



School News

Focused on the Future

Year 11 Work Experience 14-18 November 2011

The school's approach, which encourages students to organise their own work experience, has paid off once again. It is wonderful to see the range of exciting opportunities students' have organised to enrich their vocational knowledge. These experiences will prove to be even more important in the future as university availability diminishes and youth unemployment rises. Students are going to have to compete that much harder for jobs. It is a recognised fact that employers want applicants with a range of work experiences. It is hoped that by students going through the process of organising work experience, that they now have the confidence to embark on organising further placements for themselves in the coming years. This demonstrates that they are committed to their own career development and should make them more employable in the future. Here are a range of the many praiseworthy comments given by a selection of providers below.

Eiblin Kissack – 11.5 – Leeds Grand Theatre

Very impressed with her – she's adapted well to every task...found her invaluable, particularly during tours, that extra pair of hands made a big difference.

Jacob Simpson - 11.2 – Sue Ryder, Manorlands Hospice

Jacob has been a model Work Experience student; we have really enjoyed having him with us. Jacob has saved the Hospice £500 with the work he has done and has volunteered to help out at weekends.

Joselene Katayama – 11.6 - Shape Magazine

During her time here she has been nothing short of surprising. For her age - or any age really – she is a phenomenally gifted writer....she was polite, on time, prepared to work and confident. On more than one occasion she was put in situations where she was in the company of rather high ranking military members from multiple countries. On every occasion she was charming, confident and capable of maintaining appropriate conversations...She is talented, requires little direction and has a genuine passion for writing.

Eve Collett – 11.3 – NHS

Eve couldn't have been more helpful. A pleasure to have at the Hospital.... She engaged with staff, was mature, willing and caring. It was a pleasure to have her at the infirmary. She was a credit to the school; please keep sending students to the CRH.

Richard Butterworth – 11.2 – Singletrack magazine

He's brilliant! He conducted our celebrity interview and contributed some excellent articles to the website. We would be happy to have another student as good as Richard.

Shannon Coombs – 11.2 – 3 Tier Cakes

Shannon is brilliant.... Enthusiastic, focused, works well under her own steam and in a team.... she would be offered a job if we had a vacancy.

The North Halifax
Grammar School



NHGS News

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DECEMBER 2011

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**Phoebe Hendy – 11.1 - Calderdale College,
Language & Support Dept**

Phoebe has proved a credit to the school and thrown herself into everything she has been asked to do... this experience has made her consider job routes that she had previously dismissed.... If she continues her studies locally then I will happily find her some hours to help support her financially to continue her education.

I would like to extend my congratulations to all of the year 11 students for representing the school in such an exemplary fashion with their behaviour and attitude. Thank you to Mrs Manley and Mrs Garnett who personally arranged all of the placements for the students. I would also like to extend my thanks to all of the staff at the school for helping to visit and contact the student placements. The students and the employers really value a chance to pass on their comments to school. Finally I would like to thank all of the organisations that offered placements to our students this year; a list of those companies is attached. If your organisation would like to be involved in the future, please don't hesitate to contact me at school.

Students don't forget that work experience is something you need to continue to add to your C.V. until you land that fantastic job you have always desired.

Thanks to:

1st Floor Music
3 Tier Cakes
A & G Motor Engineers
A D Hewett & Associates
A T Graphics
Abi Hogg Hoofcare
Airedale Physio & Sports Injury Clinic, Keighley
All Saints CE J&I Primary School
All Saints Primary School - Bradford
Auker Rhodes Accounting LTD
Baxendale Solicitors
Bibby Distribution Ltd
Bingley Arts Centre
BISC Laboratories Ltd
Black Marble
Blanc Dental Care
Bradford Bulls
Bradford Museums & Galleries
Bradford University School of Engineering
British Transport Police
Brooksbank School lab
BSWM Products LTD
Building Management Services
Calderdale College - Language Dept

