3 starters, 3 mains and 3 desserts which can be chosen on the night! The meal will be followed by a disco.

This promises to be a great night out! The newly refurbished Rock Hotel is tucked away in Holywell Green, it is about 3 miles south of Halifax centre and 1 mile from Elland. The Amethyst Suite at The Rock is an ideal setting for this event so remember to put the date in your diary. If you want to have a glamorous night out, then come along In fact why not get a group of friends together (you don't have to be a parent) and book a table of 10?

Couples and singles can be placed with others of the same year.

Why not have a "rugby mums" table, a "football dads" table, a Form table?

Further details from Helen Simpson on 01274 883906. or email helen1simpson@tesco.net. Booking forms and menu details are at the end of the newsletter.



The North Halifax Grammar School Parents' Association
Parent Prom
Saturday 21st March 2009
The Rock Hotel, Holywell Green, Halifax. - 7.00pm for 7.30pm

I would like:-individual tickets at £25 each
.....tables of 10 at £250 per table

I enclose £..... cash / cheque
(please make cheques payable to NHGS Parents' Association)

Names of those attending (to help with seating plan)

.....
.....
.....

Special requests:- ladies table, year.....table,
Any others (please indicate)

Name and address

Telephone

E-mail address

Name of student contact..... form.....

Please return to the Finance Office, for the attention of Mrs Simpson
NHGS, Moorbottom Road, Illingworth, Halifax, HX2 9SU
.....

Menu - to be chosen on the night

To Start

Duo of Soups from Fresh Seasonal Ingredients
Chilled Melon 5 Ways, Melon Shooter
Ham Hock and Black Pudding Terrine, Spiced Apple Chutney, Pear Cider Dressing

To Follow

Slow Braised Rand of Beef, Horseradish Mash, Red Wine Jus, Bourguignon Garnish
Breaded Fillet of Salmon, Tomato and Aubergine Caviar, Aioli
Feta, Pine nut and Roasted Vegetable Baklava, Dressed Rocket, Balsamic

Served with seasonal vegetables and roasted baby new potatoes

To Finish

Selection of Traditional English Cheeses with Celery, Grapes and Biscuits
Sticky Toffee Pudding, Butterscotch Sauce, Chantilly Cream
Chocolate Mocha Tart, Red Berry Compote, Vanilla Crème Anglaise

