

School News

YEAR 8 RESIDENTIAL VISIT NORMANDY: A PREVIEW OF THE 2009 VISIT

We are well under way with our preparations for this year's visit to Normandy staying once again at the Chateau du Molay close to Bayeux. Last weekend I went on a pre-visit to the chateau and was impressed with some of the developments that have taken place over the winter. I thought that I would take this opportunity to outline some of the visits that we will make during the week in France. We will break our journey en route to the chateau at the historic port of Honfleur where the students will have their first taste of French culture. We will go to Bayeux on the first day and visit the famous tapestry and cathedral. The middle part of the week will include visits to the Musee du Debarquement in Arromanches, the Longues sur Mer gun battery, Caen Memorial museum and the American and German war cemeteries. Our final day will consist of a short stop at the market at Ste Mère Eglise followed by a visit to La Cité de la Mer in Cherbourg which will include a guided tour around a submarine and an opportunity to take a 'Journey into the Depths'. Ste Mère Eglise is famous for an incident involving a paratrooper named John Steele, whose parachute caught on the spire of the town church and could only observe the fighting going on below. The incident was portrayed in the film The Longest Day. If possible, it would be helpful if Year 8 parents could research some of the places that we will visit with their sons and daughters before we depart.

In the evening, students will be engaged in a wide range of activities which will include an 'It's a knockout' tournament, treasure trail, karaoke, a sports evening, disco and BBQ. One of the highlights each year is the fancy dress parade which takes place on the night of the BBQ. Students are given a theme and are challenged to dress up appropriately using materials that they already own if possible. We are hoping to do the same this year and the theme will be "Superheroes". Students are encouraged to design their own superhero or to dress up as a well known superhero.

Further information is available on the website <http://vle.nhgs.co.uk/Normandy>. Year 8 students may also find it helpful to talk to the current Year 9 about their experiences in Normandy last year. Whilst we are in Normandy, we will update the website with photographs and information about the students' experiences on a day to day basis so that parents can follow what we are doing! Each coach will take it in turns to take photos and record their experiences of the visit for the website.

CJM

NHGS MASTERCHEF

NHGS has been having its own version of the famous Masterchef competition, in the school's food room. Since the beginning of term we have held weekly heats for round 1, from which contestants were chosen to go through to round 2 and then on to the final. 22 students, working either by themselves or in pairs entered and produced 14 exciting food ideas for an Invention Test where they had

The North Halifax
Grammar School



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to use at least 3 of the following ingredients; cheese, chicken, fruit, cream or crème fraiche, herbs and spices and salad, as well as any store-cupboard foods that were needed. 8 groups went on to round 2 producing exciting dishes for the theme of 'International Dishes', before being reduced to 5 groups for the final where they were asked to cook a Signature Dish – something that would get them noticed!

Lee Canning, the chef at Holdsworth House and Lucy Foulds, Functions coordinator at The Rock Hotel were kind enough to judge the final and to provide the winners with vouchers for meals at their restaurants as prizes.

Other prizes included generous donations from school suppliers and Morrisons

The finalists were:

Caitlin Hardy, and Eleanor Foster 7(3)
Danielle Rowley and Rose-Anne Evans, 7(1), 7(3)
Karl Hanson, 8(2)
Robert Murray and Thomas Platt, 9(5)
Natasha Loft and Emily Taylor, 10(5)

Joint winners were Karl, with herb stuffed steak with crushed peas with mint and potatoes and Daniele and Rose-Anne with a Double chocolate roulade with raspberries. Truly wonderful!

CHH

The NHGS Prom Auction

Little did we know quite what we were letting ourselves in for when we bid successfully for 'A Gardener for the Day' at the parent prom auction. Although only small, our garden was seriously neglected and hopelessly overgrown; we wondered if it was beyond redemption. However, no such qualms concerned our gardener, Radka, who turned out to be an absolute marvel and set about sorting it out with enthusiasm and boundless energy.

Radka provided 110% of the inspiration and 90% of the perspiration. Although it did, in honesty, take a little longer than a day the result surpassed our wildest expectations. We now have a very pleasant space to relax in at the end of the day (weather permitting) which we are assured will be low maintenance (hurray!).

