

School News

WELCOME

We welcome all our new parents whose daughters and/or sons have joined NHGS this September. We also welcome back parents whose children have progressed up the school. The meeting for new parents of students joining the school in September, held jointly with the school's PA on Tuesday 20th September, was very well attended. The induction events for Year 7 at Haworth and Year 12 at school and at Ogden went well. I hope all our new students enjoy their time at NHGS; we are pleased you have chosen to continue your learning with us.

I hope everyone managed to have a break at some point from normal routines during the holiday. Rather than distracting 'holiday' stories the media have reported hard news stories throughout the summer. The continuing repercussions of the financial crisis and economic recession resulting in volatile markets and increased unemployment; the horrors of the mass killing in Norway and the riots in London, Birmingham and Manchester (interestingly there were only limited, local disturbances in Yorkshire cities) all saturated the news outlets. Now we are back to school, the weather we should have experienced in August has arrived. We should make the most of it!

As well as new students and parents we also welcome the following teaching staff that have joined the school this term:

Mr Croft – Head of Media Studies & Year 12 Tutor
Mr Doyle – Teacher of PE & Year 9 Tutor
Mr Malik – Teacher of Mathematics & Year 12 Tutor
Mrs Sweeney – Teacher of Physics/Science & Year 9 Tutor
Mrs Williamson – Head of Art & Year 12 Tutor.
Mrs Young – Head of Sociology & Year 12 Tutor.

The following staff are taking on new/changed responsibilities this term:

Miss Robson Year Group Leader – Year 8
Mrs Beresford Year Group Leader – Year 7
Mrs Pegg Year Group Leader – Year 9
Mr Bastow Year Group Leader – Year 10
Miss Kent Year Group Leader – Year 11
Mr Walker Year Group Leader – Year 13
Miss Morgan Year Group Leader – Year 12
Miss Adams - Sixth Form Enrichment Co-ordinator
Mr Crossland - Head of PSCHEE
Mrs Jones - Special Educational Needs Coordinator
Mr Crossland Head of PSCHEE

We wish all these staff well and hope that they find their new positions rewarding.

GPM

The North Halifax
Grammar School



NHGS News

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EXAMINATION RESULTS

Key Stage 4 (KS4)

In 2009-10 the Year 11 students produced some record-breaking results but the students in Year 11 in 2010-11 have achieved even higher standards. All the students, the vast majority of whom have transferred into Year 12, are to be congratulated on producing the best set of results recorded in the school's history at this level. All 158 students achieved the L2 threshold of 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C including English & Mathematics. It might be expected that all 164 selective grammar schools should achieve this benchmark but in 2010 less than a third achieved 100%. As a selective school we would be expected to achieve well in this indicator so we also measure the students' achievement in terms of those students who achieve 5+ A*-A grades. In 2011 74% of students achieve this benchmark. Five years ago when we started tracking this indicator only 48% of students in the year group achieved 5+A*-A grades. The students were entered for 1,874 exams (a record for the school) and 96.6% of these achieved grades A*-C. Some 60% of these entries were at the two highest grades of A*-A which equalled the performance in 2010 which was then the best ever achieved by the school. The average points per student (APS) at 639.7 was again the best ever recorded by the school. (At GCSE an A*=58; A=52; B=46; C=42) as was the capped score which is based on each student's best 8 GCSEs at 422. Some 43 students or 27.2% achieved an average points score of 52 (= A grade) points or more across 9, 10 or 11 GCSE subjects. There were some very strong individual performances with all the following students achieving ten or more A*/A grades including five at A*: *Bethany Allen, Megan Crowther, Chloe Davey, Bradley Davies, Ella Davies, Amy de Vlugt, Emily Ding, Abigail Elliot, Dorothy Finan, Eleanor Heaton, Sana Ilyas, Khalid Kazi, Elizabeth Lamb, Stuart MacGregor, Oliver McHugh, Charlie Moss, Robert Murray, James Nevison, Becky Nunn, Emma Pearson, Nicholas Robinson, Samuel Rowntree, Danielle Snowball and Adam Tevisani.* The following subjects also attained above the school average in terms of A*-A grades at GCSE: Biology, Chemistry, D & T - Food Technology, English, English Literature, Mathematics, Music, Physics, PE, Statistics and ICT. Well done to all the students and the subject departments and the pastoral staff who supported the students through the Upper School.

