

School News

THE WALTON SHIELD FOR GENERAL KNOWLEDGE 2008-9

The Walton Shield competition dates back to 1986. The Walton family had strong links with the two schools which amalgamated to form NHGS in 1985 – Mrs Margaret Walton was an ex-pupil of the Princess Mary School, and Andrew, Mark, Ruth, Sarah and Deborah were all students at The Highlands School – and the family kindly donated a shield for general knowledge to the school in 1986. The competition is between the school's three Houses, and this year's competition was the 23rd of its kind.

The competition was held on Wednesday 17 December, during PSCHEE time. Students were given 20 minutes to complete their question papers, with 50 questions to be attempted and a different paper set for the three school sections – a junior paper for Years 7, 8 and 9, an intermediate paper for Years 10 and 11, and a Sixth Form paper – in increasing order of difficulty.

This year's results (average scores given, except where stated otherwise):

By school section:

Years 7 to 9 : 34.6
Years 10 & 11 : 31.3
Sixth Form : 27.9

By year group:

Year 7 : 29.2 (Highest individual score 42)
Year 8 : 36.4 (Highest individual score 47)
Year 9 : 38.3 (Highest individual score 47)
Year 10: 30.0 (Highest individual score 42)
Year 11: 32.5 (Highest individual score 47)
Lower 6: 28.2 (Highest individual score 45)
Upper 6: 27.5 (Highest individual score 45)

House result:

LISTER : 32.6
WATERHOUSE : 31.8
AKROYD : 28.6

Congratulations to Lister, this year's champion House for general knowledge.

Can I thank Mr Hill for setting and organising this year's competition which is an important event in the school calendar.

GPM

The North Halifax
Grammar School



NHGS News

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JANUARY 2009

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The BIG Curry Night!

'Slumdog Millionaire' has projected Indian culture onto a global stage and we thought we might reflect its success with our very own Bollywood night! We might even earn an 'Oscar' for putting on such an eye-watering event!

We are offering an evening of fun and food – Bollywood style. Our themed evening consists of an authentic Indian meal (nibbles/starters, choice of 3 curries, rice & poppadoms) in 'glamorous' surroundings. We can also promise you incredible entertainment from our NHGS Bhangra dancing team. And how about a little quiz to whet your appetite before the meal, washed down with a bottle of Cobra beer?

Tables seat 6 – so why not come along with friends and relatives? You don't have to be a parent to join in!

Event: The BIG Curry Night
Date: 28th February 2009
Venue: NHGS – Dining/Drama Room
Time: 7.30pm – 11.00pm
Tickets: £10.00 (includes meal and 1st drink!)
Contact: Marie Grant 01422 240424 (evenings)

These tickets will sell fast – so make sure you book your tickets quickly. You can do this on-line via the web site www.nhgs.co.uk using the ParentPay scheme or you can fill in the form at the end of the newsletter and get your tickets from the school office.

This is an NHGS Parents' Association fundraising event for the SFLC

NSPCC NUMBER DAY

Despite the arctic weather conditions NHGS went ahead with the NSPCC number day as planned on Thursday 4th December 2008. All members of staff participated by becoming a number for the day and there was a fantastic response from lower school students who paid 50p to answer a very different looking quiz. Who would have thought that Mrs Ablewhite + Mr Langhorn x Miss Alison would equal Mr Wilson! £182.86 has been raised in total with form 9(1) donating the proceeds from their Christmas card delivery service. Well done to all students who participated and congratulations to Oliver Binns in 9(4) who answered the most questions correctly.

HJA

NEW TEACHERS AT NHGS!

Year 10 students of German have had a new role in school. They have been planning and teaching a lesson to all Year 7 forms. The students were asked to consider ways of presenting a song by DJ Ötzi to students with no German. They planned a matching activity, highlighting key words and then invented a dance to accompany the chorus. Our Year 7 students really enjoyed the experience. Form 7(2) wrote:

"They made it fun and entertaining".

"I would love another lesson with them".

"The students were really good at teaching".

"I thought that being taught by the Year 10 students was cool".

Well done to all.

Pictured below are four of our Year 10 teachers and members of their teaching group.



KDH

Curry Cookers!