Calderdale Credit Union
Calderdale Library Service
Calderdale MBC Environment and Economy (Planning)
Calderdale MBC Legal Services
Chadwick Lawrence
Chambers St John's Buildings
Clarks Shoes
Clarkson Solicitors
Community Foundation for Calderdale
Cowcliffe Pre-School
Creative International Adventures
Deli on The Green
Donaldson & Partners
EDF Energy
Electric Bowl & Snooker Club
Eureka
Fab Spider Limited
Fairfax Solicitors
Firth Cycles
Forbo Flooring UK
Foxhill Primary School
Gatehouse Veterinary Hospital
Gomersal First School
Goodwin Stevens Solicitors
Grey London - WPP
Guitar Zone
Halifax Central Library
Halifax Construction & Architectural Services
Halifax Courier Ltd
Halifax PLC - Marketing
Halifax RLFC
Harden Primary School
Haworth Primary School
HBOS
Henry Hyams
Hird & Partners
Holmbridge Engineering Company Ltd
Hoyles Denholme
HRFL
HSBC
Huddersfield Golf Club
Huddersfield Town Football Club
Hutton & Cawood
KS Hunjan & Associates Dentists
Lee Mount Primary School
Leeds Grand Theatre
Lester Morrill
Little Horton Road Medical Centre
Living Care Pharmacy – Horne Street Medical Centre
Makin Metal Powders UK Ltd
Manchester Central school of English
Manor Heath Nurseries



Manorlands Care Home
Marshalls - Architect Office
Medichem Pharmacy
Melodic / In House Press Ltd
Ministry of Justice
Mixenden Outdoor Centre
NHS – Calderdale Royal Hospital
NHS Dean Clough
Norland J & I School
One 17 Design
Pace Engineering
Peel Walker
Phoenix Radio
Physio & Therapies Ltd
Pro Porsche
Prodoto Photographic Studios
Prospect Vets
Ramsdens Solicitors
Ravenscliffe High School
Sacred Heart Primary School
Salterhebble J&I School
Savile Park Primary School
SHAPE Magazine - Belgium
Shelf J & I School
Shelf Pharmacy
Shibden Head Primary School
Sidhil Ltd
Singletrack Magazine
South West Yorkshire Partnership - NHS
Foundation Trust
Sowerby Bridge Pool & Fitness Centre
Square Chapel
St Malachy's Primary School
Studio Baad
Suma Wholefoods
Syngenta Ltd
TGAC Ltd
The Friendly Animal Clinic
The Gleddings
The Old Treehouse
The Sunday Times
The University of Huddersfield
Thornton & Wright Opticians
Tim Pollard Motors
Todmorden Branch Library
Tom Wood - Artist
Topbrief Ltd
Torrington Orthopaedics
True North Productions
Tunstall Healthcare UK Ltd
Wainstalls J and I School
Warley Road Primary School
West Mount Vets
West Yorkshire Police

West Yorkshire Police Training School
Whitehill Community Academy
Wood Bank School
Workout Warehouse
York University, Dept. Of Chemistry
Yorkshire Water

Mr N Howarth
NHGS Work Experience Co-ordinator

‘Sociologist of the Week’

Since joining NHGS in September 2011 as the Head of Sociology, I have been extremely impressed that numerous students have ‘risen to the demands’ of AS/A2 Sociology. Indeed, those who have ‘stood out’ in lessons for making that extra effort, have been rewarded with the title ‘Sociologist of the Week!’ This award involves three elements. Firstly: a surprise phone-call home (Friday p.m.) to parents/guardians of the lucky winner (who then inform the student)! Secondly: the student’s name is added to the ‘Sociologist of the Week’ display and he/she receives a well deserved adaptation from a jingle in ‘Harry Hill’s TV Burp’! Finally: an announcement to all Sociology groups as to who has won and why, takes place. As there’s been much competition, I have found it increasingly difficult to select one student per week. Indeed, in some weeks there has had to be joint winners. Notwithstanding, whether it’s been for independent learning, participation in lessons, or exemplary work, the following students have been awarded ‘Sociologist of the Week’:-

