

School News

Music for Youth Success

Congratulations to the NHGS Percussion Ensemble and Swing Band who have invited to perform in the National Festival of Music for Youth at the Adrian Boult Hall in Birmingham in July. This follows their outstanding performances in the Regional Festival in March. Of those performing in the National Festival, some are selected to perform in the Schools Prom at the Royal Albert Hall, London in the Autumn Term. Watch this space!

Spring Serenade

The Spring Serenade concert on Thursday 29th April was a great success and featured some brilliant performances from many of NHGS's younger musicians. Ensembles featured included the String Orchestra, Junior Strings, Guitar Group, Clarinet Group, Double Read Group, Percussion Ensemble, Saxophone Group, Boys Choir, Junior and Intermediate Choir and the Wind Band.

Wandering Minstrel Week

During week commencing 21st June many of the NHGS musicians played their instruments at various locations around school at break-times and lunch-times. Some small ensemble rehearsals were also held in communal spaces and playgrounds. The aim was to inspire even more students to want to learn to play an instrument. Anyone wishing to start to learn an instrument should collect an application from the school office.

GJE

UKMT Junior Mathematical Challenge

This year sixty two year 8 students completed the UKMT Junior mathematical Challenge, an hour long multiple choice paper. A record breaking twenty three of these achieved gold certificates, twenty silver certificates and eight bronze certificates.

Six NHGS students performed so well on the paper they have been invited to take part in the follow up competition, the Junior Mathematical Olympiad. They are:

Cameron Wells (Best in School)
Daniel Wilson
Samuel Walker
Alex Maurice
Alfie Finan
Caelinn James

Congratulations to all the students involved and best of luck to the six Olympiad qualifiers.

HJA

The North Halifax
Grammar School



NHGS News

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France/Belgium 2010

We all arrived at school nice and early on Friday morning, full of energy, and soon boarded the coach, and made a quick start on our way to France. After a long journey and an entertaining trip on the ferry we finally arrived at our chateau – Chateau d'ebtingham. Everyone got into rooms and we soon went down for some tea at the chateau. On our first night we relaxed and got used to our surroundings. The chateau was very clean and Rosie and Andrew (the staff) were very nice to us. Murray our guide talked us through the itinerary for the next day and made it clear that lateness and "bimbling" were not allowed! So, the next day we all arrived with plenty of time to set off for our first day trip, to Ypres in Belgium. We visited Essex farm cemetery first and Murray explained the uses of the rooms as a make shift hospital, also there was the graves of some of the soldiers. One particular grave struck me because it was a grave of a fifteen year old boy who had fought in the war and lied about his age in order to serve his country; it was very upsetting to know that a young boy, my age was killed in such a horrific way. We also visited many other places on the first day. Another shocking sight was Tyne Cot cemetery, the largest British cemetery in Belgium. The graves were in very neat rows and there were hundreds of them, it was hard to imagine that all those people who lost their lives.

On Saturday night we visited a famous chocolate shop and bought some great Belgian chocolate! Also we ate at a lovely restaurant – the Vivaldi. Afterwards we headed back to the Menin Gate for the evening ceremony. Nick, Esta, Brad, Luan and I got changed into our school uniform in the toilets at Vivaldi and prepared ourselves for the ceremony. The wreath layers (Nick, Esta, Brad and Luan) were lined up ready and had written a message on the NHGS wreath, "May they rest in peace and never be forgotten". The ceremony started and Jacky, the man in charge, gave me the nod to go and read the exhortation. I stood in the centre of Menin Gate and read the famous words. I felt a great honour to have been chosen to read and also to represent my school at such a great, moving ceremony. The wreath layers laid the wreath, following some Australian troops and were then followed by a number of other schools. Afterwards we all felt very proud and were congratulated by our friends. I was even congratulated by some of the public watching the ceremony. We got back to the chateau and had a fun game of rounders and relaxed before going to bed. The next day we sat on the coach for a long journey to the battlefield of the Somme, and we visited some cemeteries of the fallen from the first day of the Somme. As we walked on to no man's land, Murray explained to us the front line trenches of both the Allies and the Germans, and the battle plans of the British. We saw how they were doomed from the start and how the German machine guns were always going to be lethal. We then went to Ulster Tower and Thiepval Wood, where we had a guided

tour by Teddy who looks after the private memorial for the Ulster Division. Teddy was very knowledgeable and the tour was very interesting and the trenches we saw were very well preserved. I can't imagine living in the conditions in the narrow trenches with the constant fire that Teddy described for us. Both Teddy and Murray were very knowledgeable. On our final day we had bags packed and were down at the coach nice and early once more. On the last day we visited a small cemetery before getting the ferry back to England and dropping Murray off in Dover. We eventually arrived home after a tiring weekend and unfortunately had to attend school the next day! Overall everyone enjoyed the trip and it was a great experience. I have learned lots about the war and would highly recommend the trip to history students next year.