Would you be interested in helping our cooks with the BIG Curry Night? If you can turn your hand to making authentic samosas, bhajis, rice, and curries we would love you to get in touch. **The BIG Curry Night** is on Saturday 28th February at NHGS. If you are interested please contact either Afrat Hussain on 01422 367862 or Lesley on 01422 371872.

NATIONAL CIPHER CHALLENGE 2008

The National Cipher Challenge is run every year by the Maths Department at Southampton University. The challenge is open to teams or individuals of school age all the way up the Sixth Form. It always consists of 16 codes and ciphers to crack; each one revealing something about that year's theme.

The theme this year focused around the Peninsula Wars with Arthur Wellesley (the Duke of Wellington). Part A involved letters on the British side between The Duke of Wellington, George Scovell and many others. Part B involved letters on the French side between Marshal Soult, General Marmont and other Generals in the army.

The Challenge is divided into eight sections each of 2 parts: A and B. A is always the easier of the two and often provides a clue as to how to solve part B. Part B is the harder of the two, and the codes get harder with

each successive challenge. The challenges started off with simple substitutions and progressed to numbers and hieroglyphics this year. Part A is marked purely on accuracy and Part B is marked on how quickly you get the answer and its accuracy. These scores create league tables.

I learnt lots of things over the course of the challenge. For Maths I learnt about simultaneous equations and modular numbers, and for history knowledge I gained some facts about the Peninsula Wars. My use of Microsoft Excel also improved.

As for myself, I did well in the challenge, coming 44th out of over a thousand teams in the country. I would recommend the cipher challenge to anyone who likes Maths and would like to expand their knowledge.

Patrick Wild 8(1)

empty out for eBay reaches £10,000

When the NHGS PA was asked to help with the fundraising needed for the new Sixth Form Learning Centre one of the first ideas to be proposed was the 'Empty out for eBay' project.

The idea was to ask parents, friends, colleagues, students, staff (in fact anybody – we're not too proud to beg!) for unwanted items that we could auction on the ebay site. From the beginning the support we received was amazing – with items coming into school every day. We had some very bizarre things donated – a snooker table, a heart monitor, a pair of Victorian clogs, a ship's bell, a rocking horse, a set of antique glass lampshades, as well as music books, clothes, ornaments, perfume, sports equipment, a sewing machine and toys. The learning

curve on Disney characters was steep! In all we have auctioned over 1000 items, with an average profit of £10 per item. Isn't that amazing!

We hoped that '**Empty out for eBay**' would raise at least £5,000 for the Sixth Form Learning Centre, but this was easily passed, and so we aimed for £7,000 but again we swept past this, and in January 2009 we went over the £10,000 mark. In fact, with anticipated matched funding from Cathy Langley-Wood (HBOS), Louise Holmes (HBOS) and Debbie Sloan (HBOS) who have supported the campaign '**Empty out for eBay**' has now reached **£10,217.00**

I would personally like to thank everybody who has offered up items for auction and I would like to say a huge thank you to Cathy Langley-Wood who has tirelessly helped over the past 12 months. Cathy has been in charge of the clothes for auction which means sorting, laundering, photographing, researching, listing, tracking, wrapping, posting and leaving feedback – she is a star and I can't thank her enough for all her hard work.

So, now that we have surpassed the £10,000 it is time for me to close the campaign! It has been a brilliant experience, and certainly one that I have enjoyed doing. And so to everybody who has helped – THANK YOU for your support for this incredible fundraising event – all the proceeds will go to the NHGS Sixth Form Learning Centre!

Cathy will be continuing with '**Empty out for eBay**' until the end of the Spring Term, when due to her work commitments she will not be able to continue.

So if you have any items you think we can auction – drop them off in the school foyer as soon as you can so that we can keep Cathy busy until the end of term – maybe we can just get to £11,000!

Lesley Maslen

On behalf of the school and the Parents' Association, I would like to say a big thank you to Lesley and her team for "doing the ebay site" it has been a lot of work and a great success.

Helen Simpson – Chairperson of PA

ROCKSCHOOL DRUM KIT RESULTS

Congratulations to the following students who passed their Rockschool Drum Kit exams in December 2008.