Ben Anderson 12(1)
Lorna Terry 13(3)
Mason Mott-Roberts 12(1)
Georgina Oddy 12(3)
Lucy Tolley 12(2)
Nina Clayton 12(2)
Danica Thoseby 13(3)
Joshua Smithies 13(9)
Chloe Needler 12(6)
Joseph Carter 13(3)
Chloe Anderson 13(4)
Natalie Greenwood-Sole 12(5)

‘Sociologist of the Half-Term!’

Continuing with the theme of rewarding students that have exemplified an incredible work ethic, I decided a few weeks ago to reward a student who has ‘stood out’ since October half- term 2011. Actually, the student I have chosen was the first ‘Sociologist of the Week’ back in September 2011. Since then, he has continued to make consistent effort, steered his own learning, been instrumental in discussions and asked key questions to aid his progress. He’s taking exam



preparation very seriously and clearly wants to succeed in Sociology. So, the '**Sociologist of the Half-Term**' goes to (drum roll please!)

Ben Anderson 12 (1)

Congratulations Ben – you deserve it.

Sociology Skills Seminar

Continuing with the theme of preparing for the exam, 27 NHGS students (who are sitting the 'Families and Households' paper in January 2012) had the fantastic opportunity to attend a skills seminar with Mr Keith Trobe (a Principal Examiner with a leading examination board and author of numerous resources). The seminar took place at Mitchell Hall, Bradford College, on Tuesday 6th December 2011. Although some students felt the seminar seemed somewhat long, the consensus was that it reinforced what they'd learnt in lessons. Furthermore, the emphasis on grade boundaries and the news that students can 'jump up' two grades by gaining just six marks, was received very positively! Indeed, more positive feedback came from Mr Trobe himself - he commented that NHGS students were "very attentive". Consequently, I would like to thank students for representing the school in an exemplary manner. Thanks also to Mr Wilson who accompanied students on the trip.

Good luck to all students (studying Sociology or not) for the January 2012 exams!

CMY

Politics Trip to Parliament, 29th November 2011

We arranged to meet in Halifax train station at 6:45am, which was a challenge in itself, but we still all managed to arrive in London by ten o'clock. We then got the tube to Westminster where there were lots of queues. As well as an airport style security check, we were each issued an ID badge, before finally arriving at arguably the most impressive part of Parliament - Westminster Hall. There we met Halifax MP Linda Riordan's parliamentary assistant, who took us to the Central Lobby. This gave us a chance to witness the Speaker's ceremonial procession, whilst being bossed about by many over concerned police officers.



We were then given a tour of Parliament, including a chance to enter the House of Lords chamber. Unfortunately, the Commons was closed to tourists, as we happened to be visiting Parliament on the day of the Autumn Statement. However, there were many unanticipated perks because it was an important parliamentary day: the Palace was bustling with people, journalists and politicians. We finished the tour at Portcullis House, where we met Linda Riordan MP in one of the Committee rooms. Linda was kind enough to give up time for us to ask her some questions. I asked about her opinion on foreign aid and immigration, and others asked her about her all-women shortlist selection. I mentioned to Linda that I'd love to meet Diane Abbott MP, and then fortunately we walked past her later in the day. I managed to speak to Diane and get a photo with her.