We'll be sure to keep it looking lovely, just in case Radka pops back to check up on us!

Helen Mitchell, Parent

Easy Fundraising £70.10 raised to date

Thank you to those 27 who have registered and have raised funds for school with no cost to themselves.

If there is anyone who would like to raise funds in this way please look on the site and register NHGS as your chosen good cause and login, the pass word required is one of your choosing!

Use easy fundraising as your search engine and raise 1/2p every time you search – it all adds up.

There are lots of special offers from the companies that are only available to those who shop through the easy fundraising site.

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

PAMPER DAYS

Nearly 100 ladies were pampered a few weeks ago as a fundraiser for the new Darwin Sixth Form Learning Centre. This event was a huge success again. Thanks to Mr and Mrs Sweeney for hosting the event and raising over £7,000 and much more with match funding. A huge thanks to Petra, Lesley and everyone who made the four days the success they were.

Pamper Day Review

Saturday morning and the alarm goes off as normal but today is no ordinary work day, no moans and groans today; I am off to a self-indulgent day of pampering and relaxation. I jump out of bed, throw on some cloths and am ready for the off at 8.30. An auspicious start - the sun is shining and I have borrowed by husbands soft top and I feel like a real WAG!! (not something I usually aspire to but today is no normal Saturday!) I arrive early at Petra's - what a fantastic location; it's like a small exclusive boutique hotel and the sun is still shining. Straight away I change into my fluffy white robe and am whisked off to my first treatment - a lovely relaxing full body massage. The massure was excellent; she made me feel special straight away and had the ability to know when to talk and when to left me drift off and fly.

After a short break to recollect my thoughts and a very healthy and appetising breakfast I changed my schedule and went for a Thai massage, something I hadn't experienced before, this was really fun and

after lots of stretching and pulling and giggles I honestly felt ten years younger and much more flexible; a treatment I will definitely be having again in the future.

No time to relax this time!! straight off to a detox - I need to get rid of all my poisons so I can start afresh with my pre-lunch champagne, this was a good opportunity to talk to some of my fellow 'pampees' and get to know them before lunch. Well I am now a lady who lunches!! A fab meal (thanks to Lesley and her culinary expertise) but also another opportunity to meet and chat to other ladies all of whom are as equally relaxed and feeling as special as me.

Well I had 'toxed' myself up again with some excellent wine, I was in need of a sleep by the (very heated) pool, the sun was still shining and following an after lunch snooze it was time to float up and down the pool and make myself believe I was exercising!!

Last but by no means least a pedicure, another sun session yes the sun was still shining and then for the off and back to the real world.

An **AB FAB** (pun intended) day and a big thank you to Petra for making her wonderful house available and Lesley for a truly gastronomic feast.

Lesley Pollacco (Parent)

MUSIC COMPETITION

Following three weeks of highly competitive heats, the finals of the NHGS Music Competition were held on the Friday before the Easter holiday. Our guest adjudicator this year was Miss Susan Turner, a former student of the then Highlands School. Miss Turner's feedback to the performers was incisive, supportive and appreciated by the students. The winners were:

JUNIOR SOLO

Woodwind	Rosie Payne
Brass	Matthew Court
Strings	Christy Ellis
Voice	Tom Ramsay
Recorder	Joanna Dennis
Guitar	Abigail Elliot
Piano	Oliver McHugh & Alfie Finan
Percussion	Angus MacGregor
Other Instruments	Matthew MacGregor

ENSEMBLE

Strings	Lucy Robinson, Bonnie Rowntree
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Woodwind	Holly Unwin, Alice Whettlock
Vocal	Not Awarded
Piano	Miriam Hollis Kate Rosborough
Mixed	Andrew Green, Jonathan Perry
Guitar	Sam Collett, Sam Rowntree
Brass	Matthew Shaw, Jack Gardner, Jonathan Perry
Percussion	Emma Richardson, Sam Gardner
Recorder	Rebecca Nunn, Joanna Dennis