Megan Crowther 10(1)

Debating Society

Although the competition season is over, regular Thursday lunchtime debates have continued in SF2. We have welcomed new members who have been honing their debating skills and the quality of debating overall has risen dramatically. Speaking to a room full of students for five minutes isn't an easy art – especially when you know that those students are only too ready to ask questions, point out flaws in arguments and come up with counter-arguments. It has been brilliant to see so many people take part in debates for the first time, speak with confidence and develop some really interesting arguments which have been clearly well researched.

Eve Gregory and Phoebe Hendy proposed the motion that we should maintain selective education and overcame some strong opposition from Lucy Robinson and Sarah Payne. James Harrison and Sana Ilyas argued that legal highs should not be banned and were narrowly defeated by Rhiannon Barrow and Vanessa White. Next it was the turn of Jennifer Lees and Lucy Spink who argued against the motion proposed by Morrison Brown and Rose Wyatt that abortion should be banned.

Our election debate that this house would elect a Conservative Government was proposed by Mark Holmes and Sara Roebuck. There were very strong performances from both proposers but Callum Macrae and Mr McKay won the debate opposing that motion. Our last debate before the Year 11s went on study leave, judged by Mr Crossland, was "This House believes that religion is divisive and destructive" In another closely fought debate with well developed points on both sides, Callum Macrae and Duncan Lomax carried the motion against opposition from Thomas Platt and Sana Ilyas. The final debate before the Year 13s departed was "This House believes that IVF is of benefit to society" with Kathy Ryland, John Finnerty, Sana Ilyas and Phoebe Hendy taking part.

During the exam period, the Year 9s and 10s have been developing their public speaking skills in readiness for Activity Week and competitions next year. We will hold our mini Public Speaking competition on the 24th June and the final debate of the year on 1st July.

I have been delighted to see the debating society grow this year and expand from its original four participants to a roomful of participants every Thursday lunchtime. I would like to take this opportunity to thank that original four – Kathy Ryland, Morrison Brown, Emily King and Sophie Smith – and also John Finnerty and Rose Wyatt who have contributed regularly to the debates, been incisive questioners from the floor and have helped pass on all that they have learned to the next generation of debaters in school. Their participation has been much appreciated, as has the regular attendance of Sam Gregson, and we wish all of them all the best in the future. We also say goodbye and good luck to Callum Macrae and Fiona Pilling who are off to pastures new - hopefully we will see them at some stage on the debating circuit next year. Roll on September and the next wave of competitions.

ALK

Year 7 Trip to Fountains Abbey

On the 14th June the whole of Year 7 went to Fountains Abbey. We went on four coaches and when we arrived we split up and went into groups of around 26. Our group went to the museum first. Inside the museum there was a model of the Abbey which showed you what it used to look like. This really helped us to understand how much it has changed. Then we went to the Mill, which showed us the everyday objects the monks used such as oyster shells for razors and writing equipment. It also had facts about Henry VIII and the Reformation. After lunch we went on the Day in the Life of a Monk tour and had to dress up as monks wearing a habit (cloak) and a cowl (hood). We followed our guide and she told us to walk in twos and in silence which was very hard and most of our group managed to 'break the silence.' On the tour we looked at the main rooms in the Abbey. We had to stand in the praise position which the monks had to hold for an hour but most of us didn't even manage a minute! Also in the Chapter House three people were pulled forward to receive a pretend punishment which was funny. The monks could be punished for all kinds of things such as talking, stealing and falling asleep in the services. From the tour I learnt about the two different types of monks, choir monks and lay brothers. I also learnt the three rules which monks have to obey; poverty, chastity and obedience. Altogether I definitely could not be a monk because it was very hard, especially the silence!

Kiera Crossley 7(5)

On the 14th June we went to Fountains Abbey near Ripon in North Yorkshire. The very first monks came from York.

They chose the spot because there were building materials, a river and because it was isolated so the monks could avoid distractions. There were two types of monk, the lay brothers and the choir monks. The lay brothers did all the manual labour. They wore brown habits (robes). The choir monks sang and they wore white habits. You had to be male and over 16 to become a novice monk. We went in the mill and the museum and answered questions on our worksheet. There were lots of artefacts which had been preserved by the people that work there. After dinner we went to get our monks habits on and went on a tour of the abbey. The guide showed us around the main rooms and told us what each one was used for. I really enjoyed this trip and now I have a better idea of how monks lived.

Joshua Mouncey 7(5)

On the 14th June all of Year 7 went to Fountains Abbey which is in North Yorkshire. When we were there we went to the Porter's Lodge museum where we did a quiz and answered some questions for a competition. We walked to the Mill where we found out about a monk's life. Then we sat on some ruins to have our lunch before going to get our costumes to dress up as monks!