After lunch in the Parliament Cafeteria we headed back over to the House of Lords to watch Foreign Office Questions from the peeresses' gallery. I couldn't resist speaking to Nigel Farage MEP (Leader of UKIP) whilst waiting to enter the gallery; he was surprisingly pleasant. In the Chamber, it was difficult to overlook trying to spot the 'sleeping peer', believe me; there were many. We left the gallery and met Lord Shutt of Greetland, (Government Chief Whip in the House of Lords) who took us to a meeting room in the former Lord Chancellor's suite in the Palace of Westminster. Lord Shutt helped explain the role of the Lords and how it is just as relevant to today's society as it has been in its history. Little did we know that Lord Shutt had arranged for Baroness Shirley Williams of Crosby and Lord William Wallace of Saltaire (Foreign Office Minister) to pop in speak to us personally. We had the chance to question Baroness Williams about the current House of Lords reform proposals, and Lord Wallace about student tuition fees and the prospects for the UK economy. Baroness Williams was the Secretary of State for Education in James Callaghan's Labour Cabinet from 1976-79 before leaving the party as one of the "Gang of Four" that founded the SDP. Now in her 80s Baroness Williams was as sharp minded as she was when the scourge of grammar schools and champion of comprehensive education in the 1970s!



I think I can say on behalf of the whole Government & Politics group that we are extremely grateful for Mr Saul arranging the trip

and organising the day. The highlight of the day was most definitely the photo with Diane!

Luke Rigg U6(10)

PA Prize Draw Results

OCTOBER

1 st Prize	£250	9	Marie Grant	Illingworth
2 nd Prize	£100	258	Lorna Frost	Halifax
3 rd Prize	£50	185	Alison Walker	Queensbury

NOVEMBER

1 st Prize	£250	191	Belinda Roberts	Halifax
2 nd Prize	£100	228	Simon Walker	Northowram
3 rd Prize	£50	124	Abigail Gregory	Cragg Vale

*The North Halifax Grammar School
Parents' Association
invite you to the
5th Annual
Midsummer Ball and
Charity Auction*

Saturday 14th July 2012

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 £35

www.nhgs.co.uk

or contact

Angie Cowton NHGS PA CHAIR on
07811 169396

Or angela.cowton@virgin.net

TICKETS ON SALE IN JANUARY

Pay By Parent Pay or at the School Shop

Look on the website for details

This is a Parents Association fund-raising event for the North
Halifax Grammar School. Registered charity no. 1097637



Boys' Sports Results since September 2011

Football

With 6 teams running and Year 8, 11 and 1st XI involved in the West Yorkshire Schools Cup and English Schools Cup we have had a very busy and exciting time to the start of the new academic year. The Calderdale Schools Football League has been a great success and only Rastrick to play. The pick of the Year groups is Year 8 who are unbeaten in this league.

Month	School	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	1 st XI
September	Trinity Academy	L 4-1	W 4-1	L 5-4	L 4-0	L 4-1	W 8-1
	Halifax High	W 12-0	W 5-2	W 3-2	W 3-1		
	St Catherine's					W 4-3	
October	Ossett Academy		L 8-7				W 4-3
	Mirfield Free GS				L 6-1		
	Todmorden	W 8-1	W 9-1	W 3-1	W 4-1		
	Brighouse						W 9-1
November	Sowerby Bridge	W 7-1	W 12-0	W 2-0	W 4-1		
	Roundhay						W 1-0
	Freeston (Castleford)					L 7-2	
	Park Lane		W 8-1		W 5-2		
	Ashton on Mersey (Sale)						L 5-0

Rugby League

With over 130 boys training in preparation for the Carnegie Schools National Cup and the rugby festivals at Old Rishworthian RUFC all teams have performed well despite results not going in our favour. The standout result is the Year 10 performance against last year's runners up in the National final Priesthorpe. The Calderdale schools rugby league season kicks off in February.

Champion Schools Cup – November

Year 7	York High School L 24-10
Year 8	Andrew Marvell (Hull) L 48-28
Year 9	Burnholme College (York) L 52-16
Year 10	Priesthorpe (Leeds) W 14-12
Year 11	York High School L 76-6

Calderdale Schools RL Festivals at Old Rishworthian RUFC

School	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Brooksbank		L 12-0	L 12-0
Trinity Academy	D 0-0	W 8-0	L 12-4
Ryburn	L 12-4	W 8-0	L 8-4
St Catherine's	W 16-8		

Basketball

U14's have played in 2 competitions involving Rastrick, Brooksbank, Crossley Heath, Rishworth and Sowerby Bridge. Competed well and development in progress.

