

School News

OUTSTANDING!

Well done students, staff, parents, governors and everyone else that supports NHGS. After the inspection on January 19th and 20th the school was judged to be outstanding for overall effectiveness (how good is the school?) and the outcomes for individuals and groups of pupils. Copies of the inspection report were distributed to all parents and carers on Tuesday February 8th and individual copies of the letter from the Lead Inspector were distributed to students on Wednesday February 9th. The report was made available on the OFSTED website on Thursday February 10th. The school was first inspected in February 1994, then March 1999, January 2005 and December 2007. In all but the last inspection the school was judged to be outstanding. It is very pleasing that the school is once again judged to be outstanding. I explained the nature of the new inspection framework in last month's Newsletter. This was the fourth inspection I have experienced at NHGS and the fifth in my career and in many respects because of the focus and experience of the inspection team it was the most rigorous. As it states in the The Annual Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills 2009/10

'The new framework has deliberately raised expectations in relation to the quality of teaching and learning, pupils' achievement, progress and attainment, and the leadership and management of teaching and learning. Under the new framework more lesson observations have taken place to enable a deeper judgement on the quality of teaching and learning. There is a sharper focus on the progress that all groups of pupils are making over time, the attainment of pupils in relation to both national and contextualised averages, and whether schools are effectively narrowing the gap in achievement between potentially vulnerable pupils and their peers. These changes reflect the raised expectations nationally for what pupils should achieve and recognise that schools need to have a greater impact on narrowing gaps in outcomes for children and young people.'

Very few schools are perfect and the inspectors identified some issues that the school needs to address. We have already started to develop strategies and plans to improve the specific issues identified in the inspection report.

The students enjoyed a non-uniform day on Friday February 11th and in true NHGS tradition we celebrated by giving every student a bun. We are grateful to Simon Ablewhite at Spark's Confectioners, Bradford for supplying all the buns which were delicious and much appreciated by the students. All the staff enjoyed a celebration after school on the same day.

Accountability in the public sector is important and parents need to know, objectively, how the school is performing. I was delighted by the number of questionnaires returned to the OFSTED inspectors by parents at very short notice. Under the new framework the analysis of parental questionnaires is included in the report. You can see in the report that the inspectors received 585 questionnaires from 1,142 registered pupils. This represents a 51% return. The average for England in inspections is 15%. NHGS is the fourteenth selective school to be inspected under the new framework since September 2009 and has the highest parental return of questionnaires for all the

The North Halifax
Grammar School



NHGS News

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selective schools. In ten of the thirteen questions positive parental responses were over 90% which places them at the top end of the upper quartile for responses nationally. Only three questions scored less than 90% they were:

- The school helps me to support my child's learning (83%),
- The school helps my child to have a healthy lifestyle (85%)
- The school takes account of my suggestions and concerns (80%)

Although these responses were in the upper quartile they did not receive quite the same level of support as the other questions in the survey. The Leadership Group and Governors will carefully consider these responses in developing plans for the future.

Unfortunately the school does not have access to the parental questionnaires which are confidential to OFSTED. We plan to undertake our bi-ennial survey of parents during the next half term organised through the Kirkland Rowell organisation. I hope parents will respond in the same way to the school's questionnaire as this provides more detailed information about your views of the school and how we can improve further.

GPM

International Year of Chemistry

The International Year of Chemistry 2011 (IYC 2011) is a worldwide celebration of the achievements of chemistry and its contributions to the well-being of humankind. Under the unifying theme "**Chemistry—our life, our future,**" IYC 2011 will offer a range of interactive, entertaining, and educational activities for all ages. The Year of Chemistry is intended to reach across the globe, with opportunities for public participation at the local, regional, and national level.

The goals of IYC 2011 are to increase the public appreciation of chemistry in meeting world needs, to encourage interest in chemistry among young people, and to generate enthusiasm for the creative future of chemistry. The year 2011 will coincide with the 100th anniversary of the Nobel Prize awarded to Madame Marie Curie—an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of women to science. The year will also be the 100th anniversary of the founding of the International Association of Chemical Societies, providing a chance to highlight the benefits of international scientific collaboration.

IYC 2011 events will emphasize that chemistry is a creative science essential for sustainability and improvements to our way of life. Activities, such as lectures, exhibits, and hands-on experiments, will explore how chemical research is critical for solving our most vexing global problems involving food,

water, health, energy, transportation, and more.

In addition, the Year of Chemistry will help enhance international cooperation by serving as a focal point or information source for activities by national chemical societies, educational institutions, industry, governmental, and non-governmental organisations.

The IYC 2011 is an initiative of IUPAC, the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, and of UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation. It involves chemical societies, academies, and institutions worldwide, and relies on individual initiatives to organise local and regional activities.

The idea for an international year was first discussed in 2006, during the April meeting of IUPAC Executive Committee. Following that meeting, an IUPAC task group developed a plan to secure the designation by UNESCO of an International Year of Chemistry. That project was successfully completed when in April 2008, the Executive Board of UNESCO, endorsed the proposal for proclamation by the United Nations of 2011 as an International Year of Chemistry (IYC).