Key Stage 5 (KS5 – Sixth Form)

In Year 12 some 183 students were entered for 747 exams at AS level. Some 93.2% of the entries were at A-E and 50.3% (49.8% in 2010) were at the highest two grades of A-B. The APS per student was 427.2 (422.4 in 2010) and the APS per entry was

104.2 (106.5 in 2010). At AS an A=135; B=120; C=105; D=90; E=75 points. These results were comparable to previous years. At A level some 174 students were entered for 567 exams (the school's highest ever entry at this level). The students achieved a 99.8% A*-E pass rate with 60.3% of the entries at the highest three grades of A* to B. These are both the highest ever recorded in these indicators at NHGS. The APS per student was 870.1 and the APS per entry was 227 both of which indicators were the best ever recorded by the school. At A level an A=270; B=240; C=210; D=180; E=150. As at GCSE there were some very impressive individual performances. All the following students achieved all A* and A grades at A level: *Emily Barry, Sophie Beverley, Thomas Bright, Bethany Broadbent, Grace Cole, Ella Ehrenberg-Peters, Rob Frost, Jake Gledhill, Jacob Hayes, Mark Holmes, Craig Holroyd, Thomas Howson, Keisha Hunt, Ailsa Johnson, Matthew MacGregor, Fasil Mahmood, Wasim Mahmood, Bridget McHugh, Georges Moss, Victoria Mulley, Lucy Jane Robinson, Lucy Elizabeth Robinson, Michael Slade and Andrew Sloan.* Congratulations to Mark and Matthew who met or exceeded their offers at Cambridge and Oxford. The following subjects all achieved above average A* - B grades at A level: Business Studies, Chemistry, Music, D & T Product Design, D & T Food, Economics, English Literature, Film Studies, Fine Art, French, Geography, German, Government & Politics, History, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Philosophy, Photography, Physic and Religious Studies. Congratulations to all the students, parents and staff on the results achieved by the students at all levels in 2011. There were some outstanding individual achievements.

During the time that students are at NHGS we aim to prepare them fully for the next stage of their life. In 2011 84% of the students in Year 13 have continued their studies into Higher Education studying 91 different courses at 54 different universities and HE institutions. Given the competition for places this year we were very pleased that over seven out of ten students secured their first choice course and university. This was a very creditable achievement by the students, their parents and the school. I would like to thank Mrs Varley, the school's Examinations Officer and Mrs Charles her Assistant for all their work in the administering and managing the hundreds of exam entries through the year. I would also like to thank our team of external invigilators who undertake their work in a reliable and professional manner.

GPM

The Dropping off and Collecting of Students by Parents

Can I please once again re-iterate to parents that the dropping off and collecting of students in the school car park is strictly forbidden.

As clearly stated in the 'School Handbook for Students and their Parents', cars transporting students to school must not be driven into the school grounds in order to allow them to alight.

Similarly cars collecting students from school should not come into the school yard for collection at 3.00pm at the main entrance.

Your child's safety is paramount to the school and by not adhering to our request you are putting their safety and indeed the safety of other students and the staff who work at the school in danger.

Please drop your daughter or son off in a nearby street not adjacent to the school. Arrange a convenient picking-up point in the afternoon away from the school site. There is a School Crossing Patrol service which the students can use across Moorbottom Road.

Please do not drive down Highlands Lane and drop students at the school gate. Parents who do this are blocking the entrance to car park for staff trying to arrive for work.