For further details on practices and match reports check out the PE notice boards along the PE corridor.



Huddersfield University Writing Competition

Success for Lucy Spink (Y11) and Harriet Rowley (Y10) in the Huddersfield University Writing Competition!

At the end of the last academic year, students in Years 9 and 10 were given the opportunity to enter a piece of German on the subject of holidays into a writing competition organised by The University of Huddersfield. Over the summer, all the entries from across the region were judged by a team of lecturers working in the Languages Department. Imagine how pleased we were to find out that we had 2 winners here at NHGS! Harriet's essay on her top 10 benefits of a holiday won the Key Stage 3 prize and Lucy's essay on her time in Aachen with her penfriend won the Key Stage 4 category. We were very pleased to welcome Dr Malcolm Pollard to NHGS on Thursday 8 December to present the girls with their prizes. Dr Pollard talked about his own love of languages and how impressed he had been with the quality of both girls' work. A big well done to both Harriet and Lucy for a remarkable achievement!



KDH

North East Counties Bagcats Competition

The North East Counties Bagcats competition is hard to qualify for, so I felt very proud to get in. This year they were held in Sunderland. Myself and my sister, Isobel Martin in 7(4), both qualified. We travelled down on the Friday night and stayed in a hotel 20 minutes away from the swimming pool. Me and my sister both achieved personal bests and I came 5th and 9th in the Girls'

13 Years 100m and 200 metre Butterfly. The whole competition was very exciting and fun and it was great to be with friends. When you do well, it feels really good too.

The next level we are aiming for, and we are quite close to now, is the National Level.

Well done to everyone who swam who also go to NHGS; Eva Chapman, Isobel Martin and Ethan-Somerville Jones.

Eleanor Martin 9(3)

Parents' Association Quiz Night

Thursday 19th January 2012
In the School Diner

A fun family night out, whilst being a great way to raise funds for the school!

Teams of 8 to include no more than 4 adults.

Adults £5.00
Children £3.50 (under 16)

Ticket price includes a light supper of jacket potatoes with a choice of fillings

Dates to remember:

Date	Event
16 th December	School Concerts during last day of term
19 th December	Christmas Holiday.
2011 – 2 nd January	School recommences on Tuesday 3rd January 2012
2012 4 th January	Parents' Association Meeting
2012 18 th January	Year 13 Monitoring sent to parents
19 th January	PA Quiz Night
25 th January	Year 12 Monitoring sent to parents
26 th January	Year 7 Parents' Consultation Evening
1 st February	Parents' Association Meeting
2 nd February	Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening
3 rd February	Year 11 Monitoring sent to parents
13 th – 17 th February	Half Term Break



Results from the Senior UKMT Mathematical Challenge November 2011

Year 12 and 13 Further Mathematicians took part in the annual individual competition tackling some very demanding problems.

Congratulations to Emily Whettlock from year 13 who was the best in school and achieved a gold certificate.

Emily along with Beth Smith from year 13 and Daniel Lever and Jayraj Patel from year 12 also represented the school at the Senior team competition held in the Great Hall at Leeds University.

Other individual certificates awarded this year were as follows:

Silver Certificates

Sohail Shabir
Robyn Cowling
Stuart Macgregor
Oliver Binns

Bronze certificates

Beth Smith
Angharad Stell
Duncan Lomax
Oliver Metcalfe
Daniel Lever
Matthew Stephens
Sana Ilyas
Well done to all these students.