Debut Grade	Maddie Oliver
Grade 1	Joe Ding Josie Walshaw Connie Rout
Grade 2	Jacob Howard
Grade 3	Danielle Snowball Adam Trevasani Michael Gladstone Chris Ward Lauren Rosborough
Grade 4	Ben Osborn
Grade 6	Michael Wood James Green

GJE

Bar Eleven

This was on the evening of the Lower School Christmas "Disco" which was held at Liquid. Parents were invited to come along to Bar 11 for a drink and socialise with other parents of students in school. About 30 parents came and appreciated the opportunity of staying in town and reducing their travelling. If there is a similar opportunity for another event and you would like to meet up, why not let the PA know and it could be arranged.

**Helen Simpson
Parents' Association**

CONCERT – “FANTASIA IN FEBRUARY”

On Thursday 12th February at 7.30pm we are giving a concert in the school Hall featuring the Concert Band Orchestra, Senior Choir, Mixed Voice Choir, Swing Band, Soul Band and more. Tickets are available from Mr Ellin and Mrs Wharvell. Adults £3.00, concessions £2.00.

GJE

Parents' Association Contact details and Assumptions!

Over the years parents have filled in pink slips with their contact details if they are interested in the Parents' Association – helping, being kept informed etc.

These are now out of date and we are trying to build up an updated list of interested parents who want to find out what is going on and offer to help at various events.

Please spend 5 minutes emailing details to me. Name, email, phone: helen1simpson@tesco.net

Please do not assume that when a form is sent in via a student that it gets to where it should! Do not be afraid to chase up information.

Helen Simpson
Parents' Association

MUSIC COMPETITION



Entry forms for the Music Competition have been available from Mrs Beverley in the school office since 12th January. The deadline for completed entry forms is 3.00pm on Friday 6th February 2009. Solo and ensemble classes are available for all ages and instruments. Students who have private lessons are also encouraged to take part. Students can find more information on the Music notice board.

GJE

Bags 2 School Wednesday 11th February

Don't forget to collect any fabric, clothing, shoes, bedding and miscellaneous fabric items for us for the Bags 2 School. Blue bags have been sent home but you can use any bag.

The items we are looking for are 'used' fabric items which go for sorting or recycling. We are paid £400/tonne weight. Bags can be brought in to school the previous evening (Year 7 consultation evening) or the Wednesday morning (before 8.30am).

If you are sorting through the cupboards and wardrobes and find any suitable eBay items – why don't you drop those off at the same time?

If you need storage beforehand, or have any queries please contact Helen Simpson on 01274 883906

This is an NHGS Parents' Association Fund Raising event

BOOK TOKENS

Starting in January and running throughout 2009, The Times will be giving away tokens which we can exchange for books. Please encourage your son/daughter to bring these into school and place them in the collecting boxes in the foyer and in the LRC.

Each week 12 tokens will be printed: 4 in the Sunday Times, 3 on Saturday and one each day from Monday to Friday in the Times.

The first set of tokens will appear in The Times and the Sunday Times every day for 12 weeks from Sunday 11th January. After Easter there will be a further 12 week collection period and then another in the Summer and Autumn terms.

So don't forget - the more tokens we collect the more books we can claim.

Thank you for your support.

SR

Parents' Association Donation to School

In early January 2009 a cheque for £15,000 was handed over to school, for the Sixth Form Learning Centre. This is part of the ongoing fundraising by the PA and is the result of recent events – the Grand Raffle, Christmas Hamper Raffle, Pre Test and Hair & Beauty Evenings.

I should be so lucky, lucky, lucky, lucky

.... says Marie Grant, a Year 7 parent. Like many new parents Marie signed up for the Prize Draw when her son started in September last year. 'It was only £5 a month on a direct debit, so I thought I would do it, because it helped the school with fundraising. I only paid 2 months - £10, and won the top prize of £150 in November. It was a great Christmas present! I didn't realise that they have to give away 50% of the funds in prize money – so the odds of winning are really good – I've just proved it!'

If you want to be one of our lucky winners, contact Linda Saunders on [Linda c saunders@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Linda_c_saunders@yahoo.co.uk) or just download a form from the NHGS web site <http://www.nhgs.co.uk/pa/prizedraw.pdf> and send it to the school Finance Office for processing.