Thank you for your co-operation.

**Graham Maslen
Headteacher**

COMMENDATIONS

We have held four 'Commendations Assemblies' this term, in the week beginning Monday 12th September, to present students in Years 8 to 11 with their commendations gained for the last academic year (2010-11). The following Governors were Guest Speakers at the assemblies and we thank them for supporting the school in this celebration; Mr Cannon, Mr Floyd, Mr Hartley and Dr Prathivadi Bhayankara. Commendations are awarded to students for 'good and steady' work throughout the year. Subject staff are invited to nominate students in the summer term. Students are commended if they are nominated by over half their subject teachers. Students who receive a commendation for the first time, after one year's good and steady work across over half the subjects they are studying, are awarded a blue badge; students receiving their second commendation, after a second year's good and steady work, are awarded a green badge, red badges are awarded for a third commendation and yellow badges are awarded for a fourth commendation. A Commendation Certificate is awarded in Year 11 for students who achieve a fifth year of commendation and these will be presented at a special GCSE Presentation Event later this term. We are very grateful to the Parents' Association who buy the badges that are awarded every year. Commendations encourage students to sustain their efforts throughout the year by being positively, actively and responsibly involved in lessons and by completing homework punctually and to the best standard they can achieve. Commendations encourage students to sustain their effort and application over a long period of time. The results for the last three years are shown below.

Year Group	Percentage of students achieving a commendation		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-2011
Year 7	99	100	100
Year 8	91	95	90
Year 9	92	97	94
Year 10	90	94	94
Year 11	86	92	97

For the second year running all of the Year 7 students were commended. It is noticeable that Year 8 in 2010-11 did not maintain the standard they set the previous year as 15 students were not commended in Year 8. Year 11 achieved well in commendations in 2010-11, particularly impressive was that 81% of students in the year group achieved their fifth commendation (compared to 81% for 2009-10 and 78% in 2008-09). Perhaps there is a link between the number of students being commended and the outstanding examination results achieved by

this year group. Good and steady work throughout the year pays dividends. I hope that those students who were not commended last year ensure that they do not let their year group down this year by not being commended again this year.

GPM

Knitting club appeal



Knitting club is now in its second year, meeting every Friday lunchtime in the Textiles Room. With the anticipated popularity of this small but select club we would like to appeal for any odd balls of knitting yarn that you may no longer need. All types of yarn gratefully received and we will hopefully put them all to a good and creative use. Thank you from the knitting team at NHGS.

SH

NHGS Masterchef - 2011

Our version of the competition proved to be just as competitive and difficult to judge as Greg Wallace and John Torrode find in the television series. The contestants were all from Year 7, and had to go through:

Round 1 – the invention test where they had to use certain key ingredients

Round 2 – International foods. The Chicken Chermoula, Chorizo and Prawn Pasta, Thai Red Curry, Homemade Samosas, Red Velvet Cake, and Chocolate Fondants made the decision as to who would be in the final extremely difficult.

The final four pairs of contestants were chosen and the task- to use Ready-made pastry was set.

Very kindly, Chef James, from Le Metropolitan Restaurant in Halifax gave up his time to come and give his expert opinion and help with the judging. This was no easy task. The standard was extremely high, and the thought and care that the contestants had put into choosing their dishes and with the presentation was stunning.

Could you choose between Mediterranean Galettes and Strawberry Mille-feuille, Chicken and Pork Pie with Fennel and Apple Coleslaw, Rich Chocolate Tart and Normandy Apple Tart, and Cheese and Tomato Flan with Lentil and Pine Nut Salad? We certainly had a difficult choice.



We finally chose the winners based not only on the lovely food that was made but also the contestant's knowledge of the food and the methods used. First prize, and the trophy went to Mark Harris and Nathan Greenwood in 7(2), Second prize went to Annabelle Pullan and Erin Padden in 7(1). Third prize went to Madelaine Jones and Max Frost in 7(5). Fourth prize went to Aisha Wheatley and Holly Ingle in 7(1).