COMPOSITION

Senior	Matthew MacGregor
Junior	Alfie Finan

SENIOR SOLO

Piano	Miriam Hollis
Brass	Matthew Shaw
Woodwind	Andrew Green
Percussion	Sam Gardner
Strings	Victoria Mulley
Guitar	John Finnerty
Voice	Victoria Mulley

BEST JUNIOR SOLO PERFORMANCE

Rosie Payne

BEST SENIOR SOLO PERFORMANCE

Victoria Mulley

HOUSE MARKS

Ackroyd	141
Lister	155
Waterhouse	158

PERCUSSION EVENING

Our percussion teacher, Mr Michael Harper, hosted an evening of percussion music in the school hall on Tuesday 21st April. There were some superb performers across all ages and abilities. The music featured solos and ensembles on xylophone, marimba, glockenspiel, drum kit and a whole range of untuned percussion instruments.

One of the highlights of the evening was "Classroom Music" composed by the students themselves. The performers were: Luke Ashton, Gareth Lomax, Angus MacGregor, Sam Walker, Joe Waldron, Ewan

Nelson, Josie Walshaw, Sam Gardner, Jacob Howard, Joe Ding, Michael Gladstone, Laura wood, Adam Trevisani, Lauren Rosborough, Chris ward, Danielle Snowball, Molly Ehrenberg-Peters, Ben Roberts, Ben Osborn, Michael Wood, Oliver McHugh, Tom Kaye and James Green.

ADAGIO IN APRIL

On Tuesday 28th April a capacity audience enjoyed a superb evening of music at our "Adagio in April" concert. Around 200 performers took part in the Brass Band, Junior Strings, Flute Group, Junior Choir, Intermediate Choir, Guitar Ensemble, Double Reed Group, String Orchestra, Percussion Ensemble, Barbershop Singers, Handbell Ringers, Saxophone ensemble and Wind Band.

PA DIARY DATES 2009

June 3 rd	PA Meeting
June 9 th , 10 th , 11 th	Y7 Mummies Nights
June 13 th	Spanish Evening
June 16 th , 17 th , 18 th	Y8 Mummies Nights
July 1 st	PA Meeting/social night
September 2 nd	PA Meeting
September	Bulb Sales
September 22 nd	New Parents Welcome Evening
September 24 th	Bag2school collection
November 21 st	School Music Concert
November 28 th	Christmas Fayre
December	Grand Hamper Raffle

Any offers of help greatly appreciated, please get in touch.

NHGS FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT

The Quiz was held on 14 May, hosted by Richard Frost.

This was a great night with 12 teams (63 people) competing in this high tech quiz evening. There were many varied rounds for the "real quiz", a brain teaser and a fun caption competition. There was a raffle with lots of quiz related games as prizes.

The winners of the quiz were "We are going to Lose" and the runners up were "QU Quizzers". Well done to everyone.

Thank you to Mr and Mrs Maslen for supporting this event and bringing along their New Zealand guests – that's why we were asked to swot up on our New Zealand knowledge!

Mr and Mrs Hill were competing this year, rather than hosting the quiz, it was good to see them both again. Thanks to all who supported this event. A BIG thank you to Mr Frost and his son, and to the PA members for the work behind the scenes and on the night with the supper and bar.

Bags 2 School – Date For Your Diary

Advance warning of our next collection date! Thursday 24 September 2009.

If you have a clearout before this date and need us to collect or store them please call Helen Simpson on 01274 883906

This is an NHGS Parents' Association Fund Raising event

THE DARWIN SIXTH FORM LEARNING CENTRE (DSFLC)

In 2007 the middle yard in the school had two mobiles with four classrooms, one of which (featured below) was way beyond its useful life as an appropriate 21st century learning environment.



Now in 2009 we have a brand new Darwin Sixth Form Learning Centre (DSFLC) which was formally opened on April 22nd. This project was very much the result of a team effort and I would like to thank everyone involved.