Parents' Association Meetings

Tuesday 3 February 2009 – AGM
Wednesday 4 March 2009
Wednesday 1 April 2009

The meetings start at 7.45pm and all parents are welcome.

Enter in the main entrance of NHGS.

Social Night out for Year 7 & 8 Mums

The last of these is as follows:-
Rim Nams Thai Restaurant, Butlers Wharf, Hebden Bridge.

Thursday 5th Feb 2009

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

If you are interested, please call **Petra Sweeney** on **01422 885365** as soon as possible so that we can arrange this for you. And if anybody needs a lift – just let us know.

Easy Fundraising - £55.95 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

CAROL SERVICES 2008

The two Carol Services held at the Parish Church on Tuesday December 16th were a delight. I would like to thank the Reverend Hilary Barber for conducting the services and to the staff at the Church for their support. Thanks also to Mr Ellin for all his work in organising and preparing the choirs and musicians and Miss Paxman for organising the speakers. The collections from the school raised £1,566.75 and the evening £758.26, a total of £2,325.01 which will be divided between the Parish Church Fund, UNICEF and the Forget Me Not Trust. Many thanks to all the parents and friends of the school who attended and to Alex Binns who stood in at the last minute to play throughout the evening service.

GPM

WELL DONE!

Congratulations to the following students who have secured conditional places for next year:

Richard Cole who has been offered a place at Girton College Cambridge to read Veterinary Medicine.

Tanith Horner who has been offered a place at Magdalen College to read Law.

Jennifer Sage who has been offered a place at Churchill College Cambridge to read Engineering.

Congratulations also to Alex Binns who, against very stiff competition, has been appointed as the Organ Scholar at St George's Chapel Windsor Castle for next year.

GPM

Beauty & Pampering Day

Last few places remaining!

Date: Thursday 30th April 2009
Time: 09.30 – 16.30
Venue: Glen Royd, Stocks Lane,
Luddenden, HX2 6PR
Telephone: 01422 885365 or
07961 006023
Contact: Petra Sweeney
Price: £115
Includes: Manicure, Pedicure,
1 hour massage, bio-detox and
champagne lunch

This is such a successful event, so it is no surprise that the tickets for this event have gone like hot cakes! There are a few spaces left on Thursday – so if you haven't yet booked please get in touch with Petra as soon as possible. Petra does have a reserve list for the other dates!

Wanted – Unwanted Christmas presents!

There may be a few of these sitting at home – if so please send them into school to help with fundraising. They could be sold on eBay or used as raffle prizes in forthcoming events. Just drop them off at the office labelled, "raffle prizes". Even small items are useful as a hamper can be made up.

This is a PA fundraising request to support the SFLC

HAVE YOU GOT YOUR TICKETS?

What ?

Parent Prom

When ?

Saturday 21st March

Where

The Rock Hotel, Halifax

Why ?

Live Music and Dancing

A Great Night Out!

Fun Fundraising

3 course meal

£25 each

Limited number available, so book now!
helen1simpson@tesco.net

PARENTS' CONSULTATION EVENINGS

Thank you to those who have helped at the evenings so far.

If you are able to help serve tea and coffee (to parents and staff) at any of the remaining evenings, please phone or email me.

This is a service, requested by the school, provided by the PA, for parents and staff on the night of the Parents' Evening. Four or five helpers are needed on the lower school evenings, please volunteer for one slot, help is needed, please don't assume there are enough volunteers already – that is rarely the case.

I have a couple of names down for these evenings but more helpers are needed between 5pm and 8pm, especially 6 to 7pm.

Tuesday 10 th February 2009	Y7
Thursday 5 th March 2009	Y9
Wednesday 18 th March 2009	Y8

Thank you in advance – Helen Simpson 01274 883906

YEAR 7 BAGPACK

We are desperately in need of some new kit and rugby equipment for Rugby League within the school. I have estimated that this would be around £900/£1000. Josh Allan (a coach alongside me) and I, took it upon ourselves to do something about it. We decided that our passion for rugby league and the lads' commitment to the team could be combined and so we came up with the idea of bag packing at a local store. We approached Tesco's and they were happy to accommodate us and so we organised the event for January 4th 2009.