I would like to say a very big thank you and well done to all the contestants who entered the competition, and to their parents for supplying the ingredients and space for practising. Please keep cooking and enjoying food. I am looking forward to next year.



CHH

Parents' Association

Meeting dates:

The Parents' Association meet on the first Wednesday of each month.

5th October (includes the AGM)
2nd November
7th December

The Parents' Associations AGM will be held at the meeting on 5th October. Your support is imperative for us to continue, so please attend, if possible.

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

German Course

Phoebe and Roisin (Year 11) both won a place on a 2 week course in Germany! Below is an account of their experience;

We spent the last two weeks of our summer holiday in Germany. We'd been selected as 2 of 12 pupils from the whole of the UK to participate in the exchange, staying with families we'd never met before.

We went to the German school every morning. All the English students had German lessons together in the morning, followed by a few lessons with their partners in the afternoon. School finished by 1pm, so we had lots of free time to go out with our partners- Phoebe even went to a fencing lesson.

We had lots of trips out including a visit to the crazy Phaeno science Museum and an amazing day trip to Berlin seeing every famous sight possible! We also had a tour around the Autostadt and the VW car factory; the company that makes Wolfsburg famous. It was much more interesting than we had anticipated because we didn't really have an interest in cars.

We did things we didn't think we could, like climbing 10m high ropes at the climbing park. We went swimming and cycling. Phoebe went to a

concert in Berlin and Roísín took a trip to A&E when she cut her foot on the beach. We also visited the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, which was very sad but interesting.

We were a bit anxious about it all before we went, especially because we'd have to speak German all the time, but after our first night there, our worries disappeared. The families we stayed with were friendly and welcoming and helped us with everything in any way they could. We had an amazing time and can't wait for our partners to visit us soon!

Phoebe Hendy 11(1) and Roisin McCallion 11(5)

Well done to both girls – we're really proud of their achievements!

KDH

Two Week Summer Course in Germany

This summer I applied to and was successful in gaining a place on a two week course in Alzey, Germany. In August I arrived in a very wet and miserable London and met up with 11 other participants from all across the country including Scotland and Northern Ireland, having never met each other we were all very nervous but excited about the prospect of flying to Germany and meeting our host families. Several hours, delays, security checks and removing 10kg from a girl's bag later, we landed in 35°C Germany to meet our guest families who we would be staying with. We were all amazed to find that our partners were our German equivalents having been carefully selected by the UK-German Connection team.

Although it was still the summer holidays for us, the Germans were already back in school which meant getting up at 6.30am every day in order to go to school with my partner. I had lessons with the other British people until 1pm every day learning about everything to do with Germany from 18th century Goethe to the annoyingly catchy electro pop song 'Nein Mann!' of the 21st century. The German school day is such that my partner could finish any time between 1pm and 5pm so depending on the day I would go to the outdoor swimming pool, go shopping, go home or have double maths, double German or double physics

(hard enough to understand in English, impossible in German!)

During our stay we also went on trips outside of the city, which is actually no bigger than my village in the UK. We visited places such as Mainz and Frankfurt, as well as taking a 3 hour boat ride along the River Rhine and climbing up a steep hill in order to reach Marksburg Castle, which gave us stunning views of the Rhine.

Of course no trip to Germany would be complete without excessive amounts of food! My host family lived up to their stereotype by constantly offering me bread and cheese and were shocked to see how little I ate and also couldn't understand why I didn't want to eat chocolate cake for breakfast! But the food was lovely so having it in endless supply was no bad thing and I soon became accustomed to clearly asking for still water instead of the German's choice of fizzy water.

The course was really fun and improved my German greatly; I even picked up a 'southern' German accent by the end of the course much to my guest family's amusement. I would recommend the course to anyone who studies German or has an interest in the language as it not only improves your fluency and listening skills but greatly improves your confidence in speaking the language and accepting that you can't get everything right all the time because not even the Germans do!