For more information see www.chemistry2011.org

GDT



Can you help?

SIXTH FORM MEDICAL WORK EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

Many of the Sixth Form students wishing to apply to study Medicine at university have been struggling to find the relevant work experience, despite ringing hospitals and GP surgeries. Students require primary **and** secondary care work experience, e.g. hospital and care home. Most students manage to find voluntary work in care homes etc but many can't seem to get into hospitals or GP surgeries. If you work in the medical profession and feel that this is something you would be able to help us with, we would be extremely grateful.

Please contact either Mrs Whitehill (Sixth Form G&T Co-ordinator) or Miss Morgan (Year Group Leader – Year 13). Thank you in advance for any help you may be able to provide.

Mrs Whitehill
n.whitehill@nhgs.co.uk

Miss Morgan
c.morgan@nhgs.co.uk



Introduction to Oxbridge

Would you like to find out more about studying at Oxford or Cambridge University?

We would like to invite parents and carers of Y10 to Y12 students to an information evening about Oxford and Cambridge Universities. The event will be held at:

Heath Training and Development Centre, Free School Lane, Halifax on Wednesday 23 March 6.15pm-7.45pm.

(Car parking is available to the rear of the building. Teas and Coffees will available on arrival. The presentation starts at 6.30pm).

The evening aims to explain:

- The reality of studying at an Oxbridge university
 - The application process
 - Financing a degree at Oxbridge

There will also be the opportunity to speak to a representative and current undergraduate students from Selwyn College, Cambridge University.

Please confirm whether you would like to attend by Friday 18 March by contacting:

Vicki Sutcliffe [vicki.sutcliffe@calderdale.gov.uk/](mailto:vicki.sutcliffe@calderdale.gov.uk) 01422 394105

OR Julie Edwards [julie.edwards@calderdale.gov.uk/](mailto:julie.edwards@calderdale.gov.uk) 01422 394076



ACADEMY CONSULTATION

Following the decision by governors at their meeting on November 24th to consult on whether NHGS should apply to convert to an academy the school embarked on a programme of consultation with all the school's interested parties in the Spring term. This is the programme schedule for the consultation which has been undertaken over the last month:

Thursday January 13 th :	Information about academy status distributed to all staff
Friday January 14 th :	Information about academy status distributed to students and parents
Monday January 17 th :	Letters about the school's consultation about academy status distributed to other stakeholders – LA, North Halifax Federation and its schools and other secondary schools in Calderdale
Tuesday January 18 th :	Meeting with teaching staff
Friday January 21 st :	Meeting with general office & finance office staff, technicians, reprographics staff, LRC manager, catering staff
Wednesday February 2 nd :	Meeting with cleaning and caretaking staff
Wednesday February 2 nd :	Student representatives from each of the 46 tutor groups attended a briefing on academy status in the Hall and then consulted with their tutor groups.
Wednesday February 2 nd :	Meeting for parents
Thursday February 3 rd :	Meeting in the with teaching & support staff Union Representatives
Friday February 11 th :	Closing date for the consultation process

This process of consultation is as extensive and thorough as other consultations undertaken by schools who have considered or are considering converting to an academy. I would like to thank all the staff, students and parents who have participated in the process. The meetings have been very well attended and there have been lots of

questions which the leadership and governors have tried to answer. I would also like to thank parents who have e-mailed the school, with comments, observations and enquiries. Clearly governors want to make an informed decision and the more people that contribute to the consultation the better.

The full governing body is meeting to take a decision on March 1st. Parents will be informed about that decision shortly after the meeting.

GPM

Debating News

Sophie Beverley, Fay Bland, Patrick Costello, Rebecca Crossfield, Oscar Cunnington, Matthew Floyd, Jacob Hayes, Mark Holmes, and Luke Rigg took part in the Manchester University Schools debating competition on the 5th February, an all-day competition where students take part in four short preparation motions. Despite the landslide on the train line, we were able to get to the event in time. The debates were: "This house would bring back grammar schools"; "This house would prevent the state from buying artwork that the public can't distinguish from the work of a child"; "This house would ban all research into aerial drones"; "This house would elect its judiciary". Although no one progressed to the final, which was "This house would make people pay to go to university", there were some very strong performances and some students won individual rooms on the day. Mark Holmes was the highest scoring speaker from NHGS coming 26th out of 96 students.

Phoebe Hendy, Eve Gregory, Oscar Cunnington, Jacob Hayes, Mark Holmes and Luke Rigg accompanied by Mr Fisher and myself went to the Oxford Union Debating Competition on the Friday 11th February. Students put on strong performances arguing in the short preparation motions that "This house would nationalise banks" and "This house would ban all nuclear weapons".