Alex Benn, Alex Maurice, Elliot Barker, Ben Iverson, Nick Galvin, Declan Kohl and Adam Firth all turned up on a freezing Sunday afternoon and bag packed for people at the tills. The staff at Tesco's didn't have a bad word to say about any one of them and they represented the School, the team and themselves very well indeed. For this I would like to thank them, but I would like to thank them even more for the amount of money they raised. A whopping £394.96 was raised in just 3 hours, from noon until 3pm.

All of this money will now be put towards them and rugby league facilities, every single penny! We are hoping to purchase a new kit for them. More money will be needed to be raised to do this properly, however the lads' effort was absolutely fantastic and has set us on our way.

We are planning to run similar events in the coming months to raise more funds and are looking to get sponsored. If any parent would like to sponsor us or knows of anyone who might sponsor us then please contact me at the school.

I would like to thank the parents of all the students who participated in the Bag Pack for their support.

George Cliffe L6(5)
Year 7 Rugby League Coach

TIME TO BE ON TIME

The collapse in confidence in relation to sub-prime mortgages triggered the credit-crunch and subsequent crisis in financial services which has inexorably brought about an economic downturn and now a full recession which means that the economic prospects for the UK in 2009 and beyond are very different from those which we have experienced over the last decade or so. Young people entering the job market over the next two to four years will encounter increased competition for the reduced number of jobs available. The predicted recession may result in unemployment going well above three million in 2009. The economic future has not been this uncertain for a generation or more. The Leitch Review of Skills, published in 2006 stated, 'For developed countries who cannot compete on natural resources and low labour costs, success demands a more service-led economy and high value-added industry. In the 21st Century, our natural resource is our people – and their potential is both untapped and vast. Skills will unlock that potential. The prize for our country will be enormous – higher productivity, the creation of wealth and social justice. The alternative? Without increased skills, we would condemn ourselves to a lingering decline in competitiveness, diminishing economic growth and a bleaker future for all'. The problem is in determining exactly what skills need to be developed. To that end the Learning and Skills Network (LSN) undertook some research last year to develop a clearer understanding of the skills employers expect young people coming into the workforce to hold. They surveyed 1,137 employers. The first question in the survey explored the skills employers expect to see in a job candidate who has just left school, college or a training scheme. They indicated that there are four skills they expect to see fully developed in this sort of candidate. 80% of employers said young people must be good at timekeeping; 79% said they must have fully developed literacy skills; 77% prioritised numeracy skills and 75% said enthusiasm and commitment. John Stone, Chief Executive of the LSN said, 'One very clear message from this research is that, above all else, employers want young people coming into the workforce who are literate, numerate and communicate well. Attitude is also important – employers want young people to turn up on time and show enthusiasm and commitment'. Given that youth unemployment (for the 16-24 year olds) is currently three times the national average it is crucially important that young people develop the skills that are required. In that same survey over half the employers reported that

they had tried to employ a school or college leaver in the previous year but only 13% had been successful because they had not found suitable applicants with the necessary competence with timekeeping, literacy, numeracy or commitment.

Punctuality is the quality or habit of adhering to an appointed time. It is an attribute for which there is no GCSE or other qualification, no special training, no arcane body of knowledge, no demanding conceptual grasp required, no high order skills and no expensive resources. Being punctual requires an ability to read the time, organisation, self-discipline and commitment. If you are late and particularly if you are habitually late then it could convey the following that you:

- think your time is more valuable than anyone else's
- are rude, discourteous and lacking in manners
- cannot plan or think ahead and are disorganised
- might be considered unreliable and untrustworthy

Some people are habitually late because they seek attention and think that the grand entrance enhances their reputation. In fact other people think it's tiresome and quickly get hacked off with it. Other people think that by arriving late people might think you are very busy and busy people are more important than organised people so it enhances their status. This is simply not true: people get frustrated and annoyed if they are kept waiting and the culpable person goes down in their estimation.