Beth Clifford U6(10)

Year 12 Induction

On September 6th we welcomed 181 students into the Sixth Form and amongst those were 55 students who were new to the school. As part of our induction programme we arranged a variety of events to introduce life in the Sixth Form. In order to prepare our students for the demands of independent learning we organised a study skills morning in the hall and this will be built upon in their subject areas.

The Friday of the first week saw all of Year 12 involved in an induction experience at Ogden

Water. The students were engaged in tasks that allowed them to bond with their new form group and included activities such as stretcher carrying and a camouflage challenge.

There was a high level of competition between the different groups and 12(5) had even prepared banners to cheer their fellow classmates on!

The final event of the induction process was the Freshers' Fair which took place on Friday 16th September. Student representatives from the numerous enrichment activities that take place within school manned stalls in the hall enabling both Year 12 and Year 13 to find out more about our clubs and societies. This year we are launching new enrichment activities such as Zumba, a Film and Media club and an Art Action group. We wish all our new Year 12 students every success with their studies this year!



CJM

UK-German Youth Ambassador

Beth Clifford in Year 13 has spent the past year as a UK- German Youth Ambassador. Beth tells us about her experiences;

At the beginning of last year I gained the daunting title of a UK-German Youth Ambassador. This involved me visiting both London and Berlin and meeting up with other young people from up and down the country that had a passion for German and also young people from Germany who shared a similar passion for English.

Despite the foot-deep snow and every train at Leeds station supposedly cancelled, I managed to battle my way down to London in December last year. Arriving at the old East German Embassy (and setting for one episode of the Apprentice!) was nerve-wracking enough without being greeted by a host of strangers who I would be in the company of for the next three days. However, with us all being in the same position the group soon grew very close as we spent the weekend discussing how to engage primary school students and to dispel prejudices many of them have about the opposite country. The trip was interspersed by fun events such as the German market in Hyde Park, shopping on Oxford Street and meals out which brought us closer together and gave a perfect opportunity for us to gain connections with German people of the same age and have conversations in both German and English and see the similarities and differences between our two nations.

From February I then set about completing my project for the role in which I visited a primary school every week and taught a year 3 class about aspects of the German culture and the language. This also included swallowing my pride and dancing to 'das Fliegerlied' at the front of the classroom which the pupils loved. Two weeks before I left to go to Berlin for the second conference, I began my art project with the class. For this, each child was given a piece of material which they drew on to show what they had learnt about Germany since I had taught them. I was extremely proud and happy with the outcome of the pieces which I then glued on to a large piece of material, creating a banner which I then took to the conference in Berlin and gave to a German Youth Ambassador who is planning to recreate a similar piece to send to the class I have been working with.

In the sweltering heat of July I packed a suitcase full of summer clothes to go to Berlin having suffered in the 38 degree heat the previous year. After meeting up with the other Ambassadors at the airport we arrived in Berlin several hours later to be greeted by 'record breaking amounts of rain' which of course was a great home comfort for all the British people. The rain couldn't dampen our spirits though as we met up with all the friends we

had made back in London and talked about the projects we had all done. The weekend was made even more brilliant by a trip into Berlin on a double decker train, visiting sights such as the Brandenburg Gate, the site where the Berlin wall had been, Potsdamer Platz and the Reichstag.

All in all being a UK-German Youth Ambassador has been a fun and rewarding experience and the skills I've gained from it will definitely help me in the future. The chance to make friends from both the UK and Germany has also been very exciting and I hope to keep in touch with the people I have met for many years to come.

Beth Clifford U6(10)

Calling all Year 7 Parents Welcome to big school!

*Oh yes this is such a big change - tiring, stressful, missing friends, missing those playground chats - those exchanges of invaluable info at the school gates...
yes its YOU the PARENTS I'm talking about , not the kids - they're fine!*

Well don't worry - help is at hand. NHGS Parents' Association has introduced Schools Gates Nights.