The robes were made of nylon but the robes the monks wore were made from wool because sheep used to live all around the Abbey. We were then shown all around the different rooms. We had a really good guide who answered all of our questions. We were told that if the monks were caught talking they would be punished. Overall I really enjoyed the trip, dressing up as monks was my favourite part, it was a lot of fun!

Spike Johnston 7(5)

Calderdale Book of the Year Award 2010

Ten Year 9 students are taking part in the above event together with groups of ten students from other Calderdale secondary schools. The students have to read the five books on a shortlist and review them.

They will be attend a literary lunch at Halifax Central Library on Wednesday 7th July where they will vote for the book they liked the most and will attend workshops run by two of the authors and meet all five authors. The students taking part are Hannah Froggett, Phoebe Hendy, Thomas Howard, Lucy Spink, James Harrison, Caitlin Hogg, Ellen Porter, Liberty Shaw, Josephine White and Eve Gregory. Hopefully some of our students will win prizes for the reviews they have submitted.

SR

Comenius project: Life in Harmony with Nature 2008-2010 Final report



When we launched the Comenius project in the Autumn term of 2008 I was a little unsure as to how the two years of the project would pan out. It felt a long time since I had met my colleagues in the partner countries in Tallinn, Estonia in October 2007 when this project was first discussed. However, I was looking forward to the experiences that work with such a large number of schools would bring. The project was entitled 'Life in Harmony with Nature' and the countries involved included Germany, Estonia, Spain, Ireland and Turkey. Over the two years we have been exchanging work relating to the environment and healthy lifestyles. Students have been engaged in a variety of activities including carrying pedometers, accessing electricity usage in school and at home, designing dishes for the Great British Menu competition, producing a film of the local area and preparing a brochure to advertise our region as an area for ecotourism. Alongside working on joint activities, students have also learnt about the culture of the partner countries either directly through project meetings or indirectly through classroom research and presentations. Staff shared lesson plans about an aspect of their culture in order to facilitate a deeper understanding of each country. The group of students who were able to travel to each partner country have reported significant benefits of being involved in such a project including developing confidence and improving their communication skills. Many of them now have a number of friends in a variety of European countries which they have remained in contact with long after the visit. I feel that the project meeting in the UK in March 2009 was a major event for the school and enabled a large number of our students to communicate and interact directly with the visiting students and teachers. Staff who have visited the partner countries have also had an insight into education in another European country. The project is now coming to an end and I think that all who have been involved would agree that we have had some fantastic experiences through our involvement. I would like to thank Ms P Robbins for all her help and assistance over the last two years

and I hope that we are able to be involved in another Comenius project in the near future.

CJM

Comenius Visit to Delitzsch-Germany

WEDNESDAY 26th MAY

We left Halifax at 3.15am to catch a flight from Manchester Airport to Munich. After a fairly turbulent flight we landed in Munich, ready to catch our second flight to Leipzig. When we arrived in Leipzig we stepped out of the airport to be greeted by teachers from our host school with cameras. We were then bundled in to taxis and taken to the school where we met the students we would be spending the next 5 days living with.

THURSDAY 27th MAY

It was an early start, as we were going to be attending a lesson first thing in the morning. We had to sit through a talk on Caesar in German which I cannot say was the highlight of the trip! Following on from this we went to meet the mayor at the Town Hall, from this we learnt a lot about the history and culture of Delitzsch. Then we went on a town rally around Delitzsch with some of the students from the school. This showed us some of the main features of the town and helped us get to know some of the pupils from the school. We then returned to school and had lunch. In the afternoon we went on a tour of the surrounding Lakeland area.

In the evening we went to a barbecue in "The Barn at Schenkenburg" which was brilliant! It consisted of a disco and performances put on by some of the school students- as well as eating some traditional German food. It was a great time to get to know the people from the other countries and make friends.

FRIDAY 28th MAY

We started the day with a welcome from the head teacher in the assembly hall. There was also some singing done by the younger students who were very cute! We then attended some lessons which were very different to those at NHGS. Then we watched a chemistry show of "Snow White" which was highly amusing!

Then we presented our eco-tourism brochures to the rest of the group.

In the afternoon we visited Leipzig where we went up the tallest building in the city and also went shopping. It was a really fun experience to look at a German city. All the students then went to a restaurant in Delitzsch for drinks and a disco which, other than Jake being ill, topped off a brilliant day!

SATURDAY 29TH MAY

We woke fairly early to visit the historical city of Dresden. For those who don't know, Dresden was heavily bombed by allied forces in World War Two and had to be more or less rebuilt from scratch afterwards. We went on a sightseeing tour by bus and then on foot before being allowed free time to go off in groups and see the city.