It is important for leaders to be punctual. It is a hostage to fortune writing publicly about the importance of punctuality because I am guilty of being late on occasions. I always try and be on time however my time management skills are flawed on occasions. George Bush, the out-going president of the USA, was regarded as a stickler for punctuality whereas Bill Clinton was a notoriously poor timekeeper. Sometimes tardiness by leaders is embarrassing and disrespectful as happened last November when Prince Charles and President Sarkozy attended a Remembrance Ceremony at Verdun but instead of standing in the appropriate place at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month paying their respects they were landing in a very noisy helicopter.

Celebrities and stars are commonly poor timekeepers. Arguably the most famous actress of the twentieth century Marilyn Monroe said, "I've

been on a calendar, but I've never been on time". Compare that self-regarding arrogance with the comment by W H Macey who was exasperated at the chronic lateness of actress Linsey Lohan, "You can't show up late. It's very, very disrespectful. I think what an actor has to realise [is that] when you show up an hour late, 150 people have been scrambling to cover for you. There is not an apology big enough in the world to have to make 150 people scramble. It's nothing but disrespect. And Lindsay Lohan is not the only one. A lot of actors show up late as if they're God's gift to the film. It's inexcusable, and they should have their asses kicked." Some ascribe their greatness to punctuality. One of England's greatest heroes, Admiral Lord Nelson said, "I have always been a quarter of an hour before my time and it has made a man of me.

Diana Delontor, author of the book, 'Never Be Late Again' identified two categories of shoddy timekeepers:

The **Deadliner** who is 'subconsciously drawn to the adrenaline rush of the sprint to the finish line' and the **Producer** who 'gets an ego boost from getting as much done in as little time as possible'. Both of these 'types' are time optimists in terms of what they think they can achieve in the time available.

One of the technological innovations that has contributed to the spread and more general 'acceptability' of tardiness particularly among young people is the mobile phone. Mobile phone ownership is almost universal amongst young people (89% of boys and 95% of girls in the 12-15 age group own a mobile and over two-thirds report using it on a daily basis. What used to be firm and fixed appointments have now become softer, vaguer and open to negotiation. James E Katz, author of the book 'Perpetual Contact' says that mobile phones have, 'changed the meaning of late, just by calling and changing the plan, you're able to change late to being on time'. Mobile phones have become a crutch for the chronically tardy.

Some countries and cultures are more respectful of punctuality than others. The Japanese and Swiss are [in]famously punctilious about punctuality. Other peoples and cultures, probably influenced by climate and lifestyle around the Mediterranean, in Africa and South America are more relaxed. However some countries have tried to tackle their collective tardiness. On October 1st 2003 all citizens in Ecuador were encouraged to embark on the 'Campana contra la impuntualidad'. This national campaign against lateness exhorted

“Inject yourself each morning with a dose of responsibility, respect and discipline”. This was crucial to the national economy where it was estimated that lateness was costing \$2.5 billion in an economy worth only \$25 billion. In 2007 Peru embarked on a similar campaign, ‘La Hora Sin Demora’ – ‘Time Without Delay’. The President, Alan Garcia, is a stickler for punctuality and launched this campaign against the commonplace ‘manana’ literally “tomorrow” in Spanish but usually meaning some indefinite time in the future, which is common in Latin America. Robert Levine studied different countries’ attitudes to time and suggested that countries could be divided into those countries which live on ‘Event Time’ in which events dictate people’s schedules and those that live on ‘Clock Time’ where people’s schedules dictate events.

In school we expect students to be on time for registration at 8.25 and 1.10 and to be on time for lessons. If a student is late for registration:

- it is discourteous
- it increases administration time
- means they might miss important notices
- might miss important personal communications

If a student is late to a lesson they;

- miss feedback on homework
- miss key introductions to a topic
- miss important instructions
- compromise or undermine their understanding
- disrupt the learning of other students
- may be perceived as disorganised and unreliable if it recurs

In 2007-08 at NHGS there were some 6,629 lates recorded for registrations. We do not record lates to lessons but students could be given a written comment if they are late to a lesson. The record of lates to registration seems high but when expressed as a percentage the punctuality of students, particularly in the Lower School is very good.