Luke Rigg and Jacob Hayes won the first round of the English Speaking Union Schools Mace competition when we went to Calder High on the 10th February arguing against the motion "This house believes that the UN is just one big talking shop." They defeated teams from Crossleys, Calder, St Augustine's and Rastrick to take top place going through into the next round on the 19th February.

Joselene Katayama, Lucy Spink and Sana Ilyas, accompanied by Mr Atwood, went to Doncaster and won the first round of the English Speaking Union Public Speaking Competition beating schools from all over the area to secure a place in the next round on the 5th March. Joselene spoke on the topic "Written examinations are the worst form of assessment" and Lucy chaired with Sana acting as questioner.

Congratulations to all students who have taken part in these events. It has been brilliant to see some wins and very encouraging to see everybody's debating

improving through practice and experience. Thanks to Mr Attwood and Mr Fisher for helping out with transporting students to events and to Mr Fisher for helping provide some advice and practice competition before them.

ALK

On Saturday 5th February, me and eight other students went to Manchester University to debate against schools from around the country. The day did not start well; after getting to Huddersfield train station, for 8am, I learned that everybody else was at Halifax, however, it got better from then on. We were accommodated in the huge lecture hall in the Roscoe building where we were surrounded by dozens of 'suited up' students; I felt a little underdressed in cords and a jumper.

We then took part in four debates which, after the first one where I was crippled with nerves, got slowly better and better as our opponents got worse and worse (due to being put against opponents with equal scores). At around 1.30pm we were served with a tomatoey lunch, despite a McDonalds being 500m down the road!

The day was extremely enjoyable and was a very steep learning curve for my first debate. Judges provided good feedback after every debate and I feel I learned a lot. I would like to thank Miss Kent and everyone else who came for a lovely day.

Oscar Cunnington L6(6)

At Danum School Technology College in Doncaster, we all took a deep collective breath before entering the large library, and when we saw the groups of smiling competitors, felt immediately at our ease. The Schools Public Speaking Competition was created by the English Speaking Union in 1960 and has been very successful in giving young people at Key Stage 4 a wider arena to practice their public speaking skills. It is a friendly competition and encourages students to integrate

and convey their opinions about popular culture, politics and important current issues of the day.

Each school taking part in the competition must comprise of three students, each performing a different role in the group; a Questioner, Chairperson and Speaker. In the NHGS group, there were Sana Ilyas, Lucy Spink and Joselene Katayama, in these roles respectively.

I spoke about the topic 'Written examination is the least effective form of assessment,' and the 5 minutes certainly tested my oral fluency and calm. After my speech, I was questioned by a student from another school. Questions are spontaneous, which means the Questioner and the Speaker cannot prepare for the 4 minutes after. This is what made Sana's role so challenging. Introducing the competitors, time-keeping and steering the entire process are the key roles of the Chairperson, who was Lucy.

Our team was up against some stiff opposition. Sana and Lucy were joined up with Danum School Technology College and I with Batley Grammar School. NHGS was asked to present first, and Lucy and Sana stepped up. Danum School Technology College's Speaker argued that 'Fighting wars is a natural part of being human.' After performing our roles, we were able to watch the other school's presentations, and ask questions to other speakers.

After the competition ended, the judges made their decision and gave full feedback to each individual participant. Finally, we were surprised to hear that the NHGS team had won the first heat and we have been asked to return to the regional finals taking place at Leeds Grammar School on the 5th March 8

Taking part in the competition enabled us to practice and gain confidence in our oral and presentation skills. Mixing with different schools was a great experience and taking part in The Schools Public Speaking Competition an invaluable opportunity which proved to be very rewarding.

Joselene Katayama 10(6)

On 11th February, Miss Kent and Mr Fisher drove myself, Eve Gregory, Luke Rigg, Oscar Cunnington, Mark Holmes and Jacob Hayes to Leeds Grammar School to participate in the Oxford Union debating competition.

We were led into a room of mainly Sixth Form debaters where we waited to get our positions on the table. They were announced, along with the motion 'This house would nationalise all large banks'. I for one didn't know anything about banks and I was the first speaker. We had fifteen minutes to prepare and then it was time to debate and persuade the judge to support us. Fortunately all our practice gave us enough confidence to argue with conviction on a topic we didn't know much about.

There was a short break before we all began our second debate about disarming nuclear weapons. Unfortunately, none of our teams went through to the next round, but it was interesting to see different styles of debating and improve our own styles so that next time we can do better.

Phoebe Hendy 10(1)

On 10th February, Jacob Hayes and I travelled to Calder High School to take part in The English-Speaking Union Schools Mace debate (long-winded, I know). This particular debate has its own rules. There are 2 people on each side of the argument (proposition and opposition) and each speaker is allocated 7 minutes to outline their points in a pre-prepared speech. The first and last minute of each speech is protected time, the 5 minutes in between are open to scrutiny. 'Points of Information' are allowed for members from the opposing side who wish to comment on what the speaker is saying. At the end of each debate, members of the audience are allowed to pose questions to both sides of the debate, and then each representative from the proposition and opposition address the questions in their summary.