HJA

NHGS U12 Football Tournament Report - Thursday 8th December 2011 - Park Lane Learning Trust

1st Match

Vs. St Catherine's Catholic High School.
Score: 1-1

Early on in the match Tia Clifford scored from a penalty given away when the goal keeper from St. Catherine's threw the ball out over-arm. The NHGS team defended well and tried to score again but St. Catherine's managed to get a sneaky goal in the last minute securing the draw and one point per team.

2nd Match

Vs. Park Lane Learning Trust. Score: 3-0

After Park Lane kicked off they passed straight to the keeper, fortunately for us the keeper wasn't ready and the ball went straight into the

net and they scored an own goal!! Tia Clifford got a shot in the net soon after and scored. Then after 5 minutes of the 7 minute match Casey Hill drove up the pitch and scored another goal to make the final score 3-0!

3rd Match

Vs. Trinity Academy. Score 1-0

The team tried their hardest and as the last minute was approaching one of the Trinity Academy students stepped in the goal keeper's area - an automatic penalty was awarded. Lauryn Smith stepped up and took the penalty and scored a goal!

So the team won two games and drew a game and came top of the table and have made it through to the finals! Well Done to the whole squad:

Players

Casey Hill
Tegan Clay
Charlotte Helliwell
Maria Jomi
Lauryn Smith
Izabelle Northrop
Tia Clifford

Tia Clifford 7(5)

The Liquid Experience

The Behaviour for Learning system that is now very well embedded in the school is predicated on students making sensible and informed choices about their behaviour and that positive and constructive behaviour is acknowledged and rewarded. The first big threshold for students in Years 7 to 10 is reaching Bronze Certificate level. By Monday December 12th 99% of students in the Lower School (Years 7 & 8) had achieved Bronze Certificate. Of those nearly 300 attended the Disco organised by school at Liquid in Halifax as a reward for achieving that level. We think it is a much better experience for the students to have the opportunity of going to a proper disco than holding one in the school hall. This is because the school hires Liquid for the evening, NHGS students are the only people who can attend and school staff are in attendance throughout the evening. At the same date some 91% of students in Years 9 and 10 had achieved their Bronze Certificate and of them over 250 attended their disco at Liquid on Monday night. The Lower School disco runs from 6.00 to 8.00 and the Upper School from 8.30 to 10.30.



All the students had a good time and their behaviour was exemplary. I would like to thank Mr Wood for organising the discos and the 20 staff who voluntarily supported the evening which was a great success.

The Carol Service

The annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols held at the Halifax Minster has become a school institution. A service has been held every year since the current school was established on its present site in 1985 and was preceded by services at the Highlands and Princess Mary Schools going back to the 1960s. The quality of the musicianship from the students and staff in the school and public speaking from all members of the school community is expected to be very high. This year did not disappoint. Mrs Pegg, for very sad reasons, was unexpectedly made acting Director of Music in the school in October and she was responsible for this year's two services on Tuesday December 13th. Both were excellent. The communal singing of favourite carols such as Silent Night and O Little Town of Bethlehem was mixed with some outstanding pieces by the choirs. Particularly impressive were the Junior Choir's rendition of 'Beneath the Paper Wrappings', The Mixed Voice Choir singing the 'Sussex Carol', the Joint Choir's 'Carol of the Bells' and the Senior Choir's 'Bethlehem'. I not only enjoyed these pieces but also the Flute Group's entertaining version of 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer'. The Minster was full to bursting in the afternoon with students and staff and almost full in the evening. We were very pleased that Mr Marsh was able to help with rehearsals and conducting duties on the day. I attended his wife's funeral on Friday which was a very personal and moving service at which former NHGS students provided some of the music and sang beautifully. We are also very grateful to Mrs Anderson and Catherine Benson for their contributions and to Mr Lynch for his help not only with the Carol Service but with his unwavering support for and work in the Music department and the school over the last few months.