Year Group	Number of Lates in 2007-08	Percentage of Total
7	233	0.4
8	469	0.8
9	742	1.3
10	844	1.4
11	1,757	7.9
12	1,261	2.4
13	1,323	3.2

It is disturbing that the two year groups that, more than any other, need to demonstrate good timekeeping before they continue in education or employment have the worst records in the school. In the few references the school provides for Year 11 students there is a comment about attendance and punctuality as there is in every UCAS reference for Year 13 students. This year’s Year 11 is doing much better than last year with a record in the Autumn Term that is only half that of last year’s.

So what do young people need to do to maintain or improve their record for punctuality?

- Get enough sleep – if you are getting up late in the morning go to bed earlier
- Plan ahead – think about how long, realistically you need to do things such as dressing and washing in the morning or getting to the right classroom at the end of break
- Get organised – think about what you need to do for the next day including homework and materials and what you need for each lesson during the day
- Don’t dally when you are travelling so that you catch buses or trains
- Become an appropriately attentive clock watcher and allow yourself ample time to meet your personal schedule
- Never assume it’s OK to be late
- Make a virtue out of being punctual

Punctuality reflects on your reputation as a person. You should never fool yourself into thinking that nobody notices your lateness. If you are aware of your lateness so will other people. Habitual lateness can undermine good relations with family members, fellow students and friends. Don’t kid yourself that your seductive charisma, lively personality and sense of fun will ‘win over’ others. Habitual tardiness irritates and annoys and it is cumulative. Time is precious for everyone, ‘An inch of gold will not buy an inch of time’ (Chinese Proverb).

GPM

PA Diary Dates 2009

Thursday 29 th January	Mums' Night for Year 7(5) + other Y7
Thursday 29 th January	Refreshments Y11 Consultation Evening
Tuesday 3 rd February	PA Meeting & AGM
Thursday 5 th February	Mums' Night for Yr8(5) + any others
Tuesday 10 th February	Refreshments Y7 Consultation Evening
Wednesday 11 th February	Bags 2 School
Saturday 28 th February	The BIG Curry Night
Wednesday 4 th March	PA Meeting
Thursday 5 th March	Refreshments Y9 Consultation Evening
Wednesday 18 th March	Refreshments Y8 Consultation Evening
Saturday 21 st March	Parent Prom
Wednesday 1 st April	PA Meeting
Wednesday 29 th April	Pamper Day
Thursday 30 th April	Pamper Day
Friday 1 st May	Pamper Day
Saturday 2 nd May	Pamper Day

Any offers of help greatly appreciated, please get in touch helen1simpson@tesco.net, 01274 883906

The PA Monthly Prize Draw The winners for December are

Prize	No.	Name	Town
1st £150	40	Mrs C Tomney	Hipperholme
2nd £75	138	P & L Binks	Trimmingham
3rd £25	55	Mrs Jean Delahoy	Hebden Bridge

All these people won £50 In the Special Draw

1st New Year Special Draw	178	Mrs S Monro	Halifax
2nd New Year Special Draw	6	Mrs Gail Aspinall	Sowerby Bridge
3rd New Year Special Draw	32	Mr K G Marshall	Walsden
4th New Year Special Draw	64	JP&CM Fox	Greetland
5th New Year Special Draw	28	Mrs H M Sutcliffe	Ripponden
6th New Year Special Draw	27	Debra Oxley	Halifax
7th New Year Special Draw	47	Mrs Jayne McArdle	Queensbury
8th New Year Special Draw	139	Howard J Naylor	Lightcliffe
9th New Year Special Draw	88	Susan Hardcastle	Halifax
10th New Year Special Draw	59	D Smallwood	Hertford

Cheque's are in the post! Congratulations!

Congratulations! If you didn't win anything – it may be because you haven't signed up for this? Just [download a form](http://www.nhqs.co.uk/pa/prizedraw.pdf) (<http://www.nhqs.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.

The North Halifax Grammar School Parents' Association

Booking Form

THE BIG CURRY NIGHT - Bollywood extravaganza!

Date: Saturday 28th February 2009

Venue: NHGS

Time: 7.30pm – 11.00pm

Food, entertainment and fun!

Please send me tickets at £10 each

I enclosecash/cheque (to NHGS Parents' Association)

or I have paid on ParentPay.....(date).....

Name.....

Student name.....Form.....

The North Halifax Grammar School Parents' Association

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, 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