There were 3 debates during the evening, of which we were second. The motions were: 'This House believes Religious Education should be left outside of the classroom', 'This House believes the United Nations is one big talking-shop', and 'This House believes that the West is responsible for

Climate Change'. We had the arduous task of defending the UN, which was one of the reasons why we rehearsed our speeches many hundreds of times. There were supposed to be 6 teams altogether, however one team dropped out earlier that day. Courageously, the Calder High team agreed to debate for a second time, after having only a few hours notice. The 2 best teams overall would go through to the next round. The judging panel comprised of 3 members, including 2 magistrates from Calderdale Court.

After all 3 debates had finished, we were invited to go to the dining room for refreshments. This gave us chance to reflect on the evening and discuss debating with other students. However, the result of the competition was playing on our minds to the point when the Judges beckoned us back in didn't come soon enough. They were polite when giving feedback, particularly stressing the importance of the delivery of speeches, as well as the development of points made. It was difficult to concentrate on the feedback in detail as all we wanted to find out is who had got through. Finally, the lady announced that the first team through was The North Halifax High School! I didn't mind that she'd got our name wrong, we had won! The second and final team through was Calder High School, a result that both myself and Jacob agreed with; a gallant performance from their side.

We'd like to thank Miss Kent for taking us to the event and helping us with our preparation. We'd also like to thank Mr Saul and Patrick Costello for taking the time up to come and act as moral support for us at a time when we thought we'd never come near to winning!

Luke Rigg L6(1)

The Manchester University Debating Competition was a really enjoyable but exhausting day. As I was relatively new to debating competitively, the day was also a learning experience, as I was able to take tips from the university leaders, but also from the people I was competing against. This therefore led to me improving considerably, due to the fact that I had to think on the spot, but I also had to learn how to articulate my argument effectively.

As a whole, I am really pleased as to how well I did personally, but also how the rest of the competitors from North Halifax did, as I believe that we were all really successful. I am very grateful for the opportunity, and I can't wait till next year to try again.

Fay Bland L6(3)

Gifted and Talented Reading Exchange

To improve our skills in English Literature, Mr Attwood and Miss Kent took us down to Crossley Heath School on Thursday 3rd February to meet a group of students who also had an interest in English Literature. We talked about prejudice when choosing a book, and about the books that we, as a group, enjoyed reading. It was very interesting as we were able to see the different varieties of book that people enjoyed reading, but it was also interesting to see the Crossleys' students' reaction to Mr Attwood's humour.

The day was very useful as we were able to interact with English Students who we weren't in a class with, but also students from the year above.

I am really excited to see the things we will be learning about in further sessions, and I look forward to developing my English skills.

Fay Bland L6(3)

West Yorkshire Schools Table Tennis Association

Congratulations to Matthew Stephens and James Mason who performed very well at the West Yorkshire Schools Table Tennis Individual Championships. James finished third in the Under 19s boys' event. Matthew was the Under 16s runner up and will represent West Yorkshire in the English Schools Individual on April 16th at Doncaster Dome.

**Information provided by Andrew Crabtree
Secretary of West Yorkshire Schools Table
Tennis Association**

STUDENT LEADERS AT NHGS

At NHGS we are very keen to enable students to take on responsibilities as leaders. During the week beginning January 31st the Senior Prefects (SPs) for

2010-11 were presented to the school in assemblies. All the students in Year 12 contribute to the selection of the prefects by voting for their peers. Staff also have the opportunity to vote for prefects. Students have to meet the following criteria in order to achieve prefect status:

- Good attendance
- Common sense
- Punctuality
- Reliability
- Courtesy
- Commitment to school
- Appearance
- Co-operation

Taking on the role of prefect is an opportunity for students to experience responsibility. We appointed over 100 prefects in November. Prefects can then submit letters of application to become senior prefects. All applicants are interviewed by members of the SF team and existing SPs. This year we appointed seven SPs out of the 36 that applied. All of the SPs then applied for the position of Head Prefect. They were interviewed by Mrs Quigley, SF Leader, and myself. This year Luke Rigg was appointed as Head Prefect. The other SPs are Beth Allen, Andrew Greenwood, Lucy Hird, Marcus Peel, Sam Tingle and Sarah Vine. The outgoing team of Mark Holmes (Head Prefect), Beth Attwood, Sophie Beverly, Miles Brown, Ella Dixon and Beth Pattinson have done a superb job over the last year and I would like to thank them for their contribution. I wish the new appointees well and I am confident that they will become very effective leaders in their roles over the next year. The SPs have been invited to introduce themselves in the articles below.

GPM

Sam Tingle – Senior Prefect

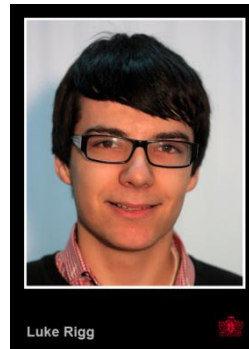
I am Sam Tingle and I am studying Maths, Further Maths, Biology, Chemistry and Physics at AS level. I want to study at University with the hope of becoming a doctor in the future.