I would like to thank the Governors, who have supported the project throughout, particularly Colin Hartley who gave me the confidence and financial acumen to go forward with both phases and Brian Chapman who has taken a 'hands on' role of overseeing the project on behalf of Governors. We are grateful to Calderdale Council for approving a loan through the Prudential scheme which made the project feasible. I am very appreciative of Pickles Architects who have managed the project from discussion to drawing and development. Neil Hardaker and Jason Tilney showed tremendous imagination, patience and support in realising the project. The contractors, Watson Construction proved reliable, flexible and safe given that the DSFLC is right in the middle of the school. The sub-contractors; Paul Bailey who handled all the electrical installations; Clifford Coopers who installed the heating and plumbing and Display IT, Consolidaire and Hi-Tec who supplied and fitted all the ICT equipment and systems were all very efficient and adaptable to the changing demands of the project. The teaching staff at the school had to manage with a difficult and restricted learning environment, particularly the PE department, and many of them have supported our fund-raising activities.

The students coped with a severely constrained circulation area but contributed magnificently to the fund-raising with the Olympic Challenge last year. However the project would not have been completed in such a short time without the active support of all our parents and particularly the PA. I was delighted that Helen Simpson, the Chair of the PA, had the privilege of cutting the ribbon and formally opening the DSFLC. Through e-bay sales, pamper days, beauty nights and many other ingenious ways of generating funds the parents and students have raised close to £100,000 over the last two years – a magnificent effort. The DSFLC provides a much more appropriate learning environment, office space and social facilities for the school's sixth form. It is a great focal point in the centre of the school.

GPM

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR OF THE PA

The DSFLC was officially opened on 22 April 2009. I was honoured, as Chairperson of the PA, to be asked to officially open the Centre.

There was quite a gathering of people who had been involved with the planning, construction, design and fundraising for this building.

Mr Maslen gave a short talk, the Parents' Association then presented a cheque for £12,000 which was the final instalment of our fundraising efforts towards the DSFLC.



I was then invited to cut the ribbon and declare the Centre open.



After some refreshments in the Dining room, we had a tour of the whole Centre and watched and took part in the fun sessions that had been laid on for the Lower 6th form – juggling, Wii fit, dancing, makeup, magician to name a few of the sessions on offer.

It is a lovely area for the 6th form and we hope to use it for events throughout the school year.

THE HOLOCAUST CENTRE

I stared at what seemed like miles and miles of walls, draped across them black and white images. The shapes were forming scenes of pain and suffering. The Holocaust. Lifeless bodies, emotionless faces, the Nazi uniform of power and dictatorship. I looked closer into the eyes of a little girl who was holding onto her mother's leg. Big and black, no tears were running from her eyes. She wouldn't have understood when they were told to have a shower. The little girl with the big black eyes never left the camp.

On March 26th the whole of Year 8 went to the Holocaust centre in Nottingham. After a fairly long journey we arrived to find the quaint little rose gardens and the pleasant conservatory of the Centre. This mild and peaceful setting is dedicated to the survivors and the victims of the dark and disturbing genocide.

The first activity was to look around the exhibition and assimilate the information. Split into groups, we were given a question booklet to fill in. Through winding corridors were pictures, models and writing across the walls, listing the events, the facts and reasons why the Holocaust could have ever occurred. Reading these was very interesting. I learnt that Jews had been persecuted many times before in history, and the Holocaust in WW2 was a continuation on a larger scale and the most recent. There were videos playing and actual quotes from the victims, some who survived and others that didn't. But the main thing clear in my mind was the fact that millions of innocent people were killed for one reason and one reason alone. They were different.

During lunchtime, we were allowed to walk though the gardens. The gardens were an oasis of calm and beauty, which was much needed. After seeing and learning about the horrendous abuse and discrimination, it made me feel uneasy and uncomfortable that the world ever let this happen. I felt lucky to be there with the sun shining on my face, and although my life is not without problems, we have never experienced such trauma in our lifetime.

At the far side of the garden was a very large pile of stones of many different shapes, colours and sizes. We were told that each stone represented a child's life lost in the Holocaust. We were asked to place a stone on the pile, as is every child that comes to visit. It would take many more visits to reach the full

amount as they weren't even half way. Although there was cheering and a competition to see who placed the highest stone, all I could see in my mind's eye was a heap of tiny bodies. Children who didn't have a chance at life at all.