These are social nights for parents (usually a meal out) where you get the chance to meet parents from your child's form, maybe talk to the mum and dad of your child's new best friend and/or discuss anything you want to about school life with new parents in your situation and, parents who have tread this path before you!

This was discussed at new parents evening so you will have some info on this already - this is a reminder to dig out that leaflet and put the dates in your diary :

***School Gates Nights for 7(1) & 7 (2) will be on Weds 12th October
and 7(3) 7(4) and 7(5) Weds 19th October at 6.30pm at
The Design House Restaurant Dean Clough Mills Halifax
They have agreed a special 2 course menu for NHGS PA for just £10 a head***

Please call Angie Cowton 07811 169396 Or email angela.cowton@virgin.net to book your place. All parents welcome. There will also be a year 8's School Gates Night in November this date will be in Octobers Newsletter
See you there !

This is a Parents Association event for the NHGS PA. Registered charity no. 1097637
Previous fundraising projects - The Sixth Form Learning Centre and The All Weather Pitch

Debating Society

After a variety of debates taking place regularly on a Thursday lunchtime, the debating society finished off the year with a day's training from a representative of the English Speaking Union. Students from years 9-11 were provided with further guidance and activities as to how to approach the British Parliamentary Debating format. The Year 12s ran a BP style debate and then received advice on how to improve – as well as a great deal of praise on their proficiency.

This term, the first debate was incredibly well attended with standing room only in SF1 which bodes well for the forthcoming year. Chaired by Luke Rigg, Oscar Cunnington and Sana Ilyas proposed the motion that overweight children should be sent to fit camps for their own good. Rebecca Crossfield and Emma Finnerty put up strong opposition but the

verdict of the room at the end of the debate was in favour of the motion.

Debates continue every Thursday lunchtime. All welcome – though you might need to get there early to get a seat.

ALK

CASINO NIGHT

Saturday 8th October

in the School Hall

A fun family night

**Roulette, Poker, Dice & Pontoon
Fish and Chip Supper**



Tickets £10 Adults
£5 Children (under 16)

The Physics of seeing inside the body

On Wednesday 21st September we attended a fascinating lecture on the methods of seeing inside the body by Dr Michael Wilson, from the Institute of Physics and the University of Birmingham. The main focus was on x-rays and antimatter, which were explained through various experiments using every object from spinning tops to bicycle wheels. One particular demonstration explained how light is used to pinpoint various areas inside the body by exploding a box of colourful balls and seeing where they landed. Different methods of looking inside the body were all explained, such as MRI machines and CT scans, as well as their inventors, all of which helped boost our understanding of how physics is used in medicine, and how much medical technology has improved over the last century.

**Reuben Kaufman 11(3) and Caitlin Hogg
11(1)**

Chemistry Camp

At the end of last summer term and during the summer holidays, six year 10 students attended Salters Chemistry Camps. These are organised by the Salters Company, a charitable foundation whose aims are to encourage the participation of students in the sciences, with particular focus on Chemistry.

Students have to apply to attend one of the thirty courses hosted by Universities across the country. This year students attended camps at Cambridge, Nottingham, York and Leeds. Accounts from two of the successful attendees, Hannah Speed and Peter Richardson are below.

Before the summer holidays, four Year 10 students who were particularly interested in science were given the opportunity to attend one of the Salter's Chemistry Camps. They

are held at universities all over the country and I had chosen to go to Bath for mine.

I soon came to regret this, however, as it gave me a four hour journey in which to get nervous about the camp. Despite arriving late, my nerves soon subsided as I met everyone for the first time and received a warm welcome.

After a picnic lunch we were split into our groups and assigned a leader (a Professor at the university) and a postgrad student who would help us with the experiments and hopefully stop us from doing too much damage!