My main interest is rugby; I play in the position of scrum half for Queensbury Rugby Club, who I have played for the past 8 years.

I also do volunteer work for a local care home for the elderly every Sunday and enjoy listening to a variety of local bands in my spare time.



Sam Tingle



Luke Rigg

Luke Rigg – Head Prefect

My name is Luke Rigg and I am currently studying English Language, Geography, Government & Politics and Product Design at AS level. I am planning to go to University, and I am currently considering studying either Law or PPE (Philosophy, Politics & Economics). In

school, I attend the Debating Society, which meets once a week to discuss different motions. Between September and Christmas, I was part of the First Bow theatre production that involved working with year sevens to choreograph a performance to paying guests. I am currently doing my Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, as well as being a part of a Young Enterprise group, called Branded. Recently, I have begun volunteering for the Alzheimer's Society, as I feel passionate about charity work, particularly for this specific cause.

My main interest is Politics and I have volunteered at local levels to campaign with political activists. My constituency party has helped me contribute more to the community and participate in local politics and affairs, which I am grateful for. I hope to gain work experience over the summer with my local MP, as I believe this will grant me a great opportunity for experience at both regional and national level.

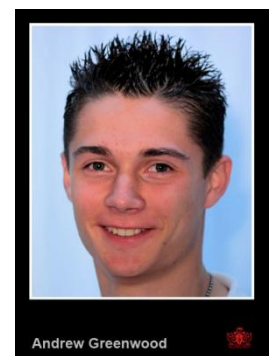
As Head Prefect this year, I hope to improve communication between prefects and students, as I have a strong belief in promoting transparency and consistency within the prefect team. I also hope to promote the work of voluntary organisations, as well as being pragmatic in the way that we approach situations. My predecessor and his team did an awful lot to improve the system, and I hope to continue their past good work.

Andrew Greenwood – Senior Prefect

Hi, I'm Andy. At AS level I am studying Biology, Chemistry, Maths and PE. I hope to go to University to study Forensic or Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Outside school I have quite an active lifestyle. My main interests are martial arts; mainly Taekwondo, which I have studied since January 2000.

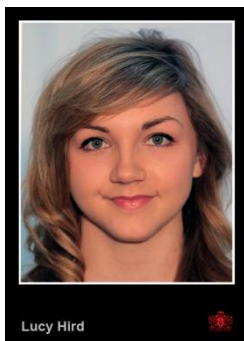
I am a very outgoing person who likes a challenge. Over the next year I aim to create a friendly relationship between students and Prefects so Prefects are seen to be more as role models and friendly faces.



Andrew Greenwood

Lucy Hird – Senior Prefect

My name is Lucy Hird and for my AS levels I am studying Biology, Chemistry, Maths and History; with these I would like to study medicine at university, and I'm particularly interested in haematology or surgery. I am new at North Halifax and easily settled in due to all the friendly faces, and I now feel like I've always been here!



Outside school my hobby is performing arts, which is dance, drama and singing. I have done many stage, TV and film work, and my most recent is the film Click, where I played 'Emily'.

I attend Scala Performing Arts School in Leeds and also attend an amateur group called the Bradford Catholic Players, which is also performing arts.

In and out of school, I do various clubs, such as; debate team, where I recently entered the Cambridge Union competition, eco-club, which I have recently started, and I also help run a chemistry club which helps students with AS-level chemistry. I am also working towards my V Impact Volunteering Award.

I hope to keep the high standard our former prefects have got and possibly even better it by bringing in new ideas!

Sarah Vine – Senior Prefect

My name is Sarah and I have been at the school since year 7 after deciding to stay on at the Sixth Form. For my AS Levels I am studying Biology, Chemistry, Maths and English Language. I hope to take these to A2. I would like to go to university and study either Biomedical Sciences or pharmaceutical science in the hope of having a career in Pharmacy or medical or veterinary pathology. I am part of a Young Enterprise company called Branded and I am currently doing my V50. I was able to do a week's work experience in a Vets and I try and get as much work experience in as I can. I am very interested in travelling and I have been fortunate to be able to visit various places such as Barbados, Cyprus and Egypt. I am a mentor for younger students in Maths. I am very pleased to have been selected as Senior Prefect and I am looking forward to helping the students and staff as much as I can in the next year.



Marcus Peel – Senior Prefect

My name is Marcus and I am currently studying Biology, Chemistry, Economics, Mathematics and Physics at AS level. After finishing my A levels, I hope to study Economics at university.