As well as teaching about the Holocaust, the centre is as much about supporting the survivors and raising awareness of problems that are still happening.

In the afternoon we were introduced to our speaker, an elderly man who was a survivor of the Holocaust, and he told his compelling story. He managed to escape to England and is incredibly lucky to be alive. However, he lost every single member of his close family in the Holocaust, many in the concentration camps. I couldn't imagine the way he must feel. I have felt true grief only once and that is devastating enough. But to lose all his family and live in a country where he knew nobody is unimaginable. He managed to, against the odds, rebuild his life and lived happily married in England for half a century. He had been awarded plaques from his home town in Germany, but he said they mean nothing to him. I was amazed how he could share such a personal tragic story with us all, but he felt he needed to contribute to raising awareness. I felt honoured and humbled to have encountered this man and heard his story because very few survivors are still alive as the Holocaust drifts further and further away in history.

Afterward, we watched a film on the war in Sudan. Pictures of lifeless bodies, emotionless faces, a sense of power and dictatorship filled them. The scenes of despair and devastation were the same as the ones I saw before, but these were vivid and bright in colour. I couldn't believe it! Similar torture, genocide and tyranny were still happening in our world. A young girl raped by officers from the government, because her skin was darker than theirs or she came from a different part of the country. People had to know about this! I felt as though this was a new discovery. I felt that this should have been the headline today on the news, not a celebrity break up. Then it hit me, people knew, the government, the countries, the UN – everyone. But they had done nothing to help. When the film about Sudan came to a finish, I felt both empty and bewildered.

We have centres dedicated to the Holocaust, and I had thought we had come to understand the past, but what I discovered was it is still happening. It is my hope, that when I am older, I will be able to play a part in the fight against discrimination, persecution and genocide, and that my children and their children will live in a world of peace.

Joselene S. Katayama 8 (1)

Social Night out for Year 7 and 8 Mums



We know that it can be hard to settle in and make new friends and contacts. We also know that many of our parents would like to meet up with other parents in their child's form. So, the PA has introduced the Mummies Nights! These evenings are a social fun evening and were originally conceived for new mums for Yr7 students. However, they have proved so popular we have now run these for Yr 7 & Yr 8 'mums' and we have been asked to do these for other year groups! In fact, we have been asked to do one **EACH TERM** for **EACH YEAR GROUP!** So we have dates for your diary for the Summer Term. Dress informal, usual meal price approx £8-10.00 (depending on venue and your choice of food). If you want to find out more call Petra Sweeney on 01422 885365.

The Stump Cross Inn, Halifax – 7.30-9.30pm

Tuesday 9th June Mummies Night 7(2), 7(4)

Wednesday 10th June Mummies Night 7(1), 7(5)

Thursday 11th June Mummies Night 7(3) + anyone else who can't make other evenings

Tuesday 16th June Mummies Night 8(5), 8(1)

Wednesday 17th June Mummies Night 8(3), 8(2)

Thursday 18th June Mummies Night 8(4) + anyone else who can't make other evenings

The PA Monthly Prize Draw

The winners for March 2009 are

Prize	No	Name	
1st	£150	33	Robert Sweeney Luddenden Foot
2nd	£75	4	Christine Deagan Southowram
3rd	£25	126	Elizabeth Coulson Wheatley

The winners for April 2009 are

Prize	No	Name	
1st	£150	67	Andrea Croft Southowram
2nd	£75	57	Mr Beverley Northowram
3rd	£25	126	Elizabeth Coulson Wheatley

Cheques 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.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.

Spanish Evening

Music, dancing, food and drink
all with a Spanish flavour

Hola!