The evening service will be broadcast on Phoenix Radio on Boxing Day between 2pm and 4pm

GPM

Words Hurt

The power of words to change our perceptions of the way we think about things is movingly realised in this short promotional video produced by Purple Feather, an Online Content specialist (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hzgzim5m7oU>). Meaning can be conveyed in different ways and the words we choose to use can have significant impact. This understanding underpins most advertising and

promotion. This power which well-chosen words can have is something that Amnesty International has tapped into in order to bring the world's attention to the plight of 'political prisoners' around the world who have been tortured and incarcerated without trial for merely trying to assert their human rights (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_tCtvmAm4M&feature=related). I have also witnessed the power of words to bring comfort to those that are grieving as evidenced by the scores of comments posted on the Book of Condolence that we set up on the school's website for Richard Greenwood, a Year 9 student at NHGS who died in November. Indeed one contribution was as follows;

'At times like these there aren't words in our vocabulary that can lessen the pain or explain the situation. The only thing we can offer is the warmth of a hug, a touch of the arm, a look in the eye that is held longer than usual'.

In a moving and sincere comment this contributor paradoxically did find the words to express their feelings and whilst the words in themselves cannot change what has happened or ease the suffering they do help and can act metaphorically as a hug, a touch and a glance; all the non-verbal ways that we humans communicate with each other. Our uniquely human form of communication using words and language does have the power to empathise, comfort and assuage. As teachers we employ the power of words to challenge, motivate, enthuse and stimulate students in our lessons. As well as these constructive and positive use of words they can also be used inappropriately and with significantly damaging impact. The Anti-Bullying Alliance is a grouping of over 130 organisations who are working together to stop bullying and create safer environments in which children and young people can live, grow, play and learn. They promote an anti-bullying week each year and identify a particular type of bullying to highlight and this year's campaign was focused on verbal bullying.

In the most recent advice issued by the Department for Education this month they defined bullying as, *Behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying can take many forms (for instance, cyber-bullying via text messages or the internet), and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups, for example on grounds of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or because a child is adopted or has caring responsibilities. It might be motivated by actual differences between children, or perceived difference'* The advice states that schools clearly have a responsibility to prevent actual violence but also to tackle emotional bullying which can for some individuals be more damaging. Verbal bullying is a form of emotional bullying and can have a



considerable impact on an individual's confidence and self esteem.

Students are asked about bullying in our biennial anonymous Kirkland Rowell surveys. In the most recent survey completed in March 2011 students ranked bullying as the fourth most important issue for them in school. Parents ranked it as the eighth most important issue. This was the same ranking as in similar schools nationally. The priority varies with different year groups; it was second highest for Year 7 and eleventh for Year 11 students. In terms of the students' experience of bullying at NHGS some 91% of students agreed with the statement that 'I have not been bullied recently' compared to 87.9% in similar schools (88% at NHGS in 2007). The students rating of how the school deals with bullying has improved. In 2007 61.5% of students agreed, 'If I reported bullying to a teacher it would be stopped.' In 2011 this had increased to 77% compared to 68.2% in similar schools. In the same survey 80.2% of students agreed that 'Pupils care about one another' (76% in similar schools) and 94% agreed that, 'I usually feel safe when I am at school' compared to 93.2% in similar schools. The findings of this survey that students generally do not experience bullying at NHGS and when it does happen they are confident that it will be dealt with were supported by the OFSTED inspectors in January 2011 who also surveyed students confidentially and concluded;

'Most students feel safe in school and this view is supported by their parents and carers. They are confident that bullying is rare and that the school will deal appropriately with any concerns that they raise'.

However it would be naïve to assume that bullying never occurs at NHGS; it does and the most common form of bullying that we have had to deal with in the last couple of years is verbal bullying of one kind or another.