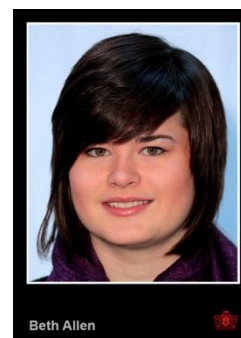


Currently, within school, I am doing my Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award and am the Sales Director of a Young Enterprise group. I was also in the directing team for the very successful First Bow production "Olivia Twist". My main sporting hobby is golf; I have a handicap of five, represent my club in matches and have recently captained the school's team to its victory in the Calderdale Schools' Championship. I also play basketball, squash and tennis. I play the Guitar and the Euphonium; on which I have passed my Grade 6 and play in the Calderdale Youth Wind Band.

I am very pleased to have been appointed the position of Senior Prefect: I look forward to the challenges of the coming year, and hope to have a positive impact on the school.

Beth Allen – Senior Prefect

Hi, I'm Beth and this my first year at NHGS. For my AS levels I'm studying Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Maths and would like to go to university to study medicine, to maybe later specialise in Forensic Pathology.



I love music and play several instruments, including the trumpet and trombone, and have played in a school brass section, competing in many competitions. I'm also very passionate about outdoor sports and activities; my favourites being abseiling, free climbing and camping. I go camping and climbing all around the country and have even spent time in the Alps, abseiling down some of its biggest cliff faces, which is really exciting and I plan to go back this summer to try some of the harder routes and maybe do some more travelling.

I'm quite an outgoing person and really enjoy a challenge, so being a senior prefect is the perfect challenge I need and I hope that I can be a role model and a friendly face around the school.

Green Action Project: North Halifax Events

FEBRUARY 2011

Monday 21st February Mixenden Woods Clean Up Day. 11am onwards. Come and help clean up the woodlands and get a cup of tea and hot food. Meet at the junction of Hays Lane and Seed Hill Tce.

Monday 21st February Bird Boxes in Beechwood Park. 2-4pm. Come and make a bird box for the nature reserve and learn about birds in the reserve. Meet at Illingworth Sports & Social Club, Keighley Rd. HX2 8HA. Free.

Tuesday 22nd February Beechwood Park Green Gym. 10am on. For children too. Burn off some energy getting muddy. See above for details.

Wednesday 23rd February Beechwood Park Clean Up Day. 11am onwards. Come and help give Beechwood Park a Spring Clean with stream clearance and general tidying up. Meet at Beechwood Drive car park, HX2 9AS .

Weds 23rd February Mixenden Nature Group. 3.30-5pm. For kids 5-12. Learning about nature in the wild areas plus fun activities. Meet at the Adventure Playground on Mixenden Rd. HX2 8QF

MARCH 2011

Wednesday 2nd March Deanfield & St. Malachys. A Mile Walk to start your day. 8.45am. A guided walk to Beechwood Park and back for parents once the kids have gone to school. Approx 1 hour. Meet outside Deanfield or St. Malachys School.

Thursday 3rd March. Moorside Short Walk to start your day. 8.45am from Moorside School, Keighley Road. Approx. 1 hour.

Friday 4th March. Luddenden Valley Walk. 10am. From Mixenden Outdoor Centre, Clough Lane, HX2 8SN. A Walk from Mixenden over to Luddenden Valley and along down to Luddenden Foot. Transport back provided. One steep hill and some stiles. Approx 4 miles.

Wednesday 9th March Deanfield & St. Malachys. A Mile Walk to start your day. 8.45am. A guided walk. Approx 1 hour. Meet outside Deanfield or St. Malachys School.

Weds 9th March Shroggs Nature Group. Signs of Spring. 3.30-5pm. For kids 5-12. Learning about nature in the park plus fun activities. Meet at the Bowling Green Pavilion, HX3 5HL

Thursday 10th March. Moorside Short Walk to start your day. 8.45am from Moorside School, Keighley Road. Approx. 1 hour.

Sat 12th March Beechwood Park Practical work 9am-12. Activities in the park to keep warm and get a bit fitter - pruning trees, stream clearing etc. Meet at Illingworth Sports & Social Club, Keighley Rd. HX2 8HA

Sat 12th March Mixenden Woodland Work. 1-4pm. Help with the management of the woods in Mixenden—clearing some trees and bushes and tidying up the area. Work for all ages and abilities. Meet at the junction of Hays Lane and Seed Hill Tce.

Weds. 16th March Beechwood Park Nature Group. 3.30-5pm. For kids 5-12. Learning about nature in the park plus fun activities. Meet at the Bowling Green Pavilion, by Beechwood Ave. entrance HX2 9BE

Sunday 20th March. Shroggs Park. Spring Equinox and Storytelling. 11am onwards. Come and celebrate Spring in Shroggs , with stories and fun activities. For kids aged 5-12. Meet at the Bowling Green Pavilion, HX3 5HL. Free

Friday 25th March. Halifax to Brighouse Canal walk. 10am start. Halifax train station. Look out for birds along the canal and at Cromwell Bottom Nature Reserve on this springtime walk. Approx 4 miles. All flat. Train or bus back to Halifax

Weds 30th March Mixenden Nature Group. 3.30-5pm. Signs of Spring. For kids 5-12. Wildlife detectives looking for nature's clues about Spring plus other fun activities. Meet at the Adventure Playground on Mixenden Rd. HX2 8QF

The North Halifax Grammar School

Parents' Association Events & News

Parents' Association Meeting Dates

1st Wednesday of each month:
2nd March
6th April
4th May

Your support of the PA is imperative for us to continue so please attend if possible.