Date: Saturday 13th June 2009
Time: 7.30pm-10.00pm
Venue: NHGS
Tickets: £10.00 adult
£ 8.00 6th form
£ 6.00 children (under 15yrs)
£30.00 Family Ticket (2 adults 2 children)

Continuing with our theme of different 'country' evenings, we are having a Spanish Family Evening in June. We hope to get a little bit of sunshine - and mix this with some fresh tapas, paella, Spanish music and dancing - so search out those castanets now! We promise you festive and fun surroundings and maybe a little Spanish Quiz to test your knowledge of the country (but nothing too hard!). Your ticket includes supper and your first drink - Rioja, Sangria, beer or soft drinks. This is a family event - why not bring friends, neighbours or relatives? Tickets can be bought from Reception, or via ParentPay. Please use the slip at the end of the newsletter or on the flyer.

UKMT

On Tuesday 5th May four Year 8 students went to York for the UKMT. The morning session of Maths started at 10.30am with a round of ten questions in 40 minutes. We scored 48/60. The second round we had to work in pairs but we couldn't communicate with the other pair in our group. We had four questions to answer in 8 minutes and four sets of them to do all together. The catch was that one pair answer and the other pair questions. Then we had lunch and another round. The final round was a relay round where you worked in pairs. One pair answered a question and then ran to the person supervising our group to get the question for the other pair and vice versa. Overall we came twelfth out of thirty one teams.

Jade White 8(3)

SEND MY FRIEND TO SCHOOL

In my most recent PSCHEE lesson, we all wrote persuasive cards and letters to send to Gordon Brown. This was part of an attempt to persuade him to help children all over the world to attend school. Amazingly, seventy five million children around the world do not have the opportunity to attend school and get an education!



First of all, we had an assembly which told us how many people don't get an education and it made me realise how lucky we are.

We read a story about a girl in India called Devli Kumari. Three generations of the Devli's family had been slaves and had been living and dying inside the stone quarries until they were rescued in 2004. Devli managed to send fifteen children from her village to school, so surely one of the most powerful people on earth can send at least fifteen million!

We really enjoyed the lesson because we thought it was really fun to make the cards. We also thought it was a great reason to write about, plus we also enjoyed learning about other people. We all feel proud knowing we've helped less fortunate people.

Megan Judd and Alex Benn 7(3)

SIXTH FORM PROM

On Friday 1st May students in the Upper Sixth gathered at The Rock Inn for their prom. A final hurrah to our seven years at the school. A great time was had by all, with a fine three course meal, disco dancing and an awards ceremony celebrating Ben Robertshaw as the Prom King and Olivia Shute as his Queen.



Overall the event was a roaring success, with the obvious highlights being Mr Tasara's turn on the microphone and enjoying one last evening together as a year group.

LETTER OF THANKS

To Mrs Grahame and The North Halifax Strings.

Thank you for your donation towards my new racing wheelchair and your investment towards my future in wheelchair racing. I'm sorry that I couldn't stay to hear it all but my Mum said you were absolutely wonderful.

Thanks to your generosity, my new wheelchair has now arrived and I can now get to compete in all my competitions. I managed to secure a place on the UK athletics world class talent programme, so now I will be competing a lot more. This year I am going to take part in the Adidas wheelchair Mini London Marathon and many other marathons and fun runs.



Also I am hoping to be selected to represent Great Britain at the IWAS Junior Championships in Switzerland and the Paralympic World Cup. It is a big step towards my Paralympic dream.

Thank you.

Hannah x

CRICKET

Congratulations to Shannon Jackson who has been selected as a member of the Lancashire Girls U/13 cricket team. Shannon will be representing her county in matches against other counties in the North of England.

FUND-RAISING

Peter Holdsworth, one of our Upper Sixth Form students, is undertaking a 130 mile sponsored cycle ride to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society. He is completing the ride in a day on August 22nd. If you would like to support Peter then you can pledge monies at www.justgiving.com/peterholdsworth

NRICH ROADSHOW

On Thursday 26th February the Nrich Maths Roadshow came to NHGS! We sat down and were told all about the different puzzles we could try – it sounded challenging and everyone was excited to have a go. First we were shown a picture of a very complex shape and we found loads of other different shapes within it – weird! Then we were allowed to try the puzzles around the room. Puzzles about colours, cubes, dominoes, it all got our brains ticking! One puzzle involved arranging tea cups so each row and combination was different – the hardest in my opinion. Overall we came out feeling like our brains had had a good workout.