Before long it was time for our first 'lab'. These were the main feature of the camp, and, while fun, they were also a huge learning curve that had us using equipment and techniques that we had never even heard of before. Activities were as diverse as making a chemical 'clock' to producing our own basic photographs.

All of this was a brilliant introduction to studying Chemistry at university and an interesting taster of student life as we all had our own rooms on campus.

Best of all, the focus of the camp was definitely on our enjoyment and with the help of extra activities, like a 'Whizzies and Bangs' lecture, and new friends who I would never have otherwise met, the camp certainly achieved its aim.

Hannah Speed 11(4)

I think the Chemistry Camp was a good trip to go on because, as well as learning all lot about the topic, it was about (colour chemistry), we also got to listen to university students talk about their life there and we got to ask questions about this.

Over the three days, we did a range of different things, ranging from practicals, lectures and social activities. In the practicals, we learnt about early methods of making paint from natural pigments, cyanotyping, which is how copies of documents used to be made and also cold light, which is the chemical reaction in a glowstick.

The lectures expanded on what we did in the practicals, and also included things like how printer inks work, and what goes into making the dye that changes the colour of glasses in the sun.

Overall I think it was an interesting trip and well worth going on because it is an opportunity to find out more about university as well as the topic.

Peter Richardson 11(5)

Cake Competition

For this year's Christmas Fayre 26th November 2011

At last year's Christmas Fayre we held our 1st Cake competition

And it was an amazing success so we are going to repeat it again this year. There were some fabulous designs done by both students & mums even grandmas had a go.

Rules:

The Competition is open to all students & parents

The cakes can be of any design that you so wish and need to be clearly labelled with your name & contact details

All entries need to be in school on Friday afternoon or by 9.30am on Saturday morning.

The cakes will be then be auctioned off at the fayre. You will have the opportunity to buy back your entry if you so wish.

For more information contact

Sue Kneller on HX 365285 or
sue@theknellers.net
Good luck & happy baking

Christmas Fayre Help Required

Saturday 26th November

The Parents Association needs help with making the Christmas Fayre a success

Last year was fabulous but this year we hope it will be even better.

We need volunteers to help run stalls and make cakes for the Cake Stall
Please complete the attached slip at the end of the newsletter

Contact sue kneller on

HX 365285 or

Sue@theknellers.net if you can help.

Christmas Fayre Trifle Stall

Our Trifle stall did so well last year, we are doing this again!

But this year we hope to add some crumbles. We have already been raiding the hedgerows for brambles, but if anybody has (or knows of) spare cooking apples going free – please would you let the PA know – or bring them into school and leave with Mrs Beverley at Reception.

Would you also raid your cupboards for any unwanted glass bowls (for trifles) or glass dishes (for trifles). And while you are looking for those – if you see any unused/lonely cake decorations (silver balls, shapes, choc pieces etc) perhaps you could pop those in as well!

IMPROVING THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

In the July Newsletter I reported on the findings of the Kirkland Rowell surveys of parents, students and staff. In all three surveys school facilities received the lowest rating by some way. The publication of funding information about schools in January 2011 confirmed that NHGS is not just the least well-funded secondary school in Calderdale but is within the bottom ten of the 164 grammar schools in England. We have to ensure that we secure value for money in everything we undertake as a school. Despite the limited funds available we are continuing to improve the learning environment at the school because this is seen as a priority by all stakeholders. During the summer break we have undertaken a range of work to further improve the physical environment. .

The All Weather Pitch was installed. As Mr Jervis reports elsewhere in this Newsletter the MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) was completed during the summer break with over half the funding raised by the Parents' Association. It was finished on time and in budget. It has already made a significant impact on the provision for PE and sport in the school.

The Quad in the centre of the school buildings has been landscaped to include rustic seating for students.

New flooring has been laid in the School Diner and in two classrooms.

The **front of the building** externally around the entrance has been painted as has the external guttering and fascias on the **Changing Rooms and Drama Room**.