As most of the countries would be going home on Sunday, we all went bowling to say goodbye and watched Eurovision. It was a fantastic night, but saying goodbye to everyone was really sad. ☹



SUNDAY 30TH MAY

This would be our last day in Germany, so we went to the capital, Berlin! This was amazing, despite the rain. We went to see some famous sights such as the Brandenburg Gate and went up the Bundestag. The glass dome at top was very interesting because you could see far and wide. The visit to the Holocaust Memorial Monument was very moving and completely overwhelmed us. As well as visiting the existing sights, we also went and saw where the Berlin wall used to stand, and drove past some of the remains. The history in Berlin is fascinating and it was great to see some of the things that we had heard so much about. Overall, we had a fantastic week and did not want to go home. We made friends with people from all the 5 other countries involved who we hope to stay in touch with for many years to come. It was a brilliant opportunity which we are all grateful to have been given.



Many thanks to Ms Robbins and Mrs Hoare for accompanying us on this visit.

Róisín McCallion, Jake Smithson and Rebecca Barry

My time at NHGS

My short time at NHGS was really eventful. Not only was the weather interesting (lots of snow in winter and then the heat of the summer), but so were the students. They were really able to express their opinions in German – I found myself challenged by their questions! I think I have got to know my own language better by having to think about the reasons behind some of the rules.

NHGS made me very welcome and I don't mean only the message on the plasma screen on my first day! Even if I wasn't that keen on your English school uniforms, the school itself made a very positive impression on me. The working environment seemed really friendly and the pupils seemed to be involved in lots of projects, a musical and other events. It was very interesting for me to get to know an English grammar school and I'm really pleased it was NHGS.

Anna Gebers, German Assistant



Recipes from our Comenius partner countries which were included in a Comenius recipe book. As a school we have worked with these countries for two years in a joint project called 'Life in Harmony with Nature'.



Baltic Herring with cheese from Kehtna Pohikool, Estonia

Ingredients

0.5 – 1kg Baltic herring filets
2 tsp salt
2 dl grated cheese
2 dl cream
2 sp oil
2 sp grated white bread
ground black pepper

Method

1. Sprinkle the salt, pepper and a small amount of the grated cheese onto the Baltic herring filets, then fold the sides back together.
2. Place the fish on the greased baking tin.
3. Pour the cream on it.
4. Sprinkle the grated white bread and the rest of the grated cheese on top.
5. Cook it for 20 minutes at 200°C.
6. Serve with boiled potatoes and salad.

Saxon potato salad from Christain Godfried-Ehrenberg-Gymnasium, Delitzsch, Germany

Ingredients

1kg potatoes
500g apples
1 large onion
2 gherkins
3 tablespoons of vinegar
3 tablespoons of goose fat
salt, pepper
some sugar
1 cup of water (warmed)
parsley, chives



Method

1. Peel and boil the potatoes.
2. Peel, core and cut the apples into cubes.
3. Peel and finely chop the onions and chop the gherkins.
4. Heat the vinegar, fat, salt, pepper and some sugar together but do not boil.
5. Mix in the apples, onions and gherkins. If the salad is too dry add some of the water. Sprinkle parsley and chives over the salad and add some seasoning if necessary.

Serve with meatballs or frankfurters and tomatoes.

Filled biscuit from IES Concepción Arenal, Ferrol, Spain

Ingredients

For the biscuit:

6 eggs
12 spoonfuls of sugar
6 spoonfuls of flour

For the filling:

Peach, strawberry, apply of any other kind of jam or any kind of cream such as coffee, lemon or chocolate.



Method

1. In a bowl beat 6 egg whites until they are fluffy and stiff. Whilst continuing to beat, add the sugar, then beaten egg yolks and finally the flour. Keep beating until all the ingredients are fully mixed.
2. Pour the mixture into a rectangular tin lined with greased baking paper. Cook in the oven at 200°C for 20 minutes until golden.
3. Once cooked, spread the filling over the biscuit and slowly roll it up.
4. Garnish with fruits and caramel as desired.

Colcannon from Colaiste Chraobh Abhann, Kilcoole, Ireland

Ingredients

1lb potatoes, freshly cooked and mashed
1lb kale
2 leeks
1 cup milk
Salt and pepper
butter



Method:

1. Wash, trim, and cook the kale in a saucepan until tender. Season with salt and pepper. Remove from heat and chop.
2. Peel and boil the potatoes until tender. Remove from heat and drain.
3. Chop the leeks and simmer in some milk until they are soft.
4. Mash the potatoes and season. Add the leeks and milk. Blend in the kale.
5. Make a depression in the centre of the mixture and pour in the melted butter. Mix the butter into the rest of the mixture.