Dot Finan 9(1)

HAPPY GOLDEN BIRTHDAY NHGS

The Halifax Technical High School was formally opened on the site on Moorbottom Road by Sir Charles Morris, Vice-Chancellor of Leeds University, on May 5th 1959. This year marks NHGS's golden anniversary. We collectively celebrated the anniversary with staff and students dressed in appropriate clothes of the period. Students and staff did not disappoint. Anniversary assemblies were held the previous week which re-called the significant events of 1959:

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January: | Che Guevara and Fidel Castro lead guerrillas into Havana, Cuba |
| February: | Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper were killed in a plane crash near Clear Lake, Iowa. The tragedy was later termed "The Day the Music Died", and was popularized in Don McLean's 1972 song "American Pie". |
| March: | The first Barbie doll was launched |
| April: | The St. Lawrence Seaway linking the North American Great Lakes and the Atlantic Ocean officially opened to shipping. |
| May: | Two monkeys, Able and Miss Baker were the first living beings to successfully return to Earth from |

- space aboard the flight Jupiter AM-18.
- June: Singapore became a self-governing crown colony of Britain with Lee Kuan Yew as Prime Minister.
- July: The SR-N1 hovercraft crossed the English Channel from Calais to Dover in just over 2 hours, on the 50th anniversary of Louis Bleriot's first crossing by heavier-than-air craft.
- August: The original Mini designed by Sir Alec Issigonis is launched.
- September: Luna 2 became the first man-made object to crash on the Moon.
- October: Harold Macmillan led the Conservatives to victory in the general election increasing his party's majority from 67 to 107 seats.
- November: The first section of the M1 motorway opened between the present junctions 5 and 18.
- December: "What Do You Want?" became Adam Faith's his first number one hit and his pronunciation of the word 'baby' as 'bay-beh' became a catch phrase.

In his book, ***Teenage: The Creation of Youth 1875-1945*** published in 2007 Jon Savage provides a detailed, if anecdotal, history of the teenager. He argues that, "every single theme now associated with the modern Teenager had a vivid, volatile precedent". He explores the development of teenagers in Britain, America, France and Germany in the pre-Second World War period. However for the majority of young people as children they were largely 'invisible' and experienced a short 'childhood' which ended between the ages of 11 and 14. There was a short period of being youths before boys started work or joined the armed forces and girls undertook unskilled jobs before they married and became housewives and mothers.

Compulsory education to 15 was introduced in 1945 and there was a post-war baby-boom which resulted in an additional million young people under the age of 21 in the decade before 1961. The average family increased from 2.2 to 2.6 in this decade. This coincided with the end of rationing, economic growth and increased affluence. The average pay for industrial workers increased by 20% in the 1950s and this relative prosperity was captured in Macmillan's famous remark in a speech in 1957, "*indeed let us be frank about it – most of our people have never had it so good.*" Teenagers, the word first entered a dictionary in 1961, began to attend college, develop a skill and start a career. With increased parental affluence and better wages teenagers had more disposable income, estimated at about £800 million

by the end of the 1950s and they spent it on clothes, records, cigarettes, cosmetics and entertainment including the cinema. Clothing trends, dance fads and novel hairstyles were popularized. Previously young people listened to music that their parents liked but in the 1950s rock'n'roll provided a distinctive and very different kind of music which brought with it young new icons such as Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly and in the UK Cliff Richard and Adam Faith.