Contact Sue Kneller for more information at sue@theknellers.net

Note to Parents from the Parents' Association

Tickets for all future PA events will be available to purchase from the School Shop.

The Shop is open 8.00am to 8.20am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Parents should complete tear off slips at the end of newsletters and students should present this together with either cash, cheque or a ParentPay Authorisation Code in order to obtain tickets.

North Halifax Grammar School
Parents' Association invite you to

The Spring Ball

and Charity Auction
In Aid of the All Weather Pitch

Saturday 14th May 2011
in
The Crystal Ballroom
at Berties Function Rooms, Elland

Three course dinner, entertainment, dancing and complimentary Bucks Fizz reception in the Renee MacIntosh Suite on arrival

Tickets £30

For more information see website
www.nhgs.co.uk/pa
or contact Angie Cowton NHGS PA on
07811 169396
Or angela.cowton@virgin.net

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW - Pay By
Parent Pay or at the School Shop**

This is a Parents Association fund-raising event for the All Weather Pitch. Registered charity no. 1097637

PRIZE DRAW

January 2011

1 st Prize	7	James Grieve	Halifax
2 nd Prize	228	Simon Walker	Northowram
3 rd Prize	127	J C Atkinson	Brighouse

The Big Curry Night



Back by popular demand!

Saturday 12th March
in
The Drama Room
7.30pm

A fun packed Indian themed evening with dancing, quiz, food and more!

Tickets are available from the School Shop
Adults £10
Children under 16 £7.50
Price includes food and first drink

Complete the tear off slip at the end of the newsletter.

For any further details please contact Sue Kneller at sue@theknellers.net

The PA Auction & Raffle

Can you donate a prize or pledge for this year's PA Auction or raffle?

The Auction will be held during the Spring Ball in May. It has been very successful in raising school funds in previous years, thanks to the generosity of the NHGS parents. We hope to continue the success this year.

We will also be running a raffle (again in aid of the All Weather Pitch) so any raffle prizes will also be gratefully received.

If you have any ideas for pledges we would love to hear from you.

Please contact either Angie Cowton angela.cowton@virgin.net or myself, Cathy Harper cathyharper@blueyonder.co.uk.

NHGS Fashion Show Monday 11th April, 7.00pm

Look out for further details in the next newsletter!

Notice from Calderdale Council in conjunction with Metro:

Temporary alteration to bus services in Illingworth and some permanent changes to bus stop locations.

Calderdale Council has been working with its partners for many months to develop a pedestrian safety scheme along the length of School Lane, Illingworth. To put these improvements in place we are unfortunately going to have to close parts of School Lane over a four week period beginning on the 19 February 2011. This means that we have had to ask your local bus service providers to temporarily re-route some services. The final result of the changes will see improved footpaths, new bus stops and standing areas for passengers, slower vehicle speeds and, as a result, we aim to have fewer child casualties in your community. Once the work is completed all bus routes will return to normal, but importantly, there will be a permanent change to the positioning of some bus stops on Occupation Lane and School Lane (see details inside).

Change 1

The bus stop presently at the junction of School Lane and Occupation Lane will be moved and replaced by a new bus stop on Occupation Lane (at its junction with Tewit Hall Gardens). There

will be a passenger waiting area back from the footpath so passengers waiting for buses will no longer have to block the footpath while waiting for a bus. The bus stop presently higher up on Occupation Lane (outside no's 18/20) will be removed and combined with the new stop.

Change 2

The bus stop presently at the School Lane/Tewit Lane junction will be removed and a new bus stop and passenger waiting area will be created outside the bungalows. This means that all buses will pick up passengers from the same stop. The hail and ride stop at the School Lane/Tewit Lane junction will also be moved to the new bus stop.

Change 3

Outside the shops on School Lane a deeper parking bay will be created. The aim is to discourage vehicles from driving up onto the footpath and creating a hazard for people using or walking past the shops. The area will be resurfaced to improve the walking route.

Change 4

Footpath improvements, where necessary, will take place across School Lane and traffic calming measures will be put in place. The traffic calming is predominately at the junctions and aims to slow vehicles speeds at these key locations.

Change 5

A new pedestrian refuge will be created at the end of School Lane at its junction with Riley Lane. This and other smaller works at this junction should make it much safer for pedestrians and wheelchair users wishing to cross the road at this point or to access bus stops. I appreciate that this will initially cause some disruption, but I hope you can appreciate that this will mean the creation of a much safer area for children and pedestrians, especially the more vulnerable pedestrians in your community. Please remember obstructing the footpath creates a real hazard for all pedestrians, parents/carers with pushchairs and the disabled. Please make sure that garden hedges are cut back and that wheelie bins and other re-cycling items are kept off the footpath and just inside your own gardens/ drives (making sure they are still visible to the collection teams). Parked vehicles should also be off the footpath and should not cause an obstruction to pedestrians, pushchairs or wheelchair users. Working together we can all Share our Space Safely.