Workbenches and workstations have been installed in one of the **Geography classrooms**.

The **Sixth Form Independent Learning Area** has been equipped with new tables and work stations.

We are also undertaking a planned programme of refurbishing corridors in the school. During the summer the corridor around M17 and the 'Maths' corridor on the second floor were both decorated and fitted with new display boards.



The All-Weather Pitch

With thanks to the fundraising activities of the Parents' Association, the school installed an all-weather pitch by the entrance to school over the summer holiday. This is a much needed resource for the PE department, as well as providing a significantly better facility for some of the many extra-curricular activities that the students get involved with at NHGS.

We plan to celebrate the opening of the pitch during the PA Craft Fayre on Saturday 26th November.

Many thanks to the PA, and everyone who has helped with, or attended / contributed to, any of the fundraising activities.



PAJ

September 2011

Privacy Notice - Data Protection Act 1998

We, the North Halifax Grammar School, are the Data Controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act. We collect information from you and may receive information about you from your previous school and the Learning Records Service. We hold this personal data and use it to:

- Support your teaching and learning;
- Monitor and report on your progress;
- Provide appropriate pastoral care, and
- Assess how well your school is doing.

This information includes your contact details, national curriculum assessment results, attendance information and personal characteristics such as your ethnic group, special educational needs and any relevant medical information. If you are enrolling for post 14 qualifications we will be provided with your unique learner number by the Learning Records Service and may also obtain from them details of any learning or qualifications you have undertaken.

We will not give information about you to anyone outside the school without your consent unless the law and our rules allow us to.

We are required by law to pass some of your information to the Local Authority and the Department for Education (DfE)

If you want to see a copy of the information we hold and share about you then please contact Mrs C Varley, School Systems Manager.

If you require more information about how the Local Authority (LA) and/or DfE store and use your information, then please go to the following websites:

<http://www.calderdale.gov.uk/education/schools/childrens-records/index.html>

If you are unable to access these websites, please contact the DfE as follows:

Public Communications Unit
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT
Website: www.education.gov.uk
email: info@education.gsi.gov.uk
Telephone: 0870 000 2288

In addition for Secondary Schools

Connexions Services - Once you are aged 13 or over we are required to pass on certain information to the Connexions services. Connexions is the government's support service for all young people aged 13 to 19 in England. We must provide both yours and your parents(s) name and address, and any further information relevant to the Connexions services' role. However, you (if you are over 16) or your parents can ask that no information beyond name and address be passed to Connexions. Please inform Mrs Carol Varley if you wish to opt-out of this arrangement. For more information about Connexions please go to the LA website shown above.

The North Halifax Grammar School Moorbottom Road Illingworth Halifax HX2 9SU

Christmas Fayre Baking/Stall Volunteers Saturday 26th November 2011

Name:

Tel. No:

Item(s) to be baked:

.....

I can help on the Cake Stall . I am available at to help at am/pm

Name of student contact:

Form:

Please return the completed slip to Mr P Jervis

Parents' Consultation Evening Cafés

The Parents' Association have traditionally organised a café for the parents' consultation evenings. This is to provide refreshments for the staff and also for parents and children between appointments. Could you help? We need people from 5-8pm to serve and wash up. The more people who volunteer, the less time we need to ask each person to cover. Please return the slip below to the school office or contact Karol: Karol@Whettlock.net, 01274 883569 or 07812 360 590.

Jayne and Karol

I can help at the following times:

Date	Year Group	5-6pm	6-7pm	7-8pm
17 th Nov. '11	13			
24 th Nov. '11	12			
26 th Jan. '12	7			
2 nd Feb. '12	10			
1 st Mar. '12	11			
15 th Mar. '12	9			
28 th Mar. '12	8			

Name:

Preferred contact method and details:

CASINO NIGHT

Saturday 8th October
in the School Hall
A fun family night
Roulette, Poker, Dice & Pontoon

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