Research undertaken on behalf of the Anti-Bullying Alliance revealed that one in four children had been verbally bullied in the past year, that 81% of secondary school students think verbal bullying is a problem in their school and 66% say they have witnessed some form of verbal bullying in the past

year. The survey also showed that 54% of respondents would turn to a teacher for help and advice, highlighting the important role of teachers and schools in tackling bullying behaviour. The incidence of bullying at NHGS is much lower than revealed in this survey and we want to keep it that way and if possible eliminate it all together. The adage, 'Sticks and stones will break my bones, but names will never hurt me!' which is often recommended as a riposte to verbal abuse is an example of hope over experience. It is simply not true that words don't hurt. They may not physically hurt in the same way as violence but they can be very damaging emotionally and psychologically.



Ross Hendry, Chair of the Anti-Bullying Alliance, said:

"These figures highlight how much of a problem verbal bullying is. Sometimes there is a tendency to see verbal bullying as being less serious than physical bullying. But the emotional and psychological impact can be just as damaging and may affect young people's self-esteem and confidence to the point where they don't want to go to school. The figures also show that most verbal bullying takes place in schools. Casual name calling and the use derogatory language – so common in our schools and in society more generally - can lead to verbal bullying being seen as acceptable".

Another piece of research on bullying was published in November, 'The land in-between', is the first cross-European study examining the experiences and perceptions of crime, bullying and anti-social behaviour of young people during their journey between school and home. The 2-year study, which collected information from over 4,000 school pupils aged 12-16 in eight European countries, discovered that 31% of students in England were worried about being the victim of bullying or crime, compared to 19% across Europe as a whole. Stephen Moore, Reader in Social Policy at Anglia Ruskin University who undertook the research said:

"The primary threat to personal safety comes from other pupils generally from the same school, and whilst incidents may be regarded as 'low impact' in terms of objective levels of harm – name-calling was much more common than violence – these low



impact incidents can potentially have a significant effect on the emotional wellbeing of young people.

The issue of who to turn to when a problem occurs during the time before and after school was a dilemma for the young people, as it was recognised by the students that threats and violations to personal safety at these times were not necessarily a matter in which they wanted to turn to the school for support. It was most often other young people who provided the support and advice when young people were bullied. The research found that this level of support was not fully acknowledged in current bullying strategies, nor was the sophistication of young people in dealing with bullying incidents.

One important conclusion of the study is that the majority of young people want to feel responsible for the management of their own safety and their own lives. The mutual support that students give spontaneously to other young people needs to be harnessed by policy makers instead of focusing on adult-led, formal initiatives."

The journey to school is a significant element in the daily experience of most students at NHGS and given that over 60% of student who attend the school travel by Yellow or Private bus we are confident that the vast majority of students undertake their journeys safely and free from the spectre of bullying. It does happen occasionally and we would encourage students to talk to staff if they are the victim of bullying at school or on the journey to and from school or if they witness bullying by others. The potential harm from verbal bullying is brought home in this short but powerful American anti-bullying film which can be accessed at (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1j6YA03hm4k&feature=related>).

This article is based on a school assembly I held in November to mark Anti-Bullying Week but it also draws attention to a review of the school's Anti-bullying policy which is being undertaken by Mr Fisher. We have improved our safeguarding policies at school through staff training and the instigation of the **Report It** button on the school's website, VLE and school computers which is being used. We are keen to ensure that NHGS remains a bullying-free zone for all students and will involve students and parents in the review. We are particularly concerned about the development of cyber-bullying which takes place out of school. The few incidents that we have dealt with have shocked parents who were not aware that their sons and/or daughters were using the internet to communicate with other students using offensive, obscene and threatening language. Parents have an important role to play in talking to their children about behaving responsibly on-line and about the harm that can be caused by using

inappropriate and unacceptable language against other students. If parents would like to contribute to the review by sharing experiences or making suggestions then please contact Mr Fisher at the school.

GPM

New Addition to the Maslen's

Below are two new additions to the Maslen household. If you want to find out how we are coping read the Head's Blog at <http://www.nhgs.co.uk/blogs/headsblog/>



GPM

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

School is open again on Tuesday 3RD January 2012.

Graham Maslen
Headteacher