Whilst the television was introduced and became more widespread in the 1950s it was watched predominantly by older people. Young people preferred to go out and visit the cinema. Saturday morning cinema was very common for children with its common format of a newsreel, cartoons and a main feature. Older teens went to the cinema in the evenings and vied for the back row. This is very well captured in the book, *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning* by Alan Sillitoe, where the rebellious Arthur Seaton says to his father, 'Sittin in front of the TV. You stick to it like glue from six to eleven every night.' So on May 5th we tried to re-create a cinematic experience for the students. We organised three sessions in the Hall for the Lower School, Upper School and Sixth Form. In each session they listened to music from the period played by the Swing Band, the Percussion Ensemble and the Soul Band. Students watched Pathe newsreel showing news events from 1959 including Giga winning nine Oscars and Donald Campbell setting a new water-speed record of 260 mph. The students also watched two feature films both based on books by Alan Sillitoe, 'The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner' (Lower and Upper School) and *Saturday Night, Sunday Morning* (Sixth Form). This two films were central to what has been termed the 'British New Wave Cinema' which lasted from 1959 to 1963. During this time about six films introduced social realism into British cinema for the first time. The leading directors of New Wave cinema were Tony Richardson, Karel Reisz, John Schlesinger and Lindsay Anderson. Most came from the theatre such as Tony Richardson who had directed the plays of John Osborne, notably *Look Back in Anger* and *The Entertainer*. Karel Reisz had the first big commercial success with *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning* in 1960, while Tony Richardson made *A Taste of Honey* in 1961 and *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner* in 1962 and Lindsay Anderson directed *This Sporting Life* in 1963. ***Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*** was adapted from Alan Sillitoe's rebellious first popular novel published in 1958, which is about Arthur Seaton, played by Albert Finney, a representative of the new young working class. The film was very controversial when it was first released not only because of its morally ambiguous central character but because of its graphic portrayal of sex, extra-marital affairs, strong language and abortion. *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner* based on a short story by

Alan Sillitoe, published in 1959, was also a controversial film. It starred Tom Courtenay in his first leading role as Colin Smith who gets caught for robbing a bakery and ends up in borstal. The film depicts the oppression of the system for young offenders at the time and was contentious because of its anti-authoritarian agenda. Sir Michael Redgrave and James Bolam played supporting roles. To add to their cinematic experience students could purchase milk shake and popcorn. Both proved very popular with our current teenagers as during the day; we sold 578 milk shakes and 756 bags of popcorn!



Many thanks to Mrs Candida Wood who baked a special birthday cake, shown above.



The Halifax Technical High School actually opened in January 1959 and below is a photograph of students in a lesson on the first day sent to us by Pauline Kitson who is shown in the photograph.



On Saturday June 27th the school is hosting a Re-Union for all former students and staff who attended or taught at the school from 1959 to the present. It starts at 7.00 and will run through to about 10.00pm. Tickets are £5 and are available from the school and the ticket price will include a drink and a buffet.

GPM

NHGS SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

At The North Halifax Grammar School, over half of our parents have signed up to receive the Monthly Newsletter via email. This has had a considerable impact of the amount of paper we save. The Newsletter typically has between 15 and 20 pages: with over 1,000 students on roll, this makes a big difference, not only in terms of cost savings, but more importantly, to the environment.

If you would like us to send you the Newsletter via e-mail, you need to access the following web page on the internet: <http://vle.nhgs.co.uk> and complete the details on the relevant form. You will need: username: **parentemail** and the password: **485ri95**. If you prefer you may complete the form at the end of this Newsletter and return it to your child's Form Teacher.

It is a large undertaking setting up a data base for all our parents, but it should be worthwhile in the long run. The issue will be about keeping it up to date but I am sure this will be overcome. We will update this at least annually.

Thank you once again for your support.

Parents' Association Ticket Orders for the **SPANISH EVENING**

Date: Saturday 13 June 2009
Venue: NHGS
Time: 7.30pm – 10.00pm

Food, entertainment and fun!
Please send me:-

..... Tickets at £10 each(adult) £8 tickets (6th form)

.....£6 tickets (children)

.....Family ticket at £30 each (2 adults and 2 children)

I enclosecash/cheque (to NHGS Parents' Association)

Or I have paid on parent pay.....(date).....

Name.....

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

The North Halifax Grammar School

Electronic Newsletter

Student's Name: Reg Group:

I would like to receive the newsletter electronically and have completed the details on-line

or

I would like to receive the newsletter electronically and have completed the form below

Parental email address:

Please print clearly – thank you.

Signed:..... Parent or Guardian

Date:

Please return to Mrs Varley in the School Office