For further information on the School Lane Pedestrian Improvement Scheme please contact the Road Safety Office on 01422 392803 or email road.safety@calderdale.gov.uk

Alterations to bus services

Sat 19 February until Sunday 27 February 2011

Road closure - School Lane from Moor Bottom Road to Tewit Lane including the junction with Occupation Lane.

First Bus Service 521

Diversion Route: The 521 from Halifax will operate as normal to Illingworth Road; it will continue along Illingworth Road to Green Lane and turn left into Green Lane. It will drive to the top of Green Lane and turn right onto Pavement Lane, then right at Bradshaw Church into Riley Lane and then right again back into Illingworth Road and on to its normal route.

TJ Walsh Buses - Service 700

From Halifax will operate normally until it reaches Occupation Lane. It will enter Occupation Lane - take a left turn onto Illingworth Gardens - proceed along Illingworth Gardens until it reaches Tewit Lane - then take a left up Tewit Lane and then left again back on to Illingworth Road and onto its normal route.

First Bus 526 - Sunday 20 February UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

A temporary stop will be available at the Junction of Riley Lane/School Lane. From Halifax - as normal to Beechwood Road then left into Shay Lane then right into Riley Lane (beside the Junction Inn), up Riley Lane to Bradshaw Church, then as normal route. To Halifax - will operate the reverse of the above route. For further information regarding bus changes please contact: Metroline 0113 2457676 or visit the website at www.wymetro.com/travelnews/disruptions and click on the Calderdale link.

Sunday 27 February until Sunday 20 March 2011 (May be subject to change)

Road closure of School Lane from Occupation Lane to Tewit Lane including the Junction with Tewit Lane.

First Bus Service 521

Diversion Route: The 521 from Halifax will operate as normal to Illingworth Road, it will continue down Occupation Lane, turn left onto Moor Bottom Road, proceed along Moor Bottom Road, then left into Riley Lane – continue up Riley Lane to Illingworth Road, turn left onto Illingworth Road and then back onto its normal route. The new bus stop will be in use on Occupation Lane at the junction with Tewit Hall Gardens.

TJ Walsh Buses - Service 700

From Halifax will operate normally until they reach Occupation Lane. They will enter Occupation Lane - take a right Turn into Mozeley Drive, travel along Mozeley Drive until they reach Moor Bottom Road, turn left onto Moor Bottom Road and then left again onto School Lane and back up Occupation Lane. The bus will then turn right into Illingworth Gardens, proceed until the end and then turn left into Tewit Lane and finally left again onto Illingworth Road and continue on their normal route. The new bus stop will be in use on Occupation Lane at the junction with Tewit Hall Gardens.

First Bus 526 - Sunday 20 February UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

A temporary stop will be available at the Junction of Riley Lane/School Lane. From Halifax - as normal to Beechwood Road then left into Shay Lane then right into Riley Lane (beside the Junction Inn), up Riley Lane to Bradshaw Church, then as normal route. To Halifax - will operate the reverse of the above route.

Sunday 20 March until Friday 1 April 2011 (May be subject to change)

Road closure of School Lane from Tewit Lane to Wentworth Drive, including the junction with Fairway.

First Bus Service 521

Diversion Route: The 521 from Halifax will operate as normal to Illingworth Road, it will continue down Occupation Lane, turn left onto Moor Bottom Road, proceed along Moor Bottom

Road, then left into Riley Lane - continue up Riley Lane to Illingworth Road, turn left onto Illingworth Road and then back onto its normal route. The new bus stop will be in use on Occupation Lane at the junction with Tewit Hall Gardens.

TJ Walsh Buses - Service 700

From Halifax will operate on their normal route - The new bus stops will be in use on Occupation Lane at the junction with Tewit Hall Gardens and outside the bungalows on School Lane. For further information regarding bus changes please contact: Metroline 0113 2457676 or visit the website: www.wymetro.com/travelnews/disruptions and click on the Calderdale link.

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For further information regarding bus changes please contact: Metroline 0113 2457676 or visit the website at www.wymetro.com/travelnews/disruptions and click on the Calderdale link.

The Big Curry Night



**Saturday 12th March 2011
in the Drama Room, 7.30pm**

**£10.00 adults, £7.50 students (under 16)
Price includes food and first drink**

Student's name: _____ Form: _____

I would like to purchase _____ Adult ticket(s) _____ Child ticket(s)

I enclose cash/cheque (made payable to NHGS) to the value of £ _____

I confirm that I would like to order _____ Adult ticket(s) and _____ Child ticket(s) and have paid for these on ParentPay

Signed: _____ parent or guardian

Please return to the Parents' Association via the School